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January 30, 2024

To: House Election Law Committee chair Ross Berry and committee members

From: Liz Tentarelli, president, LWVNH contact: LWVnewhampshire@gmail.com

Re: **HB 1426 establishing an independent advisory redistricting commission**

The League of Women Voters is a non-partisan organization. At both the state and national levels we have positions in support of independent redistricting commissions. We have been testifying on these bills since at least 2011 in New Hampshire. We believe that redistricting should be a non-partisan process, with the intent of respecting as closely as possible the rule of one person/one vote in representation while meeting the constitutional requirements of districts.

We know that the NH Constitution gives the right and responsibility of redistricting to the sitting legislature, and 2031 will be here sooner than we can imagine. That's why we are supporting this bill to create an appointed and non-partisan advisory commission with a mandate of holding public hearings to gather input on the next set of maps to be drawn.

For those on the House Election Law Committee who have not been here for several terms, I want to explain that a bill like this was heard in 2019 and passed the House 218 to 123. That is, with strong bi-partisan support. That same bill was amended slightly by the Senate, where it passed on a voice vote, and the House concurred. Both parties in the Legislature recognized that maps drawn by a non-partisan commission of non-legislators would be fair to both parties. All would have gone well, had not the Governor vetoed the bill.

The Legislature in 2019 recognized the value of an independent advisory commission. They saw it as a tool to have the best redistricting process possible, with opportunity for public input and non-legislators designing maps in a fair and transparent process.

I hope this committee and this legislature will do so again by **supporting HB 1426**