

April 12, 2024

## VIA Online Portal to Author and Assembly Committee on Education

The Honorable Gail Pellerin California State Assembly 1021 O Street, Suite 6310 Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: AB 2627 (Pellerin) - Voter registration and outreach programs. - SUPPORT

Dear Assemblymember Pellerin:

The League of Women Voters of California writes in support of AB 2627, your bill to establish the Civic Learning, Outreach, and Engagement (CLOE) Fund and provide grants to local elections officials for high school civic engagement programs.

Californians aged 18 to 34 have the lowest rates of voter registration in the state, despite making up a third of the state's population. AB 2627 aims to increase civic engagement and voter registration by focusing on young voters. The League of Women Voters of California supports programs that bring more people into the democratic process, especially young and underrepresented voters.

We do recommend that the legislation be amended to require local elections officials and high schools to work with and provide pass-through funding to culturally-competent community-based organizations to assist in designing and implementing the programs. This would help ensure that the outreach target underrepresented communities that have been historically marginalized and excluded from our electorate.<sup>2</sup>

Thank you for your commitment to building an equitable democracy in California.

Sincerely,

Stephanie Doute Executive Director

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Mark Baldassare, Dean Bonner, Rachel Lawler, and Deja Thomas. California's Likely Voters. Public Policy Institute of California, August 2023, accessed at <a href="mailto:ppic.org/wp-content/uploads/JTF">ppic.org/wp-content/uploads/JTF</a> LikelyVotersJTF.pdf

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> For a deeper dive into the issue please see <u>Voter Education & Outreach Legislative Budget</u> Request.