



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®
OF TEXAS

ACTION ALERT

League members: Contact the State Board of Education (SBOE) **NOW** in support of a rigorous science curriculum in Texas public schools that will help students succeed in any college or career.

NOTE: The president of your League will answer this Action Alert in the name of your League. We thank you for answering this Alert as an informed private citizen.

Background: The League of Women Voters of Texas supports a statewide, standardized curriculum that provides the academic rigor students need to succeed in college and their chosen careers. In addition, the League supports a curriculum that is developed with broad input from Texas educators from K-12 to the university level.

The latest proposed draft that is scheduled for consideration by the SBOE on March 25 was submitted by the Texas Education Agency for publication in the Feb. 13, 2009, issue of the *Texas Register*. You can find it at www.sos.state.tx.us/texreg. This draft includes amendments approved by the board in January that would weaken instruction in the concept of evolution and also weaken instruction on scientific theories about common ancestry.

What to say:

- Tell the SBOE that you support the final, December 2008 draft of the proposed curriculum standards for science in the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills, without amendments, that was prepared by curriculum writing teams.
- Oppose the addition of language in the curriculum that would weaken instruction in the widely endorsed scientific concept of evolution--for example, requirements to teach “strengths and weaknesses.”
- Oppose amendments approved by the board in January that would weaken instruction on scientific theories about common ancestry. These include amendments to high school courses in biology requiring students to “analyze and evaluate the sufficiency and insufficiency of common ancestry” and in earth and space science requiring students to “assess the arguments for and against universal common descent.”
- Support the work of teachers and scientists who were appointed to draft the science standards, and who have the expertise to develop a document that will prepare Texas students for college and careers in the 21st Century.

Send your comments to: Members of the SBOE as they consider proposed rules to revise the state curriculum standards for science that are contained in the TEKS.

Where: Send your individual comments electronically to rules@tea.state.tx.us. Address your comments to “Members of the State Board of Education” and sign your name.

When: ASAP, before the SBOE holds its next public hearing in Austin on March 25.