



# LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF TEXAS

## TESTIMONY LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF TEXAS HOUSE ELECTIONS

MONDAY APRIL 24, 2017

I am Cinde Weatherby, testifying as a member and on behalf of the League of Women Voters of Texas in OPPOSITION to HB 1149. We appreciate the opportunity to appear before you today. Thank you for allowing us to share the LWV-TX position on this bill.

The League is a big believer in using the best technology available for modernizing our voting system. We believe we are behind the rest of the nation in many ways, including the use of technology for voter registration and maintenance of the voter rolls. However, as long as there are any Texas citizens unable to use technology for doing that, we should always have back-up manual systems.

Just as we should never eliminate the handwritten voter registration card, we should not abandon printing polling locations in local newspapers. Even if voters are not newspaper subscribers, they are able to view them in local libraries or governmental buildings.

We appreciate each entity posting their polling places online on their respective websites and on the Secretary of State's website. The League especially applauds those counties that offer systems that allow users to look up their individual ballot on these websites, and encourage other counties to do the same.

It is estimated that up to six million Texans do not have internet service. While that number may be decreasing yearly, until we know that each Texan has the ability to see a list of voting places online, we oppose passage of this bill.

LWV-TX requests that you not approve HB 1149 for further consideration.

**For additional information, please contact: Cinde Weatherby, Voting & Elections Issue Chair,  
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The League of Women Voters of Texas (LWV-TX) is a nonpartisan citizens' organization that has fought since 1919 to improve our government and engage all citizens in the decisions that impact their lives. It represents more than 5,000 members and supporters in the 25 Local Leagues throughout Texas.

The League of Women Voters never supports or opposes candidates for office or political parties. The member-driven organization of women and men encourages the informed and active participation of citizens in government and seeks to influence public policy through education and advocacy of positions based on extensive issue study and consensus.