



# LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF TEXAS

## TESTIMONY LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF TEXAS HOUSE ELECTION COMMITTEE

MONDAY, APRIL 10, 2017

I am Cinde Weatherby, testifying as a member and on behalf of the League of Women Voters of Texas in SUPPORT of HB 3328. We appreciate the opportunity to appear before you today. Thank you for allowing us to share the League of Women Voters of Texas position on this bill.

We don't have to tell this Committee that Texas is a big state, with a very diverse population scattered over its 268,597 square miles. Getting messages out to all Texans is a daunting challenge. Getting across complicated messages is even more of a challenge. Among the most complicated systems to communicate is our elections and voting process.

League volunteers do all we can to provide Texas citizens with information they need to be informed voters. Our methods and tools have changed over the years since 1919. Today we have a bigger toolbox, and take advantage of websites, YouTube videos and social media. However, we still print information leaflets as well.

Immediately upon the U.S. District Court ruling on the Voter ID case last summer, we printed thousands of copies of the *Handy Dandy Guide to Voting* featuring the judge-ordered process. It was clear and factual information. However, we observed others presenting information on the Voter ID changes, and some – on both sides of the issue -- were not accurate. We reached out to those we saw promoting inaccurate information and some made changes.

The League and others saw much confusion about the rules, making it even more important that any future Secretary of State effort be as comprehensive and extensive as possible. We would like to know more about recent SOS efforts and hope open disclosure of these documents will lead to more robust collaboration for getting out the message and any necessary adjustment in resources.

LWV-TX looks forward to collaborating with the Secretary of State, along with other organizations in the state, to assure distribution of adequate information for voting-eligible citizens to know how to exercise their right to vote.

**For additional information, please contact: Cinde Weatherby, Voting & Elections Issue Chair,  
[cindeweatherby@gmail.com](mailto:cindeweatherby@gmail.com), 512.560.1334.**

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.