



# CAPITOL Action Report

## Texas Actions for the Week!

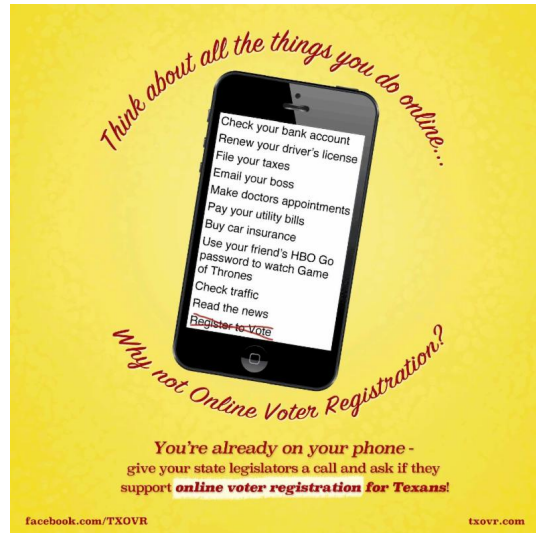
### ACTION for Online Voter Registration!

Call/email your representatives and the members of the House Elections committee. Tell them you support **HB 143** by Rep. Celia Israel.

Share the facts found on [Texans for Online Voter Registration](#) and the [OVR Facts flier](#). Then click to [add your name to the list of OVR supporters today](#).

### ACTION for Gun Safety!

Oppose HB 1911 and HB 375 the unlicensed carry bills. Call/email [members of the House Homeland Security Committee](#). The hearing is at 8:00 am, Tuesday, March 28th. Read full [Action Alert here!](#)



Support the Capitol Action Report!

## Social Media Actions!

### House Elections Committee

Chair:  
**Rep. Jodie Laubenberg**  
HD-89, Collin County  
512-483-0186



Vice Chair:  
**Rep. Celia Israel**  
HD-50, Travis County  
512-463-0821



#### Members:



**Rep. Rodney Anderson**  
HD-105, Dallas County  
512-483-0641



**Rep. Pat Fallon**  
HD-106, Denton County  
512-463-0694



**Rep. Lyle Larson**  
HD-122, Bexar County  
512-463-0646



**Rep. Ron Reynolds**  
HD-37, Fort Bend County  
512-463-0494



**Rep. Valoree Swanson**  
HD-150, Harris County  
512-463-0572

*YOU can make a difference! Call committee members and tell them you want [Online Voter Registration for Texans!](#)*

facebook.com/TXOVR

txovr.com



#### Voter Registration Application

Note: This service is best viewed and printed using [Internet Explorer 7 and higher](#) or [Firefox](#).

Important: Please confirm your county of residence before filling out this form.

Find out if you are already registered

Are you a United States Citizen?

Yes  No

Application Type:

New  Change  Replacement

Are you interested in serving as an election worker?

Yes  No

Applicant Information

First Name: Middle Name: Last Name: Former Name:

Date of Birth: (mm/dd/yyyy)

TX Driver's License No. or P

If no TX Driver's License or P

XXXX-XX-XXXX

I have not been tested

Residence Address

County: Add

Select...

State: Zip:

TX

Mailing Address (if different from Residential Address)

Address: City: State: Zip:

Please verify that all data is correct before you "Submit."

Hitting the submit button will load your information into the proper form for you to **print, sign, and mail**.

Hitting the submit button will load your information into the proper form for you to print, sign, and mail. Do not mail this screen.

Download and upload these images on Facebook with info about why you support

Encourage your friends to do the same!

## *News from The Capitol*

*By Grace Chimene, Vice President*

We are busy! We provided testimony on Air Quality and Climate Change, Gun Safety, Human Trafficking, and Public Education. [Review LWV-TX testimony here](#). YTD almost 40 testimonies, 86 Actions taken on bills, 155 recorded legislative visits.

Shout out to the LWV-TX Capitol Corps for their invaluable assistance to the Issue Chairs! This past week **Barbara Frandsen** stayed at the capitol for 12 hours to provide testimony opposing SB 3 the voucher bill and **Brenda Koegler** provided two testimonies in one day! One on Human Trafficking and one on Women's Health!

Women's health testimony heros are: **Jane McFarland** (Capitol Corps coordinator!), **Amber Boudreault**, **Margaret Johnson** (UT student intern), and **Dixie Davis**. Equal opportunity hero **Anne Rioux** waited hours to testify opposing the discriminatory bathroom bill. Behavioral Health hero **Lauren Kreeger** took off from work to provide testimony.

Learn how to provide testimony at the capitol! Watch Impact Texas' video starring our own LWV-Austin member **Betsy Singleton**: [Betsy Goes to Austin](#) & [Telling your story at the Capitol](#)

Thanks to all of League members and supporters for taking actions on bills, writing and calling legislators and keeping the pressure up!

**Good News!** U.S. House did NOT VOTE on AHCA last week! **DNR!**

**Maybe...** Texas didn't bring in enough money, again. Will they ever learn? It is time to pony up and figure out how to fund the Texas budget! The League supports the House bill which would tap the "rainy day fund" (Economic Stabilization Fund). The Senate leaders are using a sneaky accounting device to fund the budget bill. See articles on the Texas budget below in *Hey Texas Nerds!*

**Bad News:** Not a surprise, but still disappointing; SB 3, the Voucher bill passes the Senate. We will continue the fight in the House!

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## *LEAGUE PRIORITY ISSUES:*

Click on the links below to learn more about issues you are interested in.

**Voter Rights and Election Laws in Texas:** Read about **SB 5**, the Voter ID bill by Sen. Joan Huffman. Help promote of online voter registration, often called the only truly nonpartisan voting/elections topic. **HB 143** by Rep. Celia Israel. Read the Texas Tribune editorial "[Why Can't Texans Register to Vote Online?](#)" by Austin tech leader Bryan Jones, \_

**Women's Health and Reproductive Choice:** Bad news! Three bills strongly OPPOSED by LWV have been passed out of committee: SB 8 (Schwertner) SB 25 (Creighton) SB 415 (Perry). We will be following the progress (or hopefully lack of progress) of these three bills in the House and sending Action messages as appropriate. Keep up with Women's Health ACTIONS.

**Public Education:** SB 3, the Voucher bill passes the Senate and onto the House.

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## *OTHER UPDATED TEXAS ISSUES:*

**Behavioral Health:** The League supports SB 27 by Campbell: which defines peer service coordinator for mental health program for veterans, and requires the mental health intervention program for veterans to include training for licensed mental health professionals. Passed committee...

**Capital Punishment:** Review the update on bills being followed.

**Child Abuse and Neglect:** The House budget provides \$32 million for Kinship Caregiver assistance but, unfortunately, it is not funded in the Senate's budget. On a positive note, both budgets provide for a \$12,000 pay raise for CPS support positions. For more comprehensive information about the legislative budget, and, in particular, Child Abuse and Neglect read the Dallas Morning News article which quotes Senate finance Committee Chair Jane Nelson as saying "This Finance Committee's No. 1 commitment was to Child Protective services. Read the article [here](#).

**Early Childhood:** The Senate Finance Committee cut \$180 million the Senate had allocated for pre-K funding in an earlier version of the budget, going against Gov. Greg Abbott. Instead, the committee allocated \$40 million into a partnership with nonprofits to support districts and charters implementing pre-K programs. [Review the Bills](#)

**Gun Safety:** Oppose unlicensed carry and business liability bills. [See Action Alert!](#)

**Hazardous Waste:** Hazardous waste continues to contaminate Texas, and more is on its way. Write now to protect the health, safety, and security of Texans. High-level radioactive waste will be transported into Texas on rail lines and road...

**Human Trafficking:** Read our Human Trafficking [press release!](#)

**Immigration:** The LWV-TX opposes SB 4 (The Anti-Sanctuary City Bill) penalizes Local governments that do not cooperate with ICE.

**Land Use:** Take ACTION! Use the LWV-TX 2017 Action Paper "[Protect Water Quality in Edwards Aquifer](#)" to advocate in SUPPORT of SB 1796 (Menendez) and HB 3467 (Howard), that would prohibit the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) from authorizing the discharge of domestic sewage effluent into any water in the contributing or recharge zones of the San Antonio or Barton Springs segments of the Edwards Aquifer...

**Transportation:** Take Action! Support [HB 1511](#) which would promote statewide election dates on changeable highway message signs needs a hearing in the Transportation Committee! Take ACTION! Let your Rep and the reps on the Transportation committee know that you support this bill!

**Water:** Wow! Glad March 10 (the filing deadline) has come and gone. I'm up over 100 bills I'm watching. That's way too many to list and discuss individually, so I'm going to group them around some broader topics and post in installments.

[Other issues we are following...](#)

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## *Hey, Texas Political Nerds!*

Watch and share our weekly LWV-TX: [One Minute Capitol Action YouTube videos!](#)

LWV-TX loves elections! Excellent Report: ["2016 America Goes to the Polls"](#) by Nonprofit Votes.

Read the detailed report, ["How ACA Repeal Bill Threatens Texas Medicaid"](#) by Ann Dunkelburg, from the Center for Public Policies Priorities.

Two budget articles:

- [Analysis: Is this Texas state budget trick constitutional?](#) by Ross Ramsey, Texas Tribune

- [Texas Senate accounting maneuver finds \\$2.5B in budget; Straus calls it “cooking the books”](#), Austin American Statesman

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## *Capitol Calendar*

[Texas Retired Teachers Association Day of the Capitol](#) March 29

[Before Abortion Was Legal: A Live Reading](#) March 29

[Planned Parenthood Lobby Day](#) April 5

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