



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®
OF TEXAS

TESTIMONY
LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF TEXAS

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ELECTIONS
HB 2093
APRIL 8, 2013

The League of Women Voters of Texas (LWV-TX), a nonpartisan organization with 29 local Leagues and approximately 1950 members across the state, encourages active, informed participation by citizens in government and believes that such participation is vital to a vibrant democracy.

The LWV-TX opposes HB 2093 (Harless) which would reduce the number of early voting days for primary and general elections for state and county officers. This bill would also reduce the number of hours for Sunday early voting and increase from 15 to 50 the number of registered voters who must request early voting in counties with less than 100,000 population.

The success of the current provisions for early voting is clear. The percentage of Texas voters who cast their ballot during early voting has grown substantially over the years, from 30% in 1994 to 55% in 2010 and 63% in 2012¹.

The substantial problems likely if Texas were to reduce the early voting period are just as clear from the experience of other states which implemented reductions in 2012.

Texas is consistently among the states with the lowest voter turnout, 50th in 2010 and 48th in 2012. LWV-TX believes it is important to increase voter participation in Texas. Reducing early voting would create confusion and barriers to voters and thus be counterproductive and contrary to what Texas needs to be doing.

LWV-TX urges the Committee to vote against HB 2093 and appreciates the opportunity to share our views.

¹ Data on early voting is from the Texas Secretary of State website; percentages are for the top race on ballot, president or governor.