



**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS
OF TEXAS**

**TESTIMONY
LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF TEXAS**

**HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ELECTIONS
HB 2487**

April 18, 2011, 2 pm

The League of Women Voters of Texas (LWV-TX) opposes HB 2487.

I am Anita Privett, the Advocacy VP of LWV-TX. Remembering the lengthy struggle to secure voting rights for women, LWV has worked since 1920 to protect every citizen's right to vote and opposes the unnecessary barriers that disenfranchise many legitimate voters.

HB 2487 would add new barriers to voter registration in Texas. This bill would prevent some legitimate Texas citizens from registering to vote and exercising this fundamental right of citizenship. Under the bill, voter registration would be limited to those whose residence address has bathing and sleeping facilities and is identical to the address on their driver's license or DPS ID. These requirements would disenfranchise many homeless, individuals with low income, students and others in our mobile society.

Unnecessary barriers that negatively affect voting should be of particular concern in Texas which is among the states with the lowest turnout of the voter eligible population in recent elections. No state had a lower turnout than the 32.3% turnout in Texas for the 2010 General Election. Texas lags the US as a whole in voter registration as well as voter turnout.

LWV urges you to reject this bill which would add new voter registration requirements and disenfranchise legitimate citizens from their fundamental right to vote. Instead Texas needs to find ways to promote voter registration and voter turnout in all elections