



**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®
OF TEXAS**

**TESTIMONY
LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF TEXAS**

HOUSE ELECTIONS COMMITTEE

April 27, 2015

I am Cinde Weatherby, the League of Women Voters of Texas Voting Rights/Elections Issue Chair, submitting testimony as a member and on behalf of the League of Women Voters of Texas. We appreciate the opportunity to provide comments in SUPPORT of HB 953 establishing online voter registration.

The League of Women Voters of Texas strongly supports online voter registration. It is a subject that we have thoroughly researched in concept and in execution in the many other states using it.

The bills creating an electronic voter registration process are unlike most other bills under consideration in the 84th Session of the Legislature. They defy the old saw, “if it sounds too good to be true, it probably is.” Because, implementing an electronic registration system results in a substantially better experience at a far lower cost.

It is unique in another major way as well, as it is the one voter or election related issue that is proven to not provide an advantage to any political party over another. In its implementation in states dominated by one political party or the other, research has shown that registration percentages remain very close to what they were prior to online registration. It is the rare opportunity for Legislators to vote on something where there will be no losers – only winners.

Who are those winners?

- Texas taxpayers paying state and county taxes – as the cost of registration in every other state implementing the system has been reduced significantly.
- Individuals registering to vote – as they privately enter their own information in a secure system at their convenience, without sharing very personal information with a stranger or that would be transcribed with the possibility of entry errors.
- Everyone who cares about the integrity of elections – reviews of implemented systems show these results:
 - No cases of voter impersonation – those registering are authenticated using established personal identification information in a secure system. In Texas, this system already exists, meaning even lower start-up costs and efforts than might otherwise be the case.
 - Voter rolls that are more accurate -- with a lower probability of errors because of the elimination of transcription errors and spreading out the receipt of voter registration applications over time.

LWV-TX requests that you VOTE FOR HB 953 today and celebrate your contribution to Texas voters by adding Texas to the now 26 other states moving the voter registration process from the 19th Century to the 21st Century.

For additional information, please contact: Cinde Weatherby, cindeweatherby@gmail.com, 512-243-8491.

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 3,900 members and supporters 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.