



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®
OF TEXAS

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Contact: Aileen Jacinta McMurrer
512-472-1100
ajmcmurrer@lwtexas.org

League of Women Voters Asks Speaker Straus to Prioritize Local Control and Review of Detention Centers

Austin, TX - Elaine Wiant, president of the League of Women Voters of Texas sent a formal letter to Speaker of the Texas House of Representatives Joe Straus expressing the will of the League's 2016 Convention. Over 100 local League leaders voted unanimously to ask the Speaker to find ways to restore local control to Texas cities and to investigate state-controlled detention facilities for undocumented immigrants, specifically with regard to children, to determine if there are human and civil rights violations. Wiant mailed the letter on Mar 18. Wiant says, "It was a powerful letter calling attention to serious issues in the State of Texas."

Local League leaders from across Texas gathered at the 36th Biennial Convention of the League of Women Voters of Texas in Houston last week to reach consensus on critical programming and action items for the next two years. "One of our most important tasks during each LWV-TX biennial convention is identifying those matters that necessitate our immediate action," says Wiant. She continues, "During our Convention discussion, these issues were deemed among the most critical. By bringing the Speaker's attention to these problems, we hope to make a difference in the present and future of Texas," Wiant continues.

"LWV-TX is, first and foremost, a grassroots organization made up of concerned citizens. Letters like the one I sent to Speaker Straus are one way we can make sure our voices are heard by decision makers across the State," noted Wiant. "We appreciate the strong relationship the League has with Texas Legislators and everything they do to make sure citizens like us have a vote in shaping our future."

The nonpartisan League of Women Voters of Texas has been "educating and agitating" since 1919. The League encourages active and informed civic participation in government and increased understanding of major public policy issues. The League of Women Voters' non-partisan **Voters Guide** is highly respected and sought after by voters in local and statewide elections in Texas.

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