

**League of Women Voters Statement  
Press Conference  
April 18, 2007**

The League of Women Voters of Texas is a nonpartisan non profit organization that for 88 years has advocated for good government policies. One of the League principles states our belief that democratic government depends upon the informed and active participation by citizens. In recent years, voter confidence in the electoral process, a cornerstone of democracy, has reduced the active participation in government by citizens. Voters' perception that big money donated to candidates by a few special interests has a negative influence and seems to have kept many from the polls. "Why should I vote when I can't make a difference," many have said.

The three bills being heard in the Elections Committee today would be a step in the right direction to bring the electoral process back to the people. Two of the bills place limits on how much a person can contribute to a candidate in a two-year election cycle. This would reduce the influence of money and politics on the legislative process and bring more accountability from lawmakers to the needs of citizens. A third bill would prohibit the use of administrative expenses for political purposes as has been done in the past. It would also prohibit "issue" or "sham" ads that were paid for in the past with undisclosed corporate contributions that resulted in negative campaigning and attacked the credibility of some candidates. These are some of the provisions in the three bills that would bring compliance with federal law to Texas.

It's past time for the Legislature to pass meaningful campaign finance reform and bring trust and confidence to the Texas public in the electoral process. The League supports HB 110, HB 111 and HB 1085.