



## TESTIMONY

### LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF TEXAS

THURSDAY, 03/16/2023

### HOUSE ELECTIONS COMMITTEE

I am Stephanie Swanson, the Issue Chair of Voting Rights for the League of Women Voters of Texas. Today, I will be testifying as a member and on behalf of the League of Women Voters of Texas in **Support of HB 357**. We appreciate the opportunity to appear before you today. Thank you for allowing us to share the League of Women Voters of Texas position on this bill.

The League supports reducing the number of personal ID requirements needed to track your mail-in ballot.

My Mother-in-law cast a ballot by mail during the 2022 General Election. The new ID requirements for ballots by mail that were instated after the passage of SB 1 confused my Mother-in-law, and she was concerned that she had made a mistake and that her ballot would not be accepted. I told her not to worry. It was still during the early voting period, and she had time to check with the county clerk's office to make sure her ballot was accepted. I pointed her to the new ballot tracking tool on the Secretary of State's website, so she could check to see if her ballot had been received yet. Unfortunately, she confused the last 4 digits of her social security number with a previous phone number that she had had, and she was off by one digit, so the ballot tracker told her that it could not find her ballot. She called the county clerk's office and asked what she should do. She was concerned that her vote wasn't going to count. They told her that sometimes it took a few days for everything to be processed and to just wait longer. It took her 2 days before she realized that she had mixed up the numbers, and she finally was able to verify that her ballot had been received using the ballot tracking system.

During the floor debate on Senate on SB 2 this past Monday, Senator Eckhardt said that during canvassing, county clerks do find people that have voted twice, and 99.99999% of the time it ends up being someone who votes a provisional ballot because either they can't remember if they had sent in their mail-in ballot, or they couldn't verify that their mail-in ballot had been received. While my Mother-in-law was finally able to navigate the vote by mail process correctly, there are other people who are clearly not able to do so.

Therefore, the League does support allowing voters to check the status of their mail-in ballot using either their driver's license number/personal identification card number issued by the Department of Public Safety or the last 4 digits of their social security number, as we feel this will help reduce confusion in the vote by mail process.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

For additional information, please contact: Stephanie Swanson, Voting Rights Issue Chair, [sswanson@lwvtexas.org](mailto:sswanson@lwvtexas.org).

The League of Women Voters is one of America's oldest and most trusted civic nonprofit organizations. Formed in 1919, the League of Women Voters of Texas represents over 13,000 grassroots advocates and 34 local Leagues across the State of Texas.

The League of Women Voters never supports or opposes candidates for office or political parties. We encourage the informed and active participation of citizens in government and seek to influence public policy through education and advocacy. Membership in the League is open to people 16 and older of all gender identities.