



## TESTIMONY

### LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF TEXAS

THURSDAY, APRIL 13, 2023

### HOUSE ELECTIONS COMMITTEE

I am testifying as a member and on behalf of the League of Women Voters of Texas **IN SUPPORT OF** House Bill 1208. 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.

As a Mother of two children, ages 11 and 13, I can say wholeheartedly that I support this legislation, as would many parents of young children. I can distinctly remember this one time when my husband and I took our two young children with us to the polls one weekend. My daughters were probably around 5-7 years old then. My eldest daughter is on the autism spectrum, and by that age she had finally learned to navigate public settings with more ease. As we walked up to the voting machines at the polling location, one of the poll workers told us that our kids could not accompany us to the machines, and she took them off to the side to help keep an eye on them. I remember that I constantly had to look over my shoulder to check on them, to make sure my eldest was doing ok. I know that the election worker didn't mean any harm, and it was awfully nice of her to help, but I would have preferred that my girls stayed with us while we voted. By that age, both of them could read, and, as teachers like to say, busy hands are happy hands.

My daughters are now at an age where they understand more about the world around them and the importance of voting. It is important to me that they are raised knowing that it is their right and part of their civic duty to vote. Allowing them to accompany me to the voting machine and enter my choices for me would not only allow them to learn more about our elections and the different offices on the ballot, but it also will allow them to feel like they are part of the process. It also would help instill a sense of pride in them, knowing that one day they will have a voice in our government.

Voting behavior is very much a habit, and my husband and I hope that our voting habits are instilled into our kids one day. By allowing children to be a part of this process, it would serve as an educational opportunity like none other.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

For additional information, please contact: Stephanie Swanson, House Elections Committee Issue Chair,  
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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.