



## TESTIMONY

### LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF TEXAS

THURSDAY, APRIL 20, 2023

### HOUSE ELECTIONS COMMITTEE

I am testifying on behalf of the League of Women Voters of Texas **IN OPPOSITION** to HB 2809. 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.

HB 2809 would withdraw Texas from a 34-state information sharing program that allows states to obtain accurate information on voters who have died or moved out of state. While it's true that Texas may be able to negotiate individual data-sharing agreements with each state in the country, experts widely agree there is no program as robust as ERIC. The ERIC system is complex, sophisticated and took more than a decade to build. It was further refined by experts who focused on this problem for years and appreciate the complexity of the voter registration system. It will not be an easy task to quickly create a robust, accurate, alternative system. Unfortunately, this means the public should be wary of "new" list maintenance systems that are developed and should insist that any external contractors working on registration be fervently nonpartisan in their approach.

Analysis has shown that accurately matching and connecting names to identify duplicate voters is exceedingly difficult, and prior to the ERIC system, some states used some poor data & matching science to maintain voter lists. As a result, the ERIC system spent a lot of time being far more nuanced with how it explored the matches, and how it identified potential duplicates or potential eligible but unregistered voters. ERIC also figured out a way, utilizing technology and state policies to ensure that the state driver's license lists, the best single source of voter and potential voter information, were shared between member states. It connected to the state systems that allowed for the death records of individuals to be flagged. And, it also allows for flags of the Change of Address (COA) system that individuals fill out to forward mail upon moving.

The State only recently joined the ERIC System in March of 2020, and according to the Secretary of State's Full Forensic Audit Report of the 2020 General Election, the state has already received very helpful data. According to that report, "the office received reports from the Electronic Registration Information Center (ERIC) regarding voters who may have voted twice in state and across state lines. [They] also received a report of persons who may have been deceased when a vote was cast in their name. Finally, [they] identified potential non-U.S. citizen voters and have directed county voter registrars to take action to verify the eligibility of registered voters and cancel their registration if they do not present proof of eligibility." The data received from ERIC is actually one of the most effective ways of detecting voter fraud that is available today.

Furthermore, a look at the national numbers for ERIC shows how effective it is at cleaning up our nation's voter rolls:

- ERIC was able to identify 2.4 million people who moved between participating states—allowing them to be removed from one state and invited to be added to the new residence.
- ERIC identified 7.3 million people that moved within participating states, thus allowing them to preserve their registration at their new address and end their registration at their old one.

- 200,000 in-state duplicates were removed, and
- 65K deceased voters were identified and removed from the rolls.

These are real numbers, and they prove that the lists are up to date and secure. Which begs the question, why are states wanting to leave this system?

Therefore, we urge the committee to oppose HB 2809.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

**For additional information, please contact: Stephanie Swanson, Voting Rights & Election Law 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.