



## TESTIMONY

### LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF TEXAS

WEDNESDAY, 03/29/2023 at 8:00 AM

### HOUSE JUDICIARY AND CIVIL JURISPRUDENCE COMMITTEE

I am testifying as a member and on behalf of the League of Women Voters of Texas IN OPPOSITION to House Bill 2930. . 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 of Women Voters of Texas OPPOSES HB 2930, that would give the Texas Supreme Court appellate jurisdiction to finally resolve conflicts between the Supreme Court and the Court of Criminal Appeals regarding the interpretation of provisions of the Texas Constitution.

This proposed law is in direct conflict with Article V, Section 3 (a) of the Texas Constitution which says that “the Supreme Court’s determinations shall be final except in criminal law matters” and that “the Supreme Court’s jurisdiction shall be final and ... extend to all cases except in criminal law matters.” The parallel and separate tracks of jurisdiction in the Supreme Court and the Court of Criminal Appeals have worked very well in our state since 1876. Why is this radical change that will take power away from the Court of Criminal Appeals being proposed at this time?

The wording of the proposed law is also vague. To what conflicts and to what decisions among or between what courts does the text refer? The Supreme Court and the Court of Criminal Appeals hear entirely different kinds of cases. If the proposed law refers to conflicts among the various Courts of Appeal, what is the problem? The Courts of Appeal hear both civil and criminal cases, but appeals of civil cases go to the Supreme Court and appeals of criminal cases go to the Court of Criminal Appeals – and any conflict among the Courts of Appeal are resolved by the appropriate higher court.

HB 2930 as written is unnecessary, vague and confusing. The League asks this Committee to vote “no” on the proposed bill.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

**For additional information, please contact: Julie Lowenberg, Judicial Selection & Judiciary 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.