



## TESTIMONY

### LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF TEXAS

#### HOUSE ELECTIONS COMMITTEE

Thursday, March 30, 2023

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 Against HB 3611. 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 opposes this bill because it bans preferential voting in all elections in Texas. We believe that preferential or ranked choice voting is beneficial. Studies show that ranked choice voting encourages voter participation and engagement and encourages more candidates to broaden their appeals to a wider group of voters. It also avoids costly run offs.

Ranked choice voting has been used very effectively in municipal elections around the country and is especially well suited to nonpartisan elections. Ranked choice voting would also benefit military and overseas voters who often do not receive and cannot return run off ballots in time to have them counted.

The League believes that the bill is overbroad and unnecessarily limits the scope of local decision-makers.

Thank you for your time and attention.

**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.