



# LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF TEXAS

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## Moratorium on the Death Penalty

The League of Women Voters of Texas supports a moratorium on executions in Texas because there are inherent flaws in the death penalty system. Since 1973, 130 individuals on death row in the United States have been exonerated, nine of them from Texas. Since an execution is irreversible, the possibility of wrongful convictions is leading many people to take another look at the death penalty.

Following are some errors found in death penalty cases:

- . Inadequate defense counsel
- . Inadequate pre-trial investigation
- . Faulty eyewitness identification
- . Faulty fingerprint identification
- . Faulty forensic analysis
- . Racially slanted juries
- . Absence of mitigating evidence
- . Erroneous testimony from other prisoners

In considering a moratorium, money should also be a factor. Having someone on death row costs on the average of 2.3 million dollars, or about three times the cost of imprisoning someone in a single cell for 40 years. A sentence of Life without Parole could save millions of dollars.

The possibility of a wrongful conviction leading to an execution is troubling even to the strongest supporters of the death penalty. A moratorium would provide a window of opportunity to study the death penalty, which brutalizes our entire society and contributes to a culture of violence.

The League of Women Voters of Texas supports HB 913 (Dutton) which would create a commission to study capital punishment in Texas and enact a moratorium. The League of Women Voters of Texas supports HJR 24, a constitutional amendment needing voter approval, introduced by Representative Naishtat. Approval of the amendment would provide the governor with the ability to order a moratorium on executions.

**Published by the League of Women Voters of Texas**  
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January 2009

ADVOCACY PAPER