



## LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF TEXAS

### **ACTION ALERT: Consequences of House Budget Bill HB 1**

#### **Requested action:**

Fax, telephone or email members of the Texas House of Representatives opposing cuts to vital services in the proposed legislation, and supporting additional revenue sources, especially the whole Rainy Day Fund. Get contact information for your representative by entering your address at <http://www.fyi.legis.state.tx.us/>

#### **Who should receive the Action Alert?**

Members

#### **When:**

Calls, faxes and e-mails should be sent as soon as possible.

#### **Background:**

The House budget bill will reach the floor this week. The true cost of the spending cuts authorized in this bill is already starting to emerge. The Legislative Budget Board issued a Dynamic Economic Impact Statement last week showing that Texas will have 227,000 fewer jobs in 2012 under the proposed house budget bill HB 1 than a baseline scenario where state expenditures remained constant relative to 2010-11 levels and available revenue matched these spending levels.

Many of the cuts to the state budget are reflected in costs to individual Texans and their cities and counties. To see how the proposed cuts will affect your county, go to the Center for Public Policy Priorities' analysis at <http://www.cppp.org/research.php?aid=1051>.

#### **What to say:**

We accept that as Texans we generally want lower taxes; however, the Tax Foundation reported that Texas ranked 50th in the nation in state per capita spending in 2007. We're already at the bottom in state financing before the current HB1's \$23 billion cut in funds necessary just to maintain the status quo. This legislation changes austerity measures to address an economic turndown into a manmade disaster.

The results of this irresponsible refusal to accept the state's role in providing necessary services to its citizens and support of public education and higher learning will be catastrophic to Texas' future recovery and growth as we enter the second decade of the 21st Century. A 2006 study conducted by the State of New York found that a 14% decrease in education spending correlated to a 17% decrease in the graduation rate, and a 2003 University of California at Berkley study linked graduation rates to crime rates and incarceration costs. For every 1% drop in the graduation rate, they found a social cost of \$1.4 billion. So with the results of this legislation, we could be trading job growth for prison growth.

Our message to legislators is "Don't Mess UP Texas"!

Questions can be directed to [bleitch@earthlink.net](mailto:bleitch@earthlink.net).

**Attached: [LWV-TX Advocacy Paper on Financing State Government.](#)**