



## LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF TEXAS

### **ACTION ALERT SB 1 and HB 1**

#### **Requested action:**

Send e-mails or/or telephone members of the Texas House of Representatives and the Texas Senate opposing cuts to vital services in the state budget, and supporting additional revenue sources, especially the Rainy Day Fund. Get contact information for your senator and representative by putting in your address at: <http://www.fyi.legis.state.tx.us/>

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

Members

#### **When:**

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

#### **Background:**

The Senate and the House have almost completed hearings on SB 1 and HB 1, the budget bills. Those bills contain drastic cuts in state aid to public schools, universities and social services as well as to almost all state services. LWV-TX asks local Leagues to contact their senators and representatives to let them know that LWV opposes cuts to vital services. The League encourages lawmakers to pursue additional revenue, especially the Rainy Day Fund, but that will not be enough to protect the future of Texas.

Proposed cuts in current budget bills will endanger our public schools and universities and result in drastic loss of services to millions of vulnerable Texans. Children removed from CHIP will not be able to see a doctor. Preventive care will take a huge hit, like developmental screenings and early childhood intervention. Mental health services, child abuse prevention, care for the elderly through Medicaid reimbursement are all on the chopping block. Cuts being proposed in both the House and Senate budget bills will affect the state's ability to maintain highways and bridges, will decrease by 50% the Texas Emission Reduction program, and will affect the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality's mission."

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

LWV supports a balanced approach to the budget crisis. Some cuts will be necessary, but we oppose cuts to vital services like education or removing the safety net for vulnerable Texans. Often saving money today results in loss of future competitiveness and more costly problems later on. We support the need to find additional revenue sources, like the Rainy Day Fund, and additional taxes. The legislature must find real solutions to fund state government and not play games or use gimmicks. Texans deserve a secure future.

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