



## Legislative Priorities

### 79<sup>th</sup> Legislature

The following interim priorities were adopted in January 2006:

- **Financing Education** – follow the legislature as they work toward a possible special session.
- **Judicial Selection** – contact and work with Senators Duncan and Ellis on a bill for the next session that splits the selection of appellate judges from district judges to help ensure that we can move forward on the appointment of appellate judges.
- **Death Penalty** – work to educate the legislators on the need for a law protecting the mentally retarded from the death penalty focusing on determining mental retardation before the trial is held.
- **State Water Policy** – water issues from groundwater privatization and the right of capture to planning for environmental flows, from instream flows to bed and banks and protection of the state's bays and estuaries have mushroomed since the end of the session in May. Three legislative committees are meeting currently to discuss and make recommendations on these issues to the 2005 session. LWV-TX will monitor their progress.
- **Budget issues affecting CHIP and health and human services**

As a follow-up to the 78th session LWV-TX will follow:

- HAVA implementation and
- Low-level nuclear waste disposal implementation rules and the possible appointment of a Citizen Oversight Committee at TCEQ. The Committee was discussed with the Commission at the time of adoption of the new rules in December.

### 78<sup>th</sup> Legislature

During the 78th regular legislative session, the League of Women Voters of Texas acted on these priority issues:

- The Texas tax structure, and adequate state budget funding
- Financing Texas public schools
- Health care for women and the elderly
- Restructuring of government: the Texas Ethics Commission; the Texas Workforce
- Commission role in childcare; the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (formerly TNRCC) Office of Public Interest Counsel.