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**ALL TEXAS VOTERS SHOULD HELP DECIDE WHO LEADS TEXAS:
TEXAS' PROBLEM IS LOW VOTER TURNOUT NOT VOTER FRAUD**

In 2010 it is easy to take the right to vote for granted, but universal suffrage in the US was achieved only after long and difficult struggles by many groups. Given those efforts plus the sacrifices of US forces defending our freedoms and extending them to others, it is important that Texans who are registered to vote take the time to exercise that right in the November 2 General Election.

Many Texans voted during early voting or by mail. Voters who have not already voted can still do so Election Day, November 2. Voters will be deciding who leads Texas at state and local levels. Officials elected November 2 will make decisions on issues that affect all Texans: jobs, the economy, education, the environment, and transportation among many others topics. Nonpartisan information on candidates and issues is available in the Voters Guides of LWV-Texas and local Leagues in Texas at www.lwwvtexas.org.

Unfortunately, during early voting there were reports of actions interfering with or intimidating voters and other potential election violations. Similar problems might occur on Election Day. Voters should not be deterred from going to the polls but should be prepared if a problem occurs.

Voters may encounter individuals who would like to influence their vote as they arrive at the polls. In Texas such electioneering activity is legal if it occurs more than 100 feet outside the polls. The information provided may or may not be true. Voters can decide whether or not to talk with these individuals.

Voters should bring identification with them to the polls and show it only to election officials inside the polling location who should be wearing identification badges with their name and position. The current voter registration certificate is best because the bar code may reduce the time it takes to verify registration. Voters who have lost or misplaced their voter registration certificate can vote by providing other identification (e.g., drivers license, DPS personal identification card, utility bill, bank statement, government document with name and address).

Election officials at the polls can assist voters in understanding how to cast their ballot but cannot influence a voter's decision on the choice among candidates or on ballot initiatives. Informational signs at the polls and directions on the ballot will help individuals complete the ballot in the way they wish to vote, and election officials at the polling place are available to answer questions.

A voter whose name does not appear on the list of registered voters or who does not have proper identification will be offered a provisional ballot. That ballot will be counted only if the individual is registered to vote, is at the correct polling location, and provided proper identification. A voter who is not allowed to vote and is not offered a provisional ballot may have the basis for a complaint.

The important election problem in Texas is low voter turnout, not voter fraud. A thorough review by the Texas Attorney General could find no evidence of significant voter fraud. Low voter turnout in Texas is well documented. In 2006, our last gubernatorial election, only 30.9% of the voter eligible population actually voted.

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Texas ranked 47th among the states in voter turnout that year, about 10% below the national average of 40.4%.

The candidate who receives the largest number of votes cast is elected in Texas general elections. When there are more than two candidates on the ballot, a candidate can be elected with less than a majority of the votes cast. In 2006, some statewide candidates were elected with less than 40% of the votes cast. Given the low turnout, those officials were elected with the support of little more than 12% of Texas' voter eligible population.

Additional information that may be of help to voters follows.

When and Where to Vote on Election Day, Nov. 2

On Election Day polls are open from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. Polls are generally less crowded during the middle of the morning and middle of the afternoon.

In most parts of the state voters must go to the polling location for the precinct in which they are registered. Voters unsure of where to vote can contact their county elections administrator, call a local League of Women Voters, check online at <http://votexas.org/>, or consult newspapers and broadcast media.

What's on the Ballot

The ballot includes statewide offices (governor and other executive branch positions), US House of Representatives, state legislature, state courts, county and other local offices, and, in some areas, ballot initiatives.

Sample ballots can be obtained from county elections officials, on county election websites, or from newspapers and broadcast media. Nonpartisan information on candidates and issues is available in the Voters Guides of LWV-Texas and local Leagues in Texas at www.lwvtexas.org. Candidate campaigns and political parties can also provide information.

A Voter's Rights in Texas

Texas voters have a right to cast their ballot in secret and free from intimidation. They have the right to written instructions and assistance from election officials in how to cast a ballot consistent with the voter's preferences, to bring in written materials like the LWV Voters Guide, and to file a complaint if they believe their rights have been violated.

Texas voters may not: vote more than once or if ineligible, in any way suggest to others at the polling location how to vote, or interfere with others who wish to vote through intimidation, threats or other forms of coercion.

For additional information on voting rights in Texas see: <http://sos.state.tx.us/elections/pamphlets/everytexan-bk.shtml>

Reporting Problems

Anyone concerned about possible violations of voting rights can contact the Secretary of State's Office at 1-800-252-8683, their county elections administrator, their county attorney, or the US Department of Justice Civil Rights Division (1-800-253-3931; TTY line 1-877-267-8971).