



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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REDISTRICTING . . . IT'S Happening

Austin , TX —As redistricting begins in earnest now that the data from the decennial census is available, the League of Women Voters of Texas stands ready to help the public weigh in on a process that will impact state and federal policymaking for years to come. LWV-TX president Karen Nicholson announced a series of upcoming community forums and released the following statement:

“The constitution requires, and the LWV-Texas supports, the redrawing of Congressional, Legislative, and Texas State Board of Education district lines based on population increases and shifts. Our mantra is one person, one vote.”

“Redistricting matters,” Nicholson continued. “The power of an individual’s vote is diluted if districts are drawn to make them safe for one party or the other, to pack racial or ethnic groups unfairly into one district in order to suppress their influence, or to break up those groups among several districts for the same purpose. Such actions can have far-reaching impacts on hard-working families.”

She added, “Additionally, districts drawn to protect incumbency or create “safe” seats tend to cause candidates to move to the extremes of their party’s positions. In turn, once elected, they tend to be less willing to find compromise for pressing public problems. In addition, overly safe districts often discourage robust voter turnout.”

“There is an antidote to such problematic redistricting, and that antidote is openness and public participation,” Nicholson continued. “That is why the League is committed to helping voters know when and how they can influence this process.”

The House Redistricting committee has approved the first redistricting map for the State Board of Education, which has been posted as CSHB 600 on the state’s DistrictViewer website, <http://gis1.tlc.state.tx.us>. Now is the time for Texans to look at this map and others as they are made public and send their comments to their state representative and/or state senator. Visit <http://www.lwvtexas.org/elected.php> to contact Texas legislators.

For more ways to get involved see <http://www.lwvtexas.org/redistricting.php> where LWV-TX has pulled together information about redistricting at and will post updates regularly.

“The League is working in earnest to call the public’s attention to the importance of redistricting and, working with the media, make the process as open and transparent as possible,” Nicholson concluded. “We urge all interested community members to join us in shining a light on this incredibly significant part of our democratic process.”

LWV-Texas, with other community organizations, will hold public forums /town halls around the state. These meetings will include information about local redistricting. Please see the calendar below:

City	Date/Time	Location	Contact
Austin	April 27th 7 p.m.	First Methodist Church Family Life Center, Lavaca and 13th Street	lwvaustin@lwvaustin.org
Dallas	May 17, 11:30 a.m	Center for Community Cooperation, 2900 Live Oak	LindaVote@tx.rr.com
El Paso	April 28th 6 p.m.	El Paso Garden Center 3105 Grant Ave	janet.monteros@att.net.
Lubbock	April 28th 11:45 a.m.	St. John's Methodist Church, 15th at University	lwvlubbock@att.net
San Antonio	April 28th, evening	Details TBD	etalarski@earthlink.net

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