



For Immediate Release

April 26, 2011

Contact: Justine Quinn, LWV-Texas, 512-472-1100, jquinn@lwvtexas.org

**PROPOSED BUDGET INADEQUATE TO MEET TEXAS NEEDS,
MANY TEXANS WILL BE LEFT BEHIND**

The Texas Senate Finance Committee's proposed Texas budget for 2012-2013 is a significant improvement over the House proposal, but it falls far short of taking care of Texans, especially those most in need, children and the disadvantaged.

"With Texas growth of 20% each decade, reversing funding for schools, medical care and basic needs would be irresponsible," according to Karen Nicholson, LWV-Texas President. She goes on to say that "Many Texans will be left wanting under the Senate proposal, and their needs for healthcare, education and other state services can't be put off until the next biennium."

"The Texas Legislature should take advantage of every avenue of funding available, including the Rainy Day Fund created for crises like our present shortfall," says Nicholson. "The fiduciary duty of elected officials requires addressing the structural deficit in financing state government the Legislature created in 2006. Texas must have a fair business tax or other revenue sources that keep pace with growth so that obligations are funded each biennium without a budget crisis. In the meantime, Texas should maximize the monies available from federal matching funds; fees, licenses and penalties; and eliminating tax loopholes."

Texans concerned about the adequacy of the proposed budget for 2012-2013 should call, email, or fax their Texas Senator and Representative to share their views. Contact information can be found at: <http://www.lwv-texas.org/elected.php> .

#####

The League of Women Voters of Texas, a nonpartisan political organization, has been encouraging active, informed participation in government for more than 90 years.