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

**WHAT TEXAS VOTERS NEED TO KNOW NOW TO BE SURE THEY CAN VOTE IN 2012:
STUDENT IDS AND MANY OTHERS MAY NOT BE ACCEPTED AT THE POLLS**

Austin, TX—A new Texas law scheduled to take effect in 2012 requires voters to show one of a limited number of photo IDs at the polls in 2012. Student IDs, out-of-state driver's licenses, and many other IDs will not be accepted under this law even if they contain a photo.

Federal approval required for the law to take effect has not yet been granted, but it is important for Texas voters to prepare now in case the law is in effect for the March 6, 2012, primary elections. Voting in primary elections is extremely important because the primaries decide the candidates that will be on the November general election ballot.

As of 2012 under the Texas law, the only photo IDs that will be accepted at the polls are:

- Texas Department of Public Safety-issued driver's license, personal ID card, concealed weapon permit, or election identification certificate; or
- US government-issued passport, military ID, or citizenship papers that include a photo.

The photo ID must be current or have expired no more than 60 days prior to presentation at the polls.

Planning now is important because obtaining a qualified photo ID will require documentation, such as a certified birth certificate, and time to obtain documentation and for the application.

Voters who have an acceptable photo ID need to know that the name on the photo ID must match the name on their voter registration. If the names match, the addresses need not match. If names do not match, election workers must determine if the names are "substantially similar" and if other information on the photo ID, such as the address, matches the voter registration.

Photo ID will not be required of individuals who vote by mail and individuals with documentation of disability and no photo ID who apply for an exemption from the voter registrar. Voters without photo ID because of a natural disaster or religious objection to being photographed may vote a provisional ballot and have 6 days to complete an affidavit with the voter registrar.

Texas is among the states required by the Voting Rights Act to obtain federal approval before election changes take effect because of a history of discrimination against minorities. The US Department of Justice (DOJ) has asked Texas for information on the more than 600,000 voters who may not have one of the qualified photo IDs. Once received, DOJ has up to 60 days to review this information and make a decision on whether or not to approve the photo ID requirement.

Additional information on photo ID requirements and voting in Texas is available from a variety of sources.

- LWV-TX, www.lwvtexas.org, 512-472-1100, lwvtexas@lwvtexas.org
- Texas Secretary of State, 800-252-VOTE(8683), elections@sos.state.tx.us
 - www.VOTEXAS.org (Texas voter registration requirements, check to see if you are registered, change name or address, information for student voters)
- County voter registration/elections offices (www.sos.state.tx.us/elections/voter/county.shtml)

LWV-TX, 1212 Guadalupe #107, Austin, TX 78701, www.lwvtexas.org

- Voter registration and voting information for other states: Secretary of State for that state or www.VOTE411.org.
- Requirements for qualified photo IDs:
 - Texas DPS-issue driver's license or personal ID card: www.txdps.state.tx.us
 - Election identification certificate requirements have not been finalized; this ID will be available from Texas DPS offices in 2012 at no cost for voting ID only.
 - US passport: http://travel.state.gov/passport/get/first/first_830.html.

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LWV-TX is a nonpartisan organization that has “educated and agitated” for informed participation in government for over 90 years and believes no form of informed participation is important than voting.