



**Testimony
HB3439
House Committee on Corrections
April 16, 2009**

The League of Women Voters of Texas (LWV-TX) supports HB3439 that addresses reforms for which the League has advocated in the past and continues to do so today. HB 3439 is an effort to develop a personal assessment instrument which would evaluate an inmate's ability to function both personally and in a public environment. We understand that due to limitations in the functional ability of some inmates, punishment alone will not cause a turn around in their negative behavior. Hopefully by having an instrument which will correctly identify learning abilities, vocational strengths, behavioral traits, and personal qualities, the State of Texas can better prepare the community upon the release of the inmate.

Armed with this information, parole and probation officers should be better equipped in their efforts to successfully reintegrate the inmate into their local community. Working with an officer who has evidence of both the strengths and weaknesses of each individual should produce positive results for the inmate as well. In facing issues directly and without delay, reintegration should be much more productive for everyone involved in the process.

We support this effort and feel it will be beneficial for parolees, probationers, their families, and the State of Texas.

LWV-TX urges you to vote favorably on HB 3439.
Thank you.