



**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS
OF TEXAS**

**TESTIMONY
LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF TEXAS
TESTIMONY BEFORE THE SENATE SELECT COMMITTEE ON REDISTRICTING SB 31
May 12, 2011**

I am Anita Privett Advocacy VP, testifying on behalf of the League of Women Voters of Texas (LWV-TX). We thank you for this opportunity to present our concerns about SB 31. The LWV is a nonpartisan political organization that encourages the informed and active participation of all citizens in government and influences public policy through education and advocacy.

Having only had access to the proposed map since yesterday afternoon, we've not had time to analyze adequately. We initially see that 9 of the 31 districts have had their percentage of African Americans and Latinos changed by over 5 points. Given the huge population growth in Texas, especially of minorities this might not be a surprise but four of those changes were reductions. We're especially concerned about the minority voters previously in district 10 and 14. Travis County is significant in that both communities of interest and minorities have been separated. The districts are not compact. Communities of interest are not given any weight and a minority opportunity district is split and divided so as to dilute the ability of residents to select the candidate of their choice. We also see significant retrogression throughout the state.

Thank you for this opportunity to air our concerns.