



**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS
OF TEXAS**

**TESTIMONY
LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF TEXAS
TESTIMONY BEFORE THE SENATE REDISTRICTING, SELECT COMMITTEE
February 16, 2011**

I am Anita Privett, Advocacy VP, testifying on behalf of members of the League of Women Voters of Texas (LWV-TX). We thank you for this opportunity to present our concerns on the redistricting process. 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.

“One Person One Vote” is a basic tenet of our democracy. Redistricting every ten years based on census data to create voting districts approximately equal in population is a basic step in insuring that each citizen’s vote carries the same weight in an election. This is especially important given the 22.8% population growth that Texas has experienced in the last ten years as well as the dramatic differences in where the growth occurred. Your work carrying out redistricting is vital in assuring that one person one vote is a reality in Texas. We recognize that this is a hard task.

It will be hard to act in the best interest of all Texans, but you can do it by insisting on transparency in your processes and making sure there are significant opportunities for public input. Last summer there were regional meetings where citizens were able to comment on the process. Now we are asking that you provide similar opportunities for public comment on the actual maps you are considering. You have choices to make. All Texans deserve an opportunity to assess the impact of your choices before they are final.