



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF TEXAS

TESTIMONY LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF TEXAS HOUSE ELECTIONS

MONDAY, APRIL 17, 2017

I am Cinde Weatherby, testifying as a member and on behalf of the League of Women Voters of Texas IN OPPOSITION to HB 1683. We appreciate the opportunity to appear before you today. Thank you for allowing us to share the League of Women Voters of Texas position on this bill.

We believe the use of Early Voting has wide acceptance and support across the state and limiting the days available would be detrimental. The Secretary of State’s chart below indicates the level of those voters taking advantage of in person early voting in a variety of counties around the state.

November 8, 2016
Early Voting
Cumulative Totals
Thru Close of Business
November 4, 2016

County	Reg Voters	# In Person On 11/4/2016	Cumulative In-Person Voters	Cumulative % In-Person	Cumulative By Mail Voters	Cumulative % by Mail Voters	Cumulative In-Person And Mail Voters	Cumulative Percent Early Voting
Harris	2,234,678	105,005	882,580	39.49%	94,699	4.24%	977,279	43.73%
Dallas	1,287,171	63,342	512,168	39.79%	37,475	2.91%	549,643	42.70%
Tarrant	1,077,618	56,156	480,936	44.63%	34,294	3.18%	515,230	47.81%
Bexar	1,045,360	46,651	436,731	41.78%	35,177	3.37%	471,908	45.14%
Travis	725,041	42,932	357,595	49.32%	20,090	2.77%	377,685	52.09%
Collin	536,915	30,409	289,561	53.93%	12,378	2.31%	301,939	56.24%
Denton	464,829	24,983	228,928	49.25%	11,026	2.37%	239,954	51.62%
El Paso	428,320	16,926	142,453	33.26%	7,993	1.87%	150,446	35.12%
Fort Bend	404,038	23,569	201,655	49.91%	11,912	2.95%	213,567	52.86%
Hidalgo	338,563	15,829	132,424	39.11%	7,409	2.19%	139,833	41.30%
Montgomery	311,882	15,527	145,264	46.58%	11,554	3.70%	156,818	50.28%
Williamson	299,960	17,268	153,286	51.10%	9,272	3.09%	162,558	54.19%
Galveston	208,228	9,621	94,088	45.19%	7,400	3.55%	101,488	48.74%
Nueces	199,468	8,081	67,099	33.64%	7,745	3.88%	74,844	37.52%
Cameron	197,726	8,317	61,339	31.02%	2,900	1.47%	64,239	32.49%
Total	9,759,797	484,616	4,186,107	42.89%	311,324	3.19%	4,497,431	46.08%

We are also aware of recent research that shows the reduction in days and hours of early in-person voting – particularly for weekends -- has been seen to have a negative effect on African-American voters. This was based upon changes in Florida, tracking behavior regarding the reduction in early voting implemented in 2011 going from 14 to 8 days. [<http://earlyvoting.net/files/2013/06/Herron-Smith-Souls-to-the-Polls.pdf>]

We request that you consider this and other testimony and not approve the bill to move forward.

**For additional information, please contact: Cinde Weatherby, Voting & Elections Issue Chair,
cindeweatherby@gmail.com, 512.560.1334.**

The League of Women Voters of Texas (LWV-TX) is a nonpartisan citizens' organization that has fought since 1919 to improve our government and engage all citizens in the decisions that impact their lives. It represents more than 5,000 members and supporters in the 25 Local Leagues throughout Texas.

The League of Women Voters never supports or opposes candidates for office or political parties. The member-driven organization of women and men encourages the informed and active participation of citizens in government and seeks to influence public policy through education and advocacy of positions based on extensive issue study and consensus.