



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF TEXAS

TESTIMONY LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF TEXAS STATE AND FEDERAL POWER AND RESPONSIBILITY

APRIL 13, 2017

I am Grace Chimene testifying as a member and on behalf of the League of Women Voters of Texas. **We OPPOSE HJR 39.** Thank you for allowing us to share the League of Women Voters of Texas position on this bill.

Our position on a Constitutional Convention under Article V of the US Constitution, like other League positions, is derived through a lengthy and thoughtful process involving the participation of 25 local Leagues representing more than 5,000 members and supporters throughout the state of Texas. Our position from 2016 calls for safeguards to govern the constitutional convention process. We are very concerned that there are many unresolved questions about the powers and processes of an Article V Constitutional Convention. We urge the Texas legislators to use **extreme** caution when attempting to change our U.S. Constitution.

Our position emphatically states that a constitutional convention must be limited to **one specific topic.**

HJR 39 calls for **three broad topics with unlimited amendments**

1. Federal fiscal restraints
2. Limit the power and jurisdiction of the federal government
3. Limit the terms of office for federal officials and members of congress

We believe it is extremely important to guard against a “runaway convention”

Federal powers are used to protect our right to vote, to advance civil rights, to provide for labor and environmental regulations. These and many more important federal powers are vital for Making Democracy Work® in America.

Please OPPOSE this resolution. It is dangerous to our Democracy.

League Position Constitutional Convention under Article V of the U.S. Constitution (2016): <http://forum.lwv.org/member-resources/article/league-position-adopted-constitutional-conventions-under-article-v-us-const>

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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 5000 members and supporters 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.