



# LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF TEXAS

## TESTIMONY LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF TEXAS HOUSE ELECTIONS COMMITTEE

MONDAY, APRIL 10, 2017

I am Cinde Weatherby, testifying as a member and on behalf of the League of Women Voters of Texas ON HB 3422. 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.

The League supports accurate voter registration systems. We strongly believe in modernizing our 19<sup>th</sup> century voter registration system in Texas to take advantage of 21<sup>st</sup> century technical capabilities. From our extensive study of the issue, we sincerely believe we should join most of the rest of the country in fully embracing online voter registration. That would also benefit the ability to fully utilize interstate crosschecks.

We have an extremely mobile society, especially in Texas. According to our Texas demographer, in recent years Texas has been the number one destination for the nation's domestic migrants. Between 2005 and 2013, 4.8 million people moved to Texas from other states. Recent migration involved all of the other 49 states. However, the majority came from just 10 states: Arizona, California, Colorado, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Louisiana, New Mexico, New York and Oklahoma. It was pervasive, occurring in 251 of our counties. Though, nearly half was in six counties: Bexar, Dallas, El Paso, Harris, Tarrant and Travis. Almost 40 percent were 18-44 years old.

*[Demographics source: [http://demographics.texas.gov/Resources/Publications/2016/2016\\_04-13\\_DomesticMigration.pdf](http://demographics.texas.gov/Resources/Publications/2016/2016_04-13_DomesticMigration.pdf)]*

I'm guessing that most of those migrating to Texas didn't have a clue about how to cancel their voter registration in the state they left. It's also certain that most came from states with very different voter registration systems than Texas. I observe that the majority came from states with online voter registration.

Cross-checking can be helpful. We do caution; however, that the interstate crosscheck system offered free gratis by the State of Kansas has its flaws. The biggest problem is false matches and the wrongful elimination of citizens from the rolls. There are many individuals throughout the country with similar or exactly the same names.

The experience of states in the Kansas program has led to some of them leaving the system, such as Florida, Oregon, and Washington. **I am attaching some information from Project Vote, who had hoped to be present today. It goes into more details of the false matches that have been experienced under the Kansas program.** The League highly recommends participation in the Electronic Registration Information Center (ERIC), that provides more rigorous data matching and security. While not free, we believe it is well worth the investment and will produce a more accurate voter registration roll. We understand there are some grants available to assist with the cost. If the State cannot find the dollars, the League pledges to assist with fundraising in the nonpartisan community and suggest you permit acceptance of donations in this authorization.

ERIC is led not by one state, but governed and managed by states who choose to join. Its board of directors includes representation from all of the participating states. It is a nonprofit organization with the sole mission of assisting states to improve the accuracy of America's voter rolls and increase access to voter registration for all eligible citizens.

The League requests that the Legislature and the Secretary of State's Office do all in their power to eliminate duplications, but without unintentionally deleting citizens unduly.

**For additional information, please contact: Cinde Weatherby, Voting & Elections Issue Chair,**  
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If Florida Governor Rick Scott can be a victim of a false match using bad or incomplete matching criteria and be removed from his state's voting rolls, anyone could be. A quick search engine session discovered potential "false matches" under the Kansas system for Elections Committee members. Below are others with the exact or similar names around the country:

### Rep. Rodney Anderson

- The country's #1 producer of FHA/VA loans – Plano/Dallas
- An OU running back from Katy
- A medical doctor in Bellingham, WA
- A professor at Ohio Northern University
- A realtor in Knoxville
- A strong safety at Furman University
- An attorney in Rochester, MN

### Rep. Pat Fallon

- A deceased (Nov. 2015) advertising hall of fame member in Minneapolis
- An LA photographer
- A psychologist and clinical professor in Seattle
- A person who died (Jan. 2017) in Weymouth, MA
- A certified financial planner and retirement counselor in St. Petersburg, FL
- The 2016 Men's Soccer goalkeeper for the High Point University Panthers in Swarthmore, GA
- An orthopedic surgeon in Auburn, ME
- An attorney in Syracuse, NY
- 18 individuals in the New Jersey White Pages
- A champion of the Children's Defense Fund who died in 2015

### Rep. Lyle Larson

- A North Dakota Supreme Court Justice
- A person on the Iowa sex offender registry
- A person who died (Dec. 14, 2015) in Wisconsin
- A person who died (Jan. 2010) in Vancouver, WA
- A senior pastor at the First Baptist Church in Goodlettsville
- An attorney in Birmingham, AL
- A champion model plane racer in CA

### Rep. Ron Reynolds

- A person who died (2016) in Painsville, OH
- 24 individuals in the Iowa White Pages
- The chief of operations for CEG Worldwide, coaches for financial advisors in San Martin, CA
- The chairman of DayRiver venture capital and private equity group in NYC
- A physician in Cincinnati, OH
- An optometrist in Millani, HI
- A music producer for Columbia Studios in Nashville
- A Senior Advisor for the Chemical Heritage Foundation in Philadelphia

**[In the quick search, there were no matches for Chair Laubenberg, Rep. Swanson, or Rep. Israel]**

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.