



**TESTIMONY
THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF TEXAS
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ELECTIONS**

**HB 195
February 25, 2012**

Internet Reporting of Municipal and County Political Expenditures

The League of Women Voters believes that transparency in government is essential to a vibrant democracy. Any measure that provides easy access to information on an elected office or elected official strengthens our trust of government at the federal, state and local levels.

Improvements in transparency to the Texas Election Code not only have the potential to inform voters, but they also serve to remind to public servants that they are beholden to voters. In no case should an elected official be able to hide campaign donor information.

Americans of all political persuasions believe that money buys results when invested in the campaigns of political candidates. Transparency will not eliminate this perception, but it remains an essential part of restoring our trust in government.

The League of Women Voters of Texas strongly urges your support of H.B. 195, which requires city and county governments to post campaign finance information on their respective websites.

Stewart Snider
Campaign Finance Issue Chair