



**TESTIMONY
LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF TEXAS**

**SENATE STATE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE
HB 2570
MAY 16, 2013**

For more than 90 years since women were granted the right to vote, the League of Women Voters of Texas has encouraged the active, informed participation in government required for effective representative democracy.

LWV-TX supports HB 2570 (Miles) which will facilitate voter registration and help increase voter participation in Texas.

Unfortunately, Texas is consistently among the states with the lowest levels of voter participation, lagging both in voter registration and turnout. For Texas to have a vibrant democracy, LWV-TX believes we must work to increase voter participation.

Providing potential voters with the reason a voter registration application has been rejected may save registrars and applicants the time and expense of multiple rejections. Voters should not have to guess what is missing or inaccurate in their rejected applications. A Texas business that rejected a customer's business would provide an explanation. Potential voters should receive similar courtesy from their government. In addition, giving eligible voters the reasons for rejection of their applications might also give them motivation to reapply and become actual voters, furthering the goal of increasing participation in Texas elections.

Texas relies on volunteer deputy registrars for voter registration outreach, and LWV-TX members often serve as volunteer deputy registrars. Making the training now required for volunteer deputy registrars available online would help expand the number of volunteers able to meet the requirement thus facilitating expanded voter registration outreach.

LWV-TX urges the Committee to vote in favor of HB 2570 and appreciates the opportunity to share our views