



**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®
OF TEXAS**

**TESTIMONY
LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF TEXAS**

**HOUSE ELECTIONS COMMITTEE
March 23, 2015**

I am Cinde Weatherby, testifying as member and on behalf of the League of Women Voters of Texas, and on my own behalf. We thank you for the opportunity to provide comments in support of HB 675, allowing voters to use their mobile phones to access previously downloaded, recorded, or created information in the polling place .

Promoting an informed electorate is the heart and soul of the League of Women Voters at the local, state, and national level. I feel sure you are all aware of our nonpartisan, information-based *Voters Guides* that offer candidate information before elections. The League of Women Voters of Texas supports HB 675, as we believe that online and mobile access to the *Voters Guide* is a vital distribution method.

We also know that we are progressively reliant on our mobile devices for information. I could not tell you the phone numbers of those even closest to me, as they are in my smart phone, and even home phone. So is much other information, such as lists of movies I want to see, books I want to read, and restaurants I want to try. Those are simple things, and not as important a subject, as the lengthy ballots we encounter in the voting booth.

The League knows that individuals are looking at the *Voters Guide* online in greatly increasing numbers. The mobile platform is definitely part of our future distribution of the *Guide*.

Our Austin Area League partnered with a couple of young entrepreneurs last fall to pilot a mobile application called ThinkVoting for the Austin municipal elective offices. Other Leagues in the state are now in conversation with them about doing the same, and they hope to eventually go national with the effort. This is a young LBJ School graduate and veteran of the mobile app community who believe that is the best way to engage young voters. We believe it is a way to engage any voter.

We also offer *Voters Guide* information through the League of Women Voters of the US Vote 411 program. Not only is this program the methodology used to gather candidate answers to questions that will appear in the *Voters Guide*, it is the mechanism for us to download those answers for our own publications, both printed and online. Vote 411 is also available for any voter to access and download directly online.

We applaud Representative Bonnen for realizing the importance of allowing voters to study the issues and use the technological resources available to record their decisions. We request that you vote favorably on this bill.

For additional information, please contact: Cinde Weatherby, 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 3,900 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.