

To: Local League Presidents & TCR Chairmen
From: Betty Conner, TCR Chairman
Re: Lobbying with your legislators regarding the
Revision Commission

LWV of Texas
November 1972
Presidents Mailing
(2 copies direct
to president)

Once again my thanks to everyone for a great effort in the Amendment No. 4 campaign. Hope you enjoyed the brief rest period, because now the work will really begin. Our first concern is the Revision Commission which the legislature must appoint as the first step in the constitutional revision process. Each League is asked to immediately lobby with their legislators on the following four points:

1. The League of Women Voters of Texas suggests three people to be appointed to the Commission. Dr. Janice May, former state Board member who had been TCR Chairman and Legislative Chairman and is presently an instructor of government at the University of Texas, Austin. She is the author of articles on the need for revision in studies published by the Texas Urban Development Commission. Mrs. Darvin M. Winick, president of the LWV of Texas, former TCR Chairman on the state Board, a member of the Board of Directors of Citizens for Texas, a statewide organization which supported the passage of Amendment No. 4, and a member of the Speakers Advisory Committee. Mrs. Martin Braunagel, Program Vice President of the LWV of Texas and former staff consultant. Mrs. Braunagel has been actively involved in constitutional revision for the last twenty years.
2. That the Revision Commission be appointed immediately so that they will have sufficient time to do a thorough research and study.
3. Composition of Commission. That it be composed of interested and qualified private citizens who have experience or knowledge of state constitutions, the functioning of state government, the legislative process.
4. Size of Commission - 25 to 30 people. This is a sufficient number to do the required work, with the addition of a staff which was provided for in the wording of the amendment.

If your local League has a person in your community that you would like to suggest as a member of the Commission, add their name to the ones already suggested. It is extremely important that some League members be a part of this Commission. Do not miss any opportunity to use the techniques and experience you gained from the Lobby School and legislative session as you talk to your legislator....during the legislative interview, at your League's holiday party, over the phone, an official League letter, etc.

It certainly is a lot of fun to be successful!

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LWV of Texas
November 1972
State Board Report

TEXAS CONSTITUTIONAL
REVISION

Mrs. R. E. Conner
5005 Woodrow
Galveston, Texas 77550

A meeting will be held by the state off-Board TCR committee in early December to wrap up the Amendment 4 campaign. What did we do good, what can we improve on when we campaign next time in support or opposition of a new or revised constitution. I would like to have any suggestions the local Leagues have to make, plus an account of what you did in your local campaign that was especially successful or disastrous (apparently there were not any real disasters).

Now we are concentrating all our efforts on lobbying with our legislators on four points that the LEAGUE IS CONCERNED ABOUT:

1. Suggesting 3 League members for the Revision Commission--Veta Winick, Lois Braunagel, Janice May.
2. Appointing the commission immediately.
3. The commission be composed of private citizens who have a knowledge or experience in working with state constitutions, the functioning of state government, and the legislative process.
4. That the size of the commission be limited to 25-30 people.

When the Commission is appointed the names and addresses of the members will be sent to each local League. An official League letter will be sent to the members of the commission stating the League's position re the constitution and recommending open meetings of the commission, statewide hearings, early notification of meetings and the commission to begin work immediately so that it will have sufficient time for research and study. There will be a League observer at the Revision Commission meetings and reports of their meetings will be sent to all local Leagues.

It is urgently requested by the state Board that all Leagues do a review of not only our TCR positions (some Leagues did this, but not all), but of League positions in general that would relate to a revised constitution. League members cannot lobby effectively if they are not absolutely sure of their facts. In February, you will receive material for a review of what League positions we would like to see in a new constitution, what we would like to have removed, and what positions can only be achieved by statutory law. Please plan this meeting for late spring or summer.

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LWV of Texas
January 1972

To: Texas Constitutional Revision Chairmen
From: Mrs. Betty Conner

Re: ANALYSIS OF COST OF THE CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS

YEAR	NUMBER OF AMENDMENT	PUBLICATION COST	NUMBER OF WORDS	AVERAGE PER AMENDMENT	AVERAGE PER WORD
1956	9	\$103,511.95		\$11,501.33	
1957	3	47,884.55		15,948.18	
1958	9	94,515.40		10,501.71	
1960	4	39,265.30		9,816.45	
1962	14	254,192.10		18,157.58	
1963	4	140,229.53		35,057.38	
1964	3	52,257.84		17,419.28	
1965	1	11,971.71	(416)	11,971.71	\$28.77
1965	10	394,189.53	(13,929)	39,418.95	28.29
1966	16	428,839.59	(14,832)	26,802.47	29.81
1967	6	187,677.06	(5,898)	31,279.51	31.82
1968	14	247,346.19	(7,632)	17,667.58	32.41
1969	9	121,120.09	(3,715)	13,457.77	32.60
1970	7	110,742.67	(3,050)	15,820.38	36.31
1971	4	107,723.49	(2,932)	26,930.86	36.74
1972	14				

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LWV of Texas
January 1972

To: Texas Constitutional Revision Chairman
From: Mrs. R. E. Conner

Re: CONSTITUTIONAL REVISION CAMPAIGN ALERT

Here is your "talk" kit for all legislative candidates. This is a must
for our Revision Campaign.

Please note there are four informational sheets enclosed to be left with
each candidate when you make your call.

Five copies of each sheet are enclosed. If you need more copies let the
state office know.

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LWV of Texas
January 1972

B FOR 4

Who NEEDS another assignment? I don't, and I'll bet you don't either!
Most of us are just about as busy as we can be at the grass roots level
to accomplish our many goals - whatever they may be.

But, the FACT OF LIFE is that WE NEED YOU! EACH of you will be asked to
rearrange your lives somewhat to incorporate yet another activity - and
that is - working with us to spread the word and information about Amend-
ment #4 coming up on the ballot in November of 1972.

I can hear you now saying - that's a million days away, but the truth of
the matter is that there are SO many things to be done, that IT IS TIME
NOW to begin to educate ourselves, have informal chats with our candidates,
neighbors, think about the Voters Guides to cover this, and mainly,
RE-ARRANGE YOUR SCHEDULE SOMEWHAT to fit in this item.

By the way, in case you think that the subject of CONSTITUTIONAL REVISION
is boring, deadly and dull, it really isn't! I had misgivings myself at
first, and now find that now that I am up to my neck in work on the subject,
it is challenging, exciting, and terribly vital.

I think they call this I N V O L V E M E N T. GET INVOLVED!

B FOR 4

LWV of Texas
January 1972

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Dear Friend:

HEAVEN knows you have enough to do at this busy time of the year, but when you find a few moments to get off your feet for a few delicious seconds, won't you just sit down and take time to read the enclosed material?

We are asking, hoping and anticipating that you will want to have some sort of informal contact with the candidates who will be filing for election by February 7th for the May primary.

THESE candidates are IMPORTANT -- more so than ever. Why? Because these are the legislators who will ultimately decide what happens to our poor, tired, old, sad Texas Constitution. Will it be completely revised to provide a dynamic, up-to-date framework for the workings of our state, or will it emerge once again the old patchwork constitution unworkable and obsolete?

You may call these enclosures CONSTITUTIONAL COMMENTS or your TALK SHEET FOR CONVERSATION WITH CANDIDATES, but what it amounts to is providing you with some background information that will make you - all of you - feel knowledgeable and comfortable when you personally call on your candidates.

We think that the PERSONAL TOUCH is IMPORTANT!

When you are sitting across from your legislator and personally relating with him as a human being - person to person - rather than an interviewer, we feel the results and rapport will be better. Each conversation will be different, of course, but the main purpose of all this is for YOU to set up an appointment where you can meet your candidates, chat informally, and casually let them know that YOU as a citizen and YOU as a LEAGUER feel that Constitutional Revision is IMPORTANT!

Be the beautifully gracious person you always are in your own home -- warm, outgoing, interesting and INTERESTED in other human beings. Don't assume that know-it-all stoney Leaguer expert attitude -- WE don't know it all -- THEY (the candidates) don't know it all -- and this is a symbiotic relation where we hope to help one another to grow and learn.

After you do call upon your candidates, we surely would appreciate it if you could then let us have your comments on the visit. For instance, what did you REALLY think? Was the idea of the personal "Conversation with the Candidate" successful? Did YOU enjoy doing it? Do you think you got the point across that the LWV feels that Constitutional Revision is IMPERATIVE? Did he commit himself to supporting OR opposing Constitutional Revision.

We thank you so very much for your help. YOU are the VITAL LINK in the chain, because you are right on the spot where you and ONLY YOU can hope to influence your legislator. We can compose all the memos in the world and draw charts about how and what we are going to do, but if YOU don't come thru with the PERSONAL CONTACT, then it is all meaningless.

Thanks again and HAVE A NICE DAY!

LWV of Texas

To: Texas Constitutional Revision Chairman
From: Mrs. R. E. Conner, TCR Chairman

FOR YOUR INFORMATION -

This is how the voting went on HJR-61. If one of these legislators is your legislator, find out why he voted "No", if possible.

Nays:

Allen, John	Doran	Jones, G.	Sherman
Atwood	Farenthold	Lovell	Short
Bigham	Hale	Moore, T.	Uher
Braecklein	Harris	Nabers	Ward
Braun	Hawkins	Nichols	Wayne
Christian	Heatly	Rodriguez	Wieting
Clayton	Holmes, T.	Rosson	Williamson
Craddick	Jones, D.	Salem	
Denton	Jones, E.	Salter	

May 25, 1971 - from Senate Journal HJR-61 on Second Reading

The motion prevailed by the following vote:

Yeas - 25
Nays - 4: Aikin, Blanchard, Moore, Ratliff.
Absent - Connally
Ab. excused - Creighton

The President then laid the resolution before the Senate on its third reading and final passage. The resolution was read third time and was passed by the following vote:

Yeas - 25
Nays - 4 (same as prevailing motion)
Ab. excused - 1

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LWV of Texas
January 1972

B FOR 4

TALK SHEET FOR "CONVERSATION WITH CANDIDATES"

WHY ARE WE HERE?

Because we feel vitally concerned about the need to revise the old Texas Constitution, and we would like to discuss it with you.

WHAT REALLY IS THE PURPOSE OF THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS?

Well, it is to encourage political responsibility through informed and active participation of citizens in government.

DO YOU REALLY THINK THAT THE AVERAGE CITIZEN GIVES A HOOT?

If they don't - they should. The constitution affects each person's life right on from the pocketbook to the education of our children and the welfare of each citizen.

OUR MAIN THEME IS:

The time has come for a complete revision of the Texas Constitution.

SOME RAZZLE DAZZLE FACTS AND FIGURES FOR YOU TO THINK ABOUT:

The constitution we are operating under was written in 1876 (the year of Custer's Last Stand) to help you pinpoint the year in history!

Did you ever count the patches on our Texas Constitution?
201 amendments.....that's right.....201!
3,000 plus proposals have been introduced in the legislature to amend the 96-year-old Texas Constitution.
321 proposed amendments have been submitted to Texas voters.

201 amendments have been adopted

YET.....

The 183-year-old Constitution of the United States by comparison has been amended only 26 times, 10 of which are our Bill of Rights.

DO YOU KNOW WHAT ALL OF THESE AMENDMENTS COST?

During the period November 1967 thru November 1970 there were 37 proposed amendments submitted to the voters -- direct expenses were \$657,034. This averages \$17,700 per amendment. (Figures obtained from Robert Calvert, Comptroller of Public Accounts)

DON'T YOU FEEL BETTER ALREADY KNOWING ALL OF THIS INFORMATION?

Thanks a lot for reading this TALK SHEET. We hope that it helps you.
Now, just relax, and enjoy your CONVERSATION WITH YOUR CANDIDATES.
We all have two things in common - survival and good government!
Please let me know if I can be of any assistance to you.

FLO KEMMERER (MRS. W. W. KEMMERER JR), 1905 E. Main, League City, Texas 77573

Phone: 713-932-3661

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF TEXAS
DICKINSON PLAZA CENTER
DICKINSON, TEXAS 77539

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WHAT IS FOUR?

CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT #4

Constitutional Amendment #4 is to be voted on in November of 1972. Its purpose is to provide for a complete revision of the Texas Constitution.

If passed, when the legislature convenes in January of 1973, it must provide for a constitutional revision commission, and appropriate money for financing the work of the commission.

The commission will study the needs for constitutional change and report to the legislature.

The 63rd Legislature will convene as a constitutional convention in January, 1974. The convention then will write a new constitution, or a series of articles or sections, revising the old one.

The revised constitution must then be submitted to the voters in Texas.

FOR MORE UP TO DATE INFORMATION
CALL THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS
NEAREST YOU.

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WHY REVISE THE OLD 1876 CONSTITUTION

The LEGISLATURE cannot assume its proper responsibilities for policy making and financial control.

The GOVERNOR is denied authority to carry out his responsibility.

The ADMINISTRATIVE agencies are not responsible to the Governor.

The JUDICIARY does not provide for justice with a minimum of delay.

The COUNTY GOVERNMENT system is the same for all 254 Texas counties regardless of size or population.

It is too long, unwieldy and contradictory.

Large numbers of amendments are submitted every two years.

The financial administration is too complex and uneconomic.

FOR MORE UP TO DATE INFORMATION
CALL THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS
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WHAT YOU CAN DO ABOUT CONSTITUTIONAL REVISION-----

1. VOTE for enabling Amendment #4, November, 1972.
2. ELECT LEGISLATORS dedicated to Constitutional Revision.

REMEMBER the legislature will sit as the
Constitutional Convention.

3. Work with other citizens' groups to bring about a complete
revision of our Texas Constitution.
4. Ask organizations to which you belong to plan programs on
Texas Constitutional Revision.
5. URGE your local newspapers and company publications to run
a series of articles about the Texas Constitution.

FOR MORE UP TO DATE INFORMATION
CALL THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS
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If you have the time we surely would appreciate your comments after you have your personal chat with your candidates. Thanks.

What did you REALLY think about the candidate's chat?

Was the idea of the personal conversation with the candidate successful?

Did you enjoy doing it?

Do you think that you got the point across that the LWV feels that Constitutional Revision is IMPERATIVE?

Did he commit himself to SUPPORTING or OPPOSING Constitutional Revision?

.....

Candidates's name

Position:

District:

Local League: _____

Your name: _____

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WHAT OUR CONSTITUTION SHOULD CONTAIN _____

A framework of basic law

A clear separation of powers with responsibility
definitely assigned

Provisions for justice with a minimum of delay

Qualifications for voter eligibility and guarantees of
fair elections

A coordinated finance structure capable of flexibility

Maximum home rule for municipal and county government with
coordination of overlapping functions

Provisions for support of public education

Provisions for support of public health and welfare services

Basic policies regarding state employee selection, retention,
and promotion

Provisions for amendment and revision

FOR MORE UP TO DATE INFORMATION
CALL THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS
NEAREST YOU

B FOR 4

CONSTITUTIONAL REVISION -- WHO NEEDS IT?

This script to be used in conjunction
with the slide presentation

CONSTITUTIONAL REVISION -- WHO NEEDS IT?

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of

THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF TEXAS

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF TEXAS
DICKINSON PLAZA CENTER
DICKINSON, TEXAS 77539

SLIDE LIST

- #1 Title Slide--Constitutional Revision - Who needs it?
- #2 Credits
- #3 Mexican flag
- #4 Map of Texas-Coahuila with constitution chain.
- #5 Alamo
- #6 Map-Annexation
- #7 Confederate flag
- #8 Constitution crossed out with swords
- #9 Carpetbaggers killing time - (feet on desk, etc.)
- #10 Papers under military arm
- #11 Iron-Clad Oath
- #12 State Police
- #13 3-way fraud and corruption on national level.
- #14 Citizens at courthouse
- #15 Cabin and modern building
- #16 Article I, Section 2
- #17 Patchwork quilt
- #18 U. S. Constitution
- #19 Victorian verbosity
- #20 Citizen with shield and sword (constitution and bill of rights)
- #21 Fundamental law-Statutory law
- #22 Who-Where-Why etc.
- #23 Constitution--Page from almanac.
- #24 Band-aids on constitution
- #25 Paid by Taxpayers

- #26 Green Texas-Special Interest
- #27 State Capitol
- #28 Governor in stagecoach-horses being led away
- #29 Welter of state agencies.
- #30 Two highest courts, etc.
- #31 Mother, may I game.
- #32 Picture of metropolitan area.
- #33 "Desert scene"--
- #34 Citizen showing disrespect for state debt limit
- #35 X-d out constitution
- #36 Amendment #4
- #37 Vote slide
- #38 B for 4
- #39 Wagon chasing jet airplane
- #40 What can I do?
- #41 Title slide - Constitutional Revision - Who needs it?
- #42 B for 4

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CONSTITUTIONAL REVISION -- WHO NEEDS IT?

(1) Before we attempt to answer that question, let's consider a few facts which may influence our decision. Perhaps we should start at the beginning--Now, I don't mean with Adam and Eve although we as Texans may strongly suspect that this IS the spot from which they were banished.

(2) However, today we will deal only with the known facts. Let's start with the beginning of constitutional government in Texas, since the history to some degree is responsible for the inadequacies of our present constitution.

(3) The first constitutional government in Texas was under the Mexican Constitution of 1824.

(4) Three years later, a State Constitution was put into effect for the state of Coahuila-Texas. Both of these contained many guarantees of liberties but there was little fulfillment of the paper guarantees.

(5) Independence from Mexico was declared and the Texas National Constitution was adopted in convention in March of 1836 and ratified by the people in September of that year.

(6) The first State Constitution was written in Convention, ratified by the people, and approved by the Congress of the United States in 1845. This document was almost twice as long as the one of 1836 and while the framers used the latter as a working model, they also drew heavily on the newly adopted constitution of Louisiana and those of other Southern states.

(7) When Texas seceded from the Union on the eve of the War Between the States, the Constitution of 1861 was adopted.

(8) When Texas rejoined the Union in 1866, a convention met in Austin and produced the 4th Texas Constitution which was to some extent another revision of the 1845 constitution. Although ratified by the people, it did not become operative because the state was placed by the federal government under military law.

(9) Due to the Congressional Reconstruction Act of 1867, a convention composed of the radical or Carpetbag faction met in June of 1868 to write a new constitution. They remained in session until February of 1869 but devoted most of that time to things over which they had no jurisdiction. Ten days prior to adjournment, the delegates got down to the business of writing the constitution but broke up in confusion after having obtained only 45 of the 96 delegates signatures on the partially assembled constitution.

(10) This was gathered up under the military and the task of completing the document was assigned to the Secretary of State.

(11) It became the constitution of 1869 and was ratified by the voters under the so-called "Iron-Clad Oath Law" by which only those who could swear an oath that they had NEVER supported the confederacy were able to vote. Basically, this constitution was a relatively sound document-- it was its administration which made it so unpopular.

(12) Edmund J. Davis was elected for a 4 year term as governor under this law and he and his associates raided the treasury and terrorized the state through organized gangs of thugs who called themselves State Police.

(13) At the same time, the federal administration in Washington was rife with fraud and corruption and huge scandals on a national scale were

(13) - continued

uncovered, including the Credit Mobilier (Congressmen were given railroad stock for voting in favor of railroad legislation), the Whiskey Ring (cabinet members helped to defraud the government of internal revenue), and the Fisk and Gould attempt to corner gold. All these scandals helped to bring on a serious financial panic and depression.

Against this background, a national reform group called the Patrons of Husbandry arose. They were all farmers who demanded government regulation of railroad rates, honesty in government, and a return of normalcy to the South.

(14) This organization soon became powerful in Texas where it was known as the Grange. When the time came to re-write the carpetbagger constitution, it was these Grangers who formed the majority of the writers of the new 1876 document--our 6th and current constitution. Ninety delegates to the convention included 41 farmers, 29 lawyers and 20 others. These men had, for the most part, NO experience in GOVERNMENT and little education to prepare them for their task. But they WERE honest citizens and they dedicated themselves to writing a document that they thought would prevent any re-occurrence of the carpetbagger abuses. Therefore, they spelled out in minute detail each operation of the state government purposely providing little elasticity and little responsiveness to changing needs and changing times.

(15) But times indeed have changed. The size of yesterday's city is comparable to today's village. Three metropolitan counties--Dallas, Harris, and Bexar--each have more population than the entire State of Texas had in 1876. Just as the authors of that 96 year old document might have been over-awed at the metropolis of today,--so is the constitution itself overwhelmed. But the fact that our constitution is overwhelmed is NOT the fault of the good men who drew up

(15) - continued

that document in 1876--for those writers were aware of future need for change--though they certainly could not have been expected to anticipate the degree.

(16) This awareness is evidenced in the Second Section of Article One--the basic Texas Bill of Rights which is devoted to the granting of political power to the people of the state. The section ends with the statement "...they have at all times the inalienable right to alter, reform, or abolish their government in such manner as they may think expedient." This is, of course, subject to the limitation of preserving a republican form of government.

(17) State legislatures, as well as Texas voters, have not considered it a sacred or immutable document. As a matter of fact, as of 1971, the 1876 Constitution had become a patchwork quilt of the original document with 201 amendments. Fourteen more patches, or should we say amendments, are to be on the ballot in November, 1972. We've been tossing the word "Constitution" around a lot in the last few minutes. Consider now--what do YOU think of when you hear the word?

(18) Most people usually think of the Constitution of the United States. Indeed it is a model of sound organization, elegant draftmanship, brevity, continuing flexibility, and a clear statement of our beliefs as to the purpose of government and people's rights. Many early state constitutions were patterned after the federal one. But in the 19th century, many of these early documents were supplanted by new ones--

(19) --such as the Texas Constitution, full of restrictive statutory detail and Victorian verbosity. However, a state constitution, if it is to be effective, should establish not rules for the moment but principles for an expanding future. And it should do this briefly.

(20) It should protect the people--their civil liberties and property. It should define the powers of government and establish the permanent governmental institutions--legislative, executive, and judicial. And, of course, it should provide a method for changing, if necessary, the fundamental law expressed within the constitution.

(21) It should make a distinction between the two types of law--FUNDAMENTAL law and STATUTORY law. Fundamental law is adopted and can ONLY be changed by the people and is the broad framework of governing PRINCIPLES expressed within the constitution itself. Statutory law is the law, enacted within the framework of the constitution, by the legislative body to deal with specific and changing problems and circumstances. In this Fundamental law, we give ourselves the right to elect those officials who will govern us and make the necessary Statutory laws.

(22) The constitution should be consistent, contradicting neither itself nor the United States Constitution. And it should be written so that it may be easily understood by the people whose charter it is. How does the present Texas Constitution measure up to these standards and where has it gotten us into trouble.

(23) First of all, it is very, very long--more than 40 pages of ultra-fine print in the Texas Almanac. It is filled with statutory detail which, when incorporated into the constitution, becomes difficult to alter due to the long, **expensive** and complicated process of amendment.

(24) We've come to the point where we're amending the amendments in many cases. Further, this required use of the constitution as a catch-all for statutory provisions offers an easy out for legislators who do not want to take an unpopular stand or who, because of short legislative sessions, do not have time to act on the matter.

(25) If the law is offered as a constitutional amendment, the citizens of Texas foot the bill, at an approximate cost of 17,700 dollars per amendment, as well as decide a matter which in many instances was actually the legislature's responsibility.

(26) And, if lobbyists for a private, special interest group can get their favored legislation onto the amendment ballot, they stand to gain a relatively permanent advantage if the amendment passes.

(27) Biennial sessions of the legislature, sufficient for the late 19th and early 20th centuries, are provided for in the constitution. With the business of running the huge, prosperous, growing State of Texas becoming more complex each year, the job of legislator has become a full-time one and should be so treated. The legislators must be duly and fairly compensated as well if we are ever to have a first-class government.

(28) Our constitution, written as it was just after the carpetbagger era in Texas, shows a strong, though understandable, reaction against any kind of centralized government or single powerful figure of authority. Therefore, the governor, though technically holding the reins of state, has his authority limited in many ways. He cannot appoint or remove key administrative officers. The six other elected executives, including the Lt. Governor, run for election independently of the governor and administer their respective offices without executive supervision. In many cases, the other elected officers, though of the same party, are avowed political rivals of the governor, rather than strictly cooperative public servants.

(29) A welter of state agencies--more than 100--many with overlapping interests and duties are responsible for administering most of the laws in Texas. In many instances, the constitution was written to restrict the government rather than guide it. For instance, two **budgets** are presented to the legislature, one by the governor and one by the legislature itself. Since the legislature adopts the budget, guess which one gets preference.

(30) Texas is unusual in having two highest courts. The Supreme Court of Texas, which hears only civil cases, and the Texas Court of Criminal Appeals are the highest judicial tribunals of the state. At present, the legislature has extensive power over the judicial systems as it determines, with only few exceptions, the exact number of courts and judges in any district. All judges in Texas (except at the municipal level) are elected to office. No legal training is required of the judges of the constitutional county courts.

(31) The subject of LOCAL government is treated with many prohibitions and restrictions, making counties, cities, and special districts turn to the legislature in a sort of "Mother, may I" game even before taking one baby step. Two articles are titled "Counties and Municipal Corporations", but many of the most important restrictions are to be found in the legislative, judicial and taxation and revenue articles.

(32) The consequence is that all 254 counties are bound to the same rigid structure--from the largest to the smallest...

(33) From the most populous to the least populous.

(34) The size of the general state debt is limited to \$200,000 by the Constitution. This debt ceiling is being met, technically, but the bonded indebtedness has risen significantly in recent years. Bonds can be used to increase the debt limit with voter approval on constitutional amendments. Those "approvals" have resulted in a burden of almost 567 million dollars. This, in effect, contradicts the constitution's original intent and serves to foster disrespect for state law in general.

(35) There have been repeated attempts to revise and streamline the Texas Constitution. The most recent of which in 1969 presented a revamped constitution written by a 25 member commission to the legislature. While it failed to win the approval of 2/3 of both houses, an amendment was proposed and approved by the voters in 1969 to remove some of the "deadwood" sections from the constitution. Members of the 62nd legislature were willing to try again in 1971 by passing the resolution to revise the constitution in 1974.

(36) This resolution is Amendment #4 on which you will vote on November 7th. That the legislature was willing to try again on this issue would seem to indicate the seriousness of the need for revision. Our elected representatives are the ones who must work with the constitution and try to make IT work to meet the demands of a changing society. They're the ones who know the problem firsthand. This year, 1972, is the year we can start state machinery moving toward a new, concise, and workable Texas Constitution. On November 7th, you will go to the polls to vote on a full slate of state officials headed, of course, by candidates for the office of governor--and, in addition, you will have the opportunity to express your approval or disapproval of 14 constitutional amendments. Of these amendments, #4 provides that when the legislature convenes in 1973 it shall provide for a constitution revision commission. This commission will make a study and submit its report with recommendations on a revised document not later than November, 1973. The 63rd legislature will then sit as a constitutional convention to act on the commission findings and draw up a new constitution.

(37) This new document will then be submitted to the voters--with the present Bill of Rights to be retained in full. Your vote is ALWAYS vital. In this fall's election, it is DOUBLY important since the men and women you elect to the 63rd legislature may also be those who shape the destiny of Texas in the form of a new constitution. The League of Women Voters of Texas has been active in efforts to update our Constitution since 1955. During this time through careful study and discussion of Texas Government and the Constitution, the League has reached certain support positions.

(38) The League supports Amendment #4 because it meets various League standards for pursuing constitutional revision.

(39) Without its passage, the state would be right back where it started, with a "horse and buggy" document which must somehow be stretched to meet the needs of the space age.

(40) But now you're asking, "What can I do to help make this dream a reality?"

* [You can attend your party's precinct convention and help make sure that a plank favoring revision of the constitution is included in the party platform. Check in advance with the convention chairman to assure yourself, or someone who favors this proposal, time on the agenda.] Question your legislative candidates on their views as to how the constitution should be revised or rewritten. Let them know how YOU feel concerning the revision and an adequately funded commission. Cast your vote for state officials and legislators with greatest care. For, if the revision amendment passes, they will write the new document. A governor, lt. governor, or legislature indifferent to revision could weaken or even destroy the convention's work.

(41) The Constitution of 1876 while adequate when adopted is not now a satisfactory document. Texas citizens need and deserve a flexible constitution, establishing PRINCIPLES for an expanding future--not RULES for the moment.

CONSTITUTIONAL REVISION -- WHO NEEDS IT?

(42) WE DO!!! Vote FOR Amendment #4 on November 7th.

*Portion in brackets to be deleted after May 6, 1972.

March 1972

COMMUNITY ACTION ON TEXAS CONSTITUTIONAL REVISION

...or how to involve and inform League members, the political parties, the news media and the community in an issue in the public interest.

TO TEXAS CONSTITUTIONAL REVISION CHAIRMAN:

This is not the first time we have gone to precinct conventions with issues in the public interest. We did it in 1962 with voter registration and saw our request for a constitutional amendment on the poll tax go on the ballot. But we have also gone to precinct conventions with Texas Constitutional Revision-- in 1956, 1958 and 1966. The 1956 Resolution called for the creation of the Texas Legislative Council Research Project (for which we had such great hopes when it was established). The legislature created the project. The 1958 Resolution called for an appropriation to finance the reasearch project. Once again the legislature responded with the money (be it ever so small). The 1966 Resolution requested the creation of a Constitutional Study Commission. Our reward (late in coming and after much legislative action) was legislation (HJR 61) which proposes an amendment to provide the 63rd Legislature to convene as a Constitutional Convention in January, 1974. It requires the 63rd Legislature in 1973 to appropriate money and provide for Constitutional Revision Study Commission to report to legislature by November 1, 1973. Now we shall repeat our experience to draw the attention of the political parties, the news media and citizens to the crying need for constitutional reform, by supporting this proposed amendment to appear on the November, 1972 ballot.

Citizen interest in the need for revision of the Texas Constitution can be aroused by introducing a resolution in a precinct convention. Involving League members or League friends is putting the League's purpose to work...encouraging citizen participation in government at the grass roots.

Here is the opportunity for League members to be involved in political action by participating in the introduction of the Resolution in the precinct conventions of both parties. They can be involved in the fun, the excitement, and the experience of grass roots participation in government. Local League policy will determine whether Board members are to be involved in this activity.

Objectives in this activity are:

1. Adoption of Resolution at precinct and county conventions to effect inclusion of revision statement in party platforms.
2. Introduction at precinct conventions to increase awareness of all party members of needs for constitutional revision.
3. By producing concern in political parties, publicity is automatically increased.

TO PUBLIC RELATIONS CHAIRMAN:

Since success at the precinct convention often lies in secrecy of movement (see VOTERS KEY 1972), in not "showing your hand--and strength," Public Relations Chairmen will "lie low" until the precinct conventions have adjourned late Saturday night, May 6.

But have your release all ready with the blanks to be filled in with the number of precinct conventions in which the resolution was introduced and the number

that passed it -- so many Democratic conventions, so many Republican conventions, and the grand total (see sample release). The numbers of these can be checked and/or obtained Monday May 8th from the County Clerk, in good time for the afternoon papers and radio and TV newscasts...in time for a good build-up for the county conventions to be held on Saturday, May 13.

You may, if you have rapport with your newspaper editor, prime him with an idea or two for an editorial similar to the one enclosed (courtesy of the Brazosport Facts).

Then---watch for or check on the results of the county conventions held on Saturday, May 13. Plan to prepare a similar press release on these--but only if you are successful.

TO PUBLICATIONS CHAIRMEN:

Be sure to work with the TCR and Voters Service Chairman on the numbers of the Resolutions that will be required to cover the precinct conventions chosen for action. A number of copies of the Resolutions (Enclosure #1) can be provided free. Others may be duplicated locally, if you have equipment and personnel, or may be ordered at 6¢ per page. The formula for computation of the numbers of copies of the resolution you will need is:

Number of precincts you must cover times 2 (for each party) times 3 (for each precinct plus a few extras for chairmen and members equals number you should order.

Some excellent background for League friends who will present this resolution in many precincts can be found in the "Constitutional Action Revision Kit." The seven page "Member Update" is highly recommended for each member and should be studied by anyone given the task of arguing in favor of precinct adoption of this resolution. Make wide use of the November, 1971 issue of TEXAS VOTER and VOTERS KEY 1972.

TO VOTERS SERVICE CHAIRMEN:

While this is primarily action on a program item, the responsibility of the Voters Service Chairman is to first of all guard the nonpartisanship policy of the League and secondly to help with the purely voters service requirements of the project:

1. Know the number, place and time of the various precinct conventions.
2. Provide a list of precinct chairmen of all parties (can be obtained from various county chairman), along with addresses and telephone numbers. Print the list in your local VOTER in April.
3. Plan for early April unit meetings, a "How to go to your Precinct Convention."

Invite a local precinct chairman from each party who can provide "Know How" in techniques and insights to rules and procedures.

Your local League Policy Sheet will determine your Board members' activity in this action item. Restudy and protect League's nonpartisanship policy carefully.

FOR ALL LOCAL LEAGUE MEMBERS: (May be reprinted in local VOTER for emphasis)

Volunteer to TCR Chairman to introduce the resolution in your precinct. Please take your assignments enthusiastically and make your contacts early. Every members must be involved to insure success. You may be the only League member living in your precinct, therefore the only person who can either introduce this resolution or contact an introducer at one of your Precinct Conventions. At the risk of insulting "older and better" heads, here is a step-by-step technique for YOU, the individual member:

1. Choose a party (you join by voting in its primary). Find out who is precinct chairman for your precinct and your party. (The county clerk's office has a list of chairmen).
2. By April 10, contact the precinct chairman of your party and ask procedure for introducing a resolution at convention. Also check the time and place. (This information can also be found in the county clerk's office). Ask the chairman about possible inclusion at a caucus. Contact your neighbors and friends who are politically active. Inform them about Constitutional Revision. Don't talk TCR. Talk Revision. If they are interested, provide a copy of "Member Update". Ideally, YOU convince them of the needs for reform. Explain the provisions of HJR 61. Discuss the resolution and solicit support.
3. By April 30, have three copies of the resolution (enclosure #1), filled out. If you have been able to attend a caucus and know who the resolutions committee chairman will be, make a personal contact and provide a copy of the resolution, soliciting his support.
4. Line up other members of your party to attend the precinct convention with you.
5. On primary election day, vote before the hour of the precinct convention. Arrive at the convention holding proof that you have voted that day. Arrive early with ALL of your supporters. Provide the elected convention precinct chairman and/or the precinct chairman (this could be one person) with a copy of the Resolution and let him know that you plan to present from the floor if the resolutions committee does not do so. Furnish your copy to the elected convention precinct chairman who is elected by the convention after the Resolution is presented. Answer any question concerning needs for revision. Push this Resolution, not as a League item but as YOUR item. Attempt to be elected a delegate to the county convention.
6. Be at your county convention, if only as an observer. You may be the one to inform a delegate on the floor and sway his vote in favor of this resolution at the county level!

7. After convention, report to your local League TCR chairman your results.

If enough counties pass this resolution, it will be discussed at state convention and likely be a part of party platform. This is our objective! Our goal is passage of Amendment No. 4 by ALL the people in November, 1972.

- FOR ALL LOCAL LEAGUE MEMBERS: (May be reprinted in local VOTER FOR EMPLOYERS)
- Volunteer to TCR Chairman to introduce this resolution in your precinct. Please take your assignments enthusiastically and make your contacts early. Every member must be involved to insure success. You may be the only League member living in your precinct, therefore the only person who can either introduce this resolution or contact an individual at one of your Precinct Conventions. At the risk of insulting "better and better" heads, here is a step-by-step technique for YOU, the individual member:
1. Choose a party (you join by voting in its primary). Find out who is precinct chairman for your precinct and your party. (The county clerk's office has a list of chairmen).
 2. By April 30, contact the precinct chairman of your party and ask procedure for introducing a resolution at convention. Also check the time and place. (This information can also be found in the county clerk's office). Ask the chairman about possible inclusion as a caucus. Contact your neighbors and friends who are politically active. Ask them about Constitutional Revision. Don't talk T.A. Talk Revision. If they are interested, provide a copy of "Update". Ideally, you convince them of the need for reform. Explain the provisions of HJR 41. Discuss the resolution and solicit support.
 3. By April 30, have three copies of the resolution (enclosure #1) filled out. If you have been able to attend a caucus and know who the resolutions committee chairman will be, have a personal contact and provide a copy of the resolution, soliciting his support.
 4. Line up other members of your party to attend the precinct convention with you.
 5. On primary election day, vote before the hour of the precinct convention. Arrive at the convention holding proof that you have voted that day. Arrive early without all your supporters. Provide the elected resolutions committee chairman with the precinct chairman (this would be one person) with a copy of the resolution and let him know that you plan to present from the floor. If the resolutions committee does not do so, furnish your copy to the elected convention precinct chairman who is elected by the convention after the resolution is presented. Answer any question concerning needs for revision. Push this Resolution, not as a League item but as YOUR item. Attempt to be elected a delegate to the county convention.
 6. Be at your county convention. If only as an observer. You may be the one to inform a delegate on the floor and sway his vote in favor of this resolution at the county level.

LWV of Texas
March 1972

To: Texas Constitutional Revision Chairmen
From: Mrs. R. E. Conner

Re: Suggestions for Action in Revision Campaign

From the SAN ANTONIO LEAGUE:

Poster Contest - Cash prizes would be given or merchandise if some kindly contributor would agree. Contest would be open to seventh grade through college, with one winner from each of the three categories (junior high, senior high, college). The more awards donated, the more winners in each category would be possible. Have panel of judges composed of state legislators or other supporters of revision. Benefits from such a contest--involve students and parents through their interest in children's activities, provide publicity, use of posters for local display, perhaps a display of all posters in a shopping center, etc. prior to each local judging.

Speakers for Conventions - Send letters to presidents of organizations which are having conventions in your town from now till November 7, 1972, along with a copy of the "B for 4" pamphlet, offering a five-ten minute speaker. We could reach a larger number of Texas community leaders on Amendment No. 4 if Leagues in convention cities across the state contacted groups prior to their meetings offering Amendment No. 4 speakers. Even if they did not request a speaker, for eight cents and a little time, League has brought attention to revision to a few more people. If your invitation to provide a speaker is accepted, let me know (Betty Conner) so that I can pass this information on to the local Leagues. Then, they can contact the local chapter of the statewide group in their community, also offering a speaker.

From the MONTGOMERY COUNTY LEAGUE

Community meeting on Constitutional Revision - Speakers were Price Daniel, Jr. and Bill Blythe, state representatives and Dr. Larry Dickens and Mr. Edwin Davis, faculty members, Department of Political Science, from Sam Houston University. A free flowing forum that everyone took part in and contributed to a lively discussion. Many students of the two faculty members attended. Civic teachers in the local high school were contacted and made the meeting a class assignment for their students. Posters were used in the League's President's opening remarks (they will be on display at the Council meeting in Waco). This is a copy of the President's remarks:

"Good evening and welcome to our honorable representatives, officials, guests, League members and husbands.

" I would like to provide a bit of historical background to our meeting tonight. The League of Women Voters has been in active operation in the state of Texas for 52 years, and in Montgomery County for the last three of these. League interest in Constitutional Revision dates from 1935, according to League Archives deposited at Texas Tech. Research began in 1948; the last half of a know-your-state survey was devoted almost exclusively to a section by section study of the Constitution. By 1954, the League had reached consensus supporting **general** revision of the constitution, to be preceded by thorough review and adequate research. By 1959, the Texas League had adopted eleven principles for a good constitution. The

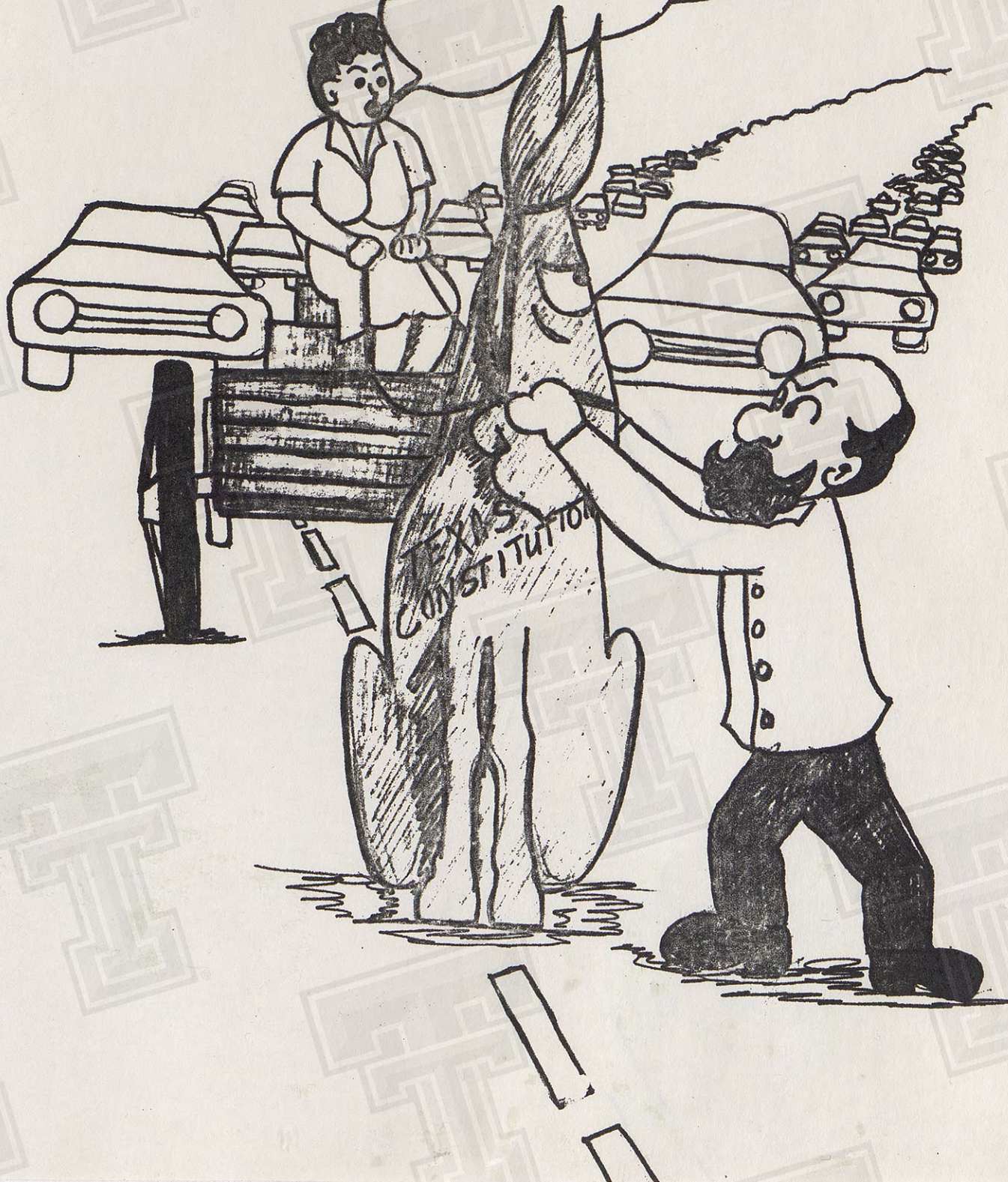
League's present position supports revision of the Texas Constitution with League principles and standards, preferably by Constitutional Convention. At the League 1971 State Convention, Constitutional Revision was given the priority spot in our program for action.

"The principal function of the League is to study and do research on issues. Only after study is completed, and consensus is taken to be sure the issue is backed by the League as a whole, can a position be taken and action initiated. The League makes no political alignment with candidates, ever or under any circumstances. We are nonpartisan towards candidates but not towards issues. On this issue, why is the League so concerned about passing amendment No. 4 in November so as to make Constitutional Revision possible? Every good why has a because, and this one has 5:

1. Because of the large number of amendments submitted to the voters biennially. This is both confusing and expensive; a better constitution would not need such frequent amending.
2. Because of the lack of power of the Governor. Balance of power is necessary for orderly functioning of government, and the governor was left out in Texas.
3. Because of lack of a central office of Finance, such problems as earmarked funds and overlapping financial agencies result in what in layman's language is called a big mess.
4. Because of the ineffective judicial system. Judge Clyde Smith retired early from the bench of the Texas Supreme Court, in an effort to spread the word that reform of the Texas Judiciary can only be accomplished by revising our constitution.
5. Because of the limiting aspects of our constitution. For example, it provides an identical pattern of government for all counties regardless of their population and size.

"The League has done its homework on this issue. Now we are ready for action. We will want to know where every candidate stands on this important issue. This meeting tonight is the beginning of our action and we thank you for being here with us."

PA! MAYBE
ITS TIME WE
TRIED ONE OF THOSE
NEW VEHICLES!



SPEAKING ON AMENDMENT #4 TO NONURBAN GROUPS

Remember that nonurban areas are suspicious of the large urban areas and jealously guard against anything that resembles "metro" in concept. The farmers look upon the county as their government and seem determined not to let the city control the county government any more than is necessary.

Stress the limitations and restrictions on county and municipal governments. All counties have identical patterns of organization. All 254 counties are bound to the same rigid structure regardless of size, population, location; whether urban or rural.

DEBTS & EXPENDITURES

Various sources of county revenue are listed in the constitution, most with accompanying restrictions as to their use. No debt may be created unless provision is made to collect taxes for interest and to provide a sinking fund on the debt. Various types of taxes are permitted, but detailed restrictions are made as to the amount and purposes for which the revenue may be used. Constitutional limits on tax-supported indebtedness make home rule city bonds less attractive in the market causing up to an extra 1/4 of 1% interest charge.

The rigid restrictions on county and municipal government have forced the people to turn to the state and federal levels of government for help with local problems. A decision not to revise the constitution and to keep the state government inefficient is a vote for expanding the powers of the national government.

SPECIAL DISTRICTS

Special districts are much more independent of state or local supervision in financing and administration of services than the general local governmental units. Many have no legal tax or debt limits. Therefore, their continued formation to perform services may completely negate the constitutionally imposed tax and debt limits on the other local government units.

INEFFECTIVE JUDICIAL SYSTEM

Overloaded dockets, anomaly of two final appellate courts with uncoordinated and related court administration.

COST OF ELECTIONS

The long and expensive governor's race--starting with the primaries, through the runoff and November elections--an eight to ten month contest for a two year job with little real power and great responsibility.

The usual long ballot encumbered by many amendments every year most of which are either statutory, strictly regional, or specifically to correct archaic sections of the present constitution.

(over)

COST OF AMENDING THE CONSTITUTION

3,000 proposals for amendments--321 submitted to the people, 201 adopted.
Fourteen more in November at a cost of at least \$17,000 per amendment.
Cost of time and energy of legislatures to deliberate on proposals.
Cost of long ballot for voters.

WHY SHOULD LEGISLATURE REWRITE CONSTITUTION?

The state legislature is where vital decisions are made about the problems of the state. These decisions affect how we educate our children, treat our mentally ill, deal with our environment, rehabilitate our juvenile offenders, etc. Our present constitution impairs the opportunities for improved legislative performance.

The restrictions often handicap the development of superior legislative decision-making systems.

Texas Constitutional Revision Kit

HOW TO TALK TO BUSINESSMEN AND MEN'S GROUPS ABOUT REVISION

The following points are appeals to businessmen who know that one does not run a successful business in the 1970's using the procedures and rules of 1876. Expansion on any topic will drive home the need for up-to-date methods of operation if we are to have strong Texas government capable of meeting current problems and planning for the economic growth of this state.

Business men will question the debt limitation of \$200,000 in the constitution and the many debt authorization amendments that have been needed as a result of this limitation. They will question the fact of many elected officials responsible to no one, unlike the board of directors of a corporation. The network of ever-lapping government agencies with expensive duplications and conflicting functions will seem very unbusinesslike. They will see the problems which might occur, for example, if the governor and lieutenant governor who were elected would be political rivals and unable to work together. And they will be interested in the costs of voting on the numerous amendments every year.

1. The Texas Constitution of 1876 despite many amendments from year to year, is basically a document written to govern a rural society ninety six years ago.
2. The constitution is unduly specific, freezing for all time matters which should be the subject of statutory enactment, and is not written in broad general terms as a constitution should be.
3. The constitution provides for a weak governor with divided responsibility in the executive branch.
4. The constitution does not create an environment in which the legislative branch can function efficiently and according to the highest standards.
5. The constitution can cause the frustration of valuable legislation on technical grounds.
6. The constitution's lack of provision for annual sessions impairs the legislative process and costs the taxpayers money in the budgeting process. Witness the many special sessions necessary for the legislature this year.
7. The judiciary has not been removed from politics, despite some amendment of the constitution in this respect. All judges, excepting some at the municipal level, are elected.
8. No legal training is required for judges of the constitutional County Courts and before 1971, none was required for Justices of the Peace.
9. The constitution imposes upon Texas the same type of county government for all counties, regardless of size, or if a rural or metropolitan type of county.
10. Only the legislators can propose amendments to the constitution.
11. A modernized constitution is necessary for the continued progress of Texas and to prevent Texas from stagnating in the competition among states.

12. A revised constitution would not jeopardize our existing structure of laws and judicial decisions.

13. A decision not to revise the constitution and to keep the state government inefficient is a vote for expanding the powers of the national government.

14. Constitutional conventions have been proven the most logical and efficient ways to revise a constitution.

15. A constitutional convention will render all provisions subject to the spotlight of press and public and thereby minimize the chances of special interest groups controlling the convention.

LWV of Texas
June 1972

Texas Constitutional Revision Kit

SAMPLE NEWSPAPER OR RADIO, TV EDITORIAL FOR B FOR 4 CAMPAIGN

Wise and informed voters will not let the hoopla of the presidential election and the excitement of the state campaign obscure another equally important issue on the ballot November 7.- Amendment No. 4 which provides for a Constitutional Convention to be convened in January, 1974.

The importance of voting YES is pointed out by many of the candidates themselves. Both (insert names of local candidates or state candidates that support Amendment No. 4) have asked for support for Amendment No. 4. They know the problems of governing under Texas' 1876 Constitution. They know that Texas' prospects for continued growth and a healthy economy are immensely better if Texas builds a better constitution. They know that whoever gets the governor's job will find a host of problems traceable to our antiquated constitution.

We join these men in endorsing the passage of Amendment No. 4. This step has become a necessity if Texas is to rise above her current problems and stand tall and progressive among states.

We believe thoughtful voters have already determined to mark their ballots YES for Amendment No. 4. There is good evidence that the people of Texas are ready for a constitutional convention. This attitude of confidence will give us an exciting and productive convention, and high caliber recommendations for a better constitution.

But the first step is the big one. Vote YES for Amendment #4.

* * * * *

SUGGESTED COMMENTARY ON AMENDMENT 4 FOR USE IN CHURCH BULLETINS
(Adaptable for organization newsletter or company bulletins)

The best approach to use would be to have a speaker at the meeting of the Ministerial Alliance in your city and ask for the support of their organization and if they would insert this commentary in their church's bulletin. Or speak to specific groups in individual churches and ask their support. Use the same approach for different organizations if this type of material would appeal to their group.

Texas Needs a Revised Constitution

Members of this (church?, organization?, etc.) have read or heard of the importance of voting November 7 on Amendment No. 4 which provides for convening a constitutional convention in Texas. We are told that the Constitution of Texas is out of date, a poor base for passing today's needed laws, and the repository of ancient concepts of state government.

These criticisms are justified. And they raise an important issue. How can we continue to evade the Constitution, go around its outmoded provisions, try to avoid court tests of questionable laws, and still pretend to be good citizens proud of our democratic ways and progressive country?

Examples of evasion are many, and they have the added effect of costing you money. The Texas Constitution has a state debt limit of \$200,000 (an amount determined in 1876), which restricts the creation of general debt to certain purposes such as suppressing insurrection. But not really! To get around this provision, the voters have approved a number of debt authorization amendments. These amendments cost the taxpayers on an average of \$17,700, just for printing costs. This does not include the cost of voting machines, election officials, etc.

The Texas Constitution has been amended 201 times, and often we amend the amendments. We are asked to vote often without knowledge of what we are voting for or against.

Now it is time to be honest with ourselves. It is time to stop amending the Constitution. It is time to study it--its weaknesses, its strengths--and build a better document for today and tomorrow.

It is time for all citizens to recognize what we are doing to Texas by failure to make needed changes in the Constitution. And, most of all, it is time to have confidence in the time-honored American system for writing state constitutions - the constitutional convention.

There are moral, political, and economic values in a better Constitution for Texas. You can line up on the side of doing right by Texas when you vote YES for Amendment No. 4 on November 7.

Texas Constitutional Revision Kit

SPEAKING ON AMENDMENT NO. 4 TO CHURCH GROUPS

KNOW THE AUDIENCE: Find out in advance the type of group to which you will be speaking. A men's club will have a business interest probably not shared by an Altar Society. A social action group will have welfare interests which can be stressed instead of businesslike reforms.

KEEP IT SIMPLE: Most church groups exist for a church-related purpose and will have a minimum of background. Take plenty of time to explain what Amendment No. 4 is, what it will do, and why revision is needed. Select a limited number of issues for specific explanation. Allow time for questions. But don't talk down to your audience.

SELECT INTERESTING ISSUES: A few of these most interesting to this group are:

1. The moral issues of having evade and disobey a Constitution which is simply out of date in many provisions. Talk about the inequality of the so called sales tax and its effect on lower income families. Stress the breakdown of respect for laws which will not work. The rigidity of the 1876 Constitution encourage evasion.
2. The increased cost of operating under the 1876 document. The cost of the amending process, the proliferation of special districts, the inability to meet challenging problems of modern life, the increase in governmental agencies and commissions who often duplicate each others work.
3. The loss of state strength in the local-state-federal partnership. Show how the constitution inhibits the state in meeting needs of the cities and how the federal government is flexible enough to function in new situations. Explain the effect of many elected officials in the executive department, how they administer their office without supervision, and are elected independently of the governor, often even political rivals. Note how the legislature is hampered by restrictions in the constitution.
4. The challenge of a constitutional convention which will be the results of the passage of Amendment No. 4. Urge the group to take action, to work actively for the passage. Picture the possibilities of the legislatures that they voted for working toward a better constitution with the help of interested citizens and groups. Take the "can do" approach.

Texas Constitutional Revision Kit

NEWSPAPER SUPPORT FOR AMENDMENT NO. 4

Is your newspaper editorially supporting Amendment No. 4? If not, make a personal call on your Editor and give him background material on the need for revision.

Have you tried the following ways to get your League's B for 4 campaign in the local newspaper? Every type of publicity helps, so try some of these suggestions:

FEATURE STORIES:

List every local organization which favors Amendment No. 4 together with a brief statement explaining why.

Conduct a man-on-the-street survey and relate how many know there is an Amendment No. 4 on the ballot, how many favor Amendment No. 4 and why.

Interview the heads of local community committees on what they are doing for Amendment No. 4 and why.

Poll the members of the Chamber of Commerce, Kiwanis, Lions, Rotary, etc. at a meeting and glean comments on Amendment No. 4 for publication.

Secure a series of serious articles from local people who know that "School Future Depends on Amendment No. 4," "Economic Progress of ? Hinges on Outcome of Amendment No. 4", and "Amendment No. 4 Promises Solutions to Local Problems."

Put the common opposition questions to a local supporter and have him answer them in interview form. The questions and answers on Amendment No. 4 in the May VOTER could also be used this way.

Do a comparison between the voters service aspects of a League campaign and the action going on for Amendment No. 4.

Describe the operations of the local citizens' committee. Is it the most representative, the most vigorous, the largest ever assembled? What services does it offer? How is it put together?

Local persons active in Amendment No. 4 have other responsibilities. How does promoting Amendment No. 4 fit into Mr. ? business day; how does this committee work act as an extension of a popular salesman's contacts; how does Community Fund work now help Mrs. ? sell Amendment No. 4, did a committee member work on a similar campaign in another state?

PICTURES

"That's my Amendment No. 4 phone", says Mr. ? sitting at his desk. It's connected to-----and picture a number of the people also working on the campaign.

"That's my Amendment No. 4 calendar", points out Mrs. ? adding a new speaking date.

"This is my mobile Amendment No. 4 office", says Mrs. ? decorating her car with bumper stickers and posters.

The Kids for Amendment No. 4 place a poster in the window of ? Bank.

B for 4 bumper stickers are placed on cars of members of the faculty at ? High School to show education's support for Amendment No. 4.

All candidates for the state legislature sign the book signifying their support for Amendment No. 4.

Mr. ?, president of ? Company, distributes B for 4 bumper stickers to employees.

"I've just registered to vote so I can vote for Amendment No. 4", says new voter.

A necklace of B for 4 buttons is the latest fad at ? School, (and is worn by the daughter of a League member).

IMPORTANT EXTRAS

Fillers for small spaces or small boxes with pertinent short statement from local people.

A bottom of the page banner - Vote YES for Amendment No. 4.

A permanent statement heading the editorial column: This newspaper supports Amendment No. 4.

One question, one answer box about Amendment No. 4 in every issue.

Letters to the Editor.

A front-page editorial at a crucial time.

A special listing of local radio or TV shows when Amendment No. 4 is the subject.

REGULAR COVERAGE

Of citizens' committee meetings.

Of speaking dates.

Of public meetings.

Of progress of the local campaign.

Of exhibits and booths.

LWV of Texas
June 1972

Texas Constitutional Revision Kit

RADIO PROGRAMS FOR THE B FOR 4 CAMPAIGN

Radio can be most effective in telling the facts about Amendment No. 4. Listeners need repeated reminders that Amendment No. 4 is important and that they as voters determine whether or not Texas will hold a constitutional convention.

Some of these suggestions can also be used for TV programs.

SPOT ANNOUNCEMENTS

Were sent to you at an earlier date. They can be used as strictly support announcements or slightly revised so that they qualify for public service time.

INTERVIEW SHOWS AND FOLLOW UP

Offer an opportunity to use local people in a conversation about Amendment No. 4. Ask representatives of organizations or occupations in the community to explain why Amendment No. 4 is important to the future of Texas. Schedule a series of interviews, or mix and match persons in a panel. Invite letters of comment and answer them on a later show. Or, where radio and press are linked, answer questions in an issue of the newspaper. Invite listeners to send for material from the local League.

EDITORIALS

Are often produced by the station and offer quick summaries of the best reasons for voting YES on Amendment No. 4. Perhaps the station might invite organizations or individuals to air guest editorials expressing the viewpoints on amendment support.

ADVERTISING

Might well include a plug for remembering to vote on Amendment No. 4 on November 7. Ask regular advertisers to help get out the vote by carrying a nonpartisan message. Ask organizations which support Amendment No. 4 to buy radio time in support of Amendment No. 4.

PHONE IN SHOWS

Are excellent for on the spot discussion of Amendment No. 4. A show summarizing all the voter has to do at this one election is another public service.

GUEST SHOWS

Are used by some stations to allow students to produce a show of their own. Young peoples' reactions to Amendment No. 4 and their knowledge of constitutions learned in high school civic classes should make a vital show stressing youthful responsibility. High school and college teachers would probably be happy to cooperate. Many colleges have their own radio or TV stations.

SLIDE PRESENTATION

Some Leagues have ordered the slide presentation "Constitutional Revision - Who Needs It?" Radio stations could offer this information as a public service:

If you are interested in the possibility of revising the Texas Constitution and would like to have some information on Amendment 4, which will be on the November 7 ballot, there is a slide presentation available for free showing to your group.

The slides are in color and have a prepared script. It can be booked for your group by contacting your local League of Women Voters. Or call this station for further information. That's information on a slide presentation explaining the need for revision of the Texas Constitution and Amendment 4 which will be on the November 7 ballot.

PRE-ELECTION DAY

Bulletins reminding people to think, listen, and vote are used on most stations.

Samples:

Tuesday is Election Day. Polls are open from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. Vote for your favorite candidates, but don't forget to vote on the amendments. If you want a constitutional convention in Texas vote YES for Amendment No. 4.

Are you making plans for Tuesday? Include that stop at the polling place. On Election Day, polls are open from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. It's your day to decide on candidates and issues. Amendment 4 on the ballot would provide for a constitutional convention. Does our 96-year old constitution need revising? Be sure and vote.

ELECTION DAY

Have you voted yet today? You have until 7 p.m. to vote for your preferences. And don't forget to express your opinion on Amendment No. 4 which would convene a constitutional convention to revise our state constitution.

This is Election Day. This is the day to make your decision on candidates and on a constitutional convention for Texas. Amendment No. 4 provides for the convening of a convention in January, 1974, to revise our state constitution.



INTRODUCING THE TEXAS CONSTITUTIONAL REVISION RESOLUTION AT PRECINCT CONVENTIONS

...Tips for TCR Chairmen to know in choosing introducers.

1. Precinct conventions of both parties are usually held immediately after the polls close, usually in or near the polling place. Watch the news media for time and place of those precinct meetings you plan to cover, or contact the county chairman of each party for the information. As far as possible, plan to have the resolution introduced in as many precinct conventions of both parties as possible.
2. In local League towns which have more than 6 to 8 precincts, some decision will have to be made on the ones which offer the best chance of success and which the available man and womanpower permits.
3. Each party precinct convention will require at least 3 copies of the Resolution and more should be available in case you need them for caucuses.
4. The person chosen to be the introducer must be a qualified voter who resides in the precinct and is a member of the party holding the convention. He or she is also either a League member, a League husband, a good League friend or contributor a prominent citizen, or the precinct chairman. Where possible choose an active party member -- a regular at precinct conventions!
5. Contact the introducer directly and provide him with sufficient copies of (1) the "Member Update" from the Texas Constitutional Revision Kit, (2) Resolution (3) VOTERS KEY 1972 and any TCR material you think would help him make a better case or answer questions. Be sure to talk to him after the precinct convention to find out what happened.
6. It is advisable for the introducer to contact the party precinct chairman ahead of time, acquaint him with the contents of the resolution, ask his help and advice on the best way to accomplish passage. Have sufficient copies of the Resolution to place in the hands of the Resolutions Chairman and committee as soon as they are appointed.
7. If you plan to cover precincts where you have no direct personal contact, send triplicate copies of the Resolution with a letter (see sample) to the party precinct chairman enclosing a self-addressed and stamped card for reply after the convention.
8. Facts to Remember:

The precinct convention is an autonomous group and may make its own rules as long as they aren't in conflict with the law.

A Resolution may be introduced from the floor or through the Resolutions Committee, depending on the convention rules. Larger precincts usually operate on a committee basis, small ones conduct their business from the floor.

Convention strategy and decisions generally are made by an organization of precinct leaders in "caucus" beforehand and the choices for permanent chairman, secretary, delegates, committees, etc., are laid out before the convention for approval. The old saying that it's "who gets there firstest

with the mostest", is a good rule. Plan your strategy early! Make contact in early April. Be part of a caucus or hold your own caucus among precinct "friends". Be sure that your forces turn out in strength and on time for the convention.

9. Regardless of your plans for the outcome in the precinct conventions, you should also make a similar plan for having the resolution introduced in both part county conventions, held a week later.

10. Fill out the report forms. Send two copies to the state League office (LWV of Texas, Dickinson Plaza Center, Dickinson, Texas 77539). Keep one for your League files.

STATE OF TEXAS

DATE _____

PRECINCT NO. _____

WHEREAS, the 1876 Texas Constitution was adopted in an era when there was great fear and distrust of state government and before the complex problems of an increasingly urban and industrial society had to be solved, and,

WHEREAS, in the subsequent 96 years such Constitution has been amended 201 times, and,

WHEREAS, citizens in increasing numbers are responding to polls, questionnaires and surveys to their belief that the basic problem of state government is the need for constitutional reform, and,

WHEREAS, the 62nd Legislature passed legislation proposing an amendment to Article XVII of the Texas Constitution providing for the 63rd Legislature to convene in January, 1974 as a Constitutional Convention.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the precinct convention of the _____ party of Texas held in the _____ precinct of _____ County, Texas on _____, 1972, that the delegates from this convention to the _____ county convention be pledged to submit and support the following:

The _____ party of Texas believes that revision of the Texas Constitution is essential to improved state government and urges the voters of the State of Texas to support Amendment #4 at the polls, November 7, 1972, which will provide for a Constitutional Revision Commission which precedes the convening of members of the 63rd Legislature as a Constitutional Convention in January, 1974, for the purpose of submitting to the voters a new constitution or revisions of the existing State Constitution.

STATE OF TEXAS

DATE _____

COUNTY OF _____

WHEREAS, the 1876 Texas Constitution was adopted in an era when there was great fear and distrust of state government and before the complex problems of an increasingly urban and industrial society had to be solved, and,

WHEREAS, in the subsequent 96 years such Constitution has been amended 201 times, and,

WHEREAS, citizens in increasing numbers are responding to polls, questionnaires and surveys to their belief that the basic problem of state government is the need for constitutional reform, and

WHEREAS, the 62nd Legislature passed legislation proposing an amendment to Article XVII of the Texas Constitution providing for the 63rd Legislature to convene in January, 1974 as a Constitutional Convention.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the COUNTY CONVENTION of the _____ party of Texas held in the city of _____, County of _____, Texas on _____, 1972,

that the delegates from this convention to the _____ state convention be pledged to submit and support the following:

The _____ party of Texas believes that revision of the Texas Constitution is essential to improved state government and urges the voters of the State of Texas to support Amendment #4 at the polls, November 7, 1972, which will provide for a Constitutional Revision Commission which precedes the convening of members of the 63rd Legislature as a Constitutional Convention in January, 1974, for the purpose of submitting to the voters a new constitution or revisions of the existing State Constitution.

SAMPLE NEWS RELEASE

FOR RELEASE THE WEEK OF MAY 8, 1972

Action by the League of Women Voters of _____ at
 party precinct conventions held in _____ County last
 Saturday was directed toward the adoption of a Resolution by both parties
 urging passage of Amendment #4 by voters of the state which will provide
 for the 63rd Legislature to convene as a Constitutional Convention on
 January 1, 1974. This amendment will be voted by Texans on November 7,
 1972 in the general election.

_____ of the _____ Democratic Conventions &
 (no. which passed it) (total)

_____ of the _____ Republican Conventions
 (no. which passed it) (total)

adopted this resolution, a total of _____ in all.
 add them

Precinct Conventions adopting the resolution were as follows: (Breakdown by
 precincts and parties).

The Resolution, in part, reads as follows: NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED...
 that this convention be pledged to submit and support the following: "urges
 the voters of the state of Texas to support Amendment #4 at the polls, November
 7, 1972, which will provide for a Constitutional Revision Commission which
 precedes the convening of members of the 63rd Legislature as a Constitutional
 Convention in January, 1974, for the purpose of submitting to the voters a new
 Constitution or revisions of the existing state constitution.

Mrs. _____ President of the League of Women Voters of
 (name of your League President)

_____, was quoted as saying: "The League of Women
 your town

Voters strongly recommends that both parties adopt the same resolution which
 urges voters of Texas to take this action. Through their continuing study of

the structure and functions of Texas government, League members become increasingly and continuously aware that there is an imperative need for a new, workable Constitution that can govern Texas. It is our belief that Texas citizens themselves must become concerned and involved in the revision process and that necessary preparations must be made for an effective constitutional convention.

Since 1956 Texans have 'revised' the Constitution by the piecemeal amendment process 201 times at a cost in excess of \$550,000. This method should cease and the resources of this state should be concentrated on a thorough revision movement."

SAMPLE EDITORIAL - COURTESY OF THE BRAZOSPORT FACTS

FACTS EDITORIAL

WE VOTE CONSTITUTION REVISION

Persistence pays off. After years of defeats, the League of Women Voters achieved one of its top-priority goals some months back in the 62nd Texas Legislature. What is in effect a system of permanent voter registration was approved.

Next year the voters of the state will decide on the start of the League's single most important--and probably oldest--project. Among 14 proposed amendments to the Texas Constitution is one that calls for establishment of a Constitutional Revision Commission and a convention to revise the Constitution in January, 1974.

The vote on these amendments is on November 7, 1972, along with the general election. If voters approve this commission and convention, it may have the effect of ending this almost-yearly submission to the voters of measures that should be enacted as statutes by the Legislature.

In the meantime, next year's list continues to write into our over-long Constitution amendments that often should have no higher status than local legislation. These are the proposals, in the order in which they will appear on the ballot:

1. A salary raise for legislators from \$4,800 to \$8,400 a year.
2. Abolish the Lamar County hospital district.
3. To provide for compensation of all justices of the peace on a salary basis.
4. Establish a constitutional revision commission and call a convention to revise the state Constitution in January, 1974.
5. Allow tax exemptions for disabled veterans, their surviving widows and children & widows & children of armed forces personnell killed on active duty.
6. Provide a minimum \$3,000 property tax exemption for resident homesteads of those 65 and older.
7. Guarantee that equality under the law shall not be denied or abridged because of sex, race, color, creed or national origin.
8. Provide four-year terms for governor, lieutenant governor, attorney general, comptroller, land commissioner, secretary of state, and other statutory state officers.
9. Allow soil and water conservation district directors to hold, or be compensated for, more than one office.
10. Require that proposed constitutional amendments be described twice in clear language by publication in all of the state's 633 newspapers.
11. Fix an annual salary of \$22,500 for speaker and lieutenant governor.
12. Permit state employees to serve on local governing boards.
13. Set a six per cent weighted average annual interest rate for constitutionally authorized bond issues.
14. Allow counties to reduce the permanent school fund and distribute money to independent and common school districts on a per-scholastic basis.

SAMPLE LETTER and REPLY CARD for PRECINCT CONVENTION CHAIRMEN

(type individual letters on LWV stationery)

Date

Precinct Chairmen
Your County, Texas

Ladies and Gentlemen:

The League of Women Voters of Our Town respectfully request that the attached Resolution be placed on the agenda of the Precinct Convention on May 6, 1972.

Attached is a return addressed post card to be filled in and signed by the permanent chairman of your precinct convention. We would appreciate it very much if you would do this and return it to the League of Women Voters.

We will be pleased to furnish any additional copies of the Resolution that you may need or additional information on the subject contained therein.

Thank you for your cooperation and prompt reply.

Sincerely yours,

Mrs. John Doe, President
League of Women Voters of Your Town

Attachments.

SAMPLE POST CARD

At the May 6, 1972 _____ Precinct
Convention of the _____
Party of your County, Texas, the Reso-
lution concerning Texas Constitutional
Revision

WAS

WAS NOT

ADOPTED

(circle appropriate one)

Mrs. John Doe, President
League of Women Voters of
Our Town
Our Town, Texas

Permanent Precinct Chairman

DATE _____

REPORT OF PRECINCT AND COUNTY CONVENTION ACTION ON TEXAS CONSTITUTIONAL
REVISION RESOLUTION

From the League of Women Voters of _____

Number of precincts within city limits of your town _____

Number of precincts within your county _____

<u>Precinct Conventions</u>	<u>Democratic</u>	<u>Republican</u>
Introduced in	_____	_____
Adopted by	_____	_____
 <u>County Convention</u>		
Introduced in	_____	_____
Directly	yes no	yes no
From Precincts	yes no	yes no
Adopted by	_____	_____

Describe any news media coverage:

Describe League participation, interest, excitement: (Don't be brief, use reverse side).

Reported by _____
(Name and League position)

Mail 2 copies to the State Office by May 20, 1972. Keep one copy for your own files.

Please enclose news clippings.

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VOTE FOR
AMENDMENT[#]4
TEXAS CONSTITUTIONAL REVISION