

SOME OBSERVATIONS FOR THE CONCERNED VOTER ON NOVEMBER 4, 1975

SOME 45,000 WORDS have been trimmed from the 63,000 contained in the ponderous instrument forged a century ago in an atmosphere of post-Civil War anxiety and bitter reaction to an unusually arbitrary government. The new charter is regarded by constitutional scholars as unusually sound, easy to read, and easy to understand.

MAINTAINED INTACT in the new constitution are the Bill of Rights, pay-as-you-go budgeting, popular election of all major statewide officials, popular election of judges, guaranteed financing for the University of Texas and A&M University, the Highway Fund, municipal home rule, protection of homesteads from forced sale, and prohibition of the garnishment of wages.

MORE EFFICIENT AND MORE ECONOMICAL STATE GOVERNMENT is encouraged by giving the Governor the authority and responsibility of overseeing and managing the budget, by tightening up controls on state debt, by providing for the self-destruction of useless and inefficient state agencies, by permitting the Governor to appoint and remove officials of state agencies, by providing for annual budgeting of agencies.

LOCAL CONTROL OF GOVERNMENT is strengthened by giving citizens of each county more control over the organization and operation of their local government, by expanding municipal home rule greatly, by discouraging legislative meddling in local affairs.

A UNIFIED COURTS SYSTEM with efficient court administration will permit the fighting of crime where it counts by assuring that criminals will be dealt with swiftly. This will prevent criminals who can afford bail from remaining free to commit more crimes and innocent people from being held in jail for many months and even years at great cost to the taxpayers.

TAXPAYERS WILL BENEFIT from more efficient government, property tax reform, prohibitions against retail sales taxes on food, medicine, and agricultural machinery, and from new guarantees of the right to appeal unequal property taxation. Tax relief for the elderly and the disabled is specifically spelled out.

FARMERS AND RANCHERS, who often find it difficult to earn enough off their land to survive, will benefit from a provision which calls for taxing of farm and ranch land on its productive value rather than its market value.

THE LAUGHING STOCK OF THE NATION. That's how esteemed Watergate prosecutor Leon Jaworski described the present archaic constitution of our great state.

POLITICAL ADVERTISING PAID FOR BY LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF TEXAS ACTION COMMITTEE,  
BARBARA F. NOBLES, CHAIRPERSON, 5000 CRESTWAY, AUSTIN, TEXAS.  
Printed by Gibson's Kwik-Kopy, 800 Brazos, Austin, Texas 78701.



# the new constitution

## vote YES for TEXAS

november 4, 1975

A MOMENT OF DECISION, perhaps the most vital and significant decision that Texans will make during this entire century, will soon be upon us. This important message comes to you from the following diverse organizations made up of informed, concerned citizens, to restate some of the paramount issues at stake and to urge you to vote FOR all eight propositions on November 4, 1975.

Junior Bar of Texas, League of Women Voters of Texas, the Texas American Legion, Common Cause, of Texas, the Texas Municipal League, the American Association of University Women, the Farmers Union, and the Citizens for the Texas Constitution.



## TOP STATE OFFICIALS URGE YOU TO VOTE YES

**Attorney General John Hill said:** "I would have hoped the opposition would spare us from generalizations, inaccuracies or opinions expressed without any evidence of facts. We are having a lot of court tests today dealing with what our constitution means. There will be no tidal wave of litigation under the new constitution. It is so clear and understandable, there is going to be a great deal less litigation. *It will make our (the AG's staff's) work much simpler.*"

**Lieutenant Governor Bill Hobby said:** "The superiority of an annual budget to a biennial budget is beyond much argument. It is an exceedingly tough job trying to project revenues two and a half to three years into the future. *It is nearly impossible today.*"

**Former Supreme Court Chief Justice Robert Calvert said:** "The merger of the State Supreme Court and the Court of Criminal Appeals and assignment of criminal appeals to 14 intermediate appellate courts, has been approved by outstanding lawyers and judges. The opposition's fears that the judiciary article might allow some form of Missouri plan for the selection of judges *is totally without basis in fact.*"

**Speaker of the House Bill Clayton said:** "With as complex a society as ours, there is a definite need for the legislature to meet on an annual basis. Texas is one of few states still with biennial sessions. The new constitution *is a document that will in fact save Texas taxpayers untold millions of dollars a year.*"

**Land Commissioner Bob Armstrong said:** "The new constitution provides us with more freedom to deal with our problems at the state and local levels. When a state's constitution is as outdated as ours, the state cannot respond to the needs of the people, and *the federal government leaps into the breach.*"



TCL

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

NOVEMBER 5, 1975

AUSTIN, TEXAS

Undaunted by the defeat of the proposed new state constitution, the League of Women Voters of Texas today pledged to work with renewed vigor for a revised constitution for Texas.

State League President Betty Anderson said, "Of course the League was disappointed in the result of the vote. We supported the new constitution. We remain convinced that it would have served the people of Texas much better than the old. We will now seek the establishment of a citizens convention to draft a new document, in the hopes that the polarized politicization which contributed to the defeat of the constitution can be avoided. And we will continue our efforts to educate citizens toward an understanding of the needs for revising our present constitution."

###



LWV of Texas  
October 1975  
LL Presidents Mailing-2  
A.A.2. -  
Administration-  
Action-State

TO: LL President (distribute 2nd copy to TCR chairs)  
FROM: Betty Anderson and Barbara Nobles  
RE: Last Minute TCR Push

We must intensify our campaign in these 3 ways:

1. Letters-to-the-Editors

Please write letters-to-the-Editors in these last few days. Ask League members and well-known supporters of revision in your community to write letters. This section has a high readership, and much can be gained from well written letters to the editor campaign. Emphasize facts concerning the new constitution and why it is better.

2. A modified phone bank

It is essential for us to get the YES vote to the polls. On Monday, Nov. 3, call every member of your League (utilizing board members, TCR committee, telephone committees and telephone tree systems) and ask them to call 5 to 10 friends who support the Constitution on Tuesday, November 4th--to be sure to vote. This is a tried and true campaign strategy and we think Leaguers will be willing to make this effort.

3. Distribute Constitution Countdown when you walk your block

Flyers, entitled Constitution Countdown, will be sent by bus (for larger shipments) next week. The brochure:

- 1) lists endorsing organizations.
- 2) quotes five state leaders countering Governor Briscoe's opposition.
- 3) has a section on observations for the Concerned Voter on efficient and economical state government, local control of government, taxpayers benefit.

4. If you have a college newspaper in your community, talk with the editor and discuss:

- a) Art. IV, Sec. 2, (d)--Removal of appointed officers by the governor. A governor of Texas was impeached in 1917 over this issue. The new constitutional provision would permit the governor to remove members from Boards of Regents of state colleges and universities.
- b) It will be a much easier document to read and study--study of the Constitution is a requirement in most schools.

A concerted effort is called for. We know we can count on your help.



TCR

LWV of Texas  
October 1975  
LL Presidents Mailing  
DPM  
I.Q.  
Administration-  
President's Letter

Dear Presidents,

Your efforts for the Texas Constitutional Revision campaign are deeply appreciated. Your letters and VOTERS indicate a variety of techniques and strategies being used in local campaigns. Amarillo is conducting a Panhandle caravan; several Leagues are conducting public meetings; and San Marcos is organizing block workers to distribute flyers and bumper stickers. Houston conducted a press conference with Judge Robert Calvert in a historic park with a view of modern skyscrapers towering over the antique buildings, Abilene's speaking engagements in the city and surrounding area numbered 15--six weeks before the election. Win or lose, we can't be accused of not trying!

May I reiterate that the TCR flyers were not designed to appeal to Leaguers or others already persuaded to vote yes. The purpose of the flyer is to attract attention to the election--to vote YES and when to vote. It should be distributed door-to-door, placed under windshield wipers, handed out at fairs, ball games, etc. When we attempted to list reasons for voting for the Constitution on a brochure, it became impossible to compile a list that did not antagonize some segment of the voting public. We have also been unable to come up with a suitable symbol for a constitution--it just doesn't lend itself to gimmickry. The multiplicity of the issues and the complexity of the document make campaigning very difficult, as you well know.

Action in Austin: On October 1, Fumi Sugihara testified before the subcommittee on Electronic Voting of the House Committee on Elections. Fumi has received a letter of appreciation from Luther Jones, chair of the committee. He said, "Good legislation requires good input from concerned citizens. I feel the subcommittee received this good input because you offered your time and effort to share your knowledge and experiences with us."

On Sept. 26, Lucinda Headrick spoke before the Natural Resources Water Subcommittee of the House. Lucinda thinks that she and Stuart Henry of the Sierra Club were able to make some points heard.  
Both statements are enclosed.

League Mailing from State Office: We are still experimenting and learning. Some communities get prompt third class mail. Others do not. We have learned that metered mail must be mailed at a certain location in Austin. Also, the Austin post office has had a tremendous volume of mail recently. So bear with us.

Quotes from Ruth Clusen in an interview on the Agency for International Development's program, "Overseas Mission."

On Men:

"We did a count last spring, since our membership has been open to men as of a year ago May, and we had approximately 6,000 (men) at that point."

On a Name Change:

"Let me speak to the name change. It must be done at a national convention because it is a bylaw change of the membership...I have a strong feeling that there will be a strong push to change the name...Part of the problem is that there's no agreement on what the name should be. That's one of the hangups on it."



EQ--Industry or environmental groups?

"...Where do we stand? Do we endorse the environmentalists or industry? Neither one. We have our own positions. We want to try to protect, as much as we can, some of the environmental positions we have. But in addition to that, we recognize the need for new sources of energy, and our positions in that field really deal with the conservation of energy rather than whether they shall mine coal in the Great Plains, for instance."

Question: "Mrs. Clusen,...one of your favorite phrases is 'Let the people know; make the people care; help the people act.'" How do you assess what you've been doing, in light of Watergate, CIA, multinational corporation disputes, over the last few years?"  
Clusen: "Obviously, we haven't been doing enough, but in some ways, the situation is helpful to us, because there are a lot more Americans nowadays who realize you can't just let government operate in a vacuum."

New Provisional League: State and National have recognized the Provisional LWV of Eastern Bell County (Temple, Belton, Salado). Barbara Nobles and Jean Bizzell conducted a TCR workshop in Temple Oct. 8th.

Bylaw Changes: Please submit your local League bylaw changes to Barbara Materka, rather than Marion Gholston, by Nov. 15.

Board Resignations and New Appointee: Regretfully, Marion Gholston and Jean Bizzell have both resigned from the state Board. We will miss them. But we are fortunate to have found an excellent replacement for one position. Barbara Materka has accepted an appointment, and she will work in the area of membership and organization.

Please add her name and address to your state board list.

Barbara Materka (Mrs. William)  
4114 Northhaven Road  
Dallas, Texas 75229  
(214) 352-9003

November State Board Meeting: The state Board will be meeting Nov. 18-19, instead of Nov. 11-12 in Dallas. Some Board members want to attend a conference on women in public life celebrating International Women's Year, Nov. 10-11 in Austin.

Administration of Justice: Correction to Administration of Justice section in the State Board Report. "The LWVUS has a new publication "So You're Interested in Your Police Department, ED. Fund, 4 pp., #584, 25¢. Also Update on Community Issues, #574, 25¢ has a section on policewomen around the country."

In an effort to save money without hampering efficiency, the state office will be experimenting with the mailings to local Leagues and state board members. We would appreciate your noting when your mail arrived, which class (1st, 3rd) is was marked, and then letting us know at your convenience. We've already noted the necessity for 1st class mailing to Dallas, Irving, Denton, and Beaumont, and are interested in hearing what kind of mail service other Leagues receive.

*Betty Anderson*



NOV 25 1975

TCL

*John Hill*

November 19, 1975

*The Attorney General of Texas  
Supreme Court Building  
- Austin, Texas 78701*

Ms. Betty Anderson, President  
League of Women Voters of Texas  
The Penthouse, Suite 109

Dear Ms. Anderson:

Please know how much I personally appreciate your most kind and thoughtful message of November 6.

As you do, I view the recent constitutional revision election with mixed emotions. On the one hand, I was extremely disappointed at the low voter turnout and, of course, the rather substantial defeat of the proposed new document. On the other hand, however, I sincerely view this election campaign as one of enlightened debate (for the most part); and, secondly, I feel that public officeholders, on a State and area basis, as well as the general public, were afforded the opportunity of a concentrated study of our old and proposed new Constitution, together with the opportunity to know more about how our government operates and what problems we do face in attempting to make this a better State for generations to come.

To the League of Women Voters of Texas, I extend my heartfelt thanks and appreciation for your spirit and dedication to this cause. The seed has been sown, and with the passage of time it shall bear fruit.

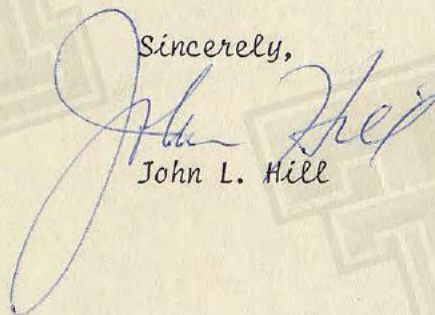


Ms. Betty Anderson  
November 19, 1975

Page Two

With kindest regards and again my special  
thanks and appreciation to you and your membership,  
I remain

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "John L. Hill". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the end of the last name.

John L. Hill

JLH:al



TCK

November 6, 1975

John Hill  
Attorney General  
State of Texas  
Austin, Texas 78767

Dear General Hill:

I wish this letter could be in celebration of a new constitution for the state of Texas. Since it obviously cannot be that, we would like to make the best of our defeat by remembering not the loss, but the gain. Because in spite of the loss, there were, we think, significant gains.

First of all, we have brought the issue of the need for a new constitution to light. And when the dust has settled, voters may begin to reflect on the issue, and be more likely to understand and support our future efforts toward state constitutional revision.

Secondly, we in the League of Women Voters count as a gain the experience of working with you in support of our mutual goal. We are truly grateful for your efforts and are proud to have been able to assist you in this attempt.

Thank you so very much.

Sincerely,

Betty Anderson  
President





NOV 3 1975

TCR

TEXAS LT. GOV. BILL HOBBY argues in favor of the new state constitution during a Dallas news conference. Other supporters of the proposed charter, from left,

are Eleanor Sutherland, Martha Mewhirter, Rep. Ray Hutchison and Gary Vermillion.

—Staff Photo

## Backers slap Briscoe

Wed., Oct. 22, 1975, DALLAS TIMES HERALD

# Charter drive bolstered

By RON CALHOUN  
Political Writer

It was by far the strongest local show of strength against Gov. Dolph Briscoe's opposition to the new state constitution.

Four officeholders representing liberal and conservative philosophies and representatives of three groups were on hand for a news conference Tuesday to react to Briscoe's opposition and state their reasons why the new constitution should be accepted by the voters Nov. 4.

All said the governor's stand had spurred them to intensify their efforts to see that the new constitution passed.

"Naturally, we felt very disappointed in the governor's decision, but he did us a favor by stirring up interest in the document," said State Rep. Dick Geiger, of the Dallas County committee for a new constitution.

With Geiger at the Love Field news conference were Lt. Gov. Bill Hobby, State Rep. Ray Hutchison, who also is state Republican chairman; State Sen. Oscar Mauzy, Dallas League of Women Voters president Eleanor Sutherland, Irving league president Martha Mewhirter and Gary Vermillion, chairman of the Dallas Classroom Teachers' legislative committee.

Hobby said Briscoe's opposition to the new charter was a "setback" but did not kill the movement.

Mrs. Sutherland agreed and added that Briscoe's move was "particularly puzzling in light of the fact that he ignored every opportunity to contribute his opinions during the drafting of the constitution, choosing instead to adopt what many interpreted as an attitude of benign neglect on this gravely important matter."

"The governor's apparent distrust of the people of Texas who wisely voted to revise the constitution is not shared by the League of Women Voters," she declared. "Therefore, the league will intensify its campaign to accurately inform the voters on the genuine issues involved."

"League members are confident that accurate information, not scare tactics, will best assist the people of Texas in reaching decisions on this most important issue," Mrs. Sutherland said.

The formation of an Irving Citizens for a New Constitution, headed by former Mayor Robert Power and Carole R. Shlipak, was announced.

Hobby said one of Briscoe's main reasons for calling for the defeat of the constitution—annual legislative sessions—should be one of the main reasons for it to pass.

As chairman of the legislative budget board, Hobby said he had learned through "hard, bitter experience" that annual sessions would lead to "better control over the spending process" and give Texans "a better

chance to escape taxes."

Under the present constitution, "We really don't have an executive branch," Hobby said, because the governor does not now have adequate control over state agencies. But the new document would give the governor the right to name the members of boards and commissions when he came into office and power to initiate removal procedures for non-performance.

Mauzy touted the new finance article, saying for the first time in Texas history it would bring about an equitable taxation system to support public schools. "The passage of this article will go a long way in bringing about equal educational opportunity for the children of this state," Mauzy said.

Hutchison lashed county officials who were against the constitution. He said they claimed the document would take power away from the people, but their real reason for opposing the document was they feared they would lose their jobs.

Hutchison said the new constitution gave voters the tools to mold county government to fit modern needs.

"They aren't really for the government closest to the people," Hutchison said of the county officials. "They are just for the government and not the people."

Hutchison said the finance article paved the way for "balance between rural and urban interests" in the area of property taxes.

Charter backers bolster defenses  
'Disappointment' expressed over Briscoe opposition

"That's either going to come through this constitution or it's going to come through the federal courts," he declared.

Continued From Page 1



# Gov. Briscoe stance may help charter backers, officials say

NOV 3 1975

TCR

By CAROLYN BARTA

Four leading proponents of the new state constitution suggested here this week that Gov. Dolph Briscoe may have done them a favor by taking his recent constitutional stance.

Lt. Gov. Bill Hobby, State Reps. Ray Hutchison and Dick Geiger and State Sen. Oscar Mauzy indicated that the governor's opposition to the new constitution has stimulated interest in the Nov. 4 revision election and people are now beginning to look at both the old and new constitutions.

The proponents further refuted statements by Comptroller Bob Bullock that the proposed constitution would require Texans to pay an additional \$72 million a year in new property taxes on their cars.

**THE FOUR** held a press conference at Dallas Love Field on Hobby's arrival for a speech in Irving. They were joined by other revision advocates from the League of Women Voters and Classroom Teachers of Dallas.

Hobby, who is one of several state-wide elected officials supporting the new constitution, said chances of the document passing are good despite the governor's opposition.

"It is the most broadly based political movement I've ever been involved in."

Geiger, co-chairman of the pro forces in Dallas County, said Briscoe has "done us a favor" by announcing his opposition to all eight propositions.

"WHAT HE has done is stir up interest in this election. People are beginning to look at it, and people who take time to read the new document recognize that it is far superior to what we have now."

Hutchison, sometimes called the "father" of the new constitution because of his work in this legislative session, agrees that attention has been focused on what amounts to the most important question facing this state in many, many years.

Hobby pointed out that privately owned cars "should be assessed and collected on now." Since cars are taxed in some counties and not others, he said, "tax assessors are giving subsidies to car owners at the expense of home owners."

He pointed out that real estate owners currently are paying a disproportionate share of the taxes in the state and the finance article — which he called his "favorite" — would equalize taxation.

Hutchison said Bullock's claim that the constitution would result in \$72 million in new tax money is false. He said that \$72 million would be subtracted from taxes currently paid by homeowners and landowners and shifted to car owners.

**AS FOR** Bullock's statement that the document would require local governments to give tax breaks totaling \$21 million a year to property owners over 65, Hutchison said:

"Most communities have already granted tax exemptions for the elderly. Everywhere it's been submitted to an election, it's been passed." Tax exemptions for the elderly currently are on a local option basis, rather than on a mandatory basis as in the new constitution.

Hobby cited what he considers the two most important new features in the proposed constitution. They include budget execution power for the governor in Article IV and a prohibition against creation of any state debt except by vote of the people in Article V.

Mrs. Eleanor Sutherland, president of the League of Women Voters of Dallas, said the league will intensify its campaign to inform the voters of the actual issues involved. She said members are confident accurate information, not scare tactics, will help the people of Texas reach a decision on the new document.

Gary Vermillion, Classroom Teachers of Dallas legislative chairman, announced at the conference that the CTD legislative committee is supporting the new document and is especially pleased with Article VII dealing with equal educational opportunity for all children.

Mauzy agreed that the finance article of the proposed document "will go a long way toward providing equal educational opportunity by bringing about equalization of taxing for public education."



LWV of Texas  
January 1975

To: State Board  
From: Betty Conner  
Re: Pre-Board Report--Texas Constitutional Revision

Greetings for the new year. I hope it contains less illness than November and December did for my family.

There are two decisions we must make at the board meeting concerning TCR.

1. To establish a criteria by which to evaluate bills concerning revision.
2. Whether the state League can support a bill calling for a citizen's convention that is not submitted to the people for their approval.

First some background information on what is happening and what will be proposed re revision during the legislative session. There are three main proposals being readied for submitting a complete constitution to the people:

1. Sen. Patman wants to submit Resolution #26 in toto. This resolution from the Constitutional Convention called for the basic document plus separate submission of limited county home rule, pari-mutual betting, right to work.
2. Sen. Gammage wants to submit Resolution #26 article by article.
3. Rep. Hutchinson wants to submit a simplification of the present constitution using the same article structure and the same drafting rules the Convention used. This simplified version would be offered on the ballot as Proposition 1. Following that would be separate propositions on each article passed by the Convention.

There are current bills being readied for separate consideration of the Legislative, Executive, Judicial, Education and Finance articles.

There are at least three bills concerning the citizens convention. Price Daniel's proposal is the most specific at this time. It calls for an election on January 27, 1976, to authorize another convention and elect 72 special delegates, three from each congressional district. The convention would convene on April 5, 1976, and would be submitted to the voters at the general election in November, 1976. All the proposals would call for a special election of delegates. One proposal would call a citizen's convention without having it voted on by referendum. All proposals are bills (not constitutional amendments so they don't have to get a 2/3's vote in both houses) and would have the convention submit their finished document to the voters at the general election in 1976. One bill will probably call for three delegates from each senatorial district.

Both Hobby and Clayton have agreed that there will be a committee in both the house and senate that handles all the constitutional matters. They are also working on getting broader powers for the conference committee that handles revision.

Legislative interviews: From the 56 legislators that responded to the question: "What does this legislator foresee happening in constitutional revision in this coming session?" (some gave two answers such as they foresee attempts at article by article amendment as well as bills calling for a citizens convention so the number of answers is larger than the number of people responding.)

Citizen's convention - 15  
Article by Article - 25  
Submit constitution as a whole - 6  
Submit CRC report - 1  
Amendments to present constitution - 5  
A commission writing a version to go directly to the people - 1

Must have pressure from press and public before anything done - 1  
TACIR version of constitution on being submitted - 1  
Recodification of present constitution - 1  
Citizen's conference - 1  
Const. Rev. Com. composed of legislators - 1



Because of self interest lobby groups feel present constitution is adequate - 1.

And two souls of surprising honesty, Cartwright from San Antonio who says he is new and uninformed and doesn't have an opinion, and Presnal from Brazos County who doesn't know what will happen. (Kathy and Fumi, perhaps there is hope for him yet.)

Forty-eight legislators responded to the question: What method of revision will this legislator support?"

Article by Article - 11

Submission of proposed '75 convention document - 4

Support whatever method will put '74 convention document before the people--either as a whole document or article by article - 1

Recodification of present constitution - 1

Support any method that has chance of passing - 2

Any method except legislators sitting as convention - 2

"We are better off with what we have than what we would get." - 3 guesses what local League's esteemed senator said that????

Background information for you to consider and use in deciding upon a criteria for evaluation of TCR bills:

1. Submission of a completely revised constitution as an amendment. Two versions of such a constitution are readily identifiable, those of the Texas Constitutional Revision Commission and the Texas Constitutional Convention. During the period 1966-1974, six state legislatures submitted new or significantly revised constitutions as amendments for approval by the voters. Kentucky, 1966, Florida 1968, Idaho 1970, Oregon 1970, North Carolina 1970, Virginia 1970. The proposed constitutions were approved in Florida, North Carolina and Virginia, but were rejected in Kentucky, Idaho, and Oregon. Submission of a complete constitution could come either in the form of a single amendment, containing the entire proposed constitution, or a series of amendments. The latter method, or article by article submission, creates significant, but not insoluble, transition and adoption schedule problems. Despite the fact that other states have utilized this method of revision, legal authorities have generally divided over whether a legislature possesses the authority to submit an entire constitution as an amendment or series of amendments to an existing constitution. There have been a number of recent court decisions on this and related issues. A careful examination of these cases and their applicability in Texas is underway.

2. Submission of one or more revised articles as amendments. During recent years, several states (Alabama, California, Indiana, Minnesota, Nebraska, North Carolina, Ohio, South Carolina, South Dakota, and Utah) have revised their constitutions through submission of amendments significantly revising one or more articles. Some of these amendments have been part of a gradual revision process for the entire constitution, often as the result of a recommendation from a study commission similar to the Texas Constitutional Revision Commission. Other article revisions have apparently come as one shot affairs, without indication of a continuing program for revision of the entire constitution. A legal question is likely to be raised concerning the ability of the Texas legislature to submit complete articles as single amendments. Preliminary research indicates that there is precedent in Texas for this method (the movement to change the Judiciary article of the Texas Constitution which was begun in 1879, was finally culminated in 1891, when a single amendment substantially revising the entire article was adopted by the voters.)

3. Submission of a simplified or editorially revised version as an amendment. In 1970, the legislature of North Carolina submitted an "editorially revised" version of the state constitution. This new constitution was adopted by the voters. Six substantive amendments, some involving whole new articles, were also submitted. Five were adopted. The same general legal questions exist for this approach as for submission by the legislature of a new or substantively revised constitution.



The Texas Advisory Commission on Intergovernmental Relations publication, "The Texas Constitution," contains a version of an editorially revised Texas Constitution (excluding the Bill of Rights) which some legislators have talked about submitting.

4. Joint resolutions, concurrent resolutions and constitutional amendments calling for a citizen's convention.

The League supports a citizen's convention, though we would also support article by article revision, if the specific article met League criteria. Sixteen state constitutional conventions were held between 1966 and 1974. New constitutions or amendments to the existing constitution were adopted by Hawaii, Illinois, Louisiana, Montana, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island and Tennessee. The New Hampshire Convention, which convened in May 1974, and adjourned in late June, (ours should have been so speedy) will submit five amendments to the voters at the next election.

5. Delegates. All state constitutional conventions held during the 1966-74 period have had elected delegates. They are usually chosen at the pre-convention referendum on the question of constitutional revision. There are three systems used for electing delegates: a. partisan basis, b. non-partisan, c. bi-partisan. The partisan election assures maximum party control. The people who control local elections and influence legislators would probably have the same influence over partisan delegates and the convention would tend to duplicate one held by legislators. (horrors)

New York, 168 delegates, used the partisan system. Three members were elected from each of the 50 senatorial districts. There were also fifteen at large delegates. This added blue ribbon candidates not affiliated with a party.

No convention yet has been elected on a non-partisan, statewide at large basis. Maryland had non-partisan selection using multi-member districts, some with as many as eight seats. Twenty-nine percent of the delegates said they would not have run if the election had been conducted on a partisan basis. Fifty four percent of the candidates claimed endorsement by a non-political group.

Illinois had on the surface a non-partisan system of election, but in reality Democratic areas produced Democratic partisan candidates. In Republican areas the non-partisan system was more in evidence producing Republican delegates with moderately strong non-partisan view of their role and independent delegates with a more highly non-partisan disposition. George Braden comments based on his observation of key votes, that the Illinois system produced 26 delegates who were "good government at all costs no compromise types" (That is the kind we like, I would have been happy to have 15 of that kind during our convention.)

North Dakota. The governor, lt. governor, and attorney general collaborated to nominate 98 individuals, one from each house district. The law provided however, that any person who could get 200 signatures within a district could get on the ballot and oppose the official nominee. Twenty-two delegates won seats by this method.

Missouri. The constitution prescribes a mode of nomination which insures representation from different political parties in each senatorial district. Candidates for 15 delegates at large are nominated by petition and voted for on non-partisan ballots.

Ohio. Candidates are nominated by petition and voted upon with independent ballots with no party designation.

Size of delegate bodies in recent constitutional conventions:

<u>Number of delegates</u>	<u>Number of states</u>
70-99	4
100-119	5
120-139	2
140-159	1
160-179	1
180-199 (including Texas)	2
200-over	1



Qualifications of delegates. Qualifications required of a candidate for delegate to a constitutional convention either have been the same as: a. those for a voter of the state; b. those for a candidate for election to one of the houses of the state legislature. The primary difference between the two methods has been in the minimum age required of the delegate. States have different methods on whether elected public officials may serve as delegates or may receive compensation as delegates while retaining the salary of their public office. Some states have specifically authorized certain public officials to serve. Others have specifically prohibited them. In several states, questions have arisen as to whether constitutional dual office-holding requirements affect the eligibility of public officials to serve as convention delegates. Texas legislators maintain that it would be discriminatory to prohibit them from running as delegates. The attorney general has not given a ruling on the question.

Legislators are barred by court decision from being delegates to constitutional conventions in Michigan and Montana. The percentage varies in other states of legislators who were elected as convention delegates: Rhode Island and New York, 23%; Maryland, 8%; Illinois, 10%; Hawaii, 52%. In Montana where the legislators are barred from being delegates, 5% of the elected delegates were former members of the legislature.

Generally the questions of whether a constitutional convention should be called and who the delegates should be, have been decided in the same election. The Texas Constitutional Convention of 1875, was called in this manner. Some states use other methods: Delaware--next general election following passage of the convention question. New York--at the next general election for members of the lower house. Kentucky--next general election occurring not less than 90 days after passage of the convention act. West Virginia--not less than one month after the vote on calling a convention has been published. Missouri--the governor must call an election not less than three nor more than six months after referendum on convention question.

Compensation of delegates. Michigan delegates receive \$1000, plus mileage as paid to legislators, may be increased by law. New York, same compensation as members of legislature including traveling expenses. Missouri, \$10 a day plus mileage. Other states require legislature to fix payments.

6. Convention. Length of Convention. Alaska, 13 weeks. Enabling act limited the convention to duration of 90 days, 75 convention days, including weekends and holidays. There was a 15-day recess for public hearings. The convention was held at the University of Alaska, 5 miles from Fairbanks and 500 miles from capitol of Juneau.

Hawaii, 15 weeks. Puerto Rico, 20 weeks. The enabling act specifically states the duration of the constitutional assembly shall be prolonged until it decides to dissolve itself or until the constitution which it has drafted and approved goes into effect.

Enabling act calling for convention should contain a tentative date of adjournment subject to postponement only by action of an extraordinary majority of the convention. Missouri convention was a year in length, meeting continuously because no time limit had been set.

Time of convening convention. Hawaii--time lapse between delegate election and convention convening, 15 days. Alaska--delegates elected, Sept. 13, 1955, convened, November 8, 1955. Puerto Rico--time lapsed between delegate election and convening of convention, 21 days. Schedule should allow enough time prior to election of delegates or between election and convening of convention for adequate planning.



Sorry, did not intend to make this so long and so dull, but it is important to know some of the background before deciding on criteria. There will be many proposals for a citizen's convention, actually we have no position on that particular issue except the fact that we think a convention is the best method to use for revision. We can use some of the positions we would like to see in the Amendment Article of the Texas Constitution. They are: a) the calling of the convention should be approved by a majority of the voters, voting thereon, b) the legislature shall provide by law for; the election of one or more delegates from each legislative district, the number of delegates to be decided by the legislature preceding the convention; c) the assembling of a preparatory commission, its size and membership to be determined by the legislature; d) the appropriation of sufficient fund for the work of the commission and the convention. What do we consider sufficient funds? Do we consider above a certain figure an unwieldy number of delegates? Do we want to support a bill that would put limits on how much time must elapse before a delegate can run for public office?

The second decision is whether the state League can support a bill calling for a citizens' convention that is not submitted to the people for their approval. Steve Bickerstaff, the director of the office of Constitutional Research for the Legislative Council, has already raised the question and Chris will be receiving queries also. Our position reads, "The question of calling a constitutional convention shall be submitted to the voters at least every twenty years. If the calling of a constitutional convention is approved by a majority of the voters, voting thereon, the....." A legal dispute has occurred over whether the legislature may call a convention without approval of the people. However, John Hill will probably be asked to give another opinion and some of the legislators will introduce a bill including this provision. So let's be prepared with an answer.

\* \* \* \*



*League of Women Voters of Texas*



MRS. DARVIN M. WINICK, PRESIDENT

May 20, 1974

To the Delegates of the Constitutional Convention:

WE DON'T LIKE WHAT YOU ARE DOING.



Very cordially yours,

*Darvin Winick*

Mrs. Darvin Winick, President



# League of Women Voters of Texas



Convention Office

MRS. DARVIN M. WINICK, PRESIDENT

MAY 30 1974

May 28, 1974

To the Delegates of the Constitutional Convention:

The LWV of Texas is disappointed and discouraged that the Judiciary Article is becoming the victim of special interests. We are aware of the many hours of work that went into producing the Committee report. We thought it was a vast improvement over our current antiquated system.

Obviously some compromise was necessary, but we are fearful that the unified court system is about to be gutted. We are particularly concerned that the unified court system, especially the merger of the courts, the circuit courts and the unified administrative structure, be retained.

We believe that the circuit courts are an integral part of the unified system. The county judges have been well protected in this new constitution, now it is time to protect the right of the citizens of Texas to equal justice.

Very cordially yours,

*Darvin Winick*

Mrs. Darvin Winick, President

cc:DeWitt Hale

Anderson, Conner, Hunter, Cragon, SO., ConO.



50

JUN 10 1974

June 5, 1974

To the Delegates of the Constitutional Convention

The LWV of Texas urges your reconsideration of section 6 of the General Provisions Article. We believe the end result of this section would not be baneficial to the environmental geals of the people of this state. We therefore would prefer for the constitution to remain silent on the issue rather than see this section included.

Please vote for reconsideration and allow Mr. Hithchison to pull down his proposal as he said he would.

Cordially yours,

Mrs. Darvin M. Winick, President

C  
O  
P  
Y





CHET BROOKS  
STATE SENATOR

Senate Chamber  
Austin, Texas 78711

June 7, 1974

CHAIRMAN:  
COMMITTEE ON HUMAN RESOURCES  
MEMBER:  
FINANCE COMMITTEE  
STATE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE  
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE (1972)

JUN 10 1974

Mrs. Darvin Winick, President  
League of Women Voters of Texas  
Dickinson Plaza Shopping Center  
Dickinson, Texas 77539

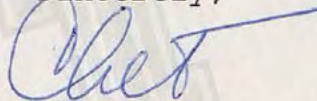
Dear Mrs. Winick:

Thank you for your thoughtful letter concerning the proposed environmental provisions of the new Constitution.

I am deeply disappointed that the stronger version offered by Senator Lloyd Doggett of Austin was not accepted by the Constitutional Convention.

The destructive amendment by Representative Ray Hutchinson of Dallas, which was narrowly adopted by the Convention, may soon be reconsidered. If so, we may have the opportunity to either adopt better language or leave the proposed Constitution silent on the issue so the Legislature will have flexibility in dealing with environmental issues in the future.

Sincerely,

  
Chet Brooks

CB:dk



THE  
TEXAS



JUN 10 1974

# CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION 1974

P. O. Box 13286

Capitol Station

Austin, Texas 78711

---

Price Daniel, Jr., President

June 5, 1974

Mrs. Darvin M. Winick  
President  
League of Women Voters  
of Texas  
Dickinson Plaza Shopping Center  
Dickinson, Texas 77539

Dear Veta:

Thank you for your letter concerning the environmental provision of the General Provisions Article which was tentatively adopted by the Constitutional Convention.

As I believe you know, I share your concern about this section and its probable effects. Delegate Hutchison has indicated that he will move to reconsider the vote by which his amendment to the committee report was adopted; in any event, however, someone will take this action. I feel that the delegates will either delete the provision in its entirety or alter it in a favorable fashion. I can assure you of my support for such a change.

With kindest regards and continuing thanks for your valuable assistance, I am

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Price".

Price Daniel, Jr.

PDjr/ar



TCR



LLOYD DOGGETT  
STATE SENATOR  
DISTRICT 14  
P. O. Box 12068  
Austin 78711

The Senate of  
The State of Texas  
Austin 78711

COUNTIES  
BLANCO  
BURNET  
CALDWELL  
HAYS  
TRAVIS

June 5, 1974

Mrs. Darvin Winick, President  
League of Women Voters of Texas  
Convention Office  
308 W. 15th St., Room 305  
Austin, Texas 78701

Dear Mrs. Winick:

There are some battles that are better fought and lost than not fought at all. Naturally I am disappointed with the convention's decision on Article VI and VII. These sections not only violate our joint preference for a short flexible constitution, but also impose punitive limits on future environmental efforts.

Now I see Mr. Hutchinson has decided to raise the issue once more. Hopefully the Convention will vote to reconsider and delete this unfortunate language.

Despite the outcome at this point, I am particularly grateful to the League and its membership for your public support of this important effort. Once again we are reminded of the need for efforts such as yours to ensure that private interests do not control the legislative processes.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Lloyd Doggett".  
LLOYD DOGGETT

LD/dsl



TCR



OSCAR H. MAUZY  
District 23  
Oak Cliff and Grand Prairie  
Sections of Dallas County

Senate Chamber  
Austin, Texas 78711  
512/ 475-2528

8204 Elmbrook Dr.  
Dallas, Texas 75247  
214/630-3672

The Senate of  
The State of Texas  
Austin

May 31, 1974

Committees:

Chairman:  
Education

Member:  
Administration  
Jurisprudence

Mrs. Darwin Winick, President  
League of Women Voters of Texas  
Convention Office  
308 W. 15th Street, Room 305  
Austin, Texas 78701

Dear Mrs. Winick:

I appreciate the courtesy of your letter of May 28, 1974, expressing your discouragement with the fact that the Judiciary Article had become a victim of special interests.

Unfortunately, Article V became the victim of special interests in early January and has never been able to extricate itself from these clutches.

Frankly, I feel that the people of Texas would be better off if the Article is not submitted, unless it can be drastically improved upon. I certainly share your views regarding the position taken by some county judges in Texas, and you and your organization may be assured of my continued efforts to improve Article V.

Sincerely,

*Oscar H. Mauzy*  
Oscar H. Mauzy

OHM/db



TCR



CHET BROOKS  
STATE SENATOR

Senate Chamber  
Austin, Texas 78711

June 3, 1974

JUN 4 1974

CHAIRMAN:  
COMMITTEE ON HUMAN RESOURCES  
MEMBER:  
FINANCE COMMITTEE  
STATE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE  
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE (1972)

Mrs. Darvin Winick, President  
League of Women Voters of Texas  
Dickinson Plaza Shopping Center  
Dickinson, Texas 77539

Dear Mrs. Winick:

I can certainly appreciate your concern over the problems we are experiencing with the Judicial Article.

I hope we will be able to clear the air of the special interest questions which are crippling our efforts to provide an effective Judiciary Article. I have voted for the unified Judiciary system and intend to continue to do so. I will appreciate your support in our efforts to get the issues and the priorities straight so that we can move ahead in developing a good new Constitution.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Chet Brooks".  
Chet Brooks

CB: lhp

*Theresa Betty*



THE  
TEXAS



# CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION 1974

P. O. Box 13286

Capitol Station

Austin, Texas 78711

Price Daniel, Jr., President

May 29, 1974

MAY 31 1974

Mrs. Darvin M. Winick  
President  
League of Women Voters of Texas  
Dickinson Plaza Shopping Center  
Dickinson, Texas 77539

Dear Veta:

Thank you for your letter concerning the Convention's consideration of the report of the Committee on the Judiciary.

I sincerely appreciate your continuing interest and that of the League in the constitutional revision effort, and I am particularly grateful at this time for your work in behalf of a vastly improved Judiciary Article.

With kindest personal regards, I am

Sincerely,

Price Daniel, Jr.

PDjr/db



*Higgins*

# League of Women Voters of Texas

---



MRS. DARVIN M. WINICK, PRESIDENT

May 20, 1974

To the Delegates of the Constitutional Convention:

The League of Women Voters of Texas finds the majority report (sec.6, ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES) of the proposed General Provisions Article to be counter to the best interests of the people of this state, and therefore unacceptable. As proposed by the General Provisions Committee, this section offers gravely inadequate environmental protection to citizens and jeopardizes our state's natural resources by an undue emphasis on their development.

The League of Women Voters considers the minority report of this committee to be reasonable and desirable, and urges your support of this alternative.

Very cordially yours,

*Darvin Winick*

Mrs. Darvin Winick, President



*League of Women Voters of Texas* \_\_\_\_\_



Constitutional Convention Office  
[REDACTED]

MRS. DARVIN M. WINICK, PRESIDENT

For Immediate Release  
May 17, 1974

The LWV of Texas is urging the Constitutional Convention to reconsider their action on Section 11, a4 which pertains to the Legislature prescribing rules of administration for the Judiciary.

Mrs. Darvin M. Winick, Dickinson, State League President, stated, "This amendment is in direct violation of the principle of separation of powers."

Local leagues throughout the state are contacting their delegates to urge them to reconsider this action and to let the Judicial branch make their own rules.



TCR

State Office

APR 6 1974

April 1, 1974

Price Daniel, Jr., President  
Constitutional Convention  
Capitol Station  
Austin, Texas 78711

Dear Price:

The Committee Report on the Legislature Article III seems to meet League criteria in several respects.

We are especially pleased to see "annual sessions" written into the Constitution. I think you know how long we have worked for this objective.

Single member districts and the conflict of interest section are both measures that we can support.

We have mixed reactions to Section 6, compensation. We are opposed to the salary amount in the Constitution, but we favor the increase. We recognize that the removal of per diem and travel allowance is a step in the right direction.

Finally, we question the constitutional nature of section 16 and were surprised to see it included in this article.

We will follow with interest the debate on the convention floor.

Cordially,

Mrs. Darvin M. Winick, President  
League of Women Voters of Texas

cc: Chairman Robert Maloney



TCR - Coover

State  
Office

APR 1 1974

March 28, 1974

Price Daniel, Jr., President  
Constitutional Convention  
Capitol Station  
Austin, Texas 78711

Dear Price:

I am pleased to write this evaluation of Article IX, Local Government, for the League.

On the whole this article makes some strides toward helping local governments solve their problems and establishing basic provisions for future years. We particularly see Section 4 providing ordinance making powers to counties as the great strength of the article and one to which the League gives full endorsement. We also endorse Section 11 on intergovernmental relations.

The largest drawback of the report is the failure to incorporate a strong county home-rule section into the body of the work. We are disappointed that the separate home-rule statement itself is so weak, and that a majority of voters may be deprived of the right to alter their own form of county government. We fear that this home-rule section would be worthless, if passed, if it does not clearly spell out that county structure can be altered. In order to allow for more flexibility, we would prefer that not all the offices in Section 3 be elective. The League's concern is that accountability and the flow of responsibility be clearly delineated.

We recognize that in Section 7 on Special Districts, an attempt has been made to broaden local government's power to control proliferation of special districts which presently have little accountability to any general purpose government. We favor this, for, in the League's opinion, the formation of new special districts should be discouraged. We would like to see special districts accountable to general purpose government with effective citizen control and participation.

Finally we think tax rate and debt limitations are statutory and should not be in the constitution.



To: Price Daniel  
March 28, 1974

As we said at the beginning there are some worthwhile proposals made in this article, but we hope the convention will see fit to further strengthen our county governments so they may cope effectively with their many problems.

Very Cordially,

Mrs. Darwin M. Winick, President  
League of Women Voters of Texas

cc: Delegate Craig Washington  
Local Government Committee  
Constitutional Convention

bc: Conner, Anderson, Lancaster, Leabo, State Office, Convention Office





LLOYD DOGGETT  
STATE SENATOR  
DISTRICT 14  
P. O. Box 12068  
Austin 78711

The Senate of  
The State of Texas  
Austin 78711

APR 2 1974

COUNTIES  
BLANCO  
BURNET  
CALDWELL  
HAYS  
TRAVIS

April 1, 1974

Mrs. Darvin Winick, President  
League of Women Voters of Texas  
Dickinson Plaza Shopping Center  
Dickinson, Texas 77539

Dear Mrs. Winick:

I was of course pleased to see the memo which League of Women Voters sent to all Convention delegates regarding the Highway Fund.

As you may know, I too have consistently opposed inclusion of the Highway Fund in the new Constitution. It was an uphill fight as you well know, but persistency paid off in some measure last week when the Convention did vote to let the voters decide in a separate submission issue whether any increases in the gasoline tax will go to the Highway Fund or the state's general treasury. Since this item does have to be voted on again and approved by two-thirds majority of the Convention before the final draft is submitted to the voters, you may wish to again contact delegates to let them know if you do support this break in the use of the Fund.

Sincerely,

*Lloyd Doggett*  
LLOYD DOGGETT

LD/dsl



TCR

THE  
TEXAS



# CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION 1974

P. O. Box 13286

Capitol Station

Austin, Texas 78711

Bill Clayton, Delegate

March 22, 1974

MAR 25 1974

Mrs. Darvin Winich, President  
League of Women Voters of Texas  
Dickinson Plaza Shopping Center  
Dickinson, Texas 77539

Dear Mrs. Winich:

I appreciated your writing me as you did on March 21, and you can be assured that I share your wishes that we will be able to write a constitution for Texas that will be simple and flexible and at the same time keep all of the safeguards that are necessary.

I shall keep your suggestions before me as we consider those sections of the Constitution to which you specifically referred. It is helpful to me to know your thinking.

Sincerely yours,

Bill Clayton

BC/dbh





HENRY SANCHEZ  
DISTRICT 50  
P. O. BOX 1541  
BROWNSVILLE, TEXAS 78520

The State of Texas  
House of Representatives  
Austin, Texas

COMMITTEES:  
CHAIRMAN: LATIN AMERICAN AFFAIRS  
VICE CHAIRMAN: NATURAL RESOURCES  
INTERGOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS  
LIQUOR REGULATION

MAR 18 1974

March 14, 1974

Mrs. Darvin Winick, President  
League of Women Voters  
Dickinson Plaza Shopping Center  
Dickinson, Texas

Dear Mrs. Winick:

Thank you for taking the time to advise me of your feelings in regard to the Right to Work proposal being included in the new state Constitution.

I have been working in your behalf, as well as for all Texans who believe as we do, that the Right to Work provision should be included in the proposed new Constitution.

As you perhaps know, I am co-author of the Right to Work Proposal and am most happy to advise you, that our General Provisions Committee voted on March 5th to include the Right to Work Proposal in the new Constitution, by a 12 - 8 margin.

This was the first step in assuring that every citizen of Texas is free from pressure to join a union before getting a job. I feel that it is vital that every person who desires and needs employment have the choice to join or not to join a labor union. Our new state Constitution must include this Right to Work Provision if we truly mean for our citizens to be free.

There is much work yet to be done, as we continue our efforts to see that the delegates to the Texas Constitutional Convention recognize the true issue when they vote on the pending Right to Work proposal. For, they'll be voting, in effect, for or against preserving the Texas ban on compulsory unionism. Their refusal to allow the people of Texas to vote on this question would help pave the way for destruction of our present state Right to Work law.

It is gratifying to see citizens, such as yourself, concerned for this fundamental principle, and you are to be commended for your action.

*Thermo: Chase-Brownsville  
Schmut. Cmo. Off.*

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Brownsville, Tx





HENRY SANCHEZ  
DISTRICT 50  
P. O. BOX 1541  
BROWNSVILLE, TEXAS 78520

The State of Texas  
House of Representatives  
Austin, Texas

COMMITTEES:  
CHAIRMAN: LATIN AMERICAN AFFAIRS  
VICE CHAIRMAN: NATURAL RESOURCES  
INTERGOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS  
LIQUOR REGULATION

page two, regarding Right to Work proposal in State Constitution:

The other valley delegate on the General Provisions Committee, State Senator Raul Longoria of Edinburg, voted against including the Right to Work Proposal in the Constitution, and I feel the citizens of our Valley Area should be aware of these actions, as well as all other Texans who believe it is the individual freedom of the worker that makes the United States a great country and has helped Texas to retain the favorable climate for business that it now enjoys.

Many public officials seem hesitant to speak out on 'so called' controversial issues, however, when an issue so vital to the individual freedom of all Texans is at stake, such as the current struggle over the Right to Work Proposal, I feel I must speak out.

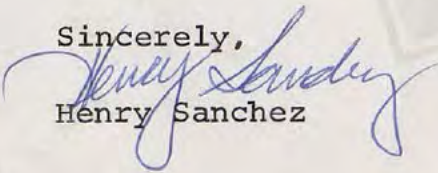
I have tried desperately to keep my race out of this convention, however, since Raul Longoria is my opposition, I am convinced that the people of the 27th Senatorial district, as well as all Texans should know and be given a choice between a moderate conservative businessman, such as myself, as opposed to an ultra-liberal attorney as their spokesman in the Texas Senate.

I am grateful and thankful that I am fortunate enough financially to be able to serve my district and state. Issues of today are too critical to allow weak and poor leadership, where it should and can be strong and able.

I certainly hope that you will continue to be involved, and active in your beliefs and convictions and will stand firm. I can assure you that I am one Mexican American who will continue to be an outspoken defender of the individuals freedom, and certainly will not bow to the dictates of any labor union official, or for that matter, any dictates, but will continue to serve as a responsive public official for good government.

Thanking you and with kind personal regards, and looking forward to working with you in the future, I remain,

Sincerely,

  
Henry Sanchez

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Austin, Tx.  
Paid for by Henry Sanchez, 152 E. Levee  
Brownsville, Tx



March 11, 1974

Price Daniel, Jr., President  
Constitutional Convention  
Capitol Station  
Austin, Texas 78711

Dear Price:

I am happy to respond to your request for my personal comments and suggestions on the report of the Convention Committee on the Executive Article. Although the proposed article does strengthen the governorship in many respects, I believe that it falls short of giving the governor all the needed power to make him more responsive to the needs of the state.

Giving the governor the power to submit reorganization plans of the executive branch; allowing him to appoint 1/3 of the members of state agencies and select their chairman within the first three months of his term; giving him the power to remove board and commission members "with cause"; and budget execution authority will give the governor greater leverage over agencies and commissions and make him responsible for their management.

The ten year limit on the life of state agencies will require periodic review and should eliminate waste and inefficiency. This provision will give the governor needed information for reorganization plans.

I am pleased that the article carries a provision dealing with the disability of elective officers.

The League of Women Voters has followed the work of the Executive Committee and compliments them on their dedication and efforts in providing the Executive Article. However, we are disappointed that the article does not provide primary budget power for the governor.

The League believes that the Convention should provide a cabinet-type executive department, whereby only the governor, lieutenant governor, and attorney general are elected. This system would give the governor the power to carry out his program, pinpoint responsibility and make the government more visible to the people. Plurality in top management, the long ballot, lack of a single line of responsibility, and the absence of coordination provides a weak executive.

(over, please)



To: Price Daniel  
March 11, 1974

Page 2

Thank you for the opportunity to express my views. I think it is imperative that a new constitution produces the desired effect of establishing clear lines of authority and responsibility.

Cordially,

Mrs. Darvin M. Winick, President  
League of Women Voters of Texas

cc: Sen. Bill Meier, Chairman  
Executive Committee  
Constitutional Convention

bc: Conner, Anderson, Hunter, Leabo, Convention Office



THE  
TEXAS



MAR 22 1974

# CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION 1974

P. O. Box 13286

Capitol Station

Austin, Texas 78711

March 21, 1974

Mrs. Veta Winick  
League of Women Voters of Texas  
Dickinson Plaza Shopping Center  
Dickinson, TX 77539

Dear Veta:

Enclosed for your review and comment are copies of Article IV, The Executive, and Article XI, Mode of Amending the Constitution, as they were passed by the Convention on second reading. Also included in this mailing is a staff analysis of each of those articles showing how they compare with the language of the 1876 Constitution.

The Article on The Executive passed by a vote of 136 to 31, and the Amending Article by a vote of 149 to 13. In accordance with established procedures, these articles will now be referred to the Committee on Style and Drafting to insure that the intent of the Convention is properly, precisely and concisely expressed.

As always, I would appreciate any comments you care to make on the language which the Convention adopted.

Sincerely,

Price Daniel, Jr.

PDjr/sjs

Enclosures



7312  
March 5, 1974

Price Daniel, Jr. President  
Constitutional Convention  
Capitol Station  
Austin, Texas 78711

Dear Price:

In response to your request for my personal comments on the proposed Article on Voter Qualifications and Elections, I must reply bluntly that I am disappointed.

The League of Women Voters of Texas has followed the work of the Committee on Rights and Suffrage closely and is aware of the time and effort spent by the members. The proposed article does indeed improve upon the present constitution in its brevity and language. We are pleased that it guarantees a secret ballot and provides for the integrity of elections. However, it sadly reverts to the restrictive attitudes of the 19th century when it denies the automatic restoration of voting rights to ex-felons and permits the legislature to impose property ownership as a voting qualification. Texas must not turn its back on the growing conviction of the American people that equal protection under the law is not just an ideal but a practical reality.

The League does not insist that a person who has been convicted of a felony, and who is presently paying the penalties for such criminal acts, be given full citizenship rights. But once that person has paid those penalties, how can we expect him to assume a responsible and productive role in society if we do not, at the same time, affirm his citizenship rights? What do we have to fear? Our laws should adequately protect us from election irregularities caused by wrong-minded persons, ex-felons or not.

The provision for property ownership as a qualification for voting seems extremely questionable in the face of recent U.S. Supreme Court rulings. The only exception cited during the committee hearings (The Salyer Land Company case) seems to have such limited application that to use it as the reason for placing voting restrictions in the state Constitution is grossly unreasonable.

(over please)



To: Price Daniel, Jr. President  
Constitutional Convention  
March 5, 1974

Page 2

It is like placing a person who has scratched his finger in a plaster cast, immobilizing him completely!

I appreciate your effort to obtain the comments of concerned citizens and am gratified to be included as one of those citizens. I hope that the delegates to the convention will keep in mind that what they do today must pass the scrutiny of all the voters of Texas. It is my firm belief that short-sighted provisions which go against the grain of our democratic ideals will not be acceptable.

Cordially,

Mrs. Darvin M. Winick, President  
League of Women Voters of Texas

VW/ag

CC: Sen. A. R. Schwartz, Chairman  
Rights & Suffrage Committee

bc: Convention Office, Conner, Sugihara, Anderson

*Dear Lume,*

*I thought your letter was SUPER  
& I didn't change a letter  
Thanks & love, Veta*



THE  
TEXAS



# CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION 1974

P. O. Box 13286

Capitol Station

Austin, Texas 78711

*50. Copies*

FEB 28 1974

MAR 4 1974

Price Daniel, Jr., President

February 26, 1974

Mrs. Veta Winick  
League of Women Voters of Texas  
Dickinson Plaza Shopping Center  
Dickinson, Texas 77539

Dear Veta:

In the belief that each proposed article of the new constitution should reflect the thinking of all the people of Texas and should therefore be subject to review and comment by concerned citizens, such as yourself, as well as by the delegates to the Convention, I am enclosing for your consideration the report of the Convention Committee on Rights and Suffrage on Article VI, Voter Qualifications and Elections.

Although the language recommended by the Committee contains several items about which there has been and will continue to be disagreement, the proposed Article greatly shortens and reduces the provisions of the 1876 Constitution while continuing constitutional protection for voters and preserving the integrity of the election process.

I would greatly appreciate having your personal comments and suggestions concerning this proposed Article. Thank you for your continuing interest in the work of the Constitutional Convention.

Sincerely,

*Price*

Price Daniel, Jr.

PDjr/jv

Enclosure



March 5, 1974

Price Daniel, Jr. President  
Constitutional Convention  
Capitol Station  
Austin, Texas 78711

Dear Price:

In response to your request for my personal comments on the proposed Article on Voter Qualifications and Elections, I must reply bluntly that I am disappointed.

The League of Women Voters of Texas has followed the work of the Committee on Rights and Suffrage closely and is aware of the time and effort spent by the members. The proposed article does indeed improve upon the present constitution in its brevity and language. We are pleased that it guarantees a secret ballot and provides for the integrity of elections. However, it sadly reverts to the restrictive attitudes of the 19th century when it denies the automatic restoration of voting rights to ex-felons and permits the legislature to impose property ownership as a voting qualification. Texas must not turn its back on the growing conviction of the American people that equal protection under the law is not just an ideal but a practical reality.

The League does not insist that a person who has been convicted of a felony, and who is presently paying the penalties for such criminal acts, be given full citizenship rights. But once that person has paid those penalties, how can we expect him to assume a responsible and productive role in society if we do not, at the same time, affirm his citizenship rights? What do we have to fear? Our laws should adequately protect us from election irregularities caused by wrong-minded persons, ex-felons or not.

The provision for property ownership as a qualification for voting seems extremely questionable in the face of recent U.S. Supreme Court rulings. The only exception cited during the committee hearings (The Salyer Land Company case) seems to have such limited application that to use it as the reason for placing voting restrictions in the state Constitution is grossly unreasonable.

(over please)



To: Price Daniel, Jr. President  
Constitutional Convention  
March 5, 1974

Page 2

It is like placing a person who has scratched his finger in a plaster cast, immobilizing him completely!

I appreciate your effort to obtain the comments of concerned citizens and am gratified to be included as one of those citizens. I hope that the delegates to the convention will keep in mind that what they do today must pass the scrutiny of all the voters of Texas. It is my firm belief that short-sighted provisions which go against the grain of our democratic ideals will not be acceptable.

Cordially,

Mrs. Darvin M. Winick, President  
League of Women Voters of Texas

VW/ag

CC: Sen. A. R. Schwartz, Chairman  
Rights & Suffrage Committee

bc: Convention Office, Conner, Sugihara, Anderson



TCR

Thermon Higgins



FEB 26 1974

# CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION 1974

P. O. Box 13286

Capitol Station

Austin, Texas 78711

Price Daniel, Jr., President

February 18, 1974

Mrs. Darvin Winick  
President  
League of Women Voters  
of Texas  
Dickinson Plaza Shopping Center  
Dickinson, Texas 77539

Dear Veta:

Thank you for your letter concerning the treatment accorded to representatives of the League of Women Voters and other groups when they presented testimony before the Convention Committee on General Provisions.

I deeply regret, of course, the embarrassing and ill-considered remarks of the delegate in question. His comments, which several members of the Committee also advised me about, were certainly inexcusable.

Unfortunately, such occurrences are probably one of the inevitable consequences of free and open debate, which encourages, rather than restricts, the expression of all viewpoints. Of course, I have asked the Chairman of the Committee to do everything within his power to maintain proper decorum in the future.

Again, I regret this unfortunate incident, but please be assured that by far the majority of delegates take their work seriously and welcome the ideas and suggestions of all citizens on all subjects relating to the revision of our Constitution.



Mrs. Darvin Winick  
Page Two  
February 18, 1974

FEB 26 1974

I appreciate your calling this matter to my attention, and, of course, I applaud the continuing interest and effort of the League in developing a new Constitution for Texas.

With kindest personal regards, I am

Sincerely,



Price Daniel, Jr.

PDjr/ar  
cc: Honorable Bob Gammage  
Chairman, General Provisions Committee

P.S. Looking forward to seeing you next week -- and thanks for your support on the "equal educational opportunity" language in the new constitution.



TCR

THE  
TEXAS



FEB 25 1974

# CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION 1974

P. O. Box 13286

Capitol Station

Austin, Texas 78711

February 21, 1974

Ms. Betty Conner  
State Chairman  
Texas Constitutional Revision  
League of Women Voters of Texas  
Dickinson Plaza Shopping Center  
Dickinson, Texas 77539

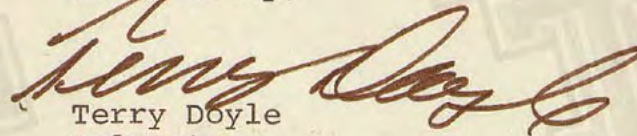
Dear Ms. Conner:

I appreciate your letter of February 14, concerning the elimination of the welfare ceiling from the constitution. As a matter of what ought to be in the constitution, I agree with you; as a matter of what the people of this state are apt to adopt at the polls, I am afraid I disagree with you.

If you will remember, only a couple of years ago a constitutional amendment was submitted to the people for a vote on this very subject and it was overwhelmingly turned down. The mail that I received indicates that the people are very much against removing this ceiling. I would further point out to you that this ceiling means very little now anyway, and will not mean much for many years to come in view of the fact that the federal government has taken over some of what used to come under this ceiling. I am afraid this is one of those issues I am willing to sacrifice in order to achieve what I consider to be a more important goal, a new constitution. Please understand that from time to time in attempting to accomplish such a monumental task, we must all sacrifice a little principle for the greater good.

I sincerely appreciate your letter and your concern.

Yours truly,

  
Terry Doyle  
Delegate

TD:ayw



THE  
TEXAS



FEB 22 1974

# CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION 1974

P. O. Box 13286

Capitol Station

Austin, Texas 78711

Fred J. Agnich, Delegate

February 19, 1974

Betty Conner  
League of Women Voters of Texas  
Dickinson Plaza Shopping Center  
Dickinson, Texas 77539

Dear Ms. Conner:

Thank you for your recent letter.

I am somewhat sympathetic to removal of the constitutional ceiling on welfare spending. I am absolutely convinced, however, that any new Constitution submitted is doomed to rejection at the polls unless it retains some form of limitation on welfare spending.

In the Finance Committee, I voted to include a percentage limitation which would have the effect of permitting an increase in the current level of welfare spending. I am firmly committed to a spending limitation in one form or another.

Very truly yours,

Fred J. Agnich

FJA/lg





*thermo - Higgins  
Anderson*

The Senate of  
The State of Texas  
Austin 78711

RAUL L. LONGORIA

P. O. Box 182  
Edinburg, Texas 78539

Room 338, Capitol Building  
Austin, Texas 78711

February 12, 1974

COMMITTEES:

Vice-Chairman:  
ADMINISTRATION  
Subcommittee on Rules

Member:  
ADMINISTRATION  
EDUCATION  
STATE AFFAIRS  
Subcommittee on Nominations

FEB 14 1974

Mrs. Darvin Winick, President  
League of Women Voters of Texas  
Dickinson Plaza Shopping Center  
Dickinson, Texas 77539

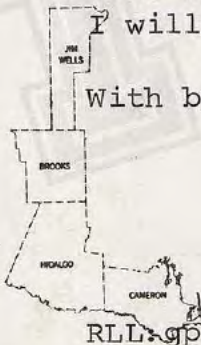
Dear Mrs. Winick:

I received a copy of your letter addressed to the Honorable Price Daniel, Jr., President of the Texas Constitutional Convention, concerning unfriendly remarks made by some of the members of the General Provisions Committee at a hearing on January 23.

I agree with you that some of the members of the General Provisions Committee were very rude and their expressions regarding some of the witnesses were, in my opinion, out of line and abusive. I do not remember which lady was testifying when some of the members started insulting her, but I did intercede and called the ungentlemanly behavior to the attention of the Chairman. I am very sensitive about anyone in a high position taking advantage of someone trying to express his or her views and I think my record will reflect that I have taken the lead in trying to protect the rights of those who want to express their views, even though some legislators here in the Legislature may not agree with me. I was very embarrassed by the behavior of some of the committee members for making these personal remarks and I want to apologize for them.

I would like to invite you to come back to testify before any committee on which I may be serving; and if any member of that committee tries to take advantage of you, or anyone else, because he does not agree with what you have to say, you can rest assured that I will defend you.

With best regards, I am



District 27

Yours very truly,

*Raul L. Longoria*  
Raul L. Longoria



Sent to all Harris County Senators and Representatives

FEB 19 1974

February 12, 1974

The Honorable Lindon Williams  
Texas Constitutional Convention  
Austin, Texas 78711

Dear Representative Williams:

As we get reports from the Constitutional Convention, we become increasingly aware of the conflicting views of the people who testify as well as those of the delegates themselves. Paraphrasing Lincoln, we realize it is impossible to please all of the people all of the time, and that no constitution could be proposed that would fully please any one group without displeasing many others.

However, there are some provisions which the League feels so important that we wish to re-state our support. These positions were all reached after lengthy study by the League, and all are predicated on the desire to better the welfare of all the people, not any special interest group.

These provisions include:

- . Reorganization of state boards and commissions along functional lines.
- . Annual sessions of the Legislature and elimination of salaries from the constitution.
- . A unified court system of centrally administered statewide courts.
- . Proposal of constitutional amendments through direct initiative.
- . Adequate, realistic powers for local governments to perform needed services and a flexible structure for local government with adequate legislative and financial powers.
- . Equal educational opportunity and equitable support for education.



Representative Williams

-2-

February 12, 1974

- . An affirmative command to protect the environment.
- . Protection of right to vote of every citizen.
- . Removal of welfare ceiling from the constitution.

Houston Leaguers are also especially interested in removal of the highway trust fund from the constitution with the hope of using some of the gasoline tax money for mass transit.

We respectfully urge your support of these goals.

Sincerely yours,

Laura Keever  
President

LK/bt



FEB 11 1974

February 5, 1974

TO: Local League Presidents, TCR Chairman

FROM: HOLMES

RE: Convention Lobby Day: TEH "FOR GENERATIONS TO COME"

Apologies to you for the short notice! December was too early to predict the Convention schedule. By January we were in the process of requesting a Grant from the Humanities Foundation that would greatly expand our plans. To date we still have not gotten the grant approved, but expect it momentarily. I realize that this will miss most of your Voters, but am hopeful that you can use meetings or other means to get up a crowd to come to Austin to lobby with your delegates on Tuesday, February 26th, 1974.

There are several options open to you.

1st Option: One day only. Go your own thing. Visit the capitol, sit in on Committee meetings, make the rounds of your delegates offices. Some may wish to invite their delegates to lunch. (list of eating places close to the Capitol attached.)

2nd Option: TCH project "For Generations to Come". Although this project allocates funds for 1 representative from each Local league and one academic humanist from each local league area, others are urged to attend at their own expense. This will probably involve 2 seminars in the afternoon of February 26th, a banquet and seminar with outstanding speaker that evening, and a visit to the Convention on the 27th. Tentative reservations have been made at the Driskill Hotel. Dinner will probably run \$6.00 and the rooms are \$18.00 single, \$24.00 double, \$10.00 each with 3 in the room, \$9.00 each with 4 in the room. You could combine a trip to the "Hill" Tuesday morning, seminars in the afternoon and evening and another trip to the "Hill" on Wednesday until time to go home. Some may prefer to invite your delegates to the Driskill dinner on Tuesday night instead of lunch.

The members of the Convention Corps will be on hand to assist you in any way. Some have offered "free" rooms for about 12 people and others of you may have a relative or old roommate living in Austin that you could arrange to stay with on the 26th. I hope you will have a chance to visit with the Corps gals informally about some of their "colorful" experiences daily at the capitol. Plan to come by the Convention Office for a cup of coffee and to meet Grace Schmitt. Its the busiest place in town and you will catch a bit of the excitement that is a part of the daily life of league members who are lucky enough to live close by.

Final details will follow as soon as we get the final approval from TCH, meanwhile...

SEE ATTACHED SHEET FOR IMPORTANT FORM, PLEASE TEAR OFF AND RETURN.



*final version*  
*Could I send a copy to Ray Berry? I'd like him to know we did this.*  
League of Women Voters of Texas



MRS. DARVIN M. WINICK, PRESIDENT

January 29, 1974

Chairman Price Daniel, Jr.  
Texas Constitutional Convention  
Austin, Texas

Dear Price:

On January 23, 1974, the League of Women Voters of Texas presented testimony before the General Provisions committee concerning the environmental section of the proposed new constitution. On that same day, individuals and representatives of environmental groups also presented testimony, as did lobbyists representing other interests.

During this hearing, environmentalists, who generally favored a strong environmental section, were subjected to unusually hostile questioning by some members of the committee. One delegate repeatedly referred to environmentalist "nuts." By inference, he also labeled environmentalists as communists, nazis, radicals, do-gooders, and dirty.

While most of the other delegates did not participate in this outrageous villification, neither did they object to it. As far as we could determine, no effort was made by the chairman of the committee to remind delegates that such behavior was not in keeping with the occasion. The deference and respect accorded to lobbyists for other interests who asked for weakened environmental sections was in great contrast to the verbal abuse applied indiscriminately to all environmentalists.

While no special discourtesy was shown our League representative, we feel we must register strong objection to the treatment of many of those attempting to present testimony. It seems particularly inexcusable, in the light of the constant pleas for citizens to testify before the convention, to subject those who do appear to such intimidation.

We therefore respectfully request that you appoint a committee to review the transcript of the entire proceedings in the General Provisions committee on that date, to determine what, if any, corrective measures need be taken.

The League of Women Voters believes that convention delegates, like environmentalists, are not all "nuts." Nor are they all tainted with communism, nazism, radicalism, or dirt. Therefore, while condemning the actions of the few, we wish to commend the many conscientious, able delegates who regularly attend their committee hearings, listen courteously to the testimony presented, and weigh thoughtfully the various points of view. Whether or not they agree with League positions, we do appreciate, so very much, their diligent efforts.

Most sincerely,

*Veta*

Mrs. Darvin Winick, President  
League of Women Voters of Texas

cc: Members of General Provisions Committee





PRICE DANIEL, JR.  
SPEAKER

State of Texas  
House of Representatives  
Austin, Texas

JAN 4 1974

December 31, 1973

Mrs. Darvin M. Winick  
President, League of  
Women Voters of Texas  
Dickinson Plaza Shopping  
Center  
Dickinson, Texas 77539

Dear Mrs. Winick:

Thank you for your letter concerning the January board meeting of the League of Women Voters of Texas, which will be held in Austin during the opening week of the Constitutional Convention and your request that seating in the House Gallery be arranged for the 21 members of the board.

I am, of course, aware of and thankful for the League's long and valiant work in behalf of constitutional revision in Texas.

No final decision has yet been made concerning the possibility of reserving seats in the Gallery. For that reason, I have taken the liberty of forwarding copies of your letter to the Committee on House Administration and the staff of the Joint Constitutional Convention Planning Committee with the request that, if reserved seating is possible, the members of the League's board be given priority consideration.

With kindest regards and best wishes for the new year, I am

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Price".

Price Daniel, Jr.

PDjr/ar

cc: Members of the Committee on House Administration  
Mr. Glen Provost



Jan. 1, 1974

NEWS FROM: The League of Women Voters of Texas  
Dickinson Plaza Center

JAN 2 1974

[REDACTED]  
Mrs. Darvin M. Winick, President

For more information call: Mrs. Bill Holmes, [REDACTED]  
or Mrs. Karl Schmitt, [REDACTED]

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The League of Women Voters of Texas will open a Constitutional Convention (Con Con) office in Austin on Jan. 15. It will remain open for the duration of the Texas Constitutional Convention.

Located in the Sandlin Building at 605 West 15th St., the Con Con office will be a source of convention information for all the local Leagues in Texas and headquarters for a Convention Corps of 20 Austin League members who will serve as combined observers, reporters, and League lobbyists.

Work in the Con Con office will be directed by Mrs. R. E. Conner of Galveston, who is the Texas Constitutional Revision chairman for the state League. Mrs. Karl Schmitt, former Austin League president, will be local co-ordinator and office manager. Mrs. Thomas Brasher, state League Legislative chairman from San Marcos, will supervise the lobby activities.

Convention Corps members include Mrs. Charles Albers, Mrs. C. Wesley Allen, Mrs. Allen Bizzell, Mrs. W. G. Boykin, Mrs. Clifford Briggs, Mrs. William Bryan, Mrs. Dale Cook, Mrs. Frank Crump, Mrs. Joe Dibrell, Mrs. Jack Frucella, and Mrs. Charles Hard.

(more)



Also Mrs. Fell MacBeth, Mrs. Ralph Manns, Mrs. Donald Nobles, Mrs. William Reid, Mrs. Richard Schott, Mrs. John Scott, Mrs. Jay G. Stanford, Mrs. Walter Vackar, and Mrs. Thomas Williams.

While the Con Con office operation is primarily intended to furnish information for League action, the general public is welcome to make use of the information. The telephone number is listed under League of Women Voters in both the white and yellow pages of the Austin directory.

Members of the state League Board of Directors, in Austin Jan. 7-10 for their quarterly board meeting and the opening of the Constitutional Convention, took a preview tour of the new office facilities on Jan. 8.

####



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF TEXAS

[REDACTED] Mrs. Darwin M. Winick, President

FOR RELEASE November 1, 1973

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS APPROVES PROPOSED CONSTITUTION

The League of Women Voters of Texas announced today its approval of much of the proposed new constitution for Texas. The announcement coincided with the formal presentation of the document by the Texas Constitutional Revision Commission to members of the 63rd Texas Legislature.

The League is particularly pleased with the commission's work in the following areas:

- \*Sections in the legislature article which provide for annual sessions, if they are deemed necessary, and salary amounts to be set by law;

- \*The education article which provides for equitable support of public schools as well as equal educational opportunity for each person;

- \* The local government article which allows counties to adopt charters or ordinances upon approval by the local voters, and remove the tax rate limits for cities and counties;

- \*The section in the general provisions article which charges the legislature to protect the environmental life support systems;

- \*The public funds section which will clarify the use of public money and public credit, particularly with regard to the state welfare assistance and pension programs for public employees; and

- \*The redistricting section which bases apportionment substantially on population.

Only qualified approval is given to the executive, judicial and amending articles, however.

While the League supports strengthening the governor by designating him as chief budget officer and increasing his appointment and removal powers, it also feels the governor should appoint all members of the executive department, with the exception of the lieutenant governor and attorney general. The League also supports the



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF TEXAS

governor and lieutenant governor running for office as a team, which is not provided for in the commission's proposal.

Most of the judicial article rates League approval, particularly the provision for a unified court system and the merit system that is proposed for the election of appellate and supreme court judges. However the provision that exempts justices of the peace and judges of municipal courts from being licensed attorneys runs counter to the League position that all members of the judiciary should qualify to practice law.

In addition to the provisions recommended in the amending article, the League would like to include a provision for voters to propose amendments through direct initiative. The League recommendation would require a petition signed by qualified voters equal in number to 10 percent of those voting in the last gubernatorial

election. Now that the proposed constitution has been issued, the League will intensify its educational campaign which first began 20 years ago when members from all over the state concluded that Texas needed a new constitution. Members will first discuss League positions with the legislators who have from now until they convene as a constitutional convention in January to consider the commission's proposal, along with recommendations from other interested parties.

Once the constitutional convention has begun its work, the League will first concentrate on keeping its 4,000 members informed of developments and then shift to a general public campaign to arouse greater citizen interest and understanding.

Finally the campaign will be to support or oppose voter approval of the constitution proposed by the convention.

of the lieutenant governor and attorney general. The League also supports the





OCT 16 1973

## Texas Constitutional Revision Commission

October 10, 1973

Commodore Perry Building  
Suite 300 802 Brazos  
Austin, Texas 78701

Mrs. Darvin M. Winick  
President  
League of Women Voters of Texas

Robert W. Calvert, Chairman  
Austin  
Mrs. Malcolm Milburn, Vice Chairman  
Austin

Loys D. Barbour  
Iowa Park  
Roy R. Barrera  
San Antonio  
James William Bass, Jr.  
Ben Wheeler  
George Beto  
Huntsville  
Tony Bonilla  
Corpus Christi  
Mary Beth Brient  
El Paso  
Ann Chappell  
Fort Worth  
Barbara G. Culver  
Midland  
William C. Donnell  
Marathon  
Beeman Fisher  
Fort Worth  
Peter T. Flawn  
San Antonio  
M. F. Frost  
McAllen  
Clotilde Garcia  
Corpus Christi  
Sibyl Hamilton  
Dallas  
Bill Hartman  
Beaumont  
Zan W. Holmes, Jr.  
Dallas  
Faye Holub  
Austin  
Leon Jaworski  
Houston  
Leroy Jeffers  
Houston  
Andrew L. Jefferson, Jr.  
Houston  
W. Page Keeton  
Austin  
W. James Kronzer, Jr.  
Houston  
Earl M. Lewis  
San Antonio  
Honore Ligarde  
Laredo  
Wales H. Madden, Jr.  
Amarillo  
Mark Martin  
Dallas  
Janice C. May  
Austin  
John Mark McLaughlin  
San Angelo  
L. G. Moore  
Houston  
Raymond D. Nasher  
Dallas  
Elijah Little Oakes, Jr.  
Houston  
Don Rives  
Marshall  
Preston Shirley  
Galveston  
Jim W. Weatherby  
Kerrville  
Ralph W. Yarborough  
Austin  
James F. Ray, Executive Director

Dear Mrs. Winick:

As you are probably aware, the Texas Constitutional Revision Commission has completed its recommendations on a revised Constitution for Texas. The proposed text was adopted by unanimous vote September 29.

The Commission plans to meet again October 24 and 25 for a review and consideration of the commentary which will accompany the new Constitution in the Commission's final report.

The text of the Commission's proposed Constitution will be available November 1 when the report is formally presented to the Legislature. However, I am sending you today a staff summary of the major proposals in the new document.

Sections of the summary are marked which may be of special interest to you and your membership. We realize that this is a very brief report and you may wish more detailed information.

The Commission staff will be happy to provide you with any explanation, documentation or detail which you may desire. Please call either Jerry Hall or Saralee Tiede at the Commission, [REDACTED], collect, and they will supply a speedy answer.

Enclosed also is a news release which gives some additional background on the Commission's recommendations. You will receive a complete text as soon as it is available.



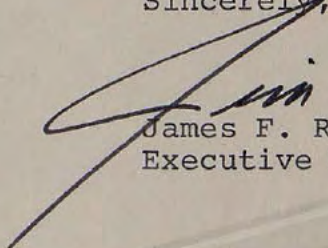
-2-

October 10, 1973

The Legislature, as you know, will meet as a Constitutional Convention January 8 to propose a new Constitution for Texas. The Commission's recommendations should provide a firm base from which to proceed.

If we can be of any service to you, please call us.

Sincerely,



James F. Ray  
Executive Director

JR/sjs

Enclosures (2)



TO: PRESS AND MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES  
FROM: TEXAS CONSTITUTIONAL REVISION COMMISSION

DATE: OCTOBER 10, 1973

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The Constitutional Revision Commission has completed the text of the new Constitution they will propose to the Legislature November 1.

The completion of the proposed document ended nearly seven months of intensive work by the 37 members of the Revision Commission.

The Legislature will meet as a Constitutional Convention January 8 to consider the Commission's report and propose a new Constitution for the state of Texas. The Convention's recommendation must be approved by the voters at an election.

The Revision Commission was directed by Senate Concurrent Resolution 1 to study the existing Constitution, written in 1875, and recommend changes to the Legislature.

The new document contains a number of substantive changes, a great many of them aimed at increasing the flexibility and responsiveness of state government.

The present Constitution was written in turbulent times. Texas was emerging from the bitter period of Reconstruction, recovering from martial law, disenfranchisement and autocratic rule by a Scalawag governor.

In addition, Texans were outraged by the corruption in government wrought by land speculators, stock manipulators and railroad promoters.

The delegates to the 1875 Convention were not in a mood to grant their

(more)



add 1

elected officials broad powers. The result was a very restrictive Constitution, wordy and highly statutory in nature.

The 1875 Constitution is approximately 55,000 words long, five times longer than the United States Constitution and one of the longest state Constitutions.

The length is partially due to the amount of highly detailed statutory material and partially to the 212 amendments which have been added to adapt it to the needs of changing times.

The document recommended by the Commission is approximately one-fourth the length of the present one. The Commission has eliminated a great number of obsolete provisions--the prohibition against dueling, for example, the brand inspection provision and the one which gives the governor power to protect the frontier from hostile Indians. Many other provisions have been transferred to the statutes.

The completed text of the document will be available November 1.

Commission staff, however, has compiled a summary of the proposals in the new Constitution, which is enclosed.

On October 24 and 25 the Commission will meet again to consider the commentary which will accompany the text in a final report to be prepared after the presentation to the Legislature November 1. They must also consider the transition schedule, a document containing the Commission's recommendations on provisions deleted from the Constitution which should be continued as statutes.

-30-

Contact: Jerry Hall  
[REDACTED]





# Texas Constitutional Revision Commission

## Bulletin

October 3, 1973

The Constitutional Revision Commission has completed its task of recommending a new Constitution for the State of Texas. The document will be presented to the Legislature November 1 in a formal ceremony at the Capitol in Austin.

Commission members formally approved submission of the text of a recommended Constitution on September 29, about seven months after they began their work. The final vote came after a month-long series of three and four-day meetings each week.

The Legislature will meet as a Constitutional Convention January 8 to make its recommendations for a new Constitution.

The completed text of the Commission's recommendations will be available November 1. In the meantime, the staff has compiled this summary of highlights for Citizens Advisory Committee members and others who have followed the Commission's work closely.

The Commission will meet again October 24 and 25 to review the commentary which will accompany the text of the revised Constitution in the final report. The Commission will also discuss the transition schedule, which lists the parts of the present Constitution which the Commission believes should be continued as statutes, rather than constitutional provisions.

The summaries below list some of the ways in which the recommended new Constitution differs from the 1876 Constitution which the Commission was directed to study and revise.



Date: 10/3/1973  
Staff Summary

## MAJOR PROPOSALS OF THE NEW CONSTITUTION TEXAS CONSTITUTIONAL REVISION COMMISSION

### ARTICLE I, BILL OF RIGHTS

The Commission recommends no changes in this Article since the constitutional amendment which set the revision process in motion required that the Bill of Rights be retained in full.

### ARTICLE II, SEPARATION OF POWERS

This Article continues the basic separation of legislative, executive, and judicial power that is contained in the 1876 Constitution. The revised Article provides some additional flexibility in the sharing of certain powers by the various branches.

### ARTICLE III, THE LEGISLATURE

Composition. The Commission recommends flexibility in the number of Senators and members of the House of Representatives. The Senate would consist of not fewer than thirty-one nor more than fifty members, and the House of not fewer than ninety-three nor more than one hundred fifty-five members. A fixed ratio of House and Senate seats would be required. For example: either 2-1, 3-1, 4-1, or 5-1.

✓ Compensation. The Commission recommends that salaries of legislators and other state officials be set according to law. Under the Commission proposals, a Salary Commission would be created to recommend levels of compensation for state officers. The Legislature could accept or reject these proposals, but could not enact higher rates of compensation.

✓ Sessions. The Commission recommends that the Legislature meet at least once every two years at such times and for such duration as provided by general law.

Districting. The Commission recommends that all representative districts be single member and that representative districts be contained within Senate districts in the same ratio throughout the state. The concept of a Redistricting Board is retained in the event the Legislature fails to redistrict the state following a decennial census.

✓ Election of Officers. The Commission recommends the open election of all officers, including the Speaker of the House.

✓ Conflict of Interest. Provisions in the new Legislative Article would



prevent a member of the Legislature from appearing before state executive or administrative agencies on behalf of clients or for other compensation.

## ARTICLE IV, THE EXECUTIVE

Executive Department Officers. Elected officers named in the new Constitution include the Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Attorney General, and Comptroller of Public Accounts. The Secretary of State remains an appointed officer, serving at pleasure of the Governor, and the Commissioner of the General Land Office may be either elected or appointed. The Legislature may provide for other executive department officers, if necessary.

✓ The Governorship. The Commission recommends additional authority to the Governor to supervise the operations of state government. Recommendations include:

- (a) A retention of the current line item veto, and a reduction veto for certain appropriation items;
- (b) Budget execution authority, as provided by the Legislature;
- (c) Authority to submit administrative reorganization plans to the Legislature that would take effect unless disapproved;
- (d) And the constitutional duty of submitting a budget bill to be considered by the Legislature.

✓ Agencies, Boards and Commissions. The terms of office of appointed members of state boards and commissions would expire in such a manner that the Governor could appoint one-third of the members within the first few months of his governorship. The Governor could also appoint the chairmen of the boards and commissions, if he chooses to do so.

## ARTICLE V, THE JUDICIARY

✓ Courts of Appeals. The Court of Criminal Appeals is merged with the Supreme Court. The present courts of civil appeals become courts of appeals with jurisdiction that includes criminal as well as civil cases.

✓ State Unified Judicial System. The Judiciary Article vests power in the Legislature to create a unified judicial system including the courts of appeals described above and trial courts at the district and county levels. Municipal courts and justice courts continue to operate subject to the provisions of general law, but would not be part of the unified judicial system.

✓ Merit Selection and Non-Partisan Elections. Justices and judges of the Supreme Court and courts of appeals remain in office subject to voter approval of their judicial records. Vacancies in the courts of appeals are filled by appointment of the Governor from a list of nominees pro-



vided by the Judicial Nominating Commission. District and county judges would be elected on non-partisan ballots.

Qualifications. Except for justices of the peace, all judges are required to be qualified attorneys.

## ARTICLE VI, SUFFRAGE

Qualified voters are defined in conformance with recent United States Supreme Court cases and in conformance with the recent twenty-sixth amendment to the United States Constitution. The Legislature may establish additional requirements by law.

## ARTICLE VII, EDUCATION

✓ Equal Educational Opportunities. The Commission recommendations include a policy statement that each person is guaranteed an equal educational opportunity, and that the quality of education should not depend on the resources of the local school district.

Aid to the Private Schools. The Commission recommendations prohibit public aid to schools below the college level, but do not affect tuition equalization grants for students attending private institutions of higher learning.

Permanent School Fund. The Permanent School Fund for the support of free public schools is retained as a constitutional fund which will be invested at the direction of State Board of Education as provided by law.

Permanent University Fund. The provisions of the 1876 Constitution concerning the Permanent University Fund for the support of Texas A&M University and the University of Texas are retained. The recommended provision includes requirements that land set apart to the permanent fund be sold only according to legislative directions, and that investments of the fund be limited by specific requirements contained in the Constitution. Proceeds from bond sales secured by income from the Permanent University Fund may be used to pay for construction or repair of permanent improvements, capital equipment, and library books at all institutions now included in the Texas A&M and University of Texas Systems.

Dedicated Tax for Colleges and Universities. The present constitutional provision for a state property tax to support institutions of higher learning outside the University of Texas and Texas A&M Systems is retained. The Legislature could increase the amount of the tax to provide additional funds in the future.

## ARTICLE VIII, FINANCE

Taxation. The Commission recommends that taxes be levied and collected by



general law. Property tax exemptions are continued for residence homesteads, household goods and personal effects not used for the production of income, and farm products in the hands of the producer. The Legislature is given authority to make or continue exemptions and relief for educational, religious, and charitable organizations, for disabled veterans and the survivors of veterans disabled or killed on active duty, and for those determined to be in need of relief because of age, disability, or economic circumstances. The dedicated gasoline tax for constructing, maintaining, and policing highways is maintained.

Pay as You Go. The Commission proposals retain the constitutional requirement that appropriations not exceed the revenue estimated to be available for the fiscal period.

State Debt. The existing safeguards against the incurrence of state debt are retained. Under the new Constitution, state debt could only be incurred after approval by a two-thirds vote of both houses of the Legislature, and by a statewide referendum. This is currently the process by which the incurrence of debt is authorized by constitutional amendment. Under the new procedure, the same strict voting requirements would be retained, but details concerning bond issues, rates of interest, and methods of repayment would be left in statutes rather than placed in the Constitution.

Spending Public Funds. The Commission proposals retain the concept that public funds should be used only for public purposes.

## ARTICLE IX, LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Counties. The present elected county and district officers are retained in the new Constitution, with some minor changes. The county surveyor would become a statutory officer, and the number of constables would be left up to each county governing body. The County Judge would exercise administrative responsibilities and preside over the County Commission.

### ✓ Additional Flexibility for Counties.

- (a) Upon a favorable vote of the county voters, counties would be able to combine existing offices or create new offices.
- (b) Counties could enact ordinances if that power is granted by vote of the people.
- (c) Upon a favorable vote of the county voters, counties over 25,000 population would be able to adopt charters and exercise powers similar to that of cities.

Home Rule and General Law Cities. The new Constitution retains the provision for city home rule and the provision that authorizes the creation of general law cities. The population limit for home rule status is reduced from 5,000 to 1,500.



- ✓ Special Districts. Provisions affecting special districts (hospital, airport, conservation and reclamation) are removed from the new Constitution and retained in statutory form. These lengthy sections are replaced by a single provision which allows the Legislature to establish and regulate special districts by general law.

## ARTICLE X, GENERAL PROVISIONS

Homestead. The homestead provisions of the 1876 Constitution are carried forward with some changes. These include allowing the Legislature to extend the homestead exemption to unmarried persons, allowing the Legislature to increase the dollar amount of exempt property, and authorizing a voluntary mortgage of the business homestead.

Garnishment of Wages. The prohibition against laws which would allow garnishment of wages contained in the 1876 Constitution is carried forward in the Commission recommendations.

Alcoholic Beverages. The current provisions which allow local option liquor elections and require that an election be held before alcoholic beverages are sold are retained in the Commission's proposal.

- ✓ Environment. A new provision on the environment states it is the duty of individuals as well as the state government to maintain an improved, clean and healthful environment in Texas. The environmental provision requires that the Legislature shall provide for the administration and enforcement of this duty.

Pension and Retirement Systems. The Commission proposals require continuation of any pension or retirement systems of the state or any of its political subdivisions.

## ARTICLE XI, AMENDING THE CONSTITUTION

The Commission recommendations contain proposals for an amendment process similar to that of the present Constitution. However, the recommendations contain, in addition, provisions for calling a constitutional convention. The Article requires that the question of whether to call a constitutional convention is to be submitted to the voters at least once every twenty years.



9/3/73

COMPARISON OF LEAGUE POSITIONS AND COMMISSION RECOMMENDATIONS

<u>League</u>	<u>Commission</u>
1. <u>Voting Rights</u>	
a) Automatic restoration of voting rights to felons upon completing their sentence and/or probationary period.	"Any citizen.....is a qualified elector unless he is serving a sentence for a felony, whether incarcerated, on parole, or on probation,....
b) Action to protect the right to vote of every citizen.	The prohibition of "all paupers supported by any county" from voting -- removed.
Residence....	Would allow the legislature to set the residence requirements for voting instead of being specifically set out in the constitution as is the present situation.
Registration...	The legislature shall provide by law the requirements for... <u>registration</u> .
Property ownership	That constitutional qualifications for a resident elector in a local bond referendum election be the same as for a qualified elector of the State.
2. <u>Environmental Quality</u>	
a) An affirmative command to protect the environment should be included in the constitution.	The executive committee recommended: "The conservation and development of all of the natural resources and environmental values of this State shall be public responsibilities and duties; and the Legislature may pass all such laws as may be appropriate thereto." (Raymond Nasher suggested that this brief wording might not go far enough to provide for successful statewide environmental protection and land use planning. He suggested that a mandatory obligation be placed on the Legislature to act in this area. The Commission authorized him to propose alternative environmental language.
3. <u>Human Resources</u>	
a) Measures to equalize educational opportunity in the state.	"...make suitable provision for the <u>equitable</u> support and maintenance of an efficient system of free public schools, and to provide <u>equal educational opportunity</u> for each person in this State." (Another paragraph is designed to guarantee that the quality of a person's education shall not be a function of wealth other than the wealth of the State as a whole.)



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3. Human Resources (cont.)

b) Deletion of Sec. 51a of Art. III concerning grants of public money by the legislature.

"Public money and public credit shall be used for public purposes only." New language that would be in place of Art. III, Sections 50, 51, and 52. (The term "public purpose" has been adequately defined through a body of law.)

4. State-Local Relations

a) Measures to provide adequate and realistic powers for cities and/or counties enabling performance of services without overlapping costs and taxation, in preference to single-purpose districts.

All local governments should be granted authority by the constitution to exercise control over matters of local concern and perform any functions for public purposes unless denied by the constitution, general law, or charter. (Purpose of this policy is to provide a measure of self-determination to local governmental units that is not dependent on specific legislative authorization... The need for special districts should also be reduced.)

No special district should be created if another unit of local government can provide the service.

b) Counties and municipalities need a flexible governmental structure, together with the legislative and financial powers adequate to provide local services.

The tax rate limits for cities and counties should be removed from the constitution.

County government:

1. Local voters should be able to make changes in county offices and organization by adding, deleting, or combining certain offices by a successful referendum.
2. Upon approval at a referendum, counties should be given the general authority to enact ordinances relating to county responsibilities as provided by general law. Appropriate safeguards should be included to preserve the authority of cities to carry out their functions and enact ordinances on matters within their areas of jurisdiction.
3. Local voters should be able to adopt alternatives to the existing "traditional" form of county government if desired.

c) Support of regional and state planning

There should be a clear and effective grant of authority to local governments to enter contractual agreements and cooperate in service delivery.



4. Executive

a) Governor and Lt. Gov. should serve four-year terms

Four year terms provided

b) Governor limited to two terms, which may or may not be successive

Unlimited terms

c) Holding gubernatorial elections in nonpresidential election years

Not mentioned, but this is what we will have in practice, beginning in 1974.

d) Governor and Lt. Gov. run as a team

No.

e) Provision for succession to office of governor if governor becomes unable to perform duties of his office

"The disability or failure to qualify of any elected officer of the Executive Department shall be determined upon a proceeding in the Supreme Court of the State under such rules of procedure as may be prescribed by that Court. A majority vote of the Speaker of the House, the President Pro Tem of the Senate and the members of the Executive Department shall initiate such proceedings."

f) Governor's budget the only budget presented to the Legislature

Yes, the governor's budget would be the "prime" one.

g) Cabinet-type executive department (only the governor, lt. governor and atty. gen. are elected, giving the governor the power to appoint and remove the nonelective officials.)

Would retain the gov. Lt. Gov., Atty. general and Comptroller of Public Accounts as elective offices. The decision on method of selection of treasurer, and commissioner of general land office would be left to the Legislature. The state could try a modified short ballot. (The Commission voted 20-9 to delete the Railroad Commission from the Const.)

h) State boards and commissions should be reorganized along functional lines by grouping them in areas of responsibility.

"The Governor may, from time to time, prepare and submit to a Regular session of the Legislature written reorganization plans calling for the transfer, consolidation or abolition of any other executive or administrative units or the functions of any of them. Within 60 days after submission, either the Senate or the House may, by resolution, reject the plan."

i) Governor to have power, within safeguards prescribed by law, to remove appointive officers of the executive department and appointees to boards and commissions.

No, however, a provision empowers the new governor to appoint one-third of the membership of most administrative boards and commissions upon or within a short time of his inauguration.



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5. Legislative League  
Positions

Commission recommendations

a) Annual sessions of sufficient length and scope to permit the efficient handling of legislative business.

Same as amendment to be voted on in November. One 180 day session and then a 60 day session the next year.

b) Adequate compensation for legislators and elimination of salary amounts from the constitution.

Compensation as prescribed by law. Legislature should establish a salary commission to recommend compensation.

Statutory or constitutional? (not mentioned in Model State Constitution)

c) Record votes taken in committee meetings and all committee meetings posted and open to the public.

All meetings of the legislature shall be held in open sessions.

d) A workable code of ethics which clearly defines and discloses conflicts of interest.

There is a proposal to prevent a legislator from appearing before or having dealings with a unit in the executive branch of government, if he did it for a fee. Another proposal would prohibit legislative continuance in a judicial proceeding, solely because of his office.



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6. Judicial League  
Positions

a) A single system of centrally administered statewide courts with a uniform fiscal policy

b) A uniform code of criminal and civil procedures formulated by the Supreme Court with legislative approval.

c) Full-time judiciary whose members qualify to practice law in Texas

d) Assignment of judges according to special training and docket needs.

e) Integration of justice of the peace court functions into courts of record

f) Selection of appellate judges by a combination of commission nomination, executive appointment and non-competitive and nonpartisan election.

g) Compulsory retirement and effective removal procedures for appellate judges.

Commission Recommendations

The proposed system:\*

One Supreme Court

Courts of Appeals to review both civil and criminal cases

District Court--with one or more district judges and such other officials as may be provided by law--in each geographical judicial district;

Circuit Court--in each county (unless the governing bodies of two or more counties agree to consolidate their circuit courts to have one circuit court serve such counties)

Justice of the Peace courts

(proposal returned to committee for further drafting)

In circuit courts and above. County commissioners courts taken out of judicial section. The county judge would have administrative, not judicial duties.

The Chief Justice may temporarily assign judges or move cases from one court of appeals to another.

All courts to be courts of record

Merit system for appellate judges to be submitted as an alternative to elective system: Governor would choose one of three names from a list submitted by a nominating commission composed of more lay than lawyer members. The 11-member commission would be appointed by the Governor, Lt. Gov. and Speaker acting jointly.

?

\*The unified judicial system to be managed by central administration headed by the Chief Justice (Chrm. of Judicial Council). Other members: 2 judges from court of appeals, one district clerk, 4 state bar members and 4 legislators.



*State Office*

CONSTITUTIONAL REVISION COMMISSION

Legislative Committee  
Hearing for House of Representatives  
May 10, 1973

The Legislative Committee of the CRC, composed of Zan Holmes (Chrmn), Jim Kronzer, George Beto, Ralph Yarborough, and Loys Barbour, was in full attendance at the hearing. In addition, Judge Calvert and Mrs. Milburn were present for portions of the testimony.

Speaker Price Daniel, Jr. led off the session by telling the Committee of the study that the Citizens Conference on State Legislatures is presently making of the Texas House. Preliminary data will be made available to the Commission as it is compiled. Daniel cited both The Sometime Governments and Recipe for Reform (previously published in the Houston Post) as publications with stimulating thoughts for those revising the Texas Constitution. The Speaker made a strong plea for annual sessions and higher pay. Other ideas advanced by Daniel included: (1) pre-session organizational meetings as in Florida (2) legislative power to call or expand special sessions (3) prefiling of bills (4) need of joint rules before legislature begins work. He recognized that some of these suggestions were statutory in nature, rather than Constitutional. The Speaker closed his presentation by mentioning the need for single member districts.

Jim Kronzer asked Daniel if the Governor should be given more budgetary powers (as suggested in the hearings around the state)--Daniel said yes and thought a revamped Budget Board might be a suitable mechanism.

Representative McAlister of Lubbock echoed the need for annual sessions. He also advocated a Constitutional requirement for regularly scheduled town hall meetings throughout the state, chaired by either the Governor, Lt.-Governor, or Speaker, which he hoped would stimulate interest among the citizenry in their state government.

Representative Denton of Waco asked for provisions for annual sessions, adequate compensation, and adequate staffs in the Legislative Article. Retaining the provision that requires three readings of a bill was urged by Denton, and he thought that 2/3 present should be required for a quorum, instead of a majority. Kronzer questioned whether or not these suggestions were legislative functions, as opposed to Constitutional functions. Barbour asked Denton if the legislature or an outside Commission should establish salaries; Denton was uncertain, but he felt the people should still have a voice.



Representative Hale of Corpus Christi felt that there was still a possibility of court reform in this session of the Legislature (the bill is in the House Judiciary Committee). Thus, he hoped that Article V could be taken care of before the Constitutional Convention meets in 1974. He reiterated his opposition to the Missouri Plan for judges. Hale opposed statutory provisions for Article III, giving the examples of joint rules and single member districts. Musts for the new Constitution included annual sessions and adequate salaries, set by the legislature. He stressed the need for some limitations in the Constitution to prevent abuses, particularly in the area of local and special bills, and felt limitations could be established by stating the items pertaining to local governments (salaries, etc.) should be general law rather than local law. Under questioning by Mrs. Milburn, Hale stated some opposition to Home Rule provisions for county government. Other opposition included bracket bills which he felt should not be permitted.

In discussion, Beto mentioned the need for an independent judiciary and felt the extension of tenure might be a suitable compromise. Kronzer felt non-partisan elections were necessary for judges.

Representative Massey of San Angelo advocated a Constitution that provided a skeletal outline of government. In speaking to the Legislative Article, he voiced the need for adequate salaries and said that a poll in his district showed support from the people. Ideally, he felt that the legislature should establish their salaries, with safeguards (record vote, salaries take effect next term) provided. However, considering the historical background, he suggested the use of a Commission. Massey also mentioned the need for annual sessions and prefiling of bills.

Representative Clayton of Springlake told the Committee that he had introduced a complete Constitution in the House, and he provided the committee with a copy. In explaining the highlights of his document, which he felt was concise and flexible, he described a clause in his Article VIII as a possible compromise for those advocating change and those opposing. The phrase reads "Provisions of the Texas Constitution of 1876 not in conflict with the new Constitution remain in effect until amended or repealed by 2/3 vote of each house of the legislature." He mentioned this idea at a Panhandle Press meeting recently and received favorable support. (Clayton had copies of two editorials from papers previously opposing revision, now stating cautious support with this clause.) This suggestion, of course, creates a whole new branch of law, or a "Constitutional Purgatory" as Kronzer phrased it.

Representative Hawn of Dallas briefly stated his support for adequate compensation and felt such perhaps could be handled by sufficient per diem.



Representative Bowers of Houston had his aide make his presentation for him. The aide said that a new document should diminish the use of the Constitution as a vehicle for special interests by prohibiting certain practices, gerrymandering being one. He drew some fire from Beto through his criticisms of past administrations.

cc/Anderson, Brasher, Conner, Legislative Office



April 25, 1973

Judge Robert Calvert, Chairman  
Constitutional Revision Commission  
Commodore Perry Hotel  
Austin, Texas

Dear Judge Calvert:

It was with great interest that we noted your selection as Chairman of the recently appointed Constitutional Revision Commission. The citizens of Texas are fortunate to have a man of your caliber in this position.

The League of Women Voters of Texas for over twenty years has been actively concerned about the necessity of revising the Texas Constitution. League members in recent years have studied the Texas Executive Department, the Texas Legislature, the Texas Judiciary, and State Local Relations, plus conducting an extensive campaign for the passage of Amendment 4, which created the Revision Commission.

The League will testify before the commission and follow very closely its work so that our members will be knowledgeable and able to inform their communities of the Commission's recommendations. If at any time the League can be of assistance to the Revision Commission, please do not hesitate to let us know.

Cordially,

Mrs. Darvin M. Winick, President  
League of Women Voters of Texas

VW/ag

bc: Conner



APR 6 1973

CONSTITUTIONAL REVISION COMMISSION

March 28 and 29, 1973

9:30 am

The Constitutional Revision Commission was called to order by Judge Calvert for a business session. The business session was held for the consideration of the reports of the ad hoc committees established at the beginning session of the Commission. The Staff Committee, chaired by Dr. George Beto, reported on its recommendation that the CRC hire Mr. James Ray, the present Executive Director of the Texas Advisory Commission on Intergovernmental Relations, as Executive Director of the CRC. (The Ex. Dir. will hire the remaining staff with the approval of the Staff Committee.) Judge Jefferson requested that the other candidates for the job be discussed, either in closed or open session, so that the full Commission could know their qualifications. Judge Calvert refused to close the meeting, and he freely discussed the other applicants for the post. Other staff members will be chosen on the basis of technical competence, ethnic background, etc., Judge Calvert said in response to a question from Dr. Earl Lewis. Judge Calvert then called for a vote on the motion, and Mr. Ray was confirmed as Ex. Dir. by a unanimous vote.

Preston Shirley presented the Budget Report (a summary will follow) to the CRC with the statement that the Appointive Committee must approve the budget as well as the full CRC. He stated that the budget was established on a yearly basis, with expenditures to be made monthly. He anticipated that the Commission will not exceed the funds appropriated by the Legislature. The Budget Committee will issue monthly reports during the duration of the Commission. After some discussion of the Budget Rules (per diem, travel), the budget was approved unanimously.

The Office Space and Equipment Committee, chaired by Faye Holub, recommended that the bid of the Commodore Perry be accepted. The offices would be on the east wing of the third floor. The recommendation was accepted after discussion.

Leon Jaworski presented the report of the Committee on Committees which recommended the establishment of seven permanent committees of the CRC: Legislative, Executive and Administrative, Judicial, Local Government, Finance, General Provisions, and Education. The Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Commission will appoint the committee members and the chairmen. Dr. May suggested that the committees not be established until after the seminar; she felt there might be agreement to have fewer committees (particularly by deleting the Education Committee since its provisions in the Constitution are primarily financial). Her suggestion was not accepted and the Committee Report was adopted as presented, with the understanding that the Commission can add or subtract committees any time it so desires.



Judge Jefferson presented the report of the Citizens Advisory Committee (this is the committee with which the League should be involved--it will be working with groups of citizens in the geographical areas where public hearings will be held). Judge Jefferson asked for recommendations from the Commission members for people to serve on the Citizens Advisory groups. The areas selected at this time for sites were: Houston, Dallas-Ft. Worth, San Antonio, Corpus Christi, McAllen, San Angelo, Lubbock, Longview, Wichita Falls, and El Paso. Following the presentation there was a long discussion about the need for additional sites to more adequately cover the state. However, the committee report was adopted as read, with the provision that other areas may be added after the seminar.

A committee for procedures of reporting (committee meetings, hearings, etc.) was appointed, composed of Kronzer, Lewis, Bonilla, Martin, and Rives.

### Seminar

I will briefly summarize the presentations and discussions of the seminar without too much detail; otherwise I would be publishing a book!

After an introduction by Dr. May, John Bebout opened the seminar with "An Overview of State Constitutional Revision with Special Emphasis on Texas." He discussed the trend toward constitutional revision in the past twenty years, listing the major trends: (1) strengthening office of the governor (2) unleashing of state legislatures (3) streamlining of the courts (4) shortening and reduction of the Constitution (5) home rule provisions. Bebout also spoke on the roles and relationships of commissions and conventions, citing as examples Maryland, Arkansas, and New Mexico.

George D. Braden began the afternoon session with "An Overview of the Texas Constitution." He stated that a constitution should contain an agreement on principle and an agreement on how to carry out the principles. Braden felt the principles involved were the creation of a government, the limitation of government, the distribution of powers, and an expressed philosophy of government. After a review of some of the problems of the present Constitution, Braden urged the delegates to turn the constitution around and to keep it turned around by aiming high, concentrating on the drafting of the constitution, and keeping the constitutional approach.

The first specific discussion of the afternoon focused on "Suffrage and the Legislature," led by Bebout, Braden, and Frank Elliott, Jr. Most of the questions were directed toward the legislature in the areas of limitation on sessions, pay of legislators, and the removal of specific statutory provisions from the Constitution.

Bebout, Braden, Judge Tom Reavley, Judge Thomas J. Stovall, Jr., and Terrell Blodgett headed a panel discussion on "The Executive and the Judiciary." In focusing on the executive, Braden specified



two primary areas of concern within the Constitution--veto provisions and executive powers. Blodgett felt that many of Texas' problems with a weak governor were statutory rather than Constitutional. He suggested, however, some changes, such as starting the legislative session after the governor is inaugurated, strengthening the budgetary powers of the governor, and providing the governor with the tools--personnel, research, planning--that he needs. Reavley felt that the buffer between the governor and administration of departments was unnecessary. Bebout advanced the proposition that a stronger governor would give the state a stronger voice in national affairs.

In approaching the judiciary system, Braden recommended the first six articles of the Task Force proposals. Stovall felt that the judicial administration should not be in the constitution, while Reavley was concerned that the constitution be written so that the judicial system would be manageable.

Thursday's morning session was begun by a panel discussion of "Local Government" led by Bebout, Braden, Lynn F. Anderson, and James W. McGrew. Braden advocated placing the overall tax rate in this Article; he also felt that the Article should not exclude the possibility of state property taxes. Anderson stated that the home rule provisions for cities in the present Constitution were good, and he suggested that the principle of home rule could be expanded to include the counties. A publication of the Texas Research League, "Let the People Choose" was mentioned by McGrew, and copies of the study are to be made available to the Commission. City-county mergers were cited as an example of new techniques in government that are unavailable in Texas because of restraints placed upon county governments in the Constitution.

The same panel led a discussion on "Finance" which Anderson pointed out involved 40% of the present Constitution. The need for coordination of the finance provisions was stressed, as well as the need to remove the statutory provisions. Anderson advocated including program evaluations in addition to the more routine fiscal audits. There were many questions from the Commission concerning tax structure, Funds, etc.

Larry Margolis addressed a luncheon meeting of the CRC on the topic of "Trends in State Legislative Improvements." He urged the Commission to aim high in their work while recognizing that some compromises will be made. Many of his recommendations to the Commission were proposals advocated in "The Sometime Governments," such as removal of the limitation on sessions, adequate pay, abolishment of legislative powers for lieutenant governor. He mentioned the Rodriguez case as an opportunity for states to redress the imbalance of power in our federal system today.

The final session of the seminar was an explanation by Seth Searcy III of his "Simplification and Reordering of the Texas Constitution." He stated that he was not rewriting the Constitution but reordering the document (grouping proper sections together) and simplifying the language. He is also indicating sections



which he feels are statutory, but these are not removed, merely indicated. His work will be available to the Commission, Article by Article, as he finishes his study.

Braden concluded this section by cautioning the Commission to take great care in the style and drafting of the Constitution. He suggested that such a committee be appointed immediately so that the rules of drafting could be established now and consistency be insured. He also felt such a committee could assist in coordinating committees that may overlap. He reminded the Commission that a constitution should be written in clear, simple, concise, dignified language.

Business Meeting  
March 29

At the conclusion of the seminar the Commission went into business session again to hear the report from the Calendar Committee as well as further suggestions from the Citizens Advisory Committee. After debate, the Commission voted to hold regularly scheduled meetings of the full Commission on the 2nd and 4th Friday and Saturday of each month. (If business can be concluded in one day, there will be no Saturday meeting.) In addition, 18 public hearings (notice that this has been expanded from the previous listing) were scheduled around the state. As you will notice in the schedule, some of the public hearings will be followed by a full Commission meeting in the same city. While as many Commission members as possible are urged to attend the public hearings, it is envisioned that one member from each committee will be present. The schedule as decided is printed on a separate page. It is subject to change at any time--please do not consider this final.

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It was also decided that the Style and Drafting Committee would be appointed by the Chairman and Vice-Chairman, and the committee would include one member from each committee. The Chairman and Vice-Chairman will be making the committee assignments within the week.

The meeting was then adjourned until its next scheduled meeting, April 13 and 14 in Austin.

*Linnet How*



# SCHEDULED HEARINGS

April 25  
April 26  
April 27

Amarillo  
Lubbock  
El Paso

May 2  
May 3  
May 4

Midland-Odessa  
San Angelo  
San Antonio

May 11  
May 12

Arlington  
Comm. Meeting

May 16  
May 17  
May 18

Longview  
Tyler  
Lufkin-Necogdoches

May 25  
May 26

Houston  
Comm. Meeting

June 6  
June 7  
June 8

Laredo  
Corpus Christi  
McAllen

June 15  
June 16

Beaumont-Port Arthur  
Comm. Meeting

June 20  
June 21

Abilene  
Wichita Falls

June 29  
June 30

Austin  
Comm. Meeting



# BUDGET SUMMARY

## SALARIES AND WAGES

Executive Director	30,000	
Research Director	24,000	
Director of Public Information and Publications	24,000	
All other Professional and Clerical Staff	162,000	
	<u>\$240,000</u>	*NTE

TRAVEL AND PER DIEM	\$300,000	*NTE
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## OTHER EXPENSES

Office Space	25,000	
Supplies and Materials	60,000	
Postage	15,000	
Rental Equipment	20,000	
Telephone and Telegraph	15,000	
Capital Outlay	10,000	
Public Information and Publications	100,000	
Professional Fees, Contract Research, Part-Time Help	115,000	
	<u>\$360,000</u>	*NTE

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\$900,000

\*NTE--not to exceed



# League of Women Voters of Texas

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MRS. DARVIN M. WINICK, PRESIDENT

February 1973

## Mrs. Darvin M. Winick Biographical Sketch

Veta Winick has been active in the League of Women Voters since 1957, when she joined in Dallas, Texas. She moved to Dickinson shortly thereafter and served on the Dickinson League Board of Directors as Texas Constitutional Revision Chairman. She also served as President of the Dickinson League.

She was elected to the League of Women Voters of Texas state Board of Directors in 1964, and one of her first responsibilities was state chairman for Texas Constitutional Revision. During this time she was instrumental in having the League publication, Texas Constitutional Review, revised. This publication was funded by a grant from the Sears foundation and over 100,000 copies were distributed throughout Texas.

Mrs. Winick served as a member of the Committee of 100 appointed in 1970 to study the duties, responsibilities, ethics and compensation of members of the House of Representatives. Mrs. Winick is also a member of the Citizens for Texas Committee for Constitutional Revision.

She is presently serving her 2nd term as state president of the League of Women Voters of Texas and has been nominated for a third term.

Mrs. Winick attended Junior College in Portland, Maine, and Purdue University, and has served in many capacities in various organizations. She was District Chairman of the Girl Scouts, President of the Dickinson P.T.A., Board member of the United Fund and Director of the Dickinson Library Association. The Dickinson Pilot Club awarded her "The Woman of the Year" citation in 1966. She is listed in the 1973 edition of "Who's Who in American Women." She is an active artist and is presently a Director of the Clear Creek Art League.

Mrs. Winick is married and has three children: Mitchell 17, Mara Beth 13, and Seth 6. She lives in Dickinson and her husband is an industrial psychologist.



*S. O. copy*

League of Women Voters of Indiana  
September 1967

## MANUAL FOR A MOCK CON CON

### INTRODUCTION

Changes in governmental structure, particularly in a democratic society, come slowly, and only when and after citizens/voters are informed and convinced that changes are necessary. High school students are soon-to-be voters. The League of Women Voters can provide some exciting opportunities for "practice citizen participation" by working with the schools to set up mock governmental experiences.

For example, a mock town board or city council meeting could be worked out, perhaps with the guidance of "experts" currently serving on such governmental bodies. A mock legislative session for students from one or several schools could be a most exciting experience. Students would learn much about our legislative processes in Indiana - bill writing, committee hearings, political maneuvering and compromise, etc. by acting as participants rather than just observers. Here again, local legislators might prove valuable in planning and executing such a session.

Perhaps most interesting of all would be a mock constitutional convention. This idea has been tried successfully in high schools and colleges all over the country as a means of providing practical experiences for future citizen participation in government. Indiana Leagues have considerable experience with local governmental meetings and General Assembly sessions. Constitutional conventions, however, are not an every day occurrence (the last one having been held in 1851), so this manual is devoted to details for a mock constitutional convention, hereafter called Con Con. Much of the organizational procedure could easily be adapted to fit a mock legislative session as well.

The guidelines which follow are a synthesis of techniques and procedures tried in other mock Con Cons and are based on the experience (sometimes "bitter") of such Con Cons. They are drawn broadly enough to permit the flexibility necessary to accomodate individual situations. If followed in general, however, they will help to prevent some of the headaches which are inherent in this type of experimental activity.

### DESCRIPTION

(As recounted from the LWV of Highland Park, Illinois, experience)  
After nearly a year of planning, 200 students from nine suburban high schools met in March, 1963, for a mock Con Con. The 58 Illinois senatorial districts were divided among the schools to provide 116 delegates, the same as an actual convention. The Friday afternoon opening session included registration of delegates, the official role call, welcoming speeches and nominations for a permanent chairman or president. The Friday dinner was heightened by campaign activities on behalf of the nominees for chairman, as well as the brief speeches from the distinguished guests invited for the dinner. The Friday evening general session provided for the election of officers and then adjourned to permit evening committee meetings. Saturday morning was devoted entirely to committee



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meetings since, as any Leaguer knows, the bulk of any convention's work is done in committee session. Proposals for changes in five Articles of the Illinois Constitution were referred to the proper committees, and all delegates were assigned to a committee. The climax of the Convention came during the final business session on Saturday afternoon when the reports from the committees were debated and voted upon on the floor of the Convention. Both a majority and a minority report were submitted by each committee. Reports had been duplicated during lunch, so each delegate had a copy of the report as the debate began. A parliamentarian was available, and the convention sessions were run according to the rules of the Illinois Senate.

Was this mock Con Con successful? This little story from Robert Lyons, faculty representative from Barrington, Illinois, High School, indicates that it was. "On Saturday night after retuning to the bus, feeling rather tired and wondering how the students felt, I was met by the cry 'Will there be a convention next year? Will we be able to go?' And then on Monday, the enthusiasm still quite evident, the convention was refought vote by vote in almost every social studies class. Barrington is most interested in seeing the Convention repeated."



## ORGANIZATION

**Participants:** Fourteen Leagues participated in the successful Highland Park Con Con, but such joint sponsorship is obviously not possible for most Indiana Leagues. Therefore consideration should first be given to whether or not a League can do such a project by itself, join other Leagues, or invite community groups to co-sponsor the project. Joint community sponsorship might prove very useful in providing special skills, equipment, money, and/or publicity. Equally basic is the consideration of how many schools to include. Projects can be devised to fit one or twenty high schools, depending on the local situation. Obviously, the more schools included, the more time will be needed to plan and coordinate a successful Con Con.

**Steering Committee:** Representatives from each school and each participating organization might form the overall Steering Committee. This committee would set the date, hours, and place, determine the number of delegates and on what basis they are to be chosen, decide how many and which constitutional articles will be considered, what outside guests - if any - should be invited, and plan the overall program for the Convention, including the choice of the temporary chairman and a keynote speaker if there is to be one. This committee may wish to establish sub-committees to handle food, registration, hospitality, publicity, written materials, etc.

**Finances:** The Highland Park Con Con operated on a \$900.00 budget, nearly \$700.00 of which was raised by \$50.00 contributions from each participating League. Over \$700.00 of the total expense was the lunch at \$1.10 and the dinner at \$2.15 provided for all delegates, faculty advisors and invited public figures. Approximately \$150.00 covered all other expenses for speakers, postage, materials and services. The Steering Committee would need to draw up a budget and determine how the needed money could be raised. Sponsoring organizations, schools, or interested local businesses might be willing to help underwrite the cost of such a project.

**Delegate Selection:** One basis of representation could be to use the state senatorial districts, with possibly two or three delegates for each senator (making a convention delegate body of 100-150). Having alternate delegates provides opportunities for more students to participate in the Con Con. If several schools are involved, students from the larger schools might be assigned to represent the larger urban districts of the state, those from smaller schools the rural districts. Each school will probably select its own delegates so procedures for selection may vary but some similar standards, qualifications and methods should be established by the Steering Committee.

**Constitutional Articles:** The amount of time available for the Con Con will determine how many articles should be chosen for study and discussion. However, experience has shown that the time needed for thorough preparation, consideration and discussion precludes debating more than three articles. A one-day session might decide to concentrate on only one article. In mock Con Cons in other states, the Suffrage Article (Article 2\*), the Bill of Rights (Article 1), the Legislative Article (Article 4), and the Amending Process (Article 16) have been popular.

\* - Article references to Indiana Constitution



In Indiana the League should strongly urge consideration of the Judicial Article (Article 7) because of the availability of reference material, and the current statewide interest in the legislative changes embodied in the 1967 House Joint Resolution 6 to change the Judicial Article as it applies to the Supreme and Appellate Courts. The League's Judicial Kit, could be made available and the Indiana Judicial Study Commission Proposal (Room 403, Statehouse, Indianapolis 46204). (More information is available from the American Judicature Society, 1155 East 60th Street, Chicago, Illinois 60637.)

Each school should be assigned one or more agreed upon articles to study and prepare recommendations. Three or four months may be necessary for schools to do this thoroughly. Schools should report their proposals to the Steering Committee at least two weeks before the Convention, so that proposals may be circulated to other delegates/schools before the Convention. All proposals should be submitted with author's name, school and senatorial district. All proposals on a single subject might eventually be listed together.

Delegate Kits: Written materials may be prepared in advance for distribution to each delegate as he registers. Such kits might include all the information needed by the delegate. The cost of such materials could be included in the general budget or covered by a registration fee. Each kit might contain:

- ✓ The Convention Program
- ✓ Basic parliamentary procedures
- ✓ List of delegates and alternates
- ✓ List of committees and those assigned
- ✓ Convention rules
- ✓ List of nominees for president and biographies
- ✓ Proposals for Articles of Constitution
- ✓ Seating plans, committee room locations, extra note paper

Communication/Research Center: This center could answer general questions, handle mimeographing of committee reports and provide reference materials on the State Constitution. To encourage use of the reference facilities this area should be adjacent (or even within) the Convention hall. These services might be provided in two separate centers if space seemed a problem.

Evaluation: The Steering Committee should meet shortly after the Con Con is held to determine its usefulness - and whether it should be repeated. Hopefully, the excitement and interest stimulated in state government by the Con Con will not be dissipated and will generate a desire to repeat the experience in succeeding years.

Local Leagues will want to do their own evaluation to overall League program and purpose.



## CONVENTION PROGRAM

The Steering Committee works out a detailed program for the Convention, one best fitting the time decided upon.

Registration can be a bottleneck and waste valuable time. Three or four tables should be set up, two for delegate registration and one or two for faculty, guests, news media, etc. Upon registering, delegates receive badges, meal tickets and kits. Name tags might be color coded and extra ones should be available.

Hospitality involves all physical arrangements, e.g., meals, overnight accommodations, door keeper, bulletin board, timekeeper, etc.

A Temporary Chairman might be a faculty representative or Steering Committee member. He will call the Convention to order, explain the proceedings, make any introductions, and serve as the presiding officer until the president or permanent chairman is elected.

Convention Procedures Committees (Elections, Credentials and Rules) will meet before the Convention with an adult advisor. Membership in these committees should be determined by the faculty representatives, with hopefully at least one delegate per school on each committee.

The Election Committee is in charge of the election of officers: President, Vice President, Secretary and Sergeant-at-Arms. Nominations for president, along with a brief biography for each, should be mailed to the Elections Committee. (The usual procedure is to fill the VP, Secretary and Sergeant-at-Arms by candidates for president in order of votes received.) The Elections Committee will determine the method of balloting, count the ballots, and certify the winners. The chairman of this committee announces the winners.

The Credentials Committee is responsible for certifying the official delegation from each district and determining the rules under which an alternate may sit as a delegate. (Some mock Con Cons permit alternates to participate fully in Committees.)

The credentials report at the opening of each business session consists of the number present of delegates and alternates, the districts represented, and number of faculty, workers, and guests.

The Rules Committee is responsible for determining the rules governing all phases of the Convention activities, including Elections and Credentials. (They will get from these two latter committees the rules they need for their operation.) Rules for Convention debate should be specified (e.g., only one amendment per proposal, three minute speech limit, provisions for minority reports, etc.). Interpreting the rules is the responsibility of the Convention parliamentarian. Application of the rules is the job of the president. Enforcement of the rules should be by the Sergeant-at-Arms at the direction of the president.



A skilled adult parliamentarian is essential for all sessions of the Convention. Assistant parliamentarians are also needed during the committee sessions since these meetings can sometimes get involved in a parliamentary snarl. In addition, a floor parliamentarian would be desirable to help delegates on the floor. It is useful to have the parliamentarian (s) meet with the Steering Committee to discuss duties, procedures and interpretations of the rules. Prior briefing of delegates on the rudiments of parliamentary procedure may help prevent some parliamentary confusions and conserve the time of the Convention for its principal function - the debating of proposed Constitutional Articles.

The Article Committees will do the main work at the Convention. Membership in these committees should be assigned in advance, if possible assuring each school and each district representation on each committee. With such advance assignment, the delegates can come well informed and briefed on the subject matter.

A student chairman for each committee might also be chosen by the Steering Committee so that the chairman would have time to meet before the Convention to learn about running a committee, parliamentary procedure, etc. A faculty advisor should be designated for each committee to meet with it prior to and during the Convention.

Final balloting should be by written ballot. A simple YES/NO can be used for each proposal. However, if a majority and minority report are to be submitted, the choice on the ballot might be MAJORITY/MINORITY. Proposals for changes in each Article should be considered section by section, amending (if permitted) as the adoption proceeds. If time allotted for consideration of an Article begins to run out, the president should be prepared to halt the adoption, appoint a Conference Committee, and direct them to prepare a final report on the remaining sections.



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#### LEAGUE RESPONSIBILITY

The role taken by the League in a mock Con Con will vary greatly from merely suggesting the idea to organizing the entire project. Leagues might assume any or all of the following responsibilities: publicity, preparation of kits, registration, hospitality, communication/research center. The League may choose to play a major or a minor role in the general planning. Some schools may be willing to assume much of this responsibility. Perhaps Leagues will decide to help financially or find others who can.

The advice from the Highland Park League is to "play it cool. The League makes itself available to assist, but remember that this mock Con Con is fundamentally a school educational project which we are privileged to help and observe."



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**SAMPLE CONVENTION PROGRAM**  
(one night - one day)

Friday Evening

4:00 P.M. - Registration

5:00 P.M. - 1st Convention Business Session

Call to order by Temporary Chairman

Welcomes

Pledge of Allegiance

Invocation

Announce committee appointments

Election

Credentials

Rules

Roll call of delegates

Platform introductions

Key-note address

Preliminary credentials report

Nominations for President

6:15 P.M. - Recess for dinner

7:30 P.M. - 2nd Convention Business Session

Credentials report

Balloting for President

Election Committee Chairman certifies and declares officers  
elected

Introduction of officers by Temporary Chairman

President's address

Article Committee assignments and chairmen announced

8:30 P.M. - Recess for Article Committee meetings

9:30 P.M. - Evening proceedings recess



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Saturday

9:00 A.M. - 3rd Convention Business Session

Call to order by President

Roll Call

Credentials report

9:30 A.M. - Recess for Article Committee meetings

12:00 P.M. - Lunch

1:00 P.M. - 4th Convention Business Session

Call to order

Reports of Article Committees

Discussion, debate and voting

5:00 P.M. - Adjournment



SAMPLE CONVENTION PROGRAM  
(one day)

8:00 A.M. - Registration

9:00 A.M. - 1st Convention Business Session

Call to order by Temporary Chairman

Welcomes

Pledge of Allegiance

Announce committee appointments

Elections

Credentials

Rules

Role call of delegates

Preliminary credentials report

Nominations for President

9:30 A.M. - Recess for Article Committee meetings

11:30 A.M. - Lunch

12:30 P.M. - 2nd Convention Business Session

Credentials report

Balloting for President

Election Committee Chairman certifies and declares officers  
elected

Reports of Article committees

Discussion, debate and voting

President's remarks

5:00 P.M. - Adjournment



JAN 8 1973  
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PARTIAL BIBLIOGRAPHY FOR TEACHERS AND STUDENTS

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Public Administration Service, 1313 E. 60th, Chicago 60637
2. Here Is Your Indiana Government, Indiana State Chamber of Commerce, Board  
of Trade Building, Indianapolis 46204 (contains copy of Indiana Constitution)
3. The Book of the States, published biennially by the Council of State  
Governments, 1313 E. 60th, Chicago 60637
4. Methods of State Constitutional Reform, by Albert L. Sturm, Univ. of  
Michigan Press, Ann Arbor, Michigan
5. National Municipal League, 47 E. 68th St., N. Y., N. Y. 10021:

The State Constitutional Studies Project series:

- a) The Model State Constitution (\$2.00)
  - b) Salient Issues of Constitutional Revision (\$3.00)
  - c) The Future Role of the States (\$2.00)
  - d) The Constitutional Convention: A Manual on Its Planning, Organi-  
zation and Operation (\$2.50)
  - e) How to Study a State Constitution (\$1.00)
  - f) State Constitutions: The Shape of the Document by Robert Dishman (\$1.50)
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  - h) State Constitutions: The Bill of Rights by Robert S. Rankin (75¢)
6. State Legislatures in American Politics - edited by Alexander Heard, The  
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  8. "The Lawyer and the Indiana General Assembly" by David R. Derge, Midwest  
Journal of Political Science, Vol. 6, p.19-53.



TCR

DOLPH BRISCOE, JR.

Box 389

UVALDE, TEXAS 78801

December 19, 1972

JAN 2 1972

Mrs. Darvin M. Winick, President  
League of Women Voters of Texas  
Dickinson Plaza Center  
Dickinson, Texas 77539

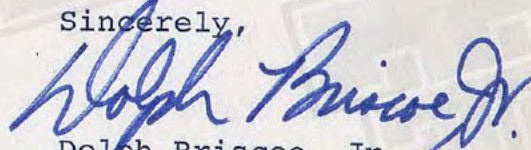
Dear Mrs. Winick:

I have your interesting and thought provoking letter of December 1. I find the opportunity of working with the Constitutional Revision Committee a challenge and an inspiration. A modern, efficient constitution instrument for the State of Texas would be a very significant and worthwhile achievement.

I appreciate your interest and concern in the composition of membership in the Revision Commission by recommending for my attention Mrs. Winick, Mrs. Braunagel, and Dr. Janice May. I am sure that all of these women are well qualified and would make outstanding members of the Commission.

Please know that I shall give your recommendations my most sincere and thorough evaluation. I thank you for your interest in the Revision Commission and am anxious that the Commission must be composed of citizens of the highest intellect, and reputation for responsibility and leadership.

Sincerely,

  
Dolph Briscoe, Jr.

DBJr/bs



## League of Women Voters of Texas



MRS. DARVIN M. WINICK, PRESIDENT

December 4, 1972

Dear

Congratulations upon your recent election as a member of the Texas Legislature. In the next two years, you have an opportunity to serve the citizens of Texas not only as a legislator, but as a delegate to a Constitutional Revision Convention, which can provide our state with an efficient, modern constitution.

The League of Women Voters of Texas since 1954 has supported the revision of the Texas Constitution by a Constitutional Convention preceded by thorough research and study. League support was a major factor in the passage of Amendment No. 4. Thus the League has a great interest in the Revision Commission which will be appointed by the Legislature to do the initial research. We urge that you give serious consideration to the following recommendations:

- ...The League of Women Voters of Texas suggests three people to be appointed to the Commission - Mrs. Darvin M. Winick, President of the LWV of Texas, former Texas Constitutional Revision Chairman on the state Board and a member of the Board of Directors of Citizens for Texas; <sup>Present Rev?</sup> member of the Speakers Advisory Committee.  
Mrs. Martin Braunagel, Program Vice President of the LWV of Texas and former staff consultant to the state League. Also actively involved with constitutional revision for the last 20 years.  
Dr. Janice May, former state Board member who had served as Constitutional Revision Chairman and Legislative Chairman and is presently an instructor of government at the University of Texas.
- ...That the Revision Commission be appointed immediately so that they will have sufficient time to do thorough research and study.
- ...That the commission be composed of interested and qualified private citizens who have experience or knowledge of state constitutions, the functioning of state government, and the legislative process.
- ...That the commission be composed of 25-30 people. We feel this is a sufficient number to do the required work with the addition of a <sup>out</sup> staff which was provided for in the wording of the amendment.

Enclosed you will find a copy of our latest publication, "Texas School Finance." We feel sure it will be of interest to you when the Legislature considers this matter during the legislative session.

If you would like any further information concerning revision of the Texas Constitution the League of Women Voters of Texas will be glad to be of assistance.

Cordially,

Mrs. Darvin M. Winick, President  
League of Women Voters of Texas





PRICE DANIEL, JR.  
SPEAKER  
TEXAS HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
AUSTIN, TEXAS

MAR 14 1973

March 13, 1973

Mrs. Darvin Winick  
Dickinson Plaza Center  
Dickinson, Texas 77539

Dear Mrs. Winick:

I appreciate very much your interest in serving as a member of the Texas Constitutional Revision Commission and your willingness to contribute your time and talents to the drafting of a new Constitution for Texas.

As you are probably aware, the appointment committee considered approximately one thousand candidates for appointment to the Commission, but could select only 37 Texans for service in this capacity. Unfortunately, the Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, Presiding Judge of the Court of Criminal Appeals, and I could not name many highly qualified and dedicated citizens.

I hope, however, that the Commission and the members of the Legislature, who will convene as a Constitutional Convention in January, 1974, will have the benefit of your advice and recommendations in the development of a document to guide Texas in the years ahead.

Again, thank you for your interest and please do not hesitate to call upon me whenever I may be of service.

Sincerely,

*Price*

Price Daniel, Jr.

PDjr/jg