



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF TEXAS
1212 GUADALUPE, #109 • AUSTIN, TEXAS 78701 • (512) 472-1100

PRESS RELEASE

MAY 4, 1987

AUSTIN, TEXAS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Delegates to the 21st Biennial Convention of the League of Women Voters of Texas, held in Fort Worth this past weekend, have adopted a new statewide study item and elected new state board members.

The approximately 3,800 members of the organization will begin a study of the mental health/mental retardation system in the state of Texas within the next year.

"In the next two years, I expect the Texas League to make many changes to meet the demands of today's world without giving up what we are--a non-partisan, multi-issue, grassroots organization. We are going to seek change rather than merely react to what is thrust upon us. The State of Texas is at a turning point, and so is the state League," said the newly elected president, Diane Sheridan of the Bay Area League, as she shared her vision for the future of the LWV-Texas with the delegates.

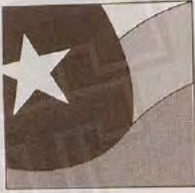
Other board members elected by the delegation are:

Program Vice-President	Louise Cummins, Lubbock
Public Relations Vice-President	Modelle Brudner, Houston
Organization Vice-President	Sondra Ferstl, Denton
Secretary	Carol Wilson, Richardson
Treasurer	Myrtle McMahan, Fort Worth

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Directors	Evelyn Bonavita, Austin
	Rebecca Bergstresser, Dallas
	Sally Coughlin, San Antonio
	Ruthann Geer, Arlington
	Mary Alice Pisani, Bryan
	Debbie Stine, Corpus Christi
	Barbara Weinstein, Dallas

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Lois Carpenter, president of the League, stated, "Texas is facing unprecedented fiscal problems. After deducting money set aside for special purposes, funds available for general revenue spending in the coming biennium are almost 50% less than in the 1983 session. To pretend that we can maintain current services with less money will put the state in even greater jeopardy."

Comptroller Bullock's plan would broaden the sales tax base to apply to a broad range of professional and personal services. According to Carpenter, such an approach is less regressive than raising the current rate on items presently taxed. Incorporating the service-based economy into the tax system provides some assurance of stabilizing state revenues in the future.

Another feature of the Comptroller's proposal favored by the League is his revision of the franchise tax. The current franchise tax is heavily

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dependent on industries related to our declining natural resources. Because it includes a gross receipts factor, Bullock's revised formula for the tax would more equitably distribute the tax burden.

Carpenter said the League believes too many of the financing proposals presented this session are completely inadequate in addressing the immediate revenue crisis.

Carpenter stated, "We must not allow elected officials to abdicate their fiscal responsibilities. Texas will surely fail in its quest for excellence and economic revival and growth if we do not assure adequate revenue to meet the economic, educational, social, and environmental needs of this state."

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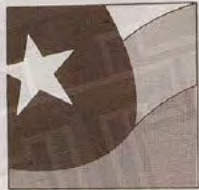
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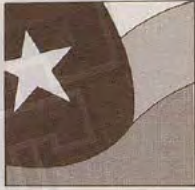
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FEBRUARY 23, 1987

The League of Women Voters of Texas is very concerned about the proposed cuts in the budgets of the Texas Water Commission and the Texas Water Development Board. Last Wednesday, the budget and oversight subcommittee of the House Natural Resources Committee voted to reduce the appropriation from general revenue to the Water Commission by 15% (approximately an 8% overall cut for the agency), and that of the Water Development Board by 16%.

The Commission's charge is the protection of the state's waters. This large a cut would mean a loss of 78 full-time jobs, 50 of them in critical support areas which provide data processing, secretarial services, and training. These are important back-up activities for both monitoring and enforcement of water protection regulations. Also, 11 positions would be lost in the section of the Commission which does analysis of instream uses, habitat mitigation, and water quality. There would be a 14% reduction in legal services related to enforcement cases.

The Water Development Board would lose \$1 million in planning and data collection, down from \$4.2 million to \$3.2 million. This department is involved in bay and estuary studies, as well as those on groundwater--both mandated in the Water Package passed overwhelmingly by voters in November of 1985.

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Both of these agencies took substantial reductions last year, and neither has ever been funded adequately to meet the needs of a growing state.

The League understands that the legislature is under considerable pressure to cut expenses as much as possible in the light of current revenue projections. Indeed, our first priority this session is to urge restructuring of the state's financial system to meet needs such as these environmental ones. However, cuts of this magnitude on top of cuts which were suffered in previous sessions become not a matter of good government, but a drastic reduction in the most basic services. The good health and well-being of Texans are being seriously harmed when agencies charged with protecting the environment can no longer do their jobs because of loss of revenue.

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TO: HCMI Chairs/LL Pres.; DPM
FROM: Sally Coughlin, HCMI Dir., LWV-Tx.
[REDACTED]

LWV-Texas
August 1986
LL Pres. Mailing; DPM
II. A. 2. f.
SP/HR - Health Care

Enough free copies of the enclosed John Hancock Newsletter, "National Debate on Health Care: Shaping America's Health Policy," became available for us to be able to send one to each local League president (NOT ON DPM).

These booklets are arriving as committees begin in earnest the League's statewide study of Health Care for the Medically Indigent.

The publication is an excellent summary of the debate, and supplies information about additional topics that impact indigent health care. It should be a useful and enjoyable resource for HCMI committees.

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PRESS RELEASE

CONTACT:

Diane Sheridan, Hazardous Waste Director
472-1156 M-F, 9 A.M. - 4 P.M.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 11, 1985

The League of Women Voters of Texas is supporting hazardous waste legislation this session because safe, cradle-to-grave management of the hazardous waste we all generate requires improved public participation, enhanced enforcement capability, and adequately funded state regulatory programs. ^{SB 752} This bill addresses all those concerns, as do the bills reflecting therecommendations of the Governor's Task Force on Hazardous Waste Management.

The public must be given notice that an application for a facility has been filed as soon as the application is administratively complete. Surprises don't work, and the present system of notifying the public when there is an opportunity for a public hearing needs to be supplemented by the earlier notice required in this bill.

Enhanced enforcement of hazardous waste regulations is critical if protective regulations are to work. One simple change called for by this bill is a rule clarifying which oil and gas activities are subject to hazardous waste rules and which are not. Another section of the bill

(more)

March 11, 1985

hazardous waste rules and which are not. Another section of the bill calls for incorporating into the permitting process standards to evaluate the compliance history of the applicant. Such a law is not punitive; it simply makes for good business judgements. You wouldn't hire a contractor to build a house if he had a reputation for shoddy workmanship, no matter how good a design he produced. Nor should the state "buy" problems from companies which violate laws.

Hazardous waste regulation is fragmented among many Texas agencies. To promote better management and enforcement, this bill creates an inter-agency coordinating council to coordinate enforcement strategies, establish a clearinghouse for hazardous waste information, and consider incentives to encourage waste reduction, among other things.

The few items we mentioned are of great importance, as are some of the changes sought in other comprehensive bills. Without legislative remedies, Texas cannot progress to the point where the public feels confident enough in the regulatory program to allow necessary, environmentally sound hazardous waste management facilities to be sited.

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The few items we mentioned are of great importance, as are some of the changes sought in other comprehensive bills. Without legislative remedies, Texas cannot progress to the point where the public feels confident enough in the regulatory program to allow necessary, environmentally sound hazardous waste management facilities to be sited.

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LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF TEXAS
1212 GUADALUPE, #109 • AUSTIN, TEXAS 78701 • (512) 472-1100

PRESS RELEASE

CONTACT:

Diane Sheridan, Hazardous Waste Director
472-1156 M-F, 9 A.M. - 4 P.M.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 11, 1985

The League of Women Voters of Texas is supporting hazardous waste legislation this session because safe, cradle-to-grave management of the hazardous waste we all generate requires improved public participation, enhanced enforcement capability, and adequately funded state regulatory programs. This bill^(SB 752) addresses all those concerns, as do the bills reflecting therecommendations of the Governor's Task Force on Hazardous Waste Management.

The public must be given notice that an application for a facility has been filed as soon as the application is administratively complete. Surprises don't work, and the present system of notifying the public when there is an opportunity for a public hearing needs to be supplemented by the earlier notice required in this bill.

Enhanced enforcement of hazardous waste regulations is critical if protective regulations are to work. One simple change called for by this bill is a rule clarifying which oil and gas activities are subject to hazardous waste rules and which are not. Another section of the bill

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Distributed to press corps & at press conference
on letterhead March 11, 1985. To LLRs only. NOT
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