

11

April 29, 1981

TO: Senate Natural Resources Committee  
RE: SB 1177 (Brooks)

The League of Women Voters of Texas urges your positive consideration of SB 1177 establishing the Texas Low-Level Radioactive Waste Disposal Authority.

The League of Women Voters is primarily concerned with the protection of public health, safety, and the environment where low-level radioactive waste is concerned, and we are persuaded that the responsibility for such disposal will be best accomplished by a publicly-owned and operated facility.

There are several provisions of this bill which we think are particularly important and which we encourage you to retain. The first relates to Section 3.06 which provides for at least two site selections for initial consideration. The second relates to Section 3.07 (e) and provides for a mediator in the site selection process for opposing parties. Additionally, we think eminent domain may ultimately be necessary, and we encourage you to retain that option.

We therefore encourage your positive consideration of this bill and wish to express our appreciation for the concern and attention this committee has given to this very complex problem.

Diana Clark  
President

Laura Keever  
Program Vice-President

2:00 Wednesday pm  
Check with Brooks office

April 6, 1981

Senate Natural Resources Committee

TO: House Committee on Environmental Affairs

RE: HB-1533 (Bock)

SB 1177 Brooks

The League of Women Voters of Texas urges your positive consideration of HB-1533 establishing the Texas Low-Level Radioactive Waste Disposal Authority.

SB 1177

The League of Women Voters is primarily concerned with the protection of public health, safety, and the environment where low-level radioactive waste is concerned, and we are persuaded that the responsibility for such disposal will be best accomplished by a publicly-owned and operated facility.

We have two recommendations with regard to HB 1533 which we think will be in the public interest. The first is to change the wording of Section 3.05 (a) to provide for at least two site selections for initial consideration. The second would add a provision in Section 3.07 (b) to provide for a mediator in the site selection process for opposing parties.

Again, we encourage your positive consideration of this bill and are appreciative of the concern and attention this committee has given to this very complex problem.

Diana Clark  
President

Laura Keever  
Program Vice-President

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April 6, 1981

TO: House Committee on Environmental Affairs  
RE: HB 1533 (Bock)

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Diana Clark  
President

Laura Keever  
Program Vice-President

Lois Carpenter  
Administration of Justice Director

LWV-Texas  
January, 1981  
State Board Report  
II. C. 1.  
Program-Admin. of Justice

#### ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE

The LWV-Texas Advocacy Paper entitled Texas Criminal Justice and the Texas Focus entitled Wiretapping in Texas: An Unjustifiable Intrusion are finally off the presses and may be ordered through your local League publications chair at the bargain price of \$.10 each! These will provide you with specific and succinct information for lobbying on our legislative priorities. And you can keep up with the legislative news by subscribing to the weekly LWV-Texas Legislative Newsletter. I URGE you to take advantage of these tools. THIS IS WHAT THE LEAGUE IS ALL ABOUT--INFORMED AND ACTIVE PARTICIPATION BY CITIZENS IN THEIR GOVERNMENT. Jump into the fray and join the fun!

I attended a juvenile justice conference called Patterns for Progress in Dallas, January 15 and 16 co-sponsored by Texas Coalition for Juvenile Justice, Greater Dallas Section of the National Council of Jewish Women, and the Junior League of Dallas. I was glad to see numerous LWV members from Dallas, Richardson, San Antonio, Houston (and probably several other towns), participating in the workshops and forums which dealt with sharing innovative but proven ways to help juveniles. Concern over which legislative proposal to support to achieve statewide juvenile probation was uppermost in conferees' minds. A lively forum featured two speakers who favored the recommendations of the Senate Special Committee on Delivery of Human Services (see December, 1980 Texas VOTER) and two other speakers who favored combining adult and juvenile probation. It seems that now most juvenile judges and juvenile probation officers favor the latter proposal, contrary to what I reported in the December Texas VOTER article. There must still be a contingent supporting establishment of a separate juvenile probation commission because Sen. Carlos Truan has filed a bill to do just that--S.B. 82. As of this writing, the other two proposals have not been fully drafted. You will be interested to know that following the conference the annual meeting of the Coalition voted 39-6 to support the recommendation of the aforementioned Senate Special Committee. The Texas LWV will not decide which proposal to support until we see the other two bills, but I am leaning toward recommending the proposal of the Senate Special Committee. I would be glad (even grateful!) to have input from you local League justice people on this issue. Participate! Speak up!

And keep up

via

The Legislative Newsletter!!

P.S. I assume you have all read of Judge Justice's decision on the Ruiz vs. Estelle case. Rumors are that because of this decision the adult justice system, ie. community corrections, will get more attention during this session of the legislature. That could be good for the adult side and bad for the juveniles. Keep watching.



To House Com. on Environment & Natural Resources  
RE: HB 1533 Bock

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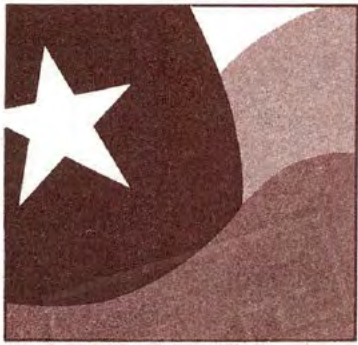
DORNA CLARK  
President

(11)

LAURA JONES  
Program Vice President

April 6-81





# memORandum

## LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF TEXAS

1212 Guadalupe, No. 109 • Austin, Texas 78701 • Tel 512/472-1100

LK

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S.O. copy

May 18, 1981

CSHB 1407 (Clark) Amendment to the Solid Waste Disposal Act

TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES:

CSHB 1407 significantly strengthens state regulation of hazardous wastes. Two provisions that are especially important are those that:

1. List information to be included in permit applications for new hazardous waste disposal facilities; and
2. Require protection of hazardous waste disposal facilities from flooding.

The League of Women Voters of Texas urges your prompt and favorable recommendation of this bill, as passed by the House of Representatives.

Catherine Perrine  
Director of Water



A STATEMENT OF LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES FOR  
THE 68TH LEGISLATURE--PRESENTED TO BAY AREA  
LEGISLATORS ON SEPTEMBER 16, 1982.

The League of Women Voters is a grassroots, nonpartisan, multi-issue organization whose priority-setting is coordinated at all levels - local, state, and national. We are grassroots in that the very issues we study, discuss, and reach agreement upon come from the members of over 1200 local Leagues in all the states. We are nonpartisan in that we, as an organization, do not and will not support a particular candidate or party, but instead monitor closely those issues in the legislative system that are part of our program. Finally, we are multi-issue in that we span a broad spectrum of interests and concerns. Condensing these into a list of numbered priorities at the state level is the responsibility of the state League board, but the selection is based upon input from the local League members in 37 parts of Texas. The following priorities for the 1983 legislative session are the outcome of this process.

There will be five primary areas of importance. These include natural resources, human resources, Texas law and how it applies to women, government, and administration of justice.

First, under natural resources, the three priorities will include water, wastes, and energy.

Water, as a priority, includes the support of state programs to encourage water conservation and more effective management of ground water. Locally, the League will continue to support measures to clean up pollution in Clear Lake to a suitable level for recreational use, and will keep abreast of legislation concerned with flooding.



Wastes, as a priority, includes incentives for resource recovery and appropriate standards for the siting of hazardous waste facilities. The Bay Area will be specifically active in these two areas and in addition will be studying alternatives to currently used waste disposal systems.

In the area of energy, the League will support state programs to promote conservation and use of renewable energy sources.

The second primary area of importance is under the heading of human resources and will include four priorities. These are the support of appropriations of state funds for supportive services for persons in need to compensate for reduced federal funds, well defined procedures for citizen participation in block grant planning and review process, increased Aid to Families with Dependent Children benefits, and adequate funding for public schools.

The third priority area comes from a League study entitled Women under Texas Law. As an outcome of this study, the League of Women Voters of Texas will support post divorce payments in appropriate cases.

The fourth area of legislative priorities is under government. We support the merit selection of judges, ratification of the District of Columbia Congressional Representation Amendment, and a fiscal policy which allows state and local government the flexibility to respond to citizens' needs.

The final area of priorities will be that of the administration of justice. The two legislative targets under this will be support for the expanded programs for community-based alternatives to prison



and support for adequate funding to the Juvenile Probation Commission Jail Standards.

Other League concerns that will receive attention as needed include equitable school financing, education, housing, income assistance, land use, air quality, modernization of state government, and voting rights. The League will also oppose any efforts to rescind the Texas Equal Rights Amendment.

We see this year as one of action at all levels of the League and especially here in Texas and in the Bay Area. As legislators and candidates, we see you as being an integral part of that action and we are, therefore, glad you are concerned enough to hear our upcoming plans, concerns, interests, and proposed action.

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As a follow-up to the speech, a summary of the legislative priorities and a copy of We Support were included in a thank you letter to the legislative participants.

475-1554

May 18, 1981

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Catherine Perrine  
Director of Water



*did not use*

May 28, 1981

TO: Senate Committee on State Affairs  
RE: HJR 7

The League of Women Voters of Texas opposes HJR 7 as it is prima facie a violation of the separation of powers doctrine. This bill would allow a small group of legislators to prevent implementation of legislation or to block administration actions. Administrative oversight of state agencies is and should be a function of the executive branch - not the legislative branch of state government. In fact, steps should be taken to strengthen rather than weaken the executive branch. The League of Women Voters, therefore, believes HJR 7 should be defeated. So did the voters of Texas just two years ago when they defeated this same amendment at the polls. Only when the three branches share the governmental powers equally will the citizens of Texas get the efficient, effective and responsive government that they need.

Helen Hunter  
Associate Director  
Modernizing State Government

13

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Helen Hunter  
Associate Director  
Modernizing State Government

(10)

May 20, 1981

TO: Senate Jurisprudence Committee

Since 1977 the League of Women Voters of Texas has stood opposed to any law that would permit electronic surveillance in Texas.

Viewed from any angle, wiretapping is an insidious invasion of privacy. During a 10-year period legal wiretaps alone accounted for more than 300,000 persons being recorded in over four million conversations in this country. We note that in a recent report on 1980 wiretapping, there was only one federal tap in Texas last year. Lasting 20 days, it intercepted 2,542 conversations, but only 188 were considered incriminating. The longest tap last year was in Louisiana, lasted 180 days, and recorded 22,673 conversations. Obviously, it is impossible not to invade the privacy of the innocent as well as the guilty.

We are just as anxious as other citizens to see an end to illegal drug traffic, but we do not think that state-authorized electronic surveillance would be either an appropriate or successful method to achieve that goal. Surveys show that only 15 percent of all conversations intercepted in narcotics cases are even incriminating. One-third of narcotics wiretaps yield no arrests. Over one-half the federal cases and nearly three-fourths of the state cases fail to yield any convictions. A four-year survey showed that of convictions that did result, half were for the equivalent of a misdemeanor, and another 22 percent ended in 1 to 5 year sentences. Does this sound like electronic surveillance is being successfully used to stop the "kingpins" of drug traffic?

Furthermore wiretapping is a very high-cost tool. State wiretaps average more than \$17,000 now, the cost having skyrocketed 146 percent in the last 5 years. The fiscal note on this bill projects more than \$400,000 per year for the next 5 years! This is like throwing money down one of those Florida sinkholes!

We are sorry to see that with three probable cause requirements to be met for wiretap authorization, in the last 10 years judges have granted more than 99% of applications to wiretap. These figures even held true in 1980 when 564 wiretap orders were granted, but only 2 were denied. The arrest and conviction statistics mentioned earlier simply do not confirm existence of probable causes in a reasonable percentage of cases.

The benefits of state-authorized wiretapping are highly questionable and far outweighed by the risks to individual privacy.

Lois Carpenter  
Administration of Justice



To: Sen. Jurisprudence Cte.

5/20/81  
did not  
give

The LNV-T studied TX juvenile justice in 1977 & '78, finding then that youth justice services were inconsistent and fragmented. They still are. Some counties have good juvenile detention facilities; many don't. Some counties provide juvenile probation services; some don't. Statewide provision of these services is badly needed.

Statewide minimum standards for detention and probation are also needed. While we realize there needs to be some flexibility for local departments to meet their own jurisdiction's needs, we think there should be a basic standard to which all must adhere.

Our conclusion in 1978 was that a single state juvenile justice agency should be created to work in cooperation with local governments and to:

- Develop, expand and coordinate juvenile probation services and community-based corrections;
- Set minimum standards for personnel and agencies which deal with juveniles in the justice system; and,
- Help finance probation services, state correctional institutions, and community-based programs.

You can readily understand then, why we are supporting SB 685. It would accomplish all of these points.

We particularly like its provision that the minimum standards be developed in cooperation with local representatives involved in the juvenile justice system.

Allocation of funds on the basis of juvenile population is a vital provision also, as it can eliminate any tendency to keep children on probation to gain more funding--which is what could happen if funding were based on the numbers of children on probation.

But most of all, we favor the unified single-agency approach of SB 685. We just think it makes good sense for one state agency only to be responsible for services to juveniles charged with serious breaches of the law.

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The League of Women Voters of Texas studied Texas juvenile justice in 1977 and 1978, finding then that youth justice services were inconsistent and frangmented. They still are. Some counties have good juvenile detention facilities; many don't. Some counties provide juvenile probation services; some don't. Statewide provision of these services is badly needed.

Statewide minimum standards for detention and probation are also needed. While we realize there needs to be some flexibility for local departments to meet their own jurisdiction's needs, we think there should be a basic standard to which all must adhere.

Our conclusion in 1978 was that a single state juvenile justice agency should be created to work in cooperation with local governments and to:

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We particularly like its provision that the minimum standards be developed in cooperation with local representatives involved in the juvenile justice system.

Allocation of funds on the basis of juvenile population is a vital provision also, as it can eliminate any tendency to keep children on probation to gain more funding—which is what could happen if funding were based on the numbers of children on probation.

But most of all, we favor the unified single-agency approach of SB 685. We just think it makes good sense for only one state agency to be responsible for services to juveniles charged with serious breaches of the law.

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Administration of Justice

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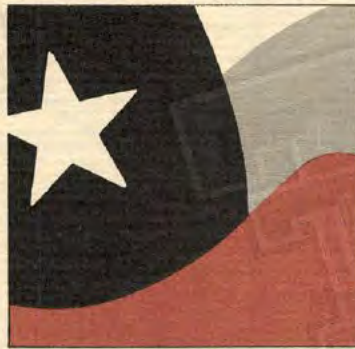
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1212 Guadalupe Suite 109 • Austin, Texas 78701 • Tel. 512/472-1100  
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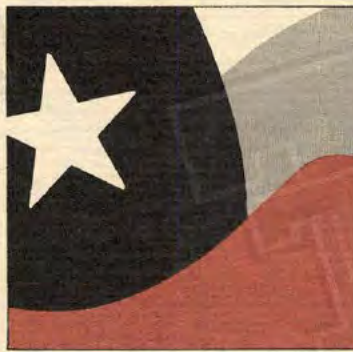
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Administration of Justice





League of Women Voters of Texas  
1212 Guadalupe Suite 109 • Austin, Texas 78701 • Tel. 512/472-1100

May 11, 1981

HJR 33 (Clayton)

TO THE SENATE FINANCE COMMITTEE:

I am Catherine Perrine, speaking for the League of Women Voters of Texas. The League strongly opposes several provisions of HJR 33.

We have long opposed the dedication of state tax revenues for specific purposes, believing that such earmarking unwisely restricts the ability of future legislatures to respond to changing state needs. It is not possible to foresee in the 1980's what needs will be most urgent in the next century.

Moreover, we see no necessity for the vastly expanded state role in the financing of water projects envisioned by this proposed amendment. State subsidies for water development projects will discourage the conservation and more efficient use of water needed to avoid future water shortages. These projects should be paid for chiefly by user charges, rather than state tax revenues. State financial assistance should continue to be limited to hardship cases--the small communities and water districts that cannot finance their projects through the commercial bond market.

In recent years (1977-79) about 70 percent of the costs of Texas water projects have been financed by water districts, cities, and river authorities through the commercial bond market. The Texas Water Development Fund has supplied about 5 percent of the funding, with the rest coming from federal agencies.

Current annual spending rates for water projects, amounting to almost \$700 million per year, are more than adequate to cover estimated costs of all major water supply, water treatment, and flood control projects that have been identified by the Texas Department of Water Resources as needed over the next twenty-five years.

These estimates do not include the cost of importation of out-of-state water to replace declining ground water supplies used for irrigated agriculture in the Texas Panhandle. Construction costs for a project to move Arkansas water to the Panhandle were recently estimated by the Corps of Engineers to run as high as \$40 billion. State funds should not be made available for a project of this magnitude until costs and alternatives have been thoroughly examined. The Six-State High Plains Ogallala Aquifer Study, scheduled for completion next year, will provide much additional information on these costs and alternatives.



Advocates of the state water fund stress that local financing of water projects is increasingly difficult because of high interest rates and expanding needs of the state's fast-growing metropolitan areas. However, no evidence has been offered to indicate that the funding of such projects is any more difficult than the financing of other new capital expenses, such as streets, schools, and public buildings.

The "crisis" in water supplies is also exaggerated by proponents of the new water fund. Current use of surface water in Texas, about 5.9 million acre-feet per year, is much less than the firm drought-year yield of existing reservoirs--about 11 million acre-feet per year. It is also significant that two-thirds of the potential yield of Texas river basins has already been developed: 11 million of 16.3 million acre-feet. State plans and policies to encourage the most efficient use of the state's ground water and surface water will do more to avert a future water crisis than state subsidies to unspecified water projects.

The League foresees serious problems for the appropriations process that would be created by the proposed amendment. The "surplus" revenues that would go into the new special funds at the end of each biennium include all monies over the amounts estimated by the comptroller as available for appropriation. This provision allows the comptroller to determine revenue allocations that should be the responsibility of the legislature. In the past, funds remaining in the state treasury at the end of one biennium have been appropriated for use in the following biennium. If the legislature begins the appropriation process without a surplus carried over, cuts in state services or new taxes may be required.

We agree with the concept of setting aside surplus revenues in future bienniums in a general-purpose "rainy day" fund to meet state needs in the next century, when revenues from oil and gas taxes may decline sharply. But we believe that these amounts should be set aside as a part of the appropriations process, rather than by a constitutional amendment.

We strongly oppose the amendment's proposal for use of tax revenues to pay off state bonds. Water development bonds, and other outstanding bonds, are now being retired by repayments of loans. The amendment would allow these repayments, which will amount to \$400 million for the water development loans, to be used for new loans. Contrary to the implication of the ballot proposal, the effect of the amendment would not be "to retire state debt" any sooner than would otherwise occur, but to authorize additional funding for water projects, veterans loans, etc. without a clear indication of these authorizations to the voters. As you remember, Texas voters turned down a proposal to authorize issuance of \$400 million of additional water development bonds in 1976.

We support the provision of the proposed amendment that increases the interest ceiling on bonds already authorized by the voters. This provision would enable the Texas Water Development Board to issue \$218.6 million in additional bonds already approved to finance water projects--an amount sufficient to continue loan assistance at recent rates for about six more years. The increase in interest ceilings should be submitted to the voters as a separate proposal, without being tied to other provisions of HJR 33.

The League urges that your committee reject all other provisions of HJR 33 because of their adverse consequences for both the state's water resources and state finances.



(11)

May 7, 1981

TO: The Senate Committee for Human Resources  
RE: HJR 62

The League of Women Voters has long supported the position that eligibility for welfare assistance be based on need, and that the benefit levels be sufficient to provide decent, adequate standards for food, clothing and shelter. We support the idea that revision of these "levels" take place periodically to take into account changes in the purchasing value of the dollar, inflation, increased unemployment and decreasing federal spending.

We believe that the legislature should have the responsibility to meet the needs of the people of our state when those needs require prompt action. Constitutional limitations on welfare spending preclude any flexibility to deal with those needs when they arise.

We urge you to consider 25% of all Texas children, 22% of all Texas elderly and 15% of all Texans now living below the poverty line and pass HJR 62 favorably from committee.

Diana Clark  
President

Lavora Arizaga  
Human Resources



TO: The Senate Committee for Human Resources

RE: HJR 62

*welfare*  
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*delete*  
We urge you to consider ~~the~~ 25% of all Texas children, 22% of all Texas elderly and 15% of all Texans now living below the poverty line and pass HJR 62 favorably from committee.

*From AR 2A, PA  
Human Resources*

able to draw on the expertise of League members who are lawyers, scholars and teachers concerned with women's issues."

During "I Wish the League Would," Rebecca Bergstresser said that in their caucus several issues had been brought up: property rights, credit, probate, child support, spouse abuse.

Concerning this issue, Dallas also suggested that the Texas League should plan an educational outreach program addressed to League members, women's groups, and civic and community organizations. What do you think?



May 7, 1981

TO: The Senate Committee for Human Resources  
RE: HJR 62

The League of Women Voters has long supported the position that eligibility for welfare assistance be based on need, and that the benefit levels be sufficient to provide decent, adequate standards for food, clothing and shelter. We support the idea that revision of these "levels" take place periodically to take into account changes in the purchasing value of the dollar, inflation, increased unemployment and decreasing federal spending.

We believe that the legislature should have the responsibility to meet the needs of the people of our state when those needs require prompt action. Constitutional limitations on welfare spending preclude any flexibility to deal with those needs when they arise.

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Diana Clark  
President

Lavora Arizaga  
Human Resources

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Diana Clark  
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Human Resources



SB 1042  
1981

*did not  
rise*

May 6, 1981

STATEMENT BEFORE THE STATE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE OF THE TEXAS SENATE

I am Nancy Bene presenting comments on SB 1042 for Meg Titus, Associate Director for Air Quality for the League of Women Voters of Texas, who was unable to attend this committee meeting today.

The League of Women Voters of Texas has had a long standing commitment to improving the air quality in the urban areas of our state, and to preserving the clean air in areas of our state still having clean air. Our support for Senator Brooks' bill today stems from positions taken after study of air quality at both the state and national levels as well as from our concern for protecting the public health. Meg Titus was in Washington in early March and, as a member of the LWVUS Environmental Quality Committee, present when the National Commission on Air Quality, chaired by Senator Hart, presented their findings and their recommendations to Congress regarding the Clean Air Act. We have done a careful and detailed examination of that voluminous document and can find no evidence that any of the Inspection and Maintenance programs now in place in various other states have any serious problems with implementation. For example, the earliest of these programs, in New Jersey, still has wide public acceptance and has proven to be a cost effective way in which to reduce hydrocarbons, carbon monoxide and other automobile pollutants. This and other I/M programs such as those in Portland and Phoenix were part of the Commission study which found many benefits and few problems with the program as implemented to date.

Our organization and the National Clean Air Coalition of which we are members, finds the recommendations in the National Commission on Air Quality's report supportive of retaining the sanctions which the EPA is mandated to impose in states not providing an I/M plan for areas not able to meet the standards by 1982.

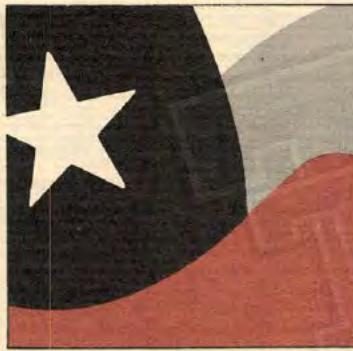
Last session, with strong support of Houston League members, we endorsed HB 726 which established an <sup>inspection & maintenance</sup> pilot program in Houston. We believe now, as we did then that Texas must have an I/M plan in place for two reasons:

- (1) to make a start at improving the very real air quality problems in Houston and Harris County which are continually being exacerbated by industrial growth and population increases along the Gulf Coast
- (2) to avoid the sanctions mandated by the Clean Air Act Amendments of 1977 which could result in restrictions on further permits for sources and a cut-off of various federal funded programs.

The League urges you to vote this bill out of committee favorably for full Senate debate. We believe it is in the best interest of all Texans to give the Department of Public Safety and the Texas Air Control Board the authority to develop and I/M program in areas of our state requiring it.

Thank you for the opportunity to present the League's comments in support of this bill.





*Not presented*

League of Women Voters of Texas  
1212 Guadalupe Suite 109 • Austin, Texas 78701 • Tel. 512/472-1100

May 6, 1981

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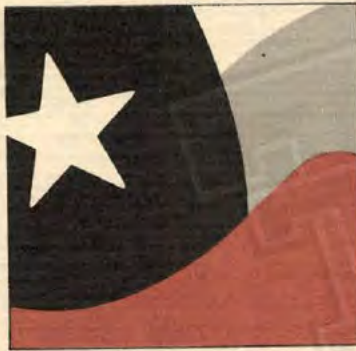
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Meg Titus  
Air Associate Director





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Diana Clark  
President

Meg Titus  
Air Associate Director



15

*Subcommittee  
on utilities*

May 4, 1981

TO: Members of the Committee on State Affairs  
RE: HB 1366 (Polk)

The League of Women Voters of Texas supports HB 1366 by Representative Polk, which amends the Texas Housing Agency Act to enable it to provide loans for solar energy equipment and installations.

The League believes that we cannot continue our recent energy growth rate without serious consequences. We feel great emphasis should be placed on conservation with increased reliance on solar and other renewable energy sources.

The major barriers to a solar transition in Texas are the amount of initial capital required for installing solar devices and the fact that Texas has no major incentives such as an income tax credit to offer. Therefore, it becomes very important in some way to assist owners who are inclined to use solar energy but unable to cope with <sup>the initial</sup> ~~its~~ first cost. The League believes HB 1366, by providing loan funds at this critical point, could be of valuable assistance to the development of solar energy use in Texas.

We encourage you to support HB 1366.

Isabel Miller  
Energy

15

May 4, 1981

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Isabel Miller  
Energy



*Committee letters from Isabel*

*11 members*

*Energy Division*

*2:10 PM  
At. Downing  
Comm. Room*

To: Members of the Senate Committee on Natural Resources  
The League of Women Voters Texas SUPPORTS SB 281 by Senator Mengden, which establishes thermal and lighting standards for buildings.

The League has been actively involved with implementing the Federal Energy Conservation and Production Act since its passage in 1976 and views this proposed legislation as a necessary next step in achieving energy-conservation goals for Texas. With current problems relating to foreign oil supplies and nuclear energy, every conservation possibility becomes increasingly important.

Approximately one-third of our annual energy consumption is used to provide heating, cooling, and lighting in buildings. Almost half of this could be saved without altering comfort or convenience. Buildings built without concern for this saving will waste millions of dollars worth of energy in their lifetimes. But the persons who design and construct buildings seldom are the ones who pay their utility costs, and they often lack adequate incentive to produce energy-efficient structures. The League feels that thermal and lighting standards are essential to an effective conservation program.

Developing performance standards in addition to prescriptive standards provides flexibility as it encourages innovation in design in solving energy-conservation goals for building.

We strongly encourage your support of SB 281.

13 members

To the members of the House Committee on Ways and Means

The League of Women Voters of Texas supports HB 673 by Representative Polk, allowing for prorated franchise-tax exemption for those corporations whose business is partly but not wholly involved with solar energy.

The League of Women Voters is concerned that an abundant Texas resource, solar energy (sun, wind, plants, falling water), be rapidly developed to maintain our state energy self-sufficiency and to provide an excellent labor-intensive new industry. Since many corporations producing solar equipment are not exclusively "solar", the present franchise-tax exemption is not applicable to them. It therefore does not serve to stimulate this industry to the maximum extent possible.

We feel that HB 673 is a desirable revision of the tax laws, and we encourage the Committee on Ways and Means to support this bill.

Send also to members of Senate Committee on Finance, Subtitle  
B, Section 1001-1002, 1003, 1004, 1005, 1006, 1007, 1008, 1009, 1010, 1011, 1012, 1013, 1014, 1015, 1016, 1017, 1018, 1019, 1020, 1021, 1022, 1023, 1024, 1025, 1026, 1027, 1028, 1029, 1030, 1031, 1032, 1033, 1034, 1035, 1036, 1037, 1038, 1039, 1040, 1041, 1042, 1043, 1044, 1045, 1046, 1047, 1048, 1049, 1050, 1051, 1052, 1053, 1054, 1055, 1056, 1057, 1058, 1059, 1060, 1061, 1062, 1063, 1064, 1065, 1066, 1067, 1068, 1069, 1070, 1071, 1072, 1073, 1074, 1075, 1076, 1077, 1078, 1079, 1080, 1081, 1082, 1083, 1084, 1085, 1086, 1087, 1088, 1089, 1090, 1091, 1092, 1093, 1094, 1095, 1096, 1097, 1098, 1099, 1100, 1101, 1102, 1103, 1104, 1105, 1106, 1107, 1108, 1109, 1110, 1111, 1112, 1113, 1114, 1115, 1116, 1117, 1118, 1119, 1120, 1121, 1122, 1123, 1124, 1125, 1126, 1127, 1128, 1129, 1130, 1131, 1132, 1133, 1134, 1135, 1136, 1137, 1138, 1139, 1140, 1141, 1142, 1143, 1144, 1145, 1146, 1147, 1148, 1149, 1150, 1151, 1152, 1153, 1154, 1155, 1156, 1157, 1158, 1159, 1160, 1161, 1162, 1163, 1164, 1165, 1166, 1167, 1168, 1169, 1170, 1171, 1172, 1173, 1174, 1175, 1176, 1177, 1178, 1179, 1180, 1181, 1182, 1183, 1184, 1185, 1186, 1187, 1188, 1189, 1190, 1191, 1192, 1193, 1194, 1195, 1196, 1197, 1198, 1199, 1200, 1201, 1202, 1203, 1204, 1205, 1206, 1207, 1208, 1209, 1210, 1211, 1212, 1213, 1214, 1215, 1216, 1217, 1218, 1219, 1220, 1221, 1222, 1223, 1224, 1225, 1226, 1227, 1228, 1229, 1230, 1231, 1232, 1233, 1234, 1235, 1236, 1237, 1238, 1239, 1240, 1241, 1242, 1243, 1244, 1245, 1246, 1247, 1248, 1249, 1250, 1251, 1252, 1253, 1254, 1255, 1256, 1257, 1258, 1259, 1260, 1261, 1262, 1263, 1264, 1265, 1266, 1267, 1268, 1269, 1270, 1271, 1272, 1273, 1274, 1275, 1276, 1277, 1278, 1279, 1280, 1281, 1282, 1283, 1284, 1285, 1286, 1287, 1288, 1289, 1290, 1291, 1292, 1293, 1294, 1295, 1296, 1297, 1298, 1299, 1300, 1301, 1302, 1303, 1304, 1305, 1306, 1307, 1308, 1309, 1310, 1311, 1312, 1313, 1314, 1315, 1316, 1317, 1318, 1319, 1320, 1321, 1322, 1323, 1324, 1325, 1326, 1327, 1328, 1329, 1330, 1331, 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2992, 2993, 2994, 2995, 2996, 2997, 2998, 2999, 3000, 3001, 3002,



TO: Members of the Committee on State Affairs  
RE: HB 1366 Polk

The League of Women Voters of Texas supports HB 1366 by Representative Polk which amends the Texas Housing Agency Act to enable it to provide loans for solar energy equipment and installations.

The League believes that we cannot continue our recent energy growth rate without serious consequences. We feel great emphases should be placed on conservation with increased reliance on solar and other renewable energy sources.

The major barriers to a solar transition in Texas are the amount of initial capital required for installing solar devices and the fact that Texas has no major incentives such as an income tax credit to offer. Therefore, it becomes very important in some way, to assist owners who are inclined to use solar energy but unable to cope with its first cost. The League believes HB 1366, by providing loan funds at this critical point, could be of valuable assistance to the development of solar energy use in Texas.

We encourage you to support HB 1366

Isabel Miller



To: Members of the Committee on State Affairs

The League of Women Voters of Texas supports HB 1366 by Representative Falk which amends the Texas Housing Agency Act to enable it to provide loans for solar energy equipment and installations.

The League believes that we cannot continue our recent energy growth rate without serious consequences. We feel great emphasis should be placed on conservation with increased reliance on solar and other renewable energy sources. <sup>in Texas</sup> The major barriers to a solar transition are the <sup>amount of</sup> initial capital required <sup>for installing solar devices</sup> and the fact that, Texas has no major incentive such as an income tax credit to offer, such as ~~be partially waived as has been done in other states~~ where use of solar devices is proceeding at a rapid rate.

Therefore it becomes very important, in some way, to assist owners who are inclined to use solar energy but unable to cope with its first cost. The League believes HB 1366, by providing <sup>loan funds</sup> ~~at this critical point,~~ could be of valuable assistance to the development of solar energy use in Texas ~~by providing loan funds,~~

We encourage you to support HB 1366



*Goes to SB 267*

To the members of the House Committee on Ways and Means

The League of Women Voters of Texas supports HB 673 by Representative Polk, allowing for prorated franchise-tax exemption for those corporations whose business is partly but not wholly ~~en~~involved with solar energy.

The League of Women Voters is concerned that an abundant Texas resource, solar energy (sun, wind, plants, falling water), be rapidly developed to maintain our state energy self-sufficiency and to provide an excellent labor-intensive new industry. Since many corporations producing solar equipment are not exclusively "solar", the present franchise-tax exemption is not applicable to them. It therefore does not serve to stimulate this industry to the maximum extent possible.

We feel that HB 673 is a desirable revision of the tax laws, and we encourage the Committee on Ways and Means to support this bill.

*Companion bill is SB 267 Sentiesteban in Senate Comm on Finance. Repeat for this comm.*

*2ues  
2:15  
Energy Resources  
Room C - Reagan*

TO: Members of Committee on Energy Resources  
RE: HB 1335 Hanna

The League of Women Voters of Texas supports HB 1335 by Representative Hanna, which requires plans for new state buildings to include uses of solar energy wherever each such use would be economically advantageous over the economic life of the building.

The League feels that widespread use of renewable energy, especially solar energy, will be essential in the future to maintain energy independence for Texas. We have abundant sunshine. Judicious and innovative use of it in state buildings for heat and light would save fossil fuel, save state money, and demonstrate to the citizens of Texas the effectiveness of using the sun as an energy source in major buildings.

We encourage you to support HB 1335

*W*alsabel Miller

CB SB 637 Senator Brown Natural Resources



HB: Members of Committee on Energy Resources

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We encourage you to support HB 1335

Companion bill SB 637, Senator Brown  
Senate Comm on Natural Resources

9

May 4, 1981

TO: Members of the Subcommittee on Civil Matters of the Senate  
Committee on Jurisprudence  
RE: SB 542 (Mengden)

The League of Women Voters of Texas believes it is essential that we expand our reliance on domestically available renewable energy as rapidly as is feasible.

Throughout Texas, there is an abundance of solar energy available on most days during the year. Its use is cost-effective for water heating in all areas; for space heating in all but the southern area of the state.

The potential for wind generated energy in Texas, concentrated primarily in the high plains and the coastal areas, is equal to six times the installed electrical generating capacity of the state.

All legal barriers to the development of these energy sources should be removed. Moreover, the League feels that the reference to "access" in line 22, page 1 of the bill should be defined later to include requirement that subdivisions be platted to afford maximum solar access, i.e., with at least 80% of all lots facing north or south if terrain permits.

Builders in the city of Port Arthur, which has adopted such an ordinance, report saving one-half ton of air conditioner capacity per apartment due to virtual elimination of east and west windows on which shading from sun is impossible. In areas of more severe cold, the major saving would be in heating costs because of access to more winter sunlight through windows of the longer south walls (which can easily be shaded in summer by overhangs).

No single change, probably, could save as much energy as painlessly, favorably affecting the utility bills of both solar activists and of people who have never considered solar energy. And with flexibility written in for mitigating circumstances, no burden would be put on the developers. One large developer in Port Arthur actively supported and none opposed the adoption of that city's ordinance.

The League of Women Voters of Texas supports SB 542 and recommends this suggested inclusion. (We regret that this testimony was not given at the hearing of the Committee on Jurisprudence, but we failed to get the notification of the hearing.)

Isabel Miller  
Energy



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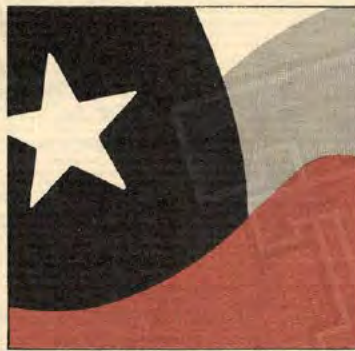
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Isabel Miller  
Energy





League of Women Voters of Texas  
1212 Guadalupe Suite 109 • Austin, Texas 78701 • Tel. 512/472-1100

April 30, 1981

TO: All Members of the House of Representatives

RE: Juvenile Probation Services

When our organization studied Texas juvenile justice in 1977 and 1978, we found that youth justice services were inconsistent and fragmented.

They remain that way today. If juvenile probation and detention services are provided at all, it is by the county; but there are no state guidelines for personnel qualifications, programs, or facilities. Functions performed by juvenile probation officers in Texas are not standardized; each department established its own procedures in response to the resources, problems, and needs in its jurisdiction.

Our conclusion in 1978 was that a single state juvenile justice agency should be created to work in cooperation with local governments and to:

- . Develop, expand, and coordinate juvenile probation services and community-based corrections;
- . Set minimum standards for personnel and agencies which deal with juveniles in the justice system; and,
- . Help finance probation services, state correctional institutions, and community-based programs.

This is the approach recommended by the Special Committee on Delivery of Human Services in 1980. It would ensure the elimination of overlapping services as well as facilitate state and local coordination. It would not replace county juvenile probation boards and departments or local funding of those services.

We strongly prefer the unified single agency approach toward statewide juvenile probation services. If such services were started by combining adult and juvenile probation, as provided in HB 1704, we think it would become extremely difficult to achieve a single state juvenile justice agency in the future. The key question over the long term is: What is needed to best help Texas' children in trouble? We think the single juvenile justice agency has the best potential.

Diana Clark  
President  
League of Women Voters of Texas

Lois Carpenter  
Director  
Administration of Justice



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apx 30

April 13, 1981

*all members of the House of Representatives*

TO: ~~Members of the House Security and Sanctions Committee~~

RE: Juvenile Probation Services

When our organization studied Texas juvenile justice in 1977 and 1978, we found that youth justice services were inconsistent and fragmented.

They remain that way today. If juvenile probation and detention services are provided at all, it is by the county; but there are no state guidelines for personnel qualifications, programs, or facilities. Functions performed by juvenile probation officers in Texas are not standardized; each department established its own procedures in response to the resources, problems, and needs in its jurisdiction.

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This is the approach recommended by the Special Committee on Delivery of Human Services in 1980. It would ensure the elimination of overlapping services as well as facilitate state and local coordination. It would not replace county juvenile probation boards and departments or local funding of those services.

We strongly prefer the unified single agency approach toward state wide juvenile probation services. *as proposed in HB 702* If such services were started by combining adult and juvenile probation, we think it would become extremely difficult to achieve a single state juvenile justice agency in the future. The key question over the long term is: What is needed to best help Texas' children in trouble? We think the single juvenile justice agency has the best potential.

Diana Clark  
President  
League of Women Voters of Texas

Lois Carpenter  
Director  
Administration of Justice

April 13, 1981

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We strongly prefer the unified single agency approach toward state wide juvenile probation services. If such services were started by combining adult and juvenile probation, we think, it would become extremely difficult to achieve a single state juvenile justice agency in the future. The key question over the long term is: What is needed to best help Texas' children in trouble? We think the single juvenile justice agency has the best potential.

Diana Clark  
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House Security & Sanctions

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Security &  
Sanctions

March 30, 1981

TO: Members of the Senate Jurisprudence Committee  
RE: SB 685 Farabee *Juvenile Probation Services*

When our organization studied Texas juvenile justice in 1977 and 1978, we found that youth justice services were inconsistent and fragmented.

They remain that way today. If juvenile probation and detention services are provided at all, it is by the county; but there are no state guidelines for personnel qualifications, programs, or facilities. Functions performed by juvenile probation officers in Texas are not standardized; each department establishes its own procedures in response to the resources, problems, and needs in its jurisdiction.

Our conclusion in 1978 was that a single state juvenile justice agency should be created to work in cooperation with local governments and to:

- Develop, expand, and coordinate juvenile probation services and community-based corrections;
- Set minimum standards for personnel and agencies which deal with juveniles in the justice system; and,
- Help finance probation services, state correctional institutions, and community-based programs.

SB 685 would establish the Texas Department of Juvenile Services and fulfill these requirements. We urge you to consider it favorably.

*in 1980.*  
*agreed*  
We agree with the Special Committee on Delivery of Human Services that this is the approach ~~would ensure~~ *recommended by* the elimination of overlapping services as well as facilitate state and local coordination. It would not replace county juvenile probation boards and departments or local funding of those services.

Two other bills have been filed which we realize would also provide statewide juvenile probation services; but we strongly prefer the unified, single agency approach of SB 685. If statewide juvenile probation services were started with passage of SB 82 or SB 1010, it would be even more difficult to achieve a single state juvenile justice agency in the future. The key question over the long term is: What is needed to best help Texas' children in trouble? We think the single juvenile justice agency has the best potential.

Diana Clark  
President  
League of Women Voters of Texas

Lois Carpenter  
Director  
Administration of Justice



PUBLICATIONS ORDER FORM

DATE \_\_\_\_\_

LEAGUE AND/OR PERSON PLACING ORDER \_\_\_\_\_

SHIP TO \_\_\_\_\_

(Name)

(Address)

(Zip)

SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS \_\_\_\_\_

NOTE: Parcel Post/Third Class Postage---free

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Quantity

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Price

For office use only: .

/Date shipped \_\_\_\_\_ .

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Quantity discount \_\_\_\_\_

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5% SALES TAX \_\_\_\_\_

Chgs. for Spec. Inst. \_\_\_\_\_

TOTAL ENCLOSED \_\_\_\_\_

March 30, 1981

TO: Members of the Senate Jurisprudence Committee  
RE: SB 685 Farabee

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- . Set minimum standards for personnel and agencies which deal with juveniles in the justice system; and,
- . Help finance probation services, state correctional institutions, and community-based programs.

SB 685 would establish the Texas Department of Juvenile Services and fulfill these requirements. We urge you to consider it favorably.

We agree with the Special Committee on Delivery of Human Services that this approach would ensure the elimination of overlapping services as well as facilitate state and local coordination. It would not replace county juvenile probation boards and departments or local funding of those services.

Two other bills have been filed which we realize would also provide statewide juvenile probation services; but we strongly prefer the unified, single agency approach of SB 685. If statewide juvenile probation services were started with passage of SB 82 or SB 1010, it would be even more difficult to achieve a single state juvenile justice agency in the future. The key question over the long term is: What is needed to best help Texas' children in trouble? We think the single juvenile justice agency has the best potential.

Diana Clark  
President  
League of Women Voters of Texas

Lois Carpenter  
Director  
Administration of Justice



FARAJEE

IN REFERENCE TO SB 685, ~~SB 82, AND SB 1010~~

MAR 30 1981

To all members of the Senate Jurisprudence Committee:

When our organization studied Texas juvenile justice in 1977 and 1978, we found that youth justice services were inconsistent and fragmented.

They remain that way today. If juvenile probation and detention services are provided at all, it is by the county; but there are no state guidelines for personnel qualifications, programs, or facilities. Functions performed by juvenile probation officers in Texas are not standardized; each department establishes its own procedures in response to the resources, problems, and needs in its jurisdiction.

Our conclusion in 1978 was that a single state juvenile justice agency should be created to work in cooperation with local governments and to:

- . Develop, expand, and coordinate juvenile probation services and community-based corrections;
- . Set minimum standards for personnel and agencies which deal with juveniles in the justice system; and,
- . Help finance probation services, state correctional institutions, and community-based programs.

SB 685 would establish the Texas Department of Juvenile Services and fulfill these requirements. We urge you to consider it favorably.

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Diana Clark

President

League of Women Voters of Texas

Lois Carpenter

Director

Administration of Justice



APR 30 1981

Dear S.O. and Company

✓ Here's the annual report which has been ready for days waiting for other things to go with it that didn't get done.

Here's testimony for a sub-committee. I don't know whether they hold hearings or whether ~~xx~~ you just mail it to them. I called on Wednesday or Thursday last week, was tied up with a talk to the Cleburne Unit Thursday and Friday, an office deadline Monday and it slipped by me.

I still have 2 or 3 testimony statements to write and I'm still trying to weed out and see which of these bills to designate as the first priority. It is between SB 281 and HB 1191 now but I won't know until tomorrow. SB281 is inclusive but very weak; all the others are just bits and pieces.

I probably will have called you before you get this. That is a useful statement!

*Isabel*

From : Isabel Miller

APR 30 1981

To: Members of the Sub-committee on Civil Matters of the Senate  
Committee on Jurisprudence

SB 542 Mangum

9

The League of Women Voters of Texas believes it is essential that we expand our reliance on domestically available renewable energy as rapidly as is feasible.

Throughout Texas, there is an abundance of solar energy available on most days during the year. Its use is cost-effective for water heating in all areas; for space heating, in all but the southern area of the state.

The potential for wind generated energy in Texas, concentrated primarily in the high plains and the coastal areas, is equal to six times the installed electrical generating capacity of the state.

All legal barriers to the development of these energy sources should be removed. Moreover, the League feels that the reference to "access" in line 22, page 1 of the bill should be defined later to include requirement that subdivisions be platted to afford maximum solar access, i.e., with at least 80% of all lots facing north or south if terrain permits.

Builders in the City of Port Arthur, which has adopted such an ordinance, report saving one-half ton of air conditioner capacity per apartment due to virtual elimination of east and west windows on which shading from sun is impossible. In areas of more severe cold, the major saving would be in heating costs because of access to more winter sunlight through windows of the longer south walls (which can easily be shaded in summer by overhangs).

No single change, probably, could save as much energy as painlessly, favorably affecting the utility bills of both solar activists and of people who have never considered solar energy. And with flexibility written in for mitigating circumstances, no burden would be put on the developers. <sup>One large</sup> The developers in Port Arthur actively <sup>supported and none</sup> ~~did not~~ opposed the adoption of that city's ordinance.

The League of Women Voters of Texas supports SB 542 and recommends this suggested inclusion. (We regret that this testimony was not given at the hearing of the Committee on Jurisprudence, but we failed to get the notification of the hearing.)



4/14/81

The Honorable Senator  
State Capitol, Room #  
Austin, Texas 78711

Dear Senator ,

On April 14, I presented testimony on behalf of the League of Women Voters of Texas in support of SJR 2 by Senator Mengden. Because you were unable to be present when I had our position statement, I thought it might be helpful to you to be aware of our concerns.

We support SJR 2 because it provides for both initiative and referendum and includes appropriate safeguards with the exception of one issue - voter education of ballot measures. In order to address this concern, Senator Mengden has submitted an amendment to the enabling legislation (SB 1224) which would include this additional safeguard.

Enclosed with this note is the testimony I presented on April 14 and the league's position paper on initiative and referendum which explains our position more fully.

Thank you for your consideration.

**J**  
Jeanette Davis  
Director  
Government

Senator's  
Capitol  
Anticipation  
min  
JARA Bee  
P2RICK

April 14, 1981

TO: Members of the Senate Committee on Jurisprudence  
RE: SJR 2

The League of Women Voters of Texas supports enactment of constitutional and statutory initiative and statutory referendum by petition. But in order to guarantee the integrity of these direct democracy tools and protect against frivolous legislation, the following provisions are recommended.

- . There should be legal review of a proposal before the signatures are gathered.
- . Petition signatures should represent statewide distribution and be equal to 10-15 percent of the number voting in the last gubernatorial election.
- . Signatures should be collected by volunteers.
- . Any funds used for or against a proposal should be fully disclosed as to the amounts and sources.
- . Voters should be fully informed about all proposals by such means as public notices, hearings, public service announcements and/or information packets mailed to every registered voting household.

With these restrictions, the League believes initiative and referendum can be an effective complement to representative government without subjecting it to shrill and extremist demands.

2. which you are considering today, contains the safeguards the League believes should be included in legislation providing for initiative and referendum with one exception. There is no provision made for voter education. We encourage you to consider amending SJR 2 to assure fully-informed voters on all measures presented then by petition. With such an amendment, the League urges you to give SJR 2 your favorable recommendation.

Diana Clark  
President  
League of Women Voters of Texas

Jeanette R. Davis  
Director  
Government



April 14, 1981

TO: MEMBERS OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON JURISPRUDENCE

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Diana Clark  
President  
League of Women Voters of Texas

Jeanette R. Davis  
Director  
Government



file  
9  
April 7, 1981

TO: The House Constitutional Amendments Committee  
RE: HJR 38 (Simpson)

The League of Women Voters of Texas supports a strong executive with budget authority. We believe such authority would make agencies more accountable to the executive as well as to other elected officials. If the governor could transfer funds among budget items as necessary, emergencies and changing conditions could be handled in a timely fashion. The creation of the state finance management committee would assure that a governor could not act in an arbitrary or unwarranted manner.

The League spoke in support of HJR 86 two years ago and supported Amendment #5 last November. We would also support HJR 38 when it reaches the ballot in November, 1982. We urge the committee to report HJR 38 favorably.

Diana Clark  
President  
League of Women Voters of Texas

Helen Hunter  
Director  
MSG Association

TO: THE HOUSE CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS COMMITTEE

RE: HJR 38 (Simpson)

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April 7, 1981

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Diana Clark  
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League of Women Voters of Texas

Helen Hunter  
Director  
MSG Association

✓

(9)  
file

April 7, 1981

TO: House Committee on Constitutional Amendments  
RE: HJR 47 (Ware)

The League of Women Voters supports HJR 47 which would create a Judicial Nominating Commission.

The League believes that the merit system combines the best features of appointment and control by the people through the election process.

Under the present judicial election system, judges are placed in a position of having to seek political contributions as well as spending time for campaigning away from their judicial duties. The voters are often apathetic and poorly informed about the important choices they are making. In all but the smallest communities voters have little or no acquaintance with the judicial candidates or their qualifications. The League would like to remove politics as far as possible from the judicial selection process and we believe that HJR 47 would be an important step in providing a well-qualified non-partisan judicial system.

Diana Clark  
President  
League of Women Voters of Texas

Helen Hunter  
Director  
MSG Association



House Committee ~~Meeting~~ on Constitutional Amendments

Re: HJR 47 (Ware)

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We urge your support for HJR 47.

*could believe that HJR 47 would be an important non-partisan step in providing a well-qualified ~~judges~~ judicial system.*

*John Hunter  
MSG Association  
Director*

April 7, 1981

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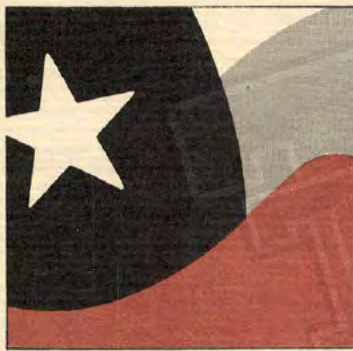
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Helen Hunter  
Director  
MSG Association





League of Women Voters of Texas  
1212 Guadalupe Suite 109 • Austin, Texas 78701 • Tel. 512/472-1100

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Diana Clark  
President  
League of Women Voters of Texas

Helen Hunter  
Director  
MSG Association



APR 6 1981

Testimony

April 2, 1981

To: Nancy Bene  
From: Helen Hunter  
Re: HJR 47 Ware

Jeanette Davis called me about this bill. She has been getting requests from Rep. Ware about the League supporting it. She asked me to write something about our position that she could have some answers for him and for you in case someone may have a chance to make a statement. This is what the bill is all about. Enclosed is material for a possible statement.

This bill would create a Judicial Nominating Commission of 11 members, majority nonlawyers, appointed by the governor, lt. governor, and speaker of the house. Members serve 6 year staggered terms.

When a vacancy occurs in an appellate court the commission submits to the governor 3 nominees within 45 days of vacancy. ~~If the governor does not pick one within 90 days~~ The governor must pick from this list within 90 days or the lt. governor may make the appointment.

At the first general election held more than 10 months after appointment, and each 6 years thereafter the judges must run on a nonpartisan ballot for approval or rejection. (Yes or No)

This bill allows the legislature to extend the method of selection to include judges of district courts or any class court created by statute-district or county judges. The commission would be a separate group. A District nominating commission.



APR 6 1981

The LWV supports HJR 47 creating a Judicial Nominating Commission to submit names of qualified candidates for judicial appointments to the governor; gubernatorial appointments of judges from the names submitted; and nonpartisan elections in which the voter may cast a "yes" or "no" vote on the question of retaining the appointees of office for a full term. Failure of an appointee to win approval in any election would create a vacancy, which would be filled by the same nomination-appointment process. Under this system there would be no party label, and no opponent.

A major drawback to popular elections is the expense involved. Should a judge be faced with the necessity for asking for contributions? The court must involve itself in politics and the justices must take the time to campaign that should be devoted to the duties of <sup>the</sup> his office. Also, the skills necessary for running a successful election campaign have little in common with the needs of the bench and the candidate with a flair for politics has a distinct advantage, while their qualifications are often overlooked. Many times election is by an apathetic and poorly informed electorate. In all but the smallest communities voters have little or no acquaintance with the judicial candidates and especially with their judicial qualifications, and the choices the voters make are mostly blind guesses. The League would like to ~~have~~ remove politics as far as possible from the judicial selection.

The League believes that the merit system that provides selection by a combination of nomination by commission, executive appointment, and non-competitive, nonpartisan election combines the best features of appointment and control by the people through the election process.

24

April 1, 1981

TO: Senate State Affairs Committee and  
House Committee on Elections

RE: SB 610 (Ogg)  
HB 1008 (G. Hill)

The League of Women Voters of Texas supports recodification of election laws of Texas to eliminate obsolete matter and clarify ambiguous provisions.

The proposed election code which you are considering today rearranges the presentation of the law, clarifies language, and simplifies election procedures, thereby making election laws easier to administer.

The League of Women Voters welcomes this improvement which should encourage proper election procedure on all levels of government within the state and ask that you consider SB 610 and HB 1008 favorably.

Diana Clark  
President  
League of Women Voters of Texas

Jeanette Davis  
Director  
Voter Service



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SB 610-088  
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DIANA CLARK

President

League of Women Voters of Tx.

JS

JS

Jeanette Davis  
Voter Service Director

To Senate State Affairs Committee and  
House Committee on Elections

(13)

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27



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF TEXAS EDUCATION FUND

ADOPTED BMDGET 1980 - 1981

INCOME

A. Contributions			
1. Unrestricted	\$ 7,050		Results of state-wide fund raising after local league share of unrestr and restricted contributions have been posted to item A4.
2. Tribute Gifts	150		Memorial gifts.
3. Restricted Cash	23,500		Total gift less administrative fee.
4. Local league Restricted Funds	10,650		Total gift less administrative fee.
Sub-Total A	\$ 41,350		fee on \$4,000. A 5% fee on \$6,650.
H. Interest	\$ 3,125		Interest on investments & savings accounts.
Administrative Fees			
1. Local League Accounts	\$ 333		Five percent of \$6,650 for LL project
2. Restricted Grants	300		Administrative fee on grants.
Sub-Total C	\$ 633		
Sale of Publications			
1. Voter Guides	\$ 4,000		For the November 1980 election.
2. Public Subscription Service	200		Publications sent to the public.
Sub-Total D	\$ 4,200		
In-Kind Assistance			
1. Outside Professionals	\$ 4,000		Public Relations Firm and Auditor
2. Board Members	1,500		Any league activity.
Sub-Total E	\$ 5,500		
F. Transfer from LWV-T	\$ 3,070		See LWV-T budget, item I.
TOTAL INCOME		\$ 57,878	

EXPENSES

Shared Services and Administration

1. Shared Services			
a. Office Overhead	\$ 7,519		One-third of item N (LWV-T budget), based upon time spent.
b. Trustees Meetings & Administration	3,934		One-third of parts of item O (LWV-T budget), based upon time spent.
c. VOTER	1,445		Forty percent of VOTER costs.
d. Mailings	630		One-fifth of costs of mailings.
2. Administration	50		Supervision of local league accounts
Sub-Total A	\$ 13,578		

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Diana Clark  
President  
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Jeanette Davis  
Director  
Voter Service



11  
copies

March 23, 1981

TO: The House Committee on Environmental Affairs

RE: HR 53 (Benedict) Interim Study of Deep Well Injection of Hazardous  
Wastes

I am Nancy Bene speaking for the League of Women Voters. We would like to commend this committee for its excellent report on hazardous waste disposal prepared for this session of the legislature.

A study of deep well injection, as proposed by HR 53, would be a logical continuation of the committees' efforts to assure safe disposal of the increasing volume of toxic wastes generated in Texas.

Deep well injection is the method used to dispose of most hazardous waste in Texas, with more than 45 million tons being injected each year. A recent EPA inventory of wells used for deep injection of hazardous waste shows that Texas has far more wells of this kind than any other state. Of the 384 wells in the nation, 124 are in Texas - almost 1/3 of the total number.

Some states prohibit this method of hazardous waste disposal. Some Texans also have concerns about its safety. Little information about the deep wells that dispose of hazardous waste in Texas is readily available. An interim study would inform both the public and the next legislature about this method of disposal and the adequacy of state laws and regulations to protect the public and the states' water resources. We, therefore, urge that you recommend passage of HR 53.

11 Copies

Lee  
Shaw  
Benedict  
Lewis  
Walton  
Bork  
Werner  
Jackson

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LOCAL LEAGUE SALES AND USE TAX QUARTERLY REPORT FORM

<u>Local League</u>	<u>Treasurer's Name</u>
<u>For quarter ending:</u>	<u>Address</u>
	<u>City, State, Zip</u>

THIS REPORT AND THE CHECK COVERING TOTAL TAX DUE IS TO BE RECEIVED IN THE STATE OFFICE (address above) NO LATER THAN THE 15th OF THE MONTH FOLLOWING THE END OF A QUARTER.

Quarters end: March 31, June 30, September 30, and December 31.

Refer to memo of 11/80 titled "All About Sales and Use Taxes" for explanation of tax rates and for determination of taxable sales and application of use tax.

1. Total gross sales (excluding tax & postage) ① \_\_\_\_\_
2. Total taxable sales (including subscription service when not a part of dues) ② \_\_\_\_\_
3. Tax rate - 4%, 5%, 5 1/2% . . . ③ \_\_\_\_\_
4. Sales tax due - multiply total taxable sales ② by tax rate ③ ④ \_\_\_\_\_
5. Total value of publications used (given away, thrown away, provided for committee members, subscription service when a part of dues, etc.) ⑤ \_\_\_\_\_
6. Use tax due - multiply value of publications used ⑤ by tax rate ③ ⑥ \_\_\_\_\_
7. Total tax due - add lines ④ and ⑥ ⑦ \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Treasurer

Complete this form in duplicate. Mail one copy to state office with your check for the total tax due as shown on line 7. Retain one copy for your files.

11/80



March 23, 1981

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STEPS TO A SUCCESSFUL SUCCESSION

If your League is going to have a new president, there are some simple steps you can take to start your successor off smoothly and ease those "pangs of transition."

FIRST: Notify state and national offices of new president's name and address.

SECOND: Be sure your successor has "President's Counselor" immediately.

THIRD: Review the files with your successor, suggest a working calendar, explain the importance of careful attention to bylaws provisions, and make clear the working relationship with other levels of the League.

FOURTH: If state and national subscriptions (DPMS, etc.) expire in these next few months, or the people who've been receiving them are not going to be on the new board, arrange for renewals, after you've consulted with the new president. Make suggestions for handling the distribution of mail to the appropriate on or offboard members, explain how to use the various publications necessary to the smooth operation of the organization. Be sure your successor receives and understands the forms from state and national that must be filled out.

FIFTH: Discuss the community climate in which your League works as something that must be understood for maximum return on League resources expended. This would include the subtleties required in working with elected officials and their staffs, with the news media available to your League, with the leaders of other organizations. Explain where and from whom to expect honest information, advice, and support.

SIXTH: Make it evident that you understand that some things will be done differently. It's natural, because the two of you are different people, but the League will gain strength from your differences.

SEVENTH: Offer to be available to give information and help when asked, and be supportive at all times; but once the Annual Meeting is over you are no longer president of your League. Attend board meetings only when invited.

EIGHTH: You can think of at least a dozen more additions to this list to make the job easier; things that by now you do as second nature.

NINTH: Enjoy your new life as an "ex-president."



March 23, 1981

TO: The House Committee on Environmental Affairs

RE: HR 53 (Benedict) Interim Study of Deep Well Injection of Hazardous Wastes

I am Nancy Bone speaking for the League of Women Voters. We would like to commend the committee for its excellent report on hazardous waste disposal prepared for this session of the legislature.

A study of deep well injection, as proposed by HR 53, would be a logical continuation of the committee's efforts to assure safe disposal of the increasing volume of toxic wastes generated in Texas.

Deep well injection is the method used to dispose of most hazardous waste in Texas, with more than 45 million tons being injected each year. A recent EPA inventory of wells used for deep injection of hazardous waste shows that Texas has far more wells of this kind than any other state. Of the 384 wells in the nation, 124 are in Texas - almost 1/3 of the total number.

Some states prohibit this method of hazardous waste disposal. Some Texans also have concerns about its safety. Little information about the deep wells that dispose of hazardous waste in Texas is readily available. An interim study would inform both the public and the next legislature about this method of disposal and the adequacy of state laws and regulations to protect the public and the states' water resources. We, therefore, urge that you recommend passage of HR 53.



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11 copies

March 17, 1981

TO: Members of Committee on Energy Resources  
RE: HB 819 Keese

The League of Women Voters of Texas believes it is urgent that we place more reliance on renewable energy sources in order to extend our fossil fuels and remain energy independent in Texas.

It is essential if a building is to depend on solar energy that that energy source be unimpaired. Therefore, a procedure by which assurance of this access can be dependably provided is very important. A prudent owner would otherwise not want to invest in solar equipment.

Of even greater importance, however, in the conservation of energy is the need for subdivisions to be platted so a maximum of houses will automatically have their broadside to the south sun and their ends oriented east and west. With moderate overhangs this will minimize the sun penetrating the houses in summer and maximize it in winter.

Port Arthur has established such an ordinance with the support of its primary developer and with no appreciable opposition. It has been calculated that apartments built in this orientation and with few or no west windows, save 1/2 ton of air conditioning per unit.

Sections 6,7,8 and 9 of this act would make it possible, without inconvenience of detailed prohibitions, to prevent the occurrence of dwellings built with few or no south openings and with excessive west exposure where sun control is virtually impossible. Even with builders or owners who are not informed about solar energy, a 7% to 10% savings in energy required for heating and cooling could result.

The League strongly supports HB 819.

Diana Clark  
President

Isabel Miller  
Director of Energy



March 17, 1981

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The League strongly supports HB 819.

Diana Clark  
President

Isabel Miller  
Director of Energy

3-17-81

I am Nancy speaking for the League of Women Voters of Texas on behalf of the 25% of all Texas children, 22% of all Texas elderly, the 15% of all Texans who live below the poverty line. We come before you today to ask your support for HJR 62 which proposes to remove the constitutional limitations on the amount of state spending for assistance to needy persons. The LWV has long supported the position that eligibility for assistance be based on need, and that the benefit levels be sufficient to provide decent, adequate standards for food, clothing and shelter. We support the idea that a revision of these "levels" take place periodically to take into account changes in the purchasing value of the dollar. We oppose any constitutional limitations on welfare spending. We believe that the legislature should have the responsibility to meet the needs of the people of our state.

Galloping inflation, increased unemployment, and decreasing federal spending may soon create a crisis situation in Texas. Even at the present low level of funding it appears that the expenditures for the various programs benefitting the needy will reach the constitutional ceiling by the middle of the biennium. We urge your prompt action to send this constitutional amendment to the voters; to make it possible to avert <sup>extreme</sup> hardship for the poor people of Texas.



TO: State board

FROM: Diana Clark

LWV-Texas  
Pre-board report  
March, 1981

PRECONVENTION BOARD MEETING: RED CARPET INN, BEAUMONT, MARCH 26, 1981  
SIR PELLINORE ROOM

Room Assignments Thursday, Friday, Saturday nights

Clark, Davis - Studio	Belle, Miller, Gordon - Up & down suite
Price, Lovelace - Adj. to studio	Arizaga, Kidwell - Double room
Clem, Sarles - Adj. to studio	Perrine, Brown - Double room
Keever, R. Rodgers - Double rm., Fri. & Sat. only	Sturgis, Carpenter - Double room

I would like to start the board meeting at 1:00 P.M. I will have to duck out at 2:00 for a brief press interview. I have not prepared too detailed an agenda as I have not heard of much pending business from you..

THURSDAY, MARCH 26

1:00	PLENARY SESSION, LWV-T Minutes Treasurer's Report President's Report Appoint delegates to national council Other reports as time permits
2:20	Review of convention agenda with Charlotte Travis, Parliamentarian Other last minute convention business
4:00	PLENARY SESSION, LWV-TEF Minutes Treasurer's Report Development Energy news articles project/Miller Texas Handbook/Houston proposal Local League projects, if any/Gordon
5:00	Adjourn
6:00	Cocktails at Evelyn Lord's (be in lobby by 5:45)
7:30	Buffet dinner at Ruth Ruilmann's
9:00	More board meeting, if necessary

NOTE FROM S.O: Please let us know in advance if you need supplies brought to Beaumont (letterhead, labels, etc.) Space in car won't permit bringing a lot of stuff on speculation.

The League has always supported the position that eligibility for assistance be based on need, and that the benefit levels be sufficient to provide decent, adequate standards for food, clothing and shelter. We support the idea that a revision of these "levels" take place periodically to take into account changes in the purchasing value of the dollar.

*By removing the inflexibility of the  
Constitutional Ceiling*

*Ann Richards  
Annex-Cont*



March 17, 1981

*No  
Copies  
made*

House Constitutional Amendments Committee

I am Nancy Bene, speaking for the League of Women Voters of Texas, on behalf of ~~the~~ 25% of all Texas children, 22% of all Texas elderly, the 15% of all Texans who live below the poverty line. ~~We come before you today to ask your support for HJR 62 which proposes to remove the constitutional limitations on the amount of state spending for assistance to needy persons.~~

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Galloping inflation, increased unemployment, and decreasing federal spending may soon create a crisis situation in Texas. Even at the present low level of funding it appears that the expenditures for the various programs benefitting the needy will reach the constitutional ceiling by the middle of the biennium. *Support for HJR62.* ~~We urge your prompt action to send this constitutional amendment to the voters; to make it possible to avert extreme hardship for the poor people of Texas.~~

15 copies

Dear Senator

March 2, 1981

TO: MEMBERS OF THE SENATE STATE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE  
RE: SB 546

For the last several sessions of the Legislature the League of Women Voters of Texas has supported the automatic restoration of voting rights to ex-felons upon completion of their sentence and/or probationary period.

We would remind you that this concept was introduced in the Constitutional Revision Commission in the early '70s by Dr. George Beto, former Director of the Texas Department of Corrections. It was accepted in the proposed new Constitution but, of course, failed when the Constitution was not adopted. It has since been endorsed by numerous groups, including the State Bar.

It is patently unfair that a person once convicted should be forever punished. Once an offender has been finally discharged from probation, a prison term, or mandatory parole supervision, that person should be given a second chance at full participation in society. For a vindictive government to deny that chance is to foster bitterness and disrespect for the law.

To have voting rights restored to an ex-offender now requires extraordinary action outside the regular criminal law procedure. The newly-released but disenfranchised citizen must seek a gubernatorial pardon or obtain a court order. Just the expense of hiring a lawyer discourages thousands of applicants. Furthermore, at present, few pardons are granted when applied for.

We like the other features of Senator Ogg's bill. It cleans up antique language referring to "idiots and lunatics" and restores voting rights to paupers, the withholding of which is a ridiculous provision that is certainly not enforced and is highly unconstitutional.

We must urgently request that you not only support this measure, but expedite its swift passage to prevent its being drowned by the masses of legislation at the close of the 67th Session.

Thank you for your attention.

Diana

Truly  
Lois Carpenter  
Administration of Justice



a

March 16, 1981

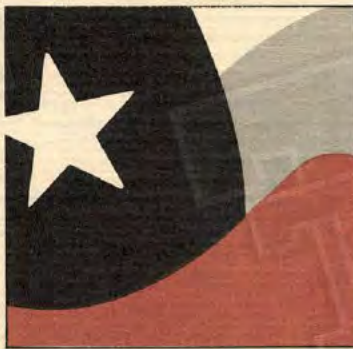
TO: The House Subcommittee on Security and Sanctions  
RE: SB 125 by Farabee

This Committee has already heard our support for the proposals in HB 582 and 583 by Benedict. We would again point out, with regard to SB 125 that we feel its proposal to downgrade the six commissioners from appointed state officials to employees hired and fired by the board would not be likely to solve the current problems. It would be much better to have a nine-member board with all on equal footing. Furthermore, with nine members, at least five would have to be in agreement for decisions to be made. With the three-member board and six commissioners, the decision-making process seems weak. It only takes two board members to constitute a quorum that can overrule recommendations made by the other board member or the commissioners. We urge your support for a nine-member board.

Lois Carpenter  
Administration of Justice



S. D.  
copy



Support 1407 +  
some provisions of  
402 (11)

LK

League of Women Voters of Texas  
1212 Guadalupe Suite 109 • Austin, Texas 78701 • Tel. 512/472-1100

March 17, 1981

HB 402 and HB 1407  
Amendments to the Solid Waste Disposal Act

TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES:

I am Catherine Perrine, speaking for the League of Women Voters of Texas. The League believes that legislation requiring safe management of wastes should be a high priority for this session of the Texas Legislature.

HB 1407, introduced by Representative Clark, includes provisions necessary for Texas to receive delegation of authority to regulate hazardous wastes under the federal Resource Conservation and Recovery Act. Delegation of this authority will avoid costly and time-consuming duplication of state and federal programs. We strongly support these and other provisions of HB 1407.

We also support several provisions of HB 402 by Representative Gonzales that would further strengthen the state waste management program. We suggest that these provisions be added to HB 1407 to provide a single bill amending the Solid Waste Disposal Act.

We also have several suggestions of our own for additional changes in the act. Our first suggestion is that the title of the Act, and its definitions and language, be amended to eliminate the word solid where this term refers to wastes in general. Both federal and state law define solid waste as including "solid, liquid, semi-solid, or contained gaseous material." This definition is a source of confusion to citizens who think they know what solid means. The present legal definition of solid waste is Humpty Dumpty language. Humpty Dumpty explained that, "When I use a word, it means just what I choose it to mean." And he added, "When I make a word do a lot of work, I always pay it extra."

Laws should use words according to their usual meanings in the English language, rather than making them "do a lot of extra work" in Humpty Dumpty fashion. Most hazardous wastes are, in fact, liquids, and the title of the act that regulates them should not contradict this fact.

We also would prefer to see the word disposal in the title changed to management, since the Act regulates storage, transportation, and other aspects of waste management in addition to disposal. Thus, we suggest as a title: the Waste Management Act.



Section 4, Subsection (e)(4) of the Act concerns public hearings on permits for waste facilities. Because of the very large number of permits that will be issued over the next several years, we support the amendment proposed by HB 1407 deleting the requirement that a hearing be held on each permit application. This provision will save the state agencies considerable staff time and money. We do, however, suggest the addition of a requirement that a hearing be held on each permit for an off-site disposal facility accepting Class I industrial wastes, a much smaller number of permits. A provision should also be added requiring that each hearing be held in the county where the facility would be located.

Section 4, Subsection (f)(1) applies to "on-site" facilities. We support the amendment proposed by HB 402 defining such facilities as being located "at or adjacent to the site of the plant or operation which is the source of the industrial solid waste." The existing definition includes facilities within 50 miles of the plant or operation and provides a loophole in the waste management program that should be closed.

We also support HB 402's amendment to Subsection (f)(2) requiring that remedial action necessary to protect the health and environment be included as a condition of permits for "on-site" facilities where past management has been inadequate.

A new Subsection (g) is added by HB 1407, requiring programs for the training and certification of waste technicians. This is a very significant step forward to safer and more efficient waste management, and we urge its adoption.

We also support HB 402's addition of a new subsection of Section 4 that would require a memorandum of understanding among the three state waste management agencies, defining their respective responsibilities.

Provisions should also be added to Section 4 prohibiting the location of new off-site facilities for storage or disposal of Class I industrial waste in a 100-year flood plain or an area that provides recharge to groundwater used as a source of drinking water.

The penalty provisions included in HB 1407 as amendments to Section 8 are essential if the state is to receive final delegation of authority to implement the federal regulatory program, and we strongly recommend that they be adopted.

HB 402 proposes a new Section 10 pertaining to the reduction and recycling of wastes. Reduction and recycling can preserve valuable resources and should be a high priority of the state waste management program. We urge that this provision be included in the Act.

Thank you for the opportunity to present our views on proposals for the Texas Waste Management Act.



*9/10/81*  
*Comm. on Pardons & Paroles*  
*3-30-81*  
*(Security and Sanctions)*  
*SB 125 - PAROLE*  
*HB 582 - Benedict*  
*HB 583 - Washington*  
*March 16, 1981*  
*HB 1111*  
*NL#6*

TO: The House Subcommittee on Security and Sanctions  
RE: HB 1111 by Washington

In 1979 the League of Women Voters of Texas completed its study of adult corrections in Texas. That study included an examination of the Board of Pardons and Paroles, its history, structure, parole selection process, role of the Governor, and supervision and revocation.

One of our conclusions was that it is repetitive, unnecessary, and fiscally irresponsible for the Governor and his or her staff to have to review and approve all parole recommendations. These recommendations for parole are made by nine competent people operating under carefully constructed rules and procedures. They know more about the inmates' cases than the Governor and his or her staff can possibly be aware of.

There are 48 other states with parole boards that function as the final parole authority with no further review by their governors, and we believe the Texas Parole Board and Commissioners could function equally as well without the gubernatorial review and approval. Furthermore, as we have recently learned, our Board of Pardons and Paroles would like to become fully accredited but cannot do so until they are legally the final parole decision-makers.

Lois Carpenter  
Administration of Justice



MAR 13 1981

Testimony on HB 1111 by Washington; given by Mary Blackstock before House Cte. on Security and Sanctions March 10, 1981:

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Thank you.

MAR 13 1981

Testimony on HB 916 by Washington given by Mary Blackstock before the House Committee on Security and Sanctions March 11, 1981:

During one phase of our study of the state's justice system the League of Women Voters of Texas concluded that a state commission was needed to set and enforce minimum standards for city and county jails.

The Texas Commission on Jail Standards was established in 1975 to set and enforce standards for county jails only. We have supported this Commission and feel that it has accomplished a great deal to improve what were often notoriously bad county jails. Those jails have all been inspected and notified of problem areas. The Commission has made rapid progress just this past year in its programs to certify jails in compliance with standards and to offer technical assistance to those attempting to meet the standards.

Without similar standards and enforcement for municipal jails, however the Commission can provide only "half a loaf." It is no less wrong for municipal jail prisoners to be held in unsafe, unsanitary, and overcrowded surroundings than it is for county jail prisoners. We hope, therefore, that you will favorably consider expanding the jurisdiction of this commission so that all Texas jails will eventually meet minimum standards.



Remarks by Mary Blacks5ock before the Senate State Affairs 3-25-81

MAR 30 1981

IN REFERENCE TO SCR 63

We are delighted to offer supporting comments for this resolution. When the League of Women Voters of Texas studied the state's adult corrections system in 1979, one of our conclusions was that Texas should provide for a broad range of community-based correction programs of the kind mentioned in SCR 63.

Most offenders in these programs can hold jobs, pay room and board, and help support families. Non-violent offenders can be placed in these kinds of programs, and even with intensive professional supervision the costs would be much less than operating maximum security prisons.

Besides being more humane, such treatment is far more likely to help change criminal behavior than is imprisonment.

We believe these kinds of alternative programs must be developed and funded. Let's start by making pursuit of such development the policy of the Legislature.

Thank you.

MAR 13 1981

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Diana Clark  
President

Lois Carpenter  
Administration of Justice

11

March 11, 1981

TO: Members of the Senate Committee on Natural Resources  
RE: SB 281 Mengden

The League of Women Voters of Texas SUPPORTS SB 281 by Senator Mengden, which establishes thermal and lighting standards for buildings.

The League has been actively involved with implementing the Federal Energy Production and Conservation Act since its passage in 1976 and views this proposed legislation as a necessary next step in achieving energy-conservation goals for Texas. With current problems relating to foreign oil supplies and nuclear energy, every conservation possibility becomes increasingly important.

Approximately one-third of our annual energy consumption is used to provide heating, cooling, and lighting in buildings. Almost half of this could be saved without altering comfort or convenience. Buildings built without concern for this saving will waste millions of dollars worth of energy in their lifetimes. But the persons who design and construct buildings seldom are the ones who pay their utility costs, and they often lack adequate incentive to produce energy-efficient structures. The League feels that thermal and lighting standards are essential to an effective conservation program.

Developing performance standards in addition to prescriptive standards provides flexibility as it encourages innovation in design in solving energy-conservation goals for building.

We strongly encourage your support of SB 281.

Diana Clark  
President

Isabel Miller  
Energy Director



March 11, 1981

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We strongly encourage your support of SB 281.

Diana Clark  
President

Isabel Miller  
Energy Director

(11)

March 10, 1981

TO: Committee on Energy Resources  
RE: HB 1315 (Blythe)

The League of Women Voters of Texas believes it is urgent that the United States place more emphasis on conservation and more reliance on renewable energy sources in order to extend its domestic fossil fuels and to become more independent of an unpredictable foreign oil supply.

Texas, with its abundant sunshine, could benefit enormously from increased use of solar energy. A very desirable domestic industry would develop as well as an increase in exportable excess Texas oil. Reliable information for evaluating and comparing equipment is very important to persons or industries considering this capital intensive change. The League believes HB 1315, giving the Public Utilities Commission responsibility to develop this information, should be supported.

There is great potential also in Texas, in the coastal and high plains areas, for extracting energy from wind. We would suggest that labeling of wind energy conversion systems (WECS) also be included in this program.

The League of Women Voters of Texas encourages your support of HB 1315 and your consideration of this suggested expansion.

Diana Clark  
President

Isabel Miller  
Director of Energy



MAR 9 1981

*from Isabel*

Dear Representative Blythe:

The League of Women Voters of Texas believes that increased reliance on renewable energy sources that require minimal use of traditional energy for implementation is very desirable. We believe reliable consumer information, such as <sup>performance</sup> labeling of tested equipment, ~~expands this~~ the potential for this use. would expedite the trend toward use of renewable sources.

Because Texas also has abundant wind energy available, especially along the coast and in the high plains, we would like to see performance labeling of wind energy conversion systems included.

We support HB 1315 and suggest its expansion.



MAR 9 1981

TO: Committee on Energy Resources  
RE: HB 1315 *Blythe*

*from Isabel*

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The League of Women Voters of Texas encourages your support of HB 1315 and your consideration of this suggested expansion.



9  
March 10, 1981

TO: The House Committee on Constitutional Amendments

I am Jan Albers speaking for the League of Women Voters of Texas. The League is OPPOSED to HJR 33. We are against constitutionally dedicated funds, believing instead that flexibility is essential to the wise management of state monies. We do not have a crystal ball and cannot be certain that some future need will not become a more pressing priority than one identified today.

We are also opposed to requiring "super majorities" (such as 2/3 or 4/5 votes) to shift or appropriate state revenues. Such requirements are overly restrictive. We are confident that future legislators can be trusted to use their good judgement and continue to be responsive to the needs of Texas citizens.

(11)

March 10, 1981

TO: The House Committee on Elections  
RE: HB 183 (Hudson)

The League of Women Voters of Texas, long a proponent of improved procedures for registration of voters in Texas and for measures to insure every citizen's right to vote, SUPPORT HB 183 by Hudson.

Since the institution of mailing registration certificates as non-forwardable mail, many people (particularly those who change their address) do not realize that they are not registered until election day. Although the League, as well as election officials, recognizes this to be the responsibility of the citizen, the fact is that the majority of the people do not check to be certain that their registration certificates are up-to-date until the day of the election.

The League of Women Voters of Texas urges you to consider HB 183 favorably.

Diana Clark  
President

Jeanette Davis  
Director of Government



12 Copies

March 10, 1981

TO: The House Committee on Elections  
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The League of Women Voters of Texas urges you to consider HB 183 favorably.

Diana Clark  
President

Jeanette Davis  
Director of Government

March 9, 1981

TO: Members of Committee on Energy Resources  
RE: HB 1335 by Hanna (SB 637 by Brown)

The League of Women Voters of Texas supports HB 1335 by Representative Hanna, which requires plans for new state buildings to include uses of solar energy wherever each such use would be economically advantageous over the economic life of the building.

The League feels that widespread use of renewable energy, especially solar energy, will be essential in the future to maintain energy independence for Texas. We have abundant sunshine. Judicious and innovative use of it in state buildings for heat and light would save fossil fuel, save state money, and demonstrate to the citizens of Texas the effectiveness of using the sun as an energy source in major buildings.

We encourage you to support HB 1335.

Isabel Miller  
Director of Energy



11 copies

March 9, 1981

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We encourage you to support HB 1335.

Isabel Miller  
Director of Energy

(14)

March 4, 1981

TO: Members of the House Committee on Ways and Means  
RE: HB 673 Polk

The League of Women Voters of Texas supports HB 673 by Representative Polk, allowing for prorated franchise-tax exemption for those corporations whose business is partly but not wholly involved with solar energy.

The League of Women Voters is concerned that an abundant Texas resource, solar energy (sun, wind, plants, falling water), be rapidly developed to maintain our state energy self-sufficiency and to provide an excellent labor-intensive new industry. Since many corporations producing solar equipment are not exclusively "solar", the present franchise-tax exemption is not applicable to them. It, therefore, does not serve to stimulate this industry to the maximum extent possible.

We feel that HB 673 is a desirable revision of the tax laws, and we encourage the Committee on Ways and Means to support this bill.

Diana Clark  
President

Isabel Miller  
Director of Energy



STATEMENT BY  
LAVORA SPRADLIN ARIZAGA, LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF TEXAS  
TO  
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON REGIONS, COMPACTS & DISTRICTS  
March 5, 1981

I am Lavora Spradlin Arizaga, Director for Apportionment of the League of Women Voters of Texas. The LWV-T is composed of 37 local Leagues throughout Texas, with approximately 3900 members. We are pleased to have the opportunity to speak to you today about redistricting, the most important job of the 67th Legislature.

We want to commend your efforts to inform the citizenry and to seek their involvement in the redistricting process. We also applaud your efforts, past and proposed, to work closely with the U.S. Department of Justice in order to inform yourselves and the other members of the legislature of the laws, both state and federal, constitutional and statutory, governing redistricting, and your plans to provide maps and demographic and statistical data to all legislators so that each legislator may initially prepare proposed districts plans for their individual districts. Active participation of all the members of the legislature should contribute to a sound understanding of the problems involved in redistricting and should lead to good redistricting plans.

We are happy to see the commitment of the House of Representatives, as expressed in HR58, to comply with all federal and state laws, to construct districts of as nearly equal districts as practicable, and to make sure that there will be no retrogression in the position of racial and ethnic minorities under adopted redistricting plans.

We especially want to commend your concern to include all interested parties in the redistricting process and your desire to reconcile competing interests. The hearings held throughout the state, with notice to interested parties, was an important first step in citizen involvement. The next step is to appoint, promptly, the citizens' advisory group of HR58 to advise and comment on legislative redistricting work. This group should be appointed promptly so that each member can be supplied with appropriate background information in time to become fully informed as to the legal requirements and the many varied, often competing, interests involved in the redistricting before the final census data arrives and the real work begins in earnest.

The members of the advisory group should be chosen carefully, not only to insure that all ethnic and geographic groups are represented, although that is of prime importance, but also, to insure that each member is willing to commit the time and effort to make use of the information available (1) to prepare themselves for evaluation of the plans that evolve, (2) to evaluate those plans in progress, and, (3) to advise and make their comments promptly. Only by hard work, dedication, and prompt action can the advisory group, as well as the legislature, be effective in the short time available before the end of the session.

Members of the advisory group will also have to know what is expected of them and what they can expect from the committee and the legislature. How is advisory group to be funded? What expenses of the members will be paid? How will it be organized? Will the members meet as a group at regular intervals? Will they evaluate plans at long distance in their homes or offices and call or write reports to the committee? Will the members of the advisory group attend meetings of this committee? (If yes, is this in addition



to their own meetings or instead of their own meetings?) Will they be notified by telephone of meetings called at short notice and/or changes of times or places of meetings? (Timely notice is essential.) Will members of the citizens' advisory group be furnished all the demographical and statistical information that is made available to the legislators?

These are some of the considerations that must be resolved in order to have a citizens' advisory group that will be real and effective. We don't want an advisory group in name only, or one that just looks over a final re-districting plan and says, "oh, okay!" The League of Women Voters of Texas doesn't want a citizens' advisory group just for window dressing or for a rubber stamp and we don't believe that you do, either. We're sure that you will move promptly to appoint a working, knowledgeable citizens' group who will join with you to assure that there will be adopted fair and legal redistricting plans for the State of Texas.

Thank you for listening.

The real work begins at present.  
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throughout the state, with notice to interested parties,  
desire to recognize competitive interests. The purpose  
interested parties in the process. It is hoped that the

It is respectfully requested that you respond by January 11.

Ethnic minorities must avoid redefining places.  
will be no representation in the position of racial and  
districts as political units to make sure that there  
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HR 58

*did not give*  
*Committee did not receive testimony*

STATEMENT BY  
LAVORA SPRADLIN ARIZAGA, LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF TEXAS  
TO  
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON REGIONS, COMPACTS & DISTRICTS  
March 5, 1981

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21 Copies

March 4, 1981

TO: The House Committee On Appropriations  
RE: The Budget For Texas Energy And Natural Resources Council

The League of Women Voters of Texas urges that a full and adequate budget allotment be made for this agency. This request does not come from a special interest advocacy position but rather from assessing it as first priority among many interests. The League, as you know, works for improvement in many areas - in administration of justice, in school financing, in water supply and waste handling, for example, and, this session we will be closely watching reapportionment - but for this year the Texas members have indicated energy as their top concern.

Texas Energy and Natural Resources Advisory Council, TENRAC, is the umbrella agency for energy in Texas government. It is the center for many programs; and it has had numerous advisory committees active in the past biennium whose reports have been adopted by the Council. In most, if not all, instances, these have laid additional responsibilities on the Council and its staff which increases its funding needs.

The League of Women Voters believes that in order to become more energy independent as well as to conserve resources, we as a state and as a nation must immediately implement conservation in all forms and place increased reliance on renewable energy sources and on the environmentally safe uses of coal. TENRAC has within its structure the Conservation Division which includes the Solar Section. We consider that this division has a very important role in the Texas energy future. Texas has a profusion of renewable energy sources. It has a great abundance of solar and wind energy. There are over 200 dams identified which could produce low-head hydropower. There are also quantities of wastes which plague us - solid waste, forestry scrap, gin trash, feed lot refuse - which can become energy sources when knowledge and incentive are added. TENRAC can provide these.

With its influx of industry and population, Texas is going to need all the energy sources it can develop, with high priority being given to the non-polluting ones as more concentrated demand is put on our air, water, and land. TENRAC - Texas Energy and Natural Resources Council - is going to have enormous responsibility and opportunity. It should not be underfunded.

Isabel Miller  
Energy Director



TO: the House Committee on Appropriations

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Isabel Miller  
Energy Director



9 copies

March 3, 1981

TO: THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS

The League of Women Voters of Texas opposes all the resolutions under consideration today which would prohibit income taxes, either corporate or personal, through a constitutional provision.

While we do not think Texas needs new sources of revenue at this time nor in the near future, we believe lawmakers should have the flexibility to choose from various alternatives should the need arise (for example, if oil and gas revenues should decline). Since none of us can predict with certainty what circumstances might produce a fiscal crisis, it is unwise to tie the hands of legislators by imposing prohibitions on a form of taxation not now in use. If new sources of revenue should be required, it would be difficult and time consuming to undo what is attempted with these constitutional amendments.

In summary, the League believes lawmakers need flexibility in order to respond to citizen's needs--now or in the future. Constitutionally prohibiting an income tax removes options which might be necessary to deal with subsequent taxation issues.

Jan Wilbur  
Director of Property Tax Reform

11 copies

March 3, 1981

TO: THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY RESOURCES  
RE: HB 1191 Carlyle Smith

The League of Women Voters of Texas supports HB 1191 by Rep. Carlyle Smith for licensing solar device installers.

The League, believing we cannot continue to sustain our current energy growth rate with non-renewable energy sources, places strong emphasis on conservation and increased reliance on solar energy in its many forms.

For the use of active solar energy systems (using solar devices) to flourish, building owners must not be liable to getting poorly designed and badly installed systems which impose on them economic hardship and give the program bad publicity.

For the solar industry to flourish, it needs to be relieved of the delay and expense involved when multiple trades are required for an installation. Licensing one person to install a complete system providing single-trade responsibility would both expedite the work and increase the reliability of the product.

The state-wide standardization of licensing would also be beneficial to the industry in eliminating the present necessity for procuring separate licenses in different cities.

The League therefore feels that this bill would protect the public and expedite the solar industry and thus increase the use of solar energy in Texas. We support HB 1191.

Diana Clark  
President

Isabel Miller ,  
Energy Director



Re HB 1191 Carlyle Smith

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Craig Asmus  
2:00

Reagon Bldg.  
Rm C

Russell Smith  


11 Copies

March 2, 1981

TO: Members of the Environmental Affairs Committee  
State of Texas  
RE: SB 480 - Traeger: Licensing and Regulation of Radioactive Material  
HB 906 - Bock

The LWV of Texas recognizes the need for continued use of radioactive materials in Texas. Further, it recognizes the need for effective disposal of radioactive waste. Our concern is that the continued use and disposal of these materials be effected in the safest manner possible with greatest regard for protection of public health and the environment.

We are persuaded that these concerns are indeed taken into account in HB 906 and, therefore, encourage you to support passage of this bill.

Diana Clark  
President

Laura Keever  
Program Vice President



~~Didn't use~~

*Supp. Tax Reform*

TO: COMMITTEE ON CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS  
RE: HJR 3 Kubiak HJR 8 Schlueter

*HJR 18 Reilly  
(separate)*

The LWV of Texas opposes attempts to hold hostage to this legislature the future financial health of the state. HJR 3 and HJR 8 attempt to do just that.

The League is not supporting an Income tax at this time but we do think there are worse things than a carefully drawn and considered income tax such as state government hamstrung by it's inability to finance necessary state functions and services.

A constitution should be a statement of basic principles, a framework of basic law, *(construction & restraints)* not a mass of tightly binding and entangling red tape. It should provide flexibility within a coordinated finance structure. HJR 3 and HJR 8 remove the necessary flexibility and could prove to be a stumbling block to maintaining the state fiscal health.

For these reasons, the League respectfully but strongly urges you to defeat HJR 3 and HJR \*.

Jan Wilbur  
Public school finance



CAPITOL CORPS OBSERVER REPORT

League of Women Voters of Texas

Function attended: \_\_\_\_\_

(House/Senate session, committee mtg., subcommittee mtg., public hearing, etc.)

Location: \_\_\_\_\_

(Building & room number)

Date & time of meeting: \_\_\_\_\_

Topic: \_\_\_\_\_

(Bill number, hearing topic, etc.)

Presiding chairman: \_\_\_\_\_

Committee members (or key participants) present (if applicable):

Testimony presented by:

Action taken:

Comments:

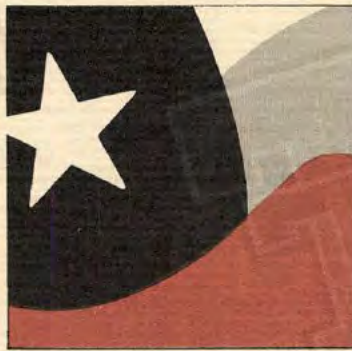
Observer's name: \_\_\_\_\_

Use additional paper if necessary.

Return to: League of Women Voters of Texas  
1212 Guadalupe, #109  
Austin, TX 78701

(472-3841 daily 9-2:30; or 472-1100)





League of Women Voters of Texas  
1212 Guadalupe Suite 109 • Austin, Texas 78701 • Tel. 512/472-1100

TO the HOUSE COMMITTEE ON CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS

March 14, 1979

The League of Women Voters of Texas opposes all the resolutions under consideration today which would prohibit income taxes, either corporate or personal, through a constitutional provision.

While we do not think Texas needs new sources of revenue at this time nor in the near future, we believe lawmakers should have the flexibility to choose from various alternatives should the need arise (for example, if oil and gas revenues should decline). Since none of us can predict with certainty what circumstances might produce a fiscal crisis, it is unwise to tie the hands of legislators by imposing prohibitions on a form of taxation not now in use. If new sources of revenue should be required, it would be difficult and time consuming to undo what is attempted with these constitutional amendments.

We are well aware of a so-called "tax-revolt" throughout the country. But it is our observation that much of that revolt has been directed against the residential property tax--a tax which bears little relationship to a person's ability to support government services.

Legislators are presently addressing citizen's demands for tax relief through efforts to provide more government efficiency, tax equity, and reimbursement of losses from the "Tax Relief Amendment." We trust that when future legislatures consider taxation issues, they will be as conscientious in their decision-making as the current legislature.

In summary, the League believes lawmakers need flexibility in order to respond to citizen's needs--now or in the future. Constitutionally prohibiting an income tax removes options which might be necessary to deal with subsequent taxation issues.



9 Copies

February 23, 1981

To: MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON SECURITY AND SANCTIONS

The League of Women Voters of Texas urges the Oversight and Budget Subcommittee of the Security and Sanctions Committee to add additional funds to the Texas Adult Probation Commission budget specifically for court residential centers and other types of community based corrections programs, and to recommend this increase to the full committee.

We strongly disagree with the Legislative Budget Board in their analysis of the El Paso facility wherein they state that such a program would not be easily replicated elsewhere. We believe many communities in Texas could use this center as a model but tailor its programs to their own specific needs. However, under the present budget proposal, the Adult Probation Commission is severely limited in available funds to continue its support of the El Paso center and have the wherewithall to assist additional communities with their needs in the community facilities area.

Thank you for your consideration,

Lois Carpenter, Director  
Administration of Justice



2/24/81

TO MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS

The League of Women Voters of Texas supports enactment of constitutional and statutory initiative and statutory referendum by petition. But in order to guarantee the integrity of these direct democracy tools and protect against frivolous legislation, the following provisions are recommended.

- . There should be legal review of a proposal before the signatures are gathered.
- . Petition signatures should represent statewide distribution and be equal to 10-15 percent of the number voting in the last gubernatorial election.
- . Signatures should be collected by volunteers.
- . Any funds used for or against a proposal should be fully disclosed as to the amounts and sources
- . Voters should be fully informed about all proposals by such means as public notices, hearings, public service announcements and/or information packets mailed to every registered voting household.

With these restrictions the League believes initiative and referendum can be an effective ~~XXXXX~~ complement to representative government without subjecting it to shrill and extremist demands.

Of the bills you are considering today, HJR 2 (C. Smith) contains the safeguards the League believes should be included in legislation providing for ~~XXX~~ initiative and referendum with one exception. There is no provision made for voter education. The League urges you to consider amending HJR 2 to assure fully-informed voters on all measures presented them by petition.

HJR 4 (Kubiak), HJR 45 (Bush), and HJR 60 (Sharp) either do not provide necessary ~~restrictions~~ <sup>safeguards</sup>, provide for only indirect initiative, or are too limiting in subject matter. Therefore we urge you to consider HJR 2 favorably.

# # #



give HJR 2 your favorable recommendation

Giveville  
Sincerely  
L. J. ...

perceive as  
B. J. ...  
President

BACKGROUND FOR WHOMEVER GIVES TESTIMONY ON HJR 2:

Why we can't support HJR 4 (Kubiak) -- not enough safeguards:  
signatures not gathered by volunteers, no funding disclosures,  
no legal review, no voter information.

HJR 45 (Bush) (This is the old Mary ~~XX~~ Polk proposal) provides for indirect initiative and referendum/only. It does, however, fulfill all our other requirements.

HJR 60 (Sharp) (This is the Texas 13 bunch) provides for direct statutory I&R to limit state spending and reduce or limit taxes. We cannot support because it is too limited in subject matter, but does fulfill all our other requirements.



February 24, 1981

TO: MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS

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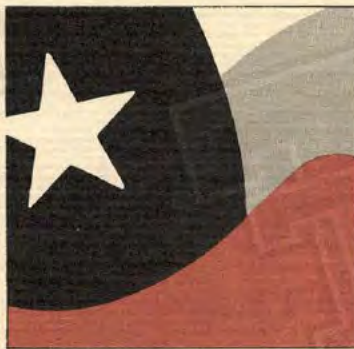
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Diana Clark  
President  
League of Women Voters of Texas

Jeanette Davis  
Director  
Government

LOBBY DON TS





League of Women Voters of Texas  
1212 Guadalupe Suite 109 • Austin, Texas 78701 • Tel. 512/472-1100

February 24, 1981

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Diana Clark *Diana Clark*  
President  
League of Women Voters of Texas

*Jeanette Davis*  
Jeanette Davis  
Director  
Government



February 17, 1981

TO THE BUDGET AND OVERSIGHT SUBCOMMITTEE; HOUSE NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE:

The League of Women Voters of Texas would like to express its support of funding for the Texas Department of Water Resources at current activity levels and additional appropriations for functions related to regulation of hazardous waste and underground injection wells.

Because of increasing demands on the state's water resources, it is important that the data-gathering, planning, and management responsibilities of the Department of Water Resources are adequately supported.

Additional state appropriations for some activities, particularly field operation and enforcement are needed to enable Texas to receive delegation of new federal regulatory programs pertaining to hazardous waste and injection wells.

Federal funds will pay a portion of the cost of these programs. Implementation by the state will avoid duplication of paperwork, hearings, and inspections.

For these reasons the League urges that you recommend appropriations for the Department of Water Resources at the levels requested by the Department.

Diana Clark  
President

Catherine Perrine  
Water Issues Director

Attached: "Water and Wastes"



CAPITOL CORPS OBSERVER REPORT

League of Women Voters of Texas

Function Attended: \_\_\_\_\_  
(House/Senate session, committee mtg., subcommittee mtg.,  
public hearing, etc.)

Date & Time of Meeting \_\_\_\_\_

Topic: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Bill number, hearing subject, etc.)

Presiding Chairman: \_\_\_\_\_

Committee Members (or key participants) present if applicable: \_\_\_\_\_

Testimony Presented by: \_\_\_\_\_

Action Taken: \_\_\_\_\_

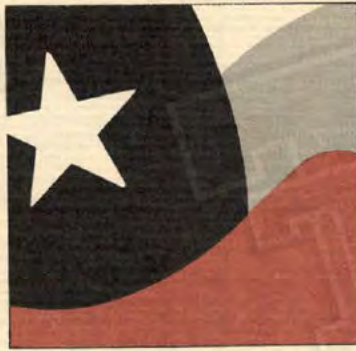
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League of Women Voters of Texas  
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Catherine Perrine  
Water Issues Director

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*Nancy - just remembered  
there is no mail delivery  
Mon. so will have to  
call + dictate this  
Mon. A.M.*

FEB 18 1981

February 16, 1981

To members of the House Committee on State Affairs:

The Senate has amended and passed S.B. 127 (H.B. 367) which would continue the Criminal Justice Division in the Governor's Office.

One reason we are supporting this bill is that during the ten year history of the CJD's administration of the LEAA program in Texas, its funds were used for many of the kinds of projects we favored. There was a great variety of training programs in the areas of law enforcement, the judiciary, probation, and corrections. Several programs furthered efficient court administration. There were numerous projects to provide alternatives to incarceration for both juveniles and adults, and there were rehabilitation efforts as well.

We are pleased to note that 87% of all local projects begun in Texas during this period are still in place, but now are locally funded. State agency projects have a similar record for assumption of cost. Such success attests to the LEAA program's effectiveness and careful management in Texas.

We feel that the Criminal Justice Division should continue to exist and that the proposals in the amended S.B. 127 for creating the CJD Advisory Board and funding the CJ Planning Fund are sound. We are highly in favor of the changes made in this bill both by the Senate State Affairs Committee and by the full Senate.

The bill now contains excellent provisions for wise management of the funds and holds forth the possibility of starting needed new programs in the broad criminal justice field. Therefore, we urge your support of S.B. 127 as amended and passed by the Senate last week.

Diana Clark  
President  
League of Women Voters of Texas

Lois Carpenter  
Director  
Administration of Justice

150 copies

March 4, 1981

TO: Members of the House of Representatives  
State of Texas

RE: SB 480 - Traeger: Licensing and Regulation of Radioactive Material

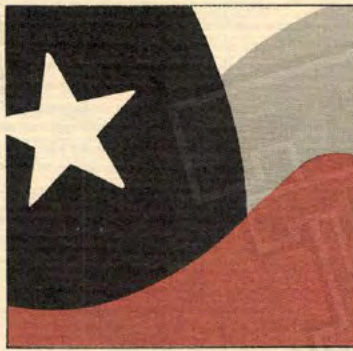
The LWV of Texas recognizes the need for continued use of radioactive materials in Texas. Further, it recognizes the need for effective disposal of radioactive waste. Our concern is that the continued use and disposal of these materials be effected in the safest manner possible with greatest regard for protection of public health and the environment.

We are persuaded that these concerns are indeed taken into account in SB 480 and, therefore, encourage you to support passage of this bill.

Diana Clark  
President

Laura Keever  
Program Vice President





110 copies

30 copies

League of Women Voters of Texas  
1212 Guadalupe Suite 109 • Austin, Texas 78701 • Tel. 512/472-1100

February 11, 1981

TO THE NATURAL RESOURCE COMMITTEE  
RE: SB 480

The LWV of Texas recognizes the need for continued use of radioactive materials in Texas. Further, it recognizes the need for effective disposal of radioactive waste. Our concern is that the continued use and disposal of these materials be effected in the safest manner possible with greatest regard for protection of public health and the environment.

We are persuaded that these concerns are indeed taken into account in SB 480 and, therefore, encourage the Natural Resources Committee to support this bill.

Sincerely,

Laura Keever  
Program Vice President

27 copies

Members of the Senate  
State of Texas

(Other than N.R. Committee members)

February 18, 1981

TO THE NATURAL RESOURCE COMMITTEE

RE: SB 480 - *Straeger: Licensing + regulation of radioactive material*

The LWV of Texas recognizes the need for continued use of radioactive materials in Texas. Further, it recognizes the need for effective disposal of radioactive waste. Our concern is that the continued use and disposal of these materials be effected in the safest manner possible with greatest regard for protection of public health and the environment.

We are persuaded that these concerns are indeed taken into account in SB 480 and, therefore, encourage ~~the Natural Resources Committee to support this bill.~~ *you to support passage of this bill.*

Sincerely,

Diana Clark,  
President

✓ ~~Laura Keever~~  
Program Vice President

(27)

31  
11  
20



Wiretapping

## WATER

Catherine Parrine

The League is following closely the intriguing session of the House-Senate conference committee that is negotiating a compromise version of the HJR 6/HS 2 "water package."

The proposed constitutional amendment (HJR 6) authorized over \$1 billion in state financial assistance for local and regional water supplies, sewage treatment, and flood control projects. The Senate version also authorized a \$200 million bond program for state loans to farmers for water-conservation equipment.

The omnibus water bill (HS 2) will go into effect only if the amendment is approved at the polls. Its major provisions include: water conservation requirements as a condition of state aid and new water rights; state assistance for agricultural soil and water conservation; protection of bays and estuaries; and interstate water uses; and new state

initiatives for the formation of ground-water conservation districts.

Sunset Commission legislation reauthorizing the Texas Department of Water Resources is this session's other major omnibus water bill.

A hearing in the Senate Natural Resources Committee may be scheduled for next week. It is anticipated that Senator Sharp will present a substitute bill (CSSB 249) transferring important powers from the Texas Water Development Board to the Texas Water Commission.

Sunset Commission recommendations supported by the League include those requiring earlier public notice of permit application and authorizing administrative penalties for permit violation.

## HUMAN RESOURCES

Barbara McCormick

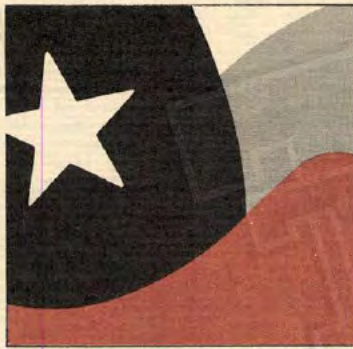
The most recent event in AFDC history is the House Appropriations Committee's support of an AFDC grant increase to \$77 a month per child. The Senate Finance Committee is considering a \$60 AFDC grant.

Child-care legislation that we are supporting includes HB 349 by Farris, which strengthens the requirements for registered family homes. Other bills are SB 617 by Brooks, which allows county commissioners in larger counties to provide child-care services to benefit county residents and farmers, and HB 1648, which establishes a pilot program to lease county facilities for use as state employment centers for disadvantaged youth. This bill has the Senate's leading mem-

ber, Sen. Farris. The League's position on child-care is that checks for child-care employers should not be charged for child-care licenses.

The new explosive issue of pay equity is being introduced in several bills, but HB 1502 by Glossbrenner and SCR 50 by Barrington are the forerunners. Also under equal access to employment is Representative Richardson's HB 2158, which we are following as it is a job training and employment program for AFDC recipients which seems to be patterned after the successful Massachusetts program. Funding would come from the Federal Job Training Partnership Act.





x 13 copies  
13 Water Advisory  
paper

League of Women Voters of Texas  
1212 Guadalupe Suite 109 • Austin, Texas 78701 • Tel. 512/472-1100

February 4, 1981

TO THE SENATE FINANCE COMMITTEE:

The League of Women Voters of Texas would like to express its support of funding for the Texas Department of Water Resources at current activity levels and additional appropriations for functions related to regulation of hazardous waste and underground injection wells.

Because of increasing demands on the state's water resources, it is important that the data-gathering, planning, and management responsibilities of the Department of Water Resources are adequately supported.

Additional state appropriations for some activities, particularly field operation and enforcement are needed to enable Texas to receive delegation of new federal regulatory programs pertaining to hazardous waste and injection wells.

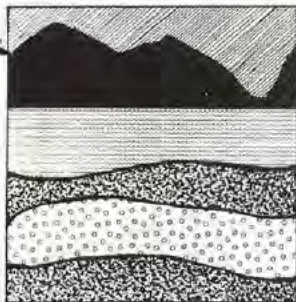
Federal funds will pay a portion of the cost of these programs. Implementation by the state will avoid duplication of paper work, hearings and inspections.

For these reasons the League urges that you recommend appropriations for the Department of Water Resources at the levels requested by the department.

Nancy Bene  
Legislative Director

Attached: "Water and Wastes"





# WATER AND WASTES

## WATER PLANNING

Nothing is more important to the future economic health of Texas and to the future quality of life for Texans than careful management and protection of the state's water resources.

In May 1977, the Texas Department of Water Resources published initial draft studies for revision of the 1968 Texas Water Plan. The Phase I study predicts future water needs and potential sources of supply in each of the state's 15 river basins and 8 coastal areas. Also included are descriptions of ongoing planning processes and major water problems. Topics to be addressed in Phase II studies include environmental analyses, funding needs, and opportunities for more efficient use of water resources.

To assure timely progress toward an updated statewide water plan, the Legislature should appropriate sufficient funds for water resources planning and public information. Interim studies addressing major water problems—such as groundwater depletion, flooding, and pollution—should provide opportunities for legislators and the public to keep abreast of opportunities for better water resources management and to have input into the planning process.

## THE TEXAS WATER DEVELOPMENT FUND

The Texas Water Development Fund was established by a 1957 amendment to the Texas Constitution and has been enlarged and modified by several subsequent amendments. The Fund provides financing for two types of construction projects: A maximum of \$400 million in state bonds may be issued for "conservation and development of water resources." To date, the Water Development Board has issued \$281 million in bonds for this purpose—most of which have been used for loans to political subdivisions for construction of water supply reservoirs. A maximum of \$200 million is authorized for "water quality enhancement" projects. The Board has issued \$100 million in bonds for this purpose, most of which have been used for loans to finance construction of sewage treatment plants. State legislation requires that the Board approve loan applications only in amounts and for projects that cannot be reasonably financed by the applicant without state funds.

The constitution sets the maximum interest rate for the bonds at 6%. Because of increases in prevalent interest rates, it is now impossible for the Board to issue further state bonds at the authorized 6% rate. The Legislature should propose a constitutional amendment increasing the interest rate limit to a figure that is realistic for the current bond market.

## HAZARDOUS WASTES

National attention has been focused in recent years on sites, such as Love Canal, where improper disposal of hazardous wastes has caused serious damage to health and water supplies. Congress has addressed these problems in the 1976 Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA), requiring proper management of hazardous wastes now being produced, and in "superfund" legislation passed in the closing weeks of the 1980 session to facilitate clean-up of dangerous existing disposal sites.

# ADVOCACY PAPER





(ROUGH DRAFT)

*Date 2/4/81*

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13 + LK  
DC  
CP  
LO  
LW - Houston

↓  
*Jody: Keep a careful accounting of what  
it costs to produce this testimony -  
I need it for my lobby reports*  
*term costs*  
*Adm. report 54 ea*



States may be delegated authority to regulate hazardous wastes under RCRA if their programs are equivalent to those required by the federal act and regulations. Delegation of this authority to Texas would avoid costly duplication of state and federal regulatory programs.

In May 1980, EPA published extensive regulations that include definitions of hazardous wastes, requirements for registration of all generators of these wastes, a manifest system for tracking wastes from generation to final disposal, and initial regulations for treatment, storage, and disposal facilities. Further federal regulations for these facilities will be published in December 1980 and early 1981. The Texas Department of Water Resources and the Texas Department of Health have applied for, and will likely be granted, interim authorization for implementation of the RCRA program.

To qualify for final state authorization for implementation of RCRA, the Legislature must provide increased funding to the two state departments for hazardous waste regulation and must increase penalties for violations related to hazardous wastes to maximums of \$25,000 for first offenses and \$50,000 for additional offenses. Criminal penalties of up to a year's imprisonment for first offenses and two years for additional offenses must also be provided. Legislation authorizing these penalties has been drafted by the departments and should be passed in the 1981 legislative session.

The legislature should also enact state "superfund" legislation compatible with the federal act to expedite clean-up of the numerous dangerous disposal sites that have been identified in Texas. Also needed is legislation extending the Texas Coastal Protection Fund to all waters of the state. This fund facilitates emergency clean-up of spills and discharges of oil and hazardous substances and is maintained by reimbursements from the federal government and recovery of costs from those responsible for the spills and discharges.



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Published by the League of Women Voters of Texas  
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(512) 472-1100  
December 1980 10/\$1.00 (5% sales tax)



**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF TEXAS**  
**1212 GUADALUPE, NO. 109 • AUSTIN, TEXAS 78701**

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**MEMO FROM THE PRESIDENT  
REPORT ON THE LEAGUE:**



**STATE BOARD REPORT**

30 Copies

February 4, 1981

IN REFERENCE TO SB 127:

Dear Senator:

During the ten year history of the LEAA program in Texas, many kinds of projects favored by the LWV-T were begun.

There was a great variety of training programs in the areas of law enforcement, judiciary, probation, and correction. Several programs furthered efficient court administration. There were numerous projects to provide alternatives to incarceration for both juveniles and adults, and there were rehabilitation efforts as well.

We are pleased to note that 87% of all local projects begun in Texas during this period are still in place, but now they are locally funded. State agency projects have a similar record for assumption of cost. Such success attests to the LEAA program's effectiveness and careful management in Texas.

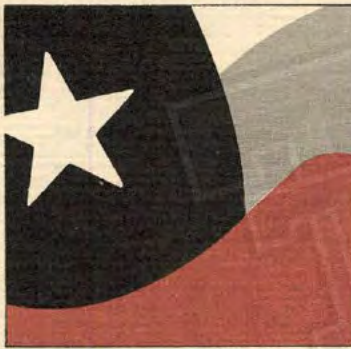
These programs were developed and administered by the Criminal Justice Division of the Governors office. We feel that this Division should continue to exist and that the proposals in SB 127 for creating the CJD Advisory Board and funding the CJ Planning Fund are sound. They hold promise of continued wise management of current projects and the possibility of starting needed new programs in the broad field of Criminal Justice.

We urge your support of SB 127 as amended.

Diana Clark  
President  
League of Women Voters of Texas

Lois Carpenter  
Director  
Administration of Justice





30 copies

League of Women Voters of Texas  
1212 Guadalupe Suite 109 • Austin, Texas 78701 • Tel. 512/472-1100

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League of Women Voters of Texas

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Director  
Administration of Justice

FEB 5 1981

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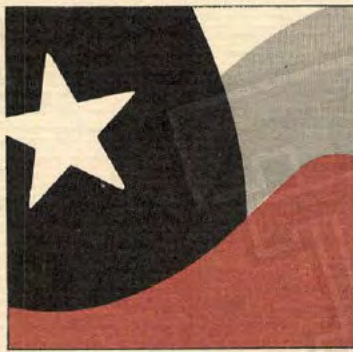
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We urge your support of S.B. 127 as amended.





30  
Copies

League of Women Voters of Texas  
1212 Guadalupe Suite 109 • Austin, Texas 78701 • Tel. 512/472-1100

February 4, 1981

*No Other Members of Senate*  
TO THE NATURAL RESOURCE COMMITTEE

RELATIVE TO: SB 280

In the nationwide effort to lessen dependence on foreign oil and shift to reliance on domestic energy sources, the LWV-T feels conservation is of paramount importance. It can more than shave the peak off the mountain we have to conquer.

The savings of Texas taxpayers resulting from well considered conservation measures installed in government buildings will increase every year as the cost of energy rises. The sooner the renovation is undertaken, the less will be its cost, the quicker its payoff.

Conservation is often linked in the public mind with discomfort and stinginess rather than with efficiency. It is a businesslike way of achieving equal comfort with less outlay; but it has been slow to gain prestige. The state can by example demonstrate to its citizens the wisdom and effectiveness of conservation if this bill is passed.

We support SB 280.

*We urge support for  
SB280*

Laura Keever  
Program Vice President

*Has been reported favorably out of the Natural  
Resources Comm.*

*passed*

February 10, 1981

TO THE NATURAL RESOURCE COMMITTEE

RELATIVE TO: SB 280

Favorably Reported out of Committee

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We urge support for SB 280.

Laura Keever  
Program Vice President



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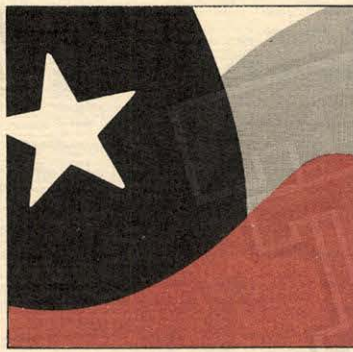
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League of Women Voters of Texas  
1212 Guadalupe Suite 109 • Austin, Texas 78701 • Tel. 512/472-1100

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We support SB 280.

Isabel Miller  
Energy Chairman



2-4-81

Isabel Miller

SB 280

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We support SB 280

*SAW*  
TO ALL MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE ~~XX~~ OF REPRESENTATIVES

RE: HB 656, specifically: appropriations for the Texas Youth Council

*did not  
DO*

Recently the House Appropriations mark-up committee completely deleted, by a vote of nine to seven, the Texas Youth Council's appropriations request for the Community Assistance Program. The LBB had recommended that CAP funding be continued unless the legislature establishes a statewide juvenile probation system and sets up specific guidelines for its implementation.

The CAP budget request, as supported by the LBB, amounted to \$6,444,900 for the biennium. The CAP served 135 counties in 1980, and is currently the only state funding support to local juvenile probation services. Initiated in 1976, the Community Assistance Program's basic objective is to reduce the number of youths committed to TYC through development and provision of community-based services. Funds may be used for employment of juvenile probation officers, diagnostic and counseling programs, and local residential services for youth whose offenses are not serious enough to require commitment.

If the CAP is discontinued and if no statewide juvenile probation legislation is enacted, state support to local juvenile services will totally disappear on September 1, 1981.

We urge you not to let this happen. Since the CAP not only helps communities supply much-needed services, but also provides incentives and encouragement to them to develop local juvenile services, we think a continued Community Assistance Program is essential.

Please work to reinstate the CAP budget request.

Diana Clark

Lois C.

*goes to TYC  
unless another  
state agency  
takes over*



*TV, speech  
by Catherine  
Perrine*

Texans ought to have a voice, through their elected representatives, in saying how their taxes are spent.

The constitutional amendment and enabling bill proposed by Speaker Clayton would put control of what may be very large sums of state money into the hands of appointed boards.

Half the funds left in the state treasury at the end of each biennium would go into a water bond guaranty fund, controlled by the water development board. Neither the people nor their representatives would have any say as to what water projects would be guaranteed by the fund.

State spending

~~That was pending~~ policies should be flexible, to respond to changing needs. The Water Bond Guaranty Fund would lock state revenues into an account that can't be touched in the future. ~~W~~ This money would go on backing more and more bonds for water projects, regardless of what the state's needs may be twenty or thirty years from now.

The State Bond Retirement Fund would also take control of state spending away from the people. There is no reason whatever to use general revenues of the state to pay off bonds issued for loans that are now being repaid by those who borrowed the state money.

The Clayton amendment would put these repayments into perpetually revolving funds to be used by the Water Development Board, the College Coordinating Board, and the Veterans Land Board without any requirement for authorization by the voters.

Texans ought to know how much money they are committing to funds before they are asked to vote on them. The Speaker estimated this week that the Water Bond Guaranty Fund might accumulate 5 billion to 10 billion dollars over the next twenty years, but the actual amount could be much more or much less. When Texas has money to set aside for meeting future needs, this money should go into a fund that can be spent to meet whatever needs are most urgent in the next century--as decided by the people or by their elected representatives.



TO MEMBERS OF THE SENATE STATE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

RE: SB 546

Mon? or Tues?  
2:30  
Lt. Gov's  
Comm. Room

For the last several sessions of the Legislature the League of Women Voters of Texas has supported <sup>the</sup> automatic restoration of voting rights to ex-felons upon completion of their sentence and/or probationary period.

We would remind you that this concept was introduced in the Constitutional Revision Commission in the early '70s by Dr. George Beto, former Director of the Texas Department of Corrections. It was accepted in the proposed new Constitution but, of course, failed when the Constitution was not adopted. It has since been endorsed by numerous groups, including the State Bar.

It is patently unfair that a person once convicted should be forever punished. Once an offender has <sup>been finally discharged from</sup> completed a ~~probationary period~~ <sup>or a</sup> prison term, <sup>and parole</sup> or mandatory <sup>parole</sup> supervision, that person should be given a second chance at full participation in society. For a vindictive government to deny that chance is to foster bitterness and disrespect for the law.

To have voting rights restored to an ex-offender now required <sup>5</sup> extraordinary action outside the regular criminal law procedure. The newly-released but disenfranchised citizen must seek a gubernatorial pardon or obtain a court order.

<sup>at present,</sup> Just the expense of hiring a lawyer discourages thousands of applicants. Furthermore, few pardons are granted when applied for.

We like the other features of Senator Ogg's bill. It cleans up antique language referring to "idiots and lunatics" and restores voting rights to paupers, the withholding of which is a ridiculous provision that is certainly not enforced and <sup>is</sup> highly unconstitutional.

We <sup>must</sup> urgently request that you not only support this measure, but expedite its swift passage to prevent its being drowned by the masses of legislation at the close of the 67th Session.

Thank you for your attention

Lois Carpenter, etc.



1-28-81

Mr. Chairman and members of the Senate Finance Committee, we appreciate the opportunity to appear before you today.

The League of Women Voters of Texas supported the creation of the Texas Commission on Jail Standards six years ago because our members had observed the <sup>deplorable</sup> sorry state of our county jails. We decided that the best way to acquire and maintain safe, sanitary county jails in all parts of the state was to establish a state agency to set and enforce jail standards. Since that time we have regularly pleaded the cause of adequate funding for the Jail Commission before the legislature's appropriate bodies.

It does not appear to us that the Commission's budget, as requested, is out of line with the work expected of them. Certainly they need adequate funds for such items as their audit, supplies, postage and telephone costs. It must sometimes seem to each of us that travel expenses are some kind of pennance we pay to live in this huge state. But obviously the Jail Commission cannot inspect jails and enforce standards without adequate travel funds.

A very important part of the Commission's work now and in the coming biennium is its technical assistance, especially to the small county jails that have no other source for this professional help. In this regard the Legislative Budget Board has recommended that the position of Planning Assistant be funded from federal funds. If that money were available, the Commission could happily apply for it, but it is our understanding that there will be no federal (LEAA) funds available except for some juvenile programs.

We feel that the rapid progress achieved this year in certifying jails in compliance with standards is excellent testimony to the Commission's accomplishments. We were also pleased to note that in its decision in Taylor v. Sterrett the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals recognized the Commission and its work and stated, "The establishment of this body indicates a strong state commitment to improving conditions in those jails. . . ." We urge you to recommend state funding for the position of Planning Assistant, possibly through the Criminal Justice Planning Fund.

We ask that you reconsider the figures before you and approve a budget nearer that requested by the Commission. Your doing so would be in the best interest of the <sup>case</sup> of justice in our state. The Commission on Jail Standards must have adequate funding for enforcement of those standards.

Thank you for your consideration.

*Given by Nancy Bené* 1-29-81



League of Women Voters of Texas  
1212 Guadalupe, #109  
Austin, Texas 78701

TESTIMONY BEFORE THE SENATE FINANCE COMMITTEE RE: COMMISSION ON JAIL STANDARDS  
January 29, 1981

Mr. Chairman and members of the Senate Finance Committee. We appreciate the opportunity to be here.

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Thank you for your consideration.



10 copies

February 23, 1981

TESTIMONY BEFORE THE BUDGET AND OVERSIGHT SUBCOMMITTEE OF THE HOUSE SECURITY AND  
SANCTIONS COMMITTEE: COMMISSION ON JAIL STANDARDS

Mr. Chairman and members of the Budget and Oversight Subcommittee. We appreciate the opportunity to be here.

The League of Women Voters of Texas supported the creation of the Texas Commission on Jail Standards 6 years ago because our members had observed the deplorable state of our county jails. We decided that the best way to acquire and maintain safe, sanitary county jails in all parts of the state was to establish a state agency to set and enforce jail standards. Since that time we have regularly pleaded the cause of adequate funding for the Jail Commission before the legislature's appropriative bodies.

It does not appear to us that the commission's budget, as requested, is out of line with the work expected of them. Certainly they need adequate funds for such items as their audit, supplies, postage, and telephone costs. It must sometimes seem to each of us that travel expenses are some kind of penance we must pay to live in this huge state, but, obviously the jail commission cannot inspect jails and enforce standards without adequate travel funds.

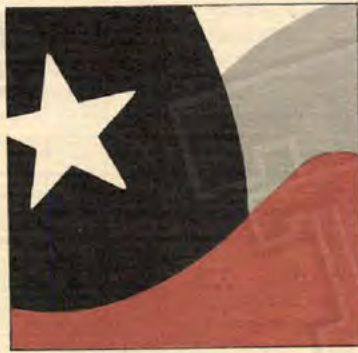
A very important part of the commission's work now and in the coming biennium is its technical assistance, especially to the small county jails that have no other source for this professional help. In this regard the Legislative Budget Board has recommended that the position of Planning Assistant be funded from federal funds. If that money were available, the Commission could happily apply for it. But it is our understanding that there will be no federal (LEAA) funds available except for some juvenile programs.

We feel that the rapid progress achieved this year in certifying jails in compliance with standards is excellent testimony to the commission's accomplishments. We were also pleased to note that in its decision in Taylor v. Sterrett the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals recognized the commission and its work and stated, "The establishment of this body indicates a strong state commitment to improving conditions in these jails..."

We urge you to recommend state funding for the position of Planning Assistant, possibly through the Criminal Justice Planning Fund. We ask that you reconsider the figures before you and approve a budget nearer that requested by the commission. Your doing so would be in the best interest of the cause of justice in Texas. The Commission on Jail Standards must have adequate funding for enforcement of those standards.

Thank you for your consideration.





League of Women Voters of Texas  
1212 Guadalupe Suite 109 • Austin, Texas 78701 • Tel. 512/472-1100

February 23, 1981

TESTIMONY BEFORE THE BUDGET AND OVERSIGHT SUBCOMMITTEE OF THE HOUSE SECURITY AND  
SANCTIONS COMMITTEE: COMMISSION ON JAIL STANDARDS

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*Testimony*

My name is Nancy Bene, speaking for the League ~~of~~ Of Women Voters of Texas.

Mr. Chairman and members of the <sup>Joint</sup> Finance Committee. We appreciate the opportunity to be here.

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Mr. Chairman and members of the Finance Committee. We

appreciate the opportunity to be here. I am Nancy Bene, speaking for the League of Women

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