

**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS
Convention 2018**

Name of League: LWV San Antonio Area

Resolution:

LWVTX write a letter to the Texas State Board of Education and the Texas Education Agency's Social Studies department recommending that (a) coverage of voting responsibilities and the practical aspects of voting are included in the government TEKS and curriculum, and (b) a minimum of 5% of the questions in mandatory or discretionary end-of-course government tests address voting and elections.

Name of position:

LWVUS principle: Protect Citizens' Right to Know/Citizen Participation

"Protect citizens' right to know and facilitate citizen participation in government decision-making."

Background information:

The state constitution requires all high schools to facilitate the registration of seniors in high schools to vote. However evidence indicates that most high schools are remiss in this duty. Until the SBOE mandates teaching students how to become registered and informed voters as a responsibility of citizenship, teachers, constrained by an ambitious curriculum will not find the time to do so.

Evidence that the issue is a current legislative priority: Given Texas' voter ID requirements and lack of emphasis on increasing voter participation in general and the lack of TEKS directly addressing eligible student registration and voting processes, it is not surprising that Texas repeatedly has had extremely low voter turnout. Good governance relies upon informed voting by all eligible citizens.

Evidence that the issue is time sensitive and requires Texas state government action: TEA is currently holding hearings and convening working groups tasked with *reducing* the social studies TEKS which dictate curriculum decisions. Instruction in civic duties and responsibilities is likely to be decreased, making this essential civic duty less likely to be taught.

Address the resolution to:

- **Other:** SBOE and the TEA Social Studies department