



## League of Women Voters Responses

### **GUNS: What steps, if any, should be taken to curb gun violence in our communities?**

I support red flag laws and universal background checks. I also support safe storage laws. Responsible gun owners like me know how to handle guns and how to store them, and we are tired of the irresponsible gun owners who leave guns out within easy reach, or who lend guns to people with a history of threatening violence toward themselves or others. My opponent voted “Present Not Voting” on Permitless Open Carry, even after Texas Police Chiefs traveled to the Capitol to testify that their jobs would become more dangerous if this bill were to be approved. Allowing untrained and unlicensed people to carry guns in public has not made us any safer

### **ELECTION MODERNIZATION: What is your position on election modernization measures like online voter registration, automatic voter registration, expanded access to vote-by-mail and local option ranked-choice-voting?**

I support these election measures. It is a shame that Texas is the most restrictive state when it comes to voting. *A Texas Tribune* analysis placed Texas dead last in ease and convenience of voting. Online voter registration is prohibited in Texas. Universal mail-in voting is prohibited in Texas. Same day voter registration is prohibited in Texas. Automatic

registration is prohibited in Texas. 24 hour voting, multiple drop boxes for ballots, and drive-through voting was prohibited in Texas last summer. Shouldn't we expect our state government to make our lives easier instead of placing obstacles in our path to exercise our rights?

**CHOICE: What would be the ideal legislation, if any, on women's access to abortion and contraception?**

Ideal legislation would be one in which the government removes itself from making healthcare decisions for Texans. My opponent voted in favor of SB8, a bill that 9 out of 10 Texans disagree with because they think it is too extreme and goes too far. Placing \$10,000 bounties on Texans who obtain abortions and those who help them only seeks to punish, not help. No exceptions for rape, incest, or the health of the mother makes this odious bill one of the worst that the Legislature has ever passed. We've all read reports of women having to be placed on ventilators waiting for hospital lawyers to approve this medically necessary procedure.

**POWER GRID: What further can be done to ensure that Texas has sufficient power during extreme weather conditions?**

We need a multipronged strategy that addresses our new reality of extreme weather. First, we safeguard supply by weatherizing all elements of the electric grid, and prepare for terrorism and cyber-attacks. Secondly, we decrease demand by improving home insulation and reduce number of inefficient heating systems. We can also decrease energy demand if certain buildings, like office buildings and shopping malls, are not powered when demand for electricity exceeds supply. Lastly, improve the state's communication with Texans during a

crisis, and share a plan for continually powered shelter locations well before an extreme weather event occurs.

**VOUCHERS: What is your position on using public funds for school vouchers for private schools and why?**

I oppose using public funds for school vouchers. Schools are not well funded and siphoning money out to pay for private schools would only make the situation worse. Vouchers will cause inequitable education opportunities. Not all regions in Texas have access to quality private schools. How can public schools educate every student without adequate funding? Why should the quality of education depend on which zip code you live in? How will the Texas economy prosper if some students receive an excellent education while others do not? These are questions that have not been answered by voucher proponents.

**TEACHER SHORTAGE: What can be done to address the current shortage of teachers in many Texas towns and cities?**

The best way to alleviate the shortage of teachers that we are experiencing across Texas is to provide better pay structures and incentive bonuses, secure teacher retirements, and make sure that a teacher's workplace is welcoming and respectful. A teacher's work environment has steadily become more hostile and abusive over the past two years, unfortunately due to the actions of the Texas Legislature. My opponent voted for the so-called CRT bill, specifically targeting teachers about a subject matter that is not taught in K-12 grades. This law has done nothing but spark confusion and frighten teachers into leaving a profession that they love.

**OTHER ISSUES: What other issues do you believe will be most pressing in the next session of the legislature, and what is your position on these issues**

One of the challenges to constituents in HD 112 is economic prosperity and security. Texas needs to remain a business-friendly state. This includes recognizing that far-right policies can turn off attractive employers and keep them away from Texas, or cause a brain drain of talent that doesn't want to put up with extremism. State leaders should make Texas a place where anybody can do business, attend top-rated schools, work a good job to support their family, and have an excellent quality of life.