

By: Dutton

H.R. No. 677

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, The year 2007 marks the 87th anniversary of the
2 founding of the League of Women Voters of the Houston Area, and the
3 occasion provides an opportunity to pay tribute to this notable
4 organization; and

5 WHEREAS, Established in 1920, the same year that the national
6 organization was formed, the League of Women Voters of the Houston
7 Area has faithfully carried forth the mission laid out by its
8 farsighted founders; a nonpartisan political organization, it
9 encourages informed and active participation in government, works
10 to increase the understanding of major public policy issues, and
11 influences public policy through education and advocacy; and

12 WHEREAS, The organization was formed as the women's suffrage
13 movement was closing in on its goal of giving the female citizens of
14 the United States the right to vote; a League of Women Voters was
15 first proposed in 1919 by Carrie Chapman Catt, president of the
16 National American Woman Suffrage Association, and though rooted in
17 the suffrage movement, the league's activities and information
18 proved equally valuable to male citizens; since the beginning, the
19 League of Women Voters has refused to endorse or oppose any
20 candidate or political party, and it has become recognized as a
21 valuable and unbiased promoter of the democratic process; and

22 WHEREAS, Like other leagues across the country, the Houston
23 area organization publishes a voters guide prior to elections that
24 compiles each candidate's positions on ballot issues, and it shares

1 information via a citizens information telephone line; following
2 each election, the organization updates and revises its Voters Key,
3 which lists all elected officials that serve Houston and Harris
4 County; and

5 WHEREAS, The League of Women Voters of the Houston Area also
6 sponsors voter-registration campaigns and promotes child
7 immunization programs and other health care activities; as an
8 advocacy group, it works to ensure clean air and water and to
9 provide better access to public transportation and low-cost
10 housing; in addition, the league fosters community dialog on other
11 important issues, including education and race relations, and
12 sponsors studies and publications on local schools and government;
13 and

14 WHEREAS, Serving as a guiding light for all who believe that
15 the strength of a democracy rests with its citizens, the League of
16 Women Voters of the Houston Area continues to encourage good
17 citizenship, good government, and good public policy, and its
18 steadfast efforts for more than eight decades have been of immense
19 benefit to the residents of southeastern Texas; now, therefore, be
20 it

21 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 80th Texas
22 Legislature hereby congratulate the League of Women Voters of the
23 Houston Area on the 87th anniversary of its founding and commend the
24 league's members for their valuable work; and, be it further

25 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
26 prepared for the organization as an expression of high regard by the
27 Texas House of Representatives.