



Testimony
Senate Education Committee
Thursday, April 8, 2021

Chairman Taylor, Vice Chair Lucio, Members of the Committee,

I am Diann Andy, an educator, testifying as a member and on behalf of the League of Women Voters of Texas ON SB 1063. Thank you for allowing us to share the League of Women Voters of Texas position on this bill.

First, we wish to express our gratitude to Senator Alvarado for recognizing the urgent need for ensuring our students graduate well-versed in basic financial literacy. This bill addresses two of our state-adopted positions regarding K-12 education. Specifically, the League *supports a state-mandated curriculum that:*

- *Provides the academic rigor necessary for success in post-secondary education and careers.*
- *Provides students with an education that prepares them to be responsible members in a participatory democracy.*

SB 1063 will go a long way toward providing students with a basic understanding necessary to successfully navigate modern financial responsibilities. However, we respectfully suggest two things to improve the effective implementation of the intent of this bill:

1. *Include professional development* for those who will teach the course. Given that most Economics teachers are versed in macro-economics, adding training for those teachers in personal financial literacy is necessary.
2. *Allow the ½ credit course in Personal Financial Literacy (TEC §113.49) currently listed as a Social Studies credit to apply as a Mathematics elective credit.* This would do three important things:
 - a. Afford students the opportunity for earlier, more in-depth study of the math necessary for full personal financial literacy
 - b. Offer students instruction in real-world applications for the math they've been studying for years
 - c. Allow students a practical option to the more esoteric mathematics electives currently applying toward graduation.

The laudable intent of SB 1063 is to ensure that our graduates can effectively manage their own financial needs and decisions. We offer these suggestions to ensure the effective realization of that goal.

Thank you for your kind consideration. Please contact me if you have questions or suggestions.

Diann Andy

Diann Andy, LWV TX Education Issue Chair

The League of Women Voters is one of America's oldest and most trusted civic nonprofit organizations. Formed in 1919, the League of Women Voters of Texas represents over 13,000 grassroots advocates and 34 local Leagues across the State of Texas.

The League of Women Voters never supports or opposes candidates for office or political parties. We encourage the informed and active participation of citizens in government and seek to influence public policy through education and advocacy. Membership in the League is open to people 16 and older of all gender identities.