

FLOWING TO OUR CENTENNIAL 1919 ~ 2019



League of Women Voters of Texas
Biennial Convention

April 27-29, 2018

Inn of the Hills Hotel & Conference Center
Kerrville, Texas

Convention 2018 At-a-Glance

FRIDAY April 27	SATURDAY April 28	SUNDAY April 29
	Breakfast on Your Own* 6:00am – 10am Issue Chairs & Advocacy Cmte 7:00am – 8:00am Silent Auction 7:30am – 8:15am Registration 7:30am – 6:00pm	Breakfast on Your Own* 6:00am – 10am League Presidents Dialogue 7:30am – 8:15am Claim Silent Auction Items 7:30am – 8:15am Registration 7:30am – 8:30am
Registration 10:00am – 6:00pm Silent Auction 10:00am – 1:00pm Volunteer Training 10:00am – 11:00am MLD Coaches Training 10:00am – Noon	Plenary 8:30am – Noon	Plenary 8:30am – 12:30pm
Lunch on Your Own 11:00am – 1:00pm Complying With Texas VDR Laws 12:20pm – 1:45pm	Luncheon & Keynote Address Noon – 1:45pm Silent Auction Noon – 2:00pm	Lunch on Your Own* 12:30pm – 1:30pm Claim Silent Auction Items 12:30pm – 1:15pm
Workshops 1:00pm – 5:00pm	Plenary 2:00pm – 5:00pm	Meeting of the 2018-2020 Board 12:30pm – 1:30pm
Silent Auction 5:00pm – 6:00pm Departure/Return by Bus to/from Hill Country Arts Foundation Departure 5:30pm – 6:00pm Return 7:30pm – 8:00pm	Silent Auction 5:00pm – 8:45pm Networking/Reception (Cash Bar) 6:00pm – 7:00pm	*Breakfast at The Inn Café 6am – 10am & Lunch at The Inn Café 11am-2pm Sunday brunch, 11am-3pm.
Friday Night Event 6:00pm – 8:00pm	Making Democracy Work Dinner 7:00pm – 9:00pm	
Caucuses & Discussion Groups 9:00pm – 10:00pm	Caucuses & Discussion Groups 9:00pm – 10:00pm	

Convention Contacts

2018 Convention Committee Cochairs

Carol Olewin Marguerite "Meg" Scott-Johnson
(M) 713-724-4168

Margaret Hill, Nancy Parra, Brenda Koegler

Resolutions Committee Chair

Grace Chimene (M) 512-940-9948

2018 Local Arrangements Committee Chair

Michael Louise "Bunny" Bond
(M) 830-377-9940

Debby Berry, Twanda Brown, Margaret Megee, Janice Zitelman

Silent Auction Chair

Connie Born (M) 210-601-4175

Officers & Directors

Officers 2016-2018

President: Elaine Wiant, Dallas
 Vice president: Grace Chimene, Austin Area
 Vice president: Elizabeth Erkel, Collin County
 Vice president: Margaret Hill, Bay Area
 Vice president: Nancy Parra, Houston Area
 Secretary: Marguerite Scott-Johnson, Hill Country
 Treasurer: Miriam Foshay, Dallas

Directors 2016-2018

Connie Born, Comal Area
 Amber Briggie, Denton
 Marlene Lobberecht, CyFair League at Large
 Susan Morrison, Austin Area
 Carol Olewin, Austin Area

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League of Women Voters
of Texas

FLOWING TO OUR CENTENNIAL 1919 ~ 2019

Biennial Convention
April 27-29, 2018

Inn of the Hills Hotel & Conference Center
Kerrville, Texas

Welcome to Convention 2018!

Welcome to the 37th Convention of the League of Women Voters of Texas! The League's 100th anniversary is just around the corner—and the League is ready to embark on our second century of Empowering Voters and Defending Democracy! In a speech given in 1969 by Ruth Joor, then president of the Texas League, she said, "I would like to be around in 2020 to see how the League has progressed. I have no doubt that there will be a League of Women Voters—a greater, more influential, more flexible organization than the League of 1970." This year, 2018, is a critical year for the League as we move forward into our second century, and we are well on our way to making her prediction a reality.

At this convention we will adopt a program of study and action for the next two years, celebrate our accomplishments, elect new leaders, adopt bylaws changes, and adopt a budget. In addition, this year the convention delegates will decide whether the Texas League should consolidate its operations in a single 501(c)(3) corporation. The Friday workshops cover topics relevant to League members everywhere—you'll have a hard time choosing just four, so strategize with your fellow Leaguers to choose wisely. If this is your first convention or your 20th, get ready to learn, participate, and have some fun!

Sincerely,

Elaine Wiant, president

League of Women Voters of Texas
2014-2018

General Information

Special Guests at Convention 2018

Chris Carson

President of the League of Women Voters of the United States

The Honorable Bonnie White

Mayor of Kerrville

Ashley Lopez, BS

KUT Austin & NPR Kaiser Health News

Kirk Overbey, PRP

Parliamentarian

Lineah Davey, Ruth S. Shur Fellow

Membership & Leadership Development National
Coach

Randall Buck Wood, JD

Founding partner of Ray & Wood law firm

Kristen E. Sitchler, JD

Nonprofit Legal Counselor & Advocate

Thomas P. Carson, MBA

Nonprofit Financial & Tax Consultant

PAST PRESIDENTS OF THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF TEXAS

Diane Sheridan, Evelyn Bonavita, Ruthann Geer

Julie Lowenberg, Darlene Hicks, Karen Nicholson

Special Thanks & Acknowledgements

Special thanks to the LWV Hill Country board and members for assisting with local arrangements and recruiting volunteers. Thanks also to members of the Comal Area, Hays County, and San Antonio Leagues for providing volunteers.

Sincere appreciation to the following individuals for accepting special assignments.

Michael Louise "Bunny" Bond
Chair, Local Arrangements Committee

Janice Zitelman
Coordinator, Volunteer Staffing

Connie Born
Chair, Silent Auction

Julie Sentell
Chair, Credentials Committee

Mary Ellen Summerlin
Chair, Floor Committee

Janice Zitelman
President of the LWV Hill Country

Margaret "Maggie" Megee
Chair, Friday Night Event

Amber Briggie & Susan Morrison
Cochairs, Fund-a-Need Campaign

Edith Jones
Chair, Election Committee

Elizabeth Erkel
Editor, Program & Workbook

THANKS FOR SUPPORTING THE SILENT AUCTION!

Dozens of League members, local League boards from across the state, and many businesses, organizations, and members of the Texas Legislature have supported the 2018 Silent Auction. Thank you for your donations and for bidding on the great auction items! Proceeds from the auction will benefit voters service activities.

Schedule of Events

Thursday, April 26, 2018

1:00 – 5:00pm	LWVTX Board of Directors Meeting	Angora
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Friday, April 27, 2018

10:00am – 6:00pm	Registration	Atrium
10:00am – 1:00pm	Silent Auction	B
10:00am – 12:00n	Membership & Leadership Development Coaches Training	Executive 1
10:00am – 11:00am	Volunteer Training	Grand Ballroom South
11:00am – 1:00pm	Lunch on Your Own	The Inn Café
12:20pm – 1:45pm	Complying With Texas Volunteer Deputy Registrar (VDR) Laws	Angora
1:00pm – 5:00pm	Workshops	– See Workshops, Caucuses, & Discussion Groups on p. 6
5:00pm – 6:00pm	Silent Auction	B
5:30pm – 6:00pm	Departure by Bus to Hill Country Arts Foundation & Visual Center	
	<i>South motor entrance located outside of the Grand Ballrooms</i>	
6:00pm – 8:00pm	Friday Night Event at Hill Country Arts Foundation & Visual Arts Center	
9:00pm – 10:00pm	Q & A Sessions, Caucuses, & Discussion Groups	
	– See Workshops, Caucuses, & Discussion Groups on p. 6	

Saturday, April 28, 2018

6:00am – 10:00am	Hotel restaurant open for breakfast with buffet and menu	The Inn Café
7:00am – 8:00am	Meeting of the Issue Chairs With Advocacy Committee	Angora
7:30am – 8:15am	Silent Auction	B
7:30am – 6:00pm	Registration	Atrium
8:30am – Noon	Plenary	Grand Ballroom South
Noon – 1:45pm	Luncheon & Keynote Address	Grand Ballroom North
	Demystifying Elections for Voters Who Don't Vote a Lot	
	<i>Ashley Lopez, BS; KUT Austin & NPR Kaiser Health News</i>	
Noon – 2:00pm	Silent Auction	B
2:00pm – 5:00pm	Plenary	Grand Ballroom South
5:00pm – 8:45pm	Silent Auction	B
6:00pm – 7:00pm	Networking/Reception (Cash Bar)	B
7:00pm – 9:00pm	Defending Democracy in Texas Dinner	Grand Ballroom North
	<i>Honoring Randall Buck Wood, a nationally recognized expert on school finance, ethics, and election law and founding partner of Ray & Wood law firm</i>	
9:00pm – 10:00pm	Resolutions Committee, Caucuses, & Discussion Groups	
	– See Workshops, Caucuses, & Discussion Groups on p. 6	

Sunday, April 29, 2018

6:00am – 10:00am	Hotel restaurant open for breakfast with buffet and menu	The Inn Café
7:15am – 8:15am	Local League Presidents Dialogue with LWVUS President Chris Carson & LWVTX President Elaine Wiant	Angora
7:30am – 8:30am	Registration	Atrium
8:00am	Recommended resolutions posted	Atrium
7:30am – 8:15am	Claim Silent Auction items	B
8:30am – 12:30pm	Plenary	Grand Ballroom South
12:30pm – 1:30pm	Lunch on Your Own	The Inn Café
12:30pm – 1:15pm	Final opportunity to claim Silent Auction items	B
12:30pm – 1:30pm	Meeting of the 2018-2020 LWVTX Board of Directors	Angora

Workshops, Caucuses, & Discussion Groups

Friday, April 27, 2018

12:20 – 1:45pm	Complying With Texas Volunteer Deputy Registrar Laws – Texas Civil Rights Project – ANGORA Send one voter services representative from your local League.	EXECUTIVE 1	EXECUTIVE 2	CONFERENCE ROOM D
1:00 – 1:45pm	<p>Presidents Workshop <i>Elaine Wiant, LWVTX President</i></p> <p>A time for current & incoming local League presidents to discuss their biggest concerns about their role as president and review the resources available from the state and national Leagues. Major topics based on survey results.</p>	<p>Being the Treasurer <i>Miriam Foshay, LWVTX Treasurer</i></p> <p>Being a treasurer of the League is a critical board position—much more than paying the bills. What do you wish you knew before you took office? Covers day-to-day basics, legal issues & answering to your local board.</p>	<p>Navigating League Websites <i>Alyssa Harker, Maya Rigley, Camille Schuetze, Zoe Zoeller LWVTX Interns</i></p> <p>Wow! I didn't know that was on our website! How to find all sorts of resources on the state League website to help your League.</p>	
2:00 – 2:45pm	<p>Membership Growth, Promotion, & Retention <i>Margaret Hill, LWVTX Vice President</i></p> <p>Methods for recruitment and retention of active members and those who support the League but hang in the shadows. Focusing on assessment & retention of active members & their attributes to enrich the League.</p>	<p>Social Media <i>Amber Briggie, LWVTX Director</i></p> <p>Print media is out, and social media is in! Why social media is the future of the League, how to use Facebook and Twitter to increase visibility and impact (for little-to-no money) and turn those Facebook fans into members, donors, and volunteers!</p>	<p>Bylaws & Nonprofit Policies <i>Connie Born, LWVTX Director Marlene Lobberecht, LWVTX Director</i></p> <p>Meeting IRS requirements as a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt charity. Will focus on revisions to specific bylaws and policies with options for new & emerging Leagues. Bring copy of local bylaws & policies for an individual review.</p>	
3:15 – 4:00pm	<p>Advocacy <i>Grace Chimene, LWVTX Vice President</i></p> <p>Tips and resources for League advocacy. What's the difference between advocacy and lobbying? And how to be effective at both!</p>	<p>501(c)(3) – Why & How <i>Thomas P. Carson, MBA, Tax Consultant Miriam Foshay, LWVTX Treasurer</i></p> <p>An overview of the 501(c)(3) conversion process with its major implications for both the state and local Leagues. What has been the experience of Leagues that have gone through this process? Bring your questions!</p>	<p>Join the VOTE411 Network! <i>Janice Schieffer, LWV Collin Co. President</i></p> <p>Learn how VOTE411 helps Leagues contact candidates more efficiently, integrate state and local responses in an electronic format easy to use by voters, export data to create printed voters guides, and increase League visibility. – Cellphone/tablet/electronic device required –</p>	
4:15 – 5:00pm	<p>Candidate Forums <i>Marguerite Scott-Johnson, LWVTX Secretary</i></p> <p>A new model in the arena of League candidate forums is based on speed dating. The round-table format works well when there are multiple races on the ballot, contested or not. Sound interesting? Come see what's new!</p>	<p>Fundraising: Planning & Coordinating <i>Aileen McMurre, LWVTX Exec Administrator Susan Morrison, LWVTX Director Eileen Rosenblum & Cecilia McKay, LWV of Dallas</i></p> <p>A panel discussion of planning for fundraising, coordinating fundraising events, and how to ask for money.</p>	<p>Principles of Parliamentary Procedure <i>Kirk Overbey, PRP</i></p> <p>Basic handling of motions, order of business in a meeting, amending a motion, frequently used motions. Q & A with an experienced parliamentarian.</p>	
9:00 – 10:00pm	<p>Q & A: Budget – <i>Marilyn Wills</i> Q & A: 501(c)(3) Conversion – <i>Wiant, Sitchler</i></p>	<p>Program/Studies Discussion – <i>Nancy Parra</i></p>	<p>TBA*</p>	
Saturday, April 28, 2018				
7:00 – 8:00am	Meeting of the Issue Chairs With Advocacy Committee – Angora Room			
9:00 – 10:00pm	Resolutions Committee – <i>Grace Chimene</i>	Voters Guide Discussion – <i>Carol Olewin</i> Q & A: Budget – <i>Marilyn Wills</i>		

*Additional caucuses and discussion groups may be scheduled by signing up on the board in the Atrium.

Delegate Instructions

REGISTRATION TABLE

Volunteers will staff a registration table to register delegates and guests, distribute Convention materials, field questions, and help with directions to meeting rooms.

BADGES

Participants must wear badges at all times to be admitted to Convention sessions and events.

PLENARY & PLENARY SEATING

Plenary is the business meeting of the League. Delegates and observers will have designated seating areas while plenary is in session. Look for your League's name on a table sign. Seating locations will change for the second plenary.

PLENARY COMMUNICATIONS

The LWVTX secretary will read announcements as needed at the start or end of each plenary. To be included, the announcement should be neatly printed and handed to an usher or the secretary. The name of the person providing the announcement should be included.

ROLL CALL OF LEAGUES

Early in the first plenary, local League presidents or their representative will line up alphabetically by League name for roll call. Announce your League name, the number of delegates and observers, and one success story about your League since Convention 2016.

GENERAL DISCUSSION AND DEBATE

Delegates must use microphones to address Convention. Speakers must identify themselves by name and League. During debate, the presiding officer will designate pro and con microphones, and debate will alternate between the two.

VOTING

Most votes during plenary are voice votes. If in doubt, the presiding officer will call a division of the house, usually by show of hands. If still in doubt, the presiding officer will call for a counted vote. No one may enter or leave the room while a vote is taken. Any voting delegate may request a division of the house or a counted vote.

PROGRAM RESOLUTIONS

A copy of the Resolution Submission Form is found on page 46 of this workbook, the convention Registration Table, and at <https://my.lwv.org/texas/convention> and may only be submitted by a delegate. The form *must* include League name and name and mobile phone number of the proponent. The Resolutions Committee may assist in developing wording and strategies. See Procedure for Resolutions (p. 11) for details.

PARLIAMENTARY PROCEDURES

Review Rules of Convention (p. 10) and Parliamentary Procedure Tips (p. 13) in this workbook. During

Convention, you may consult the parliamentarian and state board members for proper procedure.

CAUCUSES

Before Convention the LWVTX Education Committee chair emailed information explaining the process for promoting adoption of a not-recommended item. Rooms will be available on Friday and Saturday evening for caucuses by local Leagues to discuss and strategize. To schedule a caucus, sign up on the message board in the Atrium.

Q & A SESSIONS & DISCUSSION GROUPS

Q & A sessions (on budget, proposed program, proposed resolutions, and 501(c)(3) conversion) and various discussion groups will be held Friday and Saturday evenings at 9pm. See schedule on page 6.

MESSAGE BOARD

A message board will be provided in the auction room to facilitate communication between delegates. Affix no signs, posters, or other materials to any wall.

SOCIAL MEDIA

Delegates are encouraged to use social media to post information and/or photos during and after Convention. Follow @lwvtexas on Twitter at <https://twitter.com/LWVTexas>; use hash tag is #lwvtx2018. Follow LWVTX Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/LWVTX/>. Post on your local League Twitter account and Facebook page!

AUCTION ROOM

Check the Convention 2018 At-A-Glance (p. 1) for hours that the Silent Auction room will be open. Auction items for silent bidding and other wares by local Leagues will be available. The Silent Auction room will be closed during plenary.

FOOD SERVICE

Dining is available in The Inn Café.

- ◆ Café open for breakfast: 6-10am, lunch: 11am-2pm, and Sunday brunch, 11am-3pm.
- ◆ Pub open 4pm-12am Sunday-Thursday and 4pm-2am Friday-Saturday.

Photography, Filming Policy

Some League events and locations may be photographed, broadcast, and recorded on video and film. By your presence at any Convention event, you acknowledge that you have been informed that you may be photographed and recorded as part of the release in video and/or any media now known or hereafter devised, in perpetuity throughout the universe and the advertising and publicity thereof. Further, by your presence, you grant your permission for your likeness and voice to be included therein without compensation, credit, or other consideration. If you do not wish to be photographed, recorded, or appear under these conditions, you should not attend these events. Thank you for your cooperation.

Proposed Order of Business

Plenary Sessions

Saturday April 28, 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Sunday, April 29, 8:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Announcements as needed by LWVTX Secretary, Marguerite Scott-Johnson

Breaks at appropriate times announced by the presiding officer

Call to Order

Welcome

Elaine Wiant, president

Janice Zitelman, LWV Hill Country president

The Honorable Bonnie White, Mayor of Kerrville

Introductions

Roll Call of Local Leagues and Leagues-at-Large

Organization of the Convention

Parliamentary Reminders

Kirk Overbey, parliamentarian

Credentials Committee Report

Julie Sentell, chair; LWV of Hill Country

Adoption of Rules of Convention

Marlene Lobberecht, Governance Committee chair

Adoption of Order of Business

Marlene Lobberecht, Governance Committee chair

Secretary's Report

Marguerite "Meg" Scott-Johnson, secretary

Resolutions Process

Grace Chimene, Resolutions Committee chair

Treasurer's Report

Miriam Foshay, treasurer

Fiscal Management & Administration Committee Report

Miriam Foshay, chair

Bylaws Process

Marlene Lobberecht, Governance Committee chair

Motion to Consolidate Operations & Move Members and Leagues to New 501(c)(3) Corporation

LWVUS President's Address

Chris Carson, LWVUS president

Celebration of 50-Year Members & 75-Year Local Leagues

Margaret "Peggy" Hill, vice president

Advocacy Committee Report

Grace Chimene, chair

Education Committee Report & Presentation of Proposed State Program for 2018-2020

Explanation of State Program Process, Presentation of Recommended & Not-Recommended Items

Nancy Parra, Education Committee chair

Presentation of the Proposed 2018-2020 Budget

Marilyn Wills, Budget Committee chair; LWV Tyler/Smith County

Get-Out-the-Vote Action Program Report

Elizabeth Erkel, vice president

High School Voter Registration Project Report

Ari Holland-Baldwin, LWVTX intern; Lyndon B. Johnson School of Public Affairs at the University of Texas at Austin

President's Address

Elaine Wiant, LWVTX president

President's Award

Nominating Committee Report

Ruthann Geer, chair; LWV Tarrant County

Nominations from the Floor

Credentials Committee Report

Julie Sentell, chair; LWV Hill Country

Communications Committee Report

Amber Briggie, chair

Issue Chair for Voting Rights & Election Laws in Texas Report

Cinde Weatherby, LWV Austin Area

Presentation of the Bylaws, Debate, and Adoption

Marlene Lobberecht, Governance Committee chair

Debate and Adoption of the 2018-2020 Per Member Payment and Budget

Marilyn Wills, Budget Committee chair; LWV Tyler/Smith County

Services to Local Leagues Committee Report

Margaret "Peggy" Hill, chair

Development Committee Report

Susan Morrison, chair

Debate and Adoption of State Program 2018-2020

Nancy Parra, Education Committee chair

Resolutions Committee Report

Grace Chimene, chair

Silent Auction Results

Connie Born, Silent Auction chair

Directions to LWVUS Convention 2018 Delegates

Election of 2018-2020 LWVTX Officers, Directors, and Nominating Committee

Greetings from the Newly Elected President

Recognition and Thanks to Outgoing LWVTX Board Members

Invitation to LWVTX Convention 2020

I wish the League would...

Closing Announcements

Adjournment Sine Die

Rules of Convention

Proposed Convention 2018 Rules & Procedures

A motion to adopt these rules will be made on the opening plenary. Amendments may be offered at this time and require a majority vote to adopt. The rules and procedures, as proposed or amended, require a two-thirds vote for adoption. To suspend a rule or procedure at a later time requires a two-thirds vote.

1. Admission to Convention shall be limited to persons displaying an official badge, which must be worn at all meetings of the convention.
2. Delegates, nonvoting members (observers), and visitors shall sit in designated areas. Although persons may enter the plenary room after a meeting has begun, no one shall be seated during an address.
3. Only accredited delegates representing local Leagues, Leagues-at-large, and members of the LWVTX Board of Directors may vote.
4. Only delegates and those authorized by the convention chair or the delegate body may address the convention.
5. Each speaker shall use a microphone and announce name and League when addressing the convention.
6. In debate, no person shall speak more than once until all others who wish to speak have done so; no person shall speak more than twice on the same motion; debate shall be limited to 2 minutes per speaker.
7. Debate will be terminated after three people consecutively speak to one side of an issue if no one is at the other microphone to speak to the other side of the issue.
8. Any nonprocedural motion shall be in writing on forms obtained from the tellers, signed by name and League. One copy shall be provided to the secretary, one copy to the audiovisual staff, and one copy shall be retained by the maker of the motion. Motions shall be identified by the number appearing on the motion form.
9. When a vote is in progress, the doors to the meeting room shall be closed, and no one may enter or leave.
10. Only announcements that relate to the business of the convention or the welfare of the participants shall be made.

Procedures for Proposed Program

11. Procedures for Proposed Program
 - a. Procedure for Considering the Proposed Program
 - 1) At the first plenary, the proposed LWVTX Program shall be moved for adoption by a member of the LWVTX Board of Directors. There may be questions for clarification, with responses limited to 1 minute each, but no additional motion or debate shall be in order at this time.
 - 2) Debate on the proposed program shall occur on the following day as designated on the agenda during the second plenary.
 - b. Procedure for Considering Not-Recommended Program Items
 - 1) At the first plenary, any League may move for consideration of a not-recommended program item provided that it had been submitted to the state board 3 months prior to Convention.
 - 2) Presentations shall be limited to 1 minute. There may be questions for clarification, with responses limited to 1 minutes each, but no additional motions or debate shall be in order at this time. If a not-recommended item is moved for consideration, any delegate may request a statement from the LWVTX Board of Directors, limited to 1 minute, giving the reasons for not recommending the item.
 - 3) After all not-recommended items have been moved for consideration, a vote for consideration of each shall take place in the order in which the items were moved for consideration. A majority vote is required to consider a not-recommended item.

- 4) Debate and action on not-recommended program items ordered for consideration shall take place on the following day at the same time as debate and action on the proposed program.
- c. Procedure for Considering the Adoption or Amendment of a State League Position by Concurrence
 - 1) At the first plenary, any League or the state board may move for consideration of a proposal for concurrence to adopt or amend a state League position provided that the (a) proposing League or state board had notified the state office 6 weeks before Convention by submitting background information, pros and cons on the issue, and rationale for using this form of member agreement and (b) state office had sent the information to all Leagues, state board, and Leagues-at-large at least 30 days before Convention.
 - 2) After all proposal for concurrence items have been moved for consideration, a vote for consideration of each shall take place in the order in which the items were moved for consideration. A majority vote is required to consider a proposal for concurrence item.
 - 3) Debate and action on proposal for concurrence motions shall take place on the following day at the same time as debate and action on the proposed program.
- d. Procedure for Adoption of Program. Action shall take place at the second plenary.
 - 1) *Proposed program*. Convention delegates shall adopt the proposed program by a majority vote on each subject presented to it.
 - 2) *Not-recommended program item*. Convention delegates may adopt a not-recommended program item by two-thirds vote if its consideration was ordered by a majority vote of Convention on the previous day.
 - 3) *Proposal for concurrence*. Convention delegates may adopt a proposal for concurrence item by two-thirds vote if its consideration was ordered by a majority vote of Convention on the previous day.

Procedure for Resolutions

12. Procedures for Resolutions

- a. Resolutions express the will of the convention and are not intended to modify a position. Resolutions shall conform to *all* of the following criteria:
 - 1) Be within League program.
 - 2) Not circumvent the program process.
 - 3) Involve a single, short-term action by this Convention.
 - 4) Deal with a topical, current, time-sensitive issue.
 - 5) Be pertinent to Texas.
- b. Procedure for Submission
 - 1) A resolution may be proposed by a League or a delegate by completing and submitting the required Resolution Submission form (a) online or (b) to the convention registration desk by 12 noon on the day of the first plenary.
 - 2) The League offering the resolution shall have registered Convention delegate(s).
- c. The Resolutions Committee
 - 1) Shall have been appointed by the LWVTX president at least 4 weeks prior to Convention, consisting of two members of the LWVTX Board of Directors and three registered Convention delegates who have either served on the board of the LWVUS, LWVTX, or a local League.
 - 2) Shall meet after the submission deadline to consider whether each proposed resolution meets the requirements as to form, notice, and criteria.
 - 3) Criteria for Committee Approval of Proposed Resolutions. The proposed resolution must conform to *all* of the following criteria:
 - (a) Requires time-sensitive state governmental action.
 - (b) Addresses a single topic or issue.

- (c) Is consistent with League bylaws, Principles, and current League positions in the *LWVTX Program Perspectives* and the *LWVUS Impact on Issues*.
 - (d) Is consistent with League positions, and the corresponding position is identified on the proposed Resolution Submission Form.
 - (e) Is consistent with the current stated legislative priorities.
 - (f) Is likely to have an impact on the single topic or issue as described on the Resolutions Submission Form.
 - (g) Can be implemented using existing League resources.
- 4) The representative of the League submitting the proposed resolution shall have an opportunity to explain the resolution to the Resolutions Committee if the representative so requests.
 - 5) Resolutions recommended and not recommended by the Resolutions Committee shall be posted by 8 a.m. on the second day of the Convention.
- d. Procedure for Adoption of Resolutions
- 1) Debate and action on proposed resolutions shall take place after action on the proposed program, concurrences, and not-recommended program items at the second plenary.
 - 2) The chair of the Resolutions Committee shall report the Committee finding on all submitted proposed resolutions to Convention at the second plenary.
 - 3) *Recommended resolutions*. Any proposed resolution recommended by the Resolutions Committee may then be moved for Convention consideration by a delegate of the League that submitted it. A majority vote shall be required to adopt a recommended proposed resolution.
 - 4) *Not-recommended resolutions*. Any proposed resolution not recommended by the Resolutions Committee may be moved by any delegate. Presentation shall be limited to 3 minutes. Any delegate may request a statement from the Resolutions Committee giving the reasons for not recommending it. A two-thirds vote shall be required to adopt a not-recommended resolution.
13. The minutes of Convention shall be approved by the LWVTX Board of Directors after review by a committee appointed by the LWVTX president to review and correct the minutes.

Examples of Resolutions from Past Conventions

- A. LWVTX write a letter to the Texas State Board of Education recommending that (a) coverage of voting responsibility and the practical aspects of voting are included in the government curriculum, and (b) a minimum of 5% of the questions in mandatory or discretionary end-of-course government tests address voting and elections. (2014)
- B. LWVTX write a letter to members of the Texas House Homeland Security and Public Safety Interim Committee urging repeal of the Texas Driver Responsibility Program that involves traffic surcharges on fines relating to driving without a current inspection sticker, driving with expired insurance/no insurance, etc. This practice is double jeopardy in fines and has a disproportionate impact on the work poor, particularly women. (2014)
- C. LWVTX members, acting as individuals, encourage their federal elected officials to support comprehensive immigration reform that would provide for family reunification; meet the economic, business, and employment needs of the United States; and ensure fair treatment under the law for all persons. Publish this resolution in the next *TEXAS VOTER*. (2010)
- D. LWVTX write letters to the chairs of the Texas legislative committees responsible for dedicated funds during their fall 2010 budget meetings, urging them to reserve dedicated funds for their original purposes, not to bolster the General Fund. (2010)
- E. LWVTX submit comments by June 2, 2010, to the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service regarding a Habitat Conservation Plan being formulated by the Aquifer Recovery Implementation Program. (2010)

Parliamentary Procedure Tips

As noted in the LWV-Texas Bylaws, the rules contained in the current edition of *Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised* shall govern the organization in all applicable cases not inconsistent with the Bylaws. The Convention parliamentarian will use the 11th edition of *Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised* as the official reference.

All Convention business is accomplished by making, debating, and acting upon motions. Once a topic has been introduced by a main motion, seconded, and stated by the President, it is normally before the delegate body for action. However, at League Conventions, some business is introduced at one meeting, with action to continue at a later time. This enables communication and caucusing before final decisions are made. Program and budget are examples of such League business.

While a main motion is pending on the floor, a privileged, subsidiary, or incidental motion can be made that must be decided before the main motion is acted upon. Each succeeding motion that is made while prior motions are pending must be of higher rank than the previous motion. Rank order of motions, from highest to lowest rank: privileged, incidental, subsidiary, main.

- *Privileged motions.* Privileged motions bring up urgent or important items unrelated to pending business. Privileged motions take precedence over all other motions and are not debatable.
- *Incidental motions.* Incidental or "red card" motions provide a means of questioning procedure to the business pending or to Convention operations and must be decided before any other business is taken up. There is no debate or vote, and the President rules on these motions. However, an incidental motion yields to a privileged motion.
- *Subsidiary motions.* Subsidiary motions change or affect how a main motion is handled. Subsidiary motions supersede the main motion and are voted on before the main motion.
- *Main motions.* Main motions introduce items to the delegates for their consideration. They cannot be made while any other motion is on the floor. The main motion yields to all privileged, incidental, and subsidiary motions.

Specific types of motions are discussed below from the motion highest in rank to the motion lowest in rank. If questions of parliamentary procedure arise that are not answered in this section, please consult the Convention parliamentarian.

To do this:	Say this: (Common motion name is in bold italics.)	May you interrupt speaker?	Is a second required?	Is motion debatable?	Can it be amended?	What vote is needed?	Can it be reconsidered?
Privileged Motions							
The motions listed below are listed in order of precedence, from the motion highest in precedence to the motion lowest in precedence. While any one of them is pending, only a motion of higher precedence may be introduced.							
Close the session at a fixed time	"I move that when we adjourn, we stand adjourned until [specific time, date, and location]."	No	Yes	No	Yes	Majority	Yes
Close the session	"I move that we adjourn ."	No	Yes	No	No	Majority	No
Take an intermission from the day's proceedings	"I move that we recess until [specific time of the day]."	No	Yes	No	The length of the recess can be amended.	Majority	Yes to postpone the recess, which requires 2/3 vote
Protest issues of (a) comfort of the assembly, e.g., noise; (b) operation of the assembly, e.g., accuracy of published proceedings; or (c) a personal nature, e.g., incorrect recording of member's attendance or an affront to one's dignity	For (a) or (b): "I rise to a question of privilege affecting the assembly." For (c): "I rise to a question of personal privilege ."	Yes	No	No	No	Ruled upon by the chair	No
Request that the assembly conform to its program or order of business	"I move that the assembly proceed to the orders of the day ."	Yes	No	No	No	One third	No

To do this:	Say this: (Common motion name is in bold italics.)	May you interrupt speaker?	Is a second required?	Is motion debatable?	Can it be amended?	What vote is needed?	Can it be reconsidered?
Incidental Motions (Red Card Motions)							
The motions listed below take precedence over subsidiary motions but yield to privileged motions. Only the motions to amend or end/limit/extend debate can be applied to privileged, incidental, or subsidiary motions.							
Within the group of incidental motions, there is no rank order: Any one of them may be introduced at any time except while a privileged motion is under consideration.							
Seek urgent information necessary before the vote	"I rise for information ."	Yes	No	No	No	Ruled upon by the chair	No
Ask for direction or procedure to accomplish a parliamentary action	"I rise to parliamentary inquiry ."	Yes	No	No	No	Ruled upon by the chair	No
Object to improper use of a procedure or breach of a rule	"I rise to a point of order ."	Yes	No	No	No	Ruled upon by the chair	No
Vote on a ruling by the chair	"I appeal the chair's decision."	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Majority; a tie vote sustains the chair's ruling	Yes
Ask for vote by actual count of those standing to verify a voice vote or show of hands	"I call for a division ."	Yes	No	No	No	Majority	No
Ask that a matter be reconsidered*	"I move to reconsider our vote on [topic] [now or on a later date]."	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Majority	No
*Member must be on prevailing side and move for reconsideration on same or next day as the vote to be reconsidered. This motion has only the rank of the vote proposed to be reconsidered.							
Take action in violation of the rules related to priority of business, business procedure, or admission of guests to the meeting	"I move to suspend the rules that interfere with [the proposed action]."	No	Yes	No	No	Two thirds	No
Subsidiary Motions							
The motions listed below are listed in order of precedence, from the motion highest in precedence to the motion lowest in precedence, and yield to privileged and incidental motions. Only the motions to amend or end/limit/extend debate can be applied to privileged, incidental, or subsidiary motions.							
To delay consideration of a matter due to another more urgent matter	"I move to lay the question on the table ."	No	Yes	No	No	Majority	No
End debate and amendments	"I move to the previous question ."	No	Yes	No	No	Two thirds	Yes
Shorten or lengthen debate time	"I move to [limit or extend debate] to e.g., "...1 minute per speaker," "...five speakers pro and five speakers con," or "...10 more speakers, 1 minute each."	No	Yes	No	Yes	Two thirds	Yes
Postpone to a specific time	"I move to postpone consideration of this motion until [specific date and time]."	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Majority	Yes
Obtain extensive rewording of the motion or more extensive investigation of the topic	"I move that the question be referred to committee [may also add specifications]."	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Majority	Yes
Change wording of a motion	"I move to amend the motion by [adding, inserting, and/or striking out] the words [specify words]."	No	Yes	Yes unless main motion is not debatable	Yes	Majority	Yes
To reject the main motion without risking a vote on it	"I move to postpone the vote on the motion indefinitely ."	No	Yes	Yes	No	Majority	Yes if vote is affirmative
Main Motion							
Introduce an item for consideration and vote by the delegates	I move ...	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Majority	Yes

Reports

Nominees for LWV Of Texas Board of Directors 2018-2020

Officers

President Grace Chimene Austin Area	A pediatric nurse practitioner, Chimene has served two terms on the LWV of Texas board. As child health issue chair, she advocated for Medicaid expansion and gun violence prevention. Chimene coordinated advocacy for LWV of Texas in the 85 th Legislative Session and Special Session. In addition, she implemented new technology to further the League mission, improved advocacy with One Click Politics, and expanded online visibility with an updated website and a social media campaign on Facebook, Twitter, and YouTube.
Vice president Connie Born Comal Area	Born is completing her first term on the LWV of Texas board as a member of the Development and Governance Committees. She is a member of the LWV of Comal Area where she has served as vice president of program, director of membership, and a member of the nominating committee. She also chaired the local Pay Day and Auto Title Loan Study.
Vice president Janet Imhoff Collin County	Imhoff has been an active member of the League since 1972, serving in various positions on LWV of Sherman/Grayson County and LWV of Collin County. She served on the LWV of Texas board from 2002-12, as program vice president, voter service chair, and issue chair for education for two legislative sessions. Imhoff is also a Membership & Leadership Development coach.
Vice president Eileen Rosenblum Dallas	Prior to opening her own grant consulting firm in 2003, Rosenblum was grant administrator for the Richardson Independent School District. Her current priority is leadership participation in the LWV of Texas. She is a past president of LWV of Dallas. Rosenblum earned a PHD in policy analysis from the University of Illinois.
Vice president Marguerite "Meg" Scott-Johnson Hill Country	Scott-Johnson is competing her first term as LWV of Texas secretary and is the LWV of Texas issue chair for human trafficking. She has been president and voters service chair for the LWV of the Hill Country. Scott-Johnson is a licensed clinical social worker in private practice in Kerrville. To keep herself grounded, she is a Hill Country master gardener.
Secretary Marjorie Wallé Tyler/Smith County	Wallé is vice president of community relations of the LWV of Tyler/Smith County and currently serves on the boards of Smith County Historical Society and East Texas Genealogical Society. She is a past board member of Tyler AAUW and the East Texas Book Festival. Wallé enjoys photography and graphic design.
Treasurer Miriam Foshay Dallas	Foshay has been an active League member since 1986, serving as treasurer and in other capacities for LWV Naperville and LWV Dallas. In Naperville, IL, she was the business manager of the Naperville Area Recycling Center, a LWV/AAUW project. In her third term on the LWV of Texas board, Foshay is the current treasurer and chairs the Fiscal Management and Administration Committee. She is a tax preparer with Enrolled Agent certification.

Directors

Amber Briggie Denton	Briggie is completing her first term on the LWV of Texas board. As LWV of Texas issue chair for equal opportunity, she helped defeat 29 anti-LGBTQ bills in the 2017 Texas Legislature. She owns a small business in Denton, where she chairs the Zoning Board of Adjustments. Nationally, Briggie cochairs the Human Rights Campaign Parents for Transgender Equality Council.
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- Phyllis Ingram
San Antonio Area
Ingram has served as president, community relations vice president, treasurer, and voter service director of the LWV of San Antonio Area. She is a past president of the San Antonio Media Alliance and has served as the national president of American Women in Radio and Television. The U.S. Small Business Administration named Ingram Women in Business Advocate of the Year.
- Susan Majors
Richardson
Majors joined LWV of Richardson 30 years ago. Since then she has served on the local board as organization vice president, membership chair, and most recently secretary. As a former LWVTX issue chair, she covered behavioral health and later child health. Majors has been a Membership & Leadership Development coach for 4 years.
- Carol Olewin
Austin Area
Olewin is completing her first term on the LWVTX board, where she is currently voters service director and cochair of the Convention & Events Committee. Prior to this, she served on the LWV of Austin Area board as treasurer, president, and copresident. In the community Olewin has served as an election judge and on the boards of City of Austin Flood Mitigation Task Force, Manor Chamber of Commerce, and Travis County Emergency Services District 12.
- Jeff Reichman
Houston Area
Reichman currently serves on the LWV of Houston Area board where he is leading a Harris County Election Cyber Security Study. Reichman founded January Advisors, a data analysis and visualization firm, and Sketch City, a community of more than 2,700 people who build technology tools and advocate for technology and data in public decision making.
- Naomi Wood
Denton
Wood advocates for women's issues, paid family leave, higher education policies, local control, and sustainable communities. She has extensive experience in higher education research funding and grants at the University of North Texas. Wood founded the IGNITE Texas chapter at the University of North Texas and remains an advisor. She and her husband enjoy raising their 10-year old daughter.

Nominating Committee 2018-2020

- Chair
Margaret "Peg" Hill,
Bay Area
Hill has been active in the LWV for 45 years, serving at all levels. Local: president of LWV of Richardson, chair of election central and education of LWV of Houston Area. State: three terms on the LWVTX board where she has been a vice president, chair of the Services to Local Leagues Committee, and coordinator of Membership & Leadership Development. National: director of LWVUS where she chaired the Education Study and is a Shur Fellow coach. She retired as a professor from University of Houston-Clear Lake.
- Gloria Sasser
Comal Area
As a charter member of the LWV of Comal Area, Sasser has served as president, vice president of organization, VOTER editor, and member of the Membership, Fundraising, and Nominating Committees. At the state level, Sasser served on the LWVTX board as vice president of organization and chair the Death Penalty Study. Currently Sasser is issue chair for immigration and a Membership & Leadership Development coach.
- Janice Zitelman
Hill Country
Zitelman has served as president, treasurer, and voters service chair for the LWV of Hill Country. She has long been an advocate for health care for all and is known by her peers as a "big picture person." Zitelman recently retired from a career in social work, having worked in state government and the private sector.

Budget

Explanation of Proposed Budgets

LWVTX = League of Women Voters of Texas, a 501(c)(4) social welfare organization

LWVTEF = League of Women Voters of Texas Education Fund, a 501(c)(3) trust

LSLWV = Lone Star League of Women Voters, a 501(c)(3) corporation

Rationale

Three separate budgets are presented. The first budget assumes that the LWVTX and the LWVTEF consolidate their assets and functions into a single 501(c)(3) corporation, currently designated the LSLWV. The second and third budgets assume that the two current organizations (LWVTX & LWVTEF) remain unchanged. Delegates at Convention 2018 will adopt either the LSLWV or the LWVTX budget. If consolidation is not passed, the LWVTEF Board of Trustees will adopt the LWVTEF budget at their first meeting after Convention 2018.

Although LWVTX and LWVTEF have separate budgets, the two organizations are closely related and share the same board; only their operational emphasis is different. For example, all advocacy work is done through LWVTX, while citizen information and education activities are carried out by LWVTEF. Where resources are shared, such as staff time and office facilities, the respective contributions and use of resources by the two organizations are carefully tracked and expenses are split accordingly.

Criteria and Assumptions

- Staff, administrative, and property expenses will be split 35% LWVTX and 65% LWVTEF. Ratios are based upon prior year's records kept by the executive administrator.
- Per-member-payments remain unchanged at \$22/member, \$11/additional household member, and \$12/student.
- A new texting service will be funded by the fund-a-need campaign. Expenses for this service are included under the line item for online software services.
- While it appears that board expenses are high, board members now report their expenses. Most of these expenses are in-kind donations, except for lodging.
- Membership and Convention attendance will increase as we approach our 100th anniversary.
- The monthly *Action News!* has replaced the *Texas VOTER*. It is delivered exclusively by email, reducing the cost of member services.
- Emphasis will continue to be placed on development/marketing/social media.
- Property expenses include \$1,500 to purchase a new laptop computer and two office chairs.
- Support staff hours will increase from 12 to 30 hours/week. A salary increase of 4% is built into the budget for each year of the biennium.
- If consolidation is not approved, there will be a net loss for the biennium due to an additional \$4,000 required for accounting services.

Budget Committee

Marilyn Wills, chair and president, LWV of Tyler/Smith County

Elaine Wiant, president

Marguerite "Meg" Scott-Johnson, secretary

Miriam Foshay, treasurer

Grace Chimene, vice president and chair, Advocacy Committee

Nancy Parra, vice president and chair, Education Committee

Budget Q & A

If you have questions about the proposed budgets, please contact the chair of the Budget Committee, Marilyn Wills, by email at lwv_president@lwvtyler.org any time before Convention. The Budget Committee will be available to discuss your questions at Convention during two Q & A sessions Friday and Saturday evenings. We urge delegates to use these times to obtain advance answers to questions of a detailed or technical nature. See the workshop schedule on page [6](#).

Proposed Budgets 2018-2020

	LONE STAR LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS 501(c)(3)		LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF TEXAS 501 (c)(4)		LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF TEXAS EDUCATION FUND 501(c)(3)	
	2016-18 Actual (\$)*	2018-20 Proposed (\$)	2016-18 Actual (\$)*	2018-20 Proposed (\$)	2016-18 Actual (\$)*	2018-20 Proposed (\$)
	Income					
Dues & per member payments	77,780	84,049	51,381	65,549	26,399	18,500
Individual donations	148,636	110,900	17,769	29,742	130,867	81,158
In-kind donations	26,291	39,000	2,526	3,000	23,765	36,000
Project funding	35,224	50,000	0	0	35,224	50,000
Fundraising events	15,233	24,000	0	0	15,233	24,000
State convention	24,000	39,500	18,500	20,000	5,500	19,500
Investments	13,876	12,700	1,730	1,700	12,146	11,000
Publications, Lobby Days, regional training	24,543	31,800	829	1,800	23,714	30,000
Total income	365,583	391,949	92,735	121,791	272,848	270,158
	Expenses					
Advocacy & lobbying	5,272	9,390	5,242	9,390	0	0
Mission projects	65,945	51,500	0	2,000	65,945	49,500
Member services	4,195	2,450	940	800	3,255	1,650
Convention	15,000	18,000	15,000	18,000	0	0
Online software services	8,429	14,500	3,565	4,350	4,864	10,150
Office expenses	27,257	28,100	9,902	9,135	17,355	18,965
Accounting, payroll, information technology, & website services	17,946	7,240	4,699	5,053	13,247	6,187
Development & fundraising	11,363	18,000	3,977	5,850	7,386	12,150
Marketing & social media	1,729	3,100	564	1,003	1,195	2,098
Board expenses	34,145	42,200	17,073	21,100	17,072	21,100
Property expenses	17,634	22,530	0	0	17,634	22,530
Rent	0	0	4,800	4,800	(4,800)	(4,800)
Salaries, payroll, taxes, benefits	140,472	171,124	48,590	55,699	91,882	115,425
Total expenses	349,388	388,134	114,352	137,180	235,036	254,954
Net income	16,195	3,815	(21,617)	(15,388)	37,812	15,204

*Income and expenses are actual from June 1, 2016 to February 15, 2018, and estimated for the remaining 3½ months.

Bylaws: Proposed Amendments

Words to be inserted or added: underlined. Words to be deleted: ~~strikethrough~~.

Amendment 1: Article IV, Section 2

<i>Current Bylaw</i>	<i>Proposed Amendment</i>	<i>If adopted, will read:</i>
<p>ARTICLE IV. LOCAL LEAGUES AND MEMBER-AT-LARGE UNITS</p> <p>Section 2. Member-at-Large Units</p> <p>a. The state board may authorize the establishment of member-at-large units, composed of members at large, where feasible. Member-at-large units shall operate within the limitations established by the LWVUS and within guidelines adopted by the state board.</p> <p>b. In the event of recurrent failure to adhere to guidelines for member-at-large units or to operate within the limitations established by the LWVUS, the state board may withdraw approval of the member-at-large unit. All assets held by a member-at-large unit from which approval has been withdrawn shall be turned over to the state League.</p>	<p>ARTICLE IV. LOCAL LEAGUES AND MEMBER LEAGUES-AT-LARGE-UNITS</p> <p>Section 2. <u>MemberLeagues-at-Large-Units</u></p> <p>a. The state board may authorize the establishment of <u>memberLeagues-at-large-units</u>, composed of <u>state members-at-large</u>, where feasible. <u>MemberLeagues-at-large-units</u> shall operate within the limitations established by the LWVUS and within guidelines adopted by the state board.</p> <p>b. In the event of recurrent failure to adhere to guidelines for <u>memberLeagues-at-large-units</u> or to operate within the limitations established by the LWVUS, the state board may withdraw approval of the <u>memberLeague-at-large</u> unit. All assets held by a <u>member-at-large-unit League-at-large</u> from which approval has been withdrawn shall be turned over to the state League.</p>	<p>ARTICLE IV. LOCAL LEAGUES AND LEAGUES-AT-LARGE</p> <p>Section 2. Leagues-at-Large</p> <p>a. The state board may authorize the establishment of Leagues-at-large, composed of state members, where feasible. Leagues-at-large shall operate within the limitations established by the LWVUS and within guidelines adopted by the state board.</p> <p>b. In the event of recurrent failure to adhere to guidelines for Leagues-at-large or to operate within the limitations established by the LWVUS, the state board may withdraw approval of the League-at-large. All assets held by a League-at-large from which approval has been withdrawn shall be turned over to the state League.</p>
<p><i>Rationale: Rationale:</i> League-at-large is the most appropriate wording for the formation of new Leagues and restructured Leagues who want to be part of the state organization and is respectful our diverse Texas membership and population.</p>		

Continued on the next page

Words to be inserted or added: underlined. Words to be deleted: ~~strikethrough~~.

Amendment 2: Article VII, Section 2

<i>Current Bylaw</i>	<i>Proposed Amendment</i>	<i>If adopted, will read:</i>
<p>ARTICLE VII. CONVENTION Section 2. Composition The convention shall consist of</p> <p>a. The president of each local League or an alternate, in the event the president is unable to attend;</p> <p>b. Delegates chosen by members of local Leagues as follows: One delegate for the first 15 voting members, and one delegate for every 10 additional voting members or major fraction thereof. The official membership count shall be determined by state office records of voting members as of January 1 of the year in which convention is held. Each provisional League and each member-at-large unit with at least 10 members shall be entitled to one voting delegate; and</p> <p>c. the members of the state board.</p>	<p>ARTICLE VII. CONVENTION Section 2. Composition The convention shall consist of</p> <p>a. The president of each local League/League-at-large or an alternate, in the event the president is unable to attend;</p> <p>b. Delegates chosen by members of local Leagues/Leagues-at-large as follows: One delegate for the first 15 voting members, and one delegate for every 10 additional voting members or major fraction thereof. The official membership count shall be determined by state office records of voting members as of January 131 of the year in which convention is held.Each provisional League and each member-at-large unit with at least 10 members shall be entitled to one voting delegate; and</p> <p>c. the members of the state board.</p>	<p>ARTICLE VII. CONVENTION Section 2. Composition The convention shall consist of</p> <p>a. The president of each local League/League-at-large or an alternate, in the event the president is unable to attend;</p> <p>b. Delegates chosen by members of local Leagues/Leagues-at-large as follows: One delegate for the first 15 voting members, and one delegate for every 10 additional voting members or major fraction thereof. The official membership count shall be determined by state office records of voting members as of January 31 of the year in which convention is held; and</p> <p>c. the members of the state board.</p>
<p><i>Rationale: Rationale:</i> League-at-large is the most appropriate wording for the formation of new Leagues and restructured Leagues who want to be part of the state organization and is respectful our diverse Texas membership and population.</p>		

Program

Program Adoption Process

The vote on the proposed Program at Convention will be the culmination of months of program planning by local Leagues and the state board. The board adopted a proposed Program based on recommendations from three local Leagues.

Recommendations in Brief

The LWVTX board recommends (a) retaining all current and amended LWVTX positions in the areas of Government, Administration of Justice, Social Policy/Human Resources for the 2018-2020 biennium and (b) review and update of the Criminal Justice and Land Use positions.

Not-Recommended Items Eligible for Consideration and Adoption

To be moved for consideration at Convention, a not-recommended study must be listed, indicating that it had met the bylaws deadline for submission. Not-recommended items may be ordered for consideration by a majority vote of delegates present and voting. Adoption of a not-recommended item requires a two-thirds vote by delegates present and voting on the following day. (LWVTX Bylaws Article X, Sec. 2[d])

Concurrence Items Eligible for Consideration and Adoption

Those wishing to propose the adoption or amendment of a state League position by concurrence on the floor of the convention shall give notice to the state office to be sent to all local Leagues and the state board, of its intent to do so at least 6 weeks before the convention. The proposing League or state board shall send background information, including pros and cons on the issue and an explanation of the rationale for using this form of member agreement to the state office and the state office shall send the information to all local Leagues, state board, and Leagues-at-large at least 30 days before Convention (LWVTX Bylaws Article X, Sec. 2[c]). No proposals for concurrence were submitted.

Tips for Involvement in Program Adoption

Read the proposed Program in this workbook and talk with your local League members ahead of Convention. Familiarize yourself with Procedures for Proposed Program on page **10** of this workbook. Attend the "Program/Studies Discussion" (see p. **6**). Attend caucuses sponsored by delegates promoting not-recommended or concurrence items (to be announced).

Proposed Program

The LWVTX Board of Directors recommends:

1. Retaining all current LWVTX positions in the areas of Government, Administration of Justice, Social Policy/Human Resources for the 2018-2020 biennium, including the Juvenile Justice position that was amended by the LWVTX Board of Directors February 18, 2018.

Juvenile Justice 1977, 1994, 2018

As amended January 2018. Words inserted or added: underlined. Words deleted: ~~strikethrough~~.

The League of Women Voters of Texas supports an effective state juvenile justice system and programs and policies to prevent juvenile violence and crime. We support the following:

- An adequate level of state funding for the juvenile justice system and for addressing the problem of juvenile crime; in allocating state funds for these purposes, highest priority should be given to prevention, followed by intervention and then corrections; funding responsibility should be shared by city and county governments, school districts, and private sources. Juveniles are those under the age of 18 at the time of the offense.

- Rehabilitation as the main goal of the juvenile justice system, with every juvenile committed to the Texas Youth Commission having access to adequate and appropriate rehabilitation services and programs.
- Coordination of information and services between social service agencies and the juvenile justice system.
- Adequate access to juvenile records by law enforcement agencies.
- ~~Provision that juvenile offenders under age 10 may be referred to the juvenile justice system;~~ The minimum age for adult certification of juvenile offenders should not be lower than 15.
- Strict regulation of possession of firearms by juveniles; adults who furnish illegal firearms to juveniles should be held criminally liable.

2. Review and update of the Criminal Justice and Capital Punishment Reform position.

- Focus.* Review the current bail bond system with respect to fairness of practices and the defendant's ability to pay and risk to public safety.
- Scope.* Update to the Criminal Justice position related to "Revision of the bail bond system to permit counties to serve as bonding agencies and provide regulation of all commercial bail bond agencies, including guidelines for more uniform bail amounts."
- Rationale.* The LWV Collin County recommended this review and update. The Criminal Justice and Capital Punishment Reform position was last reviewed in 2010. According to Texas Appleseed,

In Texas, tens of thousands of people are jailed each year for failure to pay tickets, fines and court costs. Many of the people jailed simply did not have the money to pay, despite the fact that it's unconstitutional to jail a person for failure to pay fines that they are unable to pay. Courts routinely fail to ask about defendants' ability to pay fines or costs, or to offer them alternative sentences like community service to resolve the amount that they owe. (Texas Appleseed, 2017)

For further information, read *Pay or Stay: The High Cost of Jailing Texans for Fines and Fees* (Texas Appleseed, 2017) at <https://www.texasappleseed.org/debtors-prisons>.

3. Review and update of the Land Use position.

- Focus.* Review the Land Use position related to eminent domain. Consider application of current law and its impact on the environment.
- Scope.* Update to the Land Use position related to "Protection of the traditional rights of ownership of property, but in conflicts between private interest and public welfare, precedence should be given to the public interest." Include specific reference to eminent domain and the need to consider environmental impact.
- Rationale.* The LWV San Antonio Area recommended a study. However, the state board believes that a review and update would be most expedient. The issue of eminent domain has been active and newsworthy in the past few years. The LWVTX is able to lobby on legislative proposals using the current position, but it was adopted nearly 45 years ago (1974). A review and update will facilitate better member understanding of the issue and clarify the LWVTX advocacy efforts related to eminent domain.

List of Not-Recommended Items

- Eminent Domain in Texas (Study)
- Juvenile Justice (Review/Update)

List of Current Positions

For LWVTX positions and background, see *Program Perspectives 2016-2018* at <https://my.lwv.org/texas/publications>

I. Government

Texas Constitutional Revision	Campaign Finance/Ethics
Election Laws, Voting Rights	Public School Finance
Executive, Legislative, and Judicial Executive	Public School Testing and Accountability
Financing State Government	Redistricting
Homeowners Association Reform	State-Local Relations
Intestacy (Dying Without a Will)	

II. Administration of Justice

Criminal Justice and Capital Punishment Reform	Spousal Sexual Assault
Drug Laws and Policies	Human Trafficking
Immigration	Payday & Auto Title Loans in Texas
Juvenile Justice	

III. Social Policy/Human Services

Child Abuse and Neglect	Health Care for Those of Lesser Means/Child Health Care
Childcare/Early Childhood	Health Care System for Older Texans
Child Support Enforcement	Immigration
Domestic Violence	Post-Divorce Payments
Equal Opportunity/Income Assistance	Services for People With Behavioral Health Disorders

IV. Natural Resources

Air and Climate Change	Transportation
Land Use	Water

Committee Reports

Advocacy

Grace Chimene, chair; Amber Briggie, Marlene Lobberecht

The Advocacy Committee ensures that its work and that of the Capitol Corps coordinator, legislative coordinator, and issue chairs are in concert with positions published in the Program Perspectives and Impact on Issues. The Advocacy Committee works closely with the Education Committee.

We believe in the power of women to create a more perfect democracy. League advocacy encourages everyone to take action on issues important to Texans. The Advocacy Committee takes action in support of League positions on behalf of the LWVTX. We recommend legislative priorities and positions on proposed constitutional amendments to the state board.

Lobby Days 2017 attracted an overflow crowd at the Capitol. And League advocates across the state participated on our first-ever Facebook Live event! Lobby Days advocates learned about LWVTX priority issues from experienced policy experts and then called on their local legislators.

During the 170 days of the 85th Texas Legislative Regular Session and Special Session the LWVTX advocacy team—issue chairs, Capitol Corps, board members, staff and *you*—banded together to boldly make our voices heard like never before! League advocates educated and agitated at the Capitol in bold new ways, and we couldn't have done it without *you*! The *Capitol Action* electronic newsletter was published weekly throughout both sessions. With the enthusiastic assistance of college interns, *Capitol Action Minute* videos on priority issues were produced and published online. *You* took action on 156 rapid-fire Action Alerts with our easy-to-use One Click Politics technology.

The advocacy team didn't shy away from controversial issues like the "bathroom bill" and onerous restrictions on abortion. And *you* responded! A rousing 920 League advocates communicated with their elected officials 4,733 times via One Click Politics. Issue chairs wrote 98 pieces of testimony on 15 issues for committee meetings and hearings. Capitol Corps volunteers stayed long hours at the Capitol making sure League positions were heard.

Facebook, Twitter, and YouTube enhanced action by our grassroots advocates in support of League positions. The advocacy team couldn't do it without *you*! Facebook has 6,000 followers and Twitter 2,000. Over 55,000 viewers watched the LWVTX YouTube videos about the propositions on the 2017 Constitutional Amendment Election ballot.

We are proud of our suffragist past and know the suffragists would be proud of our move into the future!

Communications

Amber Briggie, chair; Grace Chimene, Elizabeth Erkel, Aileen McMurrer (ex officio)

The Communications Committee ensures that its work is in concert with the mission of the League. The committee will make certain that ethical and legal standards in electronic publishing are maintained. It oversees (a) the collection of communications technology channels for communicating with League members and the public and (b) public relations,

publicity, and marketing of publications, projects, and League services. The Communications Committee is comprised of the chair, cochair, and two or more board members.

The Communications Committee amplifies the mission of the LWVTX through increased visibility that stimulates League awareness and interest among the public and members. Its communication channels provide user-friendly messages to enhance public education, member advocacy, and fundraising through public relations, publicity, and marketing. These activities increase our membership and financial support to be able to continue our work in the future!

Future impact of messaging will heavily rely on social media. Facebook alone has over 1 billion users worldwide. If the League could reach 1% of Texas users, imagine how much the League could accomplish! As communication trends change, the League needs to incorporate new tools and methods of communication to be a robust, thriving organization.

In the last 2 years, the Communications Committee has:

- a. Increased followers of the LWVTX Facebook page by 312% (from 1,328 in July 2016 to 5,472 in January 2018).
- b. Created and sent 156 Facebook Action Alerts.
- c. Produced over 60 new videos for the LWVTX YouTube channel, with over 41,000 views since June 2016.
- d. Produced dozens of public service announcements for television and radio stations across Texas during the 2016 Presidential Election.
- e. Joined Twitter; currently about 2,000 followers/fans.
- f. Updated the state League website in January 2018. It has a beautiful, streamlined interface that views well on mobile devices. Nearly 3 million clicks on the state League website; highest traffic is during the early voting period and during the Texas Legislative Session.
- g. Raised \$7,000 via #GivingTuesday in 2016-18.

Social media trends are changing, and the League will change messaging practices accordingly:

- a. Facebook is changing its algorithms to make business posts like ours show up less often.
Solution: Keep posts *relevant* and encourage members to like and share our posts to reach the right audience.
- b. The majority of website viewers find the League website through Facebook, not through a search engine.
Solution: Install a pop-up window to capture contact information when the viewer gets to the state League website. Your League can do the same!
- c. Many people have multiple email accounts that they don't check every day or sign up for LWVTX alerts using a junk email address.
Solution: Invest in a text messaging system to inform and alert people of important event dates and action items.

Fund-a-Need revenue from Convention 2018 is dedicated to funding a new text messaging system for the 2018-20 biennium because it is an incredibly important tool to further the League mission and ensure our message is getting out to as many people as possible!

Education

Nancy Parra, chair; Elizabeth Erkel, Carol Olewin

The Education Committee is responsible for the education of League members and the public. The committee promotes informed citizen participation in elections and government policy-making through activities such as production of voters guides and educational materials, study of state governmental issues, and program planning.

Program: Get-Out-the-Vote Action Program 2016-2018

Convention 2016 adopted Get-Out-the-Vote Action Program 2016-2018 to encourage informed and active participation in government by facilitating voter engagement. See a detailed final report on GOTV activities, outcomes, and recommendations beginning on page [28](#).

Administration of LWVUS Public Advocacy for Voter Protection (PAVP) Grants

2016 general election. Supervised, pass-through PAVP grants were awarded to six local

Leagues to increase voter registration and turnout among underrepresented populations through collaboration with other community and nonprofit organizations. Projects used printed materials from the Get-Out-the-Vote web page on the state League website related to voter registration and photo ID requirements. Local leagues, partnering with diverse organizations, distributed bookmarks, Handy Dandy Guides, and other educational materials to over 10,000 voters at voter registration drives, candidates forums, and other events. Two local Leagues participated in the LWVUS Voter Contact Pilot Project, contacting over 20,000 voters by telephone to motivate them to vote.

2018 primary elections. Supervised, pass-through PAVP grants were awarded to six local Leagues to mitigate the impact of Texas voter photo ID laws by helping voters without the required documentation obtain it. The Education Committee began implementation of a survey of high school voting practices to assess compliance with Texas voter regulatory laws.

County website survey. As part of the LWVUS PAVP grant, three surveys of official county websites were conducted to assess the online availability and adequacy of election information on the 234 existing official Texas county websites (August 2016, October 2016, October 2017). Feedback was provided to county election officials following each survey. Overall adequacy of elections and voter ID information improved from 2016 to 2017, both in the overall score and proportion of websites rated minimally adequate by category. See the complete report at <https://my.lwv.org/texas/county-website-review>

Voters Service

VOTERS GUIDE PRODUCTION AND DISTRIBUTION

A LWVTX Voters Guide was produced for each election occurring in the 2016-18 biennium. The November 2016 General Election and March 2018 Republican and Democratic Primary Elections guides included candidates for statewide offices, the State Board of Education, and Courts of Appeals. The guide for the November 2017 Constitutional Election provided pros and cons related to the seven proposed amendments to the Texas Constitution.

Local Leagues distributed over 300,000 print voters guides in English and Spanish to the public for the November 2016 and 2017 elections. For each election, more than 20,000 print guides were distributed free of charge to more than 120 libraries in counties that do not have a local League.

For the November 2017 election, a total of 31,340 guides were printed at a cost of 27¢ each. Short videos describing the pros and cons of each amendment were produced and posted on the state League website and LWVTX YouTube channel. For the March 2018 election, a total of 33,420 guides were printed at a cost of 47¢ each. The data for distribution of print guides and electronic views are not yet available.

VOTE411 PROMOTION

LWVTX covered the cost of VOTE411 for participating local Leagues for the 2016 and 2018 elections and defrayed partial cost in 2017 elections to further the goal of integrating VOTE411 across the state as a tool for voters service. Use of VOTE411 increased 130% nationwide and 60% in Texas between 2015 and 2017. The number of viewing sessions more than doubled in major metropolitan areas, including Austin, Dallas, and Houston. In the 2 months prior to the March 2018 Primary Elections, 116,797 Texans made 162,263 visits to VOTE411. Use of VOTE411 increased tremendously since 2014: While the number of users in the 2018 primary election season was twice that of 2016, it was 17 times that of 2014.

Fiscal Management & Administration

Miriam Foshay, chair; Marguerite Scott-Johnson, Elaine Wiant, Aileen McMurrer (ex officio)

As the League of Women Voters of Texas (LWVTX) has grown more active, so have the demands on financial resources and staff. Over the past biennium, work by part-time assistants to the full-time executive administrator has increased from 10-12 hours per week to more than 20 hours per week. Additional support is needed to carry out the day-to-day support activities of the League as

it moves forward. Thus, the proposed budget reflects a 20% increase for salaries, payroll, taxes, and benefits.

Among the increasing demands for staff time are Action Alerts, sent to members frequently during the recent legislative session. At the same time, improved efficiency in other areas has been facilitated by purchase of integrated software systems, minimizing duplication of effort. For example, the new donor software provides a variety of detailed reports with minimum effort. The staff reviewed several software options before selecting the current suite of software.

It became possible to provide affordable health insurance coverage to the executive administrator through an Internal Revenue Code Section 105 Plan. This allows the League to use before-tax dollars to reimburse most of the cost of the health insurance premium and a portion of out-of-pocket medical expenses.

By virtue of owning the League office condominium, the League of Women Voters Texas Education Fund (LWVTEF) is a member of the homeowners' association for the building. The City of Austin notified the association that it might be required to retrofit the building with fire sprinklers. The association has protested this requirement because of the estimated \$4 million cost that would create an unsupportable burden for the individual condominium owners. A final determination is expected within the next year. Meanwhile, the homeowners' association fee has gone up sharply since the last biennium in order to provide funds for necessary maintenance, not including the fire sprinkler system.

Revenues have been variable over the past 4 years due to the occasional unanticipated bequests to the LWVTEF. But one trend is clear: The LWVTX is increasingly starved of funds to pay for its share of League expenses. The division of expenses (currently 35% LWVTX, 65% LWVTEF) is determined by staff time devoted to the two organizations and open to scrutiny by the Internal Revenue Service. The Fiscal Management and Administration Committee recommends that the LWVTX find additional sources of revenue if the two organizations are not consolidated.

Services to Local Leagues

Margaret Hill, chair; Marguerite Scott-Johnson

The past 2 years have been exciting times to work with local Leagues in Texas. Since the 2016 Presidential Election, women's voices are being heard with renewed enthusiasm for political activism and voting. For many years, the LWV has been particularly structured regarding requirements for Leagues. LWVTX is leading the way for new structures and flexibility for local League organization. New Leagues may form as Leagues-at-large comprised of state members (formerly member-at-large units comprised of members-at-large) in order to obtain more support until the League is ready to become a full-fledged League. The Services to Local Leagues Committee provides leadership, along with the state board, to nurture both new and existing Leagues.

The LWVTX membership increased 18% (1,816 to 2,140) from 2016 to 2018. Excitement grows as new Leagues form and existing Leagues restructure under the League-at-large designation. New Leagues-at-large include Cy-Fair, Beaumont, Fort Bend County, Lavaca County, Marshall, and Victoria. The Rio Grande Valley League-at-large has tripled its membership; a new League would like to form in Laredo. Congratulations! to these new Leagues-at-large imbued with strong enthusiasm and a growing membership.

Over the summer of 2017 the Services to Local Leagues Committee conducted five regional workshops. The host Leagues are to be congratulated for their organization of these events: Comal County, Cy-Fair, El Paso, Lubbock, and Tarrant County. Thank you for a job well done! Attendance at each workshop was tremendous and enthusiasm igniting. The will to offer honest, nonpartisan information is a uniting force as we move into the 100-year celebrations for women voting in Texas.

Coordination of each local League with a coach or League liaison from the state board has been a major development this biennium. Lineah Davey, our LWVUS Shur Fellow coach hosts a conference

call each month with LWVTX coaches and state board members. In turn, LWVTX coaches host a conference call with their local League. Each of the experienced Leaguers listens and encourages local League leadership and connects them with League resources. Local Leagues share accomplishments, concerns, and questions. Suggestions, encouragement, information, and resources are shared with local Leagues. The monthly calls are a vital part of maintaining the vibrancy and continued leadership and membership growth and retention at the local level. This grassroots effort keeps the local Leagues current and growing—a vital link to organization in our democracy.

Training will be provided at Convention for all coaches and board liaisons to discuss how we can better serve each local League. Local League leadership will have a chance to meet face-to-face with their coach or board liaison, affording a chance to continue conversations and strengthen LWV leadership.

Development

Susan Morrison, chair; Connie Born, Miriam Foshay, Aileen McMurrer (ex officio)

The Development Committee ensures that its work is in concert with the mission of the League. The Development Committee oversees financial development and works with the Convention/Statewide Events Planning Committee on special fundraising events. The Development Committee is comprised of the chair and one or more directors.

The LWVTX is moving into the modern age! The League participated in the Giving Tuesday social media community fundraising effort for the first time in 2016 and again in 2017. The direct mail program has added follow-up emails to campaigns. Electronic donate buttons are being included in many communications to members and supporters, particularly when achievements are celebrated. While most donations from communications with a donate button are small amounts, there have also been a handful of larger donations from such solicitations. Fundraising information is included in the Resources section of the regular emails sent to local League presidents.

Fundraising Results (Dollars)

	<i>TEF Income</i>	<i>TX Income</i>	<i>Expenses</i>	<i>Net Income</i>
Campaigns				
FY16 Summer appeal	7,488.00	4,250.00	(3,080.27)	8,657.73
FY17 Summer appeal	6,305.00	2,800.00	(469.00)	8,636.00
FY16 Year-end appeal	7,595.00	5,415.00	(4,931.46)	8,078.54
FY17 Year-end appeal	11,720.00	1,865.00	(4,466.05)	9,118.95
FY16 Giving Tuesday	13,500.00	925.00	–	2,275.00
FY17 Giving Tuesday	1,760.00	–	–	1,760.00
FY17 July the Fourth	88.00	–	–	88.00
Contributions				
Bequests	55,250.00	–	–	55,250.00
LWVTX board members	17,440.00	90.00	–	17,530.00
Pledges	2,010.00	575.00	–	2,585.00
Unspecified	22,861.32	1,351.35	–	24,212.67
Event Fundraising				
FY16 MDW dinner	17,840.00	–	(8,358.73)	9,481.27
FY17 MDW dinner	11,050.00	–	(6,858.00)	4,192.00
Project Funding				
Foundation & corporate gifts	12,868.01	–	–	12,868.01
Other				
In-kind contributions	26,791.02	2,941.43	–	29,732.45
Merchandise sales	–	633.38	(308.55)	324.83
Total	\$202,416.35	\$20,846.16	(\$28,472.06)	\$194,790.45

Get-Out-the-Vote Action Program 2016-2018

Elizabeth Erkel, chair; Grace Chimene, Marlene Lobberecht, Nancy Parra

Goal: Encourage informed and active participation in government by facilitating voter engagement
Objective: Increase voter turnout in Texas among eligible voters by 5% from 2012 to 2020 (49.6% to 54.6%)
Strategy: Interactive meaningful interaction

Voter Education Tactics

Tactics that raise awareness and inform

- Presentations
- Newspapers
- Radio and television

Tactics that help voters plan

- Brochures, booklets, fliers, and more
- Mailings

Tactics that help voters take action

- Websites

Tactics that keep the conversation going

- Social media

Voter Mobilization Tactics

Conversations

- Elevator speech
- Informal conversations
- Canvassing
- Pledge cards
- Door hangers

Live phone banks

Social media

- Social pressure on social media networking sites
- Text messages
- Videos

GOTV Action Program Activities & Outcomes 2016-2018

Key: ✓ = accomplished. ⌘ = ongoing.
 ↗ = partially accomplished ○ = not accomplished.

	Jun-Dec 2016	Jan-May 2017	Jun-Dec 2017	Jan-May 2018
1. Gather data and assess needs	✓	⌘	⌘	⌘
2. Build and maintain GOTV pages on state League website	✓	✓	✓	✓
3. Coordinate and maintain GOTV contact lists on GOTV web page	✓	✓	✓	⌘
4. Facilitate voter engagement network of organizations invested in voter registration, education, and turnout (including state and local officials)	↗	↗	↗	↗
5. Collaborate with organizations that have similar voter engagement goals at the local and state levels	✓	✓	✓	○
6. Facilitate campaign for online voter registration	↗	↗	↗	↗
7. Develop and implement voter outreach strategies for low-voter-turnout populations	✓	✓	✓	✓
8. Expand implementation of National Voter Registration Act and Texas Election Code, Chapter 2, Section 13.046	○	○	○	○
9. Conduct social media GOTV campaign	○	○	✓	✓
10. Conduct traditional media GOTV campaign (radio, TV, newspapers)	↗	○	○	○
11. Develop and provide webinars [tutorials], workshops, and presentations on voter engagement and effective voter mobilization methods	✓	✓	✓	⌘

Key: ✓ = accomplished. ⌘ = ongoing. ➔ = partially accomplished ○ = not accomplished.	Jun-Dec 2016	Jan-May 2017	Jun-Dec 2017	Jan-May 2018
12. Toolboxes: Ideas That Work! Share local League projects that have been successful in voter education and turnout	✓	✓	✓	✓
13. Develop/provide templates for GOTV materials that local Leagues, nonprofits, and other community organizations and institutions can tailor to their target audiences	○	✓	✓	○
14. Develop/publish printed materials for use and distribution by local Leagues	✓	✓	✓	⌘

Recommendations for 2018-2020

- Prioritize completion of tactics and activities partially or not accomplished
- Continue successfully implemented tactics and activities, including update of website materials prior to each election
- Conduct social media campaigns using evidence-based messages to increase effectiveness
- Develop new activities to involve local Leagues in collaborating with organizations that have similar voter engagement goals at the local level
- Develop new activities to involve local Leagues in voter mobilization (i.e., local Leagues invest a lot in voter registration and education but little in voter mobilization)
- Discontinue annual survey of official county websites for adequacy of elections and voter ID information. Instead:
 - Work with individual county election officials on improvements in elections and voter ID information on their individual websites. Those selected for assistance would be prioritized by adequacy (inadequate, bare minimum, fair, and good but could improve).
 - Develop election information and voter ID materials for elections website officials to post that meet the criteria for outstanding adequacy.
 - Work with the Texas Association of Counties County Information Resource Agency to distribute the materials via their website.

Budget Report

Beginning balance	\$8,000.73			
Expenses	(8,000.16)			
Mission projects		(6,552.66)		
Public Advocacy for Voter Protection (PAVP)			(1,800.00)	
Texas Primary 2018 Be a Texas Voter Campaign			(4,752.66)	
Radio and television		(360.00)		
Public service announcements (PSAs)		(422.18)	(360.00)	
Social media			(100.00)	
Facebook boost of posts			(322.18)	
Facebook advertisements		(150.00)		
Software			(100.00)	
Canva			(40.00)	
Buffer			(10.00)	
Ripple				
Supplies		(515.32)		
Vote It Counts! 3" buttons			(515.32)	
Ending balance	\$0.57	(\$8,000.16)	(\$8,000.16)	

Appendices

Delegate Count: Convention 2018

League ID	League Name	Number Members	% Change 2016-17	Delegates Allowed	Delegates Attending
TX123	Amarillo	50	4.2	5	
TX100	Austin Area	353	75.6	35	
TX114	Bay Area	51	18.6	5	
TX169	Beaumont League-at-Large	10	NA	1	
TX166	Cy-Fair League-at-Large	27	NA	3	
TX152	Collin County	97	44.8	10	
TX162	Comal Area	46	9.5	5	
TX103	Corpus Christi	102	8.5	10	
TX104	Dallas	324	-0.6	32	
TX146	Denton	87	50.0	9	
TX111	El Paso	32	-5.9	3	
TX168	Fort Bend County League-at-Large	11	NA	1	
TX135	Grayson County	10	11.1	1	
TX148	Hays County	74	21.3	7	
TX160	Hill Country	49	88.5	5	
TX107	Houston Area	284	2.2	28	
TX144	Irving	43	-4.4	4	
TX167	Lavaca County League-at-Large	5	NA	1	
TX127	Lubbock County	45	-16.7	5	
TX156	Marshall/Harrison County League-at-Large	17	-10.5	2	
TX109	Midland	58	-9.4	6	
TX147	Richardson	29	11.5	3	
TX164	Rio Grande Valley League-at-Large	15	7.7	2	
TX102	San Antonio Area	116	30.3	12	
TX113	Tarrant County	105	-2.8	11	
TX124	Tyler/Smith County	46	-9.8	5	
TX141	Victoria League-at-Large	3	NA	0	
TX119	Waco Area League-at-Large	18	0.0	2	
TX121	Wichita Falls	33	-8.3	3	
	Total	2,140	17.9	216	

NA = Not applicable. TBA = to be assigned.

Bylaws of the League of Women Voters of Texas

Adopted June 19, 1947

Amended 1956, 1958, 1960, 1962, 1966, 1968, 1970, 1971, 1973, 1975, 1977, 1979, 1981, 1983, 1985, 1987, 1989, 1991, 1993, 1999, 2001, 2003, 2006, 2008, 2010, 2012, 2016

ARTICLE I. NAME

The name of this organization shall be League of Women Voters of Texas, hereinafter referred to in these bylaws as LWVTX, or, as the state League. This state League is an integral part of the League of Women Voters of the United States, hereinafter referred to in these bylaws as LWVUS.

ARTICLE II. PURPOSES AND POLICY

Section 1. Purposes

The purposes of the LWVTX are to promote political responsibility through informed and active participation in government and to act on selected governmental issues.

Section 2. Political Policy

The League shall not support or oppose any political party or any candidate.

ARTICLE III. MEMBERSHIP

Section 1. Eligibility

Any person who subscribes to the purposes and policy of the League shall be eligible for membership.

Section 2. Types of Membership

- a. *Voting members.* Persons at least 16 years of age who join the LWVTX shall be voting members of the local and state Leagues of their place of joining and of the LWVUS;
 - 1) those who live within an area of a local League may join that League or any other local League;
 - 2) those who reside outside the area of any local League may join a local League or shall be state members at large;
 - 3) those who have been members of the League for 50 years or more shall be life members excused from the payment of dues.
- b. *Associate members.* All others who join the League shall be associate members.

ARTICLE IV. LOCAL LEAGUES AND MEMBER-AT-LARGE UNITS

Section 1. Local Leagues

- a. Local Leagues are those Leagues within the state of Texas that have been so recognized by the LWVUS.
- b. The board of directors, hereinafter also referred to as the state board, shall recommend to the board of the LWVUS, hereinafter referred to as the national board, that it recognize as a local League any group of members of the League in any community within the state provided the group fulfills recognition requirements.
- c. In the event of recurrent failure of a local League to fulfill the national and/or state requirements, the board of the LWVTX shall recommend to the national board that it withdraw recognition from such Local League. In the event of the dissolution of the local League, all monies and securities that may at the time be owned or under the control of the local League shall be paid to the LWVTX after the local League board has paid or made provision for the payment of all liabilities of the local League. All other property of whatsoever nature, whether real, personal, or mixed, which may at the time be owned or under the control of the local League, shall be disposed of to such person, organization, or corporation for such public, charitable, or educational use and purposes as the state board in its absolute discretion may designate.

Section 2. Member-at-Large Units

- a. The state board may authorize the establishment of member-at-large units, composed of members at large, where feasible. Member-at-large units shall operate within the limitations established by the LWVUS and within guidelines adopted by the state board.
- b. In the event of recurrent failure to adhere to guidelines for member-at-large units or to operate within the limitations established by the LWVUS, the state board may withdraw approval of the member-at-large unit. All assets held by a member-at-large unit from which approval has been withdrawn shall be turned over to the state League.

ARTICLE V. OFFICERS

Section 1. Election, Qualifications, and Term

The officers of the LWVTX shall be a president, four vice presidents, a secretary, and a treasurer. They shall be voting members of the LWVTX and shall be elected by the convention to hold office for 2 years beginning June 1 of the year of their election or until their successors have been elected and qualified.

Section 2. The President

The president shall have such powers of supervision and management as customarily pertain to the office; shall preside at all meetings of the organization and the state board, or designate another person to do so; shall be, ex officio, a member of all committees except the nominating committee; may sign or endorse checks, drafts, and notes in the absence or disability of the treasurer; and shall perform such other duties as the state board may direct.

Section 3. The Vice Presidents

At its first board meeting the new state board shall designate one vice president who, in the event of the absence, disability, resignation, or death of the president, shall assume the office of president. Should that vice president be unable to serve as president, the state board shall choose one of its other elected members to fill the vacancy. The vice presidents shall perform such duties as the president and state board direct.

Section 4. The Secretary

The secretary shall keep or cause to be kept minutes of convention, statewide conference, and meetings of the state board. The secretary shall notify all officers and directors of their election and shall sign with the president all contracts and other instruments when so authorized by the board and shall perform such other duties as the president and state board shall direct.

Section 5. The Treasurer

The treasurer shall perform such duties as customarily pertain to the office; arrange for an at least biennial professional review of the books; and, at the direction of the state board, maintain deposits in authorized financial institutions.

ARTICLE VI. BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Section 1. Selection, Qualifications, and Term

The board of directors shall consist of the officers of the LWVTX, six directors elected by the convention, and not more than six directors appointed by the elected members of the board. All directors shall be voting members of the LWVTX and shall serve for 2 years beginning June 1 of the year of their election, or until their successors have been elected and qualified. Vacancies other than the presidency may be filled by vote of the remaining members of the board.

Section 2. Powers

The state board shall manage and supervise the business, affairs, and activities of the LWVTX subject to the instruction of the convention. The board shall plan and direct the work necessary to carry out the program on state governmental matters as adopted by the convention. It shall accept responsibility for the organization and development of local Leagues and member-at-large units, the promotion of League program, financial development, and such other matters as the national board may from time to time delegate to it. It shall have the power to create such special committees as it deems necessary and shall perform such other duties as are specified in these bylaws.

Section 3. Meetings

At least three regular meetings shall be held annually at such time and place as the board may determine. The president may call special meetings and, upon the written request of at least five members of the board, shall call a special meeting. Notice of all regular meetings shall be given at least 2 weeks before the meeting and notice of all special meetings shall be given at least three days before the meeting. During a convention or statewide conference, the president may, or upon the request of at least five members, shall call a special meeting by giving written notice to each member of the board. Special meetings may be held by electronic communication.

Section 4. Absences

Unexcused absences from two consecutive board meetings or three unexcused absences from board meetings in a biennium shall be considered a resignation from the board.

Section 5. Quorum

A majority of the members of the board of the LWVTX shall constitute a quorum. Any one or more members of the board may participate in a special meeting by means of electronic communication. Participation by such means shall constitute presence at a meeting.

Section 6. Indemnification and Limitation of Liability

The directors and all officers or other appointed representatives of the League of Women Voters of Texas shall be indemnified and their liability shall be limited to the fullest extent authorized by the Texas Non-Profit Corporation Act, Article 1396-2.22A, Vernon's Annotated Civil Statutes, as it now exists or hereafter may be amended and by the Charitable Immunity and Liability Act, Chapter 84 of the Civil Practices and Remedies Code.

Section 7. Removal From Office

In executing the duties of their office, board members are expected to carry out applicable laws and regulations as well as League bylaws, mission, policies, principles, positions, standards and procedures. Board members who do not shall be counseled. If violations persist, they may be removed from office by a 2/3 vote of the board of directors.

Article VII. Convention

Section 1. Place, Date, and Call

A convention of the LWVTX shall be held biennially in the even-numbered years at a time and place determined by the state board. A first call to convention shall be sent to the presidents of local Leagues, to the chairs of member-at-large units, and to members at large not in units at least 120 days before the date fixed in said call. Thereafter, the state board may advance or postpone this date by not more than 14 days. A final call, giving the exact time and place of the convention, shall be issued at least 42 days before the session opens.

Section 2. Composition

The convention shall consist of

- a. the president of each local League or an alternate, in the event the president is unable to attend;
- b. delegates chosen by members of local Leagues as follows: One delegate for the first 15 voting members, and one delegate for every 10 additional voting members or major fraction thereof. The official membership count shall be determined by state office records of voting members as of January 1 of the year in which convention is held. Each provisional League and each member-at-large unit with at least 10 members shall be entitled to one voting delegate; and
- c. the members of the state board.

Section 3. Delegates' Qualifications and Voting

All delegates shall be voting members of the LWVTX. Absentee or proxy voting shall not be permitted. The convention shall be the sole judge of whether or not a delegate is qualified to vote.

Section 4. Powers

The convention shall adopt a program; elect officers and directors, the chair and two members of the nominating committee; adopt a budget; and transact such other business as may properly come before it.

Section 5. Quorum

A quorum shall consist of a majority of the delegates registered at the convention provided that no fewer than a majority of local Leagues are represented.

Article VIII. Statewide Conference

Section 1. Place, Date, and Call

A statewide conference may be called as needed at a time and place determined by the state board. A formal call shall be issued to local League presidents and chairs of member-at-large units at least 30 days before a statewide conference meeting.

Section 2. Purpose

The purpose of the statewide conference shall be determined by the interests and needs of members, local Leagues, members-at-large units, and the state board. The statewide conference is open to all League members. Business may be conducted if necessary.

Section 3. Conduct of Business

- a. In event of conduct of business, eligible voters will be as follows:
 - 1) the president of each local League or an alternate, in the event the president is unable to attend; and one other delegate chosen by the local League board. Each member-at-large unit with at least 10 members shall be entitled to one voting delegate; and
 - 2) the members of the state board.
- b. *Quorum*. A majority of voting delegates registered at statewide conference shall constitute a quorum provided that no fewer than a majority of local Leagues are represented.

Section 4. Powers

- a. In the event of conduct of business, the statewide conference may give guidance to the state board on program and methods of work.
- b. In the event of an emergency, the statewide conference may change the program upon recommendation of the state board or a local League, using the following procedure:
 - 1) Any local League proposing a change shall submit it to the state board at least 60 days before a proposed statewide conference; the state board shall decide whether or not to recommend the change.
 - 2) At least 30 days before the statewide conference, the state board shall send to the presidents of local Leagues all proposed changes.
 - 3) A majority vote of the delegates present and voting shall be required for consideration of any change proposed by a local League and not recommended by the state board.
 - 4) A two-thirds vote of the delegates present and voting shall be required to adopt any change.
- c. The statewide conference may transact other business that may properly come before it.

ARTICLE IX. NOMINATIONS AND ELECTIONS

Section 1. Nominating Committee

The nominating committee shall consist of five members. The chair and two members, who shall not be members of the state board, shall be elected by the convention. At its first board meeting, the state board shall appoint two of its members to the committee. Vacancies shall be filled by appointment by the state board maintaining the off board/on board representation.

Section 2. Suggestions for Nominations

The chair of the nominating committee shall request suggestions for nominations through the president of each local League and the chairs of member-at-large units by advising them of the

offices to be filled and the address to which suggestions are to be sent. Members may submit suggestions directly to the committee.

Section 3. Report of the Nominating Committee

The report of the nominating committee, containing its nominations for officers and directors and the chair and two members of the next nominating committee, shall be sent to the presidents of local Leagues and to the chairs of member-at-large units at least 30 days before the convention. The report of the nominating committee shall be presented to the convention on the first day of the convention. Nominations may be made from the floor immediately thereafter provided the consent of the nominee has been obtained.

Section 4. Election

The administration of the election shall be the responsibility of an election committee appointed by the president on the first day of the convention. Election shall be by ballot except that if there is only one nominee for an office it shall be by voice vote. A majority vote of the delegates present and voting shall constitute an election.

ARTICLE X. PRINCIPLES AND PROGRAM

Section 1. Principles

The principles are concepts of government adopted by the national convention and supported by the League as a whole. They are the authorization for the adoption of national, state, and local program.

Section 2. Program

The program of the LWVTX shall consist of action to implement the Principles and those state governmental issues chosen by the convention, or statewide conference using the procedure outlined in Article VIII, Section 4 for concerted study or concurrence and action as follows:

- a. Local League boards may make recommendations for state program, including proposed concurrence, to the state board at least 3 months before the convention or statewide meeting.
- b. The state board shall consider these recommendations and formulate a proposed program, which shall be sent to the presidents of local Leagues and to the chairs of member-at-large units at least 30 days before the convention or statewide conference.
- c. Any League or the state board that plans to propose the adoption or amendment of a state League position by concurrence on the floor of the convention shall give notice to the state office to be sent to all local Leagues and the state board, of its intent to do so at least 6 weeks before the convention. The proposing League or state board shall send background information, including pros and cons on the issue and an explanation of the rationale for using this form of member agreement to the state office and the state office shall send the information to all local Leagues, state board, and MAL units at least 30 days before Convention.
- d. The convention shall adopt the proposed program by a majority vote on each subject presented to it. A program recommendation submitted to the state board at least 3 months prior to convention but not proposed by the state board may be adopted by the convention if its consideration is ordered by a majority vote of the convention and the vote on adoption comes on a following day. A two-thirds vote is required to adopt a non-proposed item, or to amend or adopt a state League position by concurrence on the floor of the convention.

Section 3. Program Action

Local Leagues may act on program only in conformity with positions taken by the LWVUS or the LWVTX. Local Leagues or members may act on program at the state level in the name of the League only when authorized to do so by the state board.

ARTICLE XI. NATIONAL CONVENTION AND COUNCIL

Section 1. National Convention

The state board, at its earliest meeting of the year in which the convention is held, shall elect delegates to the national convention in the number allowed the LWVTX under the provisions of the bylaws of the LWVUS.

Section 2. National Council

The state board, at its earliest meeting of the year in which the council is held, shall elect delegates to the national council in the number allowed the LWVTX under the provisions of the bylaws of LWVUS.

ARTICLE XII. FINANCIAL ADMINISTRATION

Section 1. Fiscal Year

The fiscal year of the LWVTX shall be from June 1 to May 31 of each year.

Section 2. Financial Support

- a. Annually the local Leagues shall assume financial responsibility for the work of the LWVTX.
- b. Each local League shall make an annual per member payment to the LWVTX in an amount to be determined by a three-fifths vote of the delegates present and voting at each convention. When two or more members reside at the same address in a common household, the payment determined by the convention shall be made for the first member; a payment equal to one-half the per member payment shall be paid for each other member. A local League shall be excused from making a per member payment for life members. Annual minimum state support payment shall be established for local Leagues as determined by a three-fifths vote of those delegates present and voting at convention. Each member at large shall pay annual dues to the LWVTX in an amount set by the state board. Provisional Leagues shall make annual support payments as determined by the state board.
- c. Responsibility for additional support for the LWVTX shall be assumed by the state board, which shall develop and solicit other sources for funding the state League and shall encourage supporters of the state League to contribute also to any local Leagues in their area.

Section 3. Budget Committee

A 2-year budget shall be prepared by a committee appointed for that purpose at least 180 days before the convention. The treasurer shall be, ex officio, a member of the budget committee but shall not be eligible to serve as chair.

Section 4. The Budget

The state board shall send to the presidents of local Leagues and to chairs of member at large units, at least 30 days before the convention, a proposed 2-year budget. A budget shall be adopted by a majority vote except that the per member payment shall be approved as provided in Section 2 of this Article.

Section 5. Distribution of Funds on Dissolution

In the event of the dissolution of the LWVTX all monies and securities which may at the time be owned by or under the control of the LWVTX shall be paid to the LWVUS after the state board has paid or made provision for the payment of all the liabilities of the LWVTX. All other property of whatsoever nature, whether real, personal, or mixed, which may at the time be owned by or under the control of the LWVTX, shall be disposed of to such person, organization, or corporation, for educational use and purposes as the state board in its absolute discretion may designate.

ARTICLE XIII. PARLIAMENTARY AUTHORITY

The rules contained in the current edition of *Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised* shall govern the organization in all cases to which they are applicable and are not inconsistent with these bylaws.

ARTICLE XIV. AMENDMENTS

These bylaws may be amended at any convention by a two-thirds vote of delegates present and voting provided that the proposed amendment was submitted to the state board at least 120 days before convention by a local League board or has been proposed by the state board. The state board shall send all such proposed amendments, together with the board's recommendations, to the presidents of local Leagues and to the chairs of member-at-large units at least 30 days before the convention.

Strategic Plan 2016-2020

League of Women Voters of Texas
Adopted March 2, 2016

Vision

Empowered citizens to shape better communities

Mission

The League of Women Voters, a nonpartisan political organization, encourages informed and active participation in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy.

Strategies

Advocacy

Mobilize local communities and develop leadership.

Voter Engagement

Increase voter education, turnout, and participation.

Sustainability

Strengthen the LWVTX by invigorating local Leagues and enhancing fundraising.

Goals & Objectives

Advocacy

Achieve identifiable accomplishments in reducing the barriers to voting.

Voter Engagement

Increase voter turnout in Texas among eligible voters by 5% from 2012 to 2020 (from 49.6% in 2012 to 54.6% in 2020).

Sustainability

Achieve 100% participation by local Leagues in Membership & Leadership Development (MLD), board training, and new member orientation.

Increase statewide membership by 5% each year for the next 5 years, from 1,800 to 2,300, an increase of 500 members.

Increase funds generated by LWVTX through membership, grants, and other sources by 50% from 2015 to 2020.

Conversion to One 501(c)(3) Organization

Marlene Lobberecht, Governance Committee Chair; Connie Born, Miriam Foshay, Susan Morrison

Following acceptance by the League of Women Voters of Texas (LWVTX) Board of Directors of the Tax-Exempt Status Review Committee report (presented at Convention 2016), the Governance Committee sought legal advice related to conversion to one 501(c)(3) state organization from three Texas attorneys: (a) Kristen Sitchler, a nonprofit legal counselor and advocate, (b) Daren Moore, a trust specialist, and (c) Erin McClarty, a nonprofit and business specialist. Thomas P. Carson, a nonprofit financial and tax consultant, also provided input. Pursuant to these discussions, the committee presented three options along with their advantages and disadvantages to the board for consideration.

1. Apply for 501(c)(3) status for the LWVTX, the existing 501(c)(4) organization.

This option would add 2 years to the process because amending the bylaws requires delegate approval at the biennial convention. In addition, 501(c)(4) status, which allows unlimited lobbying, would be lost.

2. Convert the League of Women Voters of Texas Education Fund (LWVTEF), the existing 501(c)(3) trust, to a membership organization; then transfer the LWVTX assets and functions to the LWVTEF.

Modifications to the trust agreement would require court approval. Legal fees would be costly.

3. Form a new 501(c)(3) corporation and transfer the functions and assets of the LWVTX and the LWVTEF into it.

The LWVTX can form a corporation through the office of the Texas Secretary of State and apply to the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) for 501(c)(3) status prior to Convention.

The board concluded that forming a new 501(c)(3) corporation (option 3) was most expedient. The new corporation, temporarily named the Lone Star League of Women Voters (LSLWV), was filed with the Texas Secretary of State on November 15, 2017, and a 501(C)(3) application for LSLWV was submitted to the IRS on December 4, 2017. If consolidation is approved, the board will change the name of (a) the "League of Women Voters of Texas" to the "League of Women Voters of Texas Action Fund" and (b) the "Lone Star League of Women Voters" to the "League of Women Voters of Texas." LWVTEF will be dissolved after all assets are moved to the new 501(c)(3) corporation.

The LWVTEF Board of Trustees plans to transfer assets and functions of the LWVTEF to the LSLWV irrespective of the Convention decision related to consolidation into one organization. A corporation provides better protections for its board of directors than a trust provides its trustees. This does not require court approval as would be required in option #2.

Proposed Bylaws of the Lone Star League of Women Voters

A 501(c)(3) Corporation

Adopted November 14, 2017, & amended January 28 & March 23, 2018, by LWV of Texas Board of Directors

ARTICLE I. NAME

The name of this organization shall be Lone Star League of Women Voters, hereinafter referred to in these bylaws as LWVTX, or, as the League or state League. This state League is an integral part of the League of Women Voters of the United States, hereinafter referred to in these bylaws as LWVUS.

ARTICLE II. PURPOSES AND POLICY

Section 1. Purposes

- h. The purposes of the LWVTX are to promote political responsibility through informed and active participation in government and to act on selected governmental issues.
- i. The corporation is organized and operated exclusively for charitable and educational purposes under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, or the corresponding section of any future federal tax code. Notwithstanding any other provision of these bylaws, the corporation shall not carry on any other activities not permitted to be carried on by a corporation exempt from federal income tax under such provisions of the Internal Revenue Code. No substantial part of the activities of the corporation shall be attempting to influence legislation.

Section 2. Political Policy

The League shall not support or oppose any political party or any candidate.

ARTICLE III. MEMBERSHIP

Section 1. Eligibility

Any person who subscribes to the purposes and policy of the League shall be eligible for membership.

Section 2. Types of Membership

- a. *Voting members.* Persons at least 16 years of age who join the LWVTX shall be voting members of the local and state Leagues of their place of joining and of the LWVUS;
 - 1) those who live within an area of a local League may join that League or any other local League;
 - 2) those who reside outside the area of any local League may join a local League or shall be state members at large;
 - 3) those who have been members of the League for 50 years or more shall be life members excused from the payment of dues.
- b. *Associate members.* All others who join the League shall be associate members.

ARTICLE IV. LOCAL LEAGUES AND LEAGUES-AT-LARGE

Section 1. Local Leagues

- a. Local Leagues are those Leagues within the state of Texas that have been so recognized by the LWVUS.
- b. The board of directors, hereinafter also referred to as the state board, shall recommend to the board of the LWVUS, hereinafter referred to as the national board, that it recognize as a local League any group of members of the League in any community within the state provided the group fulfills recognition requirements.
- c. In the event of recurrent failure of a local League to fulfill the national and/or state requirements, the board of the LWVTX shall recommend to the national board that it withdraw recognition from such local League. In the event of the dissolution of the local League, all monies and securities that may at the time be owned or under the control of the local League shall be paid to the LWVTX after the local League board has paid or made provision for the payment of all liabilities of the local League. All other property of whatsoever nature, whether real, personal, or mixed, which may at the time be owned or under the control of the local League, shall be disposed of to such person, organization, or corporation for such public, charitable, or educational use and purposes as the state board in its absolute discretion may designate.

Section 2. Leagues-at-Large

- a. The state board may authorize the establishment of Leagues-at-large, composed of state members, where feasible. Leagues-at-large shall operate within the limitations established by the LWVUS and within guidelines adopted by the state board.
- b. In the event of recurrent failure to adhere to guidelines for Leagues-at-large or to operate within the limitations established by the LWVUS, the state board may withdraw approval of the League-at-large. All assets held by a League-at-large from which approval has been withdrawn shall be turned over to the state League.

ARTICLE V. OFFICERS

Section 1. Election, Qualifications, and Term

The officers of the LWVTX shall be a president, four vice presidents, a secretary, and a treasurer. They shall be voting members of the LWVTX and shall be elected by the convention to hold office for 2 years beginning June 1 of the year of their election or until their successors have been elected and qualified. The same person shall not hold both the offices of president and secretary.

Section 2. The President

The president shall have such powers of supervision and management as customarily pertain to the office; shall preside at all meetings of the organization and the state board, or designate another person to do so; shall be, *ex officio*, a member of all committees except the nominating committee; may sign or endorse checks, drafts, and notes in the absence or disability of the treasurer; and shall perform such other duties as the state board may direct.

Section 3. The Vice Presidents

At its first board meeting the new state board shall designate one vice president who, in the event of the absence, disability, resignation, or death of the president, shall assume the office of president. Should that vice president be unable to serve as president, the state board shall choose one of its other elected members to fill the vacancy. The vice presidents shall perform such duties as the president and state board direct.

Section 4. The Secretary

The secretary shall keep or cause to be kept minutes of convention, statewide conference, and meetings of the state board. The secretary shall notify all officers and directors of their election and shall sign with the president all contracts and other instruments when so authorized by the president and shall perform such other duties as the president and state board shall direct.

Section 5. The Treasurer

The treasurer shall perform such duties as customarily pertain to the office; arrange for an at least biennial professional review of the books; and, at the direction of the state board, maintain deposits in authorized financial institutions. The treasurer may sign, with written authorization from the president, contracts and other financial agreements, and shall provide copies of such documents to the secretary for archiving.

ARTICLE VI. BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Section 1. Selection, Qualifications, and Term

The board of directors shall consist of the officers of the LWVTX, six directors elected by the convention, and not more than six directors appointed by the elected members of the board. All directors shall be voting members of the LWVTX and shall serve for 2 years beginning June 1 of the year of their election, or until their successors have been elected and qualified. Vacancies other than the presidency may be filled by vote of the remaining members of the board.

Section 2. Powers

The state board shall manage and supervise the business, affairs, and activities of the LWVTX subject to the instruction of the convention. The board shall plan and direct the work necessary to carry out the program on state governmental matters as adopted by the convention. It shall accept responsibility for the organization and development of local Leagues and Leagues-at-large, the promotion of League program, financial development, and such other matters as the national board may from time to time delegate to it. It shall have the power to create such special committees, as it deems necessary and shall perform such other duties as are specified in these bylaws. Any committee with the authority to carry out the powers exclusive to the board in the management of the League shall have at least two committee members, and a majority of those members must be board members.

Section 3. Meetings

At least three regular meetings shall be held annually at such time and place as the board may determine. The president may call special meetings and, upon the written request of at least five members of the board, shall call a special meeting. Notice of all regular meetings shall be given at least 2 weeks before the meeting, and notice of all special meetings shall be given at least 3 days before the meeting. During a convention or statewide conference, the president may, or upon the request of at least five members shall, call a special meeting by giving written notice to each member of the board. Special meetings may be held by electronic communication. Any one or more members of the board may participate in a meeting by means of electronic communications equipment, so long as all participants in the meeting can simultaneously hear each other. Participation by such means shall constitute presence at the meeting.

Section 4. Actions Without a Meeting – Written Consent

Any action required or permitted to be taken at any meeting of the board of directors may be taken without a meeting, if a majority of all directors expressly approve the action in a written or electronically transmitted consent, and such collective consent is filed in paper or electronic form with LWVTX corporate records. Each consent must be dated and clearly indicate the director from whom it is issued, either by signature or other means of identification (such as an email address). If an action is approved in this manner, prompt follow-up notice of the action must be provided to each director who did not provide consent in writing, including those who did not provide consent in writing.

Section 5. Absences

Unexcused absences from two consecutive board meetings or three unexcused absences from board meetings in a biennium shall be considered a resignation from the board.

Section 6. Quorum

A majority of the members of the board of the LWVTX shall constitute a quorum.

Section 7. Indemnification and Limitation of Liability

The directors and all officers or other appointed representatives of the LWVTX shall be indemnified and their liability shall be limited to the fullest extent authorized by the Texas Non-Profit Corporation Act, Article 1396-2.22A, Vernon's Annotated Civil Statutes, as it now exists or hereafter may be amended and by the Charitable Immunity and Liability Act, Chapter 84 of the Civil Practices and Remedies Code.

Section 8. Removal From Office

In executing the duties of their office, board members are expected to carry out applicable laws and regulations as well as League bylaws, mission, policies, principles, positions, standards, and procedures. Board members who do not shall be counseled. If violations persist, they may be removed from office by a two-thirds vote of the board of directors. A board member may resign at any time by providing written notice to LWVTX.

Article VII. Convention

Section 1. Place, Date, and Call

A convention of the LWVTX shall be held biennially in the even-numbered years at a time and place determined by the state board. A first call to convention shall be sent to the presidents of local Leagues, to the chairs of Leagues-at-large, and to state members not in Leagues-at-large at least 120 days before the date fixed in said call. Thereafter, the state board may advance or postpone this date by not more than 14 days. A final call, giving the exact time and place of the convention, shall be issued at least 42 days before the session opens.

Section 2. Composition

The convention shall consist of

- a. the president of each local League/League-at-large or an alternate, in the event the president is unable to attend;
- b. delegates chosen by members of local Leagues/Leagues-at-large as follows: One delegate for the first 15 voting members, and one delegate for every 10 additional voting members or major fraction thereof. The official membership count shall be determined by state office records of voting members as of January 31 of the year in which convention is held; and
- c. the members of the state board.

Section 3. Delegate Qualifications and Voting

All delegates shall be voting members of the LWVTX. The convention shall be the sole judge of whether or not a delegate is qualified to vote. Absentee or proxy voting shall not be permitted. A majority of delegates present shall be sufficient to approve actions, as long as the conditions for a quorum are met (except as provided below).

Section 4. Powers

The convention shall adopt a program; elect officers and directors, the chair and two members of the nominating committee; adopt a budget; and transact such other business as may properly come before it.

Section 5. Quorum

A quorum shall consist of a majority of the delegates registered at the convention provided that no fewer than a majority of local Leagues are represented.

Article VIII. Statewide Conference

Section 1. Place, Date, and Call

A statewide conference may be called as needed at a time and place determined by the state board. A formal call shall be issued to local League presidents and chairs of Leagues-at-large at least 30 days before a statewide conference meeting.

Section 2. Purpose

The purpose of the statewide conference shall be determined by the interests and needs of members, local Leagues, Leagues-at-large, and the state board. The statewide conference is open to all League members. Business may be conducted if necessary.

Section 3. Conduct of Business

- a. In event of conduct of business, eligible voters will be as follows:
 - 1) the president of each local League or an alternate, in the event the president is unable to attend; and one other delegate chosen by the local League board. Each League-at-large with at least five members shall be entitled to one voting delegate; and
 - 2) the members of the state board.
- b. *Quorum*. A majority of voting delegates registered at statewide conference shall constitute a quorum provided that no fewer than a majority of local Leagues are represented.
- c. A majority of those delegates present shall be sufficient to approve actions, if the conditions for a quorum are met (except as provided below).

Section 4. Powers

- a. In the event of conduct of business, the statewide conference may give guidance to the state board on program and methods of work.
- b. In the event of an emergency, the statewide conference may change the program upon recommendation of the state board or a local League, using the following procedure:
 - 1) Any local League proposing a change shall submit it to the state board at least 60 days before a proposed statewide conference; the state board shall decide whether or not to recommend the change.
 - 2) At least 30 days before the statewide conference, the state board shall send to the presidents of local Leagues all proposed changes.
 - 3) A majority vote of the delegates present and voting shall be required for consideration of any change proposed by a local League and not recommended by the state board.
 - 4) A two-thirds vote of the delegates present and voting shall be required to adopt any change.
- d. The statewide conference may transact other business that may properly come before it.

ARTICLE IX. NOMINATIONS AND ELECTIONS

Section 1. Nominating Committee

The nominating committee shall consist of five members. The chair and two members, who shall not be members of the state board, shall be elected by the convention. At its first board meeting, the state board shall appoint two of its members to the committee. Vacancies shall be filled by appointment by the state board maintaining the off board/on board representation.

Section 2. Suggestions for Nominations

The chair of the nominating committee shall request suggestions for nominations through the president of each local League and the chairs of Leagues-at-large by advising them of the offices to be filled and the address to which suggestions are to be sent. Members may submit suggestions directly to the committee.

Section 3. Report of the Nominating Committee

The report of the nominating committee, containing its nominations for officers and directors and the chair and two members of the next nominating committee, shall be sent to the presidents of local Leagues and to the chairs of Leagues-at-large at least 30 days before the convention. The report of the nominating committee shall be presented to the convention on the first day of the convention. Nominations may be made from the floor immediately thereafter provided the consent of the nominee has been obtained.

Section 4. Election

The administration of the election shall be the responsibility of an election committee appointed by the president on the first day of the convention. Election shall be by ballot except that if there is only one nominee for an office it shall be by voice vote. A majority vote of the delegates present and voting shall constitute an election.

ARTICLE X. PRINCIPLES AND PROGRAM

Section 1. Principles

The principles are concepts of government adopted by the national convention and supported by the League as a whole. They are the authorization for the adoption of national, state, and local program.

Section 2. Program

The program of the LWVTX shall consist of action to implement the principles and those state governmental issues chosen by the convention, or statewide conference, using the procedure outlined in Article VIII, Section 4, for concerted study or concurrence and action as follows:

- a. Local League boards may make recommendations for state program, including proposed concurrence, to the state board at least 3 months before the convention or statewide meeting.
- b. The state board shall consider these recommendations and formulate a proposed program, which shall be sent to the presidents of local Leagues and to the chairs of Leagues-at-large at least 30 days before the convention or statewide conference.
- c. Any League or the state board that plans to propose the adoption or amendment of a state League position by concurrence on the floor of the convention shall give notice to the state office to be sent to all local Leagues and the state board, of its intent to do so at least 6 weeks before the convention. The proposing League or state board shall send background information, including pros and cons on the issue and an explanation of the rationale for using this form of member agreement to the state office, and the state office shall send the information to all local Leagues, state board, and Leagues-at-large at least 30 days before Convention.
- d. The convention shall adopt the proposed program by a majority vote on each subject presented to it. A program recommendation submitted to the state board at least 3 months prior to convention but not proposed by the state board may be adopted by the convention if its consideration is ordered by a majority vote of the convention and the vote on adoption comes on a following day. A two-thirds vote is required to adopt a nonproposed item, or to amend or adopt a state League position by concurrence on the floor of the convention.

Section 3. Program Action

Local Leagues may act on program only in conformity with positions taken by the LWVUS or the LWVTX. Local Leagues or members may act on program at the state level in the name of the League only when authorized to do so by the state board.

ARTICLE XI. NATIONAL CONVENTION AND COUNCIL

Section 1. National Convention

The state board, at its earliest meeting of the year in which the convention is held, shall elect delegates to the national convention in the number allowed the LWVTX under the provisions of the bylaws of the LWVUS.

Section 2. National Council

The state board, at its earliest meeting of the year in which the council is held, shall elect delegates to the national council in the number allowed the LWVTX under the provisions of the bylaws of LWVUS.

ARTICLE XII. FINANCIAL ADMINISTRATION

Section 1. Fiscal Year

The fiscal year of the LWVTX shall be from June 1 to May 31 of each year.

Section 2. Financial Support

- a. Annually the local Leagues shall assume financial responsibility for the work of the LWVTX.
- b. Each local League shall make an annual per member payment to the LWVTX in an amount to be determined by a three-fifths vote of the delegates present and voting at each convention. When two or more members reside at the same address in a common household, the payment determined by the convention shall be made for the first member; a payment equal to one-half the per member payment shall be paid for each other member. A local League shall be excused from making a per member payment for life members. Each state member shall pay annual dues to the LWVTX in an amount set by the state board.
- c. Student members enrolled in a school or university shall pay an annual per member payment at a reduced rate.
- d. Responsibility for additional support for the LWVTX shall be assumed by the state board, which shall develop and solicit other sources for funding the state League and shall encourage supporters of the state League to contribute also to any local Leagues in their area.

Section 3. Budget Committee

A 2-year budget shall be prepared by a committee appointed for that purpose at least 180 days before the convention. The committee shall include at least two board members and one nonboard member, and shall include the treasurer, who shall be ex officio but shall not be eligible to serve as chair.

Section 4. The Budget

The state board shall send to the presidents of local Leagues and to chairs of Leagues-at-large, at least 30 days before the convention, a proposed 2-year budget. A budget shall be adopted by a majority vote except that the per member payment shall be approved as provided in Section 2 of this Article.

Section 5. Conflicts of Interest

The board of directors shall adopt a conflict-of-interest policy and an annual disclosure process that applies to all officers and directors of LWVTX.

Section 6. Distribution of Funds on Dissolution

In the event of the dissolution of the LWVTX, after paying or making provision for the payment of all the liabilities of the LWVTX, all assets of the LWVTX shall be distributed to an organization that is recognized as exempt under Internal Revenue Code Section 501(c)(3), or the corresponding section of any future federal tax code, and that is part of the League of Women Voters national organization. If no such organization is then in existence, then the LWVTX assets, after paying or making provision for the payment of all the liabilities, shall be distributed for one or more of the LWVTX exempt purposes within the meaning of Internal Revenue Code Section 501(c)(3), or shall be distributed to the federal government, or to a state or local government, for a public purpose. The manner of distribution and recipient(s) of the LWVTX assets shall be determined by the board or such other persons as shall be charged by law with the liquidation or winding up of the LWVTX and its affairs.

ARTICLE XIII. PARLIAMANTARY AUTHORITY

The rules contained in the current edition of *Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised* shall govern the organization in all cases to which they are applicable and are not inconsistent with these bylaws.

ARTICLE XIV. AMENDMENTS

These bylaws may be amended at any convention by a two-thirds vote of delegates present and voting provided that the proposed amendment was submitted to the state board at least 120 days before convention by a local League board or has been proposed by the state board. The state board shall send all such proposed amendments, together with the board's recommendations, to the presidents of local Leagues and to the chairs of Leagues-at-large at least 30 days before the convention.

Fund-a-Need Campaign

Did you know that while "the majority of doorbells go unanswered, most text messages are read within three minutes. Why not meet people where they are—especially when it's easier than routing a volunteer to their doorstep?"¹ And it works better than email! Sending people on your opt-in list their polling place and helping them plan-to-vote via text message increases voter turnout about 0.5%.²

Increase voter turnout...

FUND - A - NEED

One text at a time!

Let's do it!
100% participation
\$7,500



1. Fitts, A. S. (2016, November 6). This Y Combinator-backed company wants to redesign the voting process for the digital age [Blog post]. *Business Insider*. Retrieved from <https://tinyurl.com/ybwhjg6u>
2. Brooks, R. (2017, October 27). Why texting beats email for GOTV [Newsletter]. *Campaigns & Elections*. Retrieved from <https://tinyurl.com/y8z3cgse>

Resolution Submission Form

Name of League: _____
Name of delegate: _____
Cell phone # of delegate: _____
Email of delegate: _____

Resolution:

Name of position: _____

Background information:

Evidence that the issue is a current legislative priority:

Evidence that the issue is time sensitive and requires Texas state government action:

Address the resolution to: (Mark all that apply)

- The Governor
- The Lieutenant Governor
- The Speaker of the House
- Other: _____

Online submission form is available at Registration Table and <https://my.lwv.org/texas/convention>
LWVTX positions are available at <https://my.lwv.org/texas/positions>
LWVUS positions are available at <https://tinyurl.com/yaamc7j7>



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF TEXAS

CONVENTION 2018, APRIL 27-29, KERRVILLE, TX

Silent Auction Donation Form

Donor: _____
 Street address: _____
 City, state, zip code: _____
 Email address: _____ Telephone no.: _____

Check if contact information is the same as donor information.

Contact name: _____
 Contact telephone: _____
 Contact email: _____

Description
 of item(s): _____

Fair market value: \$ _____

Please detail any
 restrictions: _____

I/We are unable to provide an item for the silent auction but would like to make a charitable contribution of \$_____. Make check payable to: LWVTX *and* note "For Silent Auction" at bottom of the check. Then complete this donor form and mail with your check to: LWVTX, 1212 Guadalupe St. #107, Austin, TX 78028-1800.

Please return this completed donation form via email or postal mail to:

Subject line: ATTN: LWVTX Silent Auction
 Email address: dbbybrry@aol.com
 Mailing address: LWVTX Silent Auction
 % Debby Berry, LWV Hill Country
 1875 WEST LN APT 114, KERRVILLE, TX 78028-3840

Questions? Contact Connie Born, chair, Silent Auction
 ckborn03@gmail.com or 210-601-4175

For Committee Use Only:

Suggested starting bid: \$ _____ Item # _____

*“To the wrongs that need resistance,
To the rights that need assistance,
To the future in the distance,
Give yourselves.”*

Carrie Chapman Catt
June 15, 1921

LEAVE A LEGACY TO THE LEAGUE

Your League work is an important part of your legacy!
Leave a gift to sustain the League in your will.

INVEST IN DEMOCRACY

Leave a donation to the League of Women Voters of Texas Education Fund in your will or living trust. In as little as one sentence you can complete your gift:

“I give to the League of Women Voters of Texas Education Fund, a nonprofit corporation currently located at Austin, TX, or its successor thereto [written amount or percentage of the estate or description of property] for its unrestricted use and purpose.”

Your donation to the League of Women Voters of Texas Education Fund in your will or living trust helps ensure that we continue our mission for years to come.

*Minnie Fisher
Cunningham
Legacy Society*

The League of Women Voters of Texas founded the Minnie Fisher Cunningham Legacy Society in 2004 to strengthen the financial future of the League by encouraging planned gifts and multiyear pledges so the League can continue and thrive, focusing on its primary goal of Making Democracy Work.®

Minnie Fisher Cunningham, known as “Minnie Fish,” was the leader of the Texas Woman Suffrage Association and the first executive secretary of the LWVUS. She worked diligently with the Texas Legislature and the United States Congress for an amendment to both the Texas and United States Constitutions to grant women the right to vote. Due to Cunningham's dedication and insistence, Texas granted woman suffrage in state primary elections in 1918.

Your support matters! Contact the LWVTX at 512-472-1100 or LWVTexas@LWVTexas.org to learn more about giving a gift that continues to give. You can plan you legacy now.

League Lingo

Otherwise known as "Do you understand what I'm saying?"

concurrency on gun control and a program **action alert** on our health care **position** that **National** expects us to take **action** on immediately. Plus, we'll be asked to raise the **PMP** and increase our **voters service**. "If you familiarize yourself with these terms, you will be able to answer "Yes!" when someone asks, "Do you understand what I'm saying?"

action Promotion of a League position on local, state, and national public policy issues to government officials, the media, and the public by the president of the League or an authorized representative

action alert Request from the state or national League to take action at a specific time in support of a League position

Action News! A monthly electronic newsletter sent by LWVTX to League members in Texas

advocacy Arguing in favor of a cause, an idea, or a policy (does not necessarily involve lobbying).

annual meeting A local League year-end business meeting to elect officers and directors, vote on bylaws changes, and adopt a budget and program of work for the next year

Capitol Corps League members from the Austin area who assist issue chairs with legislative visits, testimony, and other state League advocacy efforts

concurrency A method of adopting a position reached through consensus by another League; Leagues can also concur with the recommendations of a resource committee or decision statements formulated by a League board of directors

consensus Collective opinion of a substantial number of League members, representative of the membership as a whole; reached through objective study and discussion of an issue, not a vote

convention State and national League meetings held biennially in even-numbered years in which delegates adopt program, elect officers and directors, adopt a budget, act on proposed bylaws changes, etc.

education fund A League fund to which tax-deductible donations may be made and distributed exclusively for educational purposes in the areas of government and public policy

Facts & Issues (F&I) A balanced, unbiased, nonpartisan report authored by a League study committee that reflects a diversity of views on the topic and summarizes the facts as well as alternatives for change in public policy

issue chair A League member who monitors a specific LWVTX position and educates others about it, promotes its visibility, and advocates on its behalf

life member A person who has been a League member for 50 years; excused from dues payment

League-at-large A state-recognized group of state members in an area where there is no local League who become a formal group and provide League services to their communities

*As in, "When we go to **Convention**, there'll be a new*

lobbying communicating with elected officials (or their staff) to urge a position on a pending piece of legislation; always involves advocacy

Membership & Leadership Development (MLD) A League coaching initiative that pairs coaches with local League presidents

National Short for League of Women Voters of the United States

nonpartisan The League does not support or oppose political parties or candidates for public office at any level, including candidates who may be League members

per member payment (PMP) The amount of dues paid to state and national Leagues on behalf of each member; determined by delegates to state and national conventions; assessed based on the membership count on January 31 of each year

political The League studies public policy issues and advocates for change in government policy and legislation without regard to political party

position A statement of the League point of view on a public issue, arrived at through member study and agreement (consensus or concurrency) and approved by the appropriate board of directors; used as the basis for League action

Program Selected governmental issues chosen by the membership at local, state, and national levels for League study and action

state member A member who resides outside the area of, and is not enrolled in, a local League

study A process (1-2 years) of investigation and education on an issue prior to consensus taking and arrival at a League position

unit A subdivision of a League with a large membership

VOTER A League newsletter for members and others; published by local and state Leagues

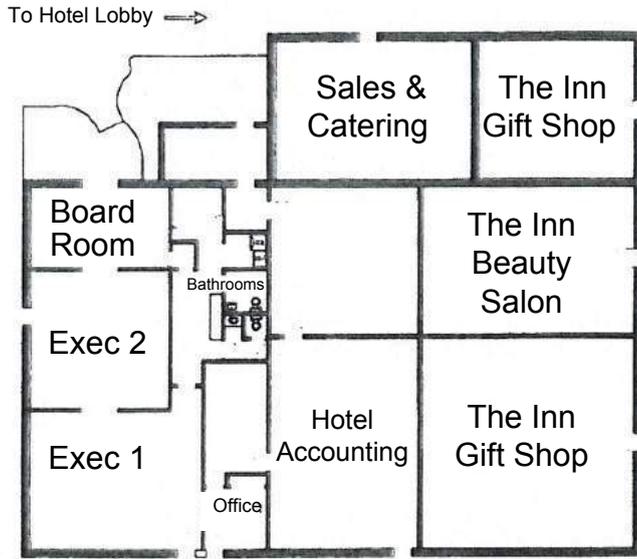
voters guide (VG) A nonpartisan publication that includes candidates' qualifications and positions on selected issues or pro/con information on propositions or amendments

voters service Year-round activities to help citizens be politically effective and encourage their participation in the political process; registering voters and presenting factual, nonpartisan information on candidates and election issues are the two most basic voters service activities

Convention Hotel Meeting Rooms

Inn of the Hills Hotel & Conference Center
Kerrville, TX

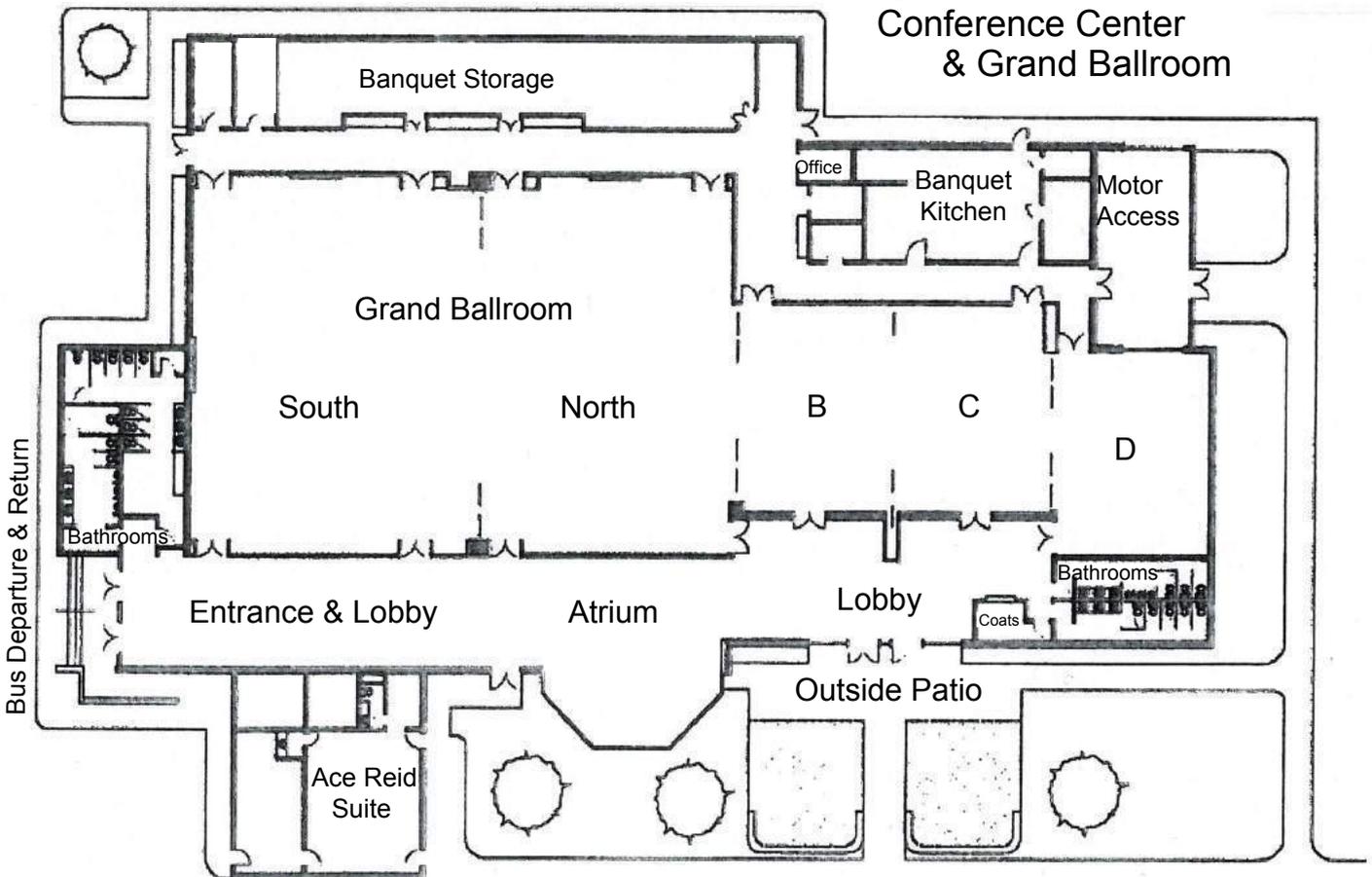
Executive Suites & Board Room



Gazebo Grand Master



Conference Center & Grand Ballroom



Convention Hotel Floor Plan

Inn of the Hills Hotel & Conference Center, Kerrville, TX

