



## HANDBOOK 2019 - 2020

Empowering Voters. Defending Democracy

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## 2019-2020 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

To reach members of the Board please contact the office. O: 214 688-4125. Email: lwvdallas@sbcglobal.net

Position	Name & Term Expiration
<b>Officers</b>	
President	Diane Tasian (21)
President-Elect	Open
Advocacy VP	Brittney Farr (20)
Membership VP	Shannon FitzGerald (21)
Organization VP	Nia MacKay (20)
Program VP	Patricia Muñoz (21)
Voter Outreach VP	Open
Secretary	Linda Wassenich (21)
Treasurer	Courtney Hogan (20)
<b>Directors</b>	
SBAL Co-Chair	Rebecca Acuña (20)
Silent Auction	Becky Brakke (20)
VOTER Editor	Jessica Montoya Coggins (21)
Communications	Jean Conway (20)
Voter Registration	Barbara Larkin (21)
Unit Coordinator	Open
SBAL Co-Chair	Lisa Sherrod (20)
Voters Guide	Open
<b>Nominating Committee</b>	
Nominating Chair	Cecilia McKay (20)
Nominating Member	Eileen Rosenblum (20)
Nominating Member	Elizabeth Walley (20)

## MISSION STATEMENT

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.

## VISION, BELIEFS, AND CORE VALUES

The goal of the League of Women Voters is to empower people to shape better communities worldwide. The League of Women Voters is a nonpartisan political membership organization, which:

1. Acts after study and member agreement to achieve solutions in the public interest on key community issues at all government levels.
2. Builds participation in the democratic process.
3. Engages communities in promoting positive solutions to public policy issues through education and advocacy.
4. Builds participation in the democratic process.
5. Studies key community issues at all government levels in an unbiased manner.
6. Enables people to seek positive solutions to public policy issues through education and conflict management.

We believe in:

- Respect for individuals.
- The value of diversity.
- The empowerment of the grassroots, both within the League and in communities.
- The power of collective decision-making for the common good.

We will:

- Act with trust, integrity, and professionalism.
- Operate in an open and effective manner to meet the needs of those we serve, both members and the public.
- Take the initiative in seeking diversity in membership.
- Acknowledge our heritage as we seek our path to the future.

## DIVERSITY STATEMENT

The League of Women Voters of Dallas (LWVD) in both its values and practices affirms its belief in and commitment to diversity and pluralism.

LWVD welcomes any person to participate in any activity of LWVD regardless of gender, race, religion, age, sexual orientations, national origin, disability or political persuasion.

LWVD recognizes that diverse perspectives are important and necessary for responsible and representative decision-making.

LWVD subscribes to the belief that diversity and pluralism are fundamental to the values it upholds and that inclusiveness enhances its capability to respond more effectively to changing conditions and needs.

LWVD affirms its commitment to reflecting diversity in its membership, board, staff, and programs.

## OUR HISTORY AT A GLANCE

### **“A Short Walk Through the Decades” by Eleanor Sutherland**

The League of Women Voters of Dallas began as a branch of the League of Women Voters of Texas in 1938. Sixteen women saw that the mission of the League was a way to approach the major issues of the day that was beyond the partisanship of a political party. The Dallas League began its full year in September 1939, with 60 members.

The path to becoming a “City” League took members through surveys of both the county and city to aid members in knowing where they live and how their government and cultural entities worked. The women at the start were identified as “Mrs.” followed by a husband’s name, so we know that Mrs. E.L. DeGolyer was elected first president and Mrs. G. Abbott, vice president.

Getting the work of the League done was through regular meetings and study committees as well as general meetings. Study/committee meetings were held twice a month, general membership meetings monthly. The latter were held at the Melrose and Stoneleigh Hotels. Also, Miss Edna Rowe conducted unit meetings at Cokesbury Book Store in downtown Dallas. She was a longtime teacher at Forest Avenue High School; later she was the principal.

We gained members by word of mouth and invitation from members to their friends. Most members in the early years did not work outside the home. This contributed to the League’s ability to research, study, and inform members about the issues of the day as well as more time to attend community meetings and to make sure that League views and positions were understood. The 1950s and 1960s saw the Dallas League’s maximum annual membership. The 1970s saw a decline in membership, though, and the minutes frequently mentioned “the increasing number of women returning to school and work.”

Even with declining membership through the 1980s and 1990s, and fewer units – from 16 units to 8 by 1992 to 4 Units in 2019<sup>1</sup> – the Dallas League continued to adapt to an ever-changing world and to champion important issues. A look at our support positions shows where our interests have focused: education, voters service, trade, foreign affairs and the United Nations, the judicial process, human resources, city/county government and urban planning, human rights and women’s issues, and natural resources.

Our members have included women who have moved into their chosen fields with success and given the League credit for, among other things, a great networking opportunity. The League’s legislative successes are there, too. In 1949, Texas League president, Mrs. Martin Row, stood at the side of the governor when he signed into law the secret ballot and a bill establishing the juvenile court system. He gave full credit to the League for it all. Mrs. Row had been a Dallas League president prior to becoming LWVTX board director and president.

Updated by Cecilia McKay July 2019.

## PAST PRESIDENTS

1938-1939	Mrs. E. L. DeGolyer (Nell)*	1973-1975	Mrs. Winthrop A. Clark (Diana)*
1939-1940	Mrs. George Abbott*	1975-1977	Mrs. Hal Sutherland (Eleanor)
1940-1941	Mrs. Walter Watson*	1977-1979	Mrs. Herbert Wincorn (Pearl)*
1941-1942	Mrs. J. B. Perry* (later, Mrs. Banks Upshaw)	1979-1981	Mrs. Dan E. Polter (Lucy)
1942-1943	Mrs. Allen Merriam*	1981-1983	Mrs. William J. Materka (Barbara)
1943-1944	Miss Sara Daniels*	1983-1985	Pat Nicklaus Sabin
1944-1945	Mrs. H. A. Trexler*	1985-1987	Rebecca Bergstresser (Paul)
1945-1946	Mrs. Martin Row*	1987-1991	Julie Lowenberg (Michael) (two terms)
1946-1947	Mrs. Donald C. Bennett*	1991-1993	Barbara Weinstein
1947-1949	Mrs. William B. Ruggles (Dorothy)*	1993-1995	Jean Aratingi
1949-1951	Mrs. W.W. Clawson*	1995-1999	Linda Wassenich (two terms)
1951-1953	Mrs. William B. Ruggles (Dorothy)*	1999-2005	Susybelle Gosslee (three terms)
1953-1955	Mrs. Sidney E. Cockrell, Jr. (Lila)	2005-2007	Katherine Homan
1955-1961	Mrs. Colin Macdonald (Virginia)* (three terms)	2007-2009	Libbie Lee
1961-1963	Mrs. John K. Godbey (Jo Fay)*	2009-2011	Sandy Greyson
1963-1965	Mrs. Edward C. Fritz (Genie)	2011-2013	Michelle Manners
1965-1967	Mrs. Sam Faris (Fran)*	2013-2015	Pat Vaughan*
1967-1969	Mrs. Laurence Perrine (Catherine)*	2015-2017	Eileen Rosenblum
1969-1971	Mrs. Henry Lanz (Teddy)*	2017-2019	Cecilia McKay
1971-1973	Mrs. Lee R. Johnson (Jean)*		

\*Deceased

## 2019-2020 STANDING COMMITTEES

COMMITTEE	CHAIRS	MEMBERS
<b>Annual Meeting Awards</b>	Miriam Foshay & Diane Tasian	All past award recipients plus two Board members
<b>Budget</b>	TBD	Courtney Hogan (Treasurer), Diane Tasian (President, ex officio), plus one member
<b>Bylaws/Local Organization Policies</b>	TBD	Three to five members
<b>Development</b>	Dr. Nia MacKay	Linda Wassenich, Diane Tasian, plus two League members
<b>Finance</b>	TBD	Courtney Hogan (Treasurer), Diane Tasian (President, ex officio), plus three League members
<b>Local Policy Review</b>	Linda Wassenich	Three to five members
<b>Local Program Exploratory &amp; Planning</b>	Joan Ridley	
<b>Periodic Program Review</b>	Joan Ridley	
<b>Personnel</b>	Dr. Nia MacKay	Courtney Hogan (Treasurer), Diane Tasian (President, ex officio) and Linda Wassenich (Secretary)
<b>Nominating</b>	Cecilia McKay	Eileen Rosenblum, Elizabeth Walley plus two Board members
<b>Strategic Planning</b>	TBD	

## 2019-2020 UNITS LEADERSHIP

Unit	Meeting Time	Leader(s)	Meeting Location
Wednesday Morning	10:00 AM	Katherine Homan 214-948-6992 Elaine Wildman 214-376-2666 Board Liaison: TBD	The Parlor at The Villages 550 E. Ann Arbor Ave.
Thursday Morning	9:30 AM	Susybelle Gosslee 214-732-8610 Board Liaison: TBD	The Episcopal Church of St. Thomas the Apostle 6525 Inwood Rd.
Thursday - Far North Dallas	11:30 AM	Cecilia McKay 214-500-8848 Eileen Rosenblum 469-879-8801 Board Liaison: Patricia Muñoz	The Egg & I 15203 Knoll Trail Dr., Dallas
Thursday Evening	6:30 PM	Arline Pitt 972-243-3966 Board Liaison: Linda Wassenich	Angela's Café 7979 Inwood Rd., Dallas
TBD (Downtown)	TBD	Robin Lederer 972-971-5107 Board Liaison: Diane Tasian	TBD

### Notes:

- The Units meet the second week of the month (the week after the Board meeting)
- There are no Unit meetings in February, June, July, and August

## **PRESIDENT'S MERITORIOUS SERVICE AWARD GUIDELINES**

The President of the LWVD may give one or more awards to deserving members at the Annual Meeting each year. Suggested guidelines include:

1. An LWVD member and volunteer who is not currently serving on the LWVD board at the time the award is presented.
2. An LWVD member who has demonstrated devoted service to LWVD that is above and beyond the norm, over a period of years.
3. An LWVD member who has been recommended by members of the Board and/or the Awards Committee.
4. An LWVD member who has not been a recipient of other LWVD awards, notably the Bulkley Award and the Macdonald Award.

The chosen honoree(s) shall receive a certificate and/or other token of recognition.

## **PRESIDENT'S MERITORIOUS SERVICE AWARD PAST RECIPIENTS**

Jean Cozzens & Mary Fugger (1996), Madeleine Hervey, Robin Yaklin & Margie Haley (1997), Ann Jones & Mary Vogelsson (1998), Pat Vaughan & Bessie Weed (1999), Agnes Ellsworth (2002), Nancy Todes & Jane Davis (2003), Barbara Downey (2004), Linda Wassenich (2005), Dorothy Box & Ann Adams (2006), Ann Jones, Brenda Marks & Linda Sharp (2007), Becky Brakke, Alix Mason & Jane Pak (2008), Cecilia McKay (2009), Gayle Hurst, Cherlyn Remington & Eleanor Sutherland (2010), Patti Crumley & Ann Ross (2011), Elizabeth Walley & Miriam Foshay (2012), Rebecca Bergstresser (2013), Fran Morris (2014), Mary Overton (2015), Leigh Bailey Carrizales (2016), Ann Adams, Lea Frailey & Alice Johnson (2017), Chris Guldi (2018) and Rebecca Acuña & Lisa Sherrod (2019).

## **MYRTLE BALES BULKLEY AWARD HISTORY**

The Myrtle Bales Bulkley Award is given annually to an LWVD member in recognition and appreciation of many years of exceptional service to LWVD and to the community. Recipients are selected by a committee composed of past recipients and two current board members.

The Myrtle Bales Bulkley award was first presented at the Annual Meeting in 1989 and it has been given yearly ever since. The award was named in honor of Myrtle Bales Bulkley, a charter member of LWVUS, long-time member of LWVD, and mother of League member Virginia Whitehill.

Myrtle was born in 1899, in the farming community of Colo, Iowa. She attended Iowa State Teachers College just prior to the passage of the Women's Suffrage Amendment in 1920. As a student she worked with other young women who lobbied for suffrage by giving talks, writing letters, and making posters.

Myrtle Bulkley was a Charter Member of the League of Women Voters, which she joined during a visit to Washington D.C. in 1920. She also was proud of having attended meetings at the home of Alice Paul, the suffragist who organized picketing of the White House in 1918, which successfully persuaded the President to support Votes for Women.

The suffrage movement sparked a lifetime of activism for Myrtle. Following a year as a teacher in a one-room school house in rural Iowa, she left her position to become an advance agent on the Chautauqua circuit, booking the traveling lecturers and entertainers who brought cultural and



enlightenment to small towns in America. After that she left Iowa and became a sales representative for Compton's Encyclopedia in New York. She wrote the first sales manual for Compton's, an innovation at the time, which was translated into several languages.

At age 26, she married Harold Bulkley. They had two children, a daughter, Virginia, and a son, Jonathan. From her home in Pelham Manor, NY, she remained active in the League and perhaps owing to her experience with the Chautauqua circuit, was able to get prominent people like suffragist Carrie Chapman Catt and Ralph Bunche to address the League.

Myrtle moved to Dallas in 1972. Several years later, when conservative forces tried to rescind Texas' ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment, she was among the speakers defending the ERA in an address to the Texas Legislature. She told them, "I want the ERA for my daughter and granddaughters, but I want it for myself, too." She got a standing ovation. Myrtle died in Dallas in 1990.

Prepared by Virginia Whitehill, Myrtle's daughter

### **MYRTLE BALES BULKLEY AWARD PAST RECIPIENTS**

Eleanor Sutherland (1989), Pearl Wincorn (1990), Bea Sutherland (1991), Diana Clark (1992), Catherine Perrine (1993), Helen Harwig (1994), Rebecca Bergstresser (1995), Essie Reed (1996), Barbara Materka (1997), Virginia Bulkley Whitehill (1998), Barbara Weinstein (1999), Linda Wassenich (2000), Sandy Greyson (2001), Fran Faris (2002), Jo Fay Godbey (2003), Roger Kallenberg (2004), Becky Sykes (2005), Nancy Todes (2006), Pat Vaughan (2007), Susybelle Gosslee (2008), Liz Wally (2009), Barbara Downey (2010), Elaine Wiant (2011), Katherine Homan (2012), Ann Adams (2013), Becky Brakke, Patti Crumley & Jane Pak (2014), Cecilia McKay (2015), Elizabeth Walley 2016, Mildred Pope (2017), Sandy Thornton (2018) and Miriam Foshay (2019).

### **VIRGINIA MACDONALD LEADERSHIP AWARD HISTORY**

The Virginia Macdonald Leadership Award is given from time to time to an LWVD leader who has exhibited courage in working for change and who inspired leadership in others. Recipients are selected by a committee composed of past recipients and two current board members.

In 1996 the Dallas League initiated an award to honor the lasting legacy of courage and inspiring leadership of Virginia Macdonald.

Virginia was born in St. Paul, Minnesota in 1898. Developing her civic awareness early, she graduated from the University of Minnesota with a degree in Political Science and became a social worker in her hometown. She joined the League in 1932. During World War II, Virginia joined her husband at several U.S. Marine bases around the country. After his detachment from the Corps in 1946, they chose Dallas as home base for Mr. Macdonald's insurance business.

Virginia became the Dallas Board Secretary in 1947, a position she had filled on the Minneapolis League Board. Shortly after her election as Dallas League President in 1955, she obtained co-sponsorship from SMU of the national League project "The Freedom Agenda," a series of seminars designed to review, discuss and promote understanding of our constitutional freedoms as defined in the Bill of Rights. A record crowd of more than 170 people attended the lectures at SMU after the project came under attack from publications and organizations of the far right. Because of warnings against the demagoguery of Senator Joseph McCarthy and the House Un-American Activities Committee, Virginia's steadfastness in defending the project and SMU President Dr. Willis Tate's

involvement were models of courage under fire. She even stood up to the FBI investigation of herself as a possible communist!

Virginia served as Dallas League President for six years: 1955-1961. She was elected to the state board in 1962 and the national board in 1964. She was also a charter member of the Dallas United Nations Association and strongly supported such national League issues as foreign economic policy and U.S.-China relations. In Dallas, Virginia spoke out for the League on methods for achieving school integration, not a favorite topic for many Dallasites in 1960. After her national board service, Virginia returned to the Dallas League board and served for 15 years as secretary from 1967 to 1982.

Perhaps the most outstanding memory of Virginia among several generations of Dallas League members is that of League mentor and trainer. On and off for some thirty years she taught new board members the fundamentals of the League and how each individual portfolio contributed to what she championed: total board responsibility.

Virginia died in 1983 having been a League member for over 50 years. In addition to her service, Virginia will be remembered for her integrity, fierce loyalty to the League, courage, independence, precision and a sense of humor "...as firm in a considered opinion as she is open to a new idea...".

#### **VIRGINIA MACDONALD LEADERSHIP AWARD PAST RECIPIENTS**

Julie Lowenberg (1996), Dorothy Masterson (1997), Molly Van Ort (1998), Genie Fritz (1999), Mary Vogelsson (2000), Lucy Polter (2001), Pat Sabin (2002), Harryette Ehrhardt (2003), Molly Rooke (2004), Joanne Hill (2005), Adlene Harrison (2006), Marsha Fogarty (2007), Linda Camin (2008), Linda Sharp (2009), Angela Hunt (2010), Beverly Tobian (2011), Fran McElvaney (2012), Carol Donovan (2013), Suzi Wills (2014), Lynda Taylor Ender (2015), Bill Betzen (2016), the Hon. Theresa Daniel (2017), the Hon. Toni Rose (2018), and Diane Tasian (2019)

**“The reward for work well-done is the opportunity to do more. “**

*~ Jonas Salk*

## **ARTICLE I. NAME**

**Sec. 1. NAME.** The Corporation to which these bylaws pertain is the League of Women Voters of Dallas (“LWVD”). The League is an integral part of the League of Women Voters of the United States (“LWVUS”) and the League of Women Voters of Texas (“LWVTX”).

**Sec. 2. FORM.** The LWVD shall be a nonprofit public benefit corporation incorporated under the laws of the State of Texas.

## **ARTICLE II. PURPOSES AND POLICY**

**Sec. 1. PURPOSES.** The purposes of the LWVD are to promote political responsibility through informed and active participation in government and to act on selected governmental issues. This 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 Articles, 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.

**Sec. 2. POLITICAL POLICY.** The League shall not support or oppose any political party or any candidate.

## **ARTICLE III. MEMBERSHIP**

**Sec. 1. ELIGIBILITY** - Any person who subscribes to the purposes and policies of LWVD shall be eligible for membership.

### **Sec. 2. TYPES OF MEMBERSHIP**

a. Voting Members: Persons at least 16 years of age who join the League shall be voting members of local Leagues, State Leagues, and of the LWVUS.

- 1) Individuals 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 LWVD for 50 years or more shall be life members excused from the payment of dues.

b. Associate Members (Non-Voting): All others who join the League shall be associate members.

## **ARTICLE IV. BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

**Sec. 1. POWERS AND DUTIES** - The board of directors shall direct the LWVD. The board shall manage and supervise the business, affairs, and activities of the LWVD subject to the instructions of the annual meeting. The board plans and directs the work necessary to carry out the program adopted by the national convention of LWVUS, the state convention of LWVTX and the annual meeting of LWVD (“annual meeting”). The board may create special committees, as it deems necessary.

**Sec. 2. NUMBER, MANNER OF SELECTION, AND TERM OF OFFICE** - The board consists of nine elected officers of the League, no more than eight elected directors, and no more than eight appointed directors. One-half of the elected directors shall be elected at each annual meeting. In the event that additional officers are elected, the number of officers shall increase accordingly.

Term of office for an officer or director shall be two years or until a successor has been qualified and elected, with eligibility for reelection or reappointment to two additional two-year terms. After an officer or director completes three consecutive two-year terms, such board member shall not be eligible for reelection in the same position for a period of two years, or one term. If an officer or director assumes the presidency in his/her final term, his/her board term may be extended in order to complete two terms as president.

**Sec. 3. QUALIFICATIONS** - Any person elected or appointed or continuing to serve as an officer or director shall first be a voting member.

**Sec. 4. VACANCIES** - Any vacancy occurring in the board, other than in the office of president, by reason of the resignation, death, or disqualification of an officer or elected member, may be filled, until the next annual meeting, by a majority vote of the remaining members of the board.

In case the president shall be temporarily unable to perform her duties, the president, if available, shall designate the president-elect or one of the vice presidents to act as president until such time as the president shall be able to resume her duties, or until the next annual meeting. If the president shall be unavailable, or if the president's office should become vacant, the remaining officers shall have the authority to designate the president-elect or one of the vice presidents as temporary president until the next meeting of the board at which time the board shall elect a new president by majority vote.

At the annual meeting the un-expired term of any officer or elected director whose office may have become vacant shall be filled by regular nomination and election.

The absence of any member of the board from three consecutive board meetings may be deemed a resignation from the office.

**Sec. 5. MEETINGS** - There shall be at least nine regular meetings of the board annually to be held at such date, time, place and method as the board may determine. The president may call special meetings of the board and shall call a special meeting upon the written request of five members of the board with a minimum of four days notice. The board may take action between meetings by mail or by electronic means, when necessary, provided that notice of the proposed actions set forth, provides the opportunity to specify approval or disapproval of the proposal, and a reasonable time in which to return the ballot is allowed. Notice, quorum and other requirements for the conduct of the meetings shall apply. Ballots shall be filed with a report of the action and shall be part of the minutes of the meeting of the board of directors.

**Sec. 6. QUORUM** - A majority of the members of the board shall constitute a quorum.

**Sec. 7. PARTICIPATION IN MEETINGS** - Any one or more members of the board may participate in a meeting by use of conference telephone or similar communications equipment, so long as all participants in the meeting can simultaneously hear each other.

**Sec. 8. COMMITTEES** - The president may create one or more committees, each consisting of two or more voting members.

**Sec. 9. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE** - Consists of president, president-elect, vice presidents, treasurer and secretary. The executive committee may transact emergency business between meetings of the board of directors. The proceedings of the executive committee shall be reported to the board at its next meeting for ratification.

**Sec.10. REMOVAL OF DIRECTORS** – 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 LWVD.

## **ARTICLE V. OFFICERS**

**Sec. 1. ENUMERATION AND ELECTION OF OFFICERS** - The officers of LWVD shall be a president, or two co-presidents, president-elect, five vice presidents with co-vice presidents if necessary, a secretary, and a treasurer. The voting members shall elect the officers at an annual meeting, for a term of two years, and take office on June 1. The president, two vice-presidents, and the secretary shall be elected in the odd numbered years. The other three vice presidents and the treasurer shall be elected in the even numbered years. A president-elect may be elected in even numbered years for a one-year term or in odd-numbered years for a two-year term if the serving president does not wish to stand for re-election as president. Should there be a need to elect additional officers, then the number of officers shall increase accordingly.

**Sec. 2. THE PRESIDENT** - The duties of the president shall be to preside at all meetings of LWVD and the board; to sign all legal documents, unless delegated to another officer; to serve as ex officio member of all committees except the nominating committee; to have such usual powers of supervision and management as may pertain to the office of the president; and to perform such other duties as may be designated by the board. The president shall have those powers, including but not limited to, the hiring and management of the staff, the representation of the League at functions and meetings, the promotion of the League and its services to the business, government and nonprofit communities, budget oversight and working with the board to effectuate the purposes of the League, together with such other duties and responsibilities as from time to time may be assigned by the board or as are prescribed by these bylaws. The president may not serve as the secretary of LWVD.

**Sec. 3. THE PRESIDENT-ELECT** - The president-elect shall perform such duties as prescribed by the president or co-presidents and the board; shall be familiar with the duties of the presidency and may be nominated for that office concurrently with the nomination of the president or during the president's term. In the event of absence, disability, resignation, or death of the president, the president-elect may possess all the powers and perform all the duties of that office. The board may fill the vacancy of the president or may choose to fill the vacancy of the president-elect if the president-elect becomes president.

**Sec. 4. THE VICE PRESIDENTS** - It shall be the duty of each vice president to supervise and coordinate the activities of an assigned jurisdiction and, when so designated, to perform the duties of the president. The vice presidents shall perform such other duties as the president and the board may designate.

**Sec. 5. THE SECRETARY** - The duties of the secretary shall be to keep the minutes of all meetings of the membership and the board; to sign, with the president, all contracts and other instruments when so authorized by the board; and to perform other such functions, as may be incidental to the office.

**Sec. 6. THE TREASURER** - The duties of the treasurer shall be to collect and receive all monies and be the custodian of these monies; to deposit them in a bank designated by the board and to disburse the same only upon the order of the board; and to present a statement to each board meeting and an annual report to the annual meeting. The treasurer shall be bonded or insured under LWVD's liability insurance policy and books of the treasurer shall be audited or reviewed annually.

## **ARTICLE VI. FINANCIAL ADMINISTRATION**

**Sec. 1. FISCAL YEAR** -The fiscal year of LWVD shall commence on the first day of June of each year.

### **Sec. 2. DUES.**

- a. Annual dues shall be payable on the first day of the anniversary month of a member's joining LWVD. The amount of the dues shall be determined by a majority vote of those voting members present and voting at the annual meeting. When two members reside at the same address in a common household, the dues payment determined at the annual meeting shall be made for the first member; a payment equal to one half the amount of the dues shall be paid for the additional member.
- b. Members who have been enrolled in LWVD or any other integral part of LWVUS for 50 years or more shall be life members and shall not be required to pay annual dues. A state and local League shall be excused from making a per member payment for life members.

**Sec. 3. BUDGET** - A budget for the ensuing year shall be submitted by the board to the annual meeting for adoption.

- a. The budget shall include support for the work of LWVD, LWVTX, and LWVUS.
- b. Endorsement of Documents and Contracts – Unless so authorized by the board, no officer, agent or employee shall have any power or authority to bind the League by any contract or engagement or to pledge its credit or to render it liable for any purpose or amount.

**Sec. 4. BUDGET COMMITTEE** – The president shall appoint the chair and members of the budget committee, which shall include the Treasurer and at least one other League member, at least two months prior to the annual meeting to prepare the budget for the ensuing fiscal year. The treasurer shall not be eligible to serve as chair of the budget committee. The proposed budget shall be sent to the membership at least 21 days before the annual meeting.

**Section 5. DISSOLUTION** – In the event of the dissolution of the LWVD all monies and securities which may at the time be owned by or under the control of the LWVD shall be paid to the member organization of the League of Women Voters Texas that is exempt under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code or the corresponding section of any future federal tax code; or if none of these organizations are then in existence or exempt under those tax provisions, then, at the discretion of the Board, to another organization which is organized and operated exclusively for charitable and educational purposes and which has established its tax-exempt status under such designated tax provisions.

## **ARTICLE VII. MEETINGS**

**Sec. 1. MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS** - There shall be at least four meetings of the membership each year, such as issue forums, general meetings, combined unit meetings, and the annual meeting. The board shall determine time and place.

**Sec. 2. ANNUAL MEETING** - The annual meeting is a meeting of the membership that shall be held in the spring of each year, the exact date to be determined by the board. The annual meeting shall:

- a. Adopt a local program for the ensuing year
- b. Elect officers, directors and members of the nominating committee,
- c. Adopt a budget, and
- d. Transact such other business as may properly come before the annual meeting.

**Sec. 3. VOTING** - Each member shall be entitled to one vote at any meeting of the members. Absentee or proxy voting shall not be permitted.

**Sec. 4. QUORUM** - Ten percent of the voting members shall constitute a quorum at the annual meeting.

**Sec. 5. NOTICE** - Written notice of any annual or special meeting shall be given to each member 21 days before said meeting. Such notice shall state the place and time of the meeting and the general nature of the business to be transacted with no other business permitted.

## **ARTICLE VIII. NOMINATIONS AND ELECTIONS**

**Sec. 1. NOMINATING COMMITTEE** - The nominating committee shall consist of five voting members, two of whom shall be members of the board. The chair and two members who shall not be members of the board shall be elected at the annual meeting. The current nominating committee shall make nominations for these offices. The other members shall be appointed by the board immediately following the annual meeting. The board shall fill any vacancy on the nominating committee. The chair of the nominating committee shall request suggestions from the voting members for nominations for officers and directors.

**Sec. 2. REPORT OF THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE AND NOMINATIONS FROM THE FLOOR** - The report of the nominating committee of its nominations for officers, directors, and members of the succeeding nominating committee shall be sent to the membership at least 21 days before the annual meeting. Immediately following the presentation of this report, any voting member may make nominations from the floor, providing the consent of the nominee shall have been secured.

**Sec. 3. ELECTIONS** - The elections held at the annual meeting shall be by ballot, except that when there is only one nominee for each office, election shall be by voice vote. Nominees receiving a majority vote of those voting members present and voting shall be elected. Absentee or proxy voting shall not be permitted.

## **ARTICLE IX. LOCAL PROGRAM**

**Sec. 1. AUTHORIZATION** - The governmental principles adopted by the national convention of the LWVUS constitute the authorization for the adoption of program.

**Sec. 2. PROGRAM** - The program of LWVD shall consist of (a) action to implement the principles, and (b) those local governmental issues chosen for concerted study and action.

**Sec. 3. PROGRAM SELECTION** - The annual meeting shall select local program using the following procedures:

- a. Voting members may make recommendations to the board at least two months before the annual meeting. The board shall consider these recommendations when it formulates a proposed program.
- b. The proposed program shall be sent to the membership not less than 21 days before the annual meeting along with the non-recommended items.
- c. A majority vote of those voting members present and voting at the annual meeting shall be required for adoption of subjects in the proposed program.
- d. Any program item submitted by voting members two months before the annual meeting but not recommended by the board may be adopted at the annual meeting by a two-thirds vote of those voting members present and voting.

**Sec. 4. EMERGENCY PROGRAM PROCEDURES** - Additions to the program necessitated by altered conditions may be made by the board, provided notice of any proposed changes and explanations has been sent to the membership at least twenty-one days in advance of the decision by the board. A two-thirds vote by the board shall be required to adopt any changes.

**Sec. 5. MEMBER ACTION** - Members may act in the name of LWVD only when authorized to do so by the President.

**Sec. 6. BOARD ACTION** - The board may act on local program only after consensus or concurrence has been reached by the membership.

**Sec. 7. CONCURRENCE, AN ALTERNATE FORM OF MEMBER AGREEMENT**

- a. To update or enlarge an existing local program position, the Program Review Committee or a board appointed committee shall review the issue and present its recommendations, along with the pros and cons, for board approval. The approved recommendations and the pros and cons shall then be presented to the membership through a general meeting and/or a unit meeting not less than 21 days before the annual meeting in order to be considered for their concurrence and adoption. Two-thirds vote is required for concurrence.
- b. To concur with a consensus reached by another local League, a committee shall be appointed by the board to consider the other League's *Facts and Issues*, pros and cons, and then present those findings to the membership through a general meeting and/or a unit meeting for their concurrence. Two-thirds vote is required for consensus.

**ARTICLE X. NATIONAL CONVENTION, STATE CONVENTION, AND STATEWIDE CONFERENCE**

**Sec. 1. NATIONAL CONVENTION** - The voting members or the board, at a meeting before the date on which the names of delegates must be sent to the LWVUS office, shall select delegates to the national convention of LWVUS in the number allotted LWVD under the provisions of the bylaws of the LWVUS.

**Sec. 2. STATE CONVENTION** - The voting members or the board, at a meeting before the date on which names of delegates must be sent to the LWVTX office, shall select delegates to the state convention of LWVTX in the number allotted LWVD under the provisions of the bylaws of the LWVTX.

**Sec. 3. STATEWIDE CONFERENCE** - The voting members or the board, at a meeting before the date on which the names of delegates must be sent to the LWVTX office, shall select delegates to the



statewide conference of LWVTX in the number allotted LWVD under the provisions of the bylaws of the LWVTX.

**ARTICLE XI. INDEMNIFICATION**

The LWVD is empowered to indemnify the officers, directors and agent to the extent provided and within the limitations imposed by law.

**ARTICLE XII. CONFLICT OF INTEREST**

All members of the Board of Directors of the LWVD shall sign a Conflict of Interest statement annually and, if necessary, disclose any conflicts of interest that he or she may have.

**ARTICLE XIII. PARLIAMENTARY AUTHORITY**

The rules contained in Robert’s Rules of Order, Newly Revised, shall govern LWVD in all cases to which they are applicable and in which they are not inconsistent with these bylaws.

**ARTICLE XIV. AMENDMENTS**

These bylaws may be amended by a two-thirds vote at the annual meeting provided the amendments were submitted to the membership in writing at least 21 days in advance of the annual meeting.

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**“I firmly believe in the rule of law as the foundation for all of our basic rights.”**

~ Sonia Sotomayor

**LWVUS NONPARTISAN POLITICAL POLICY AND LOCAL AMPLIFICATION**

Article II, Section 2 of the League of Women Voters US Bylaws delineates the League’s policy: “The League shall not support or oppose any political party or any candidate.”

It is the duty of the Board to see that the League is in fact nonpartisan and that what it does and says is not influenced by any party or candidate. All members of the League of Women Voters of Dallas, including Board members, are encouraged to participate as individuals in partisan political activities. Such activities may include, but are not limited to, attending precinct caucuses and party conventions, serving as precinct chairs, making financial contributions to the candidates of their choice, and allowing their names to be used in support of particular candidates.

The President, Advocacy Vice President and Voter Outreach Vice President may not participate in conspicuous partisan political activities during their terms of office. League members should take care not to represent their partisan political activities as League policy and should not use the name of the League in such a way as to imply endorsement of or opposition to any candidate for elected office. Any concern about a board member’s partisan activities should be brought to the Board of Directors for a decision.

A local LWVD board member may accept appointment to or run for a political office if the election does not require a party affiliation and the LWVD board gives approval. If a board member chooses to run for a partisan office, they must resign from the board. If an elected official in a nonpartisan office is elected or appointed to the LWVD board, he or she must recuse himself and leave the room when any discussion occurs about an issue on which the elected official would vote.

**LOCAL PUBLIC POLICIES**

SPEAKING FOR THE LEAGUE: Only the President or those authorized by the President shall speak officially for the League of Women Voters of Dallas. League members speaking publicly in opposition to a League position shall not identify themselves as League members.

SERVICE ON BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS: Appointment of a League Board member to a governmental committee or commission must be reported to the Board. The League takes initiative in recommending people to serve on appointed public boards, committees, and commissions. When the League member represents the League, the Board is not bound to support the commission’s recommendations. The Board may issue a statement in explanation of the League’s position and may specify what portion of the commission’s report the League does and does not support.

REPRESENTATIVES TO OTHER ORGANIZATIONS: The President and the Advocacy Vice President shall annually, in June, review the League-appointed representatives to other organizations and act as necessary to renew or revise these appointments, subject to Board approval where appropriate.

COALITIONS and ASSOCIATIONS: The League of Women Voters of Dallas reserves the right to withhold its name from any statement or action taken by a coalition of which it is a member that does not reflect the League’s consensus positions. If a coalition or association supports or opposes candidates, the League shall publicly issue a statement disassociating itself from such support or opposition.

DIRECTORY: The Directory of the League shall not be used for other than League purposes without prior Board approval. Each member is responsible for notifying the League office how she/he wishes her/his name to be listed in the Directory.

PETITIONS: Only petitions relating to League positions, which have received prior approval of the Dallas League Board, shall be circulated during League meetings.

VOTER: The local newsletter, The Dallas *VOTER*, may carry announcements of other organizations' activities when they relate to League program or concerns, if space is available in the *VOTER*.

USE OF OFFICE EQUIPMENT: The equipment in the League office is to be used only for League purposes and operated only by trained operators.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST: Members of the local Board shall not receive material compensation, such as salaries or stipends, for services rendered, nor shall they sell professional services or products to the LWV Dallas. (In a not-for-profit organization, it is inappropriate for those who govern to receive material compensation for performing the services they have deemed necessary to carry out the mission of the organization.)

The office staff shall not be a member of the local Board. It is considered inappropriate for those earning a fee to be a part of the decision-making body that hires, fires, and determines salary and benefits.

In any matter in which a local Board member or a member of her/his family has a financial interest, the Board member shall refrain from participating in the discussion prior to a vote and shall refrain from attempting to influence the outcome of a vote, and shall abstain from voting.

COPYRIGHT: The League retains all right, title, and interest in all material prepared by League members for League use or distribution under League auspices. All copyrights to such material belong to the League.

ADS and COMMUNICATIONS:

- (1) SBA Luncheon Program ads: The Susan B. Anthony luncheon, a major fundraiser for LWVD, includes the opportunity to buy an ad in the program. Elected officials and candidates running for office may purchase an ad to honor the recipient of the SBA Award or the LWV but may not use that ad solely to promote their candidacy for office.
- (2) Ads in Print or Online LWV publications: No political ads for candidates or officeholders shall be accepted for any League print or online publication. All other ads must be approved by the appropriate League board member(s). Ads must be in general agreement with League principles.
- (3) Website: Any website for which the LWVD provides a link must be balanced, nonpartisan and consistent with League principles. All submissions are subject to review, appropriate editing, and approval by appropriate League board member(s).

**LOCAL ORGANIZATION POLICIES**

PROGRAM AND FISCAL YEARS: The program year and fiscal year is from June 1 to May 31.

Retiring officers or directors shall work with their successor until the new director is familiar with the portfolio.

## COMMITTEES:

Annual Meeting Awards: Chaired by the previous year's recipients of the Myrtle Bales Bulkley and the Virginia Macdonald Awards, the committee consists of all past recipients of these awards. In addition, the president may appoint two current board members if no current board members are among the past recipients. The Bulkley Award is given annually. The Macdonald Award may be given at the discretion of the committee.

Budget: Per Article VI Section 4 of the bylaws—The president shall appoint the chair and members of the budget committee, which shall include the Treasurer and at least one other League member, at least two months prior to the annual meeting to prepare the budget for the ensuing fiscal year. The treasurer shall not be eligible to serve as chair of the budget committee. The proposed budget shall be sent to the membership at least 21 days before the annual meeting.

Bylaws: The committee shall consist of three to five members. The president shall appoint the chair at least five months prior to the annual meeting or any special meeting at which the bylaws are to be approved by the membership its charge shall be to review the bylaws and present any changes or amendments deemed necessary to the board of directors and then to the membership. 21 days before the annual meeting.

Development: The chair of the Development Committee shall be appointed by the President. Members of the development committee shall include the president, ex-officio, and may include board members and non-board members. Its charge shall be to devise the annual fund development plan for action and recommend results and benchmarks for action by the board. The committee will oversee and conduct fundraising events.

Finance: The president appoints the chair of the finance committee and three committee members, which shall include the Treasurer. The president is an ex officio member of the committee. The treasurer is a member of, but does not chair, the finance committee. Its charge is to set long-range financial goals along with funding strategies to achieve them and submit them to the board for approval. The finance committee works with the strategic plan committee to determine the financial implications of the plan. The finance committee exercises supervisory authority over the investment management of LWVD assets. It is responsible for quarterly reporting to the full board on the performance of LWVD investments.

Local Policy Review: The president appoints the chair and a committee of 3-5 members each year to review the local policies which are approved by the board. The policy committee shall work closely with the bylaws committee.

Local Program Planning: The committee is chaired by the Vice President for Program, who appoints the other members. The committee identifies issues for study, review and update, and/or concurrence.

Nominating: Per Article VIII, Section 1 of the bylaws—The nominating committee shall consist of five voting members, two of whom shall be members of the board. The chair and two members who shall not be members of the board shall be elected at the annual meeting. The current nominating committee shall make nominations for the upcoming year's nominating committee. The other members shall be appointed by the board immediately following the annual meeting. The board shall fill any vacancy on the nominating committee. The chair of the nominating committee shall request suggestions from the voting members for nominations for officers and directors.

Periodic Program Review: This committee is chaired by the Vice President for Program and should include a former president or vice president. Its purpose is to review selected existing local positions and recommend changes as necessary. The number of positions reviewed each year by this Periodic Program Review Committee will be such as to allow a total review to be completed every four years.

Personnel: The Personnel committee is chaired by the Vice President for Organization and includes the president, secretary and treasurer. It ensures the initial training of the Office Administrator and subsequent annual job performance reviews in December. Review results are reported in January to the Board which can recommend to the Budget Committee any cost of living or merit raises for the next fiscal year.

Strategic Plan: The Chair of the Strategic Plan committee is appointed by the President. The committee will include other appropriate board members. The committee's charge is to develop and/or review, update, and/or remediate the strategic plan for board approval and implementation.

AGENDA: The President prepares an agenda for each Board meeting based on advice from the other officers.

ELECTRONIC VOTING: Any consideration of a question requiring official approval of the board of directors that the President determines cannot wait for the next regularly scheduled board of directors meeting may be conducted via electronic means using the following procedure:

1. The President shall send to each board member the question with any background data and information necessary for board consideration.
2. The time period allowed for discussion and voting must be stated.
3. Fifty-one percent (51%) of the board's existing membership must respond within the time allowed in order for the question to pass.
4. The electronic vote shall be ratified and recorded into the minutes of the next scheduled board meeting.

EXPENSES: Budgeted expenditures from portfolio funds are left to the discretion of the appropriate Board member. If expenditures exceed the budgeted amount, Board approval is required. Corresponding in-kind donations to cover expenses must be reported to the Board.

MEMBERSHIP SCHOLARSHIPS: Contributions to the Scholarship Fund will be used to pay membership dues for LWVD members who, because of financial hardship, need assistance paying all or part of their annual membership dues. Abatement of dues may be granted using the following procedures:

1. Requests for scholarship assistance will be referred to and authorized by the Organization VP or Membership Director, before being forwarded to the Treasurer for posting.
2. A partial or whole abatement of dues may be granted. A limit to the amount used for this purpose shall be determined by the Board at the beginning of each fiscal year.
3. Candidates will be considered on the basis of a combination of need, of past contributions of time and talent, on future participation, and/or on the value the applicant places on membership in the League.
4. The scholarship shall expire at the end of the scholarship year (anniversary date of the grant). Both new and renewal applications will be considered according to the above criteria.

LAPSED MEMBERSHIP: Members whose dues are three months in arrears will be dropped from the LWVD membership rolls. Notice will be sent to the member and to LWVUS and LWV-TX.

## **POLICY FOR GRANTS OR PROJECTS FUNDED BY NON-LEAGUE SOURCES**

1. Criteria for consideration of grants or projects:
  - a. Each project proposed shall be reviewed by the Board to ensure that it is compatible with League purposes, policies, program, and principles. (The project should relate to Voters Service, a League position, a study, or an issue of direct interest to the League.)
  - b. League members must have the capabilities and resources to meet the project's requirements and objectives, either on their own or with assured available outside assistance.
  - c. The scope, work requirements, financial needs, and time limits of the project should be clearly established before authorization of the project by the Board.
2. Management Procedures:
  - a. Organization
    - (1) Responsibility for overseeing a project will be assigned to the appropriate vice president.
    - (2) A manager will be designated for the project, with Board approval, and will be responsible for administering the project.
      - (a) It is strongly recommended that no Board member be a project manager unless the scope of the project falls within the normal responsibilities of the Board member's portfolio.
      - (b) No Board member may accept monetary compensation over and above expenses for serving as a project manager.
      - (c) If a contract requires acceptance of a stipend as part of a project, the Board member shall return the stipend to the League as a personal contribution, less any taxes incurred. This is to avoid possible conflict of interest.
    - (3) To the extent justified by the scope and cost of the project, one or all of the following may be designated, with approval, to work under the general jurisdiction of the project manager:
      - (a) Project treasurer, with line responsibility to the project manager and functional responsibility to the League treasurer.
      - (b) Such other assistants to the project manager as are appropriate.
  - b. Finances
    - (1) A proposed budget for each project should be submitted for Board approval prior to commencement of the project.
    - (2) Accurate, up-to-date records shall be kept, according to accepted accounting standards, under the direction of the League treasurer.
    - (3) A separate League account may be maintained for large projects. Smaller projects may be handled through regular League accounts unless otherwise specified by grantor.
  - c. Reporting
    - (1) Regular reports of cash receipts, cash disbursements, and remaining cash balance will be submitted to the League treasurer, with any appropriate comments, including known unpaid obligations.
    - (2) A final financial report of receipts, disbursements, and remaining cash balance will be

submitted to the League treasurer and designated vice president not more than 60 days after the project completion date.

- (3) A final summary report of the project shall be submitted to the president and designated vice president not more than 60 days after completion of the project.

INVESTMENT POLICY and GIFT ACCEPTANCE POLICY: These are on file in the LWVD Office and can be made available to members upon request.

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**The rule of law is crucial to a civilized society - so we should go out of our way to uphold and strengthen it to the extent possible.”**

~ Bill Kristol

**2019-2020 BUDGET - APPROVED AT THE MAY 4, 2019 LWVD ANNUAL MEETING**

<b>Income</b>		
Contributions	\$15,545	
Fundraising		
North Texas Giving Day	5,000	
Events (net)	49,016	a
Total Fundraising	54,016	
Membership Dues	<u>20,588</u>	b
Total Income	90,149	
<b>Expenses</b>		
General Operating Expenses	49,129	c
Member Services	5,830	d
PMP		
National	8,672	
State	5,962	
PMP Total	14,634	
Publication and Voter Service	<u>20,556</u>	e
Total Expense	<u>\$90,149</u>	
<b>Net Income</b>	<u><u>\$ 0</u></u>	

**Assumptions:**

- a. Two events: Susan B. Anthony Luncheon plus a 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary event.
- b. Dues remain the same. Numbers are based on the January 31 tally.
- c. Includes reduced employee hours, new software/equipment, and added marketing expenses.
- d. Includes 3 General Meetings, the Annual Meeting, the VOTER, and printing of membership brochures.
- e. Includes candidate forums, 1-2 Voters Guides, translation of VOTE411 into Spanish, voting signs and printing of voter handouts.



## **PROGRAM POSITION PRINCIPLES**

The League of Women Voters believes in representative government and in the individual liberties established in the Constitution of the United States.

The League of Women Voters believes that democratic government depends upon the informed and active participation of its citizens and requires that governmental bodies protect the citizen's right to know by giving adequate notice of proposed actions, holding open meetings, and making public records accessible.

The League of Women Voters believes that every citizen should be protected in the right to vote; that every person should have access to free public education which provides equal opportunity for all; and that no person or group should suffer legal, economic or administrative discrimination.

The League of Women Voters believes that all powers of the U.S. government should be exercised within the constitutional framework of a balance among the three branches of government: legislative, executive, and judicial.

The League of Women Voters believes that efficient and economical government requires competent personnel, the clear assignment of responsibility, adequate financing and coordination among the different agencies and levels of government.

The League of Women Voters believes that responsible government should be responsive to the will of the people; that government should maintain an equitable and flexible system of taxation, promote the conservation and development of natural resources in the public interest, share in the solution of economic and social problems which affect the general welfare, promote a sound economy and adopt domestic policies which facilitate the solution of international problems.

The League of Women Voters believes that cooperation with other nations is essential in the search for solutions to world problems and that the development of international organization and international law is imperative in the promotion of world peace.

Whatever the issue, the League of Women Voters believes that government policy, programs, and performance must meet these criteria:

- Well-defined channels for citizen participation and review
- Coordination among agencies and levels of government
- Adequate financing
- Effective enforcement
- Competent personnel with clear responsibilities

## **ACTION AND ADVOCACY**

The League of Women Voters acts on an issue or advocates for a cause when there is an existing League position that supports the issue or speaks to the cause.

Positions result from a process of study. Any given study, whether it be National, State, or Local, is thorough in its pursuit of facts and details. As the study progresses, a continuing discussion of pros and cons of each situation occurs. Prior to the results of the study being presented to the general

membership, study committee members fashion consensus questions that are then addressed by the membership.

Additional discussion, pro and con, takes place as members (not part of the study committee) learn the scope of the study. After the members reach consensus, the board forms positions based on that consensus.

It is the **consensus statement** – the statement resulting from the consensus questions – that becomes a position. Firm action or advocacy can then be taken on the particular issue addressed by the position. Without a position, action/advocacy cannot be taken.

## **2019-2020 LOCAL PROGRAM - APPROVED AT THE MAY 4, 2019 LWVD ANNUAL MEETING**

The LWVD Local Program Planning Committee recommended and the membership approved:

1. That no new studies, updates, or reviews with the objective of developing or modifying local League positions be undertaken during 2019-2020. The local positions can be found in this LWVD Handbook on pages 27-35 and on the website at <https://my.lwv.org/texas/dallas/> under the tab “About LWV of Dallas” in the Handbook,
2. That the current update study, “Low-Income and Affordable Housing and the Effects of Gentrification” continue for another year.
3. That study recommendations be sent to National on the subject of net neutrality and digital privacy.

### General or Unit Meeting Topics:

#### *Representative Government:*

- Voter engagement
- Ranked choice voting method
- Online voting
- Vote Centers
- Impeachment
- Citizen Right to Know:
  - Digital privacy
  - net neutrality
- Privatization of schools, prisons, Child Protective Service, Fair Park

#### *Social Policy and Human Resources:*

- Racial issues in Dallas
- Healthcare - Medicaid in Texas
- Education - property tax reform and school finance reform
- Civics education in Texas school curriculum
- Guns on campus
- Superintendent Forum
- Housing - update
- Immigration - Administrative rule changes

#### *Natural Resources:*

- Fair Park update
- Trinity River Corridor - Reimagine Our River is taking input now and there will be a design reveal in April. Construction begins December 2020
- TCEQ and Air quality in North Texas

## SUMMARY OF LOCAL PROGRAM POSITIONS

### I. LOCAL GOVERNMENT

#### A. Appointed Boards and Commissions, City and County (1972 – 73). The League of Women Voters of Dallas supports:

1. Appointment of qualified citizens who will represent the community and can serve under established term, attendance and conflict of interest policies.
2. Orientation for prospective and new board members.
3. Regular meeting times and places convenient for members, clients and visitors.
4. Regular reporting to City Council or Commissioners' Court of board's activities and recommendations for change.
5. Serious consideration by the City Council of specific recommendations submitted by appointed boards and commissions, appointed task forces, and ad hoc committees.

#### B. City Government

1. Council-Manager system of government (1979-80; PPR 1993-94, 2002-2003). The League of Women Voters of Dallas supports the Council-Manager system of government in Dallas with a strong City Council including:
  - Recognition that the Mayor and City Council members are full-time positions and creation of an independent compensation commission to periodically evaluate mayoral and council compensation.
  - Authorization of City Council members to hire their own staff.
  - Extension of City Council member terms to 4 years.
  - Authorization of the City Manager, Mayor and/or 3 City Council members to put an item on the City Council agenda.
  - Adjustment of the budgetary process to allow earlier and more input from City Council members, including City Council involvement in initial planning of annual budget priorities and guidelines.
  - Creation of a comprehensive plan for the City by the City Manager in consultation with the Mayor, City Council and other governmental entities.
  - Creation of a permanent comprehensive city planning department headed by a professional planner.
  - Inclusion of the requirement for an ethics commission in the City charter.
  - Provision for an ongoing charter review process.
  - No allocation of any portion of the City budget to individual City Council members to be spent in their districts.
  - Neither the Mayor nor any City Council member having veto power.
2. Citizen participation in the city budget process (1986-88). The League of Women Voters of Dallas supports:
  - Provisions for systematic, public participation, early in the budget-making process, in indicating annual budget priorities and guidelines.
  - Use of a variety of approaches to help citizens acquire necessary skills and knowledge for effective participation.
  - Action by the city to give citizens the opportunity to participate by giving adequate notice of proposed actions, holding open meetings and making public records accessible.

3. Police/Community relations (PPR 1996). The League of Women Voters of Dallas supports:
- The Dallas Police Department in its primary role of law enforcement and crime prevention.
  - Expansion of police-community programs by coordination with other city, state and federal agencies to use storefront operations to attack crime-causing problems; encouragement of citizen participation in all community service programs; and adequate funding for police officers and community programs.
  - Greater emphasis on human relations training for both recruits and veteran officers by using trained human relations professionals to give input and evaluate courses offered by the Police Academy and pre- and post-testing of cadets to evaluate effectiveness of training.
  - A Citizens' Police Review Board with expanded functions to include a widened scope of complaints to be reviewed automatically and strengthened subpoena power by removing the veto ability from the technical advisory committee and allowing police officers who are the subjects of complaints to be subpoenaed.
4. Municipal Bonds for City of Dallas (2007). Support of:
- Planning for the bond process with informed citizen participation, including:
    - Using a transparent strategic planning process connected to a Master Plan, comprehensive plans, or a Capital Improvement Plan related to city needs with periodic update to citizens as the basis for bond elections.
    - Complete and accurate disclosure of all bond propositions, made available to all citizens throughout the planning and election process.
    - Involvement of citizens during the entire municipal bond process through an appointed citizen review or advisory committee that is open to citizen comments and recommendations and monitors the bond process from needs assessment to project completion.
    - Ongoing presentations/reports of city needs by city staff to public.
    - Formal annual reports to citizens and city council members of the progress of the bond projects throughout the life of the bond project.
  - Bond elections that include:
    - Increased citizen education by the city staff using a variety of methods to encourage citizen and city council member comments and recommendations.
    - Distribution to all voters of truthful, clear, and accurate printed informational material about the bond propositions, with such materials clearly marked as having been produced by the city and approved by the city council.
    - Education for the public about substantive changes to a previous bond project.
    - Full disclosure regarding all propositions, including the projects' cost estimates and evaluations through an open process.
    - Listing under the same heading or category general obligation bond projects that involve phases of construction in more than one bond election so voters can track the project.
    - Projects that are balanced and equitable throughout the city, based on a needs list and a comprehensive plan, with a priority assigned to projects that benefit the whole city.
    - No line items for discretionary spending.
  - General obligation bonds that are:
    - Used for capital improvements that have a projected life longer than the term of the bond.
    - Not used for routine maintenance of existing facilities.

- Allowing citizens to vote again on bond projects when compelling situations develop, such as:
    - Major changes from what was originally presented on the ballot to the voters.
    - Major cost overruns.
    - Catastrophes or emergencies.
5. Bill of Rights (PPR 1996). The League of Women Voters of Dallas supports adoption by the Dallas City Council of a Bill of Rights and Responsibilities. The Dallas Bill of Rights and Responsibilities is a call to create a new social contract, a new understanding between the people of our City and our City government.

This Bill of Rights and Responsibilities derives its authority from the U.S. Constitution's Bill of Rights. Amendment IX says the enumeration in the Constitution of certain rights shall not be construed to deny or disparage others retained by the people. Amendment X says powers not delegated to the United States by the Constitution, nor prohibited by it to the States, are reserved to the States respectively, or to the people. State and federal sovereignty does not relieve us of the obligation to govern ourselves.

The League of Women Voters of Dallas interprets the U.S. Bill of Rights proactively. We not only retain rights and powers over our own lives and civic institutions, but also have the obligation to exercise those rights.

- participation: all residents of the City of Dallas, 18 years old and older, shall have the right to vote for representatives, in fairly apportioned districts, for all public policy decision-making bodies which affect their welfare; and they shall be free to seek public office and serve as public representatives,
- environment: The City of Dallas shall guarantee clean air and water, freedom from exposure to environmental hazards indoors, and preservation and conservation of natural open spaces and parks,
- conscience and expression: The City of Dallas shall make no law establishing a religion nor prohibiting the free exercise of religious conscience, nor make a law which interferes with the rights of freedom of speech, of freedom of the press, to petition the government or to assemble peacefully,
- privacy: The City of Dallas shall protect an individual's right to privacy including choice in human reproduction and the use of life support systems,
- nondiscrimination: The City of Dallas shall not, directly or indirectly, discriminate against persons because of race, religion, gender, sexual orientation, disability, age, national origin or citizenship status,
- children: every child is entitled to have basic needs met, such as: food, clothing, health care, attention, education, nurturing, freedom from exploitation and a community advocate to see that these rights are implemented,
- safety: The City of Dallas shall maintain a safe environment for individuals, free from threats, violence, abuse or official misconduct. This right shall be guaranteed by independent civilian oversight,
- education: The City of Dallas shall guarantee that every person has access to free public education,
- housing: adequate shelter from the elements shall be the right of every person.

**C. County Government.** The League of Women Voters of Dallas supports:

1. County road work priorities based on traffic volume and street conditions, but with consideration also given to citizen requests and recommendations resulting from meetings between Commissioners, local officials and civic leaders (1984, PPR 1996).
2. Efficient registration and election procedures to insure trust and accountability in the election process, including: (2002-04).
  - Registration compliance with the National Voter Registration Act by the Department of Public Safety and other public service agencies and increased access to registration forms in libraries, high schools and other academic institutions, post offices, public service agencies and citizenship ceremonies.
  - Timely processing of registration applications.
  - More effective recruitment of election judges and clerks by advertising the need for election judges and clerks and increasing their pay.
  - More effective training of Election and Registrar Departments' personnel, election judges and election clerks, including payment for training of election judges and clerks.
  - Early Voting and Election Day Voting:
    - increased efforts to publicize locations of polling places in advance of elections,
    - wider distribution of sample ballots and voter education materials,
    - improved access to registration status and election process information by voters, judges and clerks at polling places on Election Day,
    - efforts to assure accuracy of vote counting and recounting,
    - efforts to insure accessibility of polling places for physically challenged citizens
  - Mail Ballot Voting: reform of mail ballot process to achieve integrity of ballot, elimination of the courier process for collection of mail ballots, keeping the identity of persons who have applied for mail ballot as a non-public record until after the election and making available more education about the mail ballot process.

3. **Communications (2016).** The League of Women Voters of Dallas supports:

- Continuous efforts on the part of the LWVD, media and institutions to inform voters of issues of importance in upcoming elections, relevant information about candidates, when, where and how to vote.
- Elevation of lower profile yet important elections in public perception, including local and non-partisan elections and "Down ballot" contests in major partisan elections, and
- Emphasis on improved turnout of responsible voters at least on a level with the emphasis on voter registration.

## **II. SOCIAL POLICY**

**A. Education.** The League of Women Voters of Dallas supports:

1. School policies and practices which will continue to improve the quality of education in the Dallas Independent School District (DISD).
2. A free interchange of information between school officials and the community (1959-63).
3. Quality integrated schools in the Dallas area (1971-72, updated 1981,1990):
  - positive leadership by the school trustees, superintendent and principals, together with the cooperation of the media, religious, business and political leaders and promotion of inter-

ethnic dialogue among parents, teachers, students and principals aimed at planning and implementing school integration,

- a curriculum designed to improve understanding among all races and cultures; various types of magnet schools; preservation of naturally integrated neighborhood schools; and effective measures to prevent discrimination in classrooms, teacher assignments and school activities,
  - use of buses when necessary; an integration plan equally shared by the whole metropolitan area,
  - a tax rate adequate to finance quality, integrated education.
4. Policies and measures of the DISD aimed at the achievement of sound mental health practices (1968-69, PPR 1990), including: special education classes as needed for the emotionally disturbed, in-service training for school nurses and teachers on recognition of emotional disturbance in students, consultation with mental health personnel and agencies, mental health counseling for students in all grades, and communication with and education of parents on mental health goals in the schools.
  5. A curriculum starting in primary grades and continuing through high school on age-appropriate life skills and responsibilities including problem solving, communication, parenting, substance abuse, sex education, violence prevention, and civic participation (1991-93, 2016).
  6. Abolition of corporal punishment as a means of discipline management in schools (PPR 1994).

**B. Housing.** The League of Women Voters of Dallas supports:

1. Fair, affordable housing for all who need it, supplied throughout the region by the combined efforts of all government entities and the private sector.
2. Effective measures by the public and private sectors to ensure an adequate and habitable housing stock, stable neighborhoods and community redevelopment with sufficient services to provide a decent quality of life.
3. Fair enforcement of both landlords' and tenants' rights and obligations.
4. Affordable housing for the very low-to-moderate income families (1996):
  - increased accountability for public funds that are designated to foster home ownership for low-to-moderate income families in Dallas
  - a single point of contact to serve as a clearinghouse for information on, registration for, and the promotion of various programs and entities that work to foster home ownership for very low-to-moderate income households in Dallas
  - a task force of government and private sector groups to work on establishing a responsible entity to:
    - act as clearinghouse for information
    - promote programs,
    - promote coordination and cooperation among the various entities and the consolidation of programs and efforts, as appropriate for programmatic and cost effectiveness,
    - monitor results of programs for measurable outcomes and cost,
    - supervise the education of participants, coordinate counseling programs for new buyers and provide follow-up support to home owners.

**C. Health Services (1968 – 70).** The League of Women Voters of Dallas supports:

1. Establishment of comprehensive mental health services in Dallas County to provide continuity of care to all residents, including:
  - the use of public funds to develop and support mental health services

- conduct research,
  - train personnel with special attention to the mental health needs of children and adolescents, including adequate psychiatric treatment and residential facilities.
2. Maternal and child health measures, including:
    - public education on maternal and child health problems,
    - adequately staffed and easily accessible, quality maternal and child health facilities with decentralized services,
    - services to preschool children in child health clinics,
    - the provision of family planning services as a regular part of medical care,
    - the use of public funds for family planning.
  3. Reorganization of the City of Dallas and Dallas County Public Health Departments allowing for a merger for some or all services (PPR 1992, 1996).

**D. Resources for Children and Youth (1991 – 93).** The League of Women Voters of Dallas supports:

1. Comprehensive health and human services policies for and coordinated among the City of Dallas, Dallas County, and the DISD, including a goal to strengthen families of all kind.
2. A budget process at each level of government (City, County, school districts) that addresses issues and service needs as well as departmental needs, sets a high priority on prevention programs, and is preceded by coordinated strategic planning and goal setting.
3. Action by government agencies and the private sector to facilitate better coordination and accessibility of programs serving youth, such as:
  - the establishment of a network of youth serving agencies in neighborhood centers throughout Dallas County,
  - careful and continuous strategic planning for these centers to assure basic core services, including adequate funding,
  - services that are comprehensive and flexible, decentralized, family and prevention oriented, and outcome focused.
4. Child care that:
  - is affordable, high quality, accessible and safe
  - is subsidized by the City for needy parents and guardians, with some provision by the City for training providers,
  - has developmentally appropriate programs and facilities,
  - has City-provided and coordinated information services,
  - includes the establishment of programs by industry, churches and other private groups through encouragement by the City (PPR 1997).
5. Administration of juvenile justice in Dallas County: continue efforts to encourage and implement citizens' involvement in the juvenile justice system (PPR 1995)

### III. NATURAL RESOURCES

**A. Solid Waste (1972 – 73).** The League of Women Voters of Dallas supports long range solid waste planning with emphasis on recycling and use of newest technology, including:



1. Separation of solid waste at the source until community materials separation and recovery stations are available.
2. Continue limited use of sanitary landfills in strict compliance with state regulations.
3. Regional planning and full participation in a regional program.

**B. Regional Planning (1976, PPR 1994)** The LWVD supports the North Central Texas Council of Governments providing regional services for governmental functions affecting the natural environment and cooperation with effective regional planning that involves participation of all local governments in the region.

**C. Transportation (1973-74, 1976-78, PPR 1993).** The League of Women Voters of Dallas supports mass transportation as an essential public service, subsidized from public funds as necessary, including:

1. A balanced system, which provides for alternate and coordinated forms of transportation while preserving and improving environmental quality.
2. Citizen education and participation early and during the entire planning process through consistent communication between government and its constituents.
3. Coordination of transportation into a regional system which has a board of directors composed of private citizens and elected officials representing participating cities and counties, the power to carry out its transportation functions through the action of a board of directors, and the power to levy a sales tax up to 1%.

**D. Urban Planning (1968-69, updated 1970-71, 1973-74, 1984, 2004).** The League of Women Voters of Dallas supports:

- An effective city-wide comprehensive planning program including: a high quality of development, redevelopment, and preservation,
- a strong and qualified urban planning staff to spearhead the work of the community in planning, zoning, transportation and other related issues,
- involvement of all segments of the Dallas community in decisions at all stages of planning including defining community values; setting neighborhood goals, objectives and priorities; suggesting implementation tools; and providing mechanisms for continuous feedback and periodic review,
- the completion of a community plan for each standard statistical community,
- protecting and fostering stable and redeveloping residential areas and communities,
- a diverse and attractive urban form with ample open space in all areas, increased landscaping in commercial and high- density areas, and maintenance of sites through follow-up code enforcement,
- appropriate incentives to encourage private sector provision of infrastructure and amenities,
- consideration of the impact of zoning changes and other land use decisions on the quality, cost and availability of housing,
- building, maintaining and updating a database of urban information, including the census.
- Carefully planned public acquisition of flood plain lands (1970-71)
- Enforcement of laws affecting zoning in flood plain lands not in public ownership (1970-71)
- Comprehensive subdivision regulations regarding open space and preservation of natural stream corridors (1970-71)
- Cooperation with effective regional planning.

**E. Fair Park (PPR 1993, 1999).** The League of Women Voters of Dallas supports:

1. Maximizing the use and attractiveness of Fair Park,
2. Improving the management of Fair Park through:
  - centralized management methods that follow best practices to restore, preserve and protect Fair Park.
  - increased cooperation among area residents, the city, the park department and the various museums, and other entities around and at Fair Par,
3. Strengthened relationship between Fair Park and the surrounding neighborhood by:
  - protection of existing housing stock,
  - a better link between Fair Park, the City, and the Arts District,
  - improved security in the neighborhood,
  - employment of more area residents,
  - promoting events geared to the neighborhood,
  - involvement of neighborhood representatives at every level of planning, implementation, management, and operation of Fair Park.

**F. Trinity River Corridor (1994-95).** The League of Women Voters of Dallas supports: 1.

1. Flood Damage Reduction

- use of a system-wide approach in decision-making by planners, developers and implementing agencies, with the inclusion of plans for repairing and raising existing levees,
- preference for non-structural methods for future flood damage reduction,
- discouragement of future filling and development in the flood plain,
- enforcement and city-wide application of existing regional fill permits and flood plain ordinances,
- implementation of only cost-effective projects with positive environmental benefits,
- use of funding from all available sources,
- allowance in the 100-year flood plain of only flood-friendly recreational and horticultural-related structures,
- restriction from the flood plain of all residential, business, educational, and research and development centers,
- retaining areas bought out by the city for park and flood damage reduction purposes rather than selling them for future development,
- avoidance of taking existing or proposed parklands for the design, construction or relocation of any Trinity River levee,
- forbidding the inclusion of a “grandfather clause” for future levees or other structural flood solutions, without regard for cost, who pays or effects on the environment or residents downstream,
- establishment of a voluntary relocation and buy-out program for businesses and residents in the flood plain,
- enactment of a city ordinance to allow payment at a fair market price and financial incentive for property owners,

2. Transportation

- compatibility with development of park and open space facilities,
- provision of convenient, safe and practical access to recreation areas from surrounding neighborhoods,

- ensure that solutions do not become safety and noise barriers to recreation/open space uses,
- preservation of natural areas, such as forests, wetlands, wildlife habitats,
- ensure the air and water quality in the corridor and adjoining neighborhoods,
- federal transportation funds which could be leveraged for recreational trail enhancement and levee building SHOULD NOT be the MAIN consideration in deciding where a high-speed highway should be located,
- search for all possible sources of funding for transportation solutions.

### 3. Economic Development

- support and commitment of financial and other resources to encourage economic development in Southern and West Dallas communities along the Trinity River,
- projects appropriate to the natural environment and compatible with the character of existing neighborhoods,
- inclusion of area residents and business owners in decision-making,
- residential and non-residential mixed-use development,
- upgraded infrastructure and zoning to further urban revitalization and discourage incompatible land use.

### 4. Recreation and Open Space

- development of regional plans for coordinating open space development in the Trinity River Basin (1970-71, PPR 1999),
- inclusion of water amenities, such as off channel lakes, fountains and reflecting pools in Trinity Park, providing that environmental considerations such as water quality and sediment contamination are recognized and solved (1994-95, PPR 1999),
- development of park and open space facilities and features, focusing on preservation of the natural environment and existing forests and providing for both active and passive recreational opportunities (1994-95, PPR 1999),
- high priority for the purchase of parks and open space in the flood plain, given a limited or one-time-only opportunity (1994-95, PPR 1999),
- preservation of the “Great Trinity Forest” to be made accessible by an environmentally sensitive trail system with only footpaths in the high-quality forest areas (1994-95, PPR 1999),
- public costs of the construction and maintenance of the project should not to exceed its public benefits (1994-95).

### 5. Environmental Restoration and Preservation (1994-95)

- efforts to clean up the areas of the river where environmental degradation has taken place,
- increased and strengthened enforcement of city codes with an increase in fines for illegal dumping,
- upgraded zoning to address incompatible land use,
- public education program about solutions to illegal dumping, littering and storm-drain dumping,
- removal of old landfills, illegal fills, litter and toxic dumping,
- restoration of wetlands, forests and natural areas,
- clean-up and monitoring of air and water pollution,
- a work program for juveniles and violators on work release to do environmental preservation and restoration.

## LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF TEXAS (LWVTX) STUDY & SUMMARY OF PROGRAM POSITIONS

The LWVTX supports three priority issues for the 2019 Legislative Session:

### ELECTION LAWS & VOTING RIGHTS

Support every citizen's right to vote (Online Voter Registration & Same Day Registration), uniformly enforced election procedures, clearly stated election laws that facilitate voter engagement and turnout, improve transparency and public input in the redistricting process.

### WOMEN'S HEALTH

Support adequate funding for basic health care for those unable to pay. Protect the constitutional right of privacy of the individual to make reproductive choices with access to comprehensive reproductive health services and medically accurate sexuality education.

### PUBLIC EDUCATION

Promote adequate state funding for public schools to ensure that all Texas school children receive a high-quality education. Oppose a voucher system. Support achievement tests that measure individual mastery and proficiency for diagnostic purposes, and a fair, non-punitive accountability system.

## SUMMARY OF STATE PROGRAM POSITIONS

The pamphlet, *We Support*, summarizes League of Women Voters of Texas (LWVTX) program positions reached by statewide member study and agreement [https://my.lwv.org/sites/default/files/we\\_support\\_brochure\\_2019.pdf](https://my.lwv.org/sites/default/files/we_support_brochure_2019.pdf)

LWVTX positions are detailed in the publication *Program Perspectives* [https://drive.google.com/file/d/1yLOR\\_H32Cq-w6-h0VSySZZKCK2DkGKO/view](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1yLOR_H32Cq-w6-h0VSySZZKCK2DkGKO/view)

LWVTX also acts under positions taken by the League of Women Voters US, whose positions are detailed in the publication *Impact on Issues*.

**I. GOVERNMENT** - Action: Achieve an efficient, effective, responsive state governmental system through constitutional revision and legislative action which includes:

CONSTITUTIONAL REVISION - Support revision of The Texas Constitution to make it a framework of basic law.

CAMPAIGN FINANCE / ETHICS - Support fair campaign finance laws to reduce impact of large contributions.

Protect the citizens' right to know. Strengthen accountability.  
Combat corruption and undue influence.

EXECUTIVE, LEGISLATIVE, & JUDICIAL - Increase the effectiveness of the executive department and the efficiency of the legislature.

Support the appointment/retention method and/or nonpartisan election of the judiciary.

FINANCING STATE GOVERNMENT - Promote adequate and fair funding for major state responsibilities, such as public education and transportation.

HOMEOWNER ASSOCIATIONS - Protect against unreasonable foreclosure on homesteads, priority or payments, and election safeguards.

OPEN GOVERNMENT - Promote transparency and public participation in government.

PAYDAY & AUTO TITLE LOANS - Support regulation of payday and auto title loan businesses to function as a consumer service and successful business.

REDISTRICTING - Support formation of a redistricting commission following each decennial census.

STATE & LOCAL RELATIONS - Support increased county authority in order to better manage growth in urbanizing areas.

## **II. ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE**

CAPITAL PUNISHMENT - Promote a moratorium on the death penalty. Support the option of life sentence without parole in capital cases.

CRIMINAL JUSTICE - Provide a secure prison environment with maximum education opportunities and adequate health care. Promote meaningful sentencing reform. Support a professional parole and probation staff and work to decrease their caseload.

DRUG LAWS & POLICIES - Support treatment programs for drug abuse and addiction as an alternative to incarceration.

HUMAN TRAFFICKING - Support measures to prevent the use of force, fraud, or coercion to exploit a person for sex or labor; prosecute traffickers, and protect victims.

IMMIGRATION - Support state services for undocumented immigrants, especially in the area of education and health care.

JUVENILE JUSTICE - Support and fund substance abuse treatment, mental health needs, and education for youth at risk and for those incarcerated.

## **III. SOCIAL POLICY/HUMAN RESOURCES**

CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT: Support the development and implementation of adequate legislation, policies, services, and programs to protect children from abuse and neglect.

CHILD HEALTH CARE: Ensure that state budget cuts do not undermine children's access to health care. Improve enrollment and retention for CHIP and Children's Medicaid and maintain effective delivery systems for both. Preserve Texas' public health safety net.

EARLY CHILDHOOD: Support early childhood education professional development. Expand access to high quality pre-kindergarten. Improve safe care for infants and toddlers.

EQUAL OPPORTUNITY/INCOME ASSISTANCE: Action to achieve equal rights for all, combat discrimination and poverty, and to provide equal access to housing, employment, and quality education in Texas.

HEALTH CARE FOR THE MEDICALLY INDIGENT: Action to achieve a basic level of health care for the medically indigent.

HEALTH CARE SYSTEM FOR OLDER TEXANS: Action to create a comprehensive health care system for older Texans that ensures a seamless continuum of quality care.

**IV. NATURAL RESOURCES** - Action: To achieve conservation, protection, and judicious development of the state's natural resources which includes:

AIR QUALITY / CLIMATE CHANGE / ENERGY - Support control of air pollution in Texas. Promote energy policy to reduce global warming, including renewable/clean energy sources and energy conservation.

HAZARDOUS WASTE - Promote policies for reduced generation of solid and hazardous waste and its reuse and recycling, including its safe transportation, handling, and disposal.

LAND USE - Increase county authority to regulate land development. Support full funding of the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department.

TRANSPORTATION - Increase funding for public roads, mass transit, and light rail.

WATER - Support funding for safe/adequate water. Enhance protection of environmental flows, rivers, bays, and estuaries.

**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF THE UNITED STATES (LWVUS) NATIONAL STUDY & SUMMARY OF PUBLIC POLICY POSITIONS**

**NATIONAL RECOMMENDED PROGRAM**

Campaign to *Make Democracy Work for All*

**SUMMARY OF NATIONAL PUBLIC POLICY POSITIONS**

Details of LWVUS positions can be found in the publication *Impact on Issues*

<https://www.lwv.org/sites/default/files/2019-04/LWV%202018-20%20Impact%20on%20Issues.pdf>

This publication is designed to help League leaders use LWVUS public policy positions effectively at the state and local levels. In addition to the official statements of position for each program area, this publication briefly traces significant past actions and achievements, and indicates links among positions. Statements of position and other official language are in bold type.

- I. **REPRESENTATIVE GOVERNMENT** - Promote an open governmental system that is representative, accountable and responsive.

**Voting Rights**

**Citizen's Right to Vote.** Protect the right of all citizens to vote; encourage all citizens to vote.

**DC Self-Government and Full Voting Representation.** Secure for the citizens of the District of Columbia the rights of self-government and full voting representation in both houses of Congress.

## **Election Process**

**Apportionment.** Support apportionment of congressional districts and elected legislative bodies at all levels of government based substantially on population.

**Redistricting.** Support redistricting processes and enforceable standards that promote fair and effective representation at all levels of government with maximum opportunity for public participation.

**Money in Politics (formerly campaign finance).** Support campaign finance/MIP regulations that enhances political equality for all citizens, ensures transparency, protects representative democracy from distortion by undisclosed contributions and big money, and combats corruption and undue influenced in government. Support campaign spending that is restricted but not banned. Supports public financing, full disclosure, abolishing SuperPACs, and creating an effective enforcement agency.

**Selection of the President.** Promote the election of the President and Vice-President by direct popular vote. Support uniform national voting qualifications and procedures for presidential elections. Support efforts to provide voters with sufficient information about candidates.

## **Citizen Rights**

**Citizen's Right to Know/Public Participation.** Protect the citizen's right to know and facilitate informed understanding and public participation in government decision-making.

## **Evaluating Constitutional Amendment Proposals and Constitutional Conventions**

**Amendment Proposals.** Consider whether a proposal addresses matters of abiding importance, makes our political system more democratic, protects individual rights, could be achieved by a constitutional amendment or legislative proposal, and is consistent with other League positions.

**Constitutional Conventions.** Hold Constitutional Conventions only when certain conditions are in place, such as: limited to a specific topic, full transparency, delegates selected by population, and voting by delegates not by states.

**Individual Liberties.** Oppose major threats to basic constitutional rights.

**Public Policy on Reproductive Choices.** Protect the constitutional right of privacy of the individual to make reproductive choices.

## **Congress and the Presidency**

**Congress.** Support responsive legislative processes characterized by accountability, representativeness, decision making capability, effective performance, and transparency.

**The Presidency.** Promote a dynamic balance of power between the executive and legislative branches within the framework set by the Constitution.

## **Privatization**

Ensure transparency, accountability, positive community impact and preservation of the common good when considering the transfer of governmental services, assets and/or functions to the private sector.

## II. INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

Promote peace in an interdependent world by working cooperatively with other nations and strengthening international organizations.

### **United Nations**

Support a strong, effective United Nations to promote international peace and security and to address the social, economic, and humanitarian needs of all people.

### **Trade**

Support U.S. trade policies that reduce trade barriers; expand international trade; and advance the achievement of humanitarian, environmental, and social goals.

### **Developing Countries**

Promote U.S. policies that meet long-term social and economic needs of developing countries.

### **Arms Control**

Reduce the risk of war through support of arms control measures.

### **Military Policy and Defense Spending**

Work to limit reliance on military force. Examine defense spending in the context of total national needs.

## III. NATURAL RESOURCES

Promote an environment beneficial to life through the protection and wise management of natural resources in the public interest.

### **Resource Management & Protection**

Promote the management of natural resources as interrelated parts of life-supporting ecosystems. Promote resource conservation, stewardship, and long-range planning, with the responsibility for managing natural resources shared by all levels of government. Preserve the physical, chemical and biological integrity of the ecosystem with maximum protection of public health and the environment.

**Air Quality.** Promote measures to reduce pollution from mobile and stationary sources.

**Energy.** Support environmentally sound policies that reduce energy growth rates, emphasize energy conservation, and encourage the use of renewable resources.

**Land Use.** Promote policies that manage land as a finite resource and that incorporate principles of stewardship.

**Water.** Support measures to reduce pollution in order to protect surface water, groundwater, and drinking water, and set up a process to evaluate inter-basin water transfers.

**Waste Management.** Promote policies to reduce the generation and promote the reuse and recycling of solid and hazardous wastes.

**Nuclear.** Promote the maximum protection of public health and safety and the environment.

**Climate Change.** Support climate goals and policies that are consistent with the best available climate science and that will ensure a stable climate system for future generations.



## **Public Participation**

Promote public understanding and participation in decision making as essential elements of responsible and responsive management of our natural resources.

## **Agriculture Policy**

Promote adequate supplies of food and fiber at reasonable prices to consumers and support economically viable farms, environmentally sound farm practices, and increased reliance on the free market.

**Federal Agriculture Policies.** Provide financial support to subsidize agriculture in specific instances, enforce federal antitrust laws to ensure competitive agricultural markets, and apply clean air and water regulations to all animal and aquaculture production. The federal government should fund basic agricultural research to provide adequate safety of our food supply.

## **IV. SOCIAL POLICY**

Secure equal rights and equal opportunity for all. Promote social and economic justice and the health and safety of all Americans.

### **Equality of Opportunity**

**Equal Rights.** Support ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment and efforts to bring laws into compliance with the goals of the ERA. Support equal rights for all under state and federal law regardless of race, color gender, religion, national origin, age, sexual orientation, or disability.

**Education, Employment, and Housing.** Support equal access to education, employment, and housing.

**Federal Role in Public Education.** Support federal policies that provide an equitable, quality public education for all children pre-K through grade 12.

### **Fiscal Policy**

**Tax Policy.** Support adequate and flexible funding of federal government programs through an equitable tax system that is progressive overall and that relies primarily on a broad-based income tax.

**Federal Deficit.** Promote responsible deficit policies.

**Funding of Entitlements.** Support a federal role in providing mandatory, universal, old-age, survivors, disability, and health insurance.

### **Health Care**

Promote a health care system for the United States that provides affordable access to a basic level of quality care for all U.S. residents, including behavioral health that is integrated with and achieves parity with the physical health care system.

### **Immigration**

Promote reunification of immediate families; meet the economic, business, and employment needs of the United States; be responsive to those facing political persecution or humanitarian crises; and provide for student visas. Ensure fair treatment under the law for all persons. In transition to a reformed system, support provisions for unauthorized immigrants already in the country to earn legal status.

### **Meeting Basic Human Needs**

Support programs and policies to prevent or reduce poverty and to promote self-sufficiency for individuals and families.

**Income Assistance.** Support income assistance programs, based on need, that provide decent, adequate standards for food, clothing, and shelter.

**Support Services.** Provide essential support services.

**Housing.** Support policies to provide a decent home and a suitable living environment for every American family.

### **Child Care**

Support programs and policies to expand the supply of affordable, quality child care for all who need it.

### **Early Intervention for Children at Risk**

Support policies and programs that promote the well-being, development, and safety of all children.

### **Violence Prevention**

Support violence prevention programs in communities.

### **Gun Control**

Protect the health and safety of citizens through limiting the accessibility and regulating the ownership of handguns and semi-automatic weapons. Support regulation of firearms for consumer safety.

### **Urban Policy**

Promote the economic health of cities and improve the quality of urban life.

### **Death Penalty**

LWVUS supports abolition of the death penalty.

### **Sentencing Policy**

Support the exploration and utilization of alternatives to imprisonment, taking into consideration the circumstances and nature of the crime. LWVUS opposes mandatory minimum sentences for drug offenses.

### **Human Trafficking**

Oppose all forms of domestic and international human trafficking of adults and children, including sex trafficking and labor trafficking.

Whatever the issue, the League believes that efficient and economical government requires competent personnel, the clear assignment of responsibilities, adequate financing, coordination among levels of government, effective enforcement and well-defined channels for citizen input and review.

## MEMBERSHIP DUES

<b>Membership Level</b>	<b>Amount</b>
Individual membership	\$75/year
Household membership (each additional member)	\$37.50/year
Patron membership	\$150/year
Benefactor membership	\$500/year
Student membership	\$25/year

Membership dues and contributions to LWV Dallas, a 501(c)3 organization, are tax-deductible.

Reduced membership rates are available for qualified individuals upon request. Please call the League office at 214-688-4125 for details.

Reduced rate memberships are not tax-deductible.

LWV Dallas dues automatically enroll you as a member of LWV TX and LWV US.

To renew online go to: <http://www.lwvdallas.org/join2.html>

## MEMBER VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

### ON-GOING PROJECTS

#### VOTER OUTREACH

**Voter Guides:**

Assist with fact gathering from candidates & elections offices in preparation for elections.

Assist with distribution and mail out of VG prior to elections.

Assist with vote411.org, our online Voter Guide

#### MEETINGS

**Unit Meetings:** Need coordinators to assist with monthly Unit Meetings

#### ORGANIZATIONAL SUPPORT

**Membership:** Help with recruiting, communicating with and engaging new members and retention of existing members. (2-3 Hrs./month)

Assist with New Member Welcome events

**VOTER Co-Editor:**

- Following up with members/board for submission of articles.
- Assist with formatting and editing the monthly VOTER.

**Photographer:** Take pictures at all League events.

**Publicity:** Submit articles/press releases to local publications and other media

**Fundraising:** Assist with the fundraising efforts of the League.

#### ADVOCACY

**Issues:**

- Follow up an issue of your interest
- Help develop and implement League action on the issue

**Observer Corps:** attend meetings of City Council, County Commissioners Court, Parkland Hospital Board, or DISD and pass on pertinent information to Advocacy VP.

### ONE-TIME ACTIVITIES

#### VOTER OUTREACH

**Voter Registration:**

Become a Deputy Registrar.

Assist a Deputy Registrar with registration and Get Out the Vote activities during elections (2 Hr. shifts)

**Candidate Forums:** Help arrange candidate forums

**Your Elected Official Pamphlets:** Update with newly elected officials' names and contact information, when needed.

#### MEETINGS

**General Membership Meetings:** Assist with arrangements for quarterly meetings

#### ORGANIZATIONAL SUPPORT

- **Susan B. Anthony Luncheon:** Assist with the fundraiser (2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of February)
- **Mailings:** Susan B. Anthony luncheon invitations
  - **Registration Table:** Welcome and register attendees.
  - **Auction:**
  - Contact local business and restaurants for donations
  - Assist with the Auction on the day of the event
- Cashiers at checkout
- Assist with post event teardown

## LWVD Calendar 2020 January through April

Volunteer Deputy Registrar Class - *PLEASE NOTE NEW ADDRESS :*  
 1520 Round Table Drive, Dallas, TX 75247  
 (near Stemmons & Regal Row)

<i>DATE</i>	<i>DAY / TIME</i>	<i>EVENT / LOCATION</i>
<b>JANUARY 2020</b>		Program Planning Committee process December requests and report
<b>1</b>	<b>Wednesday OFFICE CLOSED</b>	<b>New Years Day</b>
1	Wednesday	First day to apply for Ballot by Mail for May 2 Joint Election
2	Thursday, 5:00pm	Board reports due, lwvdallas@sbcglobal.net
4	Saturday, 10:00 - Noon	LWVD Board Meeting ( <i>League members welcome</i> ) Meadows Conference Center, 2900 Live Oak Street, Dallas, TX 75204
8 - 9	Wednesday - Thursday	Unit Meetings - Money in Politics (a LWV US priority issue). Ann Drumm will present "Imagine a Government Run by People, Not Money"
9	Thursday, 6:00pm - 7:00pm	Volunteer Deputy Registrar Class - <i>PLEASE NOTE NEW ADDRESS ABOVE</i>
11	Saturday, 10:00am - 11:00am	Volunteer Deputy Registrar Class - <i>PLEASE NOTE NEW ADDRESS ABOVE</i>
16	Thursday, 6:00pm - 7:00pm	Volunteer Deputy Registrar Class - <i>PLEASE NOTE NEW ADDRESS ABOVE</i>
18	Saturday, 10:00am - 11:00am	Volunteer Deputy Registrar Class - <i>PLEASE NOTE NEW ADDRESS ABOVE</i>
<b>20</b>	<b>Monday OFFICE CLOSED</b>	<b>Martin Luther King Jr. Day</b>
22	Wednesday	Our Body, Our Lives reception celebrating Roe v. Wade Supreme Court decision January 22, 1973 (LWVD is a sponsor and helps at registration)
23	Thursday, 6:00pm - 7:00pm	Volunteer Deputy Registrar Class - <i>PLEASE NOTE NEW ADDRESS ABOVE</i>
25	Saturday, 10:00am - 11:00am	Volunteer Deputy Registrar Class - <i>PLEASE NOTE NEW ADDRESS ABOVE</i>
30	Thursday, 6:00pm - 7:00pm	Volunteer Deputy Registrar Class - <i>PLEASE NOTE NEW ADDRESS ABOVE</i>
31	Friday	PMP Membership report for LWV US due from LWVD office

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<b>FEBRUARY 2020</b>		Black History Month NO Unit meetings, NO Board Meeting, Periodic Program Review
3	Monday	Last day to register to vote for March 3, 2020 Primary Election
3 - 7	Monday - Friday	Probable week for Voter Guide distribution for March Primary Election
11	Tuesday	Candidate Forum - TX 108 Democratic Primary
TBD	TBD	Candidate Forum - TX 108 Republican Primary
13	Thursday, 11:00am - 1:00pm	<b>SUSAN B ANTHONY LUNCHEON &amp; SILENT AUCTION</b> Lakewood Country Club, 6430 Gaston Ave., Dallas
<b>14</b>	<b>Friday</b>	<b>100th ANNIVERSARY of LWV</b>
15	Saturday	Susan B. Anthony's birthday (200th Anniversary)
<b>17</b>	<b>Monday</b> <b>OFFICE CLOSED</b>	<b>Presidents' Day - Washington's Birthday</b>
18	Tuesday	<b>EARLY VOTING BEGINS</b> for March 3 Primary Election
20	Thursday, 6:00pm - 7:00pm	Volunteer Deputy Registrar Class - <i>PLEASE NOTE NEW ADDRESS ABOVE</i>
28	Friday	<b>EARLY VOTING ENDS</b> for March 3 Primary Election

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<i>DATE</i>	<i>DAY / TIME</i>	<i>EVENT / LOCATION</i>
<b>MARCH 2020</b>	Women's History Month	
<b>3</b>	<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>PRIMARY ELECTION DAY</b>
4	Wednesday	SMU's 55th Annual Women's Symposium, SMU Hughes Trigg Student Center, 3140 Dyer Street, Dallas
4	Wednesday, Midnight	Board reports due, lwvdallas@sbcglobal.net
7	Saturday, 10:00 - Noon	LWVD Board Meeting ( <i>League members welcome</i> ) Meadows Conference Center, 2900 Live Oak Street, Dallas, TX 75204
8	Sunday	International Women's Day
11 - 12	Wednesday - Thursday	Unit Meetings - Content TBD
12	Thursday, 6:00pm - 7:00pm	Volunteer Deputy Registrar Class - <i>PLEASE NOTE NEW ADDRESS ABOVE</i>
15 - 21	Third week of March	2020 Census questionnaire letters will be mailed this week. When you receive your notice please go online and respond. (2020 Census staff hope 70% of population will respond online.)
26	Thursday, 6:00pm - 7:00pm	Volunteer Deputy Registrar Class - <i>PLEASE NOTE NEW ADDRESS ABOVE</i>
28	Saturday, 10:00am - 11:00am	Volunteer Deputy Registrar Class - <i>PLEASE NOTE NEW ADDRESS ABOVE</i>
19	Thursday, 11:30am - 1:30pm	General Program: <b>Women's Vote: Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow</b> Patty Jantho's play, "We Hold These Truths" and Elisabeth MacNamara, President of LWV US from 2010-2015, on LWV's recent successes and goals for the future. Midway Hills Christian Church, Community Room, 11001 Midway Road, Dallas, TX 75229. Lunch for purchase.
31	Tuesday	Equal Pay Day

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<b>APRIL 2020</b>		
<b>1</b>	<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>2020 CENSUS DAY</b>
1	Wednesday, Midnight	Board reports due, lwvdallas@sbcglobal.net
2	Thursday	Last day to register to vote to participate in May 2nd Joint Election
4	Saturday, 10:00 - Noon	LWVD Board Meeting ( <i>League members welcome</i> ) Meadows Conference Center, 2900 Live Oak Street, Dallas, TX 75204
8 - 9	Wednesday - Thursday	Unit Meetings - Content TBD
9	Thursday, 6:00pm - 7:00pm	Volunteer Deputy Registrar Class - <i>PLEASE NOTE NEW ADDRESS ABOVE</i>
<b>10</b>	<b>Friday OFFICE CLOSED</b>	<b>Good Friday</b>
11	Saturday, 10:00am - 11:00am	Volunteer Deputy Registrar Class - <i>PLEASE NOTE NEW ADDRESS ABOVE</i>
12	Sunday	Easter
16	Thursday, 6:00pm - 7:00pm	Volunteer Deputy Registrar Class - <i>PLEASE NOTE NEW ADDRESS ABOVE</i>
17 - 19	Friday - Sunday	<b>LWV TX Convention, Austin, TX</b>
20	Monday	<b>EARLY VOTING BEGINS</b> for May 2nd Joint Election
22	Wednesday	Earth Day
23 - 26	Thursday - Sunday	EarthxConference, Fair Park, Dallas, TX
28	Tuesday	<b>EARLY VOTING ENDS</b> for May 2nd Joint Election
29	Wednesday, Midnight	Board reports due, lwvdallas@sbcglobal.net

**SAVE THE DATES:**

May 16	Saturday	Annual Meeting, The Edgemere
June 25 to 28, 2020	Thursday - Sunday	LWV US 54th National Convention, Hyatt Regency and Liaison Hotel - Capitol Hill, Washington, D.C.
September, 26 2020	Saturday, Luncheon	100th Anniversary Celebration of the 19th Amendment



GLOSSARY OF LEAGUE LINGO (Source: www.lwv.org)

<p><b>ACTION:</b> Promoting the League's positions on local, state and national public policy issues to government officials, the media and the public.</p>	<p><b>ILO:</b> Acronym for an Inter-League Organization, formed by local Leagues within a county, metropolitan area or region to act on issues that are beyond the local League area in scope.</p>
<p><b>ACTION ALERT:</b> Request from the LWVUS or state League to act in support of a League position.</p>	<p><b>PMP:</b> Acronym for Per Member Payment, the amount of money paid to the LWVUS and the state League on behalf of each member.</p>
<p><b>ANNUAL MEETING:</b> Local year-end business meeting to elect officers and directors, vote on bylaw changes and adopt a budget and program of work for the next year.</p>	<p><b>POSITION:</b> A statement of the League's point of view on an issue, arrived at through member study and agreement (consensus or concurrence), approved by the appropriate board and used as a basis for League action.</p>
<p><b>ASSOCIATE MEMBER:</b> A non-voting member of the League, such as a person under 16 years of age or a non-citizen.</p>	<p><b>PRINCIPLES:</b> Governmental standards and policies supported by the League as a whole. They constitute the authorization for adoption of program at all levels.</p>
<p><b>CONSENSUS:</b> Collective opinion of a substantial number of League members, representative of the membership as a whole, after objective study of an issue.</p>	<p><b>PROGRAM:</b> Selected governmental issues chosen by members at the local, state and national levels for study and action.</p>
<p><b>CONCURRENCE:</b> Agreement by League members with a position on an issue reached by a small group of members or by another League.</p>	<p><b>PROGRAMS:</b> Plans for speakers, discussion or other activities for League meetings.</p>
<p><b>CONVENTION:</b> A state or national League meeting held every other year at which delegates elect officers and directors for the biennium, adopt program, make bylaw changes and adopt a budget, usually for one year. Local Leagues send delegates to state convention, local and state Leagues send delegates to national convention.</p>	<p><b>UNIT:</b> Groupings of members within large local Leagues to provide more opportunity for discussion. Units may be time-oriented (day, evening, lunch hour), geographically oriented, or both.</p>
<p><b>COUNCIL/STATEWIDE CONFERENCE:</b> An assembly of delegates held in alternate years for planning and training. Local Leagues send delegates to the statewide conference in Texas, and state Leagues send delegates to national council.</p>	<p><b>VOTERS GUIDE:</b> Nonpartisan publication giving candidates' qualifications and positions on selected issues.</p>
<p><b>EDUCATION FUND:</b> The tax-deductible arm of national, state and large local Leagues, handling funds to be used only for educational purposes, not for action on issues. LWVD does not have an Education Fund, as a 501(c)3 organization all contributions are tax-deductible.</p>	<p><b>VOTERS SERVICE:</b> Year-round activity to help citizens be politically effective and to encourage their participation in the political process. Registering voters and presenting factual, nonpartisan information on candidates and election issues are basic voters service activities.</p>
<p><b>LIFE MEMBER:</b> A person who has been a member for 50 years or more. Life members are excused from dues payment and their Leagues pay no per member payment (PMP) for them.</p>	<p><b>VOTING MEMBERS:</b> All League members who are U.S. citizens and at least 16 years old.</p>

**WRITING ELECTED OFFICIALS**

Except for the president, letters are closed with “Sincerely yours,”. E-mail addresses and fax numbers can be found at the web site following each official’s title.

<p>President <a href="http://www.whitehouse.gov">www.whitehouse.gov</a>                  The President                  The White House                  1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW                  Washington, D.C. 20500                  Dear Mr. President:                  Very respectfully yours,</p>	<p>Governor <a href="http://www.governor.state.tx.us">www.governor.state.tx.us</a>                  The Honorable (full name) Governor of Texas                  State Capitol                  P.O. Box 12428                  Austin, TX 78711-2428                  Dear Governor (last name):</p>
<p>Vice President <a href="http://www.whitehouse.gov">www.whitehouse.gov</a>                  The Vice President                  United States Senate                  Washington, D.C. 20510                  Dear Mr. Vice President:</p>	<p>Lieutenant Governor <a href="http://www.senate.state.tx.us">www.senate.state.tx.us</a>                  The Honorable (full name)                  Lieutenant Governor of Texas                  P.O. Box 12068                  Austin, TX 78711-2068                  Dear Lieutenant Governor (last name):</p>
<p>U. S. Senator <a href="http://www.senate.gov">www.senate.gov</a>                  The Honorable (full name)                  United States Senate Washington,                  D.C. 20510                  Dear Senator (last name):</p>	<p>State Senator <a href="http://www.senate.state.tx.us">www.senate.state.tx.us</a> The                  Honorable (full name)                  Texas Senate                  P.O. Box 12068                  Austin, TX 78711-2068                  Dear Senator (last name):</p>
<p>U. S. Representative <a href="http://www.house.gov">www.house.gov</a>                  The Honorable (full name)                  United States House of Representatives                  Washington, D.C. 20515                  Dear Representative (last name):</p>	<p>State Representative <a href="http://www.house.state.tx.us">www.house.state.tx.us</a>                  The Honorable (full name)                  Texas House of Representatives                  P.O. Box 2910                  Austin, TX 78768-2910                  Dear Representative (last name):</p>
<p>County Judge <a href="http://www.dallascounty.org">www.dallascounty.org</a>                  The Honorable (full name)                  County Judge                  411 Elm Street, Suite 250                  Dallas, TX 75202                  Dear Judge (last name):</p>	<p>County Commissioner <a href="http://www.dallascounty.org">www.dallascounty.org</a>                  The Honorable (full name)                  County Commissioner                  411 Elm Street, Suite 250                  Dallas, TX 75202                  Dear Commissioner (last name):</p>
<p>Mayor <a href="http://www.dallascityhall.com">www.dallascityhall.com</a>                  The Honorable (full name)                  City Hall                  1500 Marilla, Room 5FN                  Dallas, TX 75201                  Dear Mayor (last name):</p>	<p>City Councilmember <a href="http://www.dallascityhall.com">www.dallascityhall.com</a>                  The Honorable (full name)                  City Hall                  1500 Marilla, Room 5FN                  Dallas, TX 75201                  Dear Councilmember (last name):</p>

League of Women Voters of Dallas  
Phone and Fax: 214-688-4125  
Email: [lwvdallas@sbcglobal.net](mailto:lwvdallas@sbcglobal.net)  
Website: [www.lwvdallas.org](http://www.lwvdallas.org)  
Office Hours: Monday – Friday, 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Your membership in the League of Women Voters of Dallas includes membership in:

League of Women Voters of Texas  
1212 Guadalupe, Suite 107  
Austin, Texas 78701  
Phone: 512-472-1100  
Fax: 512-472-4114  
Email: [lwvtexas@lwvtexas.org](mailto:lwvtexas@lwvtexas.org)  
Website: [www.lwvtexas.org](http://www.lwvtexas.org)

and

League of Women Voters of the United States  
1730 M Street NW, Suite 1000  
Washington, DC 20036-4508  
Phone: 202-429-1965  
Fax: 202-429-0854  
Email: [lwv@lwv.org](mailto:lwv@lwv.org)  
Website: [www.lwv.org](http://www.lwv.org)