



April-May 2020

The VOTER

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS® of Tarrant County

2019-2020

LWV-TC

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COUNTY.ORG

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Many thanks to our 2019-20 community sponsors:

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The League Mission is to empower voters and defend democracy. We envision a democracy where every person has the desire, the right, the knowledge, and the confidence to participate. We believe in the power of women to create a more perfect democracy.

Greetings. We hope that you all are doing well. Our lives are very different from our usual routines of just two months ago, and still we wait for the coronavirus pandemic to ease. Some of us are juggling work at home with homeschooling our children, and others have remained home alone for much longer than we thought we could. However you have been spending your time since mid-March, we hope you are healthy and in good spirits and taking necessary safety precautions as the state reopens for business.

One of the most difficult parts of not becoming a Covid-19 statistic has been separation from friends and extended family and our community, but many of us have improved our tech skills to keep in touch. Doctors make virtual house calls via Facetime, apps like Skype and Duo handle virtual visits with family, and Zoom has become our new go-to for meetings. Several League members attended the LWV Texas convention on April 18 via Zoom, and the Board and fundraising and environmental committees have all continued their work through Zoom meetings. Almost two dozen LWVTC members were able to get together virtually for our Zoom happy hour and Q&A on May 7.

Since we still cannot gather safely in person but must hold our Annual Meeting by the end of May, we will conduct our **annual meeting over Zoom on May 21**. Members may participate by computer or phone, and look forward to seeing your faces and hearing your voices. The annual meeting workbook was sent out by email on April 29 and mailed to those members without email, and we hope you will review it before the meeting, as we election of new new leadership and affirm our bylaws, program objectives, and budget for the coming year.

Rest assured that even as we have to find new ways to accomplish our goals, LWV TC will continue working to fulfill our core mission: to empower voters and defend democracy. We look forward to seeing you virtually on May 21.

Nancy and Dawn

Virtual Annual Meeting via Zoom — May 21, 7 p.m. Pre-registration Required

If you have pre-registered for the Annual Meeting via Zoom on Thursday, May 21, you should have received an email on May 19 from Peggy Hendon with login information for the Zoom meeting. You will need to provide a password as well as the meeting ID for logging in. (Newcomers to Zoom should try to log in several minutes before our 7 p.m. start time to work out the kinks and get some guidance from Zoom Host Peggy Hendon.)

If you still need to register for the 2020 Annual Meeting, contact Peggy at pkhendon@gmail.com TODAY!

Environment Committee Report

Linda Hanratty and the Environment committee haven't let a mere Covid-19 pandemic stop their work. The committee has been meeting monthly, switching to Zoom meetings when in-person meetings were no longer safe. Linda reports:

“LWV-TC Environmental Committee is seeking to develop a scorecard system to rate/rank local municipalities in Tarrant County regarding sustainability efforts. The objective of the Sustainability Scorecard Project is to influence Tarrant County and City government policies to bend the curve on climate change in our county.

“We contacted TCU’s Sustainability Office, and they encouraged us to draft a proposal for one or two TCU summer interns to help with this project. Members of the Environmental Committee have interviewed the two candidates and the candidates are now seeking TCU scholarship funding. If funded, the intern(s) will design a scorecard in conjunction with LWV-TC representatives and use the scorecard to evaluate the largest and a selection of the smaller cities in Tarrant County. Given the fiscal crisis local governments are facing from the Covid-19 virus, the emphasis should be on areas where costs savings are possible. If successful, this scorecard could be replicated by other LWVs in Texas.”

The committee can always use more members, so if you wish to be a part of their efforts, contact Linda Hanratty at llswenard47@gmail.com. In addition to developing a sustainability scorecard for local governments, the committee expects to look at the issue of nuclear waste transport through Texas in the coming months.

Runoff Elections scheduled for July 14

While most city and school board elections originally scheduled for May have been postponed to the November general election, there are a few elections scheduled for July 14, including party primary runoffs and the City of Fort Worth Crime Control and Prevention District (CCPD) election. The state League is urging those who are eligible to vote by mail to do so, including anyone age 65 or older, anyone who will be out of the county during early voting and on election day, and persons with disabilities. To request a vote-by-mail ballot, download the application from the Tarrant County Elections Office web site, <https://www.tarrantcounty.com/en/elections/Early-Voting-Information/Voting-by-Mail.html?linklocation=Iwantto&linkname=Voting%20by%20Mail>, complete, sign, and mail your request to the elections office as soon as possible. (Requests for vote-by-mail ballots via email or fax must be followed up by a mailed application.) The deadline for absentee ballot requests to reach the Elections Office is July 3, but in view of a July 4 holiday, we urge you to request your ballot before the deadline.

If anyone has moved since February, the deadline for new or updated voter registration is June 15, 2020.

LWV Texas Virtual State Convention Report

The League of Women Voters of Texas held its biennial state convention virtually on Saturday, April 18. This was the first chance some of us had to participate in a large Zoom meeting of 180+ delegates from Leagues all over Texas, and the discussions were lively and occasionally lengthy. After our units reviewed the state program in January, LWV Tarrant County proposed two changes to the LWV Texas policy positions, and both were adopted at the convention. The League of Women Voters of Texas now has an expanded position on environmental quality and climate change, and a more inclusive anti-discrimination policy.

LWV Texas is also at the forefront of efforts to expand Texans’ ability to vote by mail while coronavirus remains a threat to public health. LWV Texas has held several webinar meetings about the its and the national League’s efforts to ensure that every eligible voter is able to cast a ballot. Ordinarily Leagues tend to become quieter in the summer, but this is no ordinary year, and we will do our best to keep members apprised of the latest news about elections, voting rights, and other important issues.

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

We are the League of Women Voters of Tarrant County (LWVTC), one of the hundreds of local Leagues across the nation whose members — men and women — are committed to Making Democracy Work.

Our nonpartisan political organization encourages informed and active participation in government and influences public policy through education and advocacy. LWV does NOT support or oppose any political party or any candidate. Your membership automatically enrolls you in LWV-Texas and LWVUS at no additional cost and provides publications from all three.

Mail your membership application, dues, and contributions to:

LWVTC, P. O. Box 100175, Fort Worth, TX 76185 or enroll online at <http://lwtarrantcounty.org/join.html>.

MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES

Basic Membership:

- \$75/yr **Regular** full voting member
- \$115/yr **Family** (two members in one household)
- \$5/yr **Student**

Or consider one of the following:

Supporting Membership:

- \$100/yr **Sustaining** Membership: Elizabeth Cady Stanton
- \$150/yr **Advocate** Membership: Carrie Chapman Catt
- \$200/yr **Patron** Membership: Mary McLeod Bethune
- \$300/yr **Benefactor** Membership: Eleanor Roosevelt

THE VOTER NEWSLETTER BY U.S. MAIL

- \$10/yr (*online VOTER is no additional cost*)

Name: _____ E-mail: _____

Address: _____ City/Zip: _____

Phone: (Home) _____ (Work) _____ (Mobile) _____

Would you like to attend one of our Unit meetings? If so, please indicate which Unit would best suit your needs.

- Arlington Area Downtown Fort Worth Area Northeast Tarrant County
- South/Southwest Tarrant County