



February 2020

The VOTER

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS® of Tarrant County

2019-2020

LWV-TC

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Office Hours:

T W Th 8:30a.m.-12:30 p.m.

Mailing Address

P. O. Box 100175
Fort Worth, TX 76185

Telephone

817-348-VOTE (8683)

E-mail Address

lwvtarrant@gmail.com

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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.

Co-Presidents' Message

2020 is off to a roaring start, and we expect it to be a very busy year. In addition to the presidential election, and we also will be electing Senators, members of Congress, our state legislature and many judges, along with county officials and some city council and school board members. Voter registration and voter education through candidate forums and voters guides will occupy much of our time until the November elections. Though the deadline to register for the primary election has passed, we are receiving requests for voter registration drives beyond the primary. If you are a Volunteer Deputy Registrar or can pass out information and registration cards to prospective voters, we need your help.

This is also the hundredth anniversary of American women gaining the right to vote through the Nineteenth Amendment to the Constitution. Nationally, the League of Women Voters turns 100 on February 14, and Leagues around the country are holding a Day of Action to mark this historic event. The Tarrant County League will mark the Day of Action by delivering print Voters Guides to libraries and nursing homes and by posting on social media about Vote411, our online voters guide. We encourage all our members to share information about Vote411 as widely as possible by word of mouth and social media. Candidate information for the Democratic and Republican primaries is now available at Vote411.org.

Locally we will celebrate the centennial of women gaining the right to vote with an evening Gala Celebration at Ridglea Country Club on March 20. Tickets are now on sale at www.lwvtarrantcounty.org. Because passage of the Nineteenth Amendment took the efforts of both Republicans and Democrats in Congress and state legislatures — as well as many thousands of women demanding a voice in their government and refusing to take No for an answer — the Gala committee asked the chairs of the Tarrant County Democratic and Republican parties to select six women who have been elected to public office to receive the League's first Democracy Star awards. The six honorees, all of whom have committed to attend the Gala, are Congresswoman Kay Granger, State Senator Beverly Powell, District Attorney Sharen Wilson, Fort Worth School Board member Ashley Paz, and retired appeals court justices Sue Walker and Maryellen Hicks. We hope you will join us on March 20 for an evening when we put aside partisan divisions and honor women serving in federal, state and local government.

We need volunteers to help gather silent auction donations for the Gala, to decorate the ballroom before the Gala, and to assist dinner guests with mobility issues at the buffet dinner. Contact chair Vickey Ward at vickeyward54@swbell.net if you can help.



Celebrating 100 YEARS of the 19th Amendment

LWV LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®
OF TARRANT COUNTY

19TH AMENDMENT CENTENNIAL GALA

Be a part of "herstory!" Join us for a nonpartisan evening of fun as we honor our
DEMOCRACY STAR AWARD RECIPIENTS

 US Congresswoman KAY GRANGER	 TX State Senator BEVERLY POWELL	 District Attorney SHAREN WILSON	 Former Justice MARYELLEN HICKS	 Former Justice SUE WALKER	 FWISD Trustee ASHLEY PAZ
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★ **MARCH 20, 2020** 5:30 pm Ridglea Country Club ★ Buffet Dinner
Live Auction featuring four exclusive vacations ★ Silent Auction & Lively Festivities
Tickets & details at lwvtarrantcounty.org



Join us March 20 for a gala evening celebrating the centennial of women gaining full voting rights in the United States. The Tarrant County League has reserved the ballroom of Ridglea Country Club and invited the Tarrant County Democratic and Republican party chairs to nominate elected women officials for our first-ever Democracy Star awards. This will be a nonpartisan event where we put aside politics and political differences to recognize the contributions of six women elected officials (three Republicans and three Democrats) who have served Tarrant County and Texas over the years. Karen Nicholson, Vice-President of the national League of Women Voters (and a past president of the Texas League of Women Voters), will interview these honorees about their paths into politics. There will also be live and silent auctions, a heads-and-tails raffle, and other fun events through the evening.

Tickets are now on sale through www.lwvtarrantcounty.org and Eventbrite. Until February 29, tickets will be \$80 for League members and one guest, and \$90 for non-members; tables of 8 are also available at a slight discount. On March 1, prices rise to \$90 for members and \$100 for non-members, so make your reservation soon, and plan for a fun evening where we celebrate what women have accomplished over the last century.

March 20, 2020, 5:30 Cash Bar and Reception; 6:00-9:00, Dinner and Festivities.
Ridglea Country Club, 3700 Bernie Anderson Drive, Fort Worth, TX 76116. Valet parking available.

Day of Action - Celebrating the League's 100th Birthday on February 14

The Day of Action is an opportunity for Leagues across the country to participate in a shared moment to celebrate the League's 100th birthday and honor our legacy. We are rooted in a century-long history of fighting to strengthen our democracy, and we will demonstrate our continued power through a coordinated Day of Action on February 14.

For the **LWVTC Day of Action**, we will promote one of the key ways we empower voters every election, through publication of our online Voters Guide, Vote411.org. LWVTC Voter Services VP Erin Merkel and the "Wranglers" work miracles in corralling the candidates to get their bio information and their responses to board-approved questions. The Voters Guide provides nonpartisan and timely information about the candidates and their positions on issues.
Informed voters defend our democracy.

To promote the Voters Guide and Vote411.org, we are planning social media posts, delivery of printed Voters Guides to libraries and nursing homes, press releases, and, most important, members sharing our Facebook post with their neighbors, friends, organizations, and Next Door sites!

Our success depends on your help. Check out our Facebook post on February 14, and share the Voters Guide!

February Unit Meetings Topic: State vs. Local Control

During the two last legislative sessions, the Texas legislature enacted laws that allow the state to override locally enacted rules (e.g., plastic bag bans, sanctuary cities, fingerprinting of ride-hailing services, building materials, short-term rentals such as AirBnBs). While the issue of local versus state control is not currently part of our local or state Program, this is a topic that our local League and LWV Texas may want to study.

These are a few articles that have been published over the last several years:

[Cities Versus State: A Battle for Control in the Texas Legislature | Best States | US News](#)

[Texas Legislature Tightens State Reins over Local Control - Randle Law Office](#)

[The Demise of Local Control – Texas Monthly](#)

[State Regulation Of Cities Does Not Illegitimately Infringe On “Local Control” \(Texas Public Policy Foundation\)](#)

[June 7, 2019, Number 23 | Texas Municipal League, TX](#)

[Texas State Government Not Alone In Stripping Cities of Political Power - D Magazine](#)

Some areas for unit discussion include:

1. What kind of impact does this have locally?
2. Is this impairing the ability of local governments to provide services to their population?
3. Is this curtailing the ability of local governments to raise revenue?

Other questions will surely arise as this subject is explored. Please let the Board know if this is an issue that should have further exploration.

Interested in Serving on the 2020-2021 Board?

At our Annual Meeting on May 9, we will elect new leaders for the League. While a few officers have two-year terms that expire in 2021, we need to fill the following offices this year:

President

President-elect

Treasurer (two-year term)

Vice-President for Programs (two-year term)

Vice-President for Organization (two-year term)

5 Board members

Nominating Committee for 2021

Pam Wright and Dawn Ellison would like to hear from anyone who is willing to volunteer for one of these offices, or who knows a member whose skills could be put to work for the League. To discuss one of these offices or to learn more about a particular office, contact Pam Wright at w.wrights@verizon.net or 817-488-7604, or send email the League office at lwvtarrant@gmail.com.

Information for the March 3rd Primary election

has been published to our website and at VOTE411.org. Spread the word! Please note, all candidates with primary opponents have been invited to participate, but as of February 3, some have chosen not to. If you cannot find a response from a candidate on your ballot, please contact that candidate and urge him/her to participate in Vote411.



The League of Women Voters of Tarrant County organized a Volunteer Deputy Registrar training in Arlington on Saturday, January 25th. We now have fourteen new VDRs in Tarrant County. Though voter registration for the March primary election ended on February 3rd, voter registration efforts will continue right up until October 5, the last day to register to vote in the presidential/general election.

This last month, we had two opportunities to register voters, most recently at the Chosen Vessel Cathedral in Fort Worth. We registered 21 voters and handed out 9 mail-in registration forms. For Women's History Month, the UTA Women's & Gender Studies Program is planning a voter registration drive on March 18 from 11-2. Another is being planned at TCU on March 24th. Watch the Calendar for more information!

The Northeast Tarrant Democrats have invited us to moderate a Candidate Forum for the [March Democratic primary election for State House District 92](#). The [Candidate Forum will be held on Thursday, February 20](#) at Lupe's Tex Mex & Grill, 2200 Airport Freeway #505, Bedford, TX 76022. The club meeting starts at 7:00 pm and the Candidate Forum will begin at approximately 7:30 pm. The club has also invited uncontested candidates for State House Districts 91, 93 and 98 to introduce themselves before the Forum begins.

We have also been approached by Northwood Church to help with a Keller Mayor and City Council Candidate Forum to be planned for April.

If you wish to be part of our [Candidate Forum Team of Moderators and Timekeepers](#), please contact Erin Merkel at 817-223-1525 or emerkel.lwv@gmail.com. There will be a training for new moderators and timekeepers in late March or April.

Election Protection

2020 will be a big year for our state and for our country. A record-breaking 11 million Texans are expected to cast a ballot in the November elections, deciding who controls the State House, US Senate, and White House. Because of the huge importance of this election, we are gearing up to launch the largest ever nonpartisan Voter Protection effort in our state's history as part of the Texas Voter Protection Coalition. **The goal is simple: not one single eligible voter should lose their sacred right to vote because of suppression tactics, intimidation, or the spread of misinformation.**

ELECTION PROTECTION HOTLINES

English	866-OUR-VOTE	or	866-687-8683
Spanish	888-VE-Y-VOTA	or	888-839-8682
Asian Languages	888-API-VOTE	or	888-274-8683
Arabic	844-YALLA-US	or	844-925-5287
American Sign Language Video Call	301-818-VOTE	or	301-818-8683
Disability Rights Texas	888-796-VOTE	or	888-796-8683

There are [three in-person training sessions in Dallas left through February 14th](#). They have live webinar trainings available as well through February 17th. Sign up at www.TexasVoterProtection.org or contact Josh Levin at 512-693-7339 or JoshLevin@TexasCivilRightsProject.org.

Environment Committee Report



At their January 28, 2020, Board Meeting, the Fort Worth ISD unanimously approved the creation of a Sustainability Committee. The League of Women Voters testified in favor of this action along with the Sierra Club and the Tarrant Coalition for the Environment, both of whom had been working on this project for some time. We hope to continue working with these groups to encourage local government entities to focus on sustainability.

If you are interested in serving on the Fort Worth ISD Sustainability Committee, contact Environmental Committee Chair Linda Hanratty, at llswenard47@gmail.com.

The Environmental Committee has also been busy researching what cities in Tarrant County and beyond are doing to reduce their carbon footprint. Check out the new "Environment Committee Watch" section on the LWVTC website's Action and Advocacy page, http://lwvtarrantcounty.org/about_action.html.

Leadership Fort Worth is hosting a luncheon entitled ***Sharing One Planet: Trending Topics in Sustainability and the Environment***, moderated by Cody Whittenburg, Environmental Manager, City of Fort Worth. Speakers will include Rebecca Butler, Director of Public Affairs & Communications, Coca-Cola North America; Tamara Cook, Senior Program Manager, North Central Texas Council of Governments; Heather Frost, VP Environmental Affairs, DFW Airport; and Meghna Tare, Chief Sustainability Officer, UTA. The luncheon is at CERA Gym Facility, 3300 Bryan Irvin, Fort Worth, TX 76109, on February 20, 2020, from 11:30 to 1:15. The cost is \$25 for Leadership Fort Worth members and \$35 for the public. It promises to be an informative presentation, and we hope League members will attend. Registration is available through the Leadership Fort Worth web site, <https://leadershipfortworth.org>.

The Environmental Committee plans to have a follow-up community meeting on the topic of Sustainability in late March or early April.

Save the Date — Annual Meeting Saturday, May 9

We are changing things up a little this year, and instead of a dinner, our annual meeting will be a Saturday Brunch at Ridglea Country Club on May 9, at 10 or 10:30. Further details to come.

Paypal Card Readers Needed for Centennial Gala

If you have a Paypal account, you can obtain a free Paypal Card Reader. We need to borrow several for the Gala in order to handle credit cards and avoid collecting too much cash. Please contact Vickey at vickeyward54@swbell.net if you can help.

Do you shop at Tom Thumb? Do you use a customer loyalty card? If so, you can help the League by linking your Rewards card to our League as one the nonprofits the store rewards. Inquire at the service desk to make this helpful connection.

Welcome New LWV-TC members:

Elaine Cory Jinky Hicks



Christie Campbell, a 50-year League member honored at last year's 99th year anniversary, passed away on December 15. Her family plans a celebration of her life on Saturday, February 29, from 10-12 at Christie's home. An email with specific information and an invitation from her family was sent to members on February 6.

Christie graduated from Oberlin College. She joined the League in Tarrant County after moving to Fort Worth with her new husband, Parks. When interviewed last year for the 99th Anniversary luncheon, she recalled always being politically and reform minded. After graduating from college she wanted to support an organization. So she followed her mother, a long time League member, and joined the League..

As a new member in Fort Worth, Christie attended unit meetings held during the day with 15-20 members attending. She recalled stay-at-home mothers attending the meetings searching for adult conversation. The political controversy at the time was the creation of the United Nations, which was not well regarded in Texas. At the polls, voters paid a poll tax, and the suspicion was the paper ballots were really not secret. In those early years Christie was involved in a study of voting machines. Her group visited Oklahoma City and briefed Tarrant County Commissioners recommending machines with an audit trail.

When Christie was president in the late 1960s, there were more than 100 members who were a mix of conservative and liberals. There were robust discussions of issues. In 1974, Christie attended the National Convention in Palo Alto, California — the year the League approved male membership. She voted for it!

She was proud of the League's studies, where issues were researched in depth to arrive at consensus positions. These made a difference in the community. She felt the League's interviews with state legislators before each legislative session had a positive influence.

Christie was a long time member of the Trinity Terrace Downtown Unit and served its unit leader until her death. She recalled with regret that in recent years several members resigned because of a perceived liberal bias. She encouraged the League to look for opportunities to promote a bipartisan league.

Patricia Gazewood of the Arlington unit died on October 31, 2019. A graduate of Arlington High School and the North Texas University, she became a school teacher. She met John Gazewood, her husband of more than 50 years, after traveling to Venezuela and teaching the children of oil company workers. Following John's death, she met a high school beau, Commander William T. Anderson, and they married in 2015. She was a long-time member of the League of Women Voters, a volunteer at Bass Hall, a world traveler, and a member of St. Maria Goretti Church. She is survived by her second husband, three of her four children, six grandchildren, and a sister.



Thelma Swindell, a longtime resident of Trinity Terrace and an active member of the Trinity Terrace unit until her short final illness, died on November 12, 2019. Her obituary succinctly summarized her long life: "Thelma buried three husbands, raised six children, lived through two world wars, survived the deprivations of the Great Depression and the Dust Bowl, and witnessed Neil Armstrong's first steps on the moon. ... Despite many hardships in her life, Thelma also earned a master's degree in Business Education, a rare achievement for a woman of her time. With her third husband Luke, she traveled the world, visiting far-off locales such as Russia, South America, Australia, and New Zealand. She also put her long retirement to use, applying her formidable energy and talents to a number of causes as a tireless and dedicated volunteer."

She is survived by her five daughters and a son, one sister, 12 grandchildren and 15 great-grandchildren. At her request, Thelma's family had a private service, and Trinity Terrace held a celebration of her life on November 22.

Linda Chernick Cozzen, who was active in the League in the late 1970s and 1980s, including as Vice President for Programs and as a mentor on computer matters, died unexpectedly in late January. Born in Canada and orphaned at a young age, Linda and her brother immigrated to the US to live with their Texas grandparents, thanks to help from then-Senator Lyndon Johnson. Linda was a graduate of TCU, was passionate about issues and politics, and eventually became active in Democratic clubs in Tarrant County. Her enthusiasm for registering voters never waned; she was scheduled to register voters at a retirement apartment complex on the day she died. Linda is survived by her brother, her son, grandchildren, and godchildren.

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://lwvtarrantcounty.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

February

Wednesday, 2/12, 5:45 p.m. — Gala/Fundraising Committee meeting, League office conference room

Friday, 2/14 ~ League of Women Voters 100th Anniversary

Friday, 2/14 ~ LWV Tarrant County Day of Action (see page 2)

Week of February 17 ~ Unit Meetings — Topic: State vs. Local Control (see page 3)

Monday, 2/17 ~ Arlington unit meeting, Fielder Museum, 1616 W. Abram in Arlington. For more information, contact Jeanne Culver at 817-496-5534. The Arlington unit will install a small exhibition about women's suffrage at the Museum; this exhibit is to remain open until September.

Tuesday, 2/18, 8 a.m. ~ First day of In-Person Early Voting

Tuesday, 2/18 @ 6:45 p.m. ~ Northeast Tarrant County/Mid-Cities unit meeting, Barnes and Noble bookstore in the Shops of NE Mall, on Melbourne Road next to Best Buy. For more information, contact Penny Clowers at 817-834-7755.

Thursday, 2/20, noon ~ Fort Worth Downtown Lunch unit meeting, Trinity Terrace, 1600 Texas Street. Meeting begins at noon in the Sunroom on the ground floor. Members who wish to purchase lunch in the Bistro across the hall should arrive at 11:30. Brownbag lunches are also welcome. For information, contact Reed Bilz at 817-292-7974.

Thursday, 2/20, 6 p.m. ~ Fort Worth Evening unit meeting, La Madeleine restaurant, corner of Hulen Street and I-820. For further information, contact Mike Baldwin at 817-249-2193.

Thursday, 2/20, 7 p.m. ~ Candidate Forum for the March Democratic Primary Election for State House District 92. Lupe's Tex Mex & Grill, 2200 Airport Freeway #505, Bedford, TX 76022. Meeting starts at 7:00; Forum will begin at approximately 7:30.

Monday, 2/24, 11 a.m. ~ Monday Matinee; Arlington Unitarian Universalist Church, 2001 California Lane, Arlington 76013. Bring a sack lunch and a friend.

Friday, 2/28, 7 a.m.-7 p.m. ~ Last day for In-Person Early Voting

Saturday, 2/29 ~ Last day to purchase Centennial Gala tickets at Early Bird rate (see page 2)

Saturday, 2/29, 10 a.m. – noon ~ Celebration of Life for Christie Campbell at her home (see page 6)

March

Tuesday, 3/3, 7a.m. -7 p.m. ~ Election Day for Texas party primaries

Friday, 3/20, 5:30–9 p.m. ~ LWV Tarrant County Gala for Nineteenth Amendment Centennial, Ridglea Country Club (see page 2). Tickets are on sale now.

April 17-19 ~ LWV Texas Convention, Crowne Plaza Hotel, Austin

May 9 ~ LWV Tarrant County, Annual Meeting, brunch at Ridglea Country Club