

THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS
STATE CONVENTION
MARCH 10-13, 2016

CELEBRATING
THE PAST,
EMBRACING
THE FUTURE



THE WESTIN HOUSTON,
MEMORIAL CITY
HOUSTON, TX



Celebrating Our Past and Embracing the Future

**2016 Biennial Convention
League of Women Voters of Texas
Houston, Texas**

Welcome to Convention 2016!

Thank you for joining us for the 36th Convention of the League of Women Voters of Texas. As we approach the League's 100th anniversary, it's a great time for "Celebrating our Past and Embracing the Future."

Every two years, Texas Leagues come together from all over the state to reinvigorate themselves to carry out the vision of the League: "Empowered citizens to shape better communities."

At this convention, we will adopt a program of study and action for the next two years, celebrate our accomplishments, elect new leaders, and adopt a budget. We will also hear about the Texas League's strategic plan leading us to 2020 to mobilize communities and develop leaders, increase voter education and turnout, and strengthen the League by invigorating local Leagues and by enhancing our financial strength.

I'm glad you are here. If this is your first Convention or your 20th, get ready to participate, learn, and have some fun!

Sincerely,

Elaine Wiant

2014-2016 President, LWV-TX/TEF

TABLE OF CONTENTS

GENERAL INFORMATION:

Special Guests at Convention /Acknowledgments.....	Page 3
General Information.....	Page 4
Schedule of Events.....	Pages 5-6
Convocation and Workshops	Page 7
Proposed Order of Business for Plenary.....	Pages 8-10
Rules of Convention.....	Pages 11-13
Parliamentary Procedures Tips.....	Pages 14-15
Officers and Directors/Trustees.....	Page 16
Nominating Committee Report.....	Pages 17-18

BUDGET:

Explanation of Proposed Budgets for 2016-2018.....	Page 19
LWV-TX and TEF Proposed Budgets for 2016-2018.....	Pages 20-21

PROGRAM:

Proposed LWV-TX 2014-2016 Program.....	Page 22-23
New Position on Payday and Auto Title Loans	Page 24
List of All Current Program Areas.....	Page 25

COMMITTEE UPDATES:

Advocacy Committee.....	Page 26
Citizen Education Committee.....	Pages 27-28
Development & Marketing Committee.....	Pages 29-31
Fiscal Management & Administration Committee.....	Pages 32-33
Services to Local Leagues Committee.....	Page 34
Strategic Planning Committee	Pages 35-36

ADDITIONAL MATERIALS:

Official Delegate Count.....	Page 37
LWV-TX Bylaws.....	Pages 38-43
Program Resolution Forms.....	Page 44
Convention/Workshop Evaluation Forms	Pages 45-46
Announcements & Reminders	Page 47
League Lingo	Page 48
Floor Plans of Westin Hotel	Back cover

2016 Convention Committee Chair:

Chris Davis Garcia, Board Secretary
 Cell: (361) 244-4193
 Members: Laura Blackburn, Peggy Hill, Brenda Koegler

2016 Local Arrangements Committee Chair:

Judy Hollinger, LWV-Houston Area
 Cell: (281) 857-0595

LWV-Texas

1212 Guadalupe Street #107, Austin, TX 78701

Phone: 512-472-1100

Fax: 512-582-8575

Aileen J. McMurrer, Executive Administrator

www.lwvtexas.org lwvtexas@lwvtexas.org

SPECIAL GUESTS AT CONVENTION 2016

Elisabeth MacNamara, President, LWVUS

The Honorable Sylvester Turner, Mayor, City of Houston, TX

The Honorable Mike Sullivan, Tax Assessor-Collector, Harris County

Gail E. Lover, Parliamentarian

Jennifer Ross-Nazzal, Ph.D., NASA Historian

Saturday Luncheon Speaker

Susan Carroll

Award-Winning Investigative Reporter, *Houston Chronicle*

Saturday Banquet Speaker

Ernie Manouse

Emmy-winning TV anchor, producer, and host, Houston Public Media

Saturday Banquet Interviewer

Lineah Davey, LWVUS Ruth S. Shur Fellow/National Coach

Membership and Leadership Development (MLD)

Natalie Roetzel Ossenfort, Director, Texas Office, Alliance for Justice

Past LWV-TX Presidents

Ruthann Geer, Darlene Hicks, Julie Lowenberg, Karen Nicholson, Diane Sheridan

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS AND SPECIAL THANKS

Sincere thanks to the LWV-Houston Area Board and members for assisting with local arrangements and recruiting League volunteers. Sincere appreciation to the following individuals for accepting special assignments:

Judy Hollinger

Chair of Local Arrangements Committee

Aimee Mobley Turney, LWV-Houston Area President

Silent Auction, Bette John & Aracely Arrazolo

Friday Night Event, Judy Hollinger

Saturday Luncheon/Style Show, Peggy Hill (Bay Area)

Jackie Alfred, Volunteer Staffing

Beth Antonius, Graphics

Laura Blackburn & Maggie Manzano, At-Large Members

GENERAL INFORMATION FOR DELEGATES

BADGES

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

PLENARY & PLENARY SEATING

Plenary is the business meeting of the League (see Pages 8-10). Delegates and observers will have designated seating areas while Plenary is in session. Look for your League's name on a table sign. Seating locations will change on Sunday.

ROLL CALL OF LEAGUES

Early in the first Plenary, local League presidents or their representative will line up alphabetically by League name for roll call. Announce your League's name, the number of delegates and observers, and ONE success story about your League since Convention 2014.

GENERAL DISCUSSION AND DEBATE

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

VOTING

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

PROGRAM RESOLUTIONS

Two copies of the Program Resolution Form are included on Page 44 of this workbook and may only be submitted by a delegate. The form must include the League's name and the name and phone number of the proponent. The Resolutions Committee may assist in developing wording and strategies. See Rules of Convention (Page 12) for details.

PARLIAMENTARY PROCEDURES

Review the Rules of Convention and the Parliamentary Procedures and Tips in this workbook. During the convention, you may consult the parliamentarian and state board members regarding proper procedure.

PLENARY COMMUNICATIONS

The LWV-TX Secretary will read announcements as needed at the start or end of each Plenary session. To be included, the announcement should be neatly printed and handed to a Convention usher or the Secretary. The name of the person providing the announcement should be noted on the paper.

A message board will be provided in the Auction Room to facilitate communication between delegates. No signs, posters, or other materials will be affixed to any wall.

SOCIAL MEDIA

Delegates are encouraged to use Facebook and Twitter to post information and/or photos during and after Convention. The hashtag is #lwvtx2016.

Q&A SESSIONS

Q&A sessions on Program, Budget, LWV-TX *Tax Exempt Status Review Committee*, and Resolutions will be offered on Friday and Saturday evenings around 9 p.m. Designated meeting locations will be announced in the registration folder.

CAUCUSES

Before Convention, the LWV-TX Program Vice President emailed information explaining the process for promoting adoption of a not-recommended item. Rooms will be available on Friday and Saturday evening for Caucuses by local Leagues to discuss and strategize. To schedule a Caucus, contact the Convention Chair (Chris Davis Garcia) in person or by cell at 361-244-4193. **Note: State board members may not participate in a Caucus unless specifically invited.**

AUCTION ROOM

Check the Convention Schedule (Page 5) for hours that the Auction Room will be open. Auction items for silent bidding and other wares by local Leagues will be available. The Auction Room will be closed while Plenary is in session.

REGISTRATION TABLE

Volunteers will staff a Registration Desk near the Wisteria Ballroom to register delegates and guests, distribute the Convention workbook and name badges, field questions, and help with directions to meeting rooms.

FOOD SERVICE

Light refreshments will be available at designated times noted in the Convention schedule. Dining fare is available in the hotel restaurant and in the *Grab & Go* area on the third floor near the Registration area.

CONVENTION COMMUNICATIONS

Share Convention fun and photos on Facebook and Twitter while Convention is in progress! Use hashtag #lwvtx2016. Follow @lwvtexas on Twitter and <https://www.facebook.com/LWVTX/>. See Page 47 for more ideas on how to share your Convention experiences.

2016 CONVENTION SCHEDULE

Thursday, March 10, 2016

- 10:30-11:30 a.m. Training Session for Convention Volunteers & Floor Committee (Cottonwood Room; 4th floor)
- 1:00-3:30 p.m. LWV-TX Board Meeting (Cottonwood Room; 4th floor)
- 3:30-5:30 p.m. Meeting of MLD Coaches with Lineah Davey, Shur Fellow, LWVUS (Cottonwood, 4th floor)

Friday, March 11, 2016

- 8:30-11 a.m. Training for MLD Participants and MLD Coaches (Cottonwood Room; 4th floor)
- 10:30 a.m.-6 p.m. Registration (Outside Wisteria Ballroom; 3rd floor)
After you register, step on over to have your photo taken with Susan B. Anthony, who has been waiting for nearly 100 years to be in a photo with you! At the same time, you can promote voting in Texas! Write why it is important to "Be a Texas Voter!" on a placard and hold it proudly for your photo. LWV-TX will gather these photos to promote voting & use on the LWV-TX website and in social media.
- 10:30-11:30 a.m. Mini-Workshop--"Ask Me About Social Media" by LWV-TX Webmaster Grace Chimene (near the registration area)
- 11 a.m.-1:30 p.m. Items received in the Silent Auction Room (Hibiscus 1-2; 3rd floor)
- 12:30 p.m. **Convocation (All delegates and guests invited)**
- Welcome by Elaine Wiant, LWV-TX President
 - Readers Theatre Production, "We Hold These Truths" by LWV-Collin County (Wisteria 3-4; 3rd floor)
- 1:30-6:00 p.m. Silent Auction Room Open for Viewing & Bidding (Hibiscus 1-2; 3rd floor)
- 1:30-2:30 p.m. **Workshops**
- Growing Local Leagues Through Community Outreach and Recognition: The Rising Star Initiative (Wisteria 3-4; 3rd floor)
 - Building Coalitions for Voter Engagement (Sunflower; 3rd floor)
 - Lobbying 101: Legal Tips for Nonprofit Advocates (Hibiscus 3; 3rd floor)
- 2:30-2:45 p.m. Refreshments Break (outside Wisteria Ballroom)
- 2:45-3:45 p.m. **Workshops**
- Don't Be Afraid To Get On-Board with VOTE 411 (Mesquite; 3rd floor)
 - League Basics (Sunflower; 3rd floor)
 - Successful Advocacy (Hibiscus 3; 3rd floor)
- 3:50-6:00 p.m. Networking, Silent Auction Viewing & Bidding (Hibiscus 1-2; 3rd floor)
- 4:30 p.m. Departure by Bus for Port of Houston Cruise, hosted by LWV-Houston Area (Bus will return to hotel by 8:45 p.m.) Advance reservation required.
- 9:00 p.m. Q&A sessions on Budget and Program; Caucuses by local Leagues as needed (Meeting rooms to be announced)

2016 CONVENTION SCHEDULE (continued from Page 5)

Saturday, March 12, 2016

- 7:00-8:00 a.m. Advocacy Committee Meeting with Issue Chairs (Hibiscus 3; 3rd floor)
- 7:30-8:15 a.m. Morning Refreshments (outside Wisteria Ballroom)
Auction Room Open (Hibiscus 1-2)
- 8:30 a.m.-Noon LWV-TX Plenary (Wisteria 3-4)
- Noon-1:45 p.m. Luncheon & Keynote Address (Wisteria Ballroom)
Keynoter: Jennifer M. Ross-Nazzal, NASA historian and author of "Winning the West for Women: The Life of Suffragist Emma Smith DeVoe"
** Special Luncheon Interlude: Texas Victorian Lady is a style show of 19th Century women's attire presented and narrated by J'Neen Henderson. As the Suffrage movement began in the mid-19th Century, women's wear changed to accommodate their growing sense of self, their new political and social status, and their need to be of equal status as humans in the United States.
- 2:00-5:00 p.m. LWV-TX Plenary Resumes (Wisteria 3-4)
- 6:00-7:00 p.m. No-Host Reception, Recognition of Issue Chairs (outside Wisteria Ballroom)
- 7:00-9:00 p.m. Making Democracy Work Dinner: *An Evening of Intelligent Conversation on Critical Issues* (Wisteria Ballroom)
Featuring Susan Carroll, investigative reporter with the Houston Chronicle, and Ernie Manouse, TV anchor, producer, and host, Houston Public Media
- 8:45 p.m. Silent Auction Bidding Closes (Hibiscus 1-2); winning bidders can claim items after 9 p.m.
- 9:15 p.m. *Come & Go Reception* for Past State Presidents, League Presidents, and Presidents-Elect, hosted by LWV-TX President Elaine Wiant (location to be announced)
- 9:30 p.m. Resolutions Committee Meeting; Q&A sessions on Budget, Program, the *LWV-TX Tax Exempt Status Review Committee*, and/or Caucuses as needed (meeting locations to be announced)

Sunday, March 13, 2016

- 7:15-8:15 a.m. League Presidents' Informal Dialogue with LWVUS President Elisabeth MacNamara and LWV-TX President Elaine Wiant (Hibiscus 3)
- 7:45 -8:15 a.m. Morning Refreshments (outside Wisteria Ballroom)
- 8:00-8:30 a.m. Recommended Resolutions posted in Silent Auction Room (Hibiscus 1-2); Auction items available for pickup/payment by winning bidders
- 8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. LWV-TX Plenary Resumes (Wisteria 3-4)
- 12:45-1:15 p.m. Final opportunity to claim Silent Auction items in Silent Auction Room (Hibiscus 1-2)
- 1:15-2:15 p.m. Meeting of Newly-Elected 2016-2018 LWV-TX Board (location to be announced)

CONVOCATION & WORKSHOPS (Friday, March 11, 2016)

Friday, March 11, 2016

12:30 p.m. CONVOCATION (Wisteria 3-4)
 Welcome by LWV-TX President Elaine Wiant
READERS THEATRE PRODUCTION by members of LWV-Collin County-- "We Hold These Truths," tracing the suffrage movement from 1848-1920, portraying prominent women leaders of the fight to gain the right to vote for women and how they contributed to the cause.

1:30-2:30 p.m. WORKSHOPS (Choose one)

Growing Local Leagues through Community Outreach and Recognition: The Rising Star Initiative (Location: Wisteria 3-4)

Narrator: Aimee Mobley Turney, with panelists Sarah Schimmer, Ryan Leach, and other LWV-Houston Area members.

Rising Star recognizes exceptional talent in the Houston area, invites applications for recognition, and encourages membership to LWV-HA. This panel discussion, with time for questions & answers, will benefit all Leagues, large and small, as it demonstrates multiple ways of recruiting and engaging new membership.

Building Coalitions for Voter Engagement (Location: Sunflower Room)

Presenter: Grace Chimene

Does it ever seem like you are working by yourself to GOTV (Get Out the Vote) in Texas? Find others who are interested in promoting voting. Discuss strategies to promote voting through nonprofits, schools, community, and government organizations. Share what is and isn't working in your area. Discover voter engagement collaborators, new technology, and social media tools that will help pull Texas out of last place in voter participation. (Facilitator: Roxanna Deane, Comal County)

Lobbying 101: Legal Tips for Nonprofit Advocates (Location: Hibiscus 3)

Presenter: Natalie Roetzel Ossenfort, Director, Texas Office, Alliance for Justice

Lobbying is not only legal – it's one of the most effective means for nonprofits to advance their missions! Whether influencing your state's budget or passing other reforms, there are many reasons that 501(c)(3) public charities choose to lobby to achieve their goals. This workshop will help explain what lobbying is and why it is so important. Federal law allows 501(c)(3) public charities to lobby within generous limits. This training addresses those limits and explains what your nonprofit CAN do to best represent the interests of your community at the legislature and beyond. (Facilitator: Pat Cheong, Tarrant County)

2:45-3:45 p.m. WORKSHOPS (Choose one)

Don't Be Afraid To Get On-Board with VOTE411 (Location: Mesquite)

Presenter: Janice Schieffer

VOTE411 is being used by more and more Leagues to contact candidates more efficiently, integrate state and local responses in an electronic format that is easy to access by voters, and export data to create printed Voters Guides. Join the discussion with other Leagues about how to increase the visibility of your League through VOTE411. Experienced Leagues will share best practices, and VOTE411 newcomers can share concerns and questions and receive expert advice and suggestions. (Facilitator: Sandra Heatherley, Corpus Christi)

League Basics (Location: Sunflower)

Presenters: Janet Imhoff and Edie Jones

League basics and best practices: We will discuss and share ideas on what a League needs to do to be successful: board responsibility, membership growth and retention, program/advocacy/voters service, communications and visibility, types of meetings, nonpartisanship issues. Come with questions and share your successes. (Facilitator: Barbara Montoya, LWV-EI Paso)

Successful Advocacy (Location: Hibiscus 3)

Presenters: Laura Blackburn, Susybelle Gosslee, Cinde Weatherby, and Marlene Lobberecht

Successful advocacy is an art, that's for sure, but there are basic rules and guidelines that can ensure success. Receive detailed tips, phrases to advance your agenda, and best practices to use in communicating with community, county, agency, and legislative leaders. Learn from experts like Texas' late Governor Ann Richards and our own local and state LWV advocates. Being an advocate is fun if you know how! (Facilitator: Sarah McIntire, LWV-Denton)

SATURDAY, MARCH 12, AND SUNDAY, MARCH 13, 2016
PLENARY SESSIONS
(8:30 a.m. –5:00 p.m., Saturday; 8:30 a.m.-1 p.m., Sunday)

PROPOSED ORDER OF BUSINESS

(Announcements as needed by Chris Davis Garcia, LWV-TX Secretary)

CALL TO ORDER

WELCOME

Elaine Wiant, LWV-TX President

Aimee Mobley Turney, LWV-Houston Area President

The Honorable Sylvester Turner, Mayor, City of Houston

The Honorable Mike Sullivan, Tax Assessor-Collector, Harris County

INTRODUCTIONS

ROLL CALL OF LOCAL LEAGUES AND MEMBER AT LARGE (MAL) UNITS

ORGANIZATION OF THE CONVENTION

PARLIAMENTARY PROCEDURE BASICS

Gail E. Lover, Parliamentarian

CREDENTIALS REPORT

Beni Gutierrez (LWV-Houston Area), Credentials Committee Chair

RULES OF CONVENTION

Marlene Lobberecht, LWV-TX Bylaws, Policies and Rules Committee Chair

ADOPTION OF RULES OF CONVENTION

EXPLANATION OF RESOLUTION PROCESS

PRESENTATION OF ORDER OF BUSINESS

ADOPTION OF ORDER OF BUSINESS

SECRETARY'S REPORT

Chris Davis Garcia, LWV-TX Secretary

LWVUS PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS

Elisabeth MacNamara, LWVUS President

**CELEBRATING THE ANNIVERSARIES OF 50-YEAR LEAGUES
AND 50-YEAR MEMBERS**

Peggy Hill, LWV-TX Director

PLENARY (Continued)

TREASURER'S REPORT AND FISCAL MANAGEMENT AND ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE (FM&A) REPORT

Miriam Foshay, LWV-TX Treasurer

STRATEGIC PLANNING COMMITTEE REPORT

Susan Morrison, LWV-TX Strategic Planning Committee Chair

ADVOCACY REPORT

Laura Blackburn, LWV-TX Advocacy Vice President

CITIZEN EDUCATION REPORT

Nancy Parra, LWV-TX Program Vice President

Program: Explanation of Process, Presentation of Recommended and Not-recommended Items, Questions

STUDY CHAIR INTRODUCTION AND REPORT

Elizabeth Erkel, LWV-TX Director

INTRODUCTION OF REPORT OF THE TAX EXEMPT STATUS REVIEW COMMITTEE

Miriam Foshay, LWV-TX Treasurer & Chair, Tax Exempt Status Review Committee

ISSUE CHAIR INTRODUCTION AND REPORT

Cinde Weatherby (LWV-Austin Area), Election Issues

BUDGET

Carol Olewin (LWV-Austin Area), Budget Committee Chair

Explanation of Process, Presentation

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Elaine Wiant, LWV-TX President

PRESIDENT'S AWARD

NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT

Brenda Koegler (LWV-Austin Area), Nominating Committee Chair

NOMINATIONS FROM FLOOR

CREDENTIALS REPORT

BUDGET DISCUSSION, DEBATE, AND ADOPTION

Adopt Per Member Payment (PMP)

Adopt Minimum Support

Adopt Budget

ISSUE CHAIR INTRODUCTION AND REPORT

Janet Imhoff (LWV-Collin County), Education/Public School Finance

PLENARY (Continued)

PROGRAM DISCUSSION, DEBATE, AND ADOPTION

RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE REPORT

Laura Blackburn, LWV-TX Advocacy Vice President

SERVICES TO LOCAL LEAGUES REPORT

Pat Cheong, LWV-TX Organization Vice President

DIRECTIONS TO 2016 LWVUS CONVENTION DELEGATES

DEVELOPMENT & MARKETING COMMITTEE REPORT

Kate Lattimore Norris, LWV-TX Public Relations Vice President

ELECTION OF LWV-TX BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND NOMINATING COMMITTEE

AUCTION WRAP-UP

Miriam Foshay, LWV-TX Treasurer

FAREWELLS TO RETIRING STATE BOARD MEMBERS

INVITATIONS TO CONVENTION 2018

“I WISH THE LEAGUE WOULD...”

COURTESY RESOLUTIONS

CLOSING ANNOUNCEMENTS

ADJOURN, SINE DIE

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.

PROPOSED CONVENTION 2016 RULES

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

1. Admission to Convention shall be limited to persons displaying an official badge, which must be worn at all meetings of the Convention.
2. Delegates, nonvoting members (observers), and visitors shall sit in designated areas. Although persons may enter the plenary room after a meeting has begun, no one shall be seated during an address.
3. Only accredited delegates representing local Leagues, Members-at-Large Units, and members of the LWV-TX Board may vote.
4. Only delegates and those authorized by the Convention chair or the delegate body may address the Convention.
5. Each speaker shall use a microphone and announce name and League when addressing the Convention.
6. In debate, no person shall speak more than once until all others who wish to speak have done so; no person shall speak more than twice on the same motion; debate shall be limited to 2 minutes per speaker.
7. Debate will be terminated after three people consecutively speak to one side of an issue if no one is at the other microphone to speak to the other side of the issue.
8. Any nonprocedural motion shall be in writing on forms obtained from the tellers, signed by name and League. One copy shall be provided to the secretary, one copy to the audio-visual staff, and one copy shall be retained by the maker of the motion. Motions shall be identified by the number appearing on the motion form.
9. When a vote is in progress, the doors to the meeting room shall be closed, and no one may enter or leave.
10. Only announcements that relate to the business of the Convention or the welfare of the participants shall be made.
11. Procedures for Proposed Program
 - a. Procedure for Considering the Proposed Program
 - i. At the first plenary, the proposed LWV-TX Program shall be moved for adoption by a member of the LWV-TX Board. There may be questions for clarification, with responses limited to 1 minute each, but no additional motion or debate shall be in order at this time.
 - ii. Debate on the Proposed Program shall occur as designated on the agenda and may continue during the second plenary.
 - b. Procedure for Considering Not-Recommended Program Items
 - i. At the first plenary, any League may move for consideration of not-recommended Program items. Presentations shall be limited to 1 minute. There may be questions for clarification, with responses limited to 1 minute each, but no additional motions or debate shall be in order at this time. If a not-recommended item is moved for consideration, any delegate may request a statement from the LWV-TX Board, limited to 1 minute, giving the reasons for not recommending the item.
 - ii. After all not-recommended items have been moved for consideration, a vote for consideration of each shall take place in the order in which the items were moved for consideration. A majority vote is required to consider a not-recommended item.
 - iii. Debate and action on not-recommended Program items shall take place at the same time as debate and action on the Proposed Program.
 - c. Procedure for Concurrence at Convention
 - i. A Proposal for Concurrence may be moved for adoption at the first plenary.
 - ii. Debate and action on Proposal for Concurrence motions shall take place at the same time as debate and action on the Proposed Program. A two-thirds vote is required to adopt the Proposal for Concurrence.

RULES OF CONVENTION (Continued)

d. Procedure for Adoption of Program

- i. Action on the Proposed Program, Proposal for Concurrence motions, and any not-recommended Program items voted for consideration by the delegates and moved for adoption shall take place at the second plenary.
- ii. A majority vote is required to adopt the Proposed Program, including any not-recommended items. A two-thirds vote is required to adopt a Proposal for Concurrence on the Convention floor.

12. Procedure for Resolutions

a. Resolutions express the will of the Convention and are not intended to modify a position. Resolutions shall conform to the following criteria:

- i. Be within League program;
- ii. Not circumvent the program process;
- iii. Involve a single, short-term action;
- iv. Deal with a topical, current issue; and
- v. Be pertinent to Texas.

b. Procedure for Submission

- i. A resolution may be proposed by completing and submitting the required Resolution Submission Form to the Registration Desk by 12 Noon on the day of the first plenary.
- ii. If the Resolution Submission Form is received at the LWV-TX Office no later than 2 weeks prior to the Convention, the Proposed Resolution will be printed in the *Convention Workbook*.
- iii. The League offering the resolution shall have registered Convention delegate(s).

c. The Resolutions Committee

- i. Shall have been appointed by the President at least 4 weeks prior to the Convention, consisting of two members of the LWV-TX Board of Directors and three registered Convention delegates who have either served on the Board of LWVUS, LWV-Texas, or a local League.
- ii. Shall meet after the submission deadline to consider whether each Proposed Resolution meets the requirements as to form, notice, and criteria.
- iii. Criteria for Committee Approval of Proposed Resolutions; the Proposed Resolution:
 - a) Addresses a single topic or issue;
 - b) Is consistent with Bylaws and Principles;
 - c) Is consistent with League positions, and the corresponding position is identified on the Proposed Resolution Form;
 - d) Is consistent with the current stated legislative priorities;
 - e) Requires time-sensitive state governmental action;
 - f) Is likely to have an impact on the single topic or issue as described on the Resolutions Submission Form; and
 - g) Can be implemented using existing League resources.
- iv. The representative of the League submitting the Proposed Resolution shall have an opportunity to explain the resolution to the Resolutions Committee if the representative so requests.
- v. Resolutions recommended and not recommended by the Resolutions Committee shall be posted by 8 AM on the second day of the Convention.

d. Procedure for Adoption of Resolutions

- i. Debate and action on Proposed Resolutions shall take place after action on Proposed Program, Concurrences, and not-recommended Program items at the second plenary. Adoption requires a majority vote.
- ii. The chair of the Resolutions Committee shall report its findings on all submitted Proposed Resolutions to the Convention at the second plenary.

RULES OF CONVENTION (Continued)

iii. *Recommended resolutions.* Any Proposed Resolution recommended by the Resolutions Committee may then be moved for consideration of the Convention by a delegate of the League that submitted it. A majority vote shall be required to adopt a recommended proposed resolution.

iv. *Not-recommended resolutions.* Any Proposed Resolution not recommended by the Resolutions Committee may be moved by any delegate. Presentation shall be limited to 3 minutes. Any delegate may request a statement from the Resolutions Committee giving the reasons for not recommending it. A two-thirds vote shall be required to adopt a not-recommended resolution.

13. The minutes of the Convention shall be approved by the LWV-TX Board after review by a committee appointed by the President.

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT

COMING UP! NATIONAL LWVUS Convention in June 2016--Washington, D.C.

Join us in Washington, DC, June 16-19, 2016, at the League's National Convention to experience the collective power of our mission, messages, and actions to build a more perfect democracy. More details are on the [Convention 2016 information page](#) at www.lwv.org, including how to register. Questions? Send an email to membership@lwv.org.

- **Lobby Day.** Be a part of advancing the League's legislative priorities when you go to Capitol Hill for meetings with your elected representatives in the U.S. Congress.
- **Pre-Convention Welcome Activities.** Attend **Key Structures of Democracy sessions** – on money in politics, redistricting, constitutional amendment safeguards – to learn the powerful ways you can bring these issues home for action. **A first-time convention-goers event** and **Convention orientations** will connect “newbies” and veterans in learning how to make the most of Convention.
- **Daily caucuses and workshops.** Participate in a range of League issues and skills building gatherings – in election services, voter protection, advocacy, civic engagement, social media, fundraising and more.
- **Plenary sessions.** Learn from experts in politics and communications about where the League can focus its impact in the coming biennium, engage in proceedings around League positions, and look ahead to strategies for success as our centennial year approaches.
- **Connect through engagement.** Take part in the **Engagement Zone, Wares Market, Banquet and Discussion Roundtables.** Attend the renowned **Capitol Steps comedy performance** and enjoy their hilarious take on national politics.

PARLIAMENTARY PROCEDURE TIPS

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS/TRUSTEES - 2014-2016**League of Women Voters of Texas
League of Women Voters of Texas Education Fund****OFFICERS**

Elaine Wiant (Dallas), LWV-TX President & LWV-TEF Chair

Laura Blackburn (Houston Area), Advocacy Vice President

Pat Cheong (Tarrant County), Organization Vice President

Kate Lattimore Norris (Tarrant County), Public Relations Vice President

Nancy Parra (Houston Area), Program Vice President

Chris Davis Garcia (Corpus Christi Area), Secretary

Miriam Foshay (Dallas), Treasurer

DIRECTORS/TRUSTEES

Grace Chimene (Austin Area)

Elizabeth Erkel (Collin County)

Peggy Hill (Bay Area)

Marlene Lobberecht (Houston Area)

Susan Morrison (Austin Area)

2014-2016 NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Chair: Brenda Koegler (Austin Area)

Members: Dee Brock (Tyler/Smith County); Jeannie Lewis (Hays County)

NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT
NOMINEES FOR LWV-TX BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2016-2018

OFFICERS**President: Elaine Wiant (Dallas)**

Wiant is finishing her first term as President. She returned to the board in 2014 after serving as LWV-TX Treasurer (1997-2003) and Director (2003-06). She served on the LWVUS Board from 2006-12 as Secretary/Treasurer, Budget Committee member in 2006 and 2016, and Budget Chair in 2014.

Vice President: Grace Chimene (Austin Area)

A pediatric nurse practitioner, Chimene has served one term on the LWV-TX board. She is the Child Health Issue Chair and advocates for Medicaid expansion and Gun Violence prevention. She helped coordinate LWV-TX action taken by Issue Chairs with the Capitol Corps in the 84th legislative session.

Vice President: Nancy Parra (Houston Area)

Parra has served one term as Program Vice President while continuing as Director of Voters Service. She cochaired the Citizen Education/Advocacy Committee and served on the Budget and Website Committees. She is a past president of LWV-Houston Area.

Vice President: Elizabeth Erkel (Collin County)

Erkel taught public health nursing and related courses and held nursing administration positions in schools of nursing in Texas and South Carolina. A member of the League since 1983, she is Past President of LWV-Collin County and served on the 2014-16 LWV-TX Board of Directors.

Vice President: Peggy Hill (Bay Area)

A retired professor from the University of Houston-Clear Lake, Hill is finishing her first term on the LWV-TX Board and serves as state coordinator for the Texas MLD initiative. She served on the LWVUS Board of Directors, was a National Shur Fellow coach for the MLD program, and is Past President of LWV-Richardson.

Treasurer: Miriam Foshay (Dallas)

Foshay is completing four years on the LWV-TX board, the past two as Treasurer and chair of the Fiscal Management and Administration Committee. She previously served as Treasurer for the Naperville, IL League and then for the Dallas League. She is the former treasurer/business manager of the Naperville Area Recycling Center, a joint AAUW/LWV non-profit.

Secretary: Marguerite “Meg” Scott-Johnson, (Hill Country)

Scott-Johnson is completing her second two-year term as President of LWV-Hill Country (formerly Kerrville Area). She currently serves as Issue Chair for Human Trafficking. In her local League, she served as Immigration Study Chair and several years as Voters Service Chair.

DIRECTORS:**Connie Born (Comal County Area)**

Born is a retired health care manager. She has been a member of the League since 2013, serving on the local Board as Director of Membership, on the Nominations Committee, and as chair of the local Pay Day Loan and Auto Title Loan study.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT (Continued)

Amber Briggie (Denton)

Briggie is a small business owner and volunteer, currently serving as vice chair of the Denton Planning & Zoning Commission. She served on the LWV-Denton board, but stepped down to run for the City Council in 2015.

Marlene Lobberecht (Houston Area)

Lobberecht is a Child/Family Life professional and retired nonprofit business coach. She taught 34 years at the secondary and college level. The Early Childhood Issue Chair since 2007, she is now finishing her first term as Bylaws, Policies and Rules Committee chair on the LWV-TX board.

Sarah McIntire (Denton)

McIntire recently retired as Professor and Chair of the Biology Department at Texas Woman's University, where she taught microbiology for 25 years. She is a former Treasurer and Past President of LWV-Denton.

Barbara Montoya (El Paso)

Montoya has been LWV-El Paso Vice President of Public and Community Relations since 2005, chairing the Bravo Awards, the annual fundraiser honoring outstanding members of the community. She produces and directs LWV election forums and debates on KCOS, El Paso's PBS Station.

Susan Morrison (Austin Area)

Morrison is a professional problem solver, a/k/a attorney, and is finishing her second term as LWV-TX Director. She cochaired the Development & Marketing Committee and chaired the Strategic Planning Committee. She is a past Board member of the Austin Area League and was the Voters Guide Editor.

Carol Olewin (Austin Area)

Olewin is completing nine years on the Austin LWV Board, two years as President, one year as Co-President and seven years as Treasurer. She has served as Election Judge and worker for over 20 years. She is also engaged with the ThinkVoting application.

2016-2018 NOMINATING COMMITTEE:

Chair: Ruthann Geer (Tarrant County)

Geer has served the League most recently as a MLD Coach and is a former President of LWV-Texas and LWV-Arlington.

Members:

Laura Blackburn (Houston Area)

Blackburn has served two terms as Advocacy Vice President and is the current Issue Chair for Air Quality and Climate Change. She served as cochair of the Citizen Education/Advocacy Committee and as a member of the Budget, Convention, and Tax Exempt Policy Review Committees. She served two terms as LWV-Houston Area president.

Chris Davis Garcia (Corpus Christi Area)

Garcia is completing her 6th year on the LWV-TX Board. She has served as Secretary and as a member of the Services to Local Leagues Committee. She served as Convention Chair in 2012 and again in 2016. She is a past president of LWV-Corpus Christi, co-edits the League's monthly VOTER, formats the local Voters Guides, and serves as Vice President for Member Services.

EXPLANATION OF PROPOSED BUDGETS FOR 2016-2018

Rationale

The League of Women Voters of Texas (LWV-TX) and League of Women Voters of Texas Education Fund (LWV-TEF) are two separate organizations and have separate budgets. The LWV- TX budget is adopted by the delegates at the biennial Convention; the LWV-TEF budget is adopted by the Board of Trustees at their first meeting after Convention.

Although separate organizations with separate budgets, LWV-TX and LWV-TEF are closely related and share the same Board; only their operational emphasis is different. For example, all lobbying is done through LWV-TX, a 501(c)(4) organization, while citizen information and education activities are carried out by LWV-TEF, a 501(c)(3). Where resources are shared, such as staff time and office facilities, the respective contributions and usage by the two organizations are carefully tracked and expenses are split accordingly. For these reasons, the proposed budgets for both LWV-TX and LWV-TEF are presented in this workbook to facilitate members' assessment of the financial outlook.

Criteria and Assumptions

- Staff, administrative, and property expenses will be split 25:75 between LWV-TX and LWV-TEF. Ratios are based upon prior year's records kept by the executive administrator.
- Per member payment (PMP) rates remain unchanged at \$22 per member, \$33 for household and \$12 for Student.
- The Ricoh office printer has been eliminated, thus reducing printing costs by \$4360/year.
- Silent Auction benefits have been moved to LWV-TEF from LWV-TX.
- Odd number years have two Voters Guides published.
- "When You Go to Austin" guide will be discontinued. This information is now available electronically, eliminating the need for a paper guide.
- While it appears that board costs have gone up sharply, board members are now reporting their expenses. Except for lodging, most of these expenses are in-kind donations.
- Education Fund proposes aggressive fund raising campaigns.
- More emphasis will be placed on Development/Marketing/Social Media.
- More emphasis will be placed on Mission Projects & Member Services.

Budget Committee Members:

Carol Olewin, Chair
 Elaine Wiant, President
 Miriam Foshay, Treasurer
 Nancy Parra, VP Program
 Laura Blackburn, VP Advocacy
 Susan Morrison, Director

Budget Questions & Answers Follow-up Work Shops

If you have questions about the proposed budgets, please contact the Budget Committee Chair Carol Olewin, by email, c.olewin@gmail.com, at any time before Convention weekend. She also will be available at Convention, along with the other committee members, to answer your questions.

Prior to adoption of the budget during plenary, delegates will have an opportunity to ask questions and make comments. Budget Q&A sessions will be held Friday and Saturday night during Convention to give delegates a chance to discuss the budget. We urge delegates to take advantage of those times to obtain advance answers to questions of a detailed or technical nature.

**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF TEXAS
PROPOSED BUDGET FOR 2016-2018**

	BUDGET 2014-2016	BUDGET 2016-2018
INCOME		
PMP & MALs	46,600	43,716
CONTRIBUTIONS/DONATIONS	24,300	39,500
PROJECTS/GIFTS/GRANTS	-	-
STATE CONVENTION	25,000	20,000
LOBBY DAYS	500	500
INVESTMENTS	600	2,400
TOTAL INCOME	97,000	106,116
EXPENSES		
ADVOCACY	400	2,100
MISSION PROJECTS	-	5,840
MEMBER SERVICES	-	900
STATE CONVENTION	20,000	18,000
ADVOCACY/D&M SOFTWARE SERVICES	-	2,600
ADMINISTRATION	17,500	8,350
CONTRACTUAL SERVICES	6,000	4,925
DEVELOPMENT/FUNDRAISING	-	3,000
MARKETING/SOCIAL MEDIA	-	500
BOARD EXPENSES	10,200	18,600
RENT	4,800	4,800
STAFF EXPENSES	34,400	35,063
TOTAL EXPENSES	93,300	104,678
TRANSFER TO/FROM RESERVES	3,700	1,438
TOTAL EXPENSES and TRANSFERS	97,000	106,116

**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF TEXAS EDUCATION FUND (TEF)
PROPOSED BUDGET FOR 2016-2018**

	BUDGET 2014-2016	BUDGET 2016-2018
INCOME		
PMP & MALs	26,600	24,120
CONTRIBUTIONS/DONATIONS	48,100	98,200
PROJECTS/GIFTS/GRANTS	40,900	19,000
EVENTS/MDW	26,500	27,500
STATE CONVENTION FUNDRAISING	-	5,000
PUBLICATIONS	13,500	21,500
WORKSHOPS AND SEMINARS	200	600
INVESTMENTS	2,400	25,000
TOTAL INCOME	158,200	220,920
EXPENSES		
MISSION PROJECTS	29,200	34,200
MEMBER SERVICES	5,900	4,800
ADVOCACY/D&M SOFTWARE SERVICES	-	2,600
ADMINISTRATION	27,200	25,050
CONTRACTUAL SERVICES	6,100	6,775
DEVELOPMENT/FUNDRAISING	-	9,000
MARKETING/SOCIAL MEDIA	-	1,500
BOARD EXPENSES	10,400	18,600
PROPERTY EXPENSES	26,900	19,500
RENT	(4,800)	(4,800)
STAFF EXPENSES	51,400	105,188
TOTAL EXPENSES	152,300	222,413
TRANSFER TO/FROM RESERVES	5,900	(1,493)
TOTAL EXPENSES and TRANSFERS	158,200	220,920

PROPOSED LWV-TX PROGRAM FOR 2016-2018

Proposed Program: New Action

The Board of the League of Women Voters of Texas recommends the adoption of the following state program:

Get-Out-the-Vote Action

Goal: Encourage informed and active participation in government by facilitating voter engagement

Objective: Increase voter turnout in Texas by 5% from 2012 to 2020

Strategies and Projected Tactics:

What works? Evidence-based voter mobilization methods!

It is the dynamic interaction of authentic person-to-person contact that is most important in determining whether a method will successfully mobilize voters.

- Personalized methods and messages work better.
- Social networks and interpersonal influence can be powerful mobilizing forces.
- The content of mobilization messages is not as important as the quality, timing, and delivery of messages.

Who can do it? Engaged activists!

- Local Leagues
- Voter engagement stakeholder network members
- League affiliates, collaborators, and coalitions
- Other community institutions and organizations, for example: schools, community colleges, and universities, government agencies, nonprofit organizations, chambers of commerce, and others

How to do it? Go vote! Here's how!

- Coordinate and maintain statewide outreach and resources contact list.
- Establish and facilitate a voter engagement stakeholders network of organizations that are invested in voter registration, education, and turnout.
- Encourage increased collaboration by local Leagues with other groups to promote voter turnout.
- Develop and provide:
 - Webinars, workshops, and presentations on voter engagement and effective voter mobilization methods
 - Templates for get-out-the-vote materials that local Leagues, nonprofits, and other community organizations and institutions can tailor to their target audiences
 - Get-out-the-vote news release/PSA templates for local Leagues to use with traditional media (radio, television, newspaper) to increase voter turnout
 - Get-out-the-vote messages that local Leagues and stakeholder network members can post on social media
 - Effective voter registration messages to high schools, Department of Public Safety offices, offices providing public assistance, and offices providing services to persons with disabilities in order to facilitate increased implementation of 2 TEX. EL. CODE § 13.046 and the National Voter Registration Act of 1993.

Rationale:

Citizens influence government policies and decisions that affect their lives by participating in politics—voting and contacting their elected officials. While 84% of the estimated voting-eligible population in Texas were registered to vote in 2014, only 34% of registered voters cast ballots in the November 2014 midterm/gubernatorial election. Thus a small minority of citizens elected officials to decide policies that affect the community as a whole. The problem is not voter registration, but low voter turnout! Low voter turnout decreases government accountability and increases political dissatisfaction within our communities. Using evidence-based methods to increase voter turnout among low-turnout populations is key to meeting the League mission to encourage informed and active participation in government.

LWV-TX Position: Election Laws and Voting Rights, 1999 (rev), 2010

The League of Women Voters of Texas supports election laws that facilitate citizen participation and voter convenience, as well as voting procedures that may increase voter participation.

List of Not-Recommended Items**Proposed New Studies**

- Interaction Education as It Relates to Violence/Crime (Proposed by Collin County, supported by Denton and Dallas)
- Elder Abuse in Texas (Comal Area)
- State of Texas' Minimum Wage (San Antonio)

Proposed Review/Update

- Early Childhood: Expand access to provide universal Pre-K Programs for all public school children (Tarrant County)
- Criminal Justice and Capital Punishment Reform and Juvenile Justice: Update Criminal Justice position on solitary confinement, climate control in prisons, mandatory minimum sentencing, the habitual offender statute, and the Juvenile Justice position on juveniles as 17-year-olds being tried in adult courts (Susybelle Gosslee, Issue Chair)
- Redistricting: Update of the position to provide more guidance on methods for achieving goals of compactness, coincidence with boundaries of local jurisdictions, non-dilution of minority population voting strength and impartiality with regards to incumbents and political parties. (Dallas)

New Position on Payday and Auto Title Loans

III. SOCIAL POLICY/HUMAN RESOURCES

H. PAYDAY AND AUTO TITLE LOANS-2016

The League of Women Voters of Texas supports policies, legislation, and programs that enable a small dollar loan market that maintains access to affordable credit while safeguarding consumers. Payday and auto title loan businesses should be regulated so that they function both as a consumer service and a successful business.

The League believes that a loan is affordable if the borrower can repay the loan and cover basic expenses without borrowing again or obtaining money from another source. Local governments should be able to regulate payday and auto title lending within their jurisdictions in order to achieve a viable small dollar loan market that provides consumer access to affordable credit and safeguards against predatory lending. Criminal charges and penalties for payday and auto title loans in default should continue to be explicitly prohibited by Texas law. The League supports:

- Consumer credit regulations that increase restrictions on short-term loans and require lenders to offer affordable loans,
- Financial education measures that increase the ability of consumers to successfully use small dollar loan financial products, and
- State and private funding of measures to prevent long-term debt by borrowers in need of immediate cash.

Explanation: Payday and Auto Title Loans in Texas

League delegates to the 2014 LWV-TX Convention adopted a study of Payday and Auto Title Loans in Texas, reflecting intense scrutiny of payday and auto title loans at all levels of government and widespread discussion in the community and media that made it a compelling public policy issue. The study focused on current regulations of payday and auto title lenders in Texas, the accessibility and impact of these loans in the community, and options for small dollar loans for persons in need of immediate cash. A committee comprised of six League members from across the state conducted the study and produced Facts & Issues: Payday & Auto Title Loans in Texas. The report was published on the state League website and distributed electronically to League members. Print copies were provided to Texas state office holders, major donors, and other interested groups and individuals. Following numerous public forums and League consensus meetings across the state during fall 2015, a consensus was reached based on analysis of individual League consensus reports. The LWV-TX Board of Directors adopted the new position January 2016.

Acknowledgment

Payday and Auto Title Loan Study Committee 2014-16 Members

Elizabeth Erkel, LWV-TX Board, chair; Stephanie Mace, LWV-Collin County, cochair

Linda Eichblatt, LWV-Amarillo; Miriam Foshay, LWV-Dallas

Leslie Copeland Taylor, LWV-Houston Area; Sharon Whittington, LWV-Tarrant County

A List of All Current Program Areas

For League positions and background, consult *Program Perspectives 2014-16*.

I. Government

- Constitutional Revision
- Election Laws and Voting Rights
- Executive, Legislative, and Judicial
- Financing State Government
- Homeowners Association Reform
- Intestacy
- Political Campaign Process
- Public School Finance
- Public School Testing and Accountability
- Redistricting
- State-Local Relations

II. Administration of Justice

- Criminal Justice and Capital Punishment Reform
- Drug Laws
- Immigration
- Juvenile Justice
- Spousal Sexual Assault
- Human Trafficking

III. Social Policy/Human Resources

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

IV. Natural Resources

- Air
- Water
- Land Use
- Transportation

ADVOCACY COMMITTEE (ADV)

Laura Blackburn (Chair), Grace Chimene, Elizabeth Erkel, Marlene Lobberecht, Nancy Parra

The Advocacy Committee functions as the action arm of LWV-TX. It recommends legislative priorities and positions on proposed constitutional amendments to the board. The Advocacy Vice President, along with the Legislative Coordinator, Issue Chair Coordinator, Issue Chairs and the Capitol Corps and with approval of the President, oversee lobbying activities and legislative interviews. Committee activities implement the long-range plan goal to increase League influence over public policy in Texas and to increase the visibility of the League. Members of the Advocacy Committee also serve on the Citizen Education Committee (CE), as these committees share responsibility for League Program.

The 35 members of the advocacy team have done yeoman's work both during the 84th Legislative Session and during the Interim. We presented testimony both during the 84th Legislative Session and to Interim Committees while keeping a close watch on how the budget process was determining the outcomes of our issues. It was an all-hands-on-board effort with significant results.

Following are some specifics of our efforts:

1. We included local League members to determine our priorities, sending all members a list of our issues and asking them to help us prioritize them. It worked and we established our priorities as education, election laws/ voting rights, women's health and water. With outstanding issue chairs, we were extremely effective in those areas.
2. The Advocacy Committee, along with Issue Chairs, carefully reviewed the groups we work with, identifying them with greater clarity. Our association with these groups offers greater visibility to the League and support for our issues.
3. Meeting with our Issue Chairs and Capitol Corps members helped us determine how to work our priorities as well as how Issue Chairs could benefit from the Capitol Corps. And benefit them it did! Initially we had about 22 Capitol Corps members, though the numbers dwindled as the legislative session progressed. We wound up with about 10 members that were constantly going to the Capitol. They worked closely with a specific issue chair and were valiant in presenting testimony many, many times. We greatly increased our visibility and influence.
4. We will continue on during the Interim with many committees already appointed by Lt. Governor Dan Patrick and House Speaker Joe Straus. We have already presented comments to the Senate Committee on Health and Human Services, for example. It will be a challenging Interim.
5. We published 11 Legislative Newsletters during the regular session and a final Wrap Up edition.

If you are interested in more information about our issues, please refer to *Program Perspectives* under Publications at www.lwvtexas.org. The issue chairs and coordinators are listed on the website on each issue page.

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF TEXAS		EXPERTISE, COMMUNICATION, COORDINATION & STRATEGIC ACTION ACHIEVE POSITIVE RESULTS
84th Texas Legislature 140 Days		
Expertise	○	21 issue experts around Texas following 511 bills • Hosted legislative briefing on Online Voter Registration
Coordination & Strategic Action	○	Feb 13 Lobby Day -75 members came to Austin, braving ice storms and the coldest day of winter, to talk with their legislators • Issue experts report every 2 weeks • Issue experts draft testimony and 14 local Capitol Corps volunteers present testimony for 66 hearings • 398 personal constituent visits with legislators
Communication	○	11 Legislative Newsletters with updates in 26 issue areas • 12 Action Alerts
Results	○	160 bills of the 511 LWV-TX was following were successfully passed or defeated, for a 31% success rate

CITIZEN EDUCATION COMMITTEE (CE)

Nancy Parra (Chair), Laura Blackburn, Grace Chimene, Elizabeth Erkel, Marlene Lobberecht

The Citizen Education Committee (CE) is responsible for the education of League members and the public in general. The committee's primary goal is to promote informed citizen participation in elections and in government policy-setting. This goal is accomplished through activities such as Voters Service campaigns, Voters Guides production and distribution, new program studies, educational materials, state League program planning, and program review.

INTRODUCTION

The CE Committee's activities in 2014-2016 included:

- completion of the study of Payday and Auto Title Loans in Texas
- completion of state League Program Planning
- production and distribution of *Voters Guides* for the November 2014 General Election, the November 2015 Constitutional Amendment Election, and the March 2016 Primary Election
- integration of VOTE411 as a tool for LWV-TX Voters Service statewide and locally

PROGRAM

Study of Payday and Auto Title Loans

- Undertook a new study, adopted at Convention in April 2014, with a focus on the current regulations on payday and auto title lenders in Texas and the accessibility and impact of these loans in the community. Elizabeth Erkel, LWV-TX Board, chaired the study and Stephanie Mace, LWV-Collin County, served as cochair. Study participants included Linda Eichblatt, LWV-Amarillo; Miriam Foshay, LWV-Dallas; Leslie Copeland Taylor, LWV-Houston Area; and Sharon Whittington, LWV-Tarrant County.
- The committee produced *Facts and Issues: Payday and Auto Title Loans in Texas*, which was published in print and online. It was emailed to all members with email addresses; others received print copies, including members of the Texas Legislature.
- Over 325 members from 19 Leagues participated in the consensus in Fall 2015.
- The Board approved the consensus and adopted a new position that will be part of current positions to be ratified by the delegates to this convention. See the description of the "New Position on Payday and Auto Title Loans" on Page 24 of this workbook.

Other Activities

- State Program Planning – Seven of 25 local Leagues and MAL Units participated in Program Planning. Three new studies and three reviews of current positions were proposed.
- The LWV-TX Board is recommending the adoption of a State program on Get-Out-the-Vote Action to encourage informed and active participation in government by facilitating voter engagement. See the description of the "Proposed Program: New Action" in this workbook for a detailed explanation of the objectives, strategies, and projected tactics.

VOTERS SERVICE

- Produced and distributed Voters Guides in English and in Spanish for the November 2014 general election. LWV-TEF and local Leagues distributed over 300,000 printed state and local Voters Guides to the public. The LWV-TEF Voters Guides included statewide offices, State Board of Education, and Courts of Appeals candidates.

CITIZEN EDUCATION COMMITTEE (Continued)

- Helped fund statewide coverage of the 2014 elections in VOTE411.org and supported participation by local Leagues in their elections. The major usage areas in Texas showed an increase in sessions viewed of over 60%, compared to the same period in 2012. For the general election, 8,641 sessions were recorded for the *Voters Guide* on VOTE411.org; 6,058 users accessed the site.
- Produced and distributed a *Voters Guide* in English and in Spanish on the seven proposed Texas Constitutional Amendments in November 2015. LWV-TEF and local Leagues distributed approximately 75,000 printed *Voters Guides* to the public. The number of users accessing the *Voters Guide* on VOTE411 increased substantially from 2013 to 2015. Produced YouTube Videos accessible on the LWV-TX website in which LWV-TX Board members described the amendments and their pros and cons.
- For each election, distributed more than 20,000 *Voters Guides* in English and Spanish to more than 120 libraries across the state in counties that do not have local Leagues.
- Produced and distributed *Voters Guides* in English and in Spanish for the March 2016 primary Election, which included all statewide offices, State Board of Education and Courts of Appeals candidates in Republican and Democratic primaries. Distribution numbers are not yet available.
- Supervised LWVUS pass-through grants awarded to six local Leagues to increase voter registration and turnout and to expand the voting population. The grants supported projects such as Spanish translation services, GOTV kits, printed materials on photo ID, voter registration drives, and candidate forums.
- Met with new Texas Secretary of State and Director of Elections to discuss voter issues, specifically the expansion of the use of Election Identification Certificate Mobile Stations; drafted a letter to this effect that was signed by several of our coalition organizations and presented to the Secretary.
- Provided access to VOTE411 to all local Leagues for the March 2016 Primary Election and the upcoming November 2016 General Election to further the League's goal of integrating VOTE411 throughout the state as a tool for Voters Service.

DEVELOPMENT & MARKETING COMMITTEE (D&M)

Kate Lattimore Norris (Marketing Chair), Susan Morrison (Development Chair), Miriam Foshay

The Development and Marketing Committee raises funds for LWV-TX and LWV-TEF and publicizes the mission and work of both organizations. D&M collaborates with the LWV-TX board, committees, and staff to identify potential sources of funding and opportunities to increase the visibility of LWV-TX and LWV-TEF.

DEVELOPMENT & FUNDRAISING

Fundraising has been occurring on many levels since 2014. Fundraising includes direct mail, major donor development, events, planned giving, and corporate and foundation grants. We have 100% financial participation from our LWV-TX board. LWVUS taught us at the 2014 national convention in Dallas that multiple streams of funding allow us to “Think BIG and Do BIG.” Here is a summary of our activities:

1. **Condo Sold.** It took many hours with the help of a real estate attorney to sell the suite next door to our current League offices. This involved many donated hours of discussions with the commercial realtor and our attorney, advertising the property, emails regarding negotiations, secondary review of closing documents and assistance in coordinating necessary board votes and signatures. The sale was finally completed in 2014 and the sale proceeds of \$92,000 was recognized in the previous biennium.
2. **Estate Sale.** Although a League member’s will designated the amounts of \$5,000 to a local League and \$10,000 to LWV-TEF, we were told there was no cash in the estate and we were given an art collection instead. After unsuccessfully trying to locate a gallery or dealer to handle the sale of these items for us at a commission of less than 50%, an experienced Ebay dealer in Austin was located and willing to handle the Ebay sales on an hourly basis, including shipping to buyers. With cooperation from the local League, a final group sale of paintings was arranged with a dealer. \$4,400 was the net to LWV-TEF, and \$2,200 was sent to the local League after all expenses were paid.
3. **Mink Coat Sold.** A beautiful mink coat was donated in November 2014. We found a direct buyer willing to pay close to the appraised value for the coat, so we made \$1,200 by direct sale.
4. **MDW Farabee Dinner, Monday, Feb. 23, 2015 at UT Alumni Center.** Hosted by Steve & David Farabee, sons of the late Ray Farabee. The dinner was very successful with a net of \$20,000 raised.
5. **Mail Appeals** to members, donors and supporters allows for Growth, Involvement, Visibility, Efficiency and Stability. Mail and email appeals occurred four times so far during the biennium for a total of \$43,000 collected.
6. **Large Donor and Foundation** results from building relationships. A total of \$20,000 was received through Foundation and corporate grants from The Texas Bar Foundation, LWVUS, and others.
7. **Bequests** to LWV-TEF amounted to more than \$70,000 during the biennium. \$65,000 of that amount was added to our reserves to improve the League’s financial stability.

If the League is not visible, we will not be perceived as doing important work. People give money to LWV at all levels because they believe we accomplish important work. Therefore, visibility goes hand in hand with fundraising. The more visible we are, the easier it becomes to raise money at every level. The committee has started a calendar for fundraising with a month-to-month schedule of tasks to keep track of the 12-month timetable.

DEVELOPMENT & MARKETING COMMITTEE (D&M) (Continued)

VISIBILITY

The D&M Committee works with board members, other committees, issues chairs, local Leagues, LWVUS, and staff to increase visibility, understanding, and appreciation for the mission and work of LWV-TX and LWV-TEF.

News Releases. LWV-TX sends general news releases highlighting LWV-TX actions, important dates, and upcoming events to print and broadcast media throughout the state, including college newspapers. News releases on voter registration deadlines, availability of *Voters Guides*, early voting, and Election Day are distributed for each statewide election. Op-eds and letters to the editor authored by LWV-TX President Elaine Wiant or co-authored with local League presidents are sent on LWV priority issues. From the beginning of FY 2014 -2015 until February 12, 2016, over 25 news releases, op-eds, and letters to the editor have been sent out.

LWV-TX is especially proud of the relationship that has continued to build with top media personalities across the State. We continue to be quoted as “experts” on our priority issues, democracy, and voting. President Elaine Wiant has even completed several television interviews for Time Warner Cable News. For key media placements and video clips, see the website.

Website and Social Media. The D&M Committee believes that the website and social media are crucial to LWV-TX visibility and for access to LWV-TX information. The website was converted to the League Easy Web platform and launched in 2015. Check out www.lwvtexas.org from your laptop or smartphone for streamlined LWV-TX materials.

LWV-TX knows that no matter the industry, social media is here to stay. Individuals, especially millennials, rely on social media for news, information, communication, and many other daily needs. A Pew Research Center report found that 61% of Millennials (young Americans around 18 -33 years of age) get their news from Facebook during a given week, and 39% of Baby Boomers (between 50 and 70 years old) get news on Facebook. Furthermore, Gen Xers, those individuals between 33 and 50, bridge the gap between Millennials and Baby Boomers. About half (51%) of Gen Xers get news on Facebook and the other half (46%) do so on local television.

LWV-TX has made it a top priority to reach out on Facebook, Twitter, and other social media platforms for not only social interaction but also information finding.

Under the direction of President Elaine Wiant and Director Grace Chimene, LWV-TX spent 2015 tweeting and pushing out posts on Facebook, Tumblr, and Pinterest. In addition to the traditional print and online versions, the 2015 Constitutional Amendments Voters Guide information was available through YouTube videos and a smartphone application. Thus, in a state that usually comes in dead last in terms of qualified voter turnout, the 2015 Constitutional Amendments election drew unprecedented voter attention. There were 23,000 Facebook reaches; 12,000 Twitter impressions; and 11,000 YouTube views.

As of February 21, 2016, LWV-TX reached 1,000 followers on Facebook, 456 followers on Twitter, and 12 followers on Pinterest. We will look to grow these connections in the coming years.

DEVELOPMENT & MARKETING COMMITTEE (D&M) (Continued)

LWV-TX is committed to communicating with Texas citizens on their terms, and social media is among the most effective tools to do so in terms of both cost and reach. Using graphics, videos, and other popular resources, we will continue to expand our influence and make a difference in Texas.

Service Learning Projects and Internships. To recruit assistance and also build campus visibility and relationships, several Texas universities have been contacted about LWV-TX projects suitable for service learning projects, independent studies, or internships. Over the past two years, two interns have worked with LWV-TX, one from St. Edward's University and one from The University of Texas at Austin.

FISCAL MANAGEMENT & ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE (FM&A)

Miriam Foshay (Chair), Chris Davis Garcia, Elaine Wiant, Aileen McMurrer (Executive Administrator)

The Fiscal Management & Administration (FM&A) Committee is responsible for budget oversight; office staffing, administration and management; and publications and projects related to League finances. The Committee manages the State Office's support to LWV-TX and LWV-TEF. During this biennium, FM&A oversight responsibilities were divided among the committee members. Garcia ensured that tasks assigned to board members during board meetings were accomplished and provided oversight of local League projects. Foshay provided oversight of the financial and administrative requirements. Wiant oversaw the staff, fundraising, and communication activities.

LWV-TX Staff. At the start of the biennium, we had one half-time staff person, Susan Sargent. Watching her race from task to task made it quite clear that we needed at least one full-time person, and Susan declined the opportunity. We were fortunate to hire Aileen McMurrer, who is experienced in nonprofit management, full of ideas and a delight to work with. With Aileen's help, we have improved our donor database, organized the office, and hired an assistant, Mimi Erlick, to handle deposits and data entry for our donor database. Aileen is our main point of contact with local Leagues, officers, and the community. She assembles our publications, sends out Action Alerts, handles arrangements for board meetings, and assists board members as required. In addition, she has joined the Association of Fundraising Professionals and reports ideas and suggestions that she has gained from their meetings. She hires and works with our contractors for IT, web development, translation of our publications and document layout and design. Unlike the previous biennium, grant proposals are now written in-house.

Office Property. In the previous biennium, LWV-TEF sold one of the two condominiums that it owns near the State Capitol. We had been unable to rent the space, and the condo fees and real estate tax added thousands to our annual expenses. Because the HVAC control was in the unit that we sold, we had to modify our HVAC system in 2014, with the result that temperature control in our office has been much improved. After nine months of either no staff or one half-time person, the office needed serious cleaning and organization. Wiant and Foshay spent several weekends tidying up, cleaning and doing general maintenance before McMurrer took over that task. Travis County increased our assessment in both of the past two years, but our protests have successfully kept our property taxes from increasing.

Accounting. LWV-TX and LWV-TEF each continue to hire the Austin CPA firm of Allman and Associates to write annual 990 tax returns and to review the books once every biennium. The tax returns are submitted with our grant proposals and are open to public inspection. The FY15 returns will be posted at www.lwvtexas.org.

Insurance and Investments. FM&A is responsible for review and renewal of insurance policies, which include Business Liability, Directors and Officers Liability, and Workmen's Compensation. In addition, we insure the office property through our condominium association fees. FM&A also has oversight of our investments and must adhere to the League's conservative investment policy. Part of our policy is to invest the money from bequests, and that money has increased LWV-TEF assets by \$65,000 in the past biennium.

Local League Finances. Twenty Local Leagues keep their Education Funds in trust with LWV-TEF, and FM&A is responsible for oversight of those funds and for responding to payout requests. Foshay sends quarterly transaction reports to local Leagues and reminders to treasurers to file annual reports with the IRS. Local Leagues that are falling behind in those reports are contacted individually. While local League project proposals must be submitted to Secretary Chris Davis Garcia for Board approval, there are many expenditures that can be made from Education Funds without prior

approval, including payment of up to half of a League's per-member-payment, purchase of Voters Guides and other State League publications, and Vote411 copayments. In addition, LWV-TX is responsible to ensure that the finances of local Leagues do not violate the terms of the group 501(c)(4) exemption.

Vote411. The board decided to pay the entire fee for Vote411 for the 2016 election year in order to encourage local Leagues to use it. Whether this practice will be continued depends upon the extent to which local Leagues make use of this tool.

Technology. At the start of the biennium, the State Office had a number of problems with its computer systems and internet access. Volunteer Rob Foshay spent several weekends upgrading the technology before FM&A hired an IT consultant from QuickStar IT to finish the job. New equipment purchases include a desktop computer, external hard drive/backup system, a new color printer to replace our ancient one and a new paper shredder. In addition, we finally got rid of the expensive Ricoh printer, which was replaced by a Konika Minolta donated by Susan Morrison. We changed email providers and website hosting, thereby solving problems with inadequate email storage space and frequent website outage. We anticipate that another new computer and a printer will be required in the next two years.

FM&A is looking forward to the rollout of the National League's offer of the program Salsa to state and local Leagues. Salsa is a powerful turnkey program that will track donations, send automatic thank yous to donors, allow targeted fundraising and action alerts, track click-throughs on those alerts and donations, process credit card transactions, and link donation pages to action pages. As of this writing, LWV-TX does not know what modules will be offered nor how much the program will cost.

SERVICES TO LOCAL LEAGUES COMMITTEE (SLL)

Pat Cheong (Chair), Chris Davis Garcia, Peggy Hill

The Services to Local Leagues Committee (SLL) is responsible for stimulating membership and developing leadership by offering training and support to Texas' local Leagues and to individuals striving to form new Leagues in the state. SLL partners with LWVUS to match local Leagues with coaches through the Membership and Leadership Development initiative (MLD); provides resources for membership development; coordinates leadership training; facilitates local board orientation and management consultation, upon request; recognizes outstanding local Leagues and members; assigns advisors for those starting new Leagues; reaches out to Members at Large; and updates important publications/resources for local Leagues.

Capturing the momentum generated by the 2014 Convention, the Services to Local Leagues Committee hosted a January 2015 conference call with local League presidents to share news about Lobby Days, program planning, regional training and the Membership & Leadership Development initiative. Conference calls continue to have potential for keeping League presidents in touch in a state as big as Texas.

In 2014-15, innovative Texas Leagues continued to find new ways to increase their membership and visibility in the community. LWV-Kerrville changed its name to LWV-Hill Country and LWV-San Marcos changed its name to LWV-Hays County. A name reflecting a wider geographic area signals greater inclusiveness and is more welcoming to prospective members. School district residents in Cypress-Fairbanks ISD have formed the core of a new unit of LWV-Houston Area, led by an experienced Leaguer and state board member who resides in the community.

Coaching is a proven practice that not only works in business but works to keep Leagues on track and growing. Continuing our partnership with LWVUS and other state Leagues in the Membership and Leadership Development Initiative (MLD), LWV-Texas added three new coaches for a team of 12 who engaged with their 16 assigned local Leagues in monthly conference calls using "guidances" from LWVUS designed to expand thinking about ways to increase membership and develop leaders. Coaches also share with our national coaches.

Approximately 110 local Leaguers and state board members brought energy, enthusiasm, and great ideas to regional training in June and July of 2015. Coordinated by SLL and hosted by gracious local Leagues every two years, regional training brought speakers and leaders together in three venues (San Antonio, Irving, and Lubbock). Attendees shared best practices, heard about ways to promote the state study on Payday Lending and Auto Title Loans in Texas, heard about LWVUS Council discussions, and discussed how to increase voter turnout in Texas. Continuing to capture League leaders' talents, new ideas, and optimism for the future will be important for sustainability.

January 2016 membership numbers are still preliminary at this writing, but are stable. In 2015, overall Texas membership (1828) remained within 2% of its previous year's membership numbers (1862). Ten of Texas' 25 Leagues experienced membership growth or maintained its membership from the previous year. Being able to adapt to changing times and creating new ways to operate and continue to attract new members is a sign of a resilient League. LWV guidelines for "streamlining the League" have helped several Leagues remain relevant to the needs of members. Approaching 2015-16, LWV-San Antonio Area called upon the state board to help develop a plan to operate with co-leaders and LWV-Lubbock County launched the year with a trio of co-presidents. Meanwhile, long-standing Leagues and fledgling Leagues alike share the struggle of an aging membership, lack of leadership, or lack of community interest in a nonpartisan organization. In 2015, the long-standing LWV-Brazos ceased operations and the newer Caldwell County MAL Unit leadership found itself unable to expand its core group and notified state board of its plan to disband. Partnering all Texas Leagues with a coach is the goal of the Membership and Leadership Development initiative.

STRATEGIC PLANNING COMMITTEE

(formerly known as the Long Range Planning Committee)

Susan Morrison (Chair), Elaine Wiant, Miriam Foshay with Consultant David Overton

The Strategic Planning Committee's focus was to build upon past Long Range Planning to bring LWV-TX into the future in a dynamic way. Consultant and League Member David Overton volunteered to help the LWV-TX Board look at where we have been and where we want to go in order to build a new strategy for League growth. We thank David Overton for his generous donation of time and talent to accomplish this task.

The process started in August of 2015 with questionnaires to LWV-TX board members. The September board meeting included training on how strategic planning can help every area of board development. An on-line survey was developed for board members to set priorities, identify strengths, and identify weaknesses. The survey results were captured and put into a draft plan for discussion at the January 2016 Board Meeting. Revisions were made and the plan was approved for presentation at the 2016 Convention.

A summary plan is highlighted on Page 36. The complete Strategic Plan will be posted at www.lwvtexas.org.

In order to ensure accountability and celebrate progress towards our goals, each state board meeting will include a review of the specific tasks to be accomplished for that time frame and a progress report under our timeline. Certain goals are to be part of appropriate committee work and reviewed as part of Board committees' reports.

**League of Women Voters of Texas
Strategic Plan 2016 – 2020**

Vision Statement

The vision of LWV-Texas is based on the goal of the League of Women Voters:
“Empowered citizens to shape better communities”

Mission Statement

Our mission statement describes what we do: ***“The League of Women Voters, a nonpartisan political organization, encourages informed and active participation in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy.”***

Strategies

1. **Advocacy** - Mobilize local communities and develop leadership
2. **Voter Engagement** - Increase voter education, turnout, and participation
3. **Sustainability** - Strengthen LWV-Texas by invigorating local Leagues and enhancing fundraising

Goals

1. **Advocacy** - Achieve identifiable accomplishments in reducing the barriers to voting
2. **Voter Engagement** - Increase voter turnout in Texas by 5 percentage points from 2012 to 2020 (this would increase the turnout of the voting age population from 43.7% to 48.7%)
3. **Sustainability** -
 - 3a. Achieve participation by all local Leagues in Membership and Leadership Development, board training and new member orientation
 - 3b. Increase statewide membership by 5% each year for the next five years, from 1800 to 2300, an increase of 500 members
 - 3c. Increase funds generated by LWV-Texas through membership, grants, and other sources by 50% from 2015 to 2020

OFFICIAL DELEGATE COUNT

League ID	League Name	# Members	Delegates Allowed	Delegates Attending
TX123	LWV-Amarillo	48	5	
TX100	LWV-Austin Area	201	20	
TX114	LWV-Bay Area	43	4	
TX152	LWV-Collin County	67	7	
TX162	LWV-Comal Area	42	4	
TX103	LWV-Corpus Christi	94	9	
TX104	LWV-Dallas	325	33	
TX146	LWV-Denton	58	6	
TX111	LWV-EI Paso	34	3	
TX148	LWV-Hays County	61	6	
TX160	LWV-Hill Country	26	3	
TX107	LWV-Houston Area	278	28	
TX144	LWV-Irving	45	5	
TX127	LWV-Lubbock County	54	5	
TX156	LWV-Marshall/Harrison County	19	2	
TX109	LWV-Midland	64	6	
TX147	LWV-Richardson	26	3	
TX102	LWV-San Antonio Area	89	9	
TX135	LWV-Sherman/Grayson County	9	1	
TX113	LWV-Tarrant County	108	11	
TX124	LWV-Tyler/Smith County	51	5	
TX141	LWV-Victoria	14	1	
TX119	LWV-Waco Area	11	1	
TX121	LWV-Wichita Falls	36	4	
TX164	Rio Grande Valley MAL	13	1	
	Total	1816	181	

Bylaws

League of Women Voters of Texas

Adopted June 19, 1947

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

ARTICLE I. NAME

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

ARTICLE II. PURPOSES AND POLICY

Section 1. Purposes.

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

Section 2. Political Policy.

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

ARTICLE III. MEMBERSHIP

Section 1. Eligibility.

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

Section 2. Types of Membership.

a. Voting Members. Citizens at least 18 years of age who join the LWV-TX shall be voting members of the local and state Leagues of their place of joining 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 the League for 50 years or more shall be life members excused from the payment of dues.

b. Associate Members. All others who join the League shall be associate members.

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

Section 1. Local Leagues.

a. Local Leagues are those Leagues within the state of Texas that have been so recognized by the LWVUS.

b. The board of directors, hereinafter also referred to as the state board, shall recommend to the board of the LWVUS, hereinafter referred to as the national board, that it recognize as a local League any group of members of the League

a. in any community within the state provided the group fulfills recognition requirements.

c. In the event of recurrent failure of a local League to fulfill the national and/or state requirements, the board of the LWV-TX shall recommend to the national board that it withdraw recognition from such local League. In the event of the dissolution of the local League, all monies and securities that may at the time be owned or under the control of the local League shall be paid to the LWV-TX after the local League board has paid or made provision for the payment of all liabilities of the local League. All other property of whatsoever nature, whether real, personal, or mixed, which may at the time be owned or under the control of the local League, shall be disposed of to such person, organization, or corporation for such public, charitable, or educational use and purposes as the state board in its absolute discretion may designate.

Section 2. Member-at-Large Units.

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

ARTICLE V. OFFICERS

Section 1. Election, Qualifications, and Term.

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

Section 2. The President.

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

Section 3. The Vice Presidents.

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

Section 4. The Secretary.

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

Section 5. The Treasurer.

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

ARTICLE VI. BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Section 1. Selection, Qualifications, and Term.

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

Section 2. Powers.

The state board shall manage and supervise the business, affairs, and activities of the LWV-TX subject to the instruction of the convention. The board shall plan and direct the work necessary to carry out the program on state governmental matters as adopted by the convention. It shall accept responsibility for the organization and development of local Leagues and member-at-large units, the promotion of League program, financial development, and such other matters as the national board may from time to time

delegate to it. It shall have the power to create such special committees as it deems necessary and shall perform such other duties as are specified in these bylaws.

Section 3. Meetings.

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

Section 4. Absences.

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

Section 5. Quorum.

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

Section 6. Indemnification and Limitation of Liability.

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

Section 7. Removal From Office.

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

ARTICLE VII. CONVENTION

Section 1. Place, Date, and Call.

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

Section 2. Composition.

The convention shall consist of

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

Section 3. Delegates' Qualifications and Voting.

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

Section 4. Powers.

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

Section 5. Quorum.

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

ARTICLE VIII. STATEWIDE CONFERENCE**Section 1. Place, Date, and Call.**

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

Section 2. Purpose:

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

Section 3. Conduct of Business:

a. In event of conduct of business, eligible voters will be as follows:

(1) the president of each local League or an alternate, in the event the president is unable to attend; and one other delegate chosen by the local League board. Each member-at-large unit with at least ten members shall be entitled to one voting delegate; and

(2) the members of the state board.

b. Quorum. A majority of voting delegates registered at statewide conference shall constitute a quorum provided that no fewer than a majority of local Leagues are represented.

Section 4. Powers.

In the event of conduct of business, the statewide conference may give guidance to the state board on program and methods of work.

a. In the event of an emergency, the statewide conference may change the program upon recommendation of the state board or a local League, using the following procedure:

(1) Any local League proposing a change shall submit it to the state board at least 60 days before a proposed statewide conference; the state board shall decide whether or not to recommend the change.

(2) At least 30 days before the statewide conference, the state board shall send to the presidents of local Leagues all proposed changes.

(3) A majority vote of the delegates present and voting shall be required for consideration of any change proposed by a local League and not recommended by the state board.

(4) A two thirds vote of the delegates present and voting shall be required to adopt any change.

b. The statewide conference may transact other business that may properly come before it.

ARTICLE IX. NOMINATIONS AND ELECTIONS**Section 1. Nominating Committee.**

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

Section 2. Suggestions for Nominations.

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

Section 3. Report of the Nominating Committee.

The report of the nominating committee, containing its nominations for officers and directors and the chair and two members of the next nominating committee, shall be sent to the presidents of local Leagues and to the chairs of member-at-large units at least 30 days before the convention. The report of the nominating committee shall be presented to the convention on the first day of the convention.

Nominations may be made from the floor immediately thereafter provided the consent of the nominee has been obtained.

Section 4. Election.

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

ARTICLE X. PRINCIPLES AND PROGRAM**Section 1. Principles.**

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

Section 2. Program.

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

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

Section 3. Program Action.

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

ARTICLE XI. NATIONAL CONVENTION AND COUNCIL**Section 1. National Convention.**

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

Section 2. National Council.

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

ARTICLE XII. FINANCIAL ADMINISTRATION**Section 1. Fiscal Year.**

The fiscal year of the LWV-TX shall be from June 1 to May 31 of each year.

Section 2. Financial Support.

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

Section 3. Budget Committee.

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

Section 4. The Budget.

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

Section 5. Distribution of Funds on Dissolution.

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

ARTICLE XIII. PARLIAMENTARY AUTHORITY

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

ARTICLE XIV. AMENDMENTS

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

League of Women Voters of Texas - RESOLUTION FORM
1212 Guadalupe St. #107, Austin, TX 78701
Phone: 512-472-1100; E-mail: lwvtexas@lwvtexas.org

Only delegates may submit resolutions. Prior to Convention, e-mail Resolution Form(s) to the state office by 4:00 p.m. Tuesday, March 8, 2016. At the convention hotel, submit the Resolution Form(s) to the LWV-TX Registration Desk before 12 noon Saturday, March 12, 2016. See *Rules of Convention: Procedure for Resolutions* (Page 12) for the requirements and procedures.

Name _____ Day/Cell Phone _____

League _____

Resolution: _____

League of Women Voters of Texas - RESOLUTION FORM
1212 Guadalupe St. #107, Austin, TX 78701
Phone: 512-472-1100; E-mail: lwvtexas@lwvtexas.org

Only delegates may submit resolutions. Prior to Convention, e-mail Resolution Form(s) to the state office by 4:00 p.m. Tuesday, March 8, 2016. At the convention hotel, submit the Resolution Form(s) to the LWV-TX Registration Desk before 12 noon Saturday, March 12, 2016. See *Rules of Convention: Procedure for Resolutions* (Page 12) for the requirements and procedures.

Name _____ Day/Cell Phone _____

League _____

Resolution: _____

**LWV-TEXAS CONVENTION 2016
EVALUATION**

We welcome your feedback about Convention 2016. Your input will help us plan future conventions.

Please rate your overall experience and each element of the convention by putting a checkmark in the box under the appropriate numerical rating. Attach a second sheet to share additional comments.

OVERALL CONVENTION EXPERIENCE	Excellent 5	Good 4	Not Sure 3	Fair 2	Poor 1
Overall Effectiveness					

HOTEL & CONVENTION CHECK-IN	Excellent 5	Good 4	Not Sure 3	Fair 2	Poor 1
Hotel Facilities					
Convention Check-in					

PLENARY SESSIONS	Excellent 5	Good 4	Not Sure 3	Fair 2	Poor 1	Didn't Attend 0
Plenary Sessions (Saturday/Sunday)						

SPECIAL EVENTS	Excellent 5	Good 4	Not Sure 3	Fair 2	Poor 1	Didn't Attend 0
LWV-Houston Dinner Cruise, Port of Houston						
Saturday Luncheon						
Saturday Banquet						
Silent Auction						

What did you find MOST beneficial about Convention for you and your League?

What suggestions do you have for future Conventions?

NAME (Optional) _____ **League** _____

Phone _____ **E-mail Address** _____

THANK YOU FOR ATTENDING THE LWV-TEXAS 2016 CONVENTION!

2016 WORKSHOP EVALUATION

Workshop Name/Topic: _____

Please rate this workshop overall:

	5 (HIGH)	4	3	2	1 (LOW)
Effectiveness of the workshop					
Usefulness to you or your League					

What were the best things about this workshop?

What would you have liked to hear more about?

What topics would you suggest for future workshops/training?

What else would you like to tell us?

Thank you!

Your name (optional): _____ LWV - _____

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND REMINDERS

An Invitation for All Leagues To Join MLD

On Friday morning, March 11, the Membership and Leadership Development (MLD) coaches and the Leagues they coach will meet to re-energize and learn new methods of League engagement and development. All local League leadership is welcome to attend this morning session whether or not your League has been part of the previous years of MLD support.

Membership and Leadership Development is a current focus for the League of Women Voters as the sustainability of the organization continues to grow and change with the times.

For nearly 100 years, the mission of the League has been to educate voters, to encourage voter participation and to perpetuate a democratic republic of informed voters. Even though the means to transmit information is constantly changing, the mission remains.

Through continual contact with Leagues across Texas, the Membership and Leadership Development organization supports LWV leadership, renews energy within the Leagues, and guides future leadership to engage the ever changing membership. Our goal to have all Leagues in Texas gain support from MLD coaches and leadership will strengthen the League of Women Voters in Texas.

For more information, contact Peggy Hill, MLD statewide coordinator: amashoo@att.net

MLD - Current coach/local League matches

LWV Ruth Shur Fellows national coaches assigned to Texas	Lineah Davey, Anita Loch, and Katie Thalken
LWV-TX state MLD coordinator	Peggy Hill
LWV-TX state board liaison (SLL chair)	Pat Cheong
LWV-TX MAL Advisor (to RGV MAL)	Chris Garcia
State coaches:	Assigned local Leagues:
Gloria Sasser	Collin County
Erma Spencer	El Paso
Carol Pino	San Antonio
Ruthann Geer	Corpus Christi, San Marcos
Janet Imhoff	Irving, Sherman
Edie Jones	Houston Area, Lubbock
<i>Linda Krefting (resigned Dec 2015)</i>	Amarillo, Kerrville
Julie Lowenberg	Comal Area, Tyler/Smith County
Susan Majors	Tarrant County, Wichita Falls
Pat Cheong	Dallas

Thanks for Supporting the Silent Auction!

Dozens of League members and LWV Boards from across the state, as well as many businesses, organizations, and members of the Texas Legislature, supported the 2016 Silent Auction. Thank you for your donations and for bidding on the great auction items! Proceeds from the Auction will benefit voters service activities.

You Can Share Your Fun and Experiences!

Here are several ways you can share your Convention fun and experiences:

1. Share Convention fun and photos on Facebook and Twitter! Use Hashtag #lwvtx2016.
2. Choose the five best photos from the ones you took during Convention and email them to the State Office as a .jpg or .gif. Be sure to include names and captions.
3. Share Convention experiences and materials with your local League members.
4. Write an article for your local *VOTER*, provide a written report to the board, or speak at a local League meeting or special event.

Videotaping Is Planned During Convention

One of the ways LWV-TX is preparing to celebrate the League's 100th anniversary is to have informal conversations with LWV-TX past presidents and other League members and videotape their responses. Our Austin interns, Mimi Erlick and Chanelle Gibson, are handling this assignment. Look for information in your Convention folder announcing specific times and locations for the videotaping. Your participation will be sincerely appreciated.

Looking Ahead to the 100th Anniversary

Formed in 1920, the League anticipates a special 100th year celebration in 2020. Start thinking NOW about how your League can mark this milestone. Then watch for opportunities to share your plans with the state League and local Leagues.

LEAGUE * LINGO

Otherwise known as “do you understand what I’m saying?” As in: (hypothetically), “When we go to **convention**, there’ll be a new **concurrence** on gun control and a **program action alert** on our health care **position** that **National** expects us and the **MALs** to take **action** on immediately. Plus, we’ll be asked to raise the **PMP** and increase our **voters service**.”

If you familiarize yourself with these terms used by the League, you WILL be able to say “yes!” when someone says, “Do you understand what I’m saying?”

ACTION: Expression of League positions to governmental officials by the president or her/his authorized representative.

ACTION ALERT: Request from state or national League to take action at a specific time in support of a League position.

ANNUAL MEETING: Local year-end business meeting to elect officers and directors, vote on bylaws changes, and adopt a budget and program of work for the next year.

CONCURRENCE: Agreement of League members with position reached by a small group or another League.

CONSENSUS: Collective opinion of League members on a particular subject. Also, process used to arrive at positions on issues.

CONVENTION: State and national League meetings held biennially in even-numbered years at which delegates adopt program, elect officers, adopt a budget for the coming biennium, and act on proposed bylaws changes.

COUNCIL: National meeting held in odd-numbered years between conventions in which a limited delegate body participates. (Only state Leagues send delegates to Council.)

EDUCATION FUND: The tax-deductible arm of the LWV in which education funds may be established at all three levels.

F&I: Acronym for *Facts and Issues*, publications containing information on program consensus studies.

LIFE MEMBER: A person who has been a League member for 50 years or more and is excused from dues payment.

MAL: Acronym for Member At Large, a member residing outside local League areas. A MAL member may belong to an organized MAL unit, a state-recognized group of Members At Large in an area with no local League.

MLD: Acronym for Membership and Leadership Development, a coaching initiative used by national, state, and local Leagues that pairs coaches with local League presidents.

NATIONAL: Short for League of Women Voters of the United States.

NONPARTISANSHIP: League policy of never supporting or opposing any candidate or political party.

PMP: Acronym for per member payment, which is the amount of dues paid to the state and national on behalf of each member. The amount of PMP is determined by delegates to state and national Conventions and is assessed based on the membership count as of January each year.

PORTFOLIO: The particular job assigned to a board member or off-board chairperson (i.e. membership, finance, secretary).

POSITION: League’s point of view, arrived at through member study and consensus (or concurrence.)

PROGRAM: Selected governmental issues chosen by the membership at local, state and national levels for study and action.

STUDY: The process (one-two years normally) of investigation and educating ourselves on an issue prior to consensus taking and arrival at a formal position.

UNIT: Division of the members of a local League into groups of a size that will provide maximum participation by members in discussion of League program and activities. Units can be time-oriented or geographically oriented or both.

VOTER: The name of the newsletter for members and other subscribers.

VOTERS GUIDE: Nonpartisan publication giving candidates’ qualifications and positions on selected issues or pro/con information on propositions or amendments.

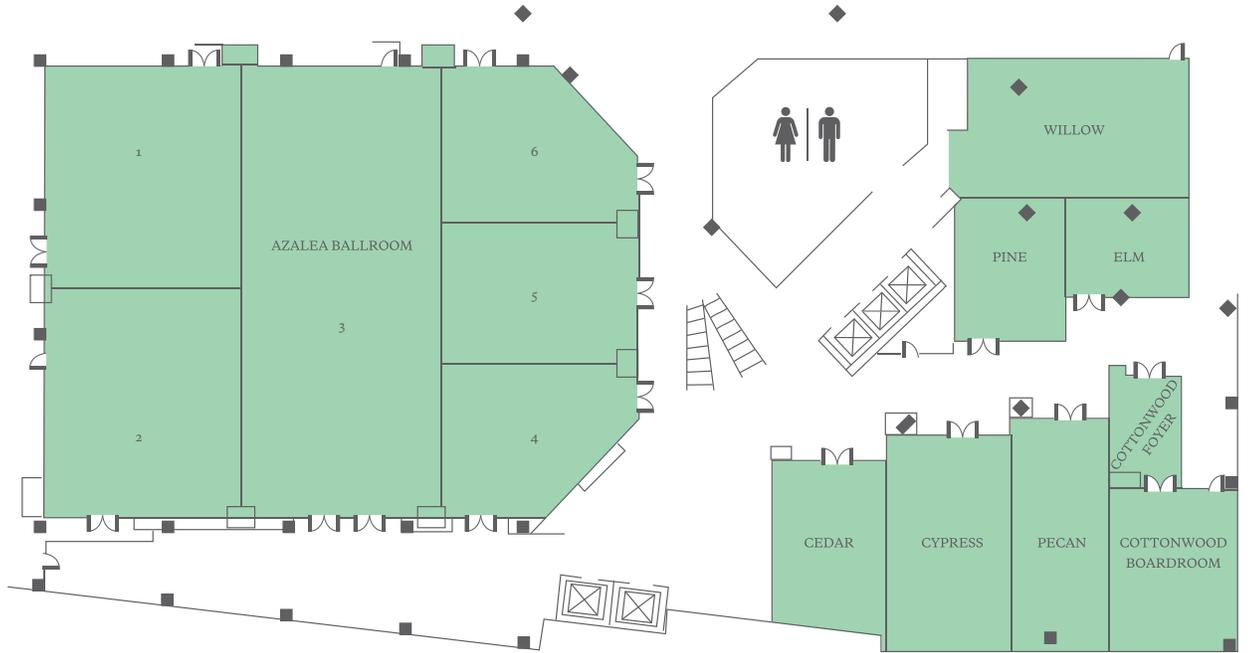
VOTERS SERVICE: Year-round activities to help individuals be politically effective and to encourage their participation in the political process. Registering voters and distribution of Voters Guides are two basic voter services activities.

VOTING MEMBERS: All League members who are U.S. citizens and at least 18 years old.

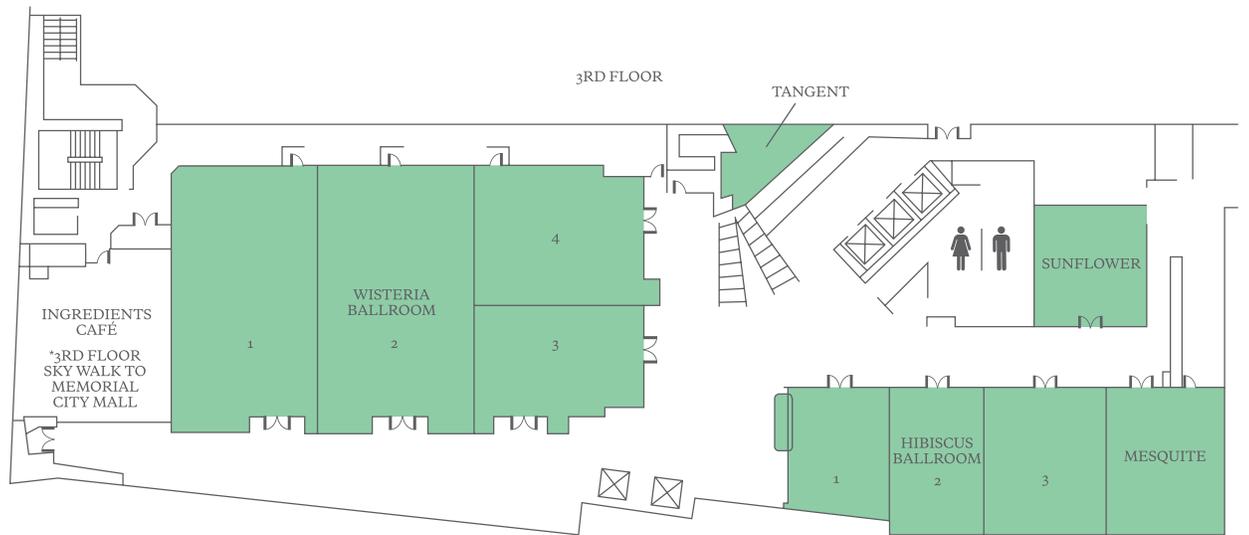


FLOOR PLANS

FOURTH FLOOR



THIRD FLOOR



SECOND FLOOR

