

ACTION NEWS!

February 5, 2018



President's Message - Elaine Wiant

Hello LWV-TX Advocate,

February is all about the Primary!

Voter turnout in Texas is bad and it is exceptionally bad in primary elections. The League's task is to inform and motivate people to vote. We must **educate voters** about the candidates and the process through Voters Guides and **VOTE411** and get out the vote (**GOTV**).

Many people think that only "members" of the parties can or should vote in primary elections. You and I know this is just not true! All eligible voters should participate in choosing the candidates who will be on the November ballot. Our message for this election: "Voters who don't strongly identify with any political party can and should carefully consider the choices and participate in one of the primaries or conventions."

Let's make sure that we use every tool in our toolbox to **Get Out The Vote!** We have excellent resources on our **GOTV webpage**. Please use them.

Thank you for your commitment to Empowering Voters and Defending Democracy in Texas!

Support League GOTV Action in 2018!

Texas Primary Election - Elizabeth Erkel & Grace Chimene,
LWVTX Vice Presidents

Important Texas Primary Election Dates:

February 5 - Last Day to Register to Vote

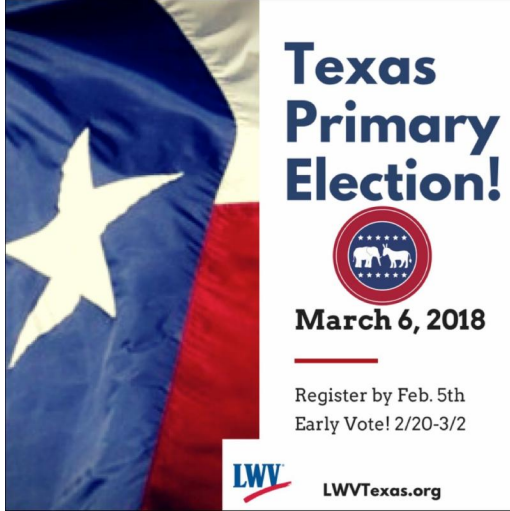
February 20 - March 2- Early Voting

February 23 - Last Day to Apply to Vote by Mail (Received, not Postmarked)

March 6 - Election Day & Last Day to Receive Ballot by Mail

March 22 - Primary Run Off Election Day

GOTV 2018 Primary Election Grants Update:



awarded 10 grants in the amount of \$500 to local Leagues for projects to engage new and infrequent voters during the 2 months prior to the March 6 primary elections. Leagues are using GOTV voter education materials and voter engagement strategies posted on the [League GOTV website](#).

Congratulations to local Leagues: **Austin Area, Collin County, CyFair, Dallas, Denton, Hays County, Hill Country, Houston Area, Tyler/Smith County, and Waco Area.**

LWVTX Partners to Empower Voters:



The League is a member of [Texas Educator Votes](#) a group of nonpartisan education organizations whose goal is to create a culture of voting in Texas Public schools. Recently there have been efforts by politicians to suppress voting activities by educators. We are fighting back by providing accurate and powerful messaging to educators about developing a culture of voting in public schools.

Check out the Texas Elementary Principals and Supervisors Association resources: [Legislative: Advocacy Video Series](#). Including [The Dos and Don'ts of a Public School Employee Advocating for Students](#), which is especially appropriate for the Texas Primary GOTV. Texas Association of School Boards promotes voting with [Stand Up for Texas Public Schools](#) with social media graphics and videos.



[Election Protection](#) is a voter hotline effort which helps Texas voters with any problems that might occur at the polls. The League is working with Election Protection to provide observers at polling places around Texas. Email us at LWVTexas@lwvtexas.org if you would like to help with this!

866-OUR-VOTE (866-687-8683) English

888-Ve-Y-Vota (888-839-8682) Spanish

888-API-VOTE (888-274-8683) English, Mandarin, Cantonese, Korean, Vietnamese, Bengali, Urdu, Hindi, and Tagalog.



Texas Primary Election Video Resources:



Here's 28 seconds on the basics on the Texas Primary Election on March 6, 2018. Share this video often on your your social media! (Click on the picture to see the video.)



Grace Chimene explains the Texas Primaries in under 2 min! Share widely on social media and with your friends and colleagues. (Click on the picture to see the video.)

LWVUS Voter Registration Resources



Grants Available for Naturalization Ceremony Voter Registration

LWVEF has announced grant funding for Leagues conducting voter registration at **naturalization ceremonies**. Applications are due **March 1, 2018**.

[Grant application information](#)



Registering Young Voters this Spring?

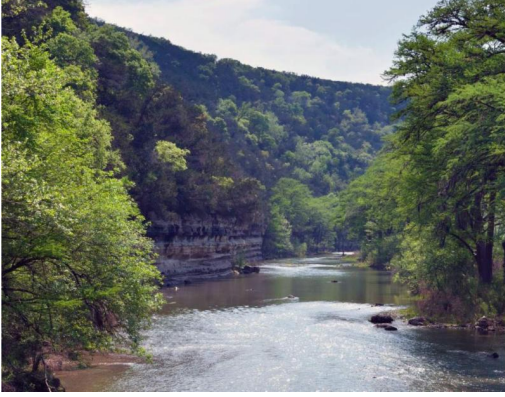
Listen to our [voter registration best practices webinar](#), & [check out our comprehensive training manual](#), chock-full of resources to help you succeed!

2018 LWVTX Convention - April 27-29, 2018

Flowing to Our Centennial in 2019

Hosted by the LWV of the Hill Country, the 2018 LWVTX Convention will be at the [Inn of Hills](#) in Kerrville, April 27-29.

Bunny Bond, the Local Arrangements Chair, and **Carol Olewin**, LWVTX Board Member and Convention Chair have been working for months. Plans are being finalized for



informative speakers, critical workshops, and smooth-running plenary sessions.

Conference registration: \$125 and late registration after March 30: \$150

Registration portal will be available on the [Convention Website](#) mid Feb. You may call Inn of the Hills at 830-895-5000 and ask for the League of Women Voters group rate. There are a variety of room arrangements

available.

Silent Auction - Connie Born, Board Member

Do you have several "retired" League pins or League jewelry or other League knick-knacks that need a new home? It is time to start collecting items to be donated for the Silent Auction, please donate them. Other items such as jewelry, political memorabilia, and gift baskets are highly sought after. A wide variety of books - fiction, nonfiction, politics, biographies - are also welcome. Contact the LWV office at lwvtexas@lwvtexas.org if you have any questions.

Making Democracy Work Dinner

The MDW Dinner speaker will be **Randall Buck Wood**, a nationally recognized expert on school finance, ethics, and election law. Buck served as Director of the Elections Division of the Office of the Secretary of State of Texas from 1969 to 1972. After leaving the SOS's Office, he became the Executive Director of Common Cause, a public interest lobby group chartered to maintain fairness in the governmental process. While serving Common Cause, Mr. Wood drafted and helped pass much of the legislation dealing with open meetings, open records and numerous election laws that govern the operation of public entities today. A founding partner of Ray & Wood, Buck serves as the General Counsel to the Equity Center, an association of over 500 below-average-wealth school districts committed to improving public school funding in Texas. Buck is well known as a raconteur and story teller. We will send out an invitation and registration will be online mid-February.



Nominations Committee Report - Ruthann Geer, Chair

The LWVTX Nominations Committee is pleased to announce the nominees for the state board of directors for the 2018-2020 biennium. The slate of nominees will be formally nominated during the 2018 Convention, April 27-29 in Kerrville. Our committee sincerely appreciates the active participation of local League leaders and members who nominated outstanding women and men for the state board. The nominations are as follows:

President: Grace Chimene, LWV Austin Area
Vice President: Connie Born, LWV Comal Area
Vice President: Janet Imhoff, LWV Collin County

Vice President: Meg Scott Johnson, LWV Hill Country
Vice President: Eileen Rosenblum, LWV Dallas Area
Secretary: Marjorie Wallé, LWV- Tyler/Smith County
Treasurer: Miriam Foshay, LWV Dallas Area

Directors: Amber Briggie, LWV Denton; Phyllis Ingram, LWV San Antonio Area;
Susan Majors, LWV Richardson; Carol Olewin, LWV Austin Area; Jeff Reichman,
LWV Houston Area; Naomi Wood, LWV Denton

Nominating Committee: Peg Hill, LWV Bay Area, Chair; Gloria Sasser, LWV Comal
Area; Janice Zitelman, LWV Hill Country

Please, direct your questions about the slate or the nominating process to a
member of the nominating committee and do plan to join us and League members
from around our state in Kerrville to complete the business, education and fun of
an LWV TX state convention.

Ruthann Geer, Chair, Nominating Committee,
LWV-Tarrant County
rjggovteach@yahoo.com, 817/295-0607

Chris Garcia, LWV-Corpus Christi - garciachris1714@gmail.com
Peg Hill, LWV-Bay Area - amashoo@att.net
Laura Blackburn, LWV-Houston Area - laura2blackburn@gmail.com
Meg Scott Johnson, LWV-Hill Country - megdscoott45@gmail.com

Important Dates to Remember!

February 14 - LWVUS' 98th Anniversary!

March 6 - Texas Primary Elections

April 27-29 - LWV TX Convention at Inn of the Hills in Kerrville

Support League Action in 2018!



LWVUS Vision Statement:

We envision a democracy where every person has the desire, the right, the
knowledge and the confidence to participate.

LWVUS Value Statement:

We believe in the power of women to create a more perfect democracy.
