

**Board of Directors
2008-2009**

Karen Nicholson, President

Mary Finch

Barabara Weinstein

Janet Imhoff

Linda Wassenich

Edie Jones

Barb Swartz

Dee Brock

Pat Cheong

Susybelle Gosslee

Jayne Krawietz

Linda Krefting

Joyce Robinson

Elaine Talarski

State Office Staff

Raul Salazar,
Executive Director

Brandon Spenrath,
Associate Director

DONORS TO LWV-TX AND LWV-TEF, JUNE 2008 - MAY 2009

\$5,000 and above

Harold Simmons
Foundation
AARP
Hatton W. Sumners
Foundation
Texas Bar Foundation
LWVUS
Patricia Vaughan
Linda Wassenich

\$1,000 and above

Association Of Texas
Professional Educators
Lois Carpenter
Mary Finch
Ruthann Geer
HEB
Linda Krefting
Julie Lowenberg
Julia Marsden
Karen Nicholson
Randalls
Diane Sheridan
Texas Classroom
Teachers Association
Texas Counseling
Association
Texas Nurses Association
Nancy Wilson

\$500 and above

Ruth Alhilali
Everett Anschutz
Cecilia Boone
Gwen Essinger
Susybelle Gosslee
Darlene Hicks
Jacob and Terese
Hershey Foundation
Edith Jones
Erik Marr
Southwest Airlines
Barbara Swartz
Texas AFT
Texas Freedom Network
Texas State Teachers
Association
Barbara Weinstein

\$250 and above

Sandy Ashby
Elaine Bridges
Dee Brock
Sue Jean Cocanougher
Sylvia Garcia
Elizabeth Glenn
Judy Hollinger
Barbara Hotinski
Janet Imhoff
Lynne Johnson
Barbara Kyse
Jensie Madden
Evelyn Miller
Carolie Mullan
Reggie Nisbett
Jane Pak
Kaylene Ray
Karen Wilkerson

\$100 and above

Bridget Adams
Anonymous
Madeleine Appel
Nadine Bartsch
David Berkshire
Evelyn Bonavita
Glenda Boverie
Kay Branum
Carol Brin
Parks Campbell
Robin Carter
Kristen Castellanos
Brenda Clayton
Nan Clayton
George Cunningham
Jeremy Davis
Margaret Di Clemente
Joan Duke
Jeanne Fagadau
Sondra Ferstl
Carol Fredericks
Margaret Furse
Margaret Galvin
Mary Alice Garza
Gloria Gray
Jo Heim Green
Karmen Hendrix Bryant
Peggy Hill
Hirschi Investments
Nancy Hoffman
Katherine Homan
Angela Hunt
Patty Jantho
John Johnson
David Justice
Roger Kallenberg
Ann Knight
Janie Kobes
Shirley Kraft
Jayne Krawietz
Blake Locklin
LWV-Marshall/Harrison
County
Robert Lyle
Barbara Materka
Phillip Mathis
Ross McCoy
Janie McGarr
Abbie Meyering
Connie Moorer
Margit Orange
Judith Parken
Linda Pavlik
Grier Raggio
Joyce Robinson
Pat Schneider
Gerhard Schriever
Jane Schwartzman
Pat Stanley
Annette Stewart
Dee Ann Story
Eldon Sund
Roberta Sund
Eleanor Sutherland
Rosemarie Swanson
Elaine Talarski
Martha Tarpley
Diane Tasian

\$100 and above

Association Of Texas
Professional Educators
Lois Carpenter
Mary Finch
Ruthann Geer
HEB
Linda Krefting
Julie Lowenberg
Julia Marsden
Karen Nicholson
Randalls
Diane Sheridan
Texas Classroom
Teachers Association
Texas Counseling
Association
Texas Nurses Association
Nancy Wilson

Sandra Tinkham
Robert Vanderwater
Melinda Wasson
J.M. Westbrook-
Youngblood
Elaine Wiant
Jan Wilbur
Sydney Wirsdorfer

Under \$100

Dorothy Adkins
Karen Adkisson
Alma Allen
Leslye Altemeier
Anonymous2
Marie Arcos
Alejandro Arguello
Michelle Augustine
Paulette Austin
Mary Ann Baker
Patricia Barickman
Maxine Barkan
Penny Barnett
Gloria Barrera
Marjie Barrett
Gregory Bartha
Jane Basey
Colleen Batchelor
Heather Becker
Donna Bening
Patricia Bennett
Julie Bleicher
Terrell Blodgett
Dorothy Box
Karen Boyle
Sylvia Brown
Ann Burbridge
Martha Burkart
Julie Byers
Linda Camin
Clare Chaney
Pat Cheong
Ruth Clearfield
Sara Cleveland
Barbara Coe
Edythe Cohen
Sandra Connell
Billie Cook
Lauren Cook
Robert & Shirley Cooper
Ingrid Coulter
Vernie Crabtree
Louise Cummins
Charles Currier
Patricia Davidson
Paul De Vere II
Alison Dieter
Mary Dodd
Barbara Downey
Mary Doyle
Peggy Duran
Theresa Eberly
R.N. Eilerman
Agnes Ellsworth
Lynda Ender
Joyce Forney
Leif Fredin
Eugenia Fritz
Dieter Gaupp

Joan Golding
Robert & Leticia Goodrich
Azalee Gray Snow
Helene Greenwald
Carle Greenwood
Dolores Greiner
Rhoda Haddox
Richard Halsey
Ann Hammond
Dorcas Hand
Tesa Harding
Doris Harris Warlick
Lisa Harris
Doris Harvey
Karen Haschke
Nina Hendrix
Nancy Hennis
Katheryn Hetherly
Clara Hockstedler
Frances Hodges
Elma Holden
Marie Holdridge
Jane Hughson
Carolyn Hunnicutt-Armijo
Kathleen Hunt
Priscilla Huston
Kathleen Irvin
Martha James
Johanna Johnson
Marie Johnson
Carolyn Johnston
Mary Johnston
Jane Joseph
James Kanz
Ellen Key
Georgia Kidwell
Joanne Kimberlin
Fran King
Martha Kissinger
Dorothy Knight
Saranne Kosberg
Clarice Kubala
Patricia Lacombe
Dolly Lambdin
Joan Lamnek
Salley Lang
Peggy LaPoint
Joan Levy
Marilyn Lindeman
Marlene Lobberecht
Joann Lovelace
Rosemary Macisaacs
Susan Major
Josie Matheny
Linnie McAdams
Scott McAninch
Jean McElroy
Frances McElvaney
France McIntyre
Myrtle McMahan
Janice Mendelson
Erika Mittag
Joy Moden
Celia Morgan
Lindsey Mormon
Susan Morrison
Jansen Moser
Charldean Newell
Pat Oakes
Helayne O'Keiff

Arlis Olson
Natalie Owen
Mavis Pape
Joan Pask
Jane Peterman
Carol Peters
Sandra Pickett
Nan Pillinger
Carol Pino
Velva Price
Michael Pybas
Gloria Quesada
Karen Rankin
Judy Ranney
Janet Reed
Helen Releford
Yolanda Marlene
Richardson
Bruce Roberts
Susan & Mark
Roomberg
Gail Rutledge
Pat Sabin
Gwendolyn Santiago
Mary Sawyer Swords
Riki Schafer
Kathleen Schattner
Martha Schecter
Louis & Carole Shlipak
Robert Singleton
Frances Smith
Phyllis Smith
Ellen Solender
Jane Spaeth
Lorraine Stehn
Judith Stewart
Ruth Stewart
Wanda Stewart
Claudia Stravato
Kay Taebel
Eugenia Tang
Mary Titus
Emerson Tucker
Edward Vela, Jr.
Esther Vexler
Darrell Vines
Mary Vogelsson
Liz Wally
Ruth Wassenich
Monica Weinman
Jane Wetzel
Virginia Whitehill
Linda Wild
Elaine Wildman
Marilyn Wilking
Holly Williams
Pamel Wilson
Rhoda Winter Russell
Rosemary Witmer

Annual Report 2008-2009

League of Women Voters of Texas

League of Women Voters of Texas Education Fund

Celebrating **90** Years of

Making
Democracy
Work



**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS
OF TEXAS**

1212 Guadalupe St., Suite 107 • Austin, TX 78701-1800
(512) 472-1100 • Fax (512) 472-4114 •
lwvtexas@lwvtexas.org

LOCAL LEAGUES

Amarillo	Denton	Lubbock	Sherman/Grayson Co.
Arlington	El Paso	Marshall/Harrison Co.	Tarrant Co.
Austin Area	Gainesville	Midland	Tyler
Bay Area	Galveston	Montgomery Co.	Victoria
Brazos Valley	Houston	Plano/Collin Co.	Waco
Comal Area	Irving	Richardson	Wichita Falls
Corpus Christi	Johnson Co.	San Antonio Area	Wimberley Valley
Dallas	Kerrville	San Marcos Area	



A Message from the President

We will be soon be celebrating our 90th birthday. Since 1920 we have worked, through education and advocacy, to make America a better place. Walter Cronkite was called the most trusted man in America, and there are many who would say that the League of Women Voters is the most trusted organization in America.

We encourage all to be active, informed participants in civic life. There should be no barriers to voter participation. While preventing voter fraud is important, and we encourage anyone who observes voter fraud to report it to the proper authorities, it cannot come at the expense of suppressing voter participation.

Voter ID took up a lot of legislative time during the latest session, and it is not likely to go away. LWVUS president Mary G. Wilson and I participated in a press conference in the Capitol to talk about voter ID and its impact on voter participation. We also worked with coalition partners to develop a nonpartisan set of guidelines to break the partisan gridlock on voter ID. We presented these guidelines at another capitol press conference, which the League led as requested by coalition members. Now our challenge is to continue to educate the public and legislators about ways to encourage voter turnout while preventing problems at the polls. Our study on voter participation, which is nearing completion, should give us more ammunition and opportunity to educate and advocate about voter participation.

We were busy during the session on many fronts. Aides from legislators and committees called to ask if the League supported specific bills or to ask for our support for their bills. Our LWV program chairs followed the issues; the Capitol Corps, our “legs in Austin,” visited legislative offices, attended committee meetings and presented testimony; our members wrote, called, emailed, and visited their legislators to urge the passage of good government bills and bills that protect the health, safety, and general welfare of all Texans. Our Advocacy Vice President, with support from our state office, worked with a League editor to produce our Legislative Newsletter. We are, indeed, a grassroots organization, and our work during legislative sessions reinforces that.

We are probably best known for our Voters Service. We continue to compile *Voters Guides*; the League of Women Voters is recognized as the source for nonpartisan, unbiased information for elections. Our positions on issues are well respected because they are based on sound research and are thoughtfully reached. We use those positions to advocate.

It is the combination of education and advocacy that makes the League of Women Voters such a unique organization. Since our founding by suffragists, the League of Women Voters has worked to encourage informed and active participation in government by registering voters, encouraging citizens to vote, and providing nonpartisan information. We take our mission seriously and work very hard to support *Making Democracy Work*.



Karen Nicholson,
President and Chair

The League of Women Voters of Texas, a nonpartisan political organization, promotes informed and active participation by citizens in government and influences public policy through education and advocacy. Although the League neither supports nor opposes political parties or candidates, it acts on issues its members have studied.

Membership in the League is open to all women and men. Voting members must be citizens 18 years of age or older. The LWV-TX includes 31 local Leagues as well as members at large in communities that do not have a local League. LWV-TX was founded in 1919, one year prior to the passage of the amendment to the U.S. Constitution that gave women the right to vote. With assistance from the full-time staff of two in the state office, volunteers contribute tens of thousands of hours (worth more than \$4 million) to conduct League studies, voters service projects, and advocacy based on League positions. Financial contributions to LWV-TX enable it to help local Leagues in their services to their communities and strengthen League advocacy efforts in the public interest.

LWV-TX is classified as a 501(c)(4) organization by the Internal Revenue Service; neither dues nor contributions may be deducted as charitable donations.

The League of Women Voters of Texas Education Fund is making democracy work by providing nonpartisan, factual information about voting, government, and public policy to Texas residents. Contributions to the Education Fund support studies, publications, dissemination of information about issues that affect Texans, and projects to encourage and increase informed voting as well as services to strengthen local Leagues and ensure that League guidelines and nonpartisanship are upheld. Gifts may be designated for specific projects approved by the trustees or for the overall voters service and citizen education activities of the fund.

LWV-TEF has been classified as a publicly supported educational trust in accordance with Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code and is not taxable as a private foundation, as defined in Section 509 of the code. Therefore, donations to the LWV-TEF may be deducted as charitable contributions.

CITIZEN EDUCATION

Project Voter

- Distributed *Voters Guides* in English and in Spanish for the November 2008 general election. In cooperation with local Leagues, 933,890 *Voters Guides* were made available in print and through newspapers, and 266,596 were downloaded from the LWV-TX website for a total of 1,200,486 *Voters Guides*.
- Provided audio taped versions of the *Voters Guides* for blind and visually impaired citizens upon request.
- Distributed 21,325 *Voters Guides* in English and Spanish for the general election to libraries across the state that are not served by local Leagues.
- Received and used funding from the LWVUS Education Fund, through the Program on Constitutional and Legal Policy of the Open Society Institute, to provide additional information on the Texas judicial system and all statewide judicial candidates in the November 2008 general election *Voters Guide*.

- Co-sponsored with LWV-Houston Area a debate among the U.S. Senatorial candidates in the November 2008 general election. Produced at KHOU in Houston, the debate was broadcast statewide by public television stations and supported by a grant from AARP.

Project Citizen

- Published a series of *Facts & Issues* papers for our study, “*Voting Procedures to Increase Voter Participation*.” These *Facts & Issues* present the research of a committee of League members on the subject chosen at our last statewide convention. Consensus will be taken in the fall of 2009. The topics of the *Facts & Issues* papers include vote by mail, election day registration, election day centralized voting, internet voting, and instant runoff voting.

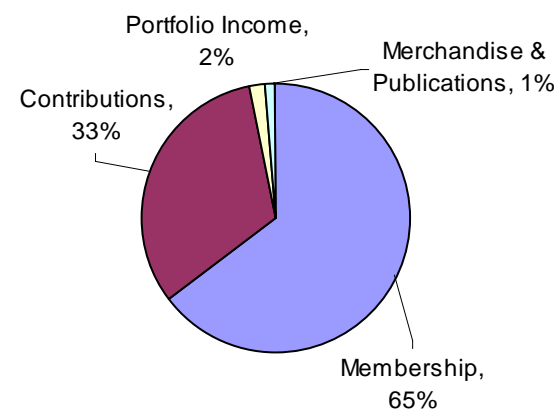
ADVOCACY IN THE PUBLIC INTEREST

- Advocated on the following subjects in the 81st Legislative session and at the State Board Of Education: campaign finance reform; children’s issues including CHIP, Medicaid, and early childhood; criminal justice issues including juvenile justice; education issues including curriculum and testing; election law issues including voting rights and election reform; judicial selection; natural resources issues including air quality and climate change; redistricting; transportation; women’s health.
- Succeeded in the passage of some bills, including bills to reform the juvenile justice system, improve air quality, increase community-based alternatives for Medicaid recipients who would otherwise be in a nursing home, and establish an advisory panel to assist with a study on ways to prevent wrongful convictions.
- Held press conferences and issued press releases on: voting rights, election reform, judicial reform.
- Issued ten action alerts to all our members on a variety of issues. In addition, asked specific local Leagues to communicate with their legislators on several issues including redistricting.
- Published twelve legislative newsletters bi-weekly and then weekly in May during the legislative session and one summary legislative newsletter after the session was over.
- Provided testimony more than sixty times to legislative committees on various issues through the diligent efforts of twenty program chairs and ten Austin Capitol Corps volunteers.

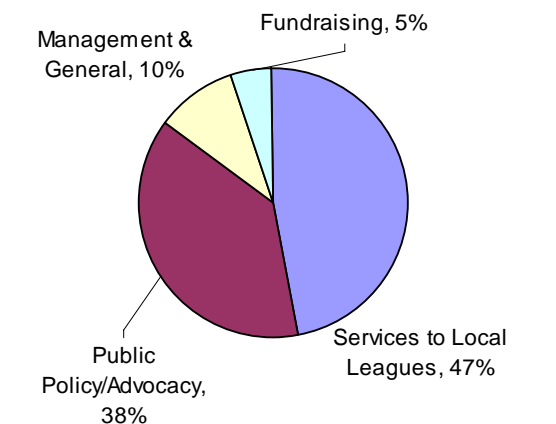
SERVICES TO LOCAL LEAGUES

- Provided three regional workshops around the state as well as customized leadership training on site to local Leagues.
- Initiated monthly communications via email to each local League which include organization and program suggestions.
- Featured local League events in the *Texas VOTER*.
- Posted all LWV-TX publications on the LWV-TX website.
- Offered a webpage on the LWV-TX website for any local League that does not maintain its own website.
- Provided a link from the LWV-TX website to local League websites.
- Nurtured future local Leagues in new locations throughout the state by providing information, a simplified process, direction, and support to leaders in the area.
- Served areas not covered by local Leagues through information to Members at Large, information on LWV-TX web site, and distribution of *Voter Guides* and League publications.
- Supervised innovative local League Education Fund projects such as essay contests for middle school students on “Why I Will Vote,” an elementary school art contest focusing on the environment, voter registration of high school seniors, and interactive community workshops on how state government is financed.

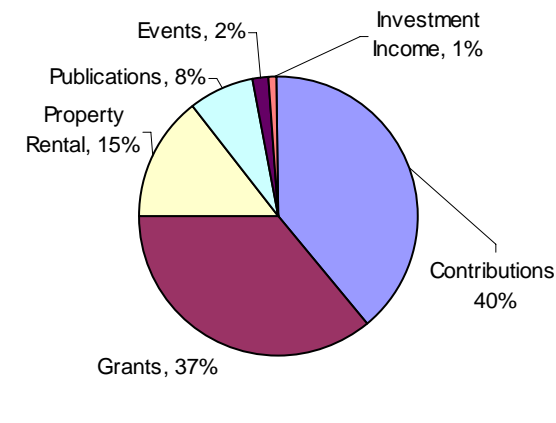
LWV-TX Income - \$55,288



LWV-TX Expenses - \$68,546



LWV-TEF Income - \$128,537



LWV-TEF Expenses - \$133,217

