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Michael and Flora-Louise
Jenkins
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Carolyn Johnston
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Kaplan
Joanne Kimberlin
Ronya Kozmetsky
Lou Ann Ligon
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County

LWV-Montgomery County
LWV-Tarrant County
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Jane-Elizabeth Madison
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Linnie McAdams
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Sarah McIntire
Bernice Murphy
May O'Neal
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Raggio
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Travel Concepts
International
Warren Walker PhD
Virginia Whitehill
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Mona Wyatt
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Carla Farley
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Jacqueline Fleschman
Linda Friedman
Stephen Fulling
Christina Garcia
Maria Garcia

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Yvonne Gnaeindinger
Sue Goolsby
Barbara Green
Lindsey Griffin
Linda Grigsby
Lou Ann Growcock
Tommy Hall
Mary Hamlin
Dorcas Hand
Linda Hanratty
Lisa Harris
Sandra Hebley
Marion Henderson
Nina Hendrix
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Natalie Lysyj
Susan Majors
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Wendy Marsh
Philippa McDonald
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Frances McIntyre
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Mavis Pape
Nancy Patterson
Camille Perry
Carol Peters
Claudie Pettigrew
Jane Blandford Peyton

Sandra Pickett
Nan Pillingger
Carol Pino
Anita Privett
Doris Pryzant
Gloria Quesada
Karen Rankin
Judy Ranney
Gail Reams
Jo Reichler
Helen Releford
Chrystine Rives
Jonathan Robertson
Pauline Robertson
Joann Robison
Heila Rogers
Sonja Romanowski
Irene Rosenberg
Emanuel Rosenblatt
Madeleine Ross
Susanne Rupp
Kelley Russell-Duvarney
Lorenzo and Anita
Sadun
Dario Salinas
Mary Ellen Salinas
Gertrude Sanborn
Jan Sanders
Sonia Santana
Patrice Schexnayder
Robert Scott
Meg Scott-Johnson
Evelyn Shagman
Sue Sherman
Karin Shipman
Frank Shonka
Dave and Anna Shuck
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Dorothy Smith
Frances Smith
Emmet Smith
Jan Soifer
Ellen Solender
Elissa Sommerfield
Mary SoRelle
Julia Spears
Charles Steere
Claire Stelter
Ruth Stewart
Wanda Stewart
Dee Ann Story
James Strickland
Mary Sawyer Swords
Jeanne Talerico
Eugenia Tang
Douglas Taylor
Mary Titus
Louise Underwood
Ray Vaughn
Margie Victor
Darrell and Mary Vines
Wallace Vog
Gretchen Walker
Liz Wally
Mary Lynn Walshak
Eileen Walton
Blake and Gordon Weisser
Stephanie Werner
Pat and Don White
Paula Wiesner
Linda Wild
Adrienne Williams
Janice Williams
Daesene Willmann
Margaret Wilson
Elizabeth Young
Kristie Zamrazil

**LWV Annual Report
2009-2010**

League of Women Voters of Texas

League of Women Voters of Texas Education Fund

LOCAL LEAGUES

Amarillo

Arlington

Austin Area

Bay Area

Beaumont

Brazos Valley

Comal Area

Corpus Christi

Dallas

Denton

El Paso

Gainesville

Houston

Irving

Kerrville

Lubbock

Marshall/Harrison Co.

Midland

Montgomery Co.

Plano/Collin Co.

Richardson

San Antonio Area

San Marcos Area

Sherman/Grayson Co.

Tarrant Co.

Tyler

Victoria

Waco

Wichita Falls

Wimberley Valley

Celebrating 90 Years of Making Democracy Work

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF TEXAS
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Phone (512) 472-1100 | Fax (512) 472-4114
lwvtexas@lwvtexas.org | www.lwvtexas.org



A Message from the President

Since our founding by suffragists, the League of Women Voters has been registering voters, encouraging citizens to vote, and providing nonpartisan information. We take our mission seriously and work very hard to help *Make Democracy Work*.

We celebrated our 90th birthday this year. We had a grand celebration at our state convention, honoring one of our own League treasures, who also celebrated a 90-something birthday. Our national president, Mary Wilson, joined us for the gala because we had a lot to celebrate.

It is the combination of education and advocacy that makes the League of Women Voters such a unique

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

I am very proud to be a member of the League of Women Voters. I've already referred to the respect we garner with good research. I like to tell people we are trusted because we don't just react to the subject du jour. We either already have a position on the issue, that has been well studied by the grassroots, or we will research the issue before we act. The LWV is a calm and trusted voice in the harsh

rhetoric that seems to prevail in today's political conversations.

My pride in being in the LWV was further reinforced this summer when I attended the biennial convention of the League of Women Voters of the United States. Celebrating our 90 years, we were treated to a panel of past LWVUS presidents as they remembered significant events during their presidencies. Wow! There is too much to summarize here, including the national legislation we have worked to pass, but the one thing that I think especially resonated was the LWV cancelling League-sponsored debates. We "discovered" debates; for years the LWV was the sole sponsor of candidates debates. Enter "handlers" and TV who wanted more control. We thought long and hard, and said, "No, thank you." We will not participate in debates if we can't ask the hard questions—if we have to compromise our principles to accommodate the demands of others. I still often hear, "I wish the League still did national debates." We don't even often sponsor state-wide debates because we won't compromise; we insist on a situation that's fair to all participants and that addresses all the issues.

There is nobody else quite like us encouraging informed and active participation in government-- working to increase understanding of major public policy issues and influencing public policy through education and advocacy. Yes, we've accomplished much in our 90 years, and we plan to be around for 90 more to accomplish even more.



Karen Nicholson
President and Chair

CITIZEN EDUCATION

Project Voter

- Published a *Facts and Issues*, "Voting Procedures to Increase Voter Participation," which covered the following topics: Vote by Mail, Election Day Registration, Election Day Centralized Voting, Instant Runoff Voting, and Internet Voting.
- Distributed *Voters Guides* in English and in Spanish for the November 2009 Constitutional Amendment election and the March 2010 primary election.
- In cooperation with local Leagues, made available 818,600 *Voters Guides* in print, on the LWV-TX web site, and through newspapers for the primary election, and 1,035,062 *Voters Guides* in print, on the website, and through newspapers for the Constitutional Amendment election.
- Provided audio taped versions of the *Voters Guides* for blind and visually impaired citizens upon request.
- Distributed nearly 21,325 *Voters Guides* for the primary election to libraries across the state that are not served by local Leagues.

Project Citizen

- Adopted positions on voting procedures that may increase voter participation at convention in April 2010. These positions will be advocated during future Texas legislative sessions.
- Adopted a new study of "Texas Water Resources as a Commodity" at convention in April 2010, for completion by early 2012. A committee has begun research for a summer 2011 publication of a *Facts and Issues* on the subject.
- Produced publications for members and the public: *Program Perspectives: A Guide to League Issues 2010-2012*, and *We Support*.
- Presented the 2010 Environmental Awareness Awards at the state convention in the following

categories: *Catherine Perrine Award* for League member – Dr. Melanie Barnes of Lubbock, *Individual* – Terry Hershey of Houston, *Non-Profit* – Texas Master Naturalist Program, *Corporate/Business* – Blue Dolphin of Dallas, *Public Policy* – Karen Hadden of Austin and Downwinders at Risk Education Fund of Midlothian, *Media* – Enviro-Media of Austin.

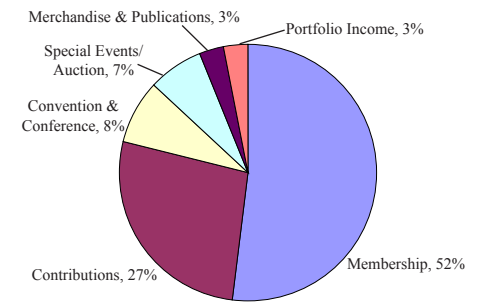
ADVOCACY IN THE PUBLIC INTEREST

- Followed developments on more than two dozen issues in four general areas: Government, Administration of Justice, Social Policy/Human Resources, and Natural Resources.
- Added advocacy paper on the environment to the website in advance of the 2009 United Nations Climate Conference.
- Updated members on advocacy at our state convention.
- Informed members on the State Board of Education consideration of standards for curriculum on US history.
- Tracked legislative priorities through interim legislative committees, including redistricting and Voter ID.
- Worked in collaboration with other groups and organizations in preparation for the 2011 legislative session.

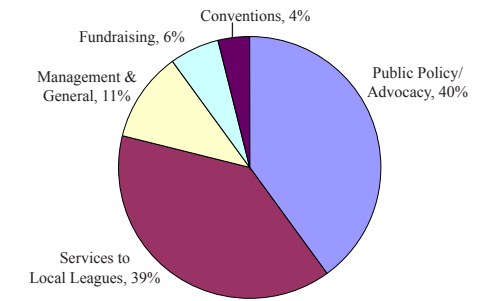
SERVICES TO LOCAL LEAGUES

- Continued to work with citizens who wish to organize local Leagues where none exist.
- Served members at large (members in areas where there is no local League) with periodic mailings and publications.
- Supported local Leagues with customized leadership training on site.
- Offered workshops at our state convention on membership, program, website, and one for local League presidents.
- Recognized local Leagues with awards for membership growth and accomplishments at state convention. Also recognized individuals who have been League members for 50 years or more and 13 local Leagues who have served their communities for 50 years or more.
- Enabled local Leagues to help each other by including articles in the Texas *VOTER* about their accomplishments and sharing ideas that other Leagues could adopt.
- Maintained updated LWV-TX League publications on the website for easier access by members and the public.
- Presented regular organizational tips to local Leagues via emails.
- Supervised innovative local League Education Fund projects
- Provided a link for local Leagues through the LWV-TX website or offered a customized local League page on the LWV-TX website at no cost.

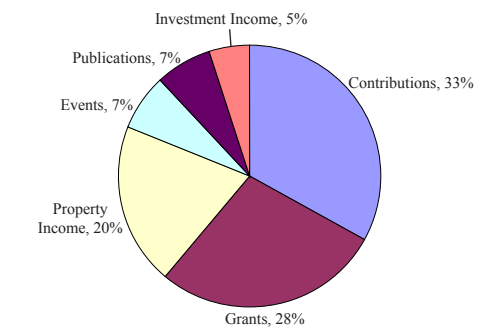
LWV-TX Income - \$90,974



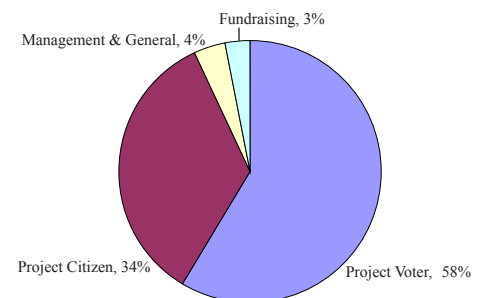
LWV-TX Expenses - \$65,967



LWV-TEF Income - \$97,574



LWV-TEF Expenses - \$101,202



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 30 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 \$1 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 citizens. 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.