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2010 - 2011**

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**LEAGUE OF
WOMEN VOTERS®**

\$5,000 and above

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\$1,500 and above

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\$1,000 and above

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Aetna Foundation
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Barbara Wolfe
Zeta Eta Chapter



League of Women Voters of Texas

**League of Women Voters of Texas
Education Fund**

Annual Report 2010-2011

LOCAL LEAGUES

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

Celebrating 90 Years of Making Democracy Work

Published October 2011

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President’s Message

We’ve been educating and agitating for more than 90 years. More people seem to know us for the “educating” part. Although our Voters Service work is very important to us, and we do it very well, we “agitate,” too.

It is that combination of educating and agitating that makes the League of Women Voters such a unique organization. Our Voters Service continues to be strong as we compile *Voters Guides* that are nonpartisan and unbiased. Our positions on issues are highly respected because of our well researched and thoughtfully reached positions. We use those positions to “agitate.”

No time is “agitating” more obvious than during a legislative session. We have a regular *Legislative Newsletter* online, which members and others use to keep informed and to know when to contact their legislators on issues important to the LWV. Because our grassroots members choose

the issues we study and come to consensus on what we believe about those issues, our issue chairs have their marching orders during the legislative session as they work to keep up with all the bills and collaborate with coalition partners. We can “agitate” because our positions are well established and understood by our membership.

During our Lobby Days this past March, we presented the Texas-based Center for Public Policy Priorities (CPPP) with our first *Making Democracy Work* award. The Center’s research is a must read for legislators on both sides of the aisle, and CPPP advocates for those who may not be able to advocate for themselves. The LWV is able to accomplish as much as it does because of work with other groups like the CPPP. In addition to the celebratory dinner at Lobby Days, we had briefings on issues, tips on “agitating,” and time to talk to legislators about the Issues important to the LWV.

Because some significant legislation passed during this last session

which will impact the voter and because Texas ranked last in voter participation in the November 2010 election, we have used the past few months to plan a comprehensive state-wide campaign to register voters and get out the vote. We’ll mostly be in our “educating” mode—telling Texans how to register and what ID’s they’ll need in order to vote. “Educating” never stops for the LWV.

There is nobody else quite like us—encouraging informed and active participation in government, working to increase understanding of major public policy issues and “educating and agitating” to influence public policy. We have accomplished much in our more than 90 years and don’t plan to stop! Educating and agitating is the LWV way.



Karen Nicholson
President, LWV-Texas
Chair, LWV-Texas Education Fund

SERVICES TO LOCAL LEAGUES

- Assisted people in seven Texas cities to begin or to continue to organize local Leagues where none exist.
- Served members-at-large (members in areas where there is no local League) with personal communication, League advisors, visits, and periodic mailings and publications.
- Supported local Leagues with customized leadership training at their home sites.
- Planned regional seminars for summer 2011 on the theme of “Engaging Young Voters” including a hand-out available on the LWV-TX website.
- Enabled local Leagues to help one another by including articles in the Texas VOTER and the monthly LWV-Texas newsletter about their accomplishments and sharing ideas that other Leagues could adopt.
- Started a new publication to League leaders about membership development.
- Maintained updated LWV-Texas publications on the website for easier access by members and the public.
- Provided regular organizational and membership tips to local Leagues via emails and personal telephone calls from the Membership Committee.
- Provided links to local League websites and helped Leagues customize their webpages.

CITIZEN EDUCATION

Project Voter

- Distributed *Voters Guides* in English and in Spanish for the November 2010 general election. In cooperation with local Leagues, 602,879 *Voters Guides* were made available in print and through newspapers, and 375,572 were downloaded from the LWV-TX website. An additional 35,871 people viewed our *Voters Guide* on **VOTE411.org**.
- 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 November 2010 general election to 108 Texas public libraries in areas not served by local Leagues.
- Received LWVUS grant from the Public Advocacy for Voter Protection project to monitor implementation of voter photo ID requirements and encourage voter registration and turnout of underrepresented groups.

Project Citizen

- Embarked on a study of Texas Water Resources as a Commodity following adoption at convention 2010. This study will update our members on water issues in the state as we consider the competition for water in Texas. The publication of our findings on *Should Water Be a Commodity?* is now available on our website.
- With encouragement of the state League, local Leagues

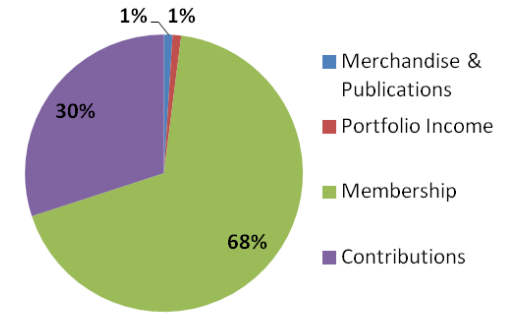
held several public forums on the issue of water around the state as part of this study.

- Sponsored a conference on hazardous waste disposal, “How Can Low-Level Radioactive Waste Be Stored Safely to Protect Texans, the State Budget, and the Environment?” The conference was held at the state Capitol in February 2011 and attracted members of the Legislature and the public.

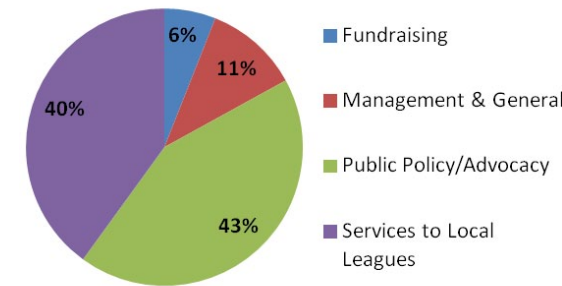
ADVOCACY IN THE PUBLIC INTEREST

- Set priorities for 82nd Legislature as budget, campaign finance and redistricting with overall issue of transparency, and followed developments on more than two dozen additional issues in four general areas: government, administration of justice, social policy/human resources, and natural resources.
- Published advocacy paper on the state budget and 12 *Legislative Newsletters*.
- Conducted a two-day educational program on lobbying, culminating in visits with legislators and staff.
- Worked in collaboration with other groups and organizations to advocate for common interests.
- Testified before committees, wrote letters and sent Action Alerts to members on our LWV positions.
- Received and administered LWVUS grant to educate members and the public on redistricting.

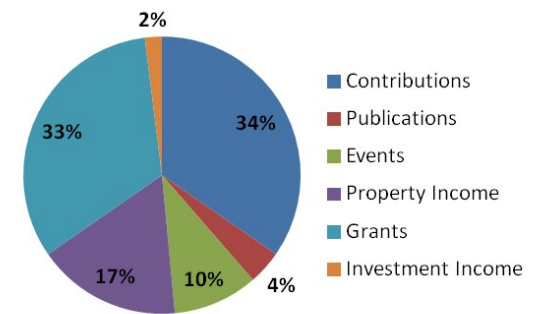
LWV-TX Total Revenue - \$56,746



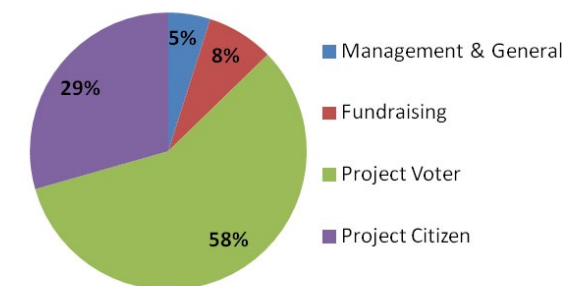
LWV-TX Total Expenses - \$67,556



LWV-TEF Total Revenue - \$86,737



LWV-TEF Total Expenses - \$109,764



The League of Women Voters of Texas, a nonpartisan political organization, promotes informed and active participation 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 29 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 Executive Director and a part-time Assistant 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 Texans. Contributions to the Education Fund support studies, publications, dissemination of information about issues that affect Texans, and projects to encourage and increase informed voting. Contributions also underwrite services to strengthen local Leagues and ensure that League guidelines and nonpartisanship are upheld.

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.