



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF TEXAS

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF TEXAS
EDUCATION FUND

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ANNUAL REPORT

2012 – 2013



Local Leagues of Texas

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

*93 Years of
Making Democracy Work!*

Message from the President



The LWV-TX fiscal year is from June 1 through May 31, and fiscal years beginning in an even-numbered year, like FY 2012-2013, are dominated by a November general election and spring legislative session.



In 2012, voters faced many uncertainties with legal challenges to redistricting and ID requirements. **LWV-TX and local Leagues worked to give Texas voters the information needed for informed participation in the electoral process.** The LWV-TX website, media releases, and *Voters Guides* clarified ID requirements. Statewide coverage in VOTE411.org helped voters find election districts and races specific to their address. Local Leagues facilitated distribution of 80,000 copies of “*Make a Difference and Vote*” for young voters.

The advocacy team began preparing in summer for the 2013 legislative session with education, health care, and water as priority issues. Action intensified in January, as **issue chairs, assisted by the Austin Capital Corps, tracked hundreds of bills relevant to League positions, gave testimony, and prepared *Legislative Newsletter* updates.** Members gathered in Austin for Lobby Days and Statewide Conference in late February and proudly honored Planned Parenthood and Cecilia Boone for protecting women’s health and reproductive choice.

LWV-TX joined the very successful LWVUS Membership & Leadership Development program which pairs local Leagues and coaches to grow the League. The July 2012 initial training ended with a standing ovation, and training at Lobby Days was equally well received.

Thanks to all whose support over the past year made LWV-TX efforts possible. The work, of course, continues—tracking developments on LWV positions, program planning, registering and preparing voters for elections, and celebrating the League’s grassroots at state convention next April. Hopefully, the League has earned continued support as we “**agitate and educate**” for the **active, informed participation making democracy work for Texas.**

Linda Krefting
President and Chair

About Us

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 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 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 non-partisan, 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 is classified as a 501(c)(3) organization by the Internal Revenue Service. Donations to LWV-TEF are tax deductible as charitable contributions.



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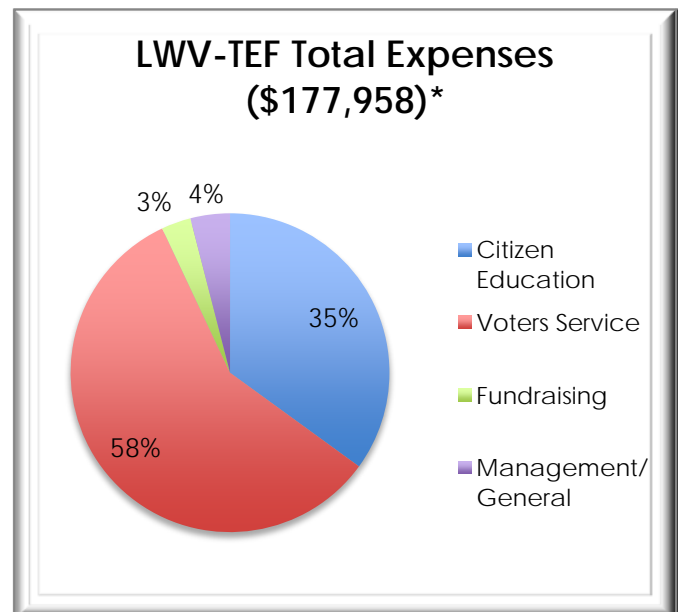
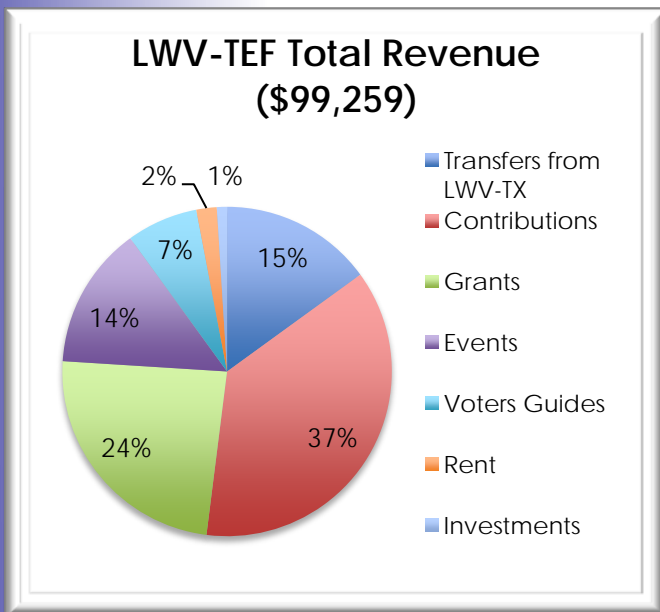
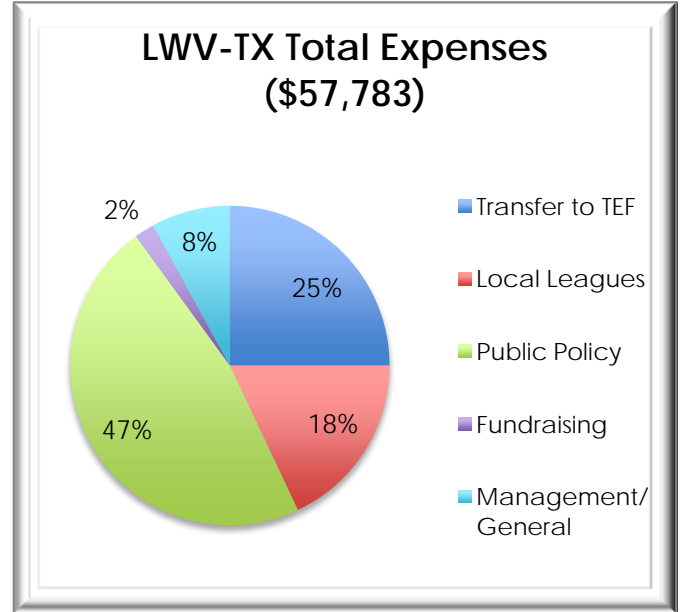
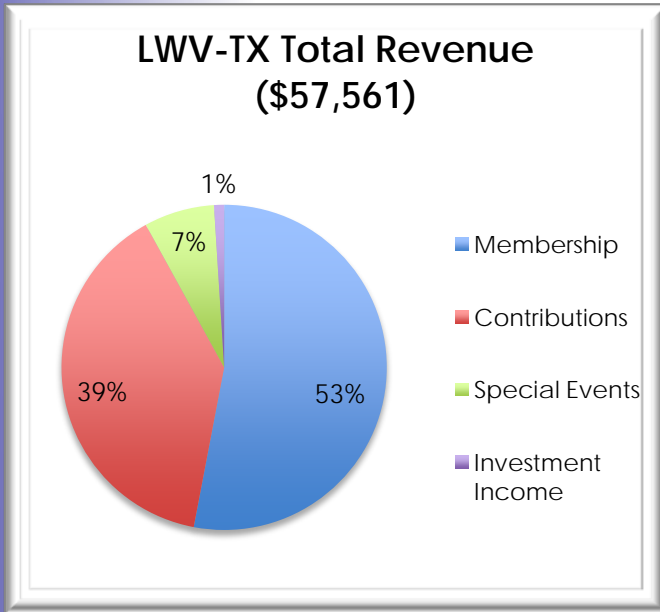
Nancy Parra

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Executive Director

Financials



* Several grants received and reported in FY 2011-2012 funded voters service activities through FY 2012-2013. Also, *Voters Guide* expenses for the delayed 2012 Primary Election were not paid until this fiscal year.

Advocacy in the Public Interest

- Developments were followed on more than two-dozen issues in four general areas: Government, Administration of Justice, Social/Policy/Human Resources and Natural Resources. Priorities were set for the 83rd legislative session: education, health care and water.
- Voter ID litigation continued with the Texas challenge to preclearance provisions of the Voting Rights Act in the DC District Court and the Texas appeal of the preclearance denial to the Supreme Court.
- LWVUS joined LWV-TX in submitting comments to EPA on proposed regulations for cement kilns and on proposed regulations for particulates. Comments were submitted to the Department of State Health Services regarding the proposed rules for the Texas Women's Health Program.
- Followed over 300 bills during the 83rd Legislative Session, and issue chairs wrote over 155 comments on various bills that were delivered either orally or in writing by the Capitol Corps. Successes were seen in funding for education, women's health, and mental health. Funding for water projects was included in the budget, subject to passage of a constitutional amendment. Letters were sent to all senators and house members relating to our priorities in the budget. All of these issues were covered in ten *Legislative Newsletters*.
- Provided suggested letters to the editor to local Leagues relating to the importance of communicating with legislators, the priorities of LWV-TX, taxes, child poverty and funding of our priorities.
- Developed background information on priorities, speakers were invited and a tutorial presented on lobbying for Lobby Days.
- Worked in collaboration with other groups and organizations with similar goals for the legislative session.



Service to Local Leagues



- Launched a partnership with LWWUS and other state Leagues by joining the Membership and Leadership Development Initiative (MLD). Recruited, matched and trained state coaches and local Leagues to optimize existing efforts in ways that increase membership.
- Offered individualized leadership advice and training curriculum to local Leagues.

- Established the Caldwell County Member-At-Large Unit with support from LWV-TX and the energy of local members.
- Highlighted accomplishments of local Leagues through articles in the Texas VOTER and the monthly LWV-TX information email.
- Increased access to current LWV-Texas publications by members and the public by updating and posting them at www.lwvtexas.org.
- Provided links for local League pages via the LWV-Texas website at www.lwvtexas.org.
- Mentored individuals in several Texas communities interested in beginning or continuing to organize local Leagues where none exist.



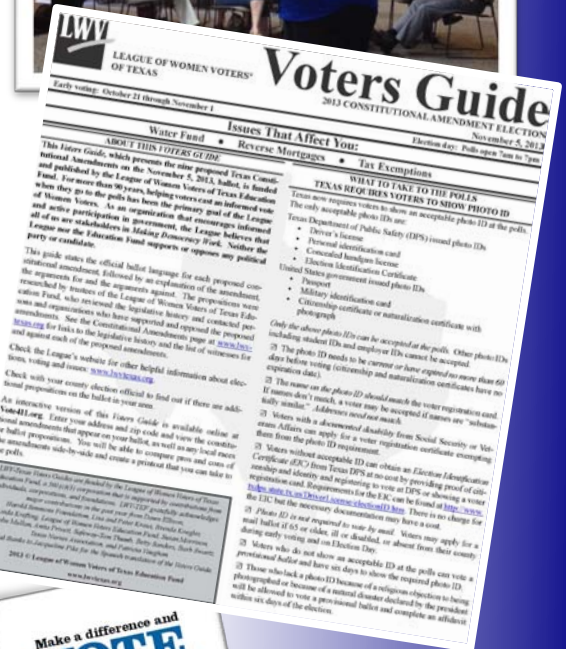
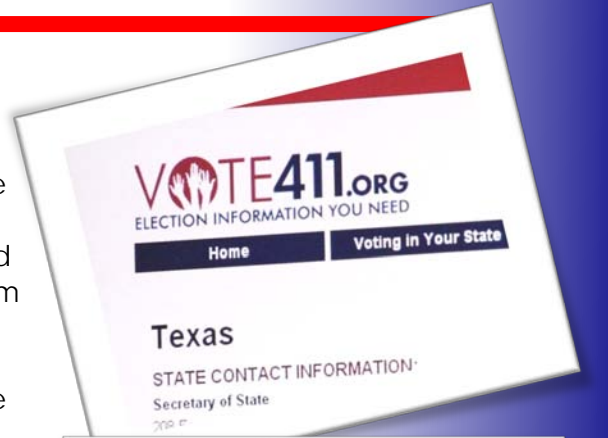
- Communicated with members-at-large (individual members in areas where there is no local League) through visits, calls, League advisors, as well as periodic mailings and publications.
- Shared strategies and tips for increasing membership and enhancing organizational management with local Leagues via emails, personal telephone calls, and visits.
- Planned with Leagues in Arlington, Kerrville, and Lubbock for 3 regional "summer seminars" to update members and board members on voter service, issue studies, social media, and member recruitment.



Citizen Education

Project Voter

- Distributed *Voters Guides* in English and in Spanish for the November 2012 general election. With local Leagues, 364,511 *Voters Guides* were made available in print and through newspapers, including 21,669 to 128 public libraries across the state in areas not served by local Leagues, and 294,712 were downloaded from LWV websites.
- Funded statewide coverage of the November 2012 general election in VOTE411 web-based *Voters Guide* and supported participation by 20 local Leagues. Together, LWV-TX and local Leagues covered all U.S. Congressional and state legislative races throughout the state. The *Voters Guide* on **VOTE411.org** was viewed 61,321 times for the general election.
- Produced and distributed 80,000 copies of *Make a Difference and Vote*, a graphic booklet in English and Spanish to provide basic information about how to register and vote in the November 2012 general election, including voter ID requirements.
- Organized and compiled survey of election officials by local Leagues after the November 2012 general election to help identify additional areas where LWV can work with officials to protect the interest of voters.
- Distributed \$1,000 of LWVUS grant to local Leagues to help offset VOTE411 fees for 2013.
- Met with new Texas Secretary of State and Director of Elections to discuss voter issues of common interest.



Project Citizen

- Embarked on a study of Human Trafficking in Texas following adoption at convention 2012. This study focuses on state and local policies as well as the public's role in abating human trafficking. The publication of our findings is now available on our website.
- Completed program review of Capital Punishment and Redistricting positions and adopted updates by concurrence at statewide conference during 2013 Lobby Days.

Thank you to our Donors

If we have made an error in recognizing
your support, we extend our sincere apologies.
Please notify our State Office at 512.472.1100.

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