

League of Women Voters  
of Dallas

# VOTER



*A nonpartisan organization that encourages informed participation in government and influences public policy through education and advocacy.*



*100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary!*

*February 14<sup>th</sup> 2020*



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**2019 - 2020**

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## From the President's Desk: Let's Vote!

In the midst of the holidays, thank you for taking a moment to look through this issue of the VOTER. We have merged the November and December issues so there is a lot to explore.

1. Our Voter Services volunteers are in high gear!

- December 14 is the Joint Runoff Election for the cities of Mesquite and Glenn Heights
- March 3 is the Primary –the national Primary is now split from the local Joint Election in May.
- May 2 is the Joint Election

If you would like to help with the Voter Guide, Vote411, and/or voter engagement please contact the office and Ceci will connect you with the correct person.

2. December is the month we collect your suggestions for subjects to discuss and explore with the League next year. The League calls this process Program Planning. Please come to one of the December Unit meetings to share your thoughts. If you can't make it to a Unit meeting, please send your wishes to the office for the attention of Patricia Muñoz-Elizondo, our VP of Program. Office phone and email are shown on the lower left of this page.

3. February 14, 2020 is the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the League of Women Voters! We begin a year of celebration with the Susan B Anthony Luncheon on February 13<sup>th</sup> at Lakewood Country Club. Other large and small events are planned for the year to celebrate this wonderful achievement. Book and movie discussions, cultural events, reading about the suffragists and other voting rights activists to children in schools and libraries are but a few of the ideas. Please watch the website page for The 100<sup>th</sup> (<https://my.lww.org/texas/dallas/100th-anniversary-league-women-voters>) and the VOTER for opportunities to participate.

It is an honor to be surrounded by so many volunteers and Board members who care passionately and are so dedicated to the mission of voting rights in general, and the League in particular!

Best wishes for the holidays!

Diane Tasian

President - League of Women Voters of Dallas

## VOTING MATTERS

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### Update: 2020 Census

What's at stake: Federal funding and representation in Congress

Everyone needs to be counted. Even a 1% population undercount in the 2020 Census could cost Texas up to \$300M per year (\$3B over 10 years) in federal funding and 3 additional seats in Congress. LWVD is participating in the Complete Count Committee coalition between Dallas County and City of Dallas.

Extra challenges this time

1. Funding: The Census Bureau is underfunded so lot of responsibility rests on the state and local levels. And, the Texas legislature chose not to fund – a couple of bills for funding were submitted but were not adopted. TexasCounts.org, a collaboration of the Center for Public Policy Priorities and Communities Foundation of Texas, is building a pooled fund to help reach hard to count populations in Texas. Some hard to count examples would be rural areas, regions along the Texas-Mexico border; the homeless. They also have tools and informational flyers on why and how in multiple languages. LWV is a partner organization.
2. Trust in the process: Complete Count Committees are developing in cities and counties to connect grass roots organizations such as faith-based, community groups, PTAs and such, to their communities to help dispel distrust of the Census in an effort to demystify rumors (there is not a citizenship question) and engender trust through outreach.
3. For the first time the questionnaire will be online. Issues related to this are access to broadband and ability of people to understand how to respond online.

Practical issues:

In Texas the 2010 census undercounted children by 75,000 or more. Today it is estimated that 1 in 4 Texans live in hard to count areas. TexasCounts.org lists four ways to identify a hard to count area –

- hard to contact, such as people who are homeless, move frequently, or lack a permanent address;
- hard to locate, such as people who live in colonias, in another person's home, or in informal housing without an address;
- hard to survey, such as people with language barriers, limited literacy, or no internet access;
- hard to engage, such as people who are afraid, distrust the government, or lack the time to complete the form

Census basics:

- Other languages – the questionnaires are available in 12 languages online
- In March you will receive a notice in the mail with directions on how to go online or return by mail.
- There are only 9 questions to be answered for each person.
- April 1, 2020 is Census Day
- In the summer census workers will search for those who haven't responded.
- Data will be tallied in the third quarter.

How to participate:

Answer your questionnaire  
Visit [2020census.gov/jobs](https://2020census.gov/jobs) – they are hiring

*By Diane Tasian*

## VOTING MATTERS

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**February 3, 2020:** Last day to register to vote for the Texas March 3rd Primary Election

**March 3, 2020:** Texas Primary Election (Republicans & Democrats - Libertarians & Green Party choose their candidates at conventions)

**April 17 to 19, 2020:** LWVTX Convention in Austin

**June 25-29, 2020:** LWVUS Convention in Washington, DC

**November 3, 2020:** Election Day



We just finished our November 2019 election and are looking forward to the runoff, and already its time to start to work on the next one! Election day for the 2020 Primary will be Tuesday March 3. Filing closes December 9, 2019. Until filing closes we won't know for sure what's going to be on the ballot, but at this time we do know the big pieces.


**What we need at this time is good questions to put to the candidates.** It's especially helpful to have good questions about topics that are on people's minds. High profile topics change. What's a hot topic today may be ancient history tomorrow, but something else will no doubt take its place. What are you interested in hearing about? That's what we're looking for. Especially interested in good ideas for questions to judges.

The rule is we will ask five questions of each candidate. Each candidate for the same class of office (for example, US Representative, State Representative, etc) will be asked the same five questions. We may use the same questions and candidate responses for the General as for the Primary. We will separate the information for the two political parties so that our Vote411 and Guide will mirror the ballots that voters see.

I look forward to hearing your ideas! **Our goal is to finalize the questions at the January board meeting**, then they will be emailed to the candidates the next day.

## PROGRAM-MEETINGS

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# December Unit Meetings

### HOLIDAY CELEBRATION AND PROGRAM PLANNING

December is the month we collect your suggestions for subjects to discuss and explore with the League next year. The League calls this process Program Planning. Please come to one of the December Unit meetings to share your thoughts. If you can't make it to a Unit meeting, please send your wishes to the office at [lwvdallas@sbcglobal.net](mailto:lwvdallas@sbcglobal.net) for the attention of Patricia Muñoz-Elizondo, VP of Program.

12/11/19 *Parlor at The Villages of Dallas*  
10:00 AM 550 E. Ann Arbor, Dallas, TX 75216

12/12/19 *Edgemere*  
11:30 AM 8523 Thackery St., Dallas, TX 75225

12/12/19 *St. Thomas the Apostle Episcopal Church - North Hall*  
10:00 AM 6525 Inwood Road, Dallas, TX 75209

12/12/19 *Angela's Cafe*  
6:30 PM 7979 Inwood Rd. #121, Dallas, TX 75209

### WANT TO SERVE ON THE LEAGUE BOARD?

The Nominating Committee is looking for people who are interested in serving on the board or on a committee that a board member heads up. The board meets on the first Saturday of the month from 10:00 am until noon, usually at the League office or at the Meadows Conference Center. Meeting on Saturday was done to accommodate the schedule of working board members. In the past, the board met on the first Thursday of the month at noon.

If you have any questions or want to explore the idea of board service more thoroughly, please contact chair Eileen Rosenblum ([eileen.rosenblum@gmail.com](mailto:eileen.rosenblum@gmail.com); 469-879-8801) or Linda Wassenich ([LindaVote@gmail.com](mailto:LindaVote@gmail.com); 214-368-5305).

## DEVELOPMENT CORNER

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### GIFT IDEAS FOR THE HOLIDAYS

By now you should have received a letter from LWVD asking you to make a contribution. You may have thought that you've already given and don't need to give again.

Yet, you are likely to be making your list of people you want to remember with holiday gifts. Please consider a gift to the League of Women Voters of Dallas in honor of that person. You can add that your gift is to wish them a Merry Christmas, Happy Hanukkah, in honor of Kwanzaa, or some other occasion.

An acknowledgement will be sent to the persons you name (and provide their addresses) telling them of your thoughtful gift in their honor. Please make your gift by December 10 in order to allow time for an acknowledgement to be sent before the holidays.

Think about it! What better gift could you make to honor someone than to give in support of Empowering Voters and Defending Democracy. Besides, you don't have to worry about size, color, or calories.

### DONOR HONOR ROLL

Many thanks to the following people for their generous gifts to LWVD since the last report:

<i>Voters Guides:</i>	Elizabeth Walley
General:	Marnie Wildenthal, Sandi Hebley, Kelly Drablos, Lori Reisenbichler, Courtney Davis, Denis Dometrovich, Benjamin Rush, Fran McElvaney, Vee Gerken, Barbara and Hank Lischer, Audrey Curtis, Rebecca and Paul Bergstresser, Judy and Sam Coats, Annabelle Catterall, Franci Moses, Dr. Jerry Weiss, and Ben Alford.
Estate:	Estate of Ellen Solender
Patrons:	Alice Johnson, Connie Webb, and Michelle Manners
Scholarships:	Becky Brakke, Ann Folz, and Mary Ann Johnson
In Memory of:	Barbara Materka by Jane Pak
In Honor of:	Allison Walters by Jackie McElhaney, Diane Tasian by Jean Conway, Linda Wassenich by Becky Sykes, Harryette Ehrhardt by Cal and Clare Chaney, Saudra McCoy by Monica McCoy Purdy, and LWVD by Katherine McGovern.

# 2020 Susan B. Anthony Award Luncheon and Silent Auction

## What Do We Do?

The League encourages the informed and active participation of citizens in their democracy through:

- ✓ An annually updated brochure detailing *How to Contact Your Elected Officials (YEO)*
- ✓ Meet the Candidate Forums
- ✓ Helpful Website
- ✓ Voters Guide
- ✓ VOTE411.com
- ✓ Election Day Hotline
- ✓ Voter Registration of Citizens
- ✓ Issue and Education Forums

Dear League Members and Friends,

The League of Women Voters of Dallas respectfully asks you to support our efforts to strengthen our citizen-led democracy by contributing items and gift certificates to our annual fundraising event, the Susan B. Anthony Award Luncheon and Silent Auction, to be held on February 13, 2020.

Do I need a photo ID to vote? Where do I vote? How do I get non-partisan candidate information? These are questions that the League office is continually fielding.

As voters struggle to keep pace with changing voting requirements, the League is busy providing more non-partisan voter services than ever. Your contributions help us continue our work.

We look forward to your favorable consideration. Should you have any questions, please contact Susan B. Anthony Luncheon Co-Chairs Lisa Sherrod at [lcsherrod@yahoo.com](mailto:lcsherrod@yahoo.com), Rebecca Acuña at [rebecca.acuna@gmail.com](mailto:rebecca.acuna@gmail.com) or Silent Auction Chair Becky Brakke at [bbindal@aol.com](mailto:bbindal@aol.com) or [214-363-0921](tel:214-363-0921). A donor form is included for your convenience.

Together we can make democracy work for all citizens!

Sincerely,

*Lisa*

*Rebecca*

*Becky*

Lisa Sherrod

Rebecca Acuña

Becky Brakke

SBA Luncheon Co-Chairs

Silent Auction Chair

# LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF DALLAS

24th Annual Susan B. Anthony Award Luncheon, February 13, 2020

## Silent Auction Donation Form

Company or Individual: \_\_\_\_\_

Please print name exactly as it should appear in the auction.

Contact Name & Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email or Fax: \_\_\_\_\_

Auction Item(s) or Service(s):

Estimated Value(s):

\_\_\_\_ Donation Enclosed

\_\_\_\_ Donation to Be Delivered \_\_\_\_ or Picked Up \_\_\_\_:  
(Date and location)

Contact's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Please complete & forward copy and arrange delivery or pick up with Becky, Sandy or League office:

Becky Brakke  
7027 Eudora  
Dallas, TX 75230  
(214) 363-0921  
[bbindal@aol.com](mailto:bbindal@aol.com)

Sandy Thornton  
6910 Santa Maria Lane  
Dallas, TX 75214  
(214) 356-7034  
[tubbsl@swbell.net](mailto:tubbsl@swbell.net)

LWV Dallas  
6060 N Central Ex, Suite 500  
Dallas, TX 75206  
(214) 688-4125  
[lwvdallas@sbcglobal.net](mailto:lwvdallas@sbcglobal.net)

Solicited by: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

The League of Women Voters of Dallas is a 501(c)3 organization, Tax EIN 75-1876278.

No goods or services provided in exchange for donations.

Thank you for your generous support!