

League of Women Voters
of Dallas

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

VOTER



League of Women Voters in The Time of Social Distancing



STAY AT HOME ORDER

WHAT YOU CAN DO

- GO TO THE GROCERY STORE or pharmacy
- GO TO RESTAURANTS for take-out, delivery or drive-thru
- CARE FOR A FAMILY MEMBER or pet in another household
- GO OUTSIDE for exercise (keep a distance of 6 feet between yourself and others)

WHAT YOU SHALL NOT DO

- DON'T GO TO WORK unless you work at an essential business
- DON'T GO TO WORK if you are sick
- ALL PUBLIC OR PRIVATE GATHERINGS OF ANY NUMBER OF PEOPLE occurring outside a single household or living unit is prohibited
- DON'T GET CLOSER than 6 feet away from others



The 100th Anniversary Celebration
Of the 19th Amendment
September 26th, 2020
Lunch & Program

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



2020 - 2021
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Rebecca Acuña, Lisa Sherrod
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Patricia Muñoz & Sally
Branch

19th Amendment Celebration Chairs

LWVD Office

Ceci Silva Office Administrator
6060 N Central Expwy, Suite 500
Dallas, TX 75206

Phone: (214) 688-4125

Email: lwdallas@sbcglobal.net
www.lwdallas.org

From the President's Desk

I hope this VOTER finds you in good health!

The emerging epidemic of COVID-19 has transformed the League. The office is operating digitally and our office administrator, Cecilia "Ceci" Silva, is working from home. If you call the office, you will end up at voicemail. Please leave a message so we can retrieve your message from the office computer. You can also send an email. Please respect the operating hours of 10:00am to 3:00pm when you are waiting for a response.

There are several people receiving all LWVD communications and material in the mail. A mailing will have been sent before this VOTER issue asking if we can communicate with you via email during this crisis. Volunteers will also be calling you to follow up.

Update on League events:

- April Unit meetings have been cancelled.
- Most other events are on hold. We will keep you posted as information becomes available.
 - The program **Women's Vote: Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow** which was to be on March 19 is being rescheduled.
 - **April 18, 2020:** LWVTX Convention will be conducted via Zoom. See related article.
 - New Texas Symphony Orchestra's "**Celebrate Women**" concert will be folded into their concert scheduled for May 31. This is a free concert under the direction of Dr. Kathryn D. Brown. When we get more information about the revised performance, we will let you know. LWVD will have a voter registration and information table unless the "shelter-in-place" order is extended that long.
 - The LWVD Annual Meeting: Our Annual Meeting will be conducted via Zoom software on **May 16th**. We will send more information about this with the Annual Meeting Workbook mailing.
 - **June 25 - 29, 2020:** LWVUS Convention in Washington, DC. See related article.

Thank you for all your efforts to [Make Democracy Work!](#)

Diane Tasian

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE (CONT'D)

Elections:

- Did you have problems with your mail-in ballot in the Primary? LWVTX is looking for any League member who had their mail in ballot disqualified because of their signature. Email Grace Chimene at gchimene@lwvtexas.org and Hani Mirza at TCRP hani@texascivilrightsproject.org
- Upcoming elections:
 - May 2** - Joint Election for Cities and Schools. **These local elections will be rescheduled.**
 - July 14** - Democratic and Republican Primary Run-off Elections. Date may change.
 - November 3, 2020:** Election Day
 - **Please visit [DallasCountyVotes.org](https://www.dallascountyvotes.org)** for the latest information regarding both municipal and runoff elections
- Due to the COVID-19 epidemic, if you are disabled, or at least 65 years of age; will be in jail during early voting or election day; or will be out of the county during early voting or election day; I urge you to consider a mail-in ballot. Please go to Dallas County Elections' website, <https://www.dallascountyvotes.org/elections-office/documents-and-forms/> for information.

What you can do in the meantime:

- At the March unit meetings we provided a listing of books and movies relating to voting rights. Please send us your preferences. And, help us select and develop a schedule for enjoying them. You can find the lists on the website event page: <https://my.lwv.org/texas/dallas/calendar>
- Use your YEO (Your Elected Officials) to write, email, and/or call your elected officials. If you don't have a printed one please go to our website for the information: <https://my.lwv.org/texas/dallas/your-elected-officials>.
 - a. Advocacy suggestion: ask for universal mail in ballots during the pandemic.
- Please fill out your Census 2020 form or go online and complete. I did ours as soon as it arrived. They said it would take 10 minutes to do and they were correct. April 1 was the official Census Day, but you should have received your questionnaire letters in mid-March. Please go online or fill out the paper form and send it in as soon as you get it. The Census 2020 staff hope that 70% of the population will fill out their forms so staff can focus on the 30% that will be hard to count: children age 5 and below; minorities, and those living in poverty. As we get information on changes responding to the pandemic we will post them on the website.

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF TEXAS CONVENTION

Call to LWVTX State Convention:

Due to the pandemic the LWVTX convention will be held online this year on April 18 beginning at 1:00pm. It is expected to last 2 to 4 hours. LWVD can send 30 delegates to the state convention and only delegates will be allowed to participate. In order to serve as a delegate, you must be a member of LWVD and be willing to learn how to participate on your phone or use the Zoom app on your computer, if you are not already familiar with it.

If you want to serve as a delegate, please let the office and me know by April 4th. I will submit your name and email address to LWVTX. More information will be shared via email both before and after this issue of the VOTER. We will practice the Zoom app when we meet online (time to be determined on April 5th) to discuss the business of the convention. There will also be work sessions related to the items on the agenda and one on how to use Zoom.

Call for the National Convention:

LWV US National Convention will be held from June 25 to 28th in Washington, D.C.

This is from the convention website: **Update on Potential Impact of the Coronavirus:**

Please know that LWVUS's first priority is the health, safety and well-being of everyone involved with Convention. We are taking all developments concerning the Coronavirus (Covid-19) very seriously. There are no plans to postpone or cancel Convention. We will continue to monitor the situation to ensure the highest possible degree of hygiene and safety is maintained. Should the situation change we will issue updates as necessary.

If you would like to go to the national convention register here:

<https://my.lwv.org/california/oakland/event/lwvus-national-convention-2020> . LWVD can send 7 delegates to National. To be a delegate you must be a member of LWVD. If you are planning to go and want to serve as a delegate, please contact the office at 214 688-4125; or via email at lwvdallas@sbcglobal.net or to my email below.

Thank you, Diane Tasian, president@mylwvdallas.org

CENSUS 2020

Census Day is April 1, 2020



There are **3 ways** to respond to your invitation letter:

Respond **online** as your invitation letter directs.

OR

Phone the number on the invitation letter and an interviewer will take your information over the phone.

(1-844-330-2020 in English)

(1-844-468-2020 in Spanish)

OR

If you have not responded by early April, a paper questionnaire will be mailed to you to be completed and mailed back.

*Starting in mid-May**, if you have not self-responded by one of the 3 methods, the Census Bureau will need to send an interviewer to your home.*

***Postponed due to Covid-19*

What Is the Census?

- The Census is a once-a-decade population and housing count of all 50 states, DC, Puerto Rico, and the Island areas.
- Census Results are used to determine the apportionment of Congressional Districts and state Legislative Districts.
- The federal government uses Census data to distribute more than \$675 billion in federal funds annually.

MEMBERSHIP

DONOR HONOR ROLL

Please join me in give a big shout out to the following donors since the last report in the January VOTER.

Honoring Lois Finkleman: Cynthia Schneider, M.D, Lotty Brodsky, Lynn Behrendt, Julie Bleicher, Eileen Rosenblum, Diana Dutton, Judy Shure, and Elizabeth Walley.

Patron members: Cheryl Pollman and Catherine and Mack Turner

Rebate: Tom Thumb (Albertsons-Safeway)

General donations: Diane Tasian, Shannon FitzGerald, Peter Schaar, Elaine Wiant, Nia MacKay, Mitchell Menezes, Sally Dunning, Linda Wassenich, Susybelle Gosslee, Harryette Ehrhardt, Cecilia McKay, Louise Hytken, Barbara Morchowder, Arline Pitt, Adrienne and Dennis Drapkin, Kay Irvin, Alice Johnson, Lakshmi Pratap, Jane Davis, Norma and Bill Matthews, Dr. Jean Conway, Jim Nugent, Lois Finkleman, Kathy Freeman, Pat Melly, Larry and Lou Brown.

REMEMBER THE LEAGUE IN YOUR WILL

One hundred years ago, on February 14, 1920, the League of Women Voters was created in anticipation of the adoption of the 19th amendment to help women learn about voting. Ever since, it has been helping people learn about the issues and what the candidates' positions are on the issues. It has been fighting to protect people's right to vote, to preserve fair and honest government, and to promote the rule of law and international cooperation around the world.

If these are things that you value, consider making a gift to the League through your will. You can leave a fixed amount of money or a percentage of your estate to the League. You can also give from your IRA if you are 70½ without paying taxes on that money. Contact Linda Wassenich at LindaVote@gmail.com or 214-368-5305 if you have questions or want the wording for making a bequest ever since in your will.

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; 469-879-8801) or Linda Wassenich (LindaVote@gmail.com; 214-368-5305).

UPCOMING



CANCELLED

Reminder!

All April Unit Meetings
have been Cancelled!

Annual Meeting: May 16th will be conducted by Zoom
We will send more information about this with the Annual Meeting Workbook mailing



CALENDAR

****All upcoming events for League of Women Voters Dallas are postponed****

