TIPS AND RESOURCES FOR LEAGUE ADVOCACY

ADVOCACY & LOBBYING HOW TO BE EFFECTIVE AT BOTH!

Grace Chimene LWVTX Vice President
Jensie Madden LWV Comal Land Use Issue Chair
WHAT IS ADVOCACY?

Public support for or recommendation of a particular cause or policy
WHAT IS LOBBYING?

Any attempt to influence specific legislation

LWVTexas.org

Oppose SB 8
Patients should make their own decisions about medical care
The League of Women Voters of Texas supports measures for the protection, conservation, and development of the groundwater resources of the state as an integral part of the comprehensive state water plan, and groundwater management that would achieve the following objectives:

Assure the long-term productivity of the state's groundwater resources and availability of groundwater supplies

Minimize adverse effects of groundwater withdrawals, including land subsidence and reduction of spring flows
The League of Women Voters of Texas supports a comprehensive state *land use policy* to provide for the orderly development of the state, including:

- Growth and development of an area being compatible with the degree of availability of essential natural resources in that area
- Identification and protection of areas of particular significance (historical, archaeological, aesthetic, recreational) and rare or fragile ecosystems.
- Planning being carried out at the local level should be the main thrust of land use
WHEN LEAGUES TAKES ACTION

• Only acts on an issue when we have a local, state, or national position or are acting under League principles.

• Never lobbies in opposition to a League position.

• May use any local, state, or national position to lobby at the local governmental level only without asking for authorization from state or national.

• If advocacy is directed at a regional governmental body, coordinate with other Leagues.
There really are snakes at the capitol!
Action Tip # 1: Have a sense of humor!
TEXAS LEGISLATURE IN BRIEF

- Meets every two years between January and May
- 150 House Representatives (2 years)
- 31 Senators (4 years)
- Speaker of the House (elected by Reps.)
- Lieutenant Governor (4 years) presides over the Texas State Senate.

Action Tip #2 All states have governors, but the Texas governor is among the weakest.
### THE TEXAS LEGISLATURE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>140 Day Session</th>
<th>Meets Every Other Year</th>
<th>Bills Passed</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>About 5 months, and includes Saturdays &amp; Sundays</td>
<td>On the odd numbered years</td>
<td>The Texas Constitution limits the passing of bills to the last three months of the session.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Competition: 7,000 Bills**  
Decisions have to made in an extremely short amount of time.

**Slow Run, Then Sprint**  
Established relationship with your legislators

---

**Action Tip #3**  
**Texas is a 3 Party State**  
- Democrats  
- Business Republicans  
- Tea Party Republicans
BILLS LIVE & DIE BY DATES

- Nov. 12, 2018 First day to file bills
- January 8, 2019 (1st day)
- March 8, 2019 60th day - Deadline for filing bills & joint resolutions
- May, Last day to send House bills to calendar committee…
- One week before last day of session at midnight – last day for House floor discussion and voting on bills.
- May 27th! Last Day of Regular Session!
- June 16, 2019 20 days after the last day is the last day the governor can sign or veto bills
- August 26, 2019 91st day following final adjournment Date that bills without specific effective dates become law.

Action Tip #4 The only bill the Legislator has to pass is the budget bill!
How a Bill Becomes Law

**Idea**

Bill is introduced by member of House or Senate

First Reading of Bill

Referred to House or Senate Committee

Committee reports bill to members of House or Senate

Second Reading of Bill

Debate on Bill and First Vote

Third Reading of Bill, Final Debate and Vote

If passed, Bill is sent to the second chamber where the process repeats

If House and Senate Bills differ, Bill goes to conference committee

If passed, the Bill may be signed into law or vetoed by the Governor

**Tip #5:** Stop bad bills in committee instead of on the House or Senate floor.
Organize Your Community

- Share news articles
- Programs on issues
- Share link “Who Represents You?”
- Follow @LWVTX & Share “ACTIONS” on social media
- Partner with local experts, organizations, colleges. (if state organization check with LWVTX)

Elected Officials

- Meet, call, email, write, assist
- Use League messaging
- Share Action Papers!

Be alert for new Issue Chairs!
THREE SIMPLE EFFECTIVE WAYS TO ADVOCATE TO YOUR Elected OFFICIALS!

Tip #6: 1. call 2. visit 3. email or write!
ACTION TIP #7: IT IS EASY TO CALL!

- Write your message
- Make it short
- Say your name & your hometown
- Mention if you live in the legislator’s district.
- Explain why you are calling. Identify the bill number & issue.
- Offer 1 or 2 brief talking points & offer local examples if possible.
- Provide your contact information.
- Calls to the capital office have more impact than call to the district office unless legislators are home on recess.
- Thank the staff member for his or her time.
VISIT YOUR PUBLIC OFFICIALS

• Talk with your official or their staff
• Bring information about League LWVTX priority issues
• Smile & see talking points on priority issues.

Tip #8 Use their correct title: Speaker, Lieutenant Governor, Chairman, Mister or Madam Chair, Senator, Representative

Tip #9: Elected officials love to talk. Listen!
Every legislator knows how many votes he or she won by in the last election.
ACTION TIP #12: IT IS EASY TO EMAIL!

- Dear “Title” last name
- Put your position in the subject line.
- Keep message short (2 or 3 sentences).
- Close with your name, complete address/zip code, email address and phone number.

Who represents me?
IT IS EASY WITH ONE CLICK

- Action Alerts
- Facebook
- Capitol Action Newsletter
- Capitol Action Minute videos

Action Tip #13: Take action with the LWVTX and LWVUS

LWV-TX Capitol Action

OPPOSE VOUCHERS

LWVTexas.org
ACTION TIP #14: BUILD RELATIONSHIPS WITH ELECTED OFFICIALS

Be helpful
Be visible
Be truthful
Be specific
Be respectful
Be concise
Be personal

Remember the staff!
Voters believe voting fraud exists
So Reframe: Security, Fairness, Accuracy

Voting rights
Reframe: Freedom, fairness, security, equality, trust, responsibility

https://rethinkmedia.org/democracy
ACTION TIP # 17: DON’T BE TOO WONKY

Tell a story.
Use emotional buttons. Fear, anger, sadness, joy, disgust, trust, anticipation, surprise, friendship, love, shame, envy, jealousy.

Oppose SB 8
Patients should make their own decisions about medical care

Wonky: preoccupied with details or procedures
3. GAIN ALLIES

Collaborate!

**Action Tip #18: Gain allies!**

- Sign up for emails
- Attend meetings
- Use their paid lobbyist as a resource

Collaborate with organizations which are nonpartisan. If they are statewide, they require approval by the LWVTX Board.
Action Tip # 17: SHARE! The League advocacy encourages everyone to take action on issues important to Texans!
RESOURCES!

CPPP
Web: www.forabettertexas.org

League of Women Voters
Web: www.lwvtexas.org
Web: www.VOTE411.org

Free online eBook:
Texas Advocacy Playbook

Texas News sources:
Texas Tribune
Texas Standard
Texas Observer

NASW-Texas Chapter
Web: http://www.naswtx.org/

Texas AFL-CIO (helped with slides)
Web: www.texasaflcio.org

Texas Capitol Resources:
  Sign up for Texas Legislature Online (TLO)
  LWVTX video “how to sign up for TLO
  How to follow a bill using TLO
  Legislative Dates 86th Session
  Maps of the Capitol
  Video: Betsy Goes to Austin
ON YOUR MARK, GET SET, GO ADVOCATE!

No Vouchers! Ridiculous Bathroom Bills! Women's Health! Local Trees Ordinances!

7.18.17

LWVTexas.ORG