LWV-TX Resolution
2018 Convention

Name of League: Collin County

Resolution: LWVTX write a letter to the governor and all Texas Senators and Representatives recommending that the Education Code be modified to include a required, robust social and emotional learning curriculum at every grade level in order to reduce societal violence by ensuring that every student learns interaction skills such as empathy and calm conflict resolution.

Name of position: Violence Prevention
“The League of Women Voters of the United States supports violence prevention programs in all communities and action to support:
. public and private development and coordination of programs that emphasize the primary prevention of violence.
. the active role of government and social institutions in preventing violent behavior.
. the allocation of public monies in government programs to prevent violence.”

Background information: Violence is in the news every day, including school shootings. These events are often immediately followed by calls for gun legislation and then by calls to defend gun rights. We appear to be stuck repeatedly debating a single solution.

There is another solution that deserves consideration, and that is widespread improvement in social interaction skills, such as empathy and calm conflict resolution. In order for it to be widespread, it must be taught in schools. In order for it to be taken seriously by educators and students, it must be required by the Education Code. In order to gain long-lasting proficiency, it must be included at all grade levels, just like other core subjects.

In the 83rd legislative session, San Antonio Representative McClendon submitted an HB5 amendment to modify the Education Code to add a 5th core subject to “develop the required foundation curriculum to teach students skills in social, emotional, and behavioral interaction to prepare students for adult responsibility.” The amendment was tabled.


Evidence that the issue is time sensitive and requires Texas state government action: Here are statistics that support the need for quick action.
There were 5.7 million violent victimizations of US residents in 2016. (https://www.bjs.gov/index.cfm?ty=pbdetail&iid=6166)
There were 749,400 violent victimizations at school among students 12-18 years old in 2016. (https://www.bjs.gov/index.cfm?ty=pbdetail&iid=6206)

Texas state legislation is the only way to get required Social Emotional Learning curriculum into the Texas Education Code.

**Address the resolution to:** The Governor and all state legislators