Board of Directors 2005-2006
Darlene Hicks, President
Marie “Sandy” Ashby
Gwen Essinger
Linda Hanratty
Janet Imhoff
Eddie Josie
Jensie Madden
Julia Marsden
Karen Nicholson
Charelaine Reynolds
Gloria Suarez Sasser
Valerie Stanfield
Elaine Talarski
Elaine Wiant

$5,000 and above
The Alcoa Foundation
Harold Simmons Foundation
LYWEF and The Open Society
Institute
Gwen Murphree
Joan Sladen
Mark & Linda Wassnenich

$2,000 and above
The Brown Foundation
Susybelle Casasah
John & Darlene Hicks
Julia Marsden
Jacqueline Pike
Valerie Stanfield
Elaine Wiant

$1,000 and above
Association of Texas Professional Educators
Ruth M. Bowers
Ruth McLean Bowman
Bowers Foundation
Gwendolyn Essinger
Pilot Hills Resources
HEB Groceries Inc.
Linda Hanratty
Hershey Foundation
Judy Hollinger
Janet Imhoff
KLRN TV, San Antonio
Julie Lowenberger
LWV-Houstoun Area
Education Fund
Gloria Sasser
Nancy Wilson

$500 and above
Maxine Barcar
Mary Blackstock
Lois Carpenter
Continental Airlines International Bank of Commerce
Edith Jones
Jennie Madden
Carolie Mullan
Karen J. Nicholson
Realty World Island Properties LLC
Anonymous

$200 and above
Betty Anderson
Marie “Sandy” Ashby
Sharon Bartling
Elaine Bridges
Rosamaria Clark
Serena Simmons Connely
Ann Foss
Mary Garcia
Ruthann Gear
Mel Golden
Barbara Hankins
Ralph Henderson
Ann Herbage
Katherine Homann
Barbara Hotinski
Linda Krafting
LWV-Austin Area
Robin Millstead
Randall’s Groceries
Charlane V. Reynolds
Pat Schneider

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Raul Salazar,
Executive Administrator
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Assistant Administrator

Annual Report
League of Women Voters of Texas
League of Women Voters of Texas Education Fund

LOCAL LEAGUES

2005-2006

League of Women Voters of Texas Education Fund

“If liberty and equality, as is thought by some, are chiefly to be found in democracy, they will be best attained when all persons alike share in the government to the utmost.”

— Aristotle

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF TEXAS

1212 Guadalupe St., Suite 107 • Austin, TX 78701-1800
(512) 472-1100 • Fax (512) 472-4114 • lwvtexas@lwvtexas.org

“See page 10 for a list of all local leagues in Texas.”

Marlboro Co.
Marble Falls
Marshall/Marshall Co.
Midland
Montgomery Co.
Plan/Colin Co.
Richardson
San Antonio Area
San Marcos Area
Sherrman/Grayson Co.
Tarrant Co.
Tyler
Victoria
Waco
Wichita Falls

Amarillo
Arlington
Austin
Bay Area
Brazos Valley
Comal Area
Concho Valley MAL
Corpus Christi
Dallas
El Paso
Gainesville
Galveston Area
Hidalgo Co.
Houston Area
Johnson Co. MAL
Kerrville
Lubbock
Marshall/Harrison Co.
Midland
Montgomery Co.
Plan/Colin Co.
Richardson
San Antonio Area
San Marcos Area
Sherrman/Grayson Co.
Tarrant Co.
Tyler
Victoria
Waco
Wichita Falls
A Message from the President

For decades the League has enjoyed a strong reputation as a nonpartisan, highly informed and engaged organization that takes seriously its role and responsibility to communities all across Texas. A fundamental component of the League of Women Voters of Texas’s mission is educating people to enhance understanding and protect their democratic rights as voters and advocates. The League approaches all issues from a solid foundation of study, analysis and consensus building. This process is why the League has such a sterling reputation for its grassroots decision-making.

The Texas local Leagues focused on two studies that were completed in fiscal year 2005-2006. Positions based on consensus from local Leagues in Transportation in Texas and Texas Drug Laws and Policies were adopted.

The Year of the Voter was launched with a press conference and kick-off event at the state capitol with local Leagues across Texas participating in a variety of events to engage and connect citizens in the voting process. LWV-TX Voters Guides were provided to libraries throughout Texas where there were no local Leagues. The expertise and dedication of League members, and its reach across Texas, make the League an unparalleled organization for Making Democracy Work. LWV-TX joined LWV-US in an amicus curiae, or “friend of the court” brief, to argue that the Texas legislature’s mid-Census redistricting was unconstitutional because it was carried out solely to achieve partisan advantage. The Supreme Court’s decision was to allow legislatures to redraw boundaries at any time. We will continue to work to have a fair process in the Texas legislature by supporting the establishment of a bi-partisan committee to draw the initial map after the decennial census, which would then be approved by the legislature.

League leaders were involved in the special legislative session for financing Texas public schools. The League has worked long and diligently to influence public policy by contacting legislators and agencies and testifying before committees on issues important to the League.

In a time of widespread apathy and cynicism, the League has never been more important! League members will continue to work to provide the tools that citizens need to be informed voters.

Darlene Hicks, President and Chair

CITIZEN EDUCATION Project Voter

• Distributed Voters Guides in English and in Spanish for the November 2005 Constitutional amendment election and the March 2006 primary election.
• In cooperation with local Leagues, made available 244,000 Voters Guides in print, on the LWV-TX web site, and through newspapers for the March 2006 primary election.
• Provided audio taped versions of the Voters Guides for blind and visually impaired citizens upon request.
• Distributed nearly 18,000 Voters Guides and 10,000 voter guides across the state which are not served by local Leagues.
• Received an applied funding from the LWV-US Education Fund and the ProPublica Foundation and Legal Policy of the Open Society Institute to provide additional information on judicial independence, the Texas judicial system and all state judicial candidates in the March 2006 primary Voters Guide.
• Developed a televised forum on Texas Constitutional Revision with the distinguished panel of former Lt. Governor Bill Hobby, Lt. Governor Bill Ratliff, Senator John Monford, Speaker Pete Laney, and Judge Nelson Wolff. It was produced by PBS station KLRN of San Antonio and taped for distribution to other PBS stations.

Project Citizen

• Adopted positions on Transportation and Drug Policy in Texas at convention in April 2006. These positions will be adopted by the League in April 2007.
• Adopted a study of “Mandated Achievement Testing in the Public Schools of Texas” at convention in April 2006, for completion in early 2008. A committee has been organized and has begun research for summer 2007 publication of a Facts and Findings Report on the subject.
• Published an update for members on the history of Texas Constitutional Revision.
• The 2006 Excellence in Environmental Awareness Awards were presented in the following categories: Catherine Perrine Award Leauge member—Mary Vogelson of Dallas independence; John Speedal of El Paso, non-profit—Robin Schneider and the Texas Campaign for the Environment, media—The Houston Chronicle and reporter Danni Cappiello, government—The City of Plano, and corporate—Cancor and corporate—Texas Instruments.

ADVOCACY IN THE PUBLIC INTEREST

• Celebrated the League of Women Voters of Texas’s Women’s Independence Day on August 26, a commemoration of the ratification of the Nineteenth Amendment to the Constitution which gave women the right to vote, with Secretary of State Roger Williams and Representative Ruth McCleen in attendance. HB 67 (McClendon) (2005) designated August 26 as Women’s Independence Day.
• Covered two 79th Legislative Session special sessions on public school finance, which did not resolve the contested and complex issues.
• Adopted the following issues as the 2006 interim legislative priorities: tax punishment, judicial selection, election reform, public school finance, transportation, and water issues. Used the new transportation promotion position as LWV-TX followed the House Transportation Committee deliberations on its interim charges.
• Monitored the education reform and public finance special legislative session in the Spring of 2006, supporting bipartisan solutions and expanded sources of tax revenue, after covering the meetings of the Senate Select Committee on Education Reform and Public School Finance in preceding months.
• Continued to work to create a coalition that will look at election and HAVA implementation issues such as voter ID.
• Continued our long history of fighting against attacks on the basic constitutional right to fair and equal representation guaranteed to all citizens by the Constitution by seeking reforms to assure that the redistricting process is nonpartisan, equitable and open. These are core rights for citizens of a free and democratic nation.

• Joined the League of Women Voters of the United States to urge the U.S. Supreme Court to overturn the partisan gerrymander imposed on the citizens of Texas and (LULAC v Perry). In an amicus curia, or “friend of the court” brief, the League of Women Voters of the United States and the League of Women Voters of Texas argued that the Texas legislature’s mid-Census redistricting was unconstitutional because it was carried out solely to achieve partisan advantage.

SERVICE TO LOCAL LEAGUES

• Provided support toward the formation of a new League in the Concho Valley area.
• Trained local Leagues through a state-wide Leadership Institute, eight workshops at convention, and League-specific training in local cities.
• Shared good ideas and best practices among the “Around the State” articles for the Texas Voter with local success stories and by publishing LOCAL VOTERS on the state web site.
• Gave tips in the Texas Voter in print and on the Internet to local League leaders on recruiting and maintaining membership.
• Supported Members-at-Large (members not in areas where there are local Leagues) with periodic mailings and tips.
• Strengthened local Leagues with organizational tips in periodic email insertions sent from the state office to ensure consistency.
• Continued to work to create a coalition that will look at election and HAVA implementation issues such as voter ID.
• Continued our long history of fighting against attacks on the basic constitutional right to fair and equal representation guaranteed to all citizens by the Constitution by seeking reforms to assure that the redistricting process is nonpartisan, equitable and open. These are core rights for citizens of a free and democratic nation.

The League of Women Voters of Texas, a nonpartisan political organization, promotes informed and active participation by citizens 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 32 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 full-time staff of two in the state office, volunteers contribute tens of thousands of hours (worth more than $1 million) to conduct League studies, voter service projects, and advocacy based on League positions. Financial contributions to LWV-TX enable it to help local Leagues and sustain its 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 nonpartisan, factual information about voting, government, and public policy to Texas citizens. Contributions to the Education Fund support studies, publications, dissemination of information, positions on issues that affect Texans, and projects to encourage and increase informed voting as well as services to strengthen local Leagues and ensure that League guidelines and nonpartisanship are upheld. Gifts may be designated for specific projects approved by the trustees or for the overall voters service and citizen education activities of the fund.

LWV-TEF has been classified as a publicly supported educational trunk in accordance with Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code and is eligible to receive contributions as a private foundation, as defined in Section 509 of the code. Therefore, donations to the LWV-TEF may be deducted as charitable contributions.

The League of Women Voters of Texas Education Fund: 2005-2006

\[
\begin{array}{c|c|c|c|c|c|c|c}
\hline
\text{Income} & \text{Board & Administration} & \text{Programs & Services} & \text{Contributions to} & \text{LWV-US} & \text{LWV-TEF} & \text{Total Income} \\
\hline
\text{Grants} & 11\% & 11\% & 33\% & 33\% & 11\% & 110,378 \\
\text{Investment & Services} & 3\% & 3\% & 33\% & 33\% & 11\% & 110,378 \\
\text{Membership} & 19\% & 19\% & 11\% & 11\% & 11\% & 110,378 \\
\text{Publications & Marketing} & 12\% & 12\% & 11\% & 11\% & 11\% & 110,378 \\
\text{Conventions} & 23\% & 23\% & 11\% & 11\% & 11\% & 110,378 \\
\text{Other} & 6\% & 6\% & 11\% & 11\% & 11\% & 110,378 \\
\hline
\text{Total Income} & 100\% & 100\% & 100\% & 100\% & 100\% & 110,378 \\
\end{array}
\]

LWV-TEF Income $110,378

\[
\begin{array}{c|c|c|c|c|c|c|c}
\hline
\text{Board & Administration} & \text{Programs & Services} & \text{Contributions to} & \text{LWV-US} & \text{LWV-TEF} & \text{LWV-TEF} & \text{LWV-TEF} \\
\hline
\text{Conventions} & 19\% & 19\% & 11\% & 11\% & 11\% & 110,378 \\
\text{Publications & Marketing} & 12\% & 12\% & 11\% & 11\% & 11\% & 110,378 \\
\text{Other} & 6\% & 6\% & 11\% & 11\% & 11\% & 110,378 \\
\hline
\text{LWV-TEF Expense} & 100\% & 100\% & 100\% & 100\% & 100\% & 110,378 \\
\end{array}
\]