

May 2016 VOTER (abbreviated version)

The **PRIMARY RUNOFF ELECTION** is **Tuesday, May 24, 2016** from **7 AM to 7 PM**.

Early Voting is this week, **Monday-Friday, May 16-20** from **7AM to 7 PM**.

LWV Dallas Calendar Planning Meeting

Thursday, June 2 at 2:00 p.m.

at the

League office

2720 N Stemmons Freeway, Suite 812 South, Dallas

214-688-4125

Plan to attend. Everyone welcome!

It's Time to Vote!

No, we're not talking about voting in the May 7 local election, or the May 24 primary runoff, though these are vitally important elections that all good citizens should participate in.

**We're talking about voting in the LWV US
Making Democracy Work - Strengthening Democracy contest!**

The LWV Dallas' "**Texas Voter Education Guide**" is one of four local League projects nominated for this award along with four state League projects. Winners will be the projects that get the most votes.

The four state Leagues that have been chosen as finalists are:

the League of Women Voters of California,
the League of Women Voters of Kansas,
the League of Women Voters of Ohio and
the League of Women Voters of Wisconsin.

The four local Leagues that have been chosen as finalists are:

the League of Women Voters of New Orleans (LA),
the League of Women Voters of Sioux Falls (SD),
the League of Women Voters of Dallas (TX) and
the League of Women Voters of Arlington (VA).

**Click on this link or copy & paste into your web browser to read more, and
don't forget to *cast your vote before May 31!***

<http://lww.org/blog/let-us-know-which-leagues-did-most-strengthen-democracy-their-communities>

From the Desk of the President... At the annual meeting on Saturday, April 30, the membership overwhelmingly approved consolidating our League into one 501(c)3 non-profit organization. Members and assets were transferred from the old 501(c)4 organization to the LWVD Ed Fund, and the EF's name was changed to LWV Dallas. Board member and attorney Dominique Torres and I signed, notarized and distributed the paperwork necessary for this consolidation on May 2.

On May 4, the Secretary of State notified the League that the amendments to our corporation were accepted.
LWVD is now officially a 501(c)3 non-profit, and all donations to the League of Women Voters of Dallas, even membership dues, can be tax-deductible.

With this change, the budget and the income and expense statements will be greatly simplified. LWVD may qualify for grants that are only for 501(c)3 organizations. Up to 20% of LWVD's expenditures can be for lobbying: three-fourths on direct lobbying of public officials and one-fourth on grassroots lobbying. Careful records of expenses related to lobbying will need to be kept, but volunteers' expenses are not counted unless reimbursement is requested.*

I especially appreciate the efforts of Cecilia McKay and Linda Wassenich for their time and expertise as they worked with me on writing the new bylaws. The board joins me in thanking Dominique Torres for preparing the amendments to our corporation and the Bylaws committee, consisting of Susybelle Gosslee, Cecilia McKay, Linda Wassenich and Dominique Torres, for their advice on the bylaws and the conversion process. The membership at the Annual Meeting deserves a big thank you for their support, patience and insightful comments as we went through the steps of conversion. We will welcome the new board in the Summer VOTER.

We have been honored. Four local Leagues have been chosen as finalists for the LWV US Making Democracy Work – Strengthening Democracy contest and LWV Dallas is one of them. See page 1 for details. The project with the most votes is the winner. Please vote for us so that the Dallas League is the winner.

Thank you all for making my first year as President so rewarding and meaningful. I am blessed to have the opportunity to work with you again for one more year.

Eileen Rosenblum
LWVD President

*Remember - lobbying consists of asking a legislator to vote a specific way on a particular bill.
Advocacy is more general, public education on an issue but not tied to a specific bill.

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The Importance of Voting: Emerging Latino Voters

On April 19, three individuals with special insights into the demographic currents in our community presented a program on emerging Latino voters for the LWV Dallas and the National Council of Jewish Women (local chapter) at the Center for Community Cooperation.



Dr. Timothy Bray of the Institute for Urban Policy Research at the University of Texas at Dallas presented a fascinating picture of changes in Dallas over time. From 1970, the Latino population in Dallas has grown from 63,000 to nearly 548,000. He said there are more people of Hispanic origin in Texas today than the entire populations of 11 US states combined, which begs the question of what is the definition of a "minority". After very heated growth in the 1990's the rate of increase has plummeted.

Mr. Rene Martinez of LULAC and Eastfield College told a compelling story of the changing Latino community in Dallas from an insider's perspective. His parents immigrated at very young ages from Mexico to Dallas and he grew up in a section of town called Little Mexico. His parents were adamant that he get a good education, viewing education as the key to success in the United States. Regarding the low rate of Latinos eligible to vote, Mr. Martinez said he thinks we will see big changes when there are young and exciting Latino candidates to choose from. He believes we are starting to see some inspiring candidates in Dallas.





Dr. Edwin Flores, Dallas ISD school board trustee and managing partner of a law firm that specializes in biotechnology patent law spoke next. Dr. Flores was born in Mexico City and came to the United States to get his higher education. He points out that he is a Latino elected official representing a majority district, and that he does not believe there is much correlation between the country of origin of voters and the country of origin of the candidates they choose. He believes that the key to voter turnout is having quality candidates regardless of race or ethnicity. He would like to see excellent Latino candidates in all important contests, whether in minority majority districts or otherwise.

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May 7 Local Election Results

Texas wrapped up another round of local elections on Saturday, May 7. No reports of major problems surfaced. Some contests experienced negative campaigning while in others the dialogue remained positive.

In Dallas County, turnout was slightly lower than in similar previous elections. Voter registrations are higher, but numbers of voters are lower, resulting in lower turnout percentages. It's somewhat surprising that turnout for DISD contests remains so low in spite of the focus on DISD in media and the number of candidates vying for seats.

In the chart below, turnout in several jurisdictions is presented in detail. The **blue bars** represent percentage turnout in the previous election for that contest while the **red bars** represent percentage turnout for the May 2016 election. In most cases this year's turnout lagged.

Some jurisdictions will have runoffs on Saturday, June 18, 2016, including Dallas ISD District 2 in north Dallas, DCCCD District 3 in northeast Dallas County, DCCCD District 4 in east Dallas County, Grand Prairie ISD Districts 2, 4, 6 and 7, and Coppell ISD Place 3.

