

League of Women Voters
of Dallas

VOTER



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

We Need Your Help

by Brenda Marks, LWVD Board Member

As an organization, LWVD is working harder than ever to stretch its budget and membership dollars. Like many non-profit organizations, our membership has decreased in the past few years, while our budget has been stretched by mandatory increases in our PMP to both LWV-TX and LWV-US. LWVD has maintained yearly membership fees of \$60, and it is the goal of the organization to keep them at the current level going forward. But, to accomplish that goal we need your help.

As membership has decreased, so have donations. This is a tough financial time for all of us, but the League plays a vital role in Dallas and offers quite a solid "bang for your buck." We publish and distribute a monthly 'Voter' and 'YEO' and purchase educational materials from LWV-TX and LWV-US for distribution to members and the public at large. We use your membership dollars to produce programs of interest such as the Water Forum. And we have all those out-of-pocket expenses from rent to insurance to postage and copy paper. It takes a bit more money to drive the LWVD bus, but for every dollar we spend on programs and voter services, the more the public views the LWVD as playing a critical role in the public debate.

We are entering a period where our voter services leadership will be essential in educating the public about new voter identification requirements, redistricting and the upcoming Presidential election season. If you can find it in your budget to make an extra contribution to either LWVD or LWVD-Ed Fund, please know it will be used judiciously and will be greatly appreciated.

October Unit Meetings

The League's program year is in full swing. Last month unit meetings began the consensus process addressing the Role of the Federal Government in Public Education. The Wednesday evening and Thursday morning units will complete that process at their October meetings. Prior attendance at the September units is not a requirement for participation in the October consensus meetings. All members and guests are welcome.

Having completed the education consensus in one meeting, the Wednesday morning unit scheduled a very timely program for their October meeting. A representative of the Dallas County Elections Department will discuss the Voter Identification Requirements that go into effect in 2012. Straight ticket voting issues are also on the agenda.

October 12

Wednesday Morning Unit9:30 a.m.

Center for Community Cooperation
High Plains Room
2900 Live Oak Street Dallas 75204
Contact: Mildred Pope

Wednesday Evening Unit 6:00 p.m.

Angela's Café
7979 Inwood Road Dallas 75219
(NW corner of Lovers Ln & Inwood Rd)
Contact: Susan Saunders

October 13

Thursday Morning Unit9:30 a.m.

Episcopal Church of St. John the Apostle
6525 Inwood Road Dallas 75209
(NW corner of Mockingbird Ln & Inwood Rd)
Contact: Eleanor Sutherland, Ann Adams

2011–2012

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of
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We need your help to increase our membership. The League of Women Voters Texas is challenging all the state Leagues to grow their membership base. They will award a prize to the winning League at the State convention in April. This fits perfectly with my main goal for the year.

The membership committee is planning a fun Spring mixer. Our intent is to attract the next generation of Leaguers. In the meantime, we need each of you to think of ways to share with your friends, neighbors and family the value of being a League member. Perhaps you would like to host a gathering in your home. If you want to have a League speaker join you, please let me know.

Invite your potential new members to an October or November unit meeting. October unit meeting topic is Consensus on the Federal Role in Public Education. November unit meeting topic is Consensus on LWVTX study on Water as a Commodity in Texas. This will give your friends an opportunity to see how Leaguers approach the serious issues affecting our community. These new recruits can see what we do best; study an issue and come to Consensus to form a Position.

I welcome your ideas. It is vital that we increase our membership. We need to expand our base and attract the younger generation to the League of Women Voters. We need to educate others about the important work that we do and find issues that are important to them. As I have heard from many of you, you were attracted to the League by an issue, but you stayed because of the great friends that you made.

Let's make this a terrific year for recruitment and win the LWVTX contest in April.

Mission Statement

The League of Women Voters, a nonpartisan political organization, encourages informed and active participation in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy.

League of Women Voters Urges U.S. Justice Department to Object to Texas Redistricting Plan

Washington, DC—The League of Women Voters of the United States has joined the League of Women Voters of Texas in urging Attorney General Eric Holder to reject the congressional redistricting plan submitted by the state of Texas on the grounds that it would disenfranchise minority voters and is in clear violation of the landmark Voting Rights Act.

“The Texas plan is by far the most extreme example of racial gerrymandering among all the redistricting proposals passed by lawmakers so far this year. This plan is blatantly designed to stifle the voices of minority voters in favor of locking in partisan gains,” said national League president Elisabeth MacNamara. “The Department of Justice needs to unequivocally object to this plan and tell the state to start over.”

“Growth in minority communities over the last decade, according to the Census, accounts for ninety percent of the population shifts that afforded our state with an unparalleled four new congressional seats this year,” explained Texas League president Karen Nicholson. “Instead of recognizing this, the plan passed by the legislature and signed by Governor Perry actually affords minorities with less electoral opportunity than they currently have. This hostile back-stepping is not only manipulative; it’s also prohibited under the Voting Rights Act.”

“Numbers don’t lie,” concluded Nicholson. “Hard-working minority voters have changed the face of Texas over the past decade. Our democracy needs to reflect that.”

A significant number of individuals, and civil rights, civic, and community organizations including the League of Women Voters of Texas testified repeatedly that the congressional map was clearly designed to benefit lawmakers’ partisan interests while egregiously shortchanging minority voters and fracturing close-knit communities of interest.

The Texas League testified at hearings of both the House Redistricting Committee and the Senate Select Redistricting Committee and is available for further comment upon request. [Read the comment letter](#) here or learn more at www.lwvtexas.org.

Contacts:

LWVUS- Kelly Ceballos
(202) 263-1331; kceballos@lwv.org

LWV of Texas- Anita Privett
(512) 467-2674; advocacy@lwvtexas.org

Source: www.lwv.org website

Join the **League of Women Voters of Dallas**

where hands-on work to safeguard democracy leads to civic improvement.

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF DALLAS DIVERSITY STATEMENT

The League of Women Voters of Dallas (LWVD), in both its values and practices, affirms its belief in, and commitment to, diversity and pluralism.

LWVD welcomes any person to participate in any activity of LWVD, regardless of gender, race, religion, age, sexual orientation, national origin, disability or political persuasion.

LWVD recognizes that diverse perspectives are important and necessary for responsible and representative decision-making.

LWVD subscribes to the belief that diversity and pluralism are fundamental to the values it upholds and that inclusiveness enhances its capability to respond more effectively to changing conditions and needs.

LWVD affirms its commitment to reflecting diversity in its membership, board, staff and programs.

It's not for women only!

Membership Levels

___\$60/year Individual ___\$30 additional member at same address

___\$150/year Patron ___\$500/year Benefactor

___Scholarship information available upon request. Call 214-688-4125

___\$25/year Student \$___Contribution to LWVD Scholarship Fund

Name(s) _____

Address _____

Phones: Home _____ Work _____

Cell _____ E-mail _____

**Mail your payment to -
League of Women Voters of Dallas**

2720 N Stemmons Frwy, Ste 812 S
Dallas, TX 75207

**League of Women Voters of Dallas
2720 N. Stemmons Freeway, Suite 812
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