

League of Women Voters  
of Dallas

# VOTER



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

## DECEMBER UNIT MEETINGS

Members who attend unit meetings on December 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> will be our “grass roots”, and they have the opportunity to choose program for LWV Dallas and/or LWV Texas. This is also the chance to look at standing positions to consider an upgrade, or even dropping an issue as being complete.

Program VP Marlene Cohen has laid out an agenda for considering new issues where a legislative remedy is called for.

Bring a friend /neighbor to watch the League in the process of making democracy work!

Often December units have a Holiday Party, a special time for fellowship and to enjoy each other, just chatting and sharing a pot luck lunch of treats from home! Or in that restaurant where you gather, sharing a special dessert! Or trying a new place with friends!

Don't mind me. I hope there will be good numbers to help choose a program issue that needs attention.

*Eleanor Sutherland, Editor*

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## HELPERS NEEDED FOR MARCH PRIMARY VOTERS GUIDE

The **Voters Guide** is the best known and most respected product of the LWV. LWV Dallas is planning on publishing a **Voters Guide** for the upcoming Presidential Primary election in March 2016. With candidates from Constable to President on the Republican and Democratic

(*Helpers Needed, cont.*) primary ballots, there are sure to be lots of candidates involved.

Now you can help be a part of its creation!

We need 12-15 volunteers to act as candidate contacts, or “**wranglers**”. Each volunteer wrangler will be responsible for 6-8 candidates. We will provide you with the candidate names and their basic contact information. We will also take responsibility for sending out the questions to candidates and logging their responses. We need **you** to contact the candidates, confirm their phone numbers and email addresses and to forward any problems they may encounter in responding to the League’s questions. For these candidates, you will be their primary point of contact with LWVD.

The time commitment involved is only a couple of hours in mid-December through early January and in mid-January, but we need to know we can count on you as we plan the way forward.

If you'd like to become a “**wrangler**” or have any questions, contact **Dorie Cranshaw** at **214-358-7282** or **doriebigd@aol.com**.

### Inside this VOTER

President’s Message  
Unit Meeting Agenda: Program Planning  
SBA Auction Call for Items  
SBA Sponsorship Agreement  
Election Roundup & Voter Education  
Honor Roll, Planned Giving and more

**Dec. 9 .....10:00 am**

**Wednesday Morning Unit**

Mildred Pope 469.235.7077

**Center for Community Cooperation**

Piney Woods Room  
2900 Live Oak Street  
Dallas 75204

**Dec. 10 ....9:30 am**

**Thursday Morning Unit**

Kathy Calhoun 214.943.6738

**The Episcopal Church of  
St Thomas the Apostle**

6525 Inwood Road  
Dallas 75209

**Dec. 10 ....11:30 am**

**Far North Dallas Unit**

Ann Grant 972.931.5628

Anne Tabb 972.392.7067

**Egg and I**

15203 Knoll Trail  
Arapaho & Montfort/Knoll

**Dec. 10 .....6:30 pm**

**Thursday Evening Unit**

Arline Pitt 214.803.7396

**Angela's Café**

7979 Inwood Road  
Dallas 75219



**2015 - 2016  
LWV Dallas  
Board of Directors**

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**FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK**

*Does Money Influence Politics?* Members and guests attended LWVD member Liz Wally's splendid presentation on the subject. Panelists were Attorney David Jones who covered the legal issues surrounding political contributions and Erik Dolliver who discussed how some states have addressed the problem with a variety of small donor subsidies. Liz has worked hard on this issue and is to be congratulated for what she has achieved for *Clean Elections*, where she is executive director. Elizabeth Walley led us through the process of consensus on the issue. We can send satisfying results to LWVUS. Thanks go to Program VP Marlene Cohen, overall organizer of this National League study.



Our Far North Dallas unit had a very interesting consensus related to the study of *Payday and Car Title Loans in Texas*. League member Glenda Pasley helped us understand the issues for banks, payday loan institutions, and consumers of these loans. Educational programs on financial management aimed at those with little experience in applying for loans or with banks are needed. Perhaps a local study on financial literacy would be of interest to some of you.

Voter Outreach VP Elizabeth Walley and her team of volunteers have been very busy with voter registration. She welcomes volunteers to become voter registrars. Let her know that you can help. She recently concluded the state study about K-12 Civic Education in Texas Schools. You can see the curriculum guide that was presented to *The Texas Social Studies Association* on the LWV Texas website.

Work has begun on the Susan B. Anthony Luncheon and Silent Auction. Chair Leigh Bailey has recruited Dominique Torres to work alongside her to make it the best fundraising event ever. President-Elect Cecilia McKay and Fran Morris are supporting their efforts with a technology overhaul that will provide the committee with highly useful information. This VOTER has details about the luncheon and silent auction. Please start asking your favorite entertainment and dining venues for donations. Welcome Dominique to the board as chair-elect of the 2017 SBA Luncheon and Silent Auction.

I hope you have received your letter from the League requesting a year-end donation. Thank you in advance for your generosity to the League of Women Voters of Dallas. Please remember that an education fund donation is fully tax-deductible.

Enjoy the December unit meetings where we plan our future programs and celebrate the coming holidays.

I hope you have a very Happy and Merry holiday season.

*Eileen Rosenblum*  
LWVD President

## December Plans

by Marlene Cohen, Program VP

The December Units Meetings are combining some work with some fun. Program planning has to be done this month, but once it's done, it's time to p-a-r-t-y!

Party planning is up to the individual units, but program planning has a set form.

Program planning gives members a chance to share their thoughts and suggestions on local and state issues they would like to be a part of future planning. Ideas discussed in unit meetings will be prioritized by the attendees and submitted to the Program Planning Committee. That committee will combine the ideas from all the units which will decide on a proposed study for the upcoming year.

When looking at new or existing programming, recommendations can include:

- Review/update of an existing local or state position,
- Amending a local or state position,
- New study, or
- Concurrence with a local position.



State issues can be found in "Issues We Support" at <http://lwvtexas.org/files/AdvocacyIssuesWeSupport2013.pdf>, and local issues are in the "LWV Dallas Handbook and Directory" at [http://lwvdallas.org/we\\_support.htm](http://lwvdallas.org/we_support.htm).

If you are unable to attend a unit meeting and wish to suggest a topic for study, you may submit your ideas to the LWVD office, and it will be forwarded to the Program Planning Committee.

Come to your unit meeting, bring a friend, and help chart the course for the upcoming year!

## Does Money Influence Politics?

A huge thank you to Liz Wally and the panel of experts who presented our excellent November program, *Does Money Influence Politics?* We



are all better informed on this issue.

And thank you to the other Liz, Elizabeth

Walley, for keeping the group on track so we could reach a consensus.



### GENERAL AND UNIT MEETING DATES & TOPICS

- Dec. 09/10 Unit Meetings - Program Planning and Holiday Party
- Jan. 13/14 Elections/Voting Overview
- Feb. 11 NO UNIT MEETINGS
- Mar. 09/10 Education Updates
- Mar. General Meeting - TBA
- Apr. 13/14 TBA
- May 11/12 Do Your Own Thing!



# LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF DALLAS EDUCATION FUND

## Silent Auction for the Susan B. Anthony Award Luncheon

### Auction Donor Information

(Please print name exactly as it should appear in the auction.)

Company: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Name & Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

Fax or E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Auction Item(s) or Service:

Estimated Value(s):

\_\_\_ Donation Enclosed

\_\_\_ Donation to be delivered \_\_\_\_\_ or picked up \_\_\_\_\_ : \_\_\_\_\_  
(Date and location)

Contact's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Please complete and forward copy to:

LWV Dallas Education Fund  
2720 N. Stemmons Freeway, Suite 812  
Dallas, TX 75207

Fax: 214-688-4125, dial 1 or E-mail: [lwvdallas@sbcglobal.net](mailto:lwvdallas@sbcglobal.net)

or return the form with the item to Becky Brakke 214-363-0921 or Jane Pak 972-233-2715.

Solicited by: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

**The League of Women Voters of Dallas Education Fund is a 501(c)3 organization.**

Tax EIN 75-1876278

No goods or services provided in exchange for donations.

Thank you for your generous support!

## November Election Voter Turnout

by Elizabeth Walley, VP Voter Outreach

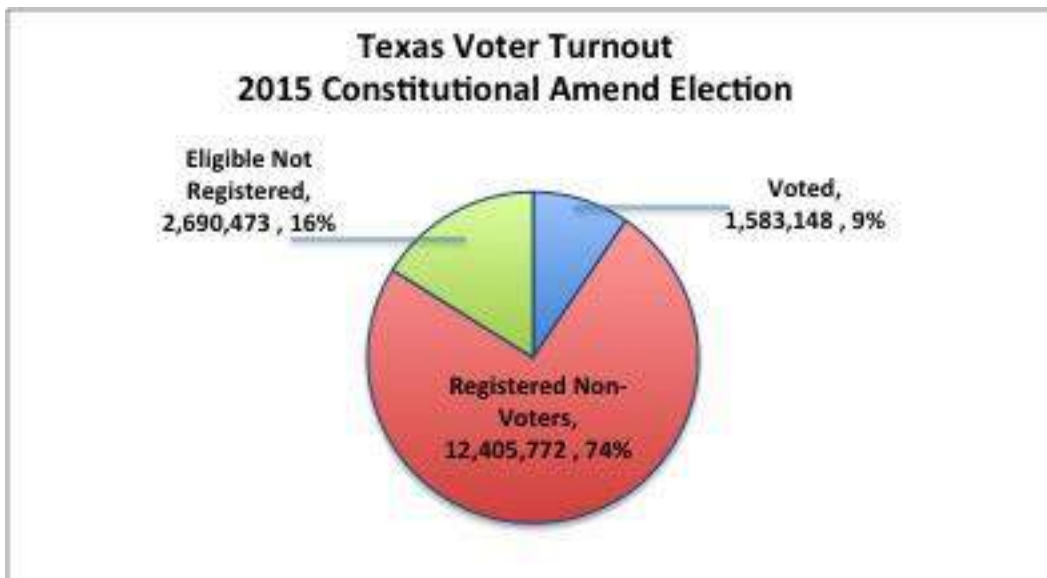
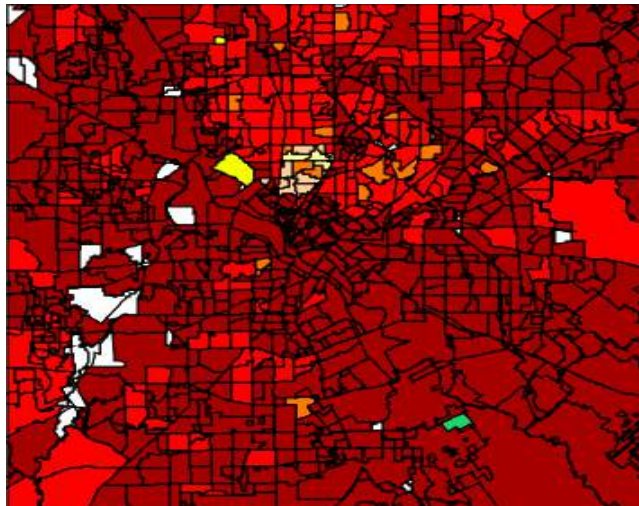
We experienced a welcome bit of an uptick in the November election turnout where voters made their choices on seven state constitutional amendments and an array of local referendums.

Most interesting in Dallas was turnout for the DISD bond election. Vigorous pro and con debate stimulated turnout. While turnout was low, it was better at 8% of registered voters, than turnout for the previous DISD bond election in 2008, where turnout was only 4%.

Countywide turnout was 9% of registered voters. Statewide turnout of **eligible** (as opposed to **registered**) voters was 9%. We do not have data to report on eligible voter turnout in Dallas County, so only report on registered voter turnout.

## Dallas County Turnout in 2015 November Election

The lighter the color, the higher the turnout percentage.



## BENEFIT TEA A HUGE SUCCESS

The Benefit Tea featuring Rena Pederson talking about her new book, *The Burma Spring*, had a sold-out audience and raised more than \$5,000. The tea was held in the beautiful home of Jane and Charles Pak.

The following donors helped sponsor the event: Pat Sabin, Susybelle Gosslee, Eileen Rosenblum, Linda Wassenich, Barbara Weinstein, Ann Adams, Patti Crumley and Jane Pak.

They also helped honor Eleanor Sutherland on her 95<sup>th</sup> birthday along with these additional people: Leigh Bailey, Fran McElvaney, Liz Wally, Kay Irvin, Anne Tabb, Linda Camin, Marlene Cohen, Miriam Foshay, Genie Fritz, Julie Lowenberg, Barbara Materka, Arline Pitt, Jan Sanders, Rose Harp, Molly Van Ort, Kathy Calhoun, Katherine Homan, Rebecca Bergstresser, Barbara Turner and Pat Vaughan.

Donations were received from Shirley Cooper, Agnes Ellsworth, Kathy Freeman, Sue Lichten, Beverly Tobian and Cecilia McKay.

## DONOR HONOR ROLL

The Tom Thumb Good Neighbor Program contributed \$109.30 to LWVD EF. If you have not made the LWVD Ed Fund the beneficiary of your Tom Thumb Rewards Card purchases, please check with the Customer Service manager to sign up and help the League.

Bessie Weed made a gift in honor of Ann Adams, Lea Frailey and Alice Johnson. Kathryn Tucker made her monthly contribution.

## END-OF-YEAR CONTRIBUTIONS

As the year draws down to the last month, many people plan their year-end giving. LWV Dallas has sent out an appeal letter, and we hope you will respond generously. After all, we're in this business of Making Democracy Work together, and we're more effective when we have the resources to do the job.

Some people use this time of the year to estimate their income taxes, and they may find that they are able to reduce their taxable income by making a charitable donation. Donating appreciated stock allows the donor to deduct the market value of the stock and avoid capital gains taxes.

If you would like to talk about making a significant or planned gift, please call Linda Wassenich at [214-368-5305](tel:214-368-5305) or email at [LindaVote@gmail.com](mailto:LindaVote@gmail.com). When considering the details of making a gift, you are encouraged to consult with your lawyer or accountant.

### Working Together Makes a Difference

by Susybelle Gosslee

**Texas Campaign for the Environment** reports: Thanks to your support and thousands of other voices across Texas and the country, we are celebrating a huge victory this week: **Pier 1 Imports**, based in Fort Worth, has publicly announced its decision to phase out toxic flame retardant chemicals in furniture for sale in its stores.

This is great news for us all!

## Texas Voter Education Guide

by Elizabeth Walley

A new document has been posted on the LWV Texas site, the Texas Voter Education Guide. The Guide was created by LWV Dallas for Texas teachers to facilitate access to quality voter education materials. It is a compilation of links to voter education lessons gleaned from respected civics and voter education internet-based courses. Lessons are Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS) aligned, sorted by grade level and intended to supplement and enhance existing instructional materials. The K-12 lessons are grouped into three categories: *What Government Does*, *Why Vote* and *How to Vote*.

The hope is that, over time, improved voter education and understanding will lead to higher turnout and more positive and productive attitudes towards voting. To that end, our job as LWV members in Texas will be to encourage the use of lessons from the Guide in classrooms along with the other tasks we do.

The Guide has been distributed widely in DISD and to other points in Texas. It was presented to social studies teachers from around the state at the annual Texas Council for the Social Studies conference in Fort Worth at a presentation called "Teach a Child to Vote" and at a booth staffed by LWV Tarrant County members. Many thanks to LWV Tarrant County for their help at the conference!

If you'd like to explore the Guide, google Texas Voter Education Guide, or follow links on the LWV Texas, LWV Dallas or LWV Tarrant County websites.



### It's Round-up Time!

With a hearty Hi-Yo, Patti Crumley rode the range last month and brought hard copies of the SBA silent auction donor solicitation letter and form to all the Unit meetings. Members, harken to her call! Keep those papers with you and talk to the next restaurant manager, hair stylist, service provider or shop owner you encounter. Ask for their participation and assure them that their support will be appreciated and recognized at the SBA Luncheon, Thursday, February 11.

Looking, looking.... our Lone Ranger Patchwork Bear is looking for his posse – Leaguers with saddlebags and baskets, empty and full. A filled theme bag or basket could equip a wine tasting or a birthday party. An empty basket or interesting container could inspire the committee to find green growing plants to welcome spring. Where is that posse? Where are you? Can you share your special interests or talents? Have you discovered a precious treasure or an amusing bauble? Come on in. The solicitation letter and form are nearby at [www.lwvdallas.org](http://www.lwvdallas.org) or the

League office can send them to you. Come on in and ride with the Lone Ranger Patchwork Bear.

SBA Auction Co-chairs, *Becky Brakke*, 214.363.0921, and *Jane Pak*, 972.233.2715.

# 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  
Dallas, TX 75207-2241**

**Voice & Fax: 214 688-4125**

**E-mail: lwvdallas@sbcglobal.net**

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# DECEMBER 2015

3	LWVD Board Meeting @League office, 2720 N Stemmons, Suite 812 S
7	Hannukah (sundown)
9/10	LWVD UNIT MEETINGS- "Program Planning & Holiday Party"
15	January VOTER articles DUE
24&25	Christmas OFFICE CLOSED- Thursday & Friday
26	Kwanzaa begins
30	DEADLINE to submit Consensus report on "Payday & Auto Title Loans in Texas"
31	New Year's Eve



*Mark your calendars -*

*The Twentieth Annual Susan B. Anthony Luncheon  
will be held Thursday, February 11, 2016  
Honoring Regina Montoya*

In an effort to increase funding for the League and to maintain its viability, we are asking members to please consider purchasing tables or splitting tables with friends. Tickets are available to LWV members for \$100.

Long-time League member **Agnes Ellsworth** currently living in Spring, Texas was unable to attend the General Meeting in November. She wanted me to tell her many friends in the League Hello and Happy Holidays.



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF DALLAS EDUCATION FUND

Twentieth Annual
Susan B. Anthony Award Luncheon and Silent Auction
Thursday, February 11, 2016

What Does LWV Do?

- Candidate debates and issue forums
Voters Guide & VOTE411.com
Your Elected Officials contact information
Election Day Voter Hotline
Voter Registration

Name or Organization: (as you wish it to appear in the program)

Contact Name:

Mailing Address:

City: Zip Code:

Phone Number(s):

Email Address:

Sponsorship Levels

Presenting Sponsor: \$10,000
Only One Sold
All Benefits of Susan B. Anthony & More
Completely Customizable

Susan B. Anthony: \$5,000
Priority Seating for 10
Program Recognition
Full-Page Ad
No Wait Experience for Check-In & Valet
Invitation to Champagne Reception

Juanita Craft: \$2,500
Priority Seating for 10
Program Recognition
Half-Page Ad
No Wait Experience for Check-In & Valet

Irma Lerma Rangel: \$1,250
One Table for 10
Program Recognition

Sarah T. Hughes: \$250
Priority Seating for 1
Program Recognition

Congratulatory Program Advertising Honoring Regina Montoya

(Please send ad in JPG format to lwvdallas@sbcglobal.net by January 16, 2016)

- Full-Page (7.5"x10") Ad \$500
Half-Page (4.5"x7.5") Ad \$250
Quarter-Page (3.5"x4.5") Ad \$100
Back Cover (7.5"x10") Ad \$1,000

- I do not wish to be listed in the program or applicable publications.
I decline all benefits.
I am unable to attend but wish to make a contribution in the amount of \$ to benefit LWVDEF.

BILLING AND PAYMENT INFORMATION

- My check made payable to LWVDEF in the amount of \$ is enclosed.
Pay online at www.lwvdallas.org.
Please bill my credit card: Full payment now or 1st payment now, 2nd payment due by January 16, 2016. Amount to Charge \$

Cardholder's Name
Billing Address/City/State/Zip
MC, VISA, AMEX CARD # Expiration Security code
Cardholder's Signature

Please make payments to LWVDEF by Saturday, January 16, 2016 to:
LWVDEF, Attn: SBA, 2720 N Stemmons Frwy, Suite 812 S, Dallas, TX 75207
(214) 688-4125 • LWVDallas@sbcglobal.net • www.lwvdallas.org
Contributions are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law.