

League of Women Voters  
of Dallas

# VOTER



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

As you prepare to vote in the May local elections, check the candidates and their positions at [www.Vote411.org](http://www.Vote411.org), the League of Women Voters' online *Voters Guide*. Most greater Dallas area races are covered, including the city of Dallas' and DISD's, and also races in Tarrant and Collin Counties. You can compare candidates unedited responses to questions side-by-side. You can also print out your selections to take into the voting booth to refresh your memory when you vote.



Don't let this opportunity to have your say in how you will be governed pass you by!

### Election Calendar:

First Day of Early Voting	Monday, April 27
Last Day to Apply for Ballot by Mail	Thursday, April 30
Last Day of Early Voting	Tuesday, May 5
Election Day	Saturday, May 9

### WOMEN'S COUNCIL OF DALLAS COUNTY 60TH ANNUAL AWARDS LUNCHEON

Tuesday, May 19, 2015

Lakewood Country Club  
1912 Abrams Road  
Dallas, TX 75214

\$55 members/\$65 non-members  
Reserved tables of 8 for \$440

**RSVP** by May 12  
[rsvp@dallaswomenscouncil.org](mailto:rsvp@dallaswomenscouncil.org)

Attention Members: [LWVD Dallas is a member of the Women's Council.](#)  
You are urged to attend and salute these women whose achievements are being celebrated.

The honorees at this luncheon include two of our members. They are Woman of the Year-the [Hon. Harryette B. Ehrhardt](#), Distinguished Individual Member-[Ella Goode Johnson](#), and Distinguished Public Service-[Susybelle Gosslee](#).

### Unit Meetings in MAY

The tradition has been to have our May unit meetings gather and choose a time and place to **do your own thing**.

The choices of where everyone may meet are many, from the Arboretum to the Old Red Courthouse/ Dallas County Museum, a restaurant in Bishop Arts, or stay in place and have lunch or supper together.

[May 13 ....10:00 am](#)

**Wednesday Morning Unit**  
Mildred Pope 214.374.8087

⌘

[May 13 ....6:00 pm](#)

**Wednesday Evening Unit**  
Sheila Collins 214.801.9987

⌘

[May 14 ....9:25 am](#)

**Thursday Morning Unit**  
**New Parkland Hospital Tour**  
Meet to Carpool **NO LATER**  
than 9:25 a.m. at: The Episcopal  
Church of St Thomas the Apostle,  
6525 Inwood Road

**CONTACT Ann Adams**  
**for details at 972-385-9439**

⌘

[May 14 ....11:30 am](#)

**Far North Dallas Unit**  
Ann Grant 972.931.5628  
Anne Tabb 972.392.7067



*From the President's Desk...*

**2014 – 2015  
LWV Dallas  
Board of Directors**  
.....

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Pat Vaughan

**President Elect**

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**Advocacy VP**

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- Fran McElvaney-
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- Mary Overton-
- Susan Oviatt-
- Eleanor Sutherland-  
VOTER Editor



**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.*

It has been an honor and a privilege to serve as your president for 2013 - 2015. The many members who willingly step up and cooperate to complete the work of the League make being a part of this organization a real pleasure. I am pleased with the accomplishments of the board and volunteers of LWVD during these two years. The spirit of enthusiasm and cooperation at the 2015 Annual Meeting on April 18 was very evident. That room full of people, as well as many who were not present, obviously care about the League, what it represents and contributes to the community. The state of the League in Dallas is indeed vibrant and strong.

Our membership continues to grow thanks to the energy of active members visibly working in the community and inviting others to join in projects to encourage participation in our democracy. Their spirit of caring is contagious. We now have 322 members, an increase of 42 or 15% since 2013. That makes us the largest local League in Texas.

Of course our greatest accomplishment for this League year was hosting the first ever LWV National Convention in Dallas when over 100 volunteers under the leadership of Local Arrangements Chair Cecilia McKay welcomed and dazzled over 800 conventioners from 47 states. Even the weather cooperated by staying unseasonably pleasant in June.

Two documents that were developed this year and will make significant differences in League operation for years to come were sent to all LWVD members in March. First, the Strategic 2020 Long Range Plan, developed by the board through the leadership of Dorie Cranshaw and David Overton, will provide direction for League activities for the next five years. And second, Recommendations from the Finance Committee led by Michelle Manners, and including the proposal to become one 501(c)3 organization, will significantly simplify our financial operation. You will learn more about both of these projects in upcoming months.

LWVD continues its usual outstanding work in the areas of advocacy, program, and voter outreach. More help is always needed in each of these areas as well as in fund-raising and communications. Let us know how you would like to become involved.

I appreciate 2012 Nominating Committee Chair Carol Donovan's confidence in asking me to serve as your president. My gratitude also goes to President-elect Eileen Rosenblum for taking charge of League operations while I was ill this winter and to all who continued with League business as usual.

*Pat Vaughan*  
LWVD President

**Office Administrator**  
Fran Morris

## Connections: Voter Turnout and Public School Education

by Elizabeth Walley

In March we were privileged to hear from two experts on matters of great importance at our program called "Connections: Voter Turnout and Public School Education".

Dr. Robert Sanborn of Children at Risk shared some hard truths about the future of Texas. 60% of Texas children are economically disadvantaged, a large percentage attend schools which have received low or failing grades from Children at Risk, the dropout rate is over 28%, and only 20% of high school graduates pursue any further education (college or technical school). He urges us to look hard at the few schools which successfully serve economically disadvantaged children and transfer what practices we can to other schools.



What does Dr. Sanborn recommend for improving voter turnout? He recommends (1) implementing a voting specific curriculum in elementary and secondary school that teaches the importance of voting, (2) making voter registration drives in high schools a standard, (3) making voter registration easier, (4) conducting mock elections

and (5) highlighting Latino leaders in office for young Latino voters.



Dr. Lynne Stokes, professor of statistics at SMU, shared the results of 2014's election day exit poll conducted by SMU students with support from the LWV Dallas. Eight out of one hundred (8%) had difficulty or were unable to vote.

The most significant difficulty people had was showing up at the wrong polling place. Seven out of one hundred, mostly men, had this problem. Other difficulties included registration problems, lines too long and lack of correct photo ID. About 1.5% of all voters had difficulty due to lack of correct photo ID. Of those, the voters were overwhelmingly women and overwhelmingly African American. In all, nearly 3.5% of African American women had difficulties with photo ID on election day.

Both Dr. Sanborn and Dr. Stokes conveyed a message that was not directly related to their topics but which they felt was important, which is that how we frame our messages is of extreme importance. As Dr. Sanborn said, do we want to allow young Latinos to vote, or do we want to secure a better future for Texas? Food for thought.



### Helpful Websites

**Secretary of State**  
[www.sos.state.tx.us](http://www.sos.state.tx.us)

**League of Women Voters of Texas**  
[www.lwvtexas.org](http://www.lwvtexas.org)

**League of Women Voters (US)**  
[www.lwv.org](http://www.lwv.org)

**Dallas County Elections**  
[www.dallascountyvotes.org](http://www.dallascountyvotes.org)

[www.Vote411.org](http://www.Vote411.org)

**League of Women Voters of Dallas**  
[www.lwvdallas.org](http://www.lwvdallas.org)

**Republican Party**  
[www.texasgop.org](http://www.texasgop.org)

**Democratic Party**  
[www.txdemocrats.org](http://www.txdemocrats.org)

**Libertarian Party**  
[www.lptexas.org](http://www.lptexas.org)

**Green Party**  
[web.txgreens.org](http://web.txgreens.org)

Our list of **Your Elected Officials (YEO)** and how to contact each of them has been partially updated. (04/30/15) Go to [http://www.lwvdallas.org/files/yeo\\_natl\\_state2015s.pdf](http://www.lwvdallas.org/files/yeo_natl_state2015s.pdf) to find a listing of National and Texas State Officials and to [http://www.lwvdallas.org/files/yeo\\_local2015s.pdf](http://www.lwvdallas.org/files/yeo_local2015s.pdf) to find Dallas County and District Officials.

## Survey Reveals Four Of The Top Leadership Behaviors

submitted by Mildred Derrough Pope

### Leaders Are Doers

For lack of a better word, leaders get stuff done. They understand the big picture and clearly assign roles, responsibilities and expectations that will lead the organization in the right direction. Additionally, they work with a laser-like focus on the priorities that drive value, such as building the organization and managing relationships. Moreover, they focus on **the** business rather than on your business.

### They Seek Diversity Of Thought

Leaders-the smart ones-know that if they want to improve themselves and their organization, the only way to do so is to surround themselves with smarter and more experienced people. Nobody learns from dummies. Actually, I take that back; we can all learn what not to do. However, on the leadership realm, listening to diverse perspectives only serves you (if you're the leader) to make better, more informed decisions. Can't find anybody? Woe is me. Effective leaders also have a mentor or coach who questions their thought process and forces them to grow-as people and as leaders.

### Leaders Show Support

Leaders have a thankless job sometimes. Not only are they expected to know their role as leader but also the role of their people. They must possess the emotional and social and social self-awareness to know when to promote, grow and challenge their people. Furthermore, they oftentimes have to resolve conflict and make difficult decisions that support the best interest of the organization rather than themselves.

### They Solve Problems

Leadership entails making difficult decisions, but that only comes after you have solved the problem. The most effective leaders solve problems by sharing information up, down and across the organizational chain (of command) because doing so feeds back into diversity of thought mentioned above.

Everybody has his/her own interpretation of the "ideal" leadership behaviors he/she espouses. What are the leadership gaps that we see in our organization? More so, how can they be filled?

The City of Dallas Senior Affairs Commission and  
City of Dallas Housing/Community Services Senior Services Program presents

## **MayFair 2015 Festival and Senior Expo** **Older Americans Month Celebration**

**May 22, 2015**

**10:00 am – 3:00 p.m.**

**Hyatt Regency Hotel-Dallas**  
**300 Reunion Blvd., Dallas**

Celebrate Seniors at a seated luncheon featuring a short program with entertainment, DJ, and big band orchestra and dancing. The celebration is open to persons 60 and older who live in the Dallas Metroplex, and the cost is \$10 per person. Reserved seating is available for \$40 per person. For tickets, please call **214-670-5227**.

### **Brought to you by:**

Cigna Health Springs, Celebration Magazine, The Windsor Senior Living, Blue Cross Blue Shield, AARP, Friends of Senior Affairs, Health South, Pacifica Senior Living, G & G Medical Solutions and many more.

## Planning the Turnover

Eileen Rosenblum, President-elect

I am looking forward to working with you all on the many interesting educational and vital action activities of the League as we move forward to the next two years. To facilitate a smooth transition, a new board/old board meeting will be held this spring. I hope all current and new board members will be able to attend. I am very interested in your ideas for projects and activities. We will look at our long-range plans on an on-going basis with an eye to moving toward the goals we have set for ourselves. A calendar planning meeting will be held during the spring or early summer. This will ensure that our dreams and goals turn into actual plans and activities.

On May 2, 2015 the Finance Committee met to begin charting out the process for transitioning the combining of Dallas LWV Ed and the LWV of Dallas. We need to apply to the Secretary of State of Texas for a new charter and to the IRS for 501(c)3 status. Prior to these steps we will need to revise our bylaws to reflect one organization. The revised bylaws will be submitted to the membership at a special meeting this fall.

During the late spring or early summer we need to appoint a Susan B. Anthony Luncheon Chair. Although this is a very big job, it is also a very rewarding position. This luncheon is the main fundraising event for our league and helps us support many of our educational programs and activities. Mary Overton, this year's highly successful chair, is planning to move to Austin during the fall but will be available to advise the new SBA chair while she is still here with us in Dallas. Having worked closely with Mary on the luncheon, I will be available to help too. If you have any interest in this position please let me know.

In closing, I appreciate your enthusiasm and interest in league activities. I hope you will volunteer to participate in one of the league's vital committees. Please feel free to call, text or email me whenever you have a great idea for the League. I will keep my smart phone with me on a regular basis. I look forward to working with you all as we move forward during the next two years and thank you in advance for your cooperative spirit.

## CONTRIBUTIONS

Many thanks to our generous contributors through March 2015.

**Scholarships:** Monica and Gabe Fried, Linda Wassenich, and Eleanor Sutherland

**Memorials:** Fran Morris in Memory of her mother, Marilou Dennis;  
Lynda Ender in Memory of Bill McElvaney and in honor of Fran

**Patron Members:** Elaine Wiant, Mark and Linda Wassenich, Carol Barger, and Sandy Thornton

**Benefactor Member:** Pat Vaughan

The Board of Directors of LWVD made a tribute gift to the LWV Dallas Education Fund in honor of Pat Vaughan and her successful term as President of LWV Dallas.

## What Does It Mean to Be a Member of the League? Do you Support Making Democracy Work?

by Susybelle Gosslee, Advocacy Vice President

**Do you invest in Democracy! And do you invest in Making Democracy Work?**

**The real issue is:** have you contacted your state representative and senator to express your opinion on bills to Make Democracy Work? Have you told your elected officials how you want them to vote on the numerous bills being presented to the Texas Legislature and how it affects your life? So much money is invested in legislators by industry to get a return for themselves that it is important for you --- **the voter**---to invest in the common good. **YOUR VOICE IS IMPORTANT!**

**MAKE DEMOCRACY WORK!!!** Use the League of Women Voters of Texas Legislative Newsletter to be informed about the status of the current bills presented and support League positions. The Texas League Issue Chairs can present the League positions to officials, yet your investment of time and concern make the most difference. Put your legislators' phone numbers in your cell phone to make it easy. Be a good citizen and good League member. The LWV TX Newsletter is emailed to you with the bill updates and the critical points to make!!!

**YOUR VOICE MAKES DEMOCRACY WORK!**



## Title VI Civil Rights Complaint to Department of Education against DISD

Filed 3-25-15 by Bill Betzen & 11 others

Dallas residents pay taxes to Dallas ISD expecting the money to be distributed equally among students. The Texas Education Agency (TEA) defines such “regular expenditures” as “costs to provide the basic services for education/instruction to students not in special education (program intent code 11).”

In addition to that funding, federal, state and local sources provide extra money that is intended to cover special educational needs for children of poverty, children with various types of handicaps, and/or children who do not speak English. Need-based money is to be an addition to the base funding per student.

But, instead of supplementing these “regular expenditures” or funds per child, the Dallas ISD has supplanted or

replaced “regular expenditures” with the need-based funds. Their effort appears to be centered on schools with high levels of poverty and special needs children, as well as children who do not speak English, and schools with high levels of need-based funding.

In some cases this is illegal and can result in criminal charges. Google the two words - supplement and supplant - at the same time and many articles will come up about this issue.

This removal of basic resources from children of poverty, special education children, and children who do not speak English, is reflected in deteriorating school achievement scores. (See boxes.)

- At the end of the 2013-14 school year, there was a 25% increase in the number of Dallas ISD schools on the annual Texas PEG List of failing campuses.
- DISD went from 57 to 71 of such failing schools.

- Among these PEG schools are the “Improvement Required” schools that are in even worse shape.
- That number went from 34 to 43, a 26% increase.

These are schools with less regular educational funding on average than the DISD schools serving more affluent populations. They serve more needy students with less “regular expenditure” funding per child available.

Campus climate surveys by teachers clearly reflect these inequalities in school safety. The inequities in funding are also clearly shown on the Public Education Information Management System (PEIMS) Financial Standard Reports web site:

<http://tea.texas.gov/financialstandardreports/>.

Teacher staffing patterns clearly reflect that the least experienced teachers are the ones serving in these most vulnerable, underfunded schools. See the Data Packet section under Statistics and Reports on the My Data Portal at <https://mydata.dallasisd.org/> to study teacher tenure school by school.

This pattern of replacing local funding dollars with federal and state dollars is not shown in neighboring districts such as Irving or Frisco. Austin ISD doubles the funding in their most needy schools and does not have the achievement

issues that have plagued Dallas, especially during the past two years.

Finally, with DISD facing these most fundamental of imbalances in the allocation of resources, proposals for choice schools only promise more segregation for ▪ at-risk, ▪ LEP (Limited English Proficiency (LEP), and ▪ special education students on failing campuses while continuing to have the lack of adequate resources to serve them.

In the 41-page complaint document ([www.dallasisd.us](http://www.dallasisd.us)), complainants are asking for relief, including an end to inequities in regular education funding on Title I campuses, as well as other funding irregularities, such as a strange allocation of athletic funds to schools with no such programs. The documents also demand investigations into the history of the movement of regular education funds in DISD.

Bill Betzen, Education Issues  
[bbetzen@aol.com](mailto:bbetzen@aol.com), 214-957-9739

# May



- 5            Cinco de Mayo
- 7        **LWVD Board Meeting** (*LWVD members are welcome*)
- 7        **Volunteer Deputy Registrar Class** (*2377 N Stemmons Fwy, Ste 820*)
- 9        **Election Day**
- 10       Mothers Day
- 13&14   **Unit Meetings** – *Do Your Own Thing! (see page 1 for details)*
- 16       **Volunteer Deputy Registrar Class** (*2377 N Stemmons Fwy, Ste 820*)
- 19       **WCDC 60<sup>th</sup> Annual Awards Luncheon** (*see page 1 for details*)
- 22       **Mayfair 2015 Festival and Senior Expo** (*see page 4 for details*)
- 25       Memorial Day Holiday

The next **Unit Meetings** will be **September 9 & 10, 2015.**

The **Summer VOTER** will be distributed mid-July 2015.  
 Send your articles and pictures to **VOTER Editor Eleanor** [ews4167@att.net](mailto:ews4167@att.net) and  
 the **League office** [lwvdallas@sbcglobal.net](mailto:lwvdallas@sbcglobal.net) by **Tuesday, June 16.**

Articles and pictures from the LWVD 77<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting to be included.

~ *Marthelle (Sally) Eatmon* ~

August 23, 1921 – March 27, 2015

Sally Eatmon, 34-year member of LWV Dallas, Preston-Mockingbird Unit, and former speakers bureau chair, was also active in many other community organizations including PTA and Neighborhood Housing Services. In the 1960's she and a neighbor traveled to other US cities to share information on the success of their racially integrated north Dallas neighborhood.

She is remembered by her League friends as a strong believer in civic engagement, civil rights, and social justice. She judged others not "...by the color of their skin, but the content of their character."

**ENJOY YOUR SUMMER!**

# 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](mailto:lwvdallas@sbcglobal.net)**

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**Volume 21, Number 9**



**Copied on  
Recycled Paper**



# Lessons from Selma, Alabama and Ferguson, Missouri

by Elizabeth Walley

We are very aware today of the bravery of the people who marched in Selma, Alabama for voting rights 50 years ago, who stood face to face with brutality and did not blink. Their courage and sacrifice expanded the right to vote to millions.

**But, why does it matter?** Another city, Ferguson Missouri, provides some insights. Last year, Michael Brown, an unarmed black teenager, was shot dead by a white police officer.

Nobody was charged with a crime, but riots and unrest ensued. The Justice Department investigated and upheld the Police Department's version of events. However, it also found a deep and pervasive culture of racism in the city government. People throughout the organization were fired or forced out. Today, Ferguson is a national symbol of racism.

How did this awful situation come about? The answer lies in voting patterns. In Ferguson, more than 2 out of 3 residents are black. However, only 1 out of three voters in local elections is black. There is an even more serious mismatch by age. 3 out of 5 residents are under 50, but only 1 out of 5 voters are under 50.

Ferguson is young and black, but voters are older and white. The older whites, though the minority, chose the

government - and set priorities.

In a community where nearly 70% of the residents are black, only 3 out of 53 police officers are black, and only 1 out of 6 Council members is black. The City Government matched the voters - but not the community. What a perfect recipe for disaster!

Ferguson is an extreme case, but very clearcut, and the same principals apply in every election in every community, not just in terms of race, but in terms of priorities. Voters set the agenda, and if the voters do not reflect the community, problems will surely ensue.

The extreme imbalance by race is unlikely to happen in Dallas like it did in Ferguson because Dallas has single member districts, drawn to give people in a district the ability to chose their own officials, even when turnout is poor.

But any time voter turnout is poor, somebody is still voting. Somebody is selecting the government and setting priorities. I ask again - **why does voting matter?**

Consider some examples of local government issues:

Transportation - Where do the buses run, where do the trains run, how often do they run? Where do the highways go? - Is it a good commute for you to where you work?

Schools - If you have a child in high school taking algebra in preparation for college and there are 40 in her classroom, is that ok with you? Do you want *(over)*

(cont) [Schools](#) - to be able to send your child to a school in a different neighborhood if you're not happy with the education he's getting in the neighborhood school?

[Police](#) - Do you feel there are enough police to provide protection from crime in your neighborhood? Are the police responsive and sympathetic to your needs?

[Other](#) - Are your streets in pretty good shape? Are abandoned buildings in your neighborhood pulling the neighborhood down? Are there recreation centers for your teenagers to engage in healthy activities after school?

Local government deals with these issues every single day. If you and your community are regular voters, your priorities are probably being addressed. If not, your priorities will probably not be addressed, resulting in spreading decline.

The last time Dallas elected a Mayor, in 2011, turnout was just over 7% of registered voters. That's half what it was in Ferguson, Missouri. So who is choosing our government in Dallas? Whose priorities are being addressed? Does it matter to you?

I feel confident that you personally will be a voter in the upcoming election because you are reading this article. But is that enough? Resoundingly NO! If local government priorities are skewed because of an imbalance in voter turnout, we are all harmed in the long-term.

Spread the word. Tell your family, tell your friends. [Be a warrior for voting!](#)

It's the American way. It is what the brave souls in Selma marched for.