

League of Women Voters  
of Dallas

# VOTER



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

## League Message Increases Voter Turnout Among High School Students Your Support and Donations Do Make a Difference

By Elizabeth Walley

In 2012, LWV Dallas was invited by Rene Martinez, at the time a DISD administrator and the Director of LULAC District III, to help with voter registration in the Pleasant Grove high schools. That project went well, and in late 2015, LULAC got approval from DISD to help with voter registration throughout the District's high schools and again partnered with LWV Dallas, which had received a grant from LWVUS, to work on registering high school students to vote.

In the months between January and September 2016, teams of volunteers from LWV Dallas and LULAC visited the 15 largest DISD high schools, some multiple times. In September we were joined by volunteers from Faith in Texas, headed by Richard Marcus. Volunteers went into classrooms and conducted assemblies to register students who were eligible and wanted to register. Most important, we talked to students about the voting process and why it is important to vote. After the visits, we sent notes to the teachers we had worked with to remind them to encourage their students to vote. We also provided schools with LWV Dallas Voters Guides which were paid for by the LWVUS grant.

Thousands of students were exposed to the messages. By our count, we registered over 2,300 eligible students. Many of the registration forms we collected were marked to indicate at which school they were collected, and much of that data was captured by Dallas County in its voter file. Some of the forms we collected were not marked and therefore not captured by the County, and some registrations were lost because data was incomplete or illegible or just missed. In the end, 1,090 students registered by the League were identified by Dallas County in the voter file.

Dallas County also conducted voter registration drives at the same schools in approximately the same time frame – fall semester of 2015 and spring and fall semesters of 2016. Of these registrations, 1,139 were identifiable in the voter file. Dallas County did not overlap at any school in the same semester where our LWV Dallas/LULAC volunteers were.

Consequently, we had two nearly identical groups in the voter file to compare: students from the same schools who registered in approximately the same time frame. One group got to hear our message about why and how to vote and the other group was registered without hearing this message. We compared turnout in the 2016 Presidential elections for the two groups.

Turnout in the 2016 presidential election for the group that was registered by the LWV/LULAC volunteers and heard the message was 23% higher than for the group that did not hear the LWV/LULAC message. Turnout for the group that heard the message was 39% of registrations compared to turnout of 31% for those who did not hear the messages.

We saw a similar pattern of improved turnout for those who heard the message about why and how to vote in the spring 2016 primary election, although the sample size was much smaller at that early date and overall turnout was much lower. In every case, turnout was significantly higher for those groups who heard the message about why and how to vote.

The lesson to be learned is, I think, significant. There is much concern over poor voter turnout rates in

*(continued on pg. 3)*

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2016 - 2017

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## FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

This column will return in the April VOTER.

### Susan B. Anthony Luncheon

By Dominique Torres and Lisa Sherrod

Thanks to all who supported the 2017 Susan B. Anthony Award Luncheon for another successful year. We would like to especially thank our volunteers who helped the Luncheon run smoothly.

The League was honored to recognize a remarkable leader. Debbie Branson was praised by Dallas County Judge Clay Jenkins for her management of the Parkland Health and Hospital System Board of Managers during a critical time. Mrs. Branson delivered an inspiring speech about how she chose to be involved in the community and underscored the fact that civility in politics does not equate to passivity. She gave a wonderful history of the League and issued a strong call to remain involved and fight for causes that we believe in.

Each year the silent auction helps us raise additional funds for important League programs, and this year was no exception. There were exciting items donated by the NFL, Texas Rangers and of course, the highly anticipated raffle for a luxury get-away.

Thanks are extended to everyone who supported this year's SBA Award Luncheon. The luncheon raised about \$50,000, and the silent auction and raffle raised almost \$11,000. The net proceeds were more than \$53,000.

Because of you, the Dallas League will continue to implement vital programming related to voter education and issue awareness.

### The New Silent Auction at the SBA Luncheon

By Becky Brakke

The Garden Room at the Lakewood Country Club came alive with conversation as attendees were treated to a complimentary glass of champagne while bidding on the Silent Auction items. Once again the 30 garden baskets created by Ann Ross and her team brought the garden inside. The planning team worked to streamline the auction this year by focusing on interesting experiences as well as simplifying the paperwork involved.

There were four very special events offered – a luncheon with Commissioner Theresa Daniel hosted by Eileen Rosenblum, a spring luncheon hosted by Commissioner Elba Garcia in her own Kessler Park Home, the formal dinner with District Attorney Faith Johnson hosted by Harryette Ehrhardt and a dinner with Dr. Agustin Arteaga, the newly appointed Director of the Dallas Museum of Art, hosted by Latino Center for Leadership Development Founder Jorge Baldor.

In addition, auction visitors discovered a Rangers Box for 20, restaurant gift cards, help writing a will and theater/performance tickets. A raffle provided everyone with a chance at a week's stay in a beautiful seaside condo in California. Five Susan B. Anthony coin necklaces created by President Eileen Rosenblum were a big hit.

Thank you to everyone who contributed, solicited or offered to host special events and to those of you who so generously bid. We raised almost \$11,000 through the Silent Auction and the raffle.

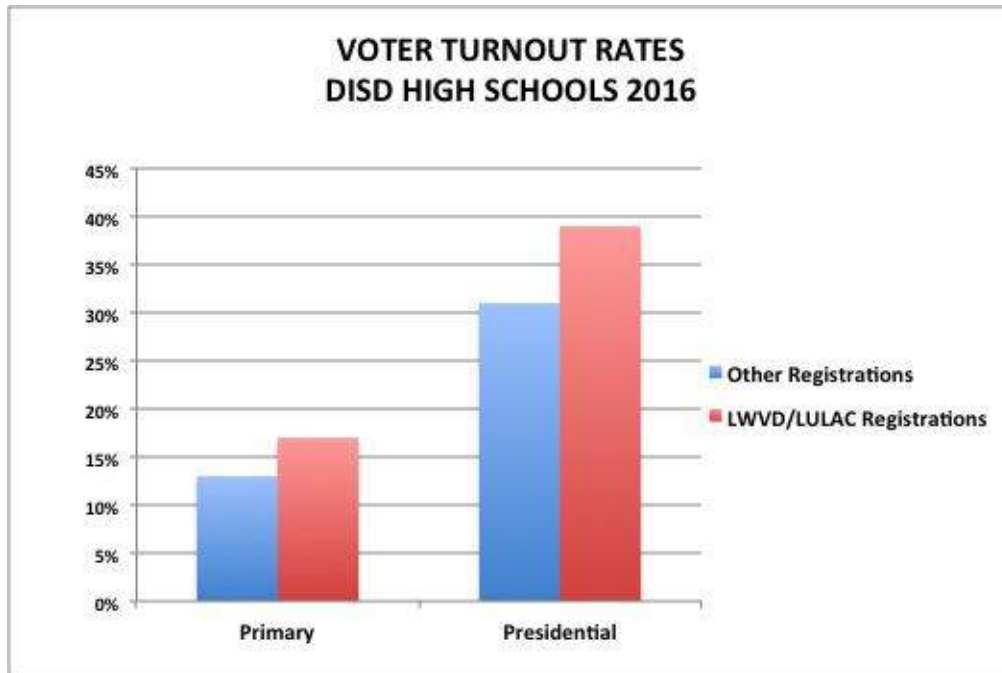
The March Calendar & Notices is inserted.

**League Message Increases...** (continued from pg. 1)

Texas, especially among our young people. The feeling of some has been that the problem is lack of education, both in the specifics of the process and why it is important. Our experience in DISD would seem to bear this out. Young people are more likely to vote when they have heard lessons about how to vote and why they should vote. Also, the types of message matter. First-time voters want and need to know the basic mechanics of voting, but perhaps even more important, they need to hear reasons to vote that they can relate to.

Stories about why voting is important must resonate with a person’s own life experience if they are to be effective.

Of course, lack of education is not the only cause for poor voter turnout in Texas. Our systems and processes are confusing and out of date; so we lose voters because of them. In addition, we suffer from the same negative information disincentives as everybody else, but a big part of our problem is lack of education.



**Dallas Scores More Vote411/Voters Guide Hits than Anywhere in Texas!**

**By Dorie Cranshaw**

In 2016, LWV Dallas produced for the first time a *Voters Guide* for all elections: presidential primaries, municipal and general elections. Using the software program Vote411 ( a LWVUS endeavor), candidates were given the opportunity to respond directly to League generated questions of general interest to voters.

During the year, over 25,000 citizens in the City of Dallas and 8,000 in surrounding suburbs logged into Vote411.org to review candidate responses. Many of these users came back throughout the year for a total of 34,888 unique sessions in Dallas and 10,000 in the rest of the county. This compares favorably to Houston who had 24,000 users and 33,000 sessions.

Using these statistics helps LWVD assess its impact in the communities we serve. For example, we reached 40% more folks in Garland than Grand Prairie when adjusted for population.

While the numbers of voters served via Vote411 is relatively small, they are growing. Furthermore, these numbers are in addition to the people reached by our printed *Voters Guides* which are distributed at libraries, hospitals, universities and other public venues.

**Public Funding of Education in Texas**  
**By Janet Imhoff, Past LWV TX Education Issue Chair**  
**As presented at the LWVD General Meeting on January 25, 2017**

**The Positions of the League:**

**The League of Women Voters of Texas supports a school finance system that provides taxpayer equity and an equitable distribution of funds to ensure that all Texas school children receive a high-quality education.**

1. Currently, Texas is 43rd in the nation, falling from 39th last year, in the annual “Quality Counts” report from the national publication *Education Week*. In 1998, Texas ranked 24<sup>th</sup>. This ranking is based largely on per-student funding.
2. Ten years ago, state and local taxes funded education about equally, about 48.8% each. Today local taxes pay 51.5%, while the state share has fallen to 38.4%.
3. **We believe in a strong public school system that is funded by public tax dollars.** Public funds should not be diverted to private schools or to for-profit charter schools.
4. **We do not have a position in support or opposition to charter schools,** but we are concerned about the expansion of charters because they draw public funds away from public schools since the state’s per-pupil funding follows the student who transfers to a charter.
5. **“Public charter schools”** can choose which students to admit and do not have to meet state requirements for class size and teacher salaries, qualifications and protections. They also are not run by publicly elected school boards.
6. We support state equalization aid to ensure taxpayer equity and for essential capital needs.
7. We support “adequate” salaries to attract and retain qualified teachers.
8. We support programs for special categories of students: special education, vocational and compensatory education, kindergarten and pre-K, and gifted programs.
9. We support school choice programs that are offered by a public school district, such as magnet schools or other target programs.

**LWV-TX opposes vouchers.**

*Why:*

1. Whether called “vouchers”, “tax credits”, “scholarships”, “grants”, “school/parental choice programs”, “taxpayer savings” or anything else, vouchers draw taxpayer money away from supporting regular public schools.
2. Numerous independent studies have been unable to prove that vouchers are effective. They don’t produce academic gains over public schools.
3. Studies show that private schools and vouchers don’t provide a way out of poverty for poor students.
4. Private schools are not required to follow the state curriculum, ensure academic accountability, address issues of equity and social justice, or respond to transparency concerns.
5. Vouchers are costly, requiring taxpayers to fund both public and private school systems since the majority of vouchers have gone to students already enrolled in private schools.
6. Private schools are not obligated to accept all students. The vast majority of our students (about 90%) still need high quality public schools.

**HOW FUNDING WORKS NOW**

- **The State Supreme Court** ruled in May 2016 that the Texas school finance system was constitutional, but the court wished lawmakers would “upend an ossified regime ill-suited for 21<sup>st</sup>-century Texas.” However the opinion stated that there is “uncertainty as to the correlation between more money and better education.”

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- **Local School Taxes:** Districts levy a maintenance and operations (M&O) tax on local property, which is capped at \$1.17 per \$100 taxable property value. Only 24% of districts (13% of students) tax at that rate, while 69% of districts (76% of students) tax at or below \$1.04. This discretion means there is no unconstitutional statewide property tax.
- **Foundation School Program:** This program distributes the majority of state funding to public schools for basic operations and enrichment. The basic allotment is set in the general appropriations act and adjusted for varying student and district characteristics. It is a complex system, including Tier I and Tier II funding and facilities debt relief.
- **ASATR (Additional State Aid for Tax Reduction):** Enacted in 2006, the Legislature reduced property taxes by one-third. Eligible districts may receive additional state aid, or wealthy districts may be required to give up less revenue through recapture. This provision is set to expire Sept. 1, 2017.
- **Recapture:** This prohibits local districts from exceeding a certain level of wealth per student (defined as taxable value of property divided by the number of students in weighted average daily attendance.) It is currently \$514,000 per weighted student.

### CHANGES TO WATCH FOR

- **Performance-based funding:** an approach in which funding is based on district performance rather than student attendance. Programs might use academic, financial, and demographic data to identify successful, cost-efficient districts and campuses.
- **Options to reduce reliance on property taxes.**
- **Cost of Education Index:** designed to help districts adjust to varying economic conditions across the state but has not been updated since it was adopted in 1989-90. Should it be improved or eliminated?
- **Expiration of ASATR funding:** How will the loss of \$350 million impact school districts?
- **Current programs funded outside the school finance formulas:** these include instructional materials funding, Pre-K grants, funding for state exams. Should they be increased, decreased, or eliminated based on measurable performance and effectiveness?
- **The state should contribute more for education.** In 2009-10 Texans, through state and local taxes, paid \$10,260 per student; in 2015-16 we only paid \$8,935. The national average was \$11,943.
- What the state does not contribute, local districts try to pay, making local property taxes in Texas among the highest in the nation.



**Coming Soon!**

**General Meeting on Election Alternatives**

In response to interest in LWV Dallas to improve voter turnout, especially in local elections, a general meeting is being planned for late March on "Election Alternatives."

Pros and cons of alternatives like "instant runoff" and moving local elections to November will be presented.

Also, following the recent Presidential election, there is renewed interest in the Electoral College. Pros and cons of the current system as well as theoretical alternatives will be presented. *(More details to come.)*

**SAVE-THE-DATE**

**79th Annual Meeting  
Saturday, April 29, 2017**

Saturday, April 29, is the date for LWVD's rescheduled Annual Meeting.

It will be held at -

The Edgemere  
8523 Thackery Street @ Northwest Highway  
and valet parking will be offered.

Key actions that will take place are election of officers and directors for the board, approval of the 2017-2018 budget, and decisions about a program theme for the coming year.

*(More details to come.)*



**52nd Annual Women's Symposium**

March 8, 2017

**MY BODY,  
NOT THEIR POLITICS**

Keynote: Texas State Senator  
Wendy Davis

More Information:  
[www.smu.edu/womsym](http://www.smu.edu/womsym)

Award Winners:  
Angela Fields  
Sandra Sedillo-McGlothlin  
Teri Walker  
Cheryl Pollman  
Cynthia Yung  
Sharon King

Contact Val Erwin  
[verwin@smu.edu](mailto:verwin@smu.edu)

**Come and Join Us at the March 8 & 9 Unit Meetings**

Political activism is surging. The Texas Legislature is in full swing, and there's a lot happening on the national front, too. Come to a unit meeting to discuss hot topics and write letters to your elected officials.

We will focus on the three priorities of LWV Texas: voting rights, women's health and funding for public schools vs. vouchers. Information will be available on these topics

and more. You can also bring your own ideas.

If you want to use your own stationery, please bring it. Otherwise, we'll have plain paper and envelopes for you to write and address your letters.

Remember: **Democracy is not a spectator sport.**



**Mar. 8 10:00 am**  
**Wednesday Morning Unit**  
Mildred Pope 469.235.7077  
**Center for Community Cooperation**  
Piney Woods Room  
2900 Live Oak Street  
Dallas 75204

**Mar. 9 9:30 am**  
**Thursday Morning Unit**  
**The Episcopal Church of  
St Thomas the Apostle**  
6525 Inwood Road  
Dallas 75209

**Mar. 9 11:30 am**  
**Far North Dallas Unit**  
Ann Grant 972.931.5628  
Anne Tabb 972.392.7067  
**The Egg and I**  
15203 Knoll Trail  
Arapaho & Montfort/Knoll

**Mar. 9 6:00 pm**  
**Thursday Evening Unit**  
Arline Pitt 972.243.3966  
**Angela's Café**  
7979 Inwood Road  
Dallas 75219

## EASY GIVING

Have you ever wished for an easy and painless way to give to an organization you really want to support but maybe can't write a check right now? Here are some ideas:

Shop through a special program where merchants rebate a percentage of the sales to the purchaser's charity of choice. LWVD is signed up with **Amazon Smile**. When you shop at Amazon, go to [www.smile.amazon.com](http://www.smile.amazon.com). Select the LWVD as the charity you wish to benefit. Once you have made that selection, you're all set. In the future just go to [smile.amazon.com](http://smile.amazon.com) when you shop, and your rebate will automatically go to LWVD.

Sign up for a grocery store affinity card. **Tom Thumb/Albertsons** has the Reward card, and **Kroger** has a Preferred Customer Card. Designate LWVD as the charity you want to support.

These are easy steps to take, and they offer continuing returns.

For a long-term perspective, consider designating LWVD as the beneficiary of a life insurance policy or to receive the proceeds of your IRA. If you have other suggestions, please pass them on to Linda Wassenich at [LindaVote@gmail.com](mailto:LindaVote@gmail.com).

## DONOR HONOR ROLL

Please join me in thanking the following people who have contributed since the last VOTER:

**Benefactor:** Serena Connelly

**Patron:** Leigh Bailey Carrizales, Kathy Calhoun, Judy and Sam Coats, Helen Frank, Judy Shure, and Paul Heller

**In Honor of:** Elizabeth Walley by Susan Lee, Susybelle Gosslee and the Education General Meeting by an anonymous donor through the Schwab Charitable Fund

**Scholarship Fund:** Adrienne Rosenberg, Dr. Cynthia Schneider, Eliza Solender, Donna and Dr. Bob Beavers, and Kathy Freeman

**Match for North Texas Giving Day: Donors to Communities Foundation of Texas**

Craft & Crowder Election Night Watch Party, Kathryn Tucker, Scott Davis, Gwen McKinney, Eileen and Harvey Rosenblum, Leigh Bailey Carrizales, Dorie Cranshaw, Patti Crumley, Jane Daboub, Adrienne Drapkin, Sally Dunning, Janet Eickmeyer, Ann Folz, Sophie Fomin, Vee Gerkin, Julie and Michael Lowenberg, Jane Pak, Essie Reed, Greer and Lorraine Raggio, Anne Tabb, Miriam Foshay, Terry Brown, Patricia Houck and Lyssa Jenkins, Carolyn Laivins, Barbara and Hank Lischer, Lucy Polter, Diane Tasian, Barbara and Myron Weinstein, and Judi Stewart

## Be Prepared for Action

Be prepared so you can respond when the call for action comes.

Note the following websites or tag them in your favorites so you can consult the national and state position statements.

National positions: **Impact on Issues** at [www.lwv.org/content/impact-issues](http://www.lwv.org/content/impact-issues)

State positions: **Program Perspectives** at [www.lwvtexas.org/issues\\_we\\_support.html](http://www.lwvtexas.org/issues_we_support.html)

## VOTING

LWV Dallas provided classes on how and why to vote for members of DISD’s Teen Board on February 11 at Booker T Washington High School in Dallas. Dallas County employees provided a simulation of an actual voting experience and registered eligible students.

LWV Dallas co-hosted a volunteer deputy voter registrar training class on February 23 at the Lochwood Library and gave a talk on political activism. Members will attend a deputization class at Temple Emanu-el on March 8.

Dallas County provides ongoing volunteer deputy registrar deputization classes as follows:

1. Walk in at 10:00 AM or 1:00 PM daily to the Dallas County Elections Department on the 8th floor of the Dallas County Health and Human Services Building at 2377 N. Stemmons Freeway (**NOTE** change of schedule).
2. Attend class at Dallas County Elections Department, room 627 in the Dallas County Health and Human Services Building at 2377 N. Stemmons Freeway. Click to see class schedule <http://www.dallascountyvotes.org/wp-content/uploads/2017-Volunteer-Deputy-Registrar-Class-Schedule.pdf>



## MAY 6, 2017 ELECTION

Filing ended February 17 for 2017’s local (joint) elections. Numerous candidates have filed for non-partisan positions on city councils and school boards,

The last day to register to vote for the Saturday, May 6 local election is Thursday, April 6, 2017.

Early Voting is April 24 – May 2 and will run as follows:	
Monday, April 24 – Friday, April 28	8 AM – 5 PM
Saturday, April 29	8 AM – 5 PM
Sunday, April 30	1 PM – 6 PM
Monday, May 1 – Tuesday, May 2	7 AM – 7 PM

Early voting and election day polling locations will be released soon by Dallas County.

The last day to apply for a ballot by mail is April 25. Mail ballots must be returned by 7 PM election day (unless overseas deadline applies). You can download a copy of the application for ballot by mail from Dallas County’s website (DallasCountyVotes.org) or request one from their office or the League office. Call 214.819.6359 for more information.



**The League of Women Voters of Dallas thanks the following donors  
for their generous contributions to the  
21st Susan B. Anthony Luncheon honoring Debbie Dudley Branson:**

**SUSAN B. ANTHONY**

Cecilia Guthrie Boone  
Law Offices of Frank L. Branson

**JUANITA CRAFT**

Hon. Harryette Ehrhardt, Susybelle Gosslee, Dr. Scherry Johnson, Becky Sykes,  
Pat Vaughan and Linda Wassenich  
Kane Russell Coleman Logan  
Lisa and Peter Kraus  
Drs. Eileen and Harvey Rosenblum

**IRMA LERMA RANGEL**

Anonymous Strong Women  
Carter Financial Management  
Carter Scholer Arnett Mockler  
Law Offices of Eric Cedillo  
Carol Donovan, Dallas County Democratic Party Chair  
Linebarger Goggan Blair & Sampson  
Julie Lowenberg, Pat Sabin and Molly Van Ort  
Cecilia McKay  
Medical Center Woman's Club  
Parkland Foundation

**ROSA PARKS**

Judge Jennifer Bennett - 265th District Court  
Jim Burnham  
Marlene Cohen  
Diana Dutton  
Laura V. Estrada  
Roslyn Thibodeaux Goodall  
Gail Griswold  
Gary Hasty  
Dr. Mona Hersh-Cochran  
Regina Montoya  
Eliza Solender  
Roslyn Dawson Thompson  
Sandy Thornton  
Catherine Turner  
Courtney Underwood  
Elaine Wiant

## Legislative Lobby Days in Austin

by Diane Tasian

I'm a newbie at politics; the presidential election kicked me out of the Silent Majority. My questions are spewing out so fast that I have been feeling really fragmented. Also, I am concerned about the huge divisions in politics at all levels.

In the past year, as I became more concerned and my questions multiplied, I found myself turning more often to LWV as a resource. On January 30-31, I tagged along with Susybelle Gosslee and Linda Wassenich for League Lobby Day (LLD) in Austin. It was great to hear that LWV Texas is focusing on three areas because focus really helps sooth the fragmentation. We heard speakers on the three areas, and suggestions were made about how to talk to my representatives. They have been elected to represent me, but that task is impossible if I don't tell them what I think.

I am learning that voting is a good first step; but dialog is the second. So LLD was a big help in developing my dialog skills.

Here are my steps for developing dialog:

1. I added my elected officials (EO) to my Contacts. **Hint:** I am name challenged; and I have an iPhone which sorts by company if the name section is empty. All of my representatives are grouped together by starting each Contact as a company with a prefix. **Examples** are EO-Natl- Sen Ted Cruz or EO-Dal- Philip Kingston. This way I don't have to remember all the names; it's all together, and I can see who is where immediately.
2. I signed up for Text reminders from a couple of organizations that reflect my values. They help because they remind me about things I want to do.
3. If I need information, I look online at LWV websites. The websites are organized in a similar manner. It is very important to me that all League positions have been thoroughly studied, discussed, and reflect a consensus.
  - a. For local issues: check out the LWV Dallas website at <http://www.lwvdallas.org/>  
At the top of the Advocacy page there are links to the LWV Texas and LWV US websites.
  - b. For state level issues: <http://www.lwvtexas.org/> The 2017 priority issues are:  
Election laws and voting rights  
Women's health  
Public education
  - c. For national issues: <http://lww.org/>
4. I call, often! **Hint:** the phone lines at national offices are jammed. Use the local ones.
5. I have begun attending the local unit meetings. This is last on my list, but not least! The new friends I am making are important to my learning process. They are thoughtful, considerate, and knowledgeable. I have been amazed and delighted by what they share!

It turns out I was lucky to be able to attend LLD. Two years ago, there were about 75 people signed up. This year, they had to close registration at 130 because the room wouldn't hold any more. Just knowing this little fact is huge encouragement. Lots of other newbies are out there. People want to get involved. Maybe they will get a larger room for the next LLD.

The LWVD 2017 – 2018 How to Contact

### ***Your Elected Officials (YEO)***

will be printed and ready for distribution after the May 6 Joint Election so that local officials can be included. Federal and state officials will be updated within two weeks, and the partially updated YEO will be on our website.

## WANNA BE A WRANGLER?

By Dorie Cranshaw, LWVD Voters Guide Coordinator

LWVD is gearing up for the 2017 municipal elections. There are over **50 races in 13** different communities in Dallas County that will hold city council and school board elections in May.

### We need your help!

Last year, LWVD produced *Voters Guides* for the primary, municipal and general elections, which were printed and on VOTE411.org. We had more voters researching the candidates using Vote411.org than any other city in Texas, not to mention all the printed guides that were distributed.

To cover all the races in our area, approximately **15** folks are needed to volunteer to be Candidate Wranglers.

Here's what's involved:

-- We will provide you with a list of candidates for races we want you to cover including all the contact information we have for them: name, phone, email, address, etc. The total number of candidates you will handle will be between 7-10 folks.

-- You will contact each candidate, introduce yourself as the LWV contact for this election and confirm their contact information (especially which email address they want us to use).

-- We will send all the candidates the questions for the *Voters Guide* via email and be responsible for collating

their responses. We will send you copies of all responses from your candidates and updates as to who hasn't responded yet.

-- You may need to contact those candidates who are tardy in their responses and nudge them to reply to meet our deadlines.

-- We will take care of all tasks around actual production of the *Voters Guide*.

Timeline:

-- NOW -- Volunteer to be a wrangler

-- By the first week of March, contact your candidates and confirm their contact information

-- Through March 24th, contact your candidates who have not responded

-- March 31st, publish the May *Voters Guide* on Vote411.org!!

The number of races that LWVD can cover is **DIRECTLY RELATED** to the number of volunteer candidate wranglers we have.

Please volunteer today by email to [doriebigd@aol.com](mailto:doriebigd@aol.com). If you have questions, just ask. My phone is [214-358-7282](tel:214-358-7282).

Thanking you in advance for your help!

## LWVUS' History and Position on the Selection of the President

In light of the November 2016 presidential election, this article on the LWVUS position on the selection of the president is being included in the VOTER for the benefit of our new members and others who may not have known about it.

An LWVUS study of the presidential electoral process culminated in a 1970 position supporting direct election of the President by popular vote as essential to representative government. The League testified and lobbied for legislation to amend the Constitution to replace the Electoral College with direct election of the President, including provisions for a national runoff election in the event no candidates (President or Vice-President) received 40% of the vote. The measure, which passed the House and nearly passed the Senate in 1971, has been revived in each Congress without success. (See complete History with periodic events recorded to the present at <http://lww.org/content/selection-president> or in *Impact on Issues*)

*Statement of Position on Selection of the President, as Announced by National Board, January 1970, Revised March 1982, Updated June 2004 and Revised by the 2010 Convention:*

**The League of Women Voters of the United States believes that the direct popular-vote method for electing the President and Vice-President is essential to representative government. The League of Women Voters believes, therefore, that the Electoral College should be abolished. We support the use of the National Popular Vote Compact as one acceptable way to achieve the goal of the direct popular vote for election of the president until the abolition of the Electoral College is accomplished. The League also supports uniform voting qualifications and procedures**

**for presidential elections. The League supports changes in the presidential election system – from the candidate selection process to the general election. We support efforts to provide voters with sufficient information about candidates and their positions, public policy issues and the selection process itself. The League supports action to ensure that the media, political parties, candidates, and all levels of government achieve these goals and provide that information.**

# 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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