

Healthcare Advocacy Committee

League of Women Voters Dallas
Inaugural Meeting

Co-chairs:

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We're glad you're here!

Agenda:

- Welcome
- Definition of League advocacy
- League positions on reproductive health
- Relevant bills in the current legislature
- Comments and suggestions

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Advocacy 101 – from League Texas Chair, Elisabeth MacNamara 2/1/23

GENERAL GUIDELINES

- The League speaks with one voice at every level
 - Maximizes impact of member voices
- Only the president speaks or designates someone to speak
 - Issue chairs speak for the League by designation of the Board
- The League speaks from positions developed through consensus
 - Study and consensus process is designed to make leaders and members comfortable speaking to issues from the same point of view
- One membership-Three levels- Three lanes
 - LWVUS speaks to Congress, LWV Texas to the Legislature and Local Leagues speak to local officials.



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NONPARTISANSHIP

- The League never supports or opposes candidates or parties
 - Since its inception in 1920, the League has maintained its nonpartisan policy regardless of what the law allows.
- The League speaks to issues only
 - In a polarized political space issues are viewed through a partisan lens.
 - The League develops its position over time based on member study
- Our nonpartisan stance distinguishes us from other organizations, often including partners
 - Many trusted partners endorse candidates which impacts what common strategies we can endorse

For more information or questions, please contact
Ashley Washington advocacyvp@lwvdallas.org

“The League of Women Voters of the United States encourages informed and active participation in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy.” The League of Women Voters of the US

Advocacy Vs. Lobbying

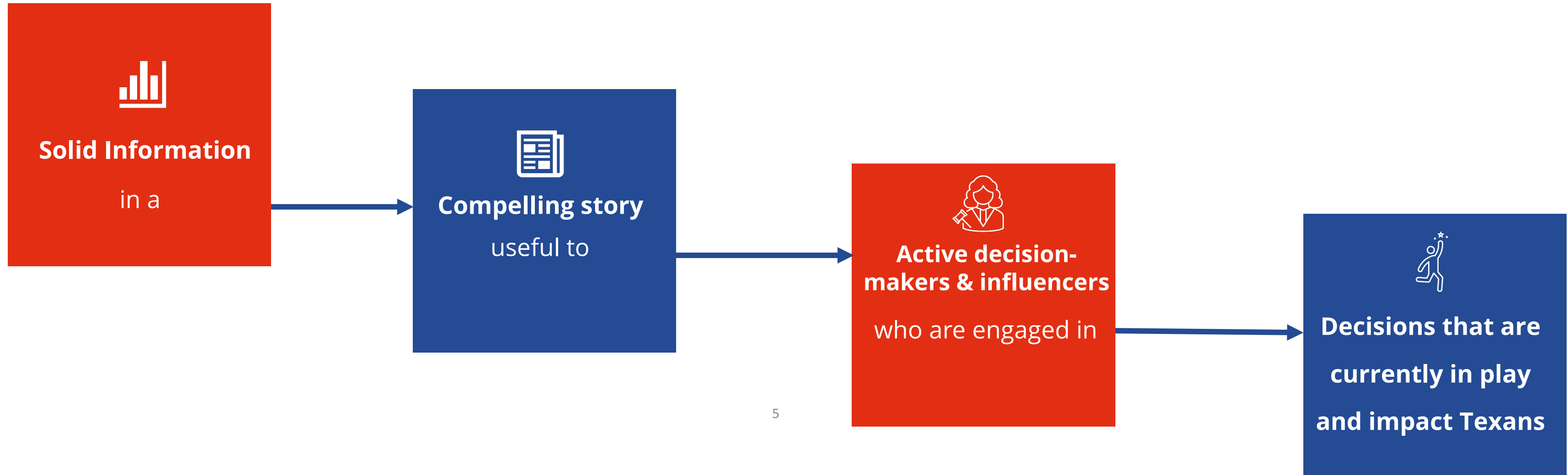
ADVOCACY VS. LOBBYING

- Advocacy is educational even if only one side is presented
 - Issue Forums that educate the public on a League position
 - Policy Papers such as Action Papers that present the League position
- Lobbying is support or opposition for specific pieces of legislation
 - Asking a legislator to support or oppose legislation in person or in writing
 - Issuing an Action Alert⁴ to our members and supporters taking a position on a specific bill or action by the Legislature
 - Communicating the League’s position for or against a ballot measure

Advocacy 101

... more than taking a position on important issues

With your support we can create:



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“The word advocacy can mean many different things in the nonprofit world and can be at the heart of activities, strategies, mission, core values, and overall organizational effectiveness. Fundamentally, advocacy is about speaking out and making a case for something important. The target of the advocate’s voice is most often a person, group or institution that holds some power over what the advocate wants.” [Nonprofit Quarterly](#)



League Positions on Reproductive Health

Women's Health and Reproductive Choice - The League of Women Voters of the Texas believes that public policy in a pluralistic society must affirm the constitutional right of privacy of the individual to make reproductive choices.

[Voting Rights](#)[Elections](#)[Other Issues](#)[About Us](#)[TAKE ACTION](#)[DONATE](#)

HEALTH CARE REFORM

Every US resident should have access to affordable, quality health care, including birth ⁶ control and the privacy to make reproductive choices.

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Advocacy 101 - Sources of Information

National League of Women Voters (Washington DC)

- ✓ [Website Home Page](#)
In-depth information!
- ✓ [Newsroom](#)
For latest action!
- ✓ [Sign Up Here](#)
to receive Board President, Deborah Ann Turner's, bi-weekly leadership email.
- ✓ Look for emails from Virginia Kase
- ✓ [League Management Website](#), L WVUS Services for Leagues

League of Women Voters Texas (HQ - Austin)

- ✓ [Website Home Page](#)
In-depth information!
- ✓ [News from TX League](#)
 - President Joyce LeBombard's Monthly Action News
 - Capitol Action Report - from Elisabeth MacNamara, State Chair Advocacy
- ✓ [Take Action software](#)
Information on bills, action letters, elected officials, and more!

League of Women Voters Dallas

- ✓ [Website Home Page](#)
In-depth information!
- ✓ Emails: Friday Updates weekly and VOTER once a month
- ✓ [Voter Information!!](#)
- ✓ [President Diane Tasian's Blog](#)
- ✓ [Event Calendar](#)
 - Volunteer for Voter Services
 - Board Meetings
 - Monthly Advocacy Interest Mtgs
 - Unit Meetings
 - Events with other Organizations
 - Historic Dates and More!

Health and healthcare related bills in the current session

Kelseanna Hollis-Hansen

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Topics



**Healthcare
Access**



**Maternal &
Child Health**

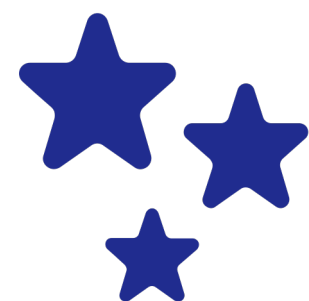
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**Food Access &
Food Security**

HEALTHCARE ACCESS

Bill Number	Bill Focus	Author	Status
SB 343	Relating to the expansion of eligibility for Medicaid to all individuals for whom federal matching money is available.	Johnson (Senate, District 16)	Filed as of 1/03/23
HB 652 SB 195	Relating to the development and implementation of the Live Well Texas program and the expansion of Medicaid eligibility to provide health benefit coverage to certain individuals; imposing penalties.	Johnson (House, District 115) Johnson (Senate, District 16)	Filed as of 1/14/23



See Texas Medical Association priorities here:
<https://www.texmed.org/Legislature/#VoterVoice>

MATERNAL & CHILD HEALTH

Bill Number	Bill Focus	Author	Status
HB 487 HB 56 SB 124	Relating to the Medicaid eligibility of certain women following a pregnancy.	Thompson (House, District 141) Ortega (House, District 77) Blanco (Senate, District 29) Alvarado (Senate, District 6) Menendez (Senate, District 26) Miles (Senate, District 13) Eckhardt (Senate, District 14) Whitmire (Senate, District 15) Gutierrez (Senate, District 19)	Filed as of 11/14/22
HB 465	Relating to a pilot program to provide Medicaid coverage of doula services.	Thierry (House, District 146)	Filed as of 11/14/22

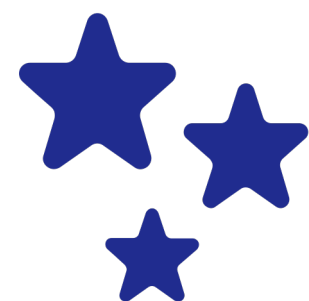


More legislative priorities at Every Body Texan:

<https://www.everybodytexas.org/policy-and-advocacy/88th-session>

FOOD ACCESS

Bill Number	Bill Focus	Author	Status
HB 1287 HB 1099 SB 273	Updating the “Vehicle Asset Test”	Guillen (House, District 31) Hernandez (House, District 143) Blanco (Senate, District 29)	Filed as of 1/12/23
HB 1118	Relating to a franchise tax credit for entities that establish a grocery store or healthy corner store in a food desert	Thierry (House, District 146)	Filed as of 12/28/22



An excellent action resource was created by Feeding Texas and is available to everyone here:

shorturl.at/GIYZ1

SUMMARY

- “I feel very strongly about a bill, what can I do?”
- Check for updates on the status of each bill that may interest you:
 - <https://capitol.texas.gov/search/billsearch.aspx>
- Contact your representative and let them know you care about the bill:
 - <https://wrm.capitol.texas.gov/home>
- Spread the word!

Thank you

Let's keep in touch

Contact detail:



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Email Address – Kelseanna Hollis-Hansen, MPH, PhD

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**We will meet every first Thursday of the month
at 7:30 PM – [add it to your calendar!](#)**