



September 2014

Volume 19 # 2

[Click here](#) to find your
10-ONE Austin City Council District.

[Click here](#) for a complete list of all
LWVAA Austin City Candidate Forums.

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September 7 Kickoff Event Features Evan Smith

Members and the Public Are Invited
LWVAA Annual Kickoff Event
Sunday, September 7, 2:30 - 4:30 pm
Trinity United Methodist Church Sanctuary
[4001 Speedway, 78751](#)

Hear about the League's 2014-15 plans.
Join committees in areas of your personal interest.
Learn about the state of the political scene in Texas.

Evan Smith will give his observations of the state of the
political scene in Texas from primaries, to political parties and

The League shall not support or
oppose any political party or
candidates. It may take action on
governmental measures and
policies in the public interest
after significant study and
consensus is reached.

The VOTER is partially funded by
the League of Women Voters of
the Austin Area Education Fund.

If you received this email from a
friend, [click here](#)

[Join Our Mailing List!](#)

to get on our list. You do not have
to be a member. We will NOT give
your email address to anyone
else.

Board Contact List

[Carol Olewin](#)
President

[Mary Cullinane](#)
1st VP Program

[Stewart Snider](#)

2nd VP Community Reins

[Judy Clack](#)

3rd VP Organization
and Voter Editor

[Stacey Mather](#)

4th VP Voters Service

[Peggy Stewart](#)

Secretary

[Gwen Santiago](#)

Treasurer

[Judy Parken](#)

Membership

[Jaci Collins](#)



Texas Tribune

their platforms, to matters that may influence voter turnout like photo ID, gender issues, and money in elections. Mr. Smith, editor of the *Texas Monthly* for a decade, is now co-founder and editor-in-chief of the *Texas Tribune* and PBS host of *Overheard with Evan Smith*.

~ **Judy Parken**, Chair, japarken@aol.com; **Joanne Richards**, phjfr@swbell.net; **Stewart Snider**, s2snider@gmail.com

LWVAA Calendar

Tues., Sept. 2, 6:30 pm, Board Meeting, League Office, 1011 W. 31st. St. Members.

Thurs., Sept. 4, Forum: City Council District 1, 6:00 pm. Asian American Resource Center, 8401 Cameron Road Austin, TX 78754. Public.

Sun., Sept. 7, 2:30 - 4:30 pm, Kickoff Meeting, Trinity United Methodist Church, 4001 Speedway, 78751. Keynote speaker: **Evan Smith**. Public.

Thurs., Sept. 11, Forum: City Council Districts 7 & 4: D7, 6:00 pm; D4, 7:30 pm. Northwest Recreation Center, 2913 Northland Dr. Austin, TX 78757. Public. Note time change.

Sun., Sept. 14, 2:00 - 4:00 pm, Education Committee Meeting, at the home of Chair, Laura Sheridan, 4400 Knob Oak Lane, 78735. Open to all members.

Mon., Sept. 15, Forum: City Council Districts 6 & 10: D6, 6:00 pm; D10, 7:30 pm. Hope Presbyterian Church, 11512 Olson Drive, Austin, TX 78750. Public.

Tues., Sept. 16, Forum: City Council Districts 8 & 5: D8, 6:00 pm; D10, 7:30 pm. Austin Community College, 1820 W. Stassney Lane Austin, TX 78745. Public. Note time change.

Thurs., Sept. 18, Forum: City Council District 9: 6:00 pm. Palmer Events Center, 900 Barton Springs Rd. Austin, TX 78704. Public.

Tues., Sept. 23, National Voter Registration Day

Tues., Sept. 30 - Forum: City Council Districts 2 & 3: D2, 6:00 pm; D3, 7:30 pm. Montopolis Recreation Center, 1200 Montopolis Dr. Austin, TX 78741. Public.

Wed., Oct. 1, Forum: Mayor, 6:00 pm. Austin Convention Center, 500 East Cesar Chavez St. Austin, TX 78701. Public.

Mon., Oct. 6, Last Day to Register to Vote for November Election.

Mon., Oct. 6, 6:30 pm, Board Meeting, League Office, 1011 W. 31st. St. Members.

Sun., Oct. 19, LWVAA Voters Guide published by *Austin American-Statesman* and online, lwvaustin.org. Also online in Spanish.

Mon., Oct. 20 - Fri., Oct. 31, Early Voting for November Election.

Mon., Nov. 3, 6:30 pm, Board Meeting, League Office, 1011 W. 31st. St. Members.

Member Records
[Frances McIntyre](#)
Advocacy and
Voters Guide Editor
[Cinde Weatherby](#)
Development
[Mescal Evler](#)
Publicity
[Eliza May](#)
Special Events
[Hal Jennings](#)
Webmaster

Webmaster Appointed



The Board of Directors appointed LWVAA member **Hal Jennings** as our new Webmaster. Hal recently retired from IBM, where he worked for over three decades in a variety of marketing positions. Over his career he was responsible for web content and occasionally web implementation. That, along with maintaining his own personal web site for two decades and generally being a technology wonk with a pair of computer science degrees, make him uniquely suited to be our webmaster.

Hal has already jumped in and has been updating our website. Our previous webmaster, **Anita Privett**, is overseeing Hal's training and support.

Contact **Hal Jennings** directly for any suggestions or corrections for our website: hal@jenningsweb.us

~ **Carol Olewin**, President,
c.olewin@gmail.com

Honors and Memorials

Tues., Nov. 4, 7 am - 7 pm, Election Day, Travis and Williamson County residents can vote at any polling place.

Back issues of the LWVAA *Voter* can be found at [this link](#).

Voters Guide Fundraising Goal Met First Spanish Translation Initiated Distribution Increased



With the LWVAA Board committing to providing a **Spanish translation of the upcoming Voters Guide**, additional funds were deemed necessary to pay for a professional translator to assure the same accuracy and quality the League is known to produce. As LWVAA president **Carol Olewin** said, "By printing a Spanish language *Voters Guide*, we are providing voter information to people who may have been previously disenfranchised."

The cost of a Spanish edition as well as an expanded *Voters Guide*, given the additional number of candidates and races in this November election, and the desire to distribute the *Voters Guide* more broadly contributed to the need for additional fundraising.

Long-time LWV member **Nancy Neavel** and new member **Brigid Hall** collaborated with *Voters Guide* Chair **Frances McIntyre** and Development Chair **Cinde Weatherby** to frame the funding appeal and to seek donations. The task force proposed, and the Board approved, a fundraising **goal of \$5,000** to cover the estimated expenses. Board Organization VP **Judy Clack** was instrumental in implementing the online outreach to members and friends.

Less than a month later, **the goal was met** through the generosity of LWVAA members, League friends, and **Blue Cross/Blue Shield of Texas**. BCBS is the major corporate underwriter, contributing **\$2,500**.

Donations are still being accepted and will enable us to pay for the printing of more copies of the *Voters Guide*. You may [donate online via credit card here](#), or mail your **tax-deductible** *Voters Guide* donation to LWVAA Voters Guide, 1011 W. 31st Street, Austin, TX 78705.



We also successfully competed for a **LWVUS Pass-through Grant**. The LWVTX Education Fund grant solicitation sought projects aimed to increase voter registration and turnout, particularly from underserved populations such as minorities, the poor and the elderly. We applied for a grant of \$500 to go towards the Guide's Spanish translation and were successful.

LWVAA is determined to distribute the *Voters Guide* as broadly as possible, committing to the printing of more than the normal number of copies. In addition to the regular distribution points, **bundles of 100** or more Guides will be available with a requested donation of \$100 to defray those costs. Individuals or companies may contact **Frances McIntyre** at mcintyre.frances@gmail.com for details on placing an order prior to October 1st. Bulk Order Forms will also be available at the Fall Kickoff meeting and at our candidate forums. More than normal copies of the Guide will also be distributed through the public libraries and Travis County offices and other locations.

We Need YOU on Our Development Team

It is with great sadness that we report the death of **Pat Baker**, husband of longtime League Board member, **Carolyn Baker**. Condolences may be mailed to Carolyn at 11819 Pavilion Blvd., #203, Austin, TX 78759.

Lifetime League member and former Special Events chair **Phyllis Portnoy** is recovering from double surgery: a hip replacement and a broken leg. Get well wishes may be mailed to Phyllis at the Summit at Westlake Hills, Skilled Nursing Care, 1034 Liberty Park Drive, Austin, TX 78746. She would love visitors!

To make a donation in honor of or in memory of a League member, [click here](#) for the form. Then mail with your donation to the LWVAA Office, 1011 W. 31st St., Austin, TX 78705.

Accolades

Voters Guide

Three League members are spending innumerable hours spending gathering information for the 2014 *Voters Guide*. They are dealing with **303 candidates** in 148 races in a 5-county area. The League and the wider Austin Area owe deep gratitude to **Jaci Collins, Frances McIntyre, and Donna Pauler**.

City Candidate Forums

Two League members have taken the lead in organizing seven City of Austin candidate forums and arranging for League volunteers to cover requisite jobs at each event. The League and Austin residents owe deep gratitude to **Frances McIntyre and Jacklyn Williams**.

Reflecting On

IMAGINE  **AUSTIN**

The goal of the Development Committee is to provide adequate funding to support expanded and additional LWVAA activities that promote our mission of informing voters and our members about issues on the ballot, encouraging them to become involved in public policy, and protecting the right to vote. We are seeking Development Committee members with the desire to grant some of those "I Wish the League Would..." wishes. Please consider offering your time to participate. We seek member volunteers who have broad knowledge of previous LWVAA development efforts, those who have fundraising expertise or skills, or those committed to contributing great ideas. A sign-up sheet will be available at the Kickoff Meeting September 7, or contact me below:

~ Cinde Weatherby, cindeweatherby@gmail.com

President's Message: League 2014-15 Activities: Which Pique Your Interest?



Come to the Annual Kickoff meeting on Sunday, September 7, 2:30 pm at Trinity Methodist Church, 4001 Speedway to learn more about the League and its vast programs.

This upcoming year will be busy for the Austin League and we need your help. Please join one or more of the many committees that will be active this year.

Voters Services will be hosting candidates forums for Austin City Council and Austin Independent School District as well as the periodic voter registration drives and publishing the always vital *Voters Guide*.

Local Study: Our local League will be studying **Poverty and the Safety Net Services** in the Austin area.

LWVTX Study: The 2014-2016 LWV Texas study will be **Payday and Title Loans** in Texas.

LWVUS Study: The National LWV program of study will be **Economic Inequality**.

The League will hold study group meetings to reach a consensus on each of these topics before adopting a position and advocating on that topic.

There are committees monitoring **health topics, public education, and transportation**.

We will need a large contingent of people to help with the upcoming **2015 Texas Legislative session** as members of our **Capitol Corps**. Members are needed to monitor bills and submit pre-written testimony at hearings.

The **Development** Committee is joining with the **Special Events** Committee to work on the annual **State of the City dinner and auction**.

Contact me to get in touch with the chairs of any of these efforts, or sign up at the September 7 Kickoff Event.

~ Carol Olewin, President, c.olewin@gmail.com

City Council and Mayoral

LWVAA was one of six partnering organizations that presented a seven-week series of programs in July and August, Imagine ONE Austin, **to prepare candidates and the public for Austin's new city council**. We exceeded our expectations, with more than 500 individuals attending one or more of the sessions. If you missed an evening or want to refer to something that was presented, all session materials are posted [at this link](#).

Here are two memorable thoughts presented in concluding remarks, the first a charge to the candidates; the second a charge to all registered voters.

"Collaboration is the management of conflict."

Geronimo Rodriguez, Board Chair, Leadership Austin

"Only 10% of registered voters in Austin voted to elect city council offices in 2012. There exists a moment now, with the initiation of 10-One, to reignite citizen interest in elections."

Dr. Regina Lawrence, Director, Annette Strauss Institute for Civic Engagement

The six partnering sponsors were Leadership Austin, KLRU, Annette Strauss Institute, Community Impact Newspaper, LBJ School of Public Affairs and the League of Women Voters of the Austin Area.

~ Judy Clack, jbclack@yahoo.com

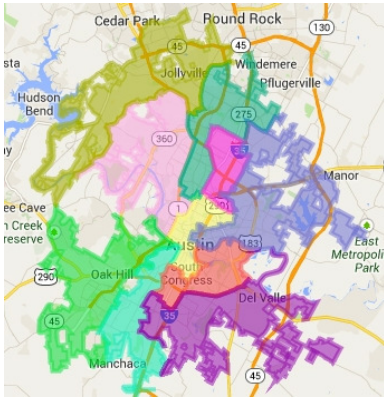
"Like" Our League on Facebook



It's so easy to follow our League on Facebook. Thanks **Brigid Hall** for these instructions:

1. Go to facebook.com and login to your existing account or create a new one.

Candidate Forums



Do you know in which district you live? [Click here](#) and simply enter your home address. Or look on your Voter Registration Certificate.

The City of Austin Ethics Review Commission is collaborating with the League of Women Voters of the Austin Area to host a series of public candidate forums that will be also be televised live and recorded for video on-demand on the City's website. All candidates have been invited. Each forum is open to the public.

Thurs., Sept. 4 - City Council **District 1**, 6 - 7:30 pm - Asian American Resource Center, 8401 Cameron Road Austin, TX 78754

Thurs., Sept. 11 - City Council **Districts 7 & 4: D7, 6:00 pm; D4, 7:30 pm.** - Northwest Recreation Center, 2913 Northland Dr. Austin, TX 78757

Mon., Sept. 15 - City Council **Districts 6 & 10, D6, 6:00 pm; D10, 7:30 pm** - Hope Presbyterian Church, 11512 Olson Drive, Austin, TX 78750

Tues., Sept. 16 - City Council **Districts 8 & 5, D8, 6:00pm; D5, 7:30 pm.** - Austin Community College, 1820 W. Stassney Lane Austin, TX 78745

Thurs., Sept. 18 - City Council **District 9, 6:00 pm** - Palmer Events Center, 900 Barton Springs Rd. Austin, TX 78704

Tues., Sept. 30 - City Council **Districts 2 & 3, D2, 6:00 pm; D3, 7:30 pm** - Montopolis Recreation Center, 1200 Montopolis Dr. Austin, TX 78741

Wed., Oct. 1 - **Mayor, 6:00 pm** - Austin Convention Center, 500 East Cesar Chavez St. Austin, TX 78701

~ **Frances McIntyre**, mcintyre.frances@gmail.com
~ **Jacklyn Williams**, jacklynwilliams@aol.com

Education Committee: AISD Candidate Forums Superintendent Search Update

The LWVAA Education Committee is working to arrange AISD candidate forums in October prior to the start of Early Voting on October 20. Candidates for all trustee positions will be invited.

We are planning to have one site at a school in North Austin to include candidates from Districts 1 and 4, one at a school in South Austin for candidates running in Districts 6 and 7, and a third at a school in East Austin for candidates running At-Large in District 9. Austin Council Parent Teacher Association President, Jennifer Carson, has agreed to co-host the forums with the League. We could use help from more League members. See my contact information below.

Sixteen candidates have filed for Austin ISD School Board. It is likely that **runoff elections will be required on December 16.**

2. Enter "League of Women Voters of the Austin Area" in the search box at the top of the page.

3. Facebook will show you possible matches to your search terms as you type. Simply click on the box with our logo and title.

4. Once you get to our page, there will be a button that says "Like" and has an image of a "thumbs up."

5. Click on that button. Now you are subscribed to our page and will see our news stories on your Facebook homepage.

Follow Our League on Twitter



It's so easy to follow our League on Twitter. Thanks **Brigid Hall** for these instructions:

1. Go to twitter.com and login to your existing account or create a new one.
2. Search for **lwvatx** in the search box at the top of the page.
3. On the left hand side of the page, under "People" click on our logo.
4. Click on the "follow" button and then you will be subscribed to the LWVAA page and get updates on any of our posts.

Shop at Randalls and Support the League

Randalls Good Neighbor Program gives the Austin League a percentage of sales from members who link the League to their **Remarkable cards**. Our account number is **465**.

[Click on this link](#) for a document to complete and return to any Randalls store to join the Good

- **Trustee District 1:** P. Kevin Bryant, Dr. Edmund T. Gordon, Stanton Strickland, and David "D" Thompson.
- **Trustee District 4:** Julie Cowan and Karen Zern Flanagan.
- **Trustee District 6:** Kate Mason-Murphy, Paul Saldana, and Monica Sanchez.
- **Trustee District 7:** Robert Schneider (incumbent) and Yasmin Wagner.
- **Trustee At-Large District 9:** Nael Chavez, Kendall Pace, Kazique J. Prince, Hillary Procknow, and Andy M. Trimino.

Neighbor Program and help our League.



Compass Bank Accounts Support LWVAA

Have you opened an account at BBVA Compass Bank in the last 12 months? If so, they will make a **\$50 contribution** to the Austin League of Women Voters. Just email your name (no account numbers) to our treasurer, **Gwen Santiago**, gsantiago@austin.rr.com.

Compass Bank also pays the League a small percentage for Internet and phone transactions. For information, contact Paul Sicotte at Compass Bank, 512-421-5741.

Leave a Legacy to Your League

Making a legacy donation to the League of Women Voters of the Austin Area Education Fund in your will is among the easiest ways to offer support of the LWVAAEF's work for years to come.

We suggest the following language to include the Austin League Education Fund as a beneficiary of a will or trust:

" I give, devise, and bequeath to the League of Women Voters of the Austin Area Education Fund, a charitable organization formed in the State of Texas, with offices at 1011 W. 31st St, Austin, Texas 78705, {the sum of \$___ } { ___ percentage of my residuary estate}." If you already have a will, you can have your attorney add a codicil to include the LWVAAEF.



Superintendent Search:

The search for Austin's next superintendent is following a timeline that includes five stages: Board Input and Preparation; Profile Development and Process; Recruiting and Screening; Presentation of Semi-Finalists to Community; and finally, Selection of Finalist and Future Planning.

The selection of the finalist is scheduled for mid-December.

Since Trustee Runoff Elections are highly probable and will occur on December 16, the current School Board will be selecting the finalist. The new trustees will vote on the superintendent's contract in January.

The search is entering stage 3, Recruiting and Screening. By the first part of September, the Austin School Board, in consultation with Ray and Associates (search firm employed by the Board), will approve a profile of characteristics and qualities resulting from the two months of work dedicated to researching and obtaining input on developing the ideal candidate profile.

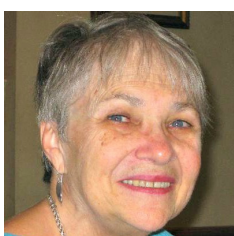
Want to help us with our work? Our next Education Committee meeting is scheduled for **September 14** at 4400 Knob Oak Lane in Southwest Austin (78735) from **2:00 - 4:00 pm**. Anyone interested in public education in Austin is welcome to attend. For more information, contact me at 512-300-5956 or via my email below.

~ **Laura Sheridan**, Chair, Education Study Committee, laseridan@sbcglobal.net

Membership Report

Meeting with New Members: I hope to see many of our new members at the Fall Kickoff on Sunday, September 7. This is a great event where you can learn more about the League and talk to other League members as well as learn from our speaker, Evan Smith.

Four new members (**Arati Singh, Jeanie Stanley, Marilyn McCarthy, and Harriet Harrow**) met over coffee recently to learn more about League with Judy Moore, Cinde Weatherby, Judy Clack, Laura Sheridan and myself. After reading Harriet's editorial in the *Austin American-Statesman* about Civil Rights Discrimination interwoven with discrimination against women, we shared our experiences and interests. One common thread was a concern that students are not getting a good background in government and history in school.



If you are interested in meeting with a couple members to learn more about the League, please let me know! We enjoy these conversations over coffee and will schedule more such gatherings.

New Members: Two have joined our ranks as new League members: **Suzanne Aubin** and **Kara Hall**. A warm welcome to each of you. As a member of the Austin League, each of you is

also a member of the national (LWVUS) and state (LWVTX) Leagues. See these links for an abundance of educational information.

www.lwvaustin.org www.lwvtexas.org www.lwv.org

After you've added the League, please email the Austin League office, lwvaustin@lwvaustin.org, so we can list you as a member of our League's Legacy Society.

Regular and Sustaining Memberships: Of your \$60 in regular dues, \$53 goes to the LWVTX and the LWVUS, and only \$7 is left to support our Austin League. Paying at the sustaining level greatly benefits the Austin League because the extra money stays in Austin and supports our local League's activities.

Thank You, Sustaining Members: Special thanks to this month's sustaining members: **Grace Chimene, Kara Hall, Joan and David Hilgers, Janet Martin, Pat Oakes, and O. R. Schmidt.** We are grateful for your additional financial support for our local League.

Thank You, Renewing Members: Many thanks to the following members who also renewed this month: **Diane Davis, Beverly Kimbrough, Marilyn McCarthy, Judi and Harvey Nudelman, Laura Sheridan, and Polly Street.** We depend on your support and appreciate your renewals.

New Membership, Renewal Dues Payment, Address Changes: Please mail your name, address, phone number, email address, household member (if applicable), along with your dues payment and/or any changes to the LWVAA office, 1011 W. 31st, Austin, TX 78705. Checks may be made out to the LWV of the Austin Area. Choose an amount below. Or you may instead [click here for renewals](#) (or [click here for new memberships](#)) to pay your annual dues online by credit card via PayPal while providing all the above information.

Here is the schedule of dues amounts:

	Individual	Household	Student
Sustaining Dues	\$ 100.00	\$ 150.00	
Regular Dues	\$ 60.00	\$ 90.00	\$ 20.00

Contact me anytime with your League questions.

~**Judy Parken**, Membership Chair, japarken@aol.com , 512-502-0278.