Workbook

League of Women Voters Austin Area - 2019 Annual Meeting

Saturday, May 18, 2019, 10 a.m.  Trinity Methodist Church, 4001 Speedway, Austin, 78751

2019 WORKBOOK DEDICATION

Cinde Weatherby retired from her career in transportation in October 2013 and joined the Austin Area League shortly thereafter. She joined the Board as Development Director in 2014 and then 2nd VP Community Relations in 2015 to undertake the Capitol Corps coordination. During this time, she greatly expanded the League’s community outreach to form collaborative efforts and developed our partnership with Alamo Drafthouse. Cinde was elected President for the 2016 - 2018 term. As President, she laid the foundation for many of the changes we are now implementing such as setting aside funds for Innovation Projects, recruiting younger professionals with experience in areas we need, and leading the effort to get our collateral in Spanish. She also led us through the tumultuous time of losing the Austin American-Statesman for printing and distributing our Voters Guide. Since 2015, Cinde has also been the State League’s Voting Rights and Elections Law Issue Chair.

Gwen Santiago joined the Austin Area League in 2008. After retiring as Executive Director at Texas Association of School Business Officials, she became LWV-AA’s Treasurer in 2014 until now. As Treasurer, Gwen has significantly improved our financials. She led the way and worked tirelessly to merge our 501 (c)(4) into our 501 (c)(3) operations and update our chart of accounts. Being the treasurer can be a thankless and time-consuming job; processing donations and payments, balancing the books, preparing financial reports, doing tax reporting, and responding to all the questions on budgets and expenses. Gwen has always done all these things cheerfully, quickly, and with a high degree of integrity.

Brenda Koegler joined the Arlington Area League in 2005 after retiring from teaching. She served as Treasurer from 2006 until 2014. Brenda served on the LWV-TX Board from 2012 - 2014, where she was the 2014 State Convention Chair and the LWV-TX Nominating Committee Chair from 2014 - 2016. Brenda and her husband, Dan, moved to Austin in 2014 and joined the Austin Area League. Brenda served on the LWV-AA Board as Membership Co-Chair and then Membership Director from 2016 until now. She has also participated in Capitol Corps for the last three legislative sessions.

Please bring this Annual Meeting Workbook to the meeting!
League of Women Voters Austin Area - Annual Meeting, Saturday, May 18, 2019

AGENDA

10:00 a.m. Check-in and Social

10:30 Call to order – Joyce LeBombard, President
  • Confirmation of quorum of at least 53 members
  • Welcome / Introduce Officers, Directors, and Past Presidents

10:35 Recognitions
  • Lifetime members and new members – Brenda Koegler, Director Membership
  • Office Corps, and VDRs, & other volunteers – Debbi Voss, 3rd VP Organization
  • Outgoing board members – Gretchen Otto, Director Voters Guide; and María Medina Milner, Director Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

10:50 Meeting procedures – LeBombard
  • Appointment of Minutes Review Committee, Parliamentarian, and Timekeeper
  • Adoption of Roberts Rules of Order for Annual Meeting
  • Approval of 2018 Annual Meeting Minutes

11:00 Treasurer’s Report – Gwen Santiago, Treasurer

11:10 President’s Report – LeBombard

11:20 Program’s Presentations and Adoptions – Gina McCool, 1st VP Program; and Amanda Boudreault, Director Program Positions
  • Proposed position statement updates
    o Affordable Housing (Judith Parken, Chair)
    o Healthcare (Mary Cullinane, Chair)
    o Transportation, Mobility, and Accessibility (Britin Bostick, Chair)
    o Education (Cynthia Smith-McCollum, Chair)
  • Presentation and adoption of proposed local program

11:45 Presentation and adoption of Bylaws changes – Carol Olewin, Bylaws Chair

11:55 Presentation and adoption of proposed FY 2019-2020 budget – Michelle Goerdel, Budget Chair

12:05 Elections
  • Nominating Committee Report – Hal Jennings, Nominating Committee Chair
  • Election of Officers and Directors – LeBombard
  • Election of next Nominating Committee chair and two members – LeBombard

12:15 League Dream Time: “I wish the League would…”

12:25 Closing / Announcements

12:30 Adjournment / New board group photo / Clean-up

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MEMBERSHIP REPORT

The League of Women Voters Austin Area appreciates our loyal veteran members as we continue to enjoy an abundance of new members. LWV-AA membership now stands at 532, with 232 new members joining in the last 12 months. At this time in 2018, our membership was 405. Although we lose members each year, our growth is impressive. Please renew! We need you!

The League holds New Member Orientations each month. Helping new members match their interests and skills with the League’s needs allows the League to expand its outreach into new areas of influence.

On December 1, 2018, the Austin Area League continued our tradition of holding a holiday brunch honoring our new members. Ninety-four new and veteran members enjoyed great food and fellowship at the Ascension Lutheran Church. New members spoke of why they joined the League and what they hoped we could accomplish together. They were truly inspiring!

PMP stands for Per Member Payment and each League reports its total membership to LWVUS in January. The membership number is used to determine what each League pays for membership to LWVUS and LWV-TX. Currently, dues for Sustaining Members are $100 for individuals and $150 for household memberships. Regular dues are $60 for individuals and $90 for households. Student memberships are $5, and we have 28 student memberships this year.

Our League only keeps $7 out of the $60 regular dues; the rest goes to LWVUS and LWV-TX. We can only keep $9 out of the regular household dues. That is why being a Sustaining Member is so important. Our generous number of Sustaining Members has allowed us to avoid raising dues for more than 8 years now. Please consider becoming a Sustaining Member next time you renew.

Membership is everyone’s job, so please welcome and get to know our new members. Remember to talk about the League and ask people to join. Spread the word!

As you will see on the map, on the next page, depicting the relative location and number of members as of March 2019, we continue to grow in an ever-broader geographic area, making us truly the League of Women Voters Austin Area.

- Brenda Koegler, Membership Chair
Membership Location and Population Density
### New Members 2018 – 2019

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As we enter our 100th year, we have embarked on a transformative journey. This journey is guided by the 2018 LWVUS Transformation Roadmap (click here to read it). This roadmap ensures we will enter our second century strong, visible, and relevant:


Vision: We envision a democracy where every person has the desire, the right, the knowledge, and the confidence to participate.

Value: We believe in the power of women to create a more perfect democracy.

The Austin Area League surveyed our membership in 2018 to learn what we should focus on:

Making Democracy Work®
- Our nonpartisan Voters Guide, the hallmark of our brand
- Voter Registration and Get Out the Vote efforts, including high school outreach
- Voter and Civic education programs
- Improving communications about what we do internally and externally

Organizationally
- Become a more equitable, accessible, inclusive, and diverse organization to better reflect and serve our community
- Build new collaborations and strengthen existing ones because we are stronger together
- Evaluate the programs and services we offer to make sure we are having the impact that we want, and to identify improvements

We grew another 30% this past year and now have 530 members. In fact, since March 2016, our membership has grown by a whopping 162%, up from 202 members! Our growth is not in numbers alone. We continue to be more diverse in geography, age, ethnicity, gender, and background than we ever have before. Fast growth brings with it opportunities and challenges.

New members bring vigor, enthusiasm, fresh perspective, and skills. Returning members bring continuity and history but are also energized with excitement and determination. With our collaborations with others in our communities, we continue to expand our reach and our impact.

While we honor and recognize our past, we must look to the future. We must find innovative ways to engage more volunteers and prepare our leaders. We must utilize new techniques to reach younger and first-time voters. And we must hone our work and conduct it in ever more efficient and effective ways, to remain focused on our mission of “Empowering Voters. Defending Democracy.”

We say goodbye to three long-serving Board members, Cinde Weatherby, Gwen Santiago, and Brenda Koegler. You can read more about their contributions in the Workbook Dedication. Also leaving the Board are several other members who have made major contributions to our goals:

- Mary Jane Burson, VP, Community Relations
- Ryann Collier, Dir. Communications
- Dixie Davis, Dir. Advocacy
- Elizabeth Cooper, Dir. Development
- Karen Kelley, Dir. Volunteer Mgmt

It has been an honor and a privilege to have served with the 2018 - 2019 Board. And, it’s been an incredible year of activities, activism, and accomplishments for the Austin Area League, especially as an all-volunteer organization.
Debbi Voss, VP, Organization, and the Office Corps have logged over 780 volunteer hours in the office, processed over 360 phone calls, and over 1,043 payments and donations this past year. Debbi has formed an Event Management team to do setup/breakdown, sign-in/checkout, door management, and provide food and beverages, as needed, for our public events. I especially thank Debbi for all that she does, working tirelessly on behalf of LWV-AA; keeping all our operations running smoothly.

Karen Kelley, Director Volunteer Management, and Maria Medina Milner, Director Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion (DEI) stepped up to the challenge of these brand new areas. Volunteer management has:

- Followed up on every Action Involvement form submitted to get members engaged quickly.
- Revamped our Volunteer Opportunities site for current volunteer opportunities.
- Developed an interim volunteer management site for LWV-AA leaders to help manage our over 550 volunteers (members and nonmembers), while researching a longer-term solution.

Did you know that volunteers have put in over 10,000 hours last year alone? A big ‘Thank You’ to ALL our volunteers!

DEI is in the midst of presenting a year-long “Know the Fights for the Rights” series of workshops to understand what it has meant to marginalized groups to have fought for their rights. To date, the trainings have focused on: DEI terminology and what it means to be an ally, Black Civil Rights, and Exclusions in the Suffragette Movement.

The teamwork between Ryann Collier, Director Communications, and Elizabeth Cooper, Director Funds Development, and their teams, has led to record fundraising results:

- 24-hr online fundraising campaigns: raised $1,815 for the 100th anniversary of Texas women voting in a Primary (view the campaign here); #GivingTuesday raised $1,200; and Amplify Austin raised $4,500.
- “I love voting so much” t-shirt, mid-term election, fundraising campaign raised $2,395.
- Celebrating Democracy and Making Democracy Work® Awards Dinner netted over $17,000.

A huge ‘thank you’ to them and their teams as well as:

- Member Nina Medeiros, and her company Big Creative Productions, for giving us the Fanning the Flame the Power of Women video to tell our story.
- Member Rachel Elsberry and EnviroMedia for the “I love voting so much” design and Liz Lambert for original artwork permission for the bus ad and t-shirt fundraising campaigns.
- Mary Jane Burson, VP, Community Relations; Debbi Voss, VP, Organization; members Amy Harding, Liz Walton, Allison DeGroote, Jaci Collins, Debbie Kern and Brenda Volpe from I3 Event Marketing, and all the LWV-AA volunteers who helped make the Celebrating Democracy and Making Democracy Work® Awards Dinner a success.

In addition to the above accomplishments, Ryann and the Communications team have brought a new level of innovation and expertise to LWV-AA:

- Cindy Schaufenbuel improved the VOTER newsletter.
- Susan Hewitt, Webmaster, has been making incremental improvements and updates to our website. She has begun a more comprehensive redesign to improve accessibility.
- Partnered with CapMetro and EnviroMedia to produce the Get Out The Vote (GOTV) bus based on the iconic artwork by Daniel Johnston and the wall at Hotel San Jose (Liz Lambert) respectively. Here you can see one of the ads in action!
• Developed a targeted social media GOTV ad campaign, resulting in more than 77,000 impressions. This campaign utilized custom and empowering artwork designed by Pati Canseco at Arrow.

• Arranged for a number of television and radio publicity spots to promote the bus campaign and GOTV.

Gina McCool, VP, Program; Amanda Boudreault, Director Program Positions; and Dixie Davis, Director Advocacy; have been busy on a wide variety of Program and Advocacy work.

Four position updates were done:

• Affordable Housing (Judy Parken),
• Education (Cynthia Smith-McCollum),
• Healthcare (Mary Cullinane),
• Transportation, Mobility, and Accessibility (Britin Bostick)

Please read the proposed updates and program recommendations for next year, elsewhere in this Workbook and be prepared to vote on them at the Annual Meeting.

The Advocacy Committee met with all Austin City Councilmembers to learn their priorities and to discuss the Independent Ethics Committee and Democracy Dollars. They wrote op-eds and letters to the Editor of the Austin American-Statesman concerning Charter Amendments, GOTV, and the Ethics Commission. They also developed the Voters Guide candidate questions and the explanations for the bond and ballot measures across Travis and Williamson County. We supported the seven Austin Bond measures, in particular Proposition A concerning Affordable Housing.

As you will read elsewhere in this Workbook, the Voters Service area, led by Cinde Weatherby, VP, Voters Service; Gretchen Otto, Voters Guide Director; Jaci Collins, VOTE411 Coordinator; Michael Keller, Register & Vote Chair; Carol Eckelkamp Candidate Forums Chair; and Pam Bixby and Jody Klopp, First Vote! Co-Chairs, have registered, informed, educated, and encouraged more voters than ever before to participate in our democracy. Thanks to all the volunteers and VDRs for Empowering Voters!

Other 2018 - 2019 Highlights

• Michael Keller with assistance from Hal Jennings, set-up, trained, and administered the use of Google Suite and LWVAustin.org emails by Board members and other LWV-AA leaders and roles. This created a centralized location for LWV-AA documents and made it easier to conduct LWV-AA business through email.

• Hosted the Fall League Kick-Off event, in collaboration with TX Votes and UT Austin-Moody College of Communication Center for Media Engagement, about Fake News. It featured a panel discussion with Karina Kling, Capital Tonight Anchor of Spectrum News; Debbie Hoitt, former Editor of Austin American-Statesman; Talia Stroud, Assoc. Professor UT Austin and Director of Research for Annette Strauss Institute; John Thomas, Executive Producer at KXAN News; and moderated by Paul Brown, Assoc. Professor at Austin Community College.

• Hosted a very well-attended New Member Holiday Brunch.

• Hosted the Celebrating Democracy and Making Democracy Work® Awards Dinner. Keynote speaker was Mimi Marziani, President of Texas Civil Rights Project. Award winners were: Jaci Collins, Volunteer of the Year; Amber Morena, Friend of the League; and Angela Angulo, Democracy in Action.

• Created a Disability Rights Liaison role, handled by member Gretchen Crooke.

• Updated our Bylaws for our new officer structure.

• Collaborated with Dr. Peniel Johnson, founder of the Center for the Study of Race and Democracy at the LBJ School of Public Affairs at UT Austin, on an Evening Keynote by Ari Berman on Voting Rights in the Age of Trump, on October 11th.

We again end the year on sound financial footing. And thank all our donors and sponsors for their support throughout the year. It is because of you we have the funds to Empower Voters and Defend Democracy.

While I’m in awe of all that we have accomplished together this past year, I am excited and hopeful for the prospects over the next year. I look forward to working with the new 2019 - 2020 Board and all of you! We have a great mixture of continuity and new perspectives to continue our transformation journey and achieve our mission.

In gratitude,

- Joyce LeBombard, President
PROGRAMS
An Overview of Program Accomplishments and Recommendations

Program Position Committees have been focused on updating the six positions presented for updates at the 2017 Annual Meeting.

The six position updates were: Affordable Housing, Criminal Justice, Education, Environment, Healthcare, and Transportation.

The positions in which the updating committee achieved consensus and presented it to the Board for approval are as follows: Affordable Housing, Education, Healthcare, and Transportation.

Below is an overview of some of the meetings and events that were held to reach consensus, educate members and public, and give attendees suggestions on ways they can advocate.

**Affordable Housing** (last updated 2001)

*Saturday, July 21, 2018:* Committee meeting
*Wednesday, October 17, 2018:* Discussion and education about the $250 million Affordable Housing Bond with Walter Moreau, Executive Director of Foundation Communities.
*Saturday, February 23, 2019:* Consensus meeting and discussion with Bree Williams, Director of Community Housing at ECHO.
*Saturday, March 24, 2019:* Presentation by the Affordable Housing Update Committee with a program that included Council members Jimmy Flanagan (District 6) and Daniel Segura-Kelly (representative of District 1 Natasha Harper-Madison) as speakers.

**Education** (last updated in 2008)

*Friday, June 15, 2018:* Cynthia McCollum met with Program Director, Amanda Boudreault, and Gina McCool, VP Program. McCollum agreed to chair the committee after being co-chair during previous meetings. The committee had stopped meeting in early 2018, but had made some proposed updates. McCollum, Boudreault, and McCool reviewed the proposed updates.
*March 20, 2019:* Cynthia McCollum led the consensus meeting for the Education Position update. Attendees at this meeting reviewed the proposed changes, asked questions, and provided feedback to the proposed changes. Consensus was reached.

**Healthcare** (last updated in 2014)

*July 9, 2018:* Healthcare Update Committee met.
*September 16, 2018:* Healthcare Committee screened the documentary, “Death by Delivery” a film exploring the high maternal mortality rate among African-American women in the United States. It was followed by a panel discussion with Kelene Blake-Fallon of the Black Mamas Matter Alliance and Darline Turner, owner and Executive Director of Darline Turner Enterprises, Inc., and its DBA Mamas on Bedrest & Beyond. Q&A followed with suggestions for attendees who wanted to do something to bring awareness to this issue and contribute, in some way, to end this crisis.

*February 20, 2019:* Mary Cullinane, Healthcare Committee Chair, led a Program to educate the League and public around some of the issues that informed the changes to the Healthcare position statement. Stephanie Webb, co-founder of Decipher City, spoke about how policies and practices at every level have created deep-rooted barriers to good health and steps that other communities are taking to remedy these inequities. Dr. Michele Rountree, associate professor at the Steve Hicks School of Social Work at The University of Texas at Austin, spoke about the work she is doing at the Center for Health Equity Research and Education at the University of Texas at Austin.
University of Texas at Austin and the associate director of the Institute for Urban Policy and Research Analysis (IUPRA) explained how significant health disparities result from structural determinants such as the ZIP code in which an individual lives.

March 20, 2019: Mary Cullinane led the consensus meeting for the Healthcare Position update. Attendees at this meeting reviewed the proposed changes, asked questions, and provided feedback to the proposed changes. Consensus was reached.

Transportation, Mobility, & Access (formerly Transportation) (last updated 1998)

June 30, 2018: Transportation Update Committee met.

Jan 23, 2019: Britin Bostick led the consensus meeting for the Transportation, Mobility, & Access Position update. Attendees at this meeting reviewed the proposed changes, asked questions, and provided feedback to the proposed changes. Consensus was reached.

Looking Ahead: Proposed Program Recommendations for 2019 - 2020

Many of our position statements have not been updated in several years. A yearly review of our position statements will check for any needed updates or studies, thus keeping them current. It is important for reviewers of the Position Statements to keep in mind that the goal is to write broad language, rather than a lengthy treatise, under which LWV-AA members and our Advocacy Committee can advocate.

Proposed Position Updates

As these did not get completed, we will re-open membership for the Environment and Criminal Justice committees.

- **Criminal Justice** (called Administration of Justice in the past and current Workbooks): Committee made some headway but paused in December 2018. Restarting committee; opening up chair and membership positions. Four members already tapped for participation based on new/existing member interest.

- **Environment** (last updated 2009) Restarting committee; opening up chair and membership positions.

Proposed Study

While the 2019 position update is an improvement to the Education position, the Board recommends a study to address items such as equity, inclusion, and diversity in schools; early childhood development; flexible learning environments; and healthcare needs.

Educational Events

Program and Advocacy Committees will work together to choose topics from our Position Statements where we think education is needed or wanted, as well as hold events around those topics to members and the public. These event topics will likely spring from the discussions that arise during the position update committees’ meetings.

- Gina McCool, 1st VP - Programs
POSITIVE STATEMENT UPDATES

Current Affordable Housing Position (Adopted at the 2001 Annual Meeting.)
Local governments have a responsibility to help assure a supply of affordable housing to their residents. Responsibility should be exercised in the areas of ordinance making, policy making, and public education.

1. The LWV-AA believes that local governmental bodies should consider the impact on the cost of housing when writing ordinances and developing policy.
2. The City should do more to educate neighborhoods about the advantages of mixed-income housing.
3. The LWV-AA supports the waiver of development fees, expedited permit processing, and other incentives to developers to encourage the construction of affordable housing, but there should be strict monitoring and ready access of information to the public.
4. The LWV-AA supports the concept of leasing surplus city/county property for affordable housing projects.
5. The City of Austin and Travis County should cooperate wherever possible on affordable housing and should try to work with adjoining counties and municipalities.
6. There should be more flexibility in the building and zoning codes of the City—particularly in allowing multifamily uses in commercial districts—but there should not be a wholesale move toward cumulative zoning. There could be increased residential densities along transit corridors and around the edges of single-family neighborhoods, but existing single-family neighborhoods should not be required to have increased density.

The Affordable Housing Update Committee recommends:

• Simple re-wording throughout.
• Cutting the original #2. This topic may have been needed in 2001 but is less relevant today.
• Combining the original #4 and #5 as they both relate to municipalities and counties. This will become the new #3.
• Adding a new #4 relating to supportive services. The need for supportive services was discussed repeatedly by experts while the committee researched this update.
• Replacing the original #4 with a new #5. This new language defines the League’s overall goal for inclusivity and diversity in affordable housing policy while also being broad enough to allow the League to support or oppose new housing projects or policies, on a case by case basis.

Proposed Changes to Affordable Housing Position (2019) in red
Local governments have a responsibility to help assure a supply of affordable housing to their residents. Responsibility should be exercised in the areas of ordinance-making, policy-making, and public education.

1. *LWV-AA supports the consideration of the impact on housing cost when governmental bodies write ordinances and develop policy.*
2. *LWV-AA supports the waiver of development fees, expedited permit processing, and other incentives to developers to encourage the construction of affordable housing, but there should be strict monitoring and ready access of information to the public.*
3. **LWV-AA supports the concept of leasing surplus city/county property for affordable housing projects.** The City of Austin, Travis County, and adjoining counties and municipalities should cooperate wherever possible on affordable housing.

4. **LWV-AA supports the inclusion of supportive services (such as accessible transportation, health care, child care, and educational opportunities) in the design of affordable housing plans because such services enhance the initial and long-term success for both residents and the community.**

5. **LWV-AA supports all avenues of promoting affordable housing (such as density corridors, accessory dwelling units, loan incentives for homeowners, zoning adjustments, and specific bonds) that are consistent with the goal of helping all areas of Austin to be inclusive, diverse, and welcoming.**

**Current Health Position** (2003; in 2014, updated, added to, and absorbed old “Mental Health Services” section, which was adopted in 2008) and **Proposed Changes (2019) in red.**

**Health Care**

We support public funding to create, expand, and/or educate about:

1. Community-based, integrated health care services, where patients can receive primary and preventive physical and behavioral health services in the same place.

2. The use of the Medical Access Program (MAP) to pay for the health care of those who are not eligible for other forms of insurance, and a sliding-scale fee schedule for the near poor.

3. Maximizing all available state and local financing mechanisms to leverage as much federal money as possible to fund local health care services.

4. Contractual agreements with cities, counties, and other governmental entities for payment of health care delivered to non-Travis County residents.

5. **Recruitment, education, and training of diverse professional staff to implement health and social programs based on best practices.**

6. A single county or multicounty health care district (hospital district) in Austin and/or Travis County with an appointed or elected board.

**Behavioral Health Care**

We support public funding to create, expand, and/or educate about:

7. Specialized, community-based behavioral health and substance abuse treatment services that can respond to patients at whatever their level of need (e.g., hotlines, information and referral, outpatient, crisis intervention, in-patient, long-term care/residential treatment, sobriety centers, and telemedicine), regardless of ability to pay.
7. Specialized, community-based behavioral health and substance abuse treatment services that can respond to pediatric and adult patients at whatever their level of need (e.g., hotlines, information and referral, outpatient, crisis intervention, inpatient, long term care/residential treatment, sobriety centers, and telemedicine), regardless of ability to pay.

8. Additional in-patient behavioral health beds in a health care facility or local hospital for crisis intervention and stabilization.

9. Programs/services (e.g., housing, transportation, employment, and other basic needs) to assist those with severe behavioral and/or physical health issues to live successfully in the community.

10. Mobile crisis outreach teams and hospital and jail-diversion projects to redirect individuals into behavioral health services and away from unnecessary incarceration or hospitalization.

11. An emphasis on preventive behavioral health programs and services.

**Wellness and Health Promotion**

We support public funding to create, expand, and/or educate about:

12. A system of public health and strong public health policy as a sound strategy for preventing disease, promoting health, and driving down health care costs.


15. Promotion and protection of women's access to health care, including all aspects of reproductive health. (LWV-Texas statement)

*We support:*

16. **Organizations, facilities, and providers that offer transparent, culturally competent, and scientific, evidence-based information and services for reproductive healthcare, and that do not use coercive or ideological practices to influence patient decisions.**

17. **Increased coordination between government agencies, as well as partnerships with community organizations, businesses, healthcare providers, etc in order to create healthy community environments; empower individuals to make healthy choices; integrate clinical and community preventive services; and reduce health disparities.**

18. **Programs and activities to address institutional/structural racism and its effects on health and health care through education, dialogue and action.**

Transportation, Mobility, & Accessibility

1. Support for a community-wide system that serves the population as a whole; is publicly owned, efficient, and economical; and informs and educates the public on its use.

2. Support for the establishment and the sustainment of a permanent Mass Transit Authority (CAPMETRO).

3. Support for the continued use of a one-cent sales tax to support the CAPMETRO.

4. Support for increased opportunities for meaningful citizen participation in the transportation planning process; and optimum cooperation and coordination in the administration, planning, and delivery of services among agencies that provide transportation.

5. Support for a balanced, intermodal multi-modal Metropolitan Transportation System that coordinates the use of:
   - Automobiles.
   - Buses.
   - A fixed guide-way system (regional light rail). A regional high-capacity corridor system (i.e. rail, rapid bus, etc.)
   - Park-and-ride facilities.
   - Pedestrian and bicycle routes.
   - Shuttles (or jitneys).
   - Special transit services for the disabled and elderly.
   - Taxis and Transportation Network Companies (i.e. ridesharing and other technology-enabled mobility options)

6. Support for transportation-related measures that will keep the Austin Metropolitan Area in attainment of federal air quality standards (see Air Quality statement under Environmental Quality position), including:
   - Carpools.
   - Van pools.
   - Buses.
   - High-occupancy vehicle lanes
   - Bicycles, pedestrian, and other active transportation.
   - Trip reduction. Transportation demand management (i.e. reducing peak congestion volumes)
   - Walking.
   - Conversion to natural gas, with more refueling centers. Alternatively-fueled vehicles (e.g. electric, natural gas, hybrid) & fueling/recharge stations for them.
   - Recharge centers for (future) electric cars.
   - A fixed guide-way system (e.g. rail and light rail).
   - Telecommuting. Teleworking.
   - Home employment.
   - Motor vehicle inspection that includes emissions compliance testing.
   - Land use that supports transit/pedestrian/bicycle use.
   - Increase in number and capacity of park-and-ride facilities.
7. Support for the following methods of transportation funding: governmental gasoline tax, the Austin Transportation Fee, and revenue from toll roads. Revenues from these sources will go should be reinvested toward improving city, county, and regional roads, and as well as other transportation projects.

8. Support for multiple funding sources for the construction and operation of a fixed guide way high-capacity, multi-model, comprehensive transportation system, including the use of bonds, federal funds, sales taxes, and user fees like gasoline taxes and fares.

9. Support for the integration of land-use planning and transportation planning in the Austin Metropolitan Area.

10. Support for the revision of local governments’ development regulations, to that include site design criteria that would encourage intermodal planning, including accommodations for pedestrians, bicycle trails, active transportation, and transit.

11. Support for mixed-use development to help achieve the Austin Metropolitan Area’s transportation goals.

12. Support for the encouragement of the Austin Transportation Study (ATS) to maintain ongoing, independent performance reviews of the governments and agencies that provide transportation services to the ATS Austin Area to provide accountability to the citizens of the Austin Metropolitan Area.

13. Support for the use of the following criteria to assess the suitability of specific funding proposals:
   - Allows for faster project completion; a project cannot be completed without it. Considers project timeliness
   - Local dollars are used to leverage state and federal dollars.
   - An undue burden is not placed on any socio-economic group.
   - Funds are raised efficiently.
   - Funds are not reallocated without the consent of the funding body.
   - Balance of transportation modes is improved; the overall efficiency of the transportation system is enhanced.
   - The burden is placed on those that create the most wear and tear.
   - The cost of additional use of facilities is appropriately distributed.
   - Preference is given to projects that mitigate or do not negatively affect public health in ways such as increasing pollution, reducing access, or changing the community culture.

### Transportation, Mobility, & Accessibility Glossary

**Access** – a means of approaching or entering a place; the right or opportunity to use or benefit from something.

**Active Transportation** – a form of transport that uses only the physical activity of the human being, (walking or cycling) or more active mobility means (skateboard, scooter or roller skates).

**Austin Transportation User Fee** – The Transportation User Fee (TUF) is a fee assessed to residents and businesses based on the traffic levels generated by each dwelling unit or business. This monthly fee funds street maintenance and repair, annual street overlay and striping, and other activities necessary for
keeping Austin's roadways in good condition. City of Austin residents pay the mandatory fee to help prolong the life of city infrastructure and assets. For more information visit https://austintexas.gov/faq/what-transportation-user-fee.

**Capital Area Rural Transportation System (CARTS)** - The CARTS District is a rural/urban transit district organized under Chapter 458 of the Texas Transportation Code as a political subdivision of the state and an entity responsible for transit services in a 7,200 square mile nine-county area surrounding Austin. The District includes the non-urbanized areas of Bastrop, Blanco, Burnet, Caldwell, Fayette, Hays, Lee, Travis and Williamson counties, and the San Marcos urbanized area. CARTS delivers transportation tailored specifically for each of the one hundred and sixty-nine communities it serves and provides predictable connections between these communities to the national intercity bus network, to Capital Metro services and to the metropolitan center of the region. The service frequency in or to the various locales range from many times a day to once a month. For more information visit http://www.ridecarts.com/.

**Capital Metropolitan Transportation Authority (CAPMETRO)** – connects people, jobs and communities by providing quality transportation choices to the Austin Area. Created in accordance with Chapter 451 of the Texas Transportation Code, Capital Metro was established by a voter referendum on Jan. 19, 1985. The agency is funded in part by a 1 percent sales tax levied by its service area members.

**Intermodal** – involving two or more different modes of transportation; pertaining to or suitable for transportation involving more than one form of carrier, as truck and rail, or truck, ship, and rail.

**Land Use Planning** – seeks to order and regulate land use in an efficient and ethical way, thus preventing land-use conflicts. Governments use land-use planning to manage the development of land within their jurisdictions. In doing so, the governmental unit can plan for the needs of the community while safeguarding natural resources. To this end, it is the systematic assessment of land and water potential, alternatives for land use, and economic and social conditions in order to select and adopt the best land-use options. Often one element of a comprehensive plan, a land-use plan provides a vision for the future possibilities of development in neighborhoods, districts, cities, or any defined planning area.

**Mass Transit Authority (MTA)** – a regional, transportation-focused governmental or quasi-governmental agency that provides mass transit (moving the public with efficiency) options to the public, such as bus, rail, toll road or ferry.

**Mobility** – the ability to move or be moved freely and easily.

**Mode** – a way or manner in which something occurs or is experienced, expressed, or done.

**Multi-Modal** – characterized by several different modes of activity or occurrence; including several different types of transportation.

**Park-and-Ride Facilities** – parking lots with public transport connections that allow commuters and other people heading to city centers to leave their vehicles and transfer to a bus, rail system, or carpool for the remainder of the journey. The vehicle is left in the car park during the day and retrieved when the owner returns. Park and rides are generally located in the suburbs of metropolitan areas or on the outer edges of large cities.
Regional High-Capacity Corridor System – for a defined region, a system that uses express bus, rail or other transportation mode with a high capacity to move people that operates in high-traffic or high-speed corridors to connect various points or destinations across the region. It coordinates the high capacity, high-speed modes with other modes to deliver users to their desired destinations.

Shared Mobility – refers to the shared used of a vehicle, bicycle, or other transportation mode. It is a transportation strategy that allows users to access transportation services on an as-needed basis.

Transit – the conveyance of passengers on public transportation.

Transportation – the action of transporting someone or something or the process of being transported; a system or means of transporting people or goods.

Transportation Demand Management (TDM) – the application of strategies and policies to reduce travel demand, or to redistribute this demand in space or in time. In transport, as in any network, managing demand can be a cost-effective alternative to increasing capacity. A demand management approach to transport also has the potential to deliver better environmental outcomes, improved public health, stronger communities, and more prosperous cities.

Transportation Network Company (TNC) – an organization that pairs passengers via website and mobile apps with drivers who provide such services. It is a type of shared mobility.


   ▪ All local public schools should have as its goal to meet, if not exceed, the state and federal accountability standards for:
     o student achievement,
     o attendance,
     o dropout rates, and
     o Graduation rates, and completion rates in each school in the district,
     o and to reduce the “achievement gap” (disparity in academic performance between groups of students).
     o To achieve this goal, the schools must have “highly-qualified” teachers in all areas, adequate resources and support systems, and encourage parent and community involvement in the schools.
   ▪ Students should receive an education that prepares them to be responsible citizens in a participatory democracy.

2. Support of equitable education outcomes for students in local public schools through the following goals at all grade levels, from prekindergarten and kindergarten, through elementary, middle, and high schools:
   ▪ Varied, culturally-competent curriculum.
   ▪ Flexibility for teachers within defined curriculum.
   ▪ Providing teachers with the necessary preparation and encouragement support, training, mentoring and funding to improve student achievement through relevant professional development (for example, to strengthen subject-matter knowledge, classroom-management skills, use of
technology); adequate planning time; mentoring for new teachers and stipends for mentors; consideration of input from teachers in policy and administrative decisions; and encouragement of two-way communication between teachers and principals.

- An incentive-based compensation plan for all teachers and campus administrators who qualify.
- Provision of appropriate current, relevant tools, textbooks, technology, and/or materials.
- Full-time librarians in each school.
- Promotion of active parental and community involvement.
- Offering year-round schools with shorter vacation breaks and/or summer school.
- Flexible learning environments, as in nontraditional schools and alternative learning centers within AISD, and flexible learning environments extending into traditional secondary schools, as well.
- Programs for English Language Learners (ELL) to improve achievement among non-English speaking students and to support the goal of AISD in having every student speak English fluently, along with support services for the parents of non-English speaking AISD students.
- Addressing the health care needs of the student population by providing full-time health care team coverage for every school.

3. Support of strong elementary education in AISD through grouping of mixed academic ability within a classroom, and utilizing ability groupings in math and reading with frequent re-evaluation.

3. Support for equitable secondary education (middle and high school) outcomes in local public schools through:
   - Initiatives to ensure a rigorous academic environment;
   - emphasis on critical thinking skills;
   - Challenging academic courses that equip students to succeed
   - Initiatives to improve “school climate” and student mental health, with individualized student supports

4. Support of strong middle school education in AISD through: initiatives to improve student transition from 5th to 6th grade and from 8th to 9th-grade; student visits to feeder schools; parent orientations and campus visits; opportunities for planning and coordination between elementary, middle, and high school principals; summer transition programs for incoming 6th graders and incoming 9th graders; a rigorous summer school program for identified incoming 9th graders; and life-skills programs in middle schools.

4. Support for educational programs in Austin Community College and in local public schools designed to prepare students for employment with marketable skills by:
   - Having curriculum relevant to the work world with career awareness infused throughout the system.
   - Developing curriculum to include courses geared to current workforce needs.
   - Use of demonstrated competencies and skills to help assess student progress with documents such as certificates or portfolios.
   - Apprenticeship-type programs, cooperative education, or internships to ease the transition from school to work.
   - Securing equitable and adequate public funding of all public schools.

5. Support for strong AISD secondary education (middle and high school) through:
   - Initiatives to ensure a rigorous academic environment in middle and high schools; emphasis on critical thinking skills; advanced classes (for example, Advanced Placement, International
Baccalaureate, dual enrollment in college); early intervention for academically at-risk students; tutoring for students who fail a section or sections of the standardized test; rigorous summer school for students who fail one or more courses; Saturday school as an option; extended school year as an option; after-school programs; night courses in high school; and support services for families of students.

• An honors program with weighted grades for those students who participate in it.
• Challenging academic courses that equip students to succeed in college.
• Initiatives to improve relationships between teachers, between teachers and students, and among students; lower pupil-teacher ratios; smaller learning communities (for example, 9th-grade academies); coordinated planning time for teachers and team teaching; advisories; and study groups.
• Development of curriculum to include courses geared to current workforce needs.
• Use of demonstrated competencies and skills to help assess student progress with documents such as certificates or portfolios.
• Academies or magnet programs with flexible eligibility criteria.
• More efficient use of counselor skills, with focus on academic and career counseling, as well as adjustment counseling.
• Scheduling of co- and extra-curricular activities during non-school hours as much as possible.
• A tech-prep system that allows students either to enter the workforce upon graduation or seek post-secondary education.
• Job training courses for students who want to graduate with marketable skills.
• Apprenticeship-type programs, cooperative education, or internships to ease the transition from school to work.

6. Support for educational programs in Austin Community College and in AISD designed to prepare students for employment with marketable skills by:
• Having curriculum relevant to the work world with career awareness infused throughout the system.
• Developing curriculum to include courses geared to current workforce needs.
• Having students apply problem-solving.
• Providing career exploration by the 8th grade and administering occupational assessment tests, followed by counseling with students and parents, prior to high school enrollment.
• Conducting staff development to assist teachers in making the curriculum relevant, learning new teaching techniques, and operating equipment.
• Establishing a centrally located career planning and placement center.
• Supporting employer involvement in curricular and workforce training issues.
• Assigning staff to seek outside funding sources, shared use of facilities or equipment, internship or apprenticeship positions, and mentors for students.
• Securing adequate funding, including increased taxes, as state support declines.

5. Support for career preparation in Austin Community College through:
• Coordinated education paths between high school and college-level work.
• Education and employer-supervised apprenticeships and internship opportunities.
• Access to state-of-the-art technology for technical programs.
• Communication of changing workforce needs to instructional staff, counselors, and students.
• Support for strengthened adult education programs in Austin Community College and in local public schools.
9. Opposition to AISD’s participation in any tax rebates or abatements for businesses to locate or expand in the Austin area.

For possible future discussion:

● Consideration of the impact of segregation/concentration of poverty?
● “School choice” in our area?
● Flexible learning environments, as in nontraditional schools and alternative learning centers within AISD, and flexible learning environments extending into traditional secondary schools, as well.
● Programs for English Language Learners (ELL) to improve achievement among non-English speaking students and to support the goal of AISD in having every student speak English fluently, along with support services for the parents of non-English speaking AISD students.
● Addressing the health care needs of the student population by providing full-time health care team coverage for every school, through appropriate partnerships when possible.
● Opposition to AISD’s participation in any tax rebates or abatements for businesses to locate or expand in the Austin area.
League of Women Voters Austin Area - Annual Meeting, Saturday, May 18, 2019

ADVOCACY

Year long - The biggest progress made this past year has been to establish regular monthly Advocacy Committee meetings and to invite the membership to attend. This has boosted our committee membership and allowed new League members to jump in, “feet first”, and get involved.

As our missions are somewhat aligned, we’ve joined with Programs to host combined meetings for both Advocacy and Programs.

June - August 2018 - With support from the Board we approached most members of the Austin City Council, asking them to consider support for an Independent Ethics Committee (IEC) and Democracy Dollars; two proposed City Charter Amendments recommended by the Charter Review Commission. We felt the IEC would be an improvement to the current Ethics Review Commission by giving it more power and authority while ensuring its members did not have a connection to City Hall. We liked that the Democracy Dollars program was an innovative idea for public campaign finance at the local level. We hope it will reduce the influence of dark money in local politics while also encouraging a diverse candidate pool for more competitive Council races city-wide. We also sent educational action alerts to membership on these two topics.

Ultimately, due to other pressing issues taking the majority of Council’s attention last summer, City Council chose not to place either of these proposed amendments on the November 2018 ballot. The next opportunity for the public to vote on amendments will be 2020.

September 2018 - Advocacy took the lead in developing candidate questions for the November 2018 Voters Guide. We held five meetings during the month to hash out questions for US Congress, Texas Legislature, local City Council, school board, and county level races. Advocacy Committee members also helped draft background information for bonds and propositions on the ballot across Travis and Williamson Counties.

October 2018 - After consulting our policy positions, the Advocacy Committee recommended the League support all seven of the Austin Bonds on the November 2018 ballot. Despite the high cost, we felt the projects covered by the bonds were worthy of support by the League and the community.

To educate membership and the public on Prop A, which dealt with affordable housing, the Advocacy Committee and the Affordable Housing committee co-hosted an event at the League office. Walter Moreau of Foundation Communities delivered an excellent presentation showing us how previous Austin bond money was used to leverage more funding to build several housing complexes across Travis County, in the past decade.

This event was the first of our successful monthly programs events we’ve dubbed “Pinot & Policy.” These events have increased membership participation and have encouraged new members to join.

November 2018 - I spoke to members of Common Ground for Texans and Congregation Beth Shalom about the eleven ballot measures on Austin’s November 2018 general election ballot. This was a great opportunity to share our nonpartisan election information with new audiences.

January 2019 - After the holiday break, Advocacy met with Austin City Council in several “get to know you” interview sessions at City Hall. The purpose was not to lobby but to learn the council members’ priorities for the coming year. Common themes included affordability, transportation, homelessness, and taxes. The communications infrastructure improvements, within the League, enabled us to reach out directly to League members and to invite them to attend a meeting with their district representative. We learned so much from these meetings that we hope to meet with members of other local government bodies in the future.
We hosted another Pinot & Policy event in January - just in time for the start of the new legislative session. Lesley Varhgese, Chief of Staff to Mayor Adler, and Molly Terry, then Capitol Corps Coordinator for LWVTX, spoke to members and the public on how to effectively advocate for yourself and others at the city and state levels.

**February 2019** - Advocacy revived the *Voters Guide* Questions Committee to draft questions for the May 4, 2019 local election *Voters Guide*. Since we learned so much from our work in November, we were able to knock out questions for local candidates in only one meeting.

**March 2019** - The *Austin American-Statesman* published our op-ed regarding a proposed change to how the city handles reported ethics violations. We used our message to encourage Council to consider the Independent Ethics Commission proposal.

**Future Advocacy** - I have learned so much during this past year and feel incredibly grateful for this opportunity. Thanks to all who attended our events and meetings, to our committee members, and especially to Frances McIntyre and Gina McCool for their invaluable wisdom and guidance.

I will sadly be leaving this directorship and the Austin Area League as I am moving this spring. Yet I am confident that the progress made during this past year will build the foundation for more success in the years to come.

- Dixie Davis, Advocacy Chair
League of Women Voters Budget Proposal - Michelle Goerdel, Budget Chair

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<th>Committee Recommendation</th>
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<td>Expense - Expenses</td>
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<td>8100 · Operating expenses</td>
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<td>8101 · Insurance</td>
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<td>8300 · Travel &amp; meetings expenses</td>
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<td>8500 · Membership Expense</td>
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<td>8502 · Memberships-Other</td>
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<td>Note 1: Miscellaneous includes $500 toward expected office moving expenses, there is an additional $100 each under 8111 and 8112 as well for address changes and phone and Internet hookup</td>
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<td>Note 2: Balance remaining for Innovative Projects for FY 2019. Expenses posted to Innovative Projects for FY2019 totaled $3,397.89. This was rounded to $3,400 and subtracted from $10,000 leaving $6,600.00</td>
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<td>Note 3: Convention held April 2020</td>
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<td>Note 4: Convention held June 2020</td>
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# NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT

Slate of Elected Officers and Directors  
*(positions in bold to be voted on)*

## Elected Officers, Terms of Office:

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<tr>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Terms</th>
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<tr>
<td>President</td>
<td>Joyce LeBombard</td>
<td>2018 - 2020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>President-Elect</td>
<td>Moriah Powers</td>
<td>2019 - 2020</td>
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<tr>
<td>1st VP Program</td>
<td>Gina McCool</td>
<td>2018 - 2020</td>
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<tr>
<td>2nd VP Community Relations</td>
<td>Heidi Schoenberger-Cobert</td>
<td>2019 - 2021</td>
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<tr>
<td>3rd VP Organization</td>
<td>Debbi Voss</td>
<td>2019 - 2020</td>
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<tr>
<td>4th VP Voters Service</td>
<td>Karen Eikner</td>
<td>2019 - 2021</td>
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<tr>
<td>Secretary</td>
<td>Mary Cullinane</td>
<td>2018 - 2020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Treasurer</td>
<td>Kathryn Mettelka</td>
<td>2019 - 2021</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## Directors, One-Year Terms 2019 - 2020:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Terms</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Voters Guide Editor</td>
<td>Gretchen Otto</td>
<td>2019 - 2020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Communications/PR</td>
<td>Lizza Harrison</td>
<td>2019 - 2020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Advocacy</td>
<td>Jessica Foreman</td>
<td>2019 - 2020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Membership</td>
<td>Carol King</td>
<td>2019 - 2020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diversity, Equity, &amp; Inclusion</td>
<td>Maria Medina Milner</td>
<td>2019 - 2020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fund Development</td>
<td>Liz Walton</td>
<td>2019 - 2020</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## Nominating Committee, One-Year Term 2019 - 2020

Cinde Weatherby (Chair), Brenda Koegler, Pam Bixby

## Nominating Committee 2018:

Hal Jennings (Chair), Lea Masiello, Jane McFarland, Gina McCool, Mary Cullinane

The slate adheres to the LWV Austin Area Bylaws, Article IV, Section 1: Number, Manner of Selection, and Term of Office.

>The Board of Directors shall consist of the officers of the LWV-AA enumerated in Article V, Section 1, and six (6) elected Directors, and not more than six (6) Directors appointed by the Board. Six (6) Directors shall be elected by the general membership at each annual meeting and shall serve for a term of one year, or until their successors have been elected and qualified. The President with the advice and consent of the elected members of the Board shall appoint additional Directors, not exceeding six (6), as is deemed necessary to carry on the work of the League. Appointed Directors shall serve from the time of appointment until the next annual meeting.
VOTERS SERVICE

Voters Service is the front line for our organization for Empowering Voters. We are at the core for adult and youth civic engagement, education, communication, and activities. The Voters Service organizational group includes:

- Voter registration and Get Out the Vote activities
- Voter education and registration in the schools through the First Vote! program
- Candidates forums
- Voters Guide and election information available through VOTE411.org
- Other voter education campaigns and publications

We continue to have a strong relationship with both the Travis County Voter Registration Division and the Travis County Elections Division. Of special note is our collaboration on young voter outreach through First Vote! and the youth video competition known as YouthCam. We are strengthening our cooperative relationship with Williamson County Elections.

In the past year, our collaborative relationships have grown considerably, reflecting the rapid expansion of our membership and general interest in the Midterm Election. The League received requests as never before to share our knowledge with new voters about how to maneuver the voting process and even basic civics.

Generally speaking, the underpinning Voters Service organization continued to expand with participation by veteran and new members alike. Leaders of each unit expanded coverage and incorporated new innovation. The Board’s new Volunteers Director Karen Kelley also contributed to each group’s success, as did the Communications Director Ryann Collier. President Joyce LeBombard continued to play a strong support role in almost all of the efforts, particularly in continuing updates of voter information on our very popular foldable wallet card that was distributed during registration and information efforts to more than 30,000 individuals.

Register & Vote

Michael Keller took full responsibility for the Register & Vote (R&V) efforts, directing the voter registration efforts as well as testing a new door-to-door program for registration and Get Out The Vote (GOTV). While the League’s “Kick-Off” event is in September, our volunteers hit the streets throughout the summer. By the end of the summer, in September, the R&V team had done 45 tabling events, and handled registration forms for 638 at those events and another 357 in the door-to-door (D2D) activities. More than 100 volunteers participated in the D2D outreach in the extreme summer heat, targeting low-propensity registered voting areas. Michael trained and deployed the “Beat the Heat” pilot volunteers, constantly monitoring their efforts.

The first nine days of October, before the registration deadline for the November election, the League rolled the wheels off the “Rolling Thunder” voter registration bags. Through tabling and the D2D effort, they reached 883 with either new registrations, address changes, or mail-back cards.

Michael also continued to innovate the process for recording voter registration events and recruiting volunteer deputy registrars. He implemented additional software for volunteer coordination, assisted by Karen Kelley and Carol King, who assumed a major role coordinating event leads and VDRs. Karen Eikner played a major role in coordinating efforts in Williamson County. Previous co-chair Mollie Snow also took on major efforts, such as organizing registration at the local Department of Public Safety locations.

League members, with support by eager non-member volunteers, undertook a wide variety of tabling and registration events. From the Pride Festival to the Austin Chronicle Hot Sauce Festival; from a church
food pantry to a local brewery; from a barber and beauty establishment to Bass Concert Hall, we were there. We also responded as the official voter registration unit for the Texas Tribune TribFest Open Congress, the first free day of the public policy festival.

We celebrated the fantastic registration efforts of League members with two special renewal VDR trainings and refreshments in January. While the remainder of 2019 may be a quieter voter registration time, planning is already underway to prepare for the Presidential election in 2020. The Register & Vote group is already working with our Director of Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion Maria Medina Milner to recruit more Spanish speaking VDRs.

**Young Voter Education & Registration**

**First Vote!**

First Vote! is our nonpartisan high school voter education and registration program done in collaboration with Travis County Voter Registration and Travis County Elections Division. The program was developed to be flexible to accommodate the needs of individual schools, depending on class time, size, school district, and county. It is led by Co-Chairs Pam Bixby and Jody Klopp, who revamped the presentations and continued to improve upon the interaction with students.

Pam and Jody conducted very well-attended training sessions for First Vote! presenters and volunteers in August 2018 and March 2019. Attending were 55 of the 122 volunteers indicating an interest. By the end of September, the civics program and registration went to 18 area high schools, reaching more than 1,700 students. The fall registration period yielded 200 registrations.

Spring school visits are targeted for April 1-18, 2019. An additional First Vote! training is set for April 6. Training is also planned for students on the UT Campus who participate in the TX Votes program. Volunteers will also participate in the Austin Independent School District graduation day registration program. Some of the 2018 - 2019 registration efforts were in Williamson County schools, but not comprehensively. It could be a goal for the coming year to further expand into the multiple districts in Williamson County, given the interest of new LWV-AA members participating in First Vote! training.

We received an LWVUS grant for the First Vote! program and will be reinvigorating our effort to request that students opt-in to reminders about election dates and how to receive Voters Guide information.

**Mural Project**

In the past two years, the League participated with Travis County to engage students in a public service announcement contest. The goal of the contest was for students to develop PSAs that appeal to other students regarding registration and voting. Currently, we are participating with the County in a contest aimed at students creating murals to reflect those messages.

**Candidate Forums**

The League’s Chair for Candidate Forums, Carol Eckelkamp, oversaw League moderation of fall candidates forums for the four Austin City Council races and the Mayor’s race, as well as a runoff forum for three Council races and the Mayor’s race. The League additionally moderated a fall forum of the Lakeway City Council and Mayoral candidates.

For the first time in recent history, the League moderated a State Representative candidates forum. The Republican and Democrat candidates for State Representative District 47 were hosted by the South Austin Neighborhood Alliance and Onion Creek Homeowners Association.

A Lakeway City Council forum is already planned prior to the May 2019 Council election.
**Voters Guide**

*Voters Guide* Editor, **Gretchen Otto**, expanded the *Guide* support organization and created a comprehensive schedule for production of the major Midterm Election *Voters Guide*. Supporting the non-production aspects was a vigorously organized distribution team headed by **Nancy Mossman** and a Question Development Team headed by **Dixie Davis**. **Jaci Collins** continued to provide coordination of the VOTE411.org interface that allows capture of the candidate answers for our production and posting of those answers and individualized ballot information for the voting public.

Gretchen evaluated printing and distribution options and the *Guide* was printed and primarily delivered by the *Austin Chronicle*. It was inserted into 65,000 editions of the *Chronicle* prior to the start of Early Voting. Additionally, almost 4,000 copies in Spanish were distributed by *El Mundo*. Nancy oversaw the bundling and distribution of 8,000 printed copies to all local libraries and other locations. The *Voters Guide* was accessed more than 100,000 times via VOTE411.org!

The *Voters Guide* team reformatted the online version of the *Voters Guide* for the December runoff election, with the remaining runoff candidate races. Following the November experience, Gretchen hosted several sessions to review lessons learned to incorporate into planning for the 2020 Primary and General Elections *Voters Guides*. One improvement identified was recruiting a separate Question Team, well in advance of deadlines. Please consider volunteering to be on this team!

Work is underway on the May 4, 2019 *Voters Guide* for local elections. It will be published online only, with the release date scheduled for April 19. The *Guide* for the November 2019 election, featuring Texas Constitutional Amendments and some local elections, will also be published online only. Information from both, of course, also will be available via VOTE411.org.

**Civic Engagement Alliance**

We have had leadership challenges in the advancement of the Civic Engagement Alliance. Our goal is to increase citizen participation by making it more convenient for voter registration and easy access to election information, where they work or do business. **Vicky Pridgen** has accepted the leadership role for this program and expects to begin roll-out and active outreach in early April. During last fall, the League participated in a Google program at its downtown facility for 1,000 employees that followed the approach. The program led to training of more than 45 in-house VDRs, increased registration, and a group activity going to a polling place.

- **Cinde Weatherby**, 4th VP - Voters Service
LWV-AA NONPARTISAN POLICY STATEMENT
(Adopted May 1996; updated 2002 to reflect board position; revised 2009, 2012.)

The League of Women Voters Austin Area endorses the position on nonpartisanship held by the League of Women Voters of the United States which states: The League may take action on governmental measures and policies in the public interest. It shall not support or oppose any political party or candidate.

**Board of Directors:** League board members and spokespersons shall refrain from conspicuous partisan political activities during their term of office. Conspicuous partisan activities are those which would affect the community's perception of the League's nonpartisanship. If in doubt, board members and spokespersons should consult with the board.

The political activities of a spouse or relative of a board member shall be considered as separate and distinct from the activities of the Board member.

Should a Board member wish to become a candidate for public office, she/he shall submit a written resignation in sufficient time to allow the League to publicly announce the change in status. Resignation from the board does not mean resignation from the League.

**All League Members:**

**League Positions** - Once League (local, state or national) takes a position on an issue, members may not identify themselves as League members in publicly expressing an opinion that is in opposition to a League position.

**Representing the League** – Members representing the League in the community should be sensitive to their responsibilities. When acting in the public as League representatives, members must not allow partisanship to be discernible. These members should be fully aware of League positions.

**Serving on Commissions** – Members may serve on governmental commissions at their own discretion. If the appointee represents the League, then the appointee should be fully aware of the League positions in relation to the commission’s responsibilities.

**League Meetings** – Members in the leadership roles at unit and other public meetings have the responsibility to ensure the nonpartisanship of the meeting and its environment.

**League Roster** – The League of Women Voters Austin Area roster shall not be made available for non-League use without Board permission.

**Board Direction** – If a Board member, off-board chair, or member becomes involved in a situation in which the nonpartisan policy of the League may be jeopardized, such member shall ask for a Board decision on appropriate action.
POSITION STATEMENTS
(unchanged for 2019 - 2020)

AUSTIN: ITS PEOPLE AND ENVIRONMENT

1. Support of equality of opportunity in employment and housing.

2. Support for well-run community development programs with frequent administrative reviews by city government.

3. Support of preservation and development of open space and parks.

CITY GOVERNMENT

1. Form of government: Support of council-manager form of government with the City Charter as its document.

2. Council and Elections
   - Support for direct election of the mayor.
   - For council member elections, support for the following structures, provided that under these structures, there are enough equal-sized geographic districts drawn to support minority opportunity districts:
     - geographic-district representatives plus at-large representatives, or
     - geographic-district representatives plus super geographic-district representatives, or
     - geographic-district representatives only.
   - Support of a campaign spending ordinance to be mandated in the City Charter.
   - Support of an Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission.

3. Personnel, General Provisions, and Ethics
   - Support of an impartial board of ethics with an independent staff.
   - Support of a financial disclosure ordinance to be mandated in the City Charter.

4. Planning and City Services
   - Support for a commission in the City Charter to plan for human resources.
   - Support for independent neighborhood groups.

5. Financial
   - Support for the early setting of budget priorities by Council.
   - Electric Utility and Electric Utility Transfer:
     - Support for an electric utility transfer based primarily on the needs of the utility, including its bonded indebtedness, rather than on the needs of the City budget.
     - Support for an electric rate policy that is based on the cost of service for each class of user and that strives for a goal of 100% relative rate of return for all customer classes.

6. Annexation
   - Support for full consideration of an annexation’s fiscal impact on the City before City Council
action.

- Support for flexibility in the timing of annexation based on fiscal, planning, environmental, and social factors.
- Support for the continued use of fees to cover the cost of utility extensions and other capital improvements necessary for new development.
- Support for homeowners in municipal utility districts’ continuing to pay off the district’s debt after annexation.
- Support for a strengthened subdivision ordinance covering the City’s entire extraterritorial jurisdiction.

7. Planning and Growth Management

- Support for cost benefit analysis as an integral part of the planning process.
- Support for ongoing public input into long-range planning with coordination and communication between City departments, boards, and commissions.
- Support for a balanced representation of diverse interests on the Planning Commission.
- Support for a standardized, streamlined, and understandable development process with proper regard for public notification from developer application to Council decision.
- Support for City involvement with private and other governmental entities in the selective recruitment of businesses. Environmental concerns should be taken into consideration, as should employment of Austin’s citizens.
- Support for tax abatements and/or tax rebates as an incentive to encourage economic development in the city. Among the criteria that should be considered by the county when determining which businesses receive tax abatements or rebates are:
  - Amount of total investment in Austin.
  - Location in the Desired Development zone.
  - Length of commitment for company to stay in Austin.
  - Demand on the community’s infrastructure.
  - Competition with existing local businesses.
  - Alignment with the city’s long-term economic development.
  - Environmental concerns.
  - Number of new jobs for Austin citizens.
  - Certain criteria for the newly created jobs, i.e.,
    - Health insurance
    - Diversity in hiring and promotion
    - Employee training programs
    - Livable wage
- Support for an accounting of the tax abatement/rebate incentives and their associated cost which is presented once a year, along with the Budget public hearings.

8. Drinking Water Supply
(Adopted at the 1998 Annual Meeting.)

- Support for use of factors that should be included in regional planning for: population, supply, water conservation, needs of sustainable industry, fishermen and agriculture, flood control and flood plain preservation, reservation and/or purchase of water (including water rights and interbasin transfers), privatization as an alternative, impacts on water quality, drought planning, governance, water and sewer treatment capacity, and the economic impact on the region as a whole.
- Support of a voluntary, aggressive treated water conservation plan that should become mandatory only under drought conditions.
Support of utility-provided educational programs, water-wise programs, a system-wide water leak detection program for utility-owned pipes, residential block pricing, programs to repair leaks for low-income housing, and development of incentives for conservation, where possible.

Support for the following factors in evaluating future funding proposals for water treatment facilities: cost of maintenance, need to respond to immediate crisis, need to meet federal requirement, existence of a master plan, environmental impact, cost effectiveness, privatization as an alternative, and currency of technology.

9. Electric Deregulation
(Adopted at the 1998 Annual Meeting.)

- Support for the City Council consideration of all of its options regarding the future of the electric utility, including sale of part or all of the utility and/or merger with other entities. Factors that should be considered include: impact on rates for the various classes of consumers; maintenance of a “lifeline” rate for low-income consumers; the impact on the funding of city services (i.e. the transfer to the general fund and compensating fees and taxes); the competitive position of Austin Energy; environmental impacts; stranded debt and the ability to pay off electric utility revenue bonds; the level of local control that would exist; responsiveness and quality of customer service; and electric service reliability.

- Support for continued energy conservation programs, but they should be modified to be more cost effective and to have customers share more in the responsibility for programs from which they will benefit. Continue to provide:
  - Energy audits.
  - Rebates for low-income customers.
  - Rebates to encourage new or more efficient technology.
  - Lists of contractors.
  - Inspection of rehab jobs.
  - Weatherization of homes for low-income residents.
  - Consultation on new construction.

- Support for more operating independence for the Utility. Responsibility for purchasing, hiring, and other administrative functions should lie with Utility management. Establishment of an oversight board for the Utility, which would assume many of the policy-making powers currently held by the City Council, but would leave the powers of eminent domain, rate-making, and bond issuance with the City Council. Members of the oversight board should be selected on the basis of designated areas of expertise and should include at least one member representing the public. Change the City Charter to allow purchases without City Council (or oversight board) approval to a level commensurate with the expenditures of the Utility.

TRAVIS COUNTY GOVERNMENT
(Updated in 2007.)

1. County Budget
- Support for one budget officer, a performance/program budget prepared and made available to the public before public hearings.
- Support for budget approval before the adoption of the tax rate and before the beginning of the fiscal year.

2. Law Enforcement
- Support for increased cooperation between Austin and Travis County law enforcement officers.
1. Support for increased use of interlocal contracts between the county and incorporated governmental units for effective law enforcement.

3. Wastewater Management
   ▪ Support for improved cooperation among the City, County, LCRA, and the TCEQ in the enforcement of wastewater regulations.

4. County Parks
   ▪ Support for a unified county park system organized and maintained by a master plan.

5. Tax Assessment
   ▪ Support for fair and equitable appraisal of all real property in Travis County.

6. Planning and Growth Management
   ▪ Support for tax abatements and/or tax rebates as an incentive to encourage economic development in the county. Among the criteria that should be considered by the county when determining which businesses receive tax abatements or rebates are:
     o Amount of total investment in Travis County.
     o Location in the Desired Development zone.
     o Length of commitment for company to stay in Travis County.
     o Demand on the community’s infrastructure.
     o Competition with existing local businesses.
     o Alignment with the county’s long-term economic development.
     o Environmental concerns.
     o Number of new jobs for Travis County citizens.
     o Certain criteria for the newly created jobs, i.e.,
       ✓ Health insurance
       ✓ Diversity in hiring and promotion
       ✓ Employee training programs
       ✓ Livable wage
   ▪ Support for an accounting of the tax abatement/rebate incentives and their associated cost, which is presented once a year, along with the Budget public hearings.

LIBRARY
(Adopted in 1995.)

1. Support of a library system for Austin and the surrounding area, which includes both traditional library services and modern information management.

2. Support of a library system that includes:
   ▪ Adequate funding, even if it means a tax increase.
   ▪ The traditional role of lending books and other material.
   ▪ A reference library with modern information technology, including CD-ROM and access to the Internet information services available in the library, by phone, and online.
   ▪ Programs and informal education for adults and especially for children.
   ▪ Homework centers and tutoring.
   ▪ Outreach to encourage reading and library use.
   ▪ Community activities and meeting rooms.
An adequate book/materials security system

3. Support for building more library branches, first in underserved areas, and secondly, in newly developed areas or as larger regional libraries.

4. Support for bond issues that include funding for new technology and replacing rented facilities.

5. Support for the use of the Austin library by people who do not live in Austin. However, those individuals or their communities should pay to help support the library.

6. Support for greater communication and cooperation between schools and libraries.

ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY
(Reviewed in 1996; updated at the 1997 and 2009 Annual Meetings.)

1. Solid Waste
(Reaffirmed in 1996.)
- Support for recycling, reuse, and other methods of reducing the volume of waste.
- Support for long-range planning.
- Support for the improvement of our present sanitary landfill operation.

2. Support for Energy Conservation
(Reaffirmed in 1996.)

3. Water/Wastewater
(Adopted with recommended review changes in 1996; last two bullets adopted in 2009.)
- Continued support for the Barton Springs-Edwards Aquifer Conservation District and support for an underground water district for the northern Edwards Aquifer.
- To protect our water supplies, support use of: properly maintained and enforced structural controls, such as water quality ponds; properly maintained and enforced nonstructural controls, such as impervious cover limits, natural vegetation or vegetative filter strips; and best management practices.
- Support of vigorous enforcement of water quality ordinances and laws by City and County officials.
- Support of regular, formal communication between the TCEQ and the City of Austin.
- Support of regional sewage treatment plants rather than numerous small package plants.
- Support of the prohibition of sewage discharge or land treatment over aquifer recharge areas.
- Support of advanced wastewater treatment after cost benefit analysis has been done.
- Support for future development, to be addressed with more extraterritorial jurisdiction (ETJ) control; fees should reflect the services; City should take into account the water usage of new development, i.e., high-rise condos, and assess charges accordingly.
- Support of planning for infrastructure of water and wastewater (drinking water, sewage, and storm water), to include all funding streams.
  o Have scheduled repairs as needed to avoid crisis management.
  o Include recurring maintenance costs in annual budgets.
4. Municipal utility district (MUD)
   (Adopted as reviewed in 1997.)
   - Support of the start of the 120-day MUD review process after full documentation is received by the City.
   - Support for utility line extension financing through revenue bonds rather than contract bonds.

5. Air Quality
A 1987-1988 study of Austin’s air quality indicated that at present the City complies with federal air quality standards. While no consensus was taken on the report, should Austin’s air quality deteriorate in the future, further study may be recommended. In 1996, Austin does not exceed federal clean air standards, but the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) has designated it as a near non-attainment area. (See the 1996 Transportation positions.)

ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE

1. Support of adequate counsel for indigents at all court levels.

2. Support of improved training and selection standards for the local law enforcement personnel.
League of Women Voters Austin Area Bylaws

Table of Contents

ARTICLE I: NAME .......................................................................................................................... 4
   Section 1. Name........................................................................................................................ 4

ARTICLE II: PURPOSES AND POLITICAL POLICY .................................................................. 4
   Section 1. Purposes................................................................................................................... 4
   Section 2. Political Policy ..................................................................................................... 4

ARTICLE III: MEMBERSHIPS .................................................................................................... 4
   Section 1. Eligibility................................................................................................................ 4
   Section 2. Types of Membership ........................................................................................ 4

ARTICLE IV: BOARD OF DIRECTORS ................................................................................... 5
   Section 1. Number, Manner of Selection, and Term of Office ............................................. 5
   Section 2. Qualifications ....................................................................................................... 5
   Section 3. Vacancies .............................................................................................................. 5
   Section 4. Powers and Duties ............................................................................................... 5
   Section 5. Meetings ............................................................................................................... 5
   Section 6. Quorum .............................................................................................................. 5
   Section 7. Executive Committee .......................................................................................... 6
   Section 8. Actions Without a Meeting .................................................................................. 6
   Section 9. Participation in Meetings ..................................................................................... 6
   Section 10. Proxy .................................................................................................................. 6
   Section 11. Removal of Board Members ............................................................................ 6
   Section 12. Compensation ..................................................................................................... 6

ARTICLE V: OFFICERS ............................................................................................................. 6
   Section 1. Enumeration and Election of Officers .................................................................. 6
   Section 2. The President ....................................................................................................... 7
   Section 3. The President-Elect ............................................................................................ 7
   Section 4. Vice Presidents ................................................................................................... 7
   Section 5. The Secretary ....................................................................................................... 7
   Section 6. The Treasurer ..................................................................................................... 7

87
ARTICLE XII: PARLIAMENTARY AUTHORITY

Section 1. Parliamentary Authority

Section 2. Office Sharing

Section 3. The Annual Meeting

Section 4. Member Action

ARTICLE XIII: AMENDMENTS

Section 1. Amendments
ARTICLE XIV: INDEMNIFICATION

Section 1. Indemnification

ARTICLE XV: REGISTERED OFFICE AND REGISTERED AGENT

Section 1. Registered Office and Registered Agent
ARTICLE I: NAME

Section 1. Name. The name of this organization shall be the League of Women Voters Austin Area, hereinafter referred to in these bylaws as LWV-AA or as the League. This local League is an integral part of the League of Women Voters of the United States, hereinafter referred to in the bylaws as LWVUS, and the League of Women Voters of Texas, hereinafter referred to in the bylaws as LWV-TX.

ARTICLE II: PURPOSES AND POLITICAL POLICY

Section 1. Purposes. The purposes of the League are to promote political responsibility through informed and active participation in government and to act on selected governmental issues.

Section 2. Political Policy. The League shall not support or oppose any political party or candidate.

ARTICLE III: MEMBERSHIPS

Section 1. Eligibility. Any person who subscribes to the purposes and policy of the League shall be eligible for membership.

Section 2. Types of Membership.
A. Voting members. Persons at least 16 years of age who join the League shall be voting members of the local and state Leagues of their place of joining and of the LWVUS.
   (1) those who live within an area of a local League may join that League or any other local League;
   (2) those who reside outside the area of any local League may join a local League or shall be state members-at-large; and
   (3) those who have been members of the League for 50 years or more shall be life members excused from the payment of dues.
B. Associate members. All others who join the League shall be associate members.

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2 The membership age changed from 18 to 16 at the LWVUS Convention in 2016, requiring LWV-AA Board conformance taken September 5, 2016
ARTICLE IV: BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Section 1. Number, Manner of Selection, and Term of Office. The Board of Directors shall consist of the officers of the LWV-AA, enumerated in Article V, Section 1, and six (6) elected Directors, and not more than six (6) Directors appointed by the Board. Six (6) Directors shall be elected by the general membership at each annual meeting and shall serve for a term of one year, or until their successors have been elected and qualified. The President with the advice and consent of the elected members of the Board shall appoint additional Directors, not exceeding six (6), as is deemed necessary to carry on the work of the League. Appointed Directors shall serve from the time of appointment until the next annual meeting.

Section 2. Qualifications. No person shall be appointed or elected or shall continue to serve as an officer or director of this organization unless that person is a voting member of the LWV-AA.

Section 3. Vacancies. In the event of the absence, disability, disqualification, or death of the president, the nominating committee shall be directed to find a candidate and submit the name to the Board for election by a majority vote of the Board. All other vacancies occurring in the Board of Directors may be filled by presidential appointment for the remaining portion of the year with a majority vote of the remaining members of the Board of Directors. Any Board member who is absent from three consecutive Board meetings without valid reason shall be considered to have resigned.

Section 4. Powers and Duties. The Board of Directors shall have full charge of the property and business of the organization, with full power and authority to manage and conduct same, subject to the instructions of the general membership. It shall plan and direct the work necessary to carry out the program as adopted by the national convention, the state convention, and the annual meeting. The Board shall create and designate such special committees as it may deem necessary. Any committee with the authority to carry out the powers exclusive to the Board in the management of the League must have at least two committee members and a majority of those members must be Directors.³

Section 5. Meetings. There shall be at least nine regular meetings of the Board of Directors annually. The president may call special meetings of the Board of Directors and shall call a special meeting upon written request of five (5) members of the Board. All votes taken at a special meeting shall be ratified at the next regular meeting of the Board of Directors.

Section 6. Quorum. A majority of the members of the Board of Directors shall constitute a quorum. All votes taken at such meetings shall be ratified at the next regular meeting of the Board of Directors.

³ Change adopted at 2017 Annual Meeting – legal requirement for 501(c)(3) organizations
Section 7. Executive Committee. The Board executive committee will consist of the president, president-elect, vice presidents, treasurer and secretary. The executive committee may transact emergency business between meetings of the Board of Directors. The proceedings of the executive committee shall be reported to the Board at its next meeting for ratification.

Section 8. Actions Without a Meeting. Any action required or permitted to be taken by the Board of Directors may be taken without a meeting, if a majority of all Directors individually and collectively consent in writing. Written consents must be dated and signed by each Director and must state the action to be taken. Such written consent shall have the same force and effect as a unanimous vote of the Board. Prompt follow-up notice of the action consented to must be given to each Director who did not provide consent in writing. All such actions approved by written consent shall be ratified at the next regular meeting of the Board of Directors.

Section 9. Participation in Meetings. Any one or more members of the Board may participate in a meeting by means of electronic communications equipment, so long as all participants in the meeting can simultaneously hear each other. Participation by such means shall constitute presence at said meeting.

Section 10. Proxy. Proxies shall not be allowed.

Section 11. Removal of Board Members. Any Board Member may be removed with cause, at any time by a majority of the entire Board of Directors, at a regular or special meeting called for that purpose. Any Board member under consideration for removal must first be notified about the consideration by written notice at least five days prior to the meeting at which the vote takes place.

Section 12. Compensation. Directors and Officers shall not receive any salaries or other compensation for their services as Board members or Officers. The League shall not loan money or property to, or guarantee the obligation of any Director or Officer. Board members may however, be reimbursed for actual expenses incurred in fulfilling their Board responsibilities.

ARTICLE V: OFFICERS

Section 1. Enumeration and Election of Officers. The officers of the LWV-AA shall be a president, a first vice president, a second vice president, a third vice president, a fourth vice president, a secretary, and a treasurer who shall be elected for terms of two years by the general membership at an Annual Meeting. Additionally, a president-elect shall be elected for a term of one year by the general membership at an Annual Meeting.

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4 Change adopted at 2017 and 2019 Annual Meeting to clarify composition of the Executive Committee
5 Change adopted at 2017 Annual Meeting - Clarification of process for actions taken without a meeting
6 Change adopted at 2017 Annual - Clarification that remote participation in meetings is allowed
7 Provision for co-presidents was removed at the 2016 annual meeting
8 Provision for a president-elect added at 2019 annual meeting
The president, the first vice president, the fourth vice president, and the secretary shall be elected in even-numbered years. The second vice president, the third vice president, and the treasurer shall be elected in odd-numbered years. The same person may not hold both the offices of President and Secretary.9

The president, second vice president, fourth vice president, and the treasurer shall be elected in odd-numbered years. The first vice president, third vice president and secretary are elected in even-numbered years. The president-elect is elected every year.

The same person may not hold both the offices of president and secretary.

Provision for 2019 and 2020 Annual Meeting. To accommodate the change in election years for the president, third vice president and fourth vice president in the Bylaws, a staggered transition will occur for each. This will occur as follows:

1. The current president will serve out their term, which ends May 31, 2020. The next president will serve a one-year term, being elected at the Annual Meeting, with the term ending May 31, 2021.

2. The current third vice president will be extended by one year to end their term May 31, 2020 rather than May 31, 2019. The next third vice president will be elected at the May 2020 Annual Meeting.

3. The current fourth vice president term will end on May 31, 2019. The next fourth vice president will be elected at the May 2019 Annual Meeting.10

Section 2. The President. The president shall preside at all meetings of the organization and of the Board of Directors; may, in the absence or disability of the treasurer, sign or endorse checks, drafts and notes; shall be, ex officio, a member of all committees except the nominating committee; shall have such usual power of supervision and management as may pertain to the office of the president and perform such other duties as may be designated by the Board. The president or other officers when so authorized by the Board may sign contracts and other instruments.

Section 3. The President—Elect. The president-elect shall be an assistant to the president and shadows the president to learn the position; perform such other duties as may be designated by the president and Board of Directors. The president—elect shall serve as the presiding officer in the president’s absence.

Section 34. Vice Presidents. The vice presidents shall perform such duties as the president and Board may designate. It shall be the duty of each vice president to supervise and coordinate the activities of the chairs assigned to her/his jurisdiction.

Section 45. The Secretary. The secretary shall keep the minutes of the annual meetings of the League and all other meetings of the Board of Directors, notify all officers and Directors of their election, and perform such other functions as may be incident to the office.

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9 Change adopted at 2017 Annual Meeting. The positions of President and Secretary must be held by different people in order to comply with legal requirements for 501(c)(3) organizations.

10 Provision to change years that president and 3rd VP are elected changes at 2019 Annual meeting.
**Section 5-6. The Treasurer.** The treasurer shall collect and receive all monies due, be custodian of the monies and deposit them in a bank designated by the Board of Directors, and disburse the same only upon order of the Board, and present statements to the Board at its regular meetings, and an annual report to the annual meeting.

**Section 7. The Immediate Past President.** The immediate past president shall serve as an ex officio member of the Board of Directors, shall be an advisor to the president, and may take on special projects as prescribed by the president and Board of Directors.

**ARTICLE VI: FINANCIAL ADMINISTRATION**

**Section 1. Fiscal Year.** The fiscal year of the LWV-AA shall begin on the first day of June, ending on May 31 of the following year.

**Section 2. Dues.** Annual dues shall be determined by the Board of Directors and approved as part of the budget adopted by the members attending the annual meeting. Dues shall be payable on the anniversary of the month the member joins. Any continuing member who fails to pay her/his dues within three months of the first of the anniversary month shall be dropped from the membership rolls. All dues paid to the LWV-AA will be paid to and maintained by the LWV-AA member organization recognized as tax exempt under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.

**Section 3. Budget.** A budget for the ensuing year shall be submitted by the Board of Directors to the annual meeting for adoption. The budget shall include support for the work of the League as a whole.

**Section 4. Budget Committee.** A budget committee shall be appointed by the Board of Directors at least two months prior to the annual meeting to prepare a budget for the ensuing year. The proposed budget shall be sent to all members before the annual meeting. The committee must have at least two committee members and a majority of those members must be Directors. The treasurer shall be, ex officio, a member of the budget committee, but shall not be eligible to serve as chairman.

**Section 5. Tax Exemption.** The League is organized and operated exclusively for charitable and educational purposes under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, or the corresponding section of any future federal tax code and the Texas Tax Code, Section 11.18. Notwithstanding any other provision of these Articles, the League shall not carry on any other activities not permitted to be carried on by a corporation exempt from Federal Income Tax under

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11 Change adopted at 2017 Annual Meeting – Dues payments will be tax deductible in accordance with Internal Revenue Service guidelines.

12 Change the time from 30 days to two weeks.

13 Change adopted at 2017 Annual Meeting – Previous Section 5 related to fiduciary management of the Education Fund which will no longer exist since all funds will be combined into one 501(c)(3) Fund. The new Section 5 specifies that the League is to be operated according to Internal Revenue Service requirements as a 501(c)(3) fund.
such provisions of the Internal Revenue Code. No substantial part of the activities of the League shall be attempting to influence legislation.

Section 6. Conflict of interest. No paid staff of the LWV-AA shall serve on the Board of Directors nor shall any director be paid for services to the LWV-AA. Members of the Board of Directors are required to file a LWV-TX required Conflict of Interest Statement each year. Compliance is the responsibility of the Treasurer.14

Section 7. Dissolution. In the event of the dissolution of the LWV-AA, all monies and securities which may at the time be owned by or under the control of the LWV-AA shall be paid to the Texas member organization of the League of Women Voters that is exempt under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue code or the corresponding section of any future federal tax code; or if none of these organizations are then in existence or exempt under those tax provisions, then, at the discretion of the Board, to another organization which is organized and operated exclusively for charitable and educational purposes and which has established its tax-exempt status under such designated tax provisions.

ARTICLE VII: MEETINGS

Section 1. Membership Meetings. There shall be at least four meetings of the general membership each year. The time and place shall be determined by the Board of Directors.

Section 2. Annual Meeting. An annual meeting shall be held during May, the exact date to be determined by the Board of Directors. The annual meeting shall:
   A. adopt a local program for the ensuing year;
   B. elect officers and Directors and a nominating committee chair;
   C. adopt a budget;
   D. transact such other business as may properly come before it.

Section 3. Quorum. A quorum shall consist of ten percent (10%) of the members eligible to vote as of January 1 of the current year.

Section 4. Voting. Each member shall be entitled to one vote at any meeting of the members. Absentee or proxy voting shall not be permitted. The Board may, in its discretion, facilitate a vote of the members via mail, fax, email, or any combination of those methods. Unless otherwise specifically provided in these bylaws, the affirmative vote of a majority of a quorum of members shall pass an action voted upon.

ARTICLE VIII: NOMINATIONS AND ELECTIONS

Section 1. Nominating Committee. The nominating committee shall consist of a chair, two members from the Board, and two non-Board members. The chair, who shall not be a member of the Board and the two non-Board members shall be elected at the annual meeting; the Board

14 Conflict of Interest clause added at 2019 Annual meeting.
of Directors shall appoint the members from the Board. Vacancies on the committee during the year shall be filled in the same manner. Nominations for officers, Directors and nominating committee chair may be sent to this committee by any voting member.

**Section 2. Office Sharing.** Two members may be nominated and elected to share a single office. They will divide the duties of the office by mutual agreement. Each member shall have a vote on the Board.

**Section 3. Report of the Nominating Committee and Nominations from the Floor.** The report of the nominating committee of its nominations for officers and Directors shall be sent to all members at least one month two weeks before the date of the annual meeting. Immediately following the presentation of this report, nominations may be made from the floor by any voting member, provided the consent of the nominee shall be secured.

**Section 4. Elections.** The election shall be by secret ballot, except when there is only one nominee, then the election may be by voice vote. The election of co-nominees for a single office shall be considered a single nomination. A majority of those qualified members present and voting shall constitute an election. Absentee or proxy voting shall not be permitted. The new Board members shall assume their duties June 1.

**ARTICLE IX: PROGRAM**

**Section 1. Authorization.** The governmental principles adopted by the national convention, and supported by the League as a whole, constitute the authorization for the adoption of the program.

**Section 2. Program.** The program of the LWV-AA shall be chosen for study or action at the annual meeting and may include action to implement the principles of the League of Women Voters.

**Section 3. The Annual Meeting.** The annual meeting shall act upon the program using the following procedures:

A. The Board of Directors shall consider the recommendations sent in by the voting members two months prior to the annual meeting and shall formulate a proposed program.

B. The proposed program shall be sent to all members one month two weeks before the annual meeting, together with not-recommended items and reasons for their rejection by the Board.

C. A majority vote of voting members present and voting at the annual meeting shall be required for adoption of items in the proposed program as presented to the annual meeting by the Board of Directors.

D. Any not-recommended program item(s) may be moved for consideration following the presentation of the recommended program. A majority vote shall place a not-recommended item before the annual meeting. Adoption of a not-recommended item requires a two-thirds vote. The program votes shall take place in the order in which items were considered.

E. Suggestions for program at the annual meeting from the floor must meet the following criteria:
1. the suggestion must have been presented to and approved by the president at least 24 hours prior to the annual meeting.
2. the annual meeting shall order consideration by a two-thirds vote.
3. the annual meeting shall adopt the item by a two-thirds vote.

F. Changes in the program, not considered at the annual meeting, may be made provided that:
   1. information concerning the proposed change has been sent to all members at least two weeks prior to a general membership meeting at which the change is to be discussed.
   2. final action by the membership is taken at the succeeding meeting.

Section 4. Member Action. Members may act in the name of the League of Women Voters only when authorized to do so under the policy established by the Board of Directors. They act only in conformity with, and not contrary to, a position taken by the LWV-AA, the LWV-TX, and the LWV-US.

ARTICLE X: VOTER SERVICE

Section 1. Voter Service. Activities of the LWV-AA shall include making available to the citizens in the community information on elections and other democratic processes.

ARTICLE XI: NATIONAL CONVENTION, STATE CONVENTION AND COUNCIL

Section 1. National Convention. Delegates from the LWV-AA shall be selected by the Board of Directors under the provisions of the bylaws of the LWVUS.

Section 2. State Convention/Council. Delegates from the LWV-AA shall be selected by the Board of Directors under the provisions of the bylaws of the LWV-TX.

ARTICLE XII: PARLIAMENTARY AUTHORITY

Section 1. Parliamentary Authority. The rules in “Roberts Rules of Order Newly Revised” shall govern the organization in all cases to which they are applicable and in which they are not inconsistent with these bylaws.

ARTICLE XIII: AMENDMENTS

Section 1. Amendments. These bylaws may be amended by a two-thirds vote of the voting members present at the annual meeting or a membership meeting, provided that the amendments were submitted to the membership in writing at least one month in advance of the meeting.

ARTICLE XIV: INDEMNIFICATION

Section 1. Indemnification. The League is empowered to indemnify the officers, Directors, and agent to the extent provided and within the limitations imposed by law.

15 Change adopted at 2017 Annual Meeting – Indemnification Article recommended by legal counsel
ARTICLE XV: REGISTERED OFFICE AND REGISTERED AGENT

Section 1. Registered Office and Registered Agent. The League shall maintain a registered office and registered agent in Texas. The registered office may, but need not, be identical with the principal office in Texas. The Board of Directors may change the registered office and the registered agent as needed.

ARTICLE XVI: DISSOLUTION

Section 1. Dissolution. In the event of the dissolution of the LWV-AA all monies and securities which may at the time be owned by or under the control of the LWV-AA shall be paid to the Texas member organization of the League of Women Voters that is exempt under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code or the corresponding section of any future federal tax code; or if none of these organizations are then in existence or exempt under those tax provisions, then, at the discretion of the Board, to another organization which is organized and operated exclusively for charitable and educational purposes and which has established its tax exempt status under such designated tax provisions.