Dear The,

We are aware of a few broken links in the previous copy of the newsletter. These should be fixed in this version, we appreciate your patience as we worked to get these resolved!

Member renewal notifications will be sent via email from the membership team prior to your expiration date, and will no longer be included in the monthly newsletter.


Letter from the President

"The vote is a power, a weapon of offense and defense, a prayer. Understand what it means and what it can do for your country. Use it intelligently, conscientiously, prayerfully."

- Carrie Chapman Catt

This month's newsletter is jam-packed with all kinds of information. For this reason, I'm forgoing a long message. Instead I encourage you to read through the entire newsletter. There's a lot of good stuff going on and you don't want to miss out on anything!

Thank you all for your help and support!

With gratitude,

Joyce LeBombard, LWV-AA President
jlebombard@lwvaustin.org | 512-585-4090

Voters Guide and Vote411

In January's newsletter, we covered election dates and information. We can now share important dates about our free, nonpartisan Voters Guide in English and Spanish:
• VOTE411 will go live:
  • February 4th - LWVUS Presidential information
  • February 5th - LWVTX State information
  • February 5th - LWV-AAA state and local information

• February 9th - PDF online on www.lwvaustin.org
• February 14th-17th - Print versions will be distributed
• February 21st - Austin Chronicle insert
• Date is TBD, but the Voters Guide will be distributed on El Mundo rack locations

To distribute fliers to schools, churches, or other places you frequent, click here.

Celebrating Democracy Dinner &
Making Democracy Work® Awards

The EVENT of the year is rapidly approaching. The 28th Annual Celebrating Democracy Dinner is on March 25, 2020, at 6:00 p.m. at the DoubleTree by Hilton Austin Hotel. Engage in a conversation about women on and off the 2020 campaign trail with Emily Ramshaw, CEO, and Errin Haines, editor-at-large, both of The 19th, a new national, nonprofit newsroom by and for women.

For tickets, sponsorships, or donations, please go to https://lwvaustin.org/cdd2020reserve/

For auction donations, please contact Brenda Volpe at auctiondonations@lwvaustin.org or 830-305-1473.

For Making Democracy Work® Awards Nominations, visit our Nominations Page. The nomination deadline is currently February 7, 2020 so Fill out the Nomination Form Today!

LWVAA Calendar

Our calendar is jam-packed with events and opportunities this month! Please visit https://lwvaustin.org/calendar/ to view upcoming events, volunteer opportunities, and helpful reminders!

Here are a few upcoming highlights:

New Member Orientation - 2/8
Monthly coffee meet-up for new & prospective members to learn more about the League and how you can put your talents and passions to work with us. RSVP to Carol King, Membership Director, at cking@lwvaustin.org.

Open House - 2/15
Join LWV-AA for an Open House at our new digs at Alamo Drafthouse Cinemas Headquarters, 3908 Avenue B, Austin, as we observe LWVUS Day of Action celebrating the national League’s 100th Anniversary. Stop by anytime between 1:00-3:00 pm for cake, drinks, tours, and conversation guaranteed.

While we celebrate this incredible milestone, we also acknowledge our past shortcomings and know we have more work to do. We encourage you to read "Facing Hard Truths About the League’s Origin" by Chris Carson, LWVUS president and Virginia Kase, LWVUS CEO.

Pinot & Policy - 2/19

Picture this! It's the 2020 primary election and you are getting ready to vote. You take out your handy LWV-AA Voter's Guide to study your choices and you notice a few things: The ballot is long! And you can't quite remember the difference between the County Attorney and the District Attorney. And you aren't quite sure what characteristics and background would make a good Constable. And there's an office listed you didn't even know was elected! How can you prepare to make the best decision?

Join the Advocacy committee at the February Pinot and Policy on Wednesday, February 19th as we present "The Primary Election: Get to Know Your Local Races" At this event, we will take an in-depth look at each county and city office's jobs and duties. While we will not delve into individual candidates running for office at this event, we will provide education on the roles of the office that will help you make an informed choice during the primary and general elections. To register click, HERE. We hope you will join us!

Event Pictures
You can now view pictures from our past events and download the ones you want:

- For our 100th Birthday/Fallkick, click here.
- For our Holiday Brunch, click here.

Volunteer Opportunities!
Voter Guide Distribution

On Friday, February 14, 2020, volunteers are needed to pick up the Voters Guides at the Austin Chronicle Warehouse, 10109 McKalla Place, Suite E, 78758, and deliver them to the distribution locations. If you want to help with this, please contact Nancy Mossman, nmossman@lwvaustin.org, or Polly Elrod, pelrod@lwvaustin.org.

Apartment Community Engagement (ACE) Program

LWV-AA, LWV-WilCo, and LWV-Hays are collaborating with the Austin Apartment Association on the ACE program. This program will deliver voter registration materials to apartment communities and schedule voter registration events as early as the first week of March. If you know of someone who would like to volunteer (including you if you've indicated interest but haven't completed the actual form) or if you need to attend a training session, the links are:

- To attend an in-person information session, join a team, and attend a training in Travis County, click here.
- To join a team in Hays County, click here.
- To join a team in Williamson County, click here.
- To attend on online Zoom training for Hays, Travis or Williamson, click here.

For questions or more information, please contact Hiten Patel at ACEProgramTX@gmail.com.

LWVTX Convention Volunteers

We will need lots of local volunteers for the convention from greeting people, helping with registration, etc. We will be organizing this soon, so save the dates April 17-19 for when the call for volunteers comes.

Join the Texas Voter Protection Movement

Can You Spare a Few Hours During the 2020 Election Season?

The League is a primary partner in the Texas Election Protection Coalition, which trains poll monitors and staffs hotlines with lawyers who can assist poll workers and voters. We need you to greet voters outside of an assigned polling location during Early Voting (Feb. 18-28) and/or on Election Day (March 3) to answer common questions about voting. You do not need any prior experience. You'll receive training, get materials, and will have legal support just a phone call away if you need it!

Become a nonpartisan volunteer poll monitor at https://texasvoterprotection.org/ as trainings are underway. Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact League member Gillian Brown at browngillian9499@gmail.com or 310-990-8180.

ACLU Observer Training

February 6, 2020 at 6:00-7:30 pm, Ruiz Branch, Austin Public Library, 1600 Grove Blvd, Austin TX 78741. Register at https://action.aclu.org/webform/legal-observer-training-austin
Join the Travis County Election Team!

By becoming an election worker, you can help your community and be a part of this country's great democratic process! Pay ranges from $10-$15. Learn more at https://countyclerk.traviscountytx.gov/join-the-election-team.html

TO OUR VOLUNTEERS, WE SAY:

THANK YOU!

LWV News

The biennial statewide LWVTX Convention is on April 17-19, 2020, in Austin. This is a great way for LWV member to see how the League works. We hope to see you here! For more information, go to https://my.lwv.org/texas/convention

LWVTX and our Fair Maps Texas Coalition are collaborating with the Princeton Gerrymandering Project. League members interested in redistricting please check out a new mapping tool found at www.Representable.org. Provide feedback on the tool to Stephanie Swanson Redistricting/Census Issue Chair at Steph.swanson@lwvbx@gmail.com.

Join LWVUS for the 54th National Convention in June 2020! Convention will be hosted in Washington, DC, June 25-28. Please check the Convention section of the League Management Site for information as it is added.

2020 - 2021 LWV-AA Board Nominations

We are looking for members willing to serve on the 2020-2021 LWV-AA Board. We are an all-volunteer working board. The nominating committee welcomes any and all members who are interested in serving on the LWV-AA Board to self-nominate or suggest other members. New members are equally welcome on the board, as well as those who have enjoyed LWV-AA work for a number of years. The board is strengthened by members with a wide variety of backgrounds, experiences, talents, and knowledge. If you have questions, please contact any of the nominating committee members below.
Committee Chair, Cinde Weatherby: cweatherby@lwvaustin.org
Brenda Koegler: bkoegler@lwvaustin.org
Michael Keller: mkeller@lwvaustin.org
Mari Robinson: mrobinson@lwvaustin.org
Pam Bixby: pbixby@lwvaustin.org
**WELCOME OUR**
**NEATEST MEMBERS!**

Amy Averett    Cheryl Fries    David Gartzke    Diane Hernandez
Emily LeBlanc    Jennings Young    Kellyn Loell    Leslie Stevens
Lorrie Castellano    Meagan Biscamp    Megan Hall    ODele Hall
Tara Cunningham

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**Thank you to all Sustaining and Renewing Members!**

As a member of the Austin League, you are also a member of the national and state leagues. See the links below for additional information.

[www.lwvaustin.org](http://www.lwvaustin.org)    [www.lwvtexas.org](http://www.lwvtexas.org)    [www.lwv.org](http://www.lwv.org)

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The League of Women Voters Austin Area thanks its generous Celebrating Democracy sponsors!

**BigCreative Productions**    **ALAMO Drafthouse Cinema**

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

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