LWV-AA Board Meeting  
Tuesday, January 8, 7:00 - 8:30 PM  
League Conference Room #202  
Members welcome.

100th Anniversary Planning Committee  
Saturday, January 12, 10:30 AM - noon  
League Conference Room #202  
Members welcome.

Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion "The History of Black Civil Rights & Current Issues" and DEI Committee Meeting  
Sunday, January 13, 2:30 - 4:45 PM  
League Conference Room #202  
Members welcome.

General Meeting: Advocating at the State and Local Levels  
Wednesday, January 16, 6:30 - 8:00 PM  
League Conference Room #202  
Everyone welcome.

Advocacy Committee Meeting  
Saturday, January 19, 11:00 AM-Noon  
League Conference Room #202  
Members welcome.

LWV-AA Travis County VDR Training & Celebration  
January 16 & 20, 2:00 PM  
League Conference Room #202  
Members welcome.

Pinot & Policy: LWV-AA Mobility & Transportation Position Update  
Wednesday, January 23, 7:00 - 9:00 PM  
League Conference Room #202  
Everyone welcome.

Celebrating Democracy Dinner  
Wednesday, March 6, 2019, 6:00 PM  
Doubletree by Hilton  
6505 N IH 35, Austin, 78752  
Everyone welcome.

Looking for volunteer opportunities with the League? Find them below in RED!
Join us at the Celebrating Democracy Dinner (formerly known as State of the City)

As the 100th anniversary of the League of Women Voters Austin Area approaches, we hope you'll join us at our annual Celebrating Democracy dinner on March 6, 2019.

We're thrilled to announce our Keynote Speaker: Mimi Marziani, President of the Texas Civil Rights Project (TCRP). Ms. Marziani has an extensive background in civil rights advocacy and expertise in election law. As the president of TCRP, Ms. Marziani leads the influential civil rights organization as it protects and expands voting rights, challenges the injustices in our criminal justice system, and advances racial and economic justice. Prior to moving to Texas, Ms. Marziani spent several years as Counsel for the Democracy Program of the Brennan Center for Justice at NYU School of Law, where she litigated election law cases in federal courts across the country, including before the U.S. Supreme Court.

We can't wait for you to hear firsthand how she and TCRP are Empowering Voters and Defending Democracy. Before hearing Ms. Marziani, you'll have the opportunity to sip on beverages while browsing and bidding on Silent Auction items, enjoy dinner with friends new and old, participate in the Live Auction, and help honor the Making Democracy Work Award Winners.

Early bird tickets are on sale until January 15, and are $75 for members and $100 for non-members. Buy yours today!

President's Message

Happy New Year!

New Year's is a time for reflection. Especially this year, as we approach our 100-year anniversary.
Last month, I focused on some of the fantastic successes LWV-AA had in 2018. In 2019, we will continue to build upon those successes. Some plans for 2019 include:

- Expand and grow Observer Corps and Advocacy;
- Institute monthly general meetings covering a variety of topics;
- Hold a series of education sessions for both Program Positions and Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion;
- Continue to improve our member/volunteer engagement and retention;
- Continue to strengthen our fund development and donor relationships;
- Redesign our website;
- Celebrate LWV-AA’s 100-year anniversary!!!

If you are interested in participating in any of these, please check out our League calendar and our volunteer opportunities page often.

Speaking of our 100-year anniversary, we are forming a committee to plan our celebration(s) for this auspicious occasion. We will kick off the planning with a meeting on Saturday, January 12th from 10:30 - Noon at the League office. If you are interested in being on the committee, please contact me.

There were many great successes last year across Texas Leagues. You can review them in the LWV-TX 2018 Impact Report.

Joyce LeBombard, jlebomba@lwvaustin.org
512-585-4090

Help LWV-AA Start our Centennial New Year!

As we begin a very important year, your help is needed more than ever. We have many opportunities to be part of the celebration excitement!

See the special volunteer page on our website for details!

- **Event Management Team** - Like hospitality? We have monthly events starting up and major events for our 100 year celebration coming up!
- **Programs** - The 86th Texas Legislature begins January 8th! Be an observer! Join the Advocacy team!
- **Voters Service** - Be our Civic Engagement Alliance Lead - Interact with our area businesses and community nonprofits to help their employees register to vote and be informed!
- **Voters Service** - Have a questioning mind? We're looking for a Voters Guide questions Team Lead to get started on questions for the next Voters Guide and the ones to follow.
- **Fundraising** - Join our development team and help with our annual Celebrating Democracy fundraising dinner.

[Sign Up Today!]

From our National and State Leagues
HR1: Legislation by and for the people

In November, voters sent a clear message across the country that they are ready for bold, comprehensive democracy reforms. Now, the League is working with a broad coalition of over 100 organizations to draft and shape HR1, a policy reform package that will include key democracy provisions:

- Expanding voter registration: Modernizing the registration process through the expansion of automatic voter registration and online voter registration.
- Implementing fair redistricting: It’s time to end gerrymandering once and for all so that voters select their elected officials - not the other way around.
- Outlawing voter purging: Prohibiting illegal voter roll purging will ensure that eligible voters will not find themselves wrongfully stripped of the right to vote.
- Restoring the VRA: Restoring the Voting Rights Act will strengthen our elections by cutting back the obstructive laws that have kept eligible voters from exercising their right at the ballot box.

HR1 will improve our election system and make our democracy stronger. It could also be our opportunity to rebalance our system so that Big Money doesn't set Washington's agenda or decide who gets a seat at the table. Contact your Representative to ensure that this key provision is also included.

LWV-TX Lobby Days and Making Democracy Work Dinner

As the Texas 86th Legislative Session begins, League members from around the state come to Austin to participate in LWV-TX Lobby Days and the Making Democracy Work Dinner.

Lobby Days, Feb. 4th and 5th
Lobby Days is when League members spend an afternoon learning more about our Legislative priorities for the year and how to advocate on them, and then participate in a day of advocacy at the State Capitol to strengthen our clout around our priorities.

The three 86th Legislative Session priorities are:

- Voting Rights
- Women's Health
- Public Education

For a complete schedule and to purchase tickets for Lobby Days, click here.

Making Democracy Work Dinner, Feb 4th
Keynote speaker Victoria M DeFrancesco Soto, Ph.D. will speak on "The Power of Women" Voting, Policy, and Politics in Texas. The Power of Women 2019 Award Winners to be honored are:

- Laura Yeager, Texas Educator Votes
- Jule Lowenberg, LWV Women's Health Issue Chair (LWVDallas)
- Jessica Shortall, Texas Competes
- Jan Miller, State Bar of Texas Law-Related Education

For more information and to purchase tickets for the Making Democracy Work Benefit Dinner, click here.
An Election Day Miracle
by Cinde Weatherby

It’s November 6, 2018 and Annie is fighting cancer, but the tears in her eyes aren't about that. They reflect the frustration of trying to vote in the 2018 Midterm Election.

Annie tried once during the day to take advantage of the medical emergency ballot process to vote from her hospital bed. She didn't realize the doctor's signature was required to request the ballot and now she is stuck with no one to help and is taking to the phones before her radiation treatment. That is when our phone at the League office rang a little after 1:30 pm.

She explained she was in the hospital dealing with cancer and was to soon undergo a radiation treatment. She had not been able to vote early and we were her last chance. LWV-AA promotes other organizations who offer rides to the polls, but we knew this would require special immediate attention. Four years ago we helped in a similar situation and it took all day long to accomplish. Doing all of this starting in mid-afternoon would be a big stretch.

Racking our brain to think of a League member who might be interested or know someone located in Williamson County who could get right onto the problem. You see, Annie lives in Travis County, but was in a Round Rock hospital. That meant at least two round-trips on I-35 to achieve our mission. Former LWV-AA Development Director Sara Groff came to mind to take on a near impossible task.

The Clock Gets Ticking!

The miracle begins and continues to conclusion thanks to a series of texts:

2:05 pm - We provide Sara with Annie’s name, the hospital name and room number, name of her nurse and head nurse; and make the text connection between the two

2:48 pm - Sara looking for a volunteer, talks to Travis County Elections to assure all details needed. She soon finds volunteer Christina Gamiño to take on the mission.

3:39 to 4:30 pm - Christina gets to the Travis County Elections office and picks up the medical emergency ballot application then gets the signature of Annie's doctor while awaiting Annie's return in an ambulance from the radiation treatment.

5:29 to 5:41 pm - Christina is back to the Elections Office; receives the special ballot; and is back to the hospital for Annie to do her thing.

6:32 pm - After Annie votes her ballot (remember, it was a long ballot!) Christina is back on I-35.

6:58 pm - Christina arrives at the Travis County Elections office, where Yvette, who has been helping Christina with this miracle, is waiting for her. As Christina texted, "Yvette was a rock star and was waiting outside for me!"

After all the heartwarming, tearful thank-you texts passed around, there was text talk about trying to get together to celebrate the accomplishment after Annie would finish her radiation treatments the next week. Life ensues and that hasn't happened. We do each have a fantastic memory that provides us inspiration to continue to do what the League is all about: Empowering Voters!
Membership Report and Interest Survey
Brenda Koegler, Membership Director

To anyone interested in becoming more involved in the League in 2019: We hold new member orientations coffees once a month. The next one is January 12 at 2:00. Email me at bkoegler@lwvaustin.org if you would like a refresher on opportunities.

Welcome, New Members:
Jane Abel, Robert Cahn, Sylvia Gongora, Anne Gregory, Windy Johnson, Kate Kelchner, Shawna Kelso, Georgia Keysor, Mary Lechleidner, Debra Smith, Rebecca Smith, Amy Webberman

Thank You, Sustaining Members:
Jane Abel, Amanda Boudreault, Sandra and Lawrence Fox, Barbara and Chris Frandsen, Lucy and Gary Gibbs, Harriet Harrow, Mary Lechleidner, Jane McFarland, Susan Morrison, Jan Soifer, Karen Swenson and Ken Cauthern, Amy Webberman

Thank You, Renewing Members:
Lindsay Calvert, Vanessa Dainton, Karen Eikner, Charlotte Herzele

As a member of the Austin League, each of you is also a member of the national and state leagues. See the links below for an abundance of educational information.

www lwvaustin org  www lwv texas org  www lwv org

Member Interest Survey: We are very interested in seeing what in particular interests you and why you joined the League. Click on Select Your Action Involvement to complete the survey. Please fill it out and hit submit. We will then connect you to the appropriate League leaders.

Need more information? Visit our webpage for more information on new memberships and membership renewals.

Thank you for supporting the League!

Donations: Toye Goodson, Frances McIntyre
**Voters Guide:** Mary Cartwright, Eve Chenu, Amanda Wingfield, Eileen McKeon Butt, Kelly Heath, Lowell Vaughn

**Memorial/Honorary:** Daniel Prashner, in honor of Mrs. Josephine Prashner. Peter Roll, in memory of Nancy Michener Roll. Gregory Rankin, in honor of Karen Rankin.

**Randall's Good Neighbor Program** gives the Austin League a percentage of sales from members who link the League to their Remarkable Cards. Complete this document and return to any Randall's store. Our account number is 465.

**Making a legacy donation to the League of Women Voters Austin Area** in your will is the easiest way to offer support of the League's work for years to come. Learn how to leave your legacy and become a member of our League's Legacy Society.

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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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Join Our Mailing List!