Dear,
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.


At a Glance

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Recent Accomplishments</th>
<th>Upcoming Events</th>
<th>Ways to Get Involved</th>
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<td>Our Voter Registration &amp; Turnout and our Community Relations teams have been very busy this past month doing over 35 events, registering over 400 voters, and sharing election and League information with many more.</td>
<td>01/15, 5:45 pm - 8:00 pm: Census 101 Training at George Washington Carver Library, Room #2. Free event and no need to register.</td>
<td>We are looking for a VP-Voters Service and a Communications Director. For more information contact Joyce at <a href="mailto:jlebombard@lwvaustin.org">jlebombard@lwvaustin.org</a></td>
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<td>Grace Thomas, First Vote! Chair, held two more presenter trainings. There are over 80 members/volunteers trained present First Vote! in high schools for the spring semester.</td>
<td>01/18, 10:30 am - 12:30 pm: Equity, Inclusion &amp; the 2020 Census at George Washington Carver Library, Room #2. For more info or to register for this free event, click HERE.</td>
<td>The Policy Positions area is looking for a Committee Chair to lead a re-study of our Education position. Contact Lea at <a href="mailto:lmasiello@lwvaustin.org">lmasiello@lwvaustin.org</a>.</td>
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Letter from the President

"What the new year brings to you will depend a great deal on what you bring to the new year." — Vern McLellan

At the beginning of 2019, I shared a few of the items we planned to achieve. Here’s how we did:

- Advocacy expanded its team and continues to broaden its reach.
- The Programs and Organization area teamed up to create our monthly Pinot & Policy events covering a variety of topics.
- The Equity & Inclusion committee expanded its membership and held numerous education and discussion events.
- The Community Relations area expanded its membership enabling us to significantly broaden our community outreach.
- We grew our membership to roughly 550 members. We instituted a monthly new member orientation social, and improved our membership interest survey to better match and engage people with volunteer opportunities.
- Development expanded its team and strategy to develop a better relationship with our donors improving communications and sharing impact. We are also applying for more grants.
- Our Webmaster and team made great progress on our website redesign. It’s a significant undertaking to make it as flexible and useable as we want, and to incorporate the new constituent relationship management (CRM) and fundraising software.
- Celebrated our 100th anniversary at our Fall Kickoff. We published a commemorative booklet, put on a unique program, and got proclamations from Austin City Council, Travis and Williamson County Commissioner Courts, as well as Texas State House and Senate. In addition, we:
  - Updated four of our Position statements,
  - Built an Events Team to do set-up, clean-up, and provide goodies for most of our events,
  - Revamped the First Vote! program and trained volunteers in the program,
  - Held a record number of voter registration and GOTV events
  - Published the Voters Guide for the local elections last May and November,
  - Created and published communications to support all our activities including the VOTER newsletter, eBlasts, social media posting, invites, and event programs, and
  - Moved our office to the new Alamo Drafthouse Cinemas' headquarters.

Thank you for your dedication and support in 2019. I’m sure I have missed a few things we accomplished and did. Please know it is not because it is not appreciated but it’s that I can only remember so much.

- As you already know, 2020 is going to be an even bigger year: Besides continuing items from above, here are just some of the things we’ll be working on:
  - A Day of Action on Feb. 14th for LWVUS 100th,
  - Annual fundraiser Celebrating Democracy Dinner on Mar. 25th,
  - Census 2020 education and awareness,
  - LWVTX Convention, April 17th-19th hosted in Austin,
  - Annual Workbook, Bylaws, Policy & Procedure, and Board nominations for the Annual Meeting in May,
  - LWVUS Convention, June 25th-28th in Washington DC,
  - Communication and possible activities for 100th Anniversary of 19th Amendment Ratification on Aug 18th or Women's Equality Day on Aug 26th,
  - Round 2 of the Redistricting hearings in Austin,
  - Complete our migration to our new CRM and fundraising software, website and processes.
• Oh, and did you know there are just a few elections happening (see the 2020 Election Info to Know About section) and all the activities that entails:
  ○ Voter registration and GOTV, and First Vote! events
  ○ Voters Guides’ and VOTE411 questions, candidate communications, research for ballot measures, translations, layout, proofreading, publishing, and distribution
  ○ Candidate forums

We could use your help, especially if you can step up and lead an effort. As the saying goes, it's a big job, but many hands make light work. We can do this if we work together.

Awards Nomination Reminder!

Please don't forget to make your nominations for our annual Making Democracy Work Awards by February 7th, 2020, by clicking HERE. The winners will be announced at our annual Celebrating Democracy Dinner on March 25, 2020, at the DoubleTree by Hilton, located at 6505 IH 35. This is our largest fundraiser for the year with proceeds funding our Voters Guide and other activities, which are very extensive this coming year.

Please take the time to read through the rest of the newsletter, as it is full of information. We have some exciting events coming up, volunteer opportunities, and 2020 election information.

Wishing you and your family much health and happiness in the New Year!

With gratitude,
Joyce LeBombard
President, League of Women Voters Austin Area (LWV-AA)
jlbombard@lwvaustin.org
512-585-4090

LWVAA Calendar

Click here for details on the events listed below.

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<th>Sun</th>
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|     |     | Alamo Drafthouse Slaughter Registration 6:30 PM |
|     |     | Travis County VDR Training 10:30 AM |
|     |     | Alamo Drafthouse Slaughter Registration 6:30 PM |
|     | Williamson County VDR Training 2 PM 6 PM |
|     | Alamo Drafthouse Slaughter Registration 6:30 PM |
|     | New Member Orientation 2 PM |
|     | Alamo Drafthouse Slaughter Registration 6:30 PM |
|     | Williamson County VDR Training 2 PM |
|     | Census 101 Informational Session 5:45 PM |
|     |     | Equity, Inclusion, and the 2020 Census 10:30 AM |
|     |     | Travis County VDR Training 10:30 AM |
### Census Reading Discussion

The LWV-AA Equity and Inclusion reading discussion for January will highlight how and why the 2020 Census matters for equitable and inclusive democracy, and how undercounts have been damaging politics in the United States. Furthermore, we will be discussing how the LWV-AA membership can do more to ensure that every person is counted.

Ahead of the discussion, attendees are encouraged to read the following articles in order to be able to fully participate in the discussion:

- [These are the groups most likely to stop participating in the US census](#)
- [Will You Count? Households with Low Incomes in the 2020 Census](#)
- [Census citizenship question could affect amount of federal money Texas receives for critical needs](#)
- [This chart shows how badly the census could still undercount people of color](#)
- [Mapping the Threat of a Census Disaster in 2020](#)
**Heres Why an Accurate Census Count is So Important**

**2020 Census Could Lead To Worst Undercount Of Black, Latinx People In 30 Years**

**Fully funded 2020 Census essential to racial equity, inclusive democracy**

**What You Need to Know About Census 2020 and Equity**

**The 2020 Census may be wildly inaccurate-and it matters more than you think**

**Why the Census Matters for Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander Communities**

Title: Equity, Inclusion, and the 2020 Census  
Date: Sat, January 18, 2020  
Time: 10:30 AM - 12:30 PM CST  
Location: George Washington Carver Library, Room 2  
RSVP for this free event [HERE](#).  
For more information, contact Director of Equity and Inclusion, Maria Milner, at mmilner@lwvaustin.org.

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**Census 101 Informational Session**

The Census 2020 Committee of the League of Women Voters of the Austin Area will be hosting U.S. Census Bureau Specialist, Fang Fang, for an Informational Session regarding the 2020 Census. This session will be of special interest for Volunteer Deputy Registrars who are looking to integrate the ability to engage in basic Census discussions during this very busy and very important Voter Registration season.

Date: Wednesday, January 15th  
Time: 5:45 PM - 8 PM  
Location: Carver Library, Room #2

For more information, please contact Mirna Gonzalez (mgonzalez@lwvaustin.org) or María Medina Milner (mmilner@lwvaustin.org).

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**2020 Elections Info to Know About**  
**Voter Registration Certificate**

The new voter registration certificate cards have been mailed to registered voters. The cards are orange and white, are good for two years, and replace the expiring yellow and white cards. Please double-check your information, sign the front where indicated, and keep it for your records as proof you are registered to vote. If you need to correct something on your card, or if you move or change your name in the next two years, you can make these changes on the back of the card in the space provided, sign next to the X, and mail it back to your office. They will correct your information and mail you an updated Voter Registration certificate.
Ballot By Mail Reminder

All Ballot by Mail Applications EXPIRE each year on December 31st. Please apply after January 1st to receive mail-in ballots for 2020; you must be a registered to vote. If you are 65 years of age or older or disabled, you may apply to receive all ballot by mail for the calendar year. If you expect to be out of the county or are confined in jail, you may apply to receive a ballot by mail for the upcoming election only.

For more information or to download an application for ballot by mail:
Travis County - click HERE
Williamson County - click HERE
For members of the armed forces, their dependents, and citizens outside of the U.S., visit www.fvap.gov.

Election Dates

Tuesday, March 3rd - Primary election
- Registered to vote by 02/03
- Early Voting: 02/18-02/28
- Mail-in ballot request rec'd by 02/21; ballot rec'd back by 03/03

Sat., May 2 - Local Election
- Registered to vote by 04/02
- Early Voting: 04/20-04/28
- Mail-in ballot request rec'd by 04/20; ballot rec'd back by 05/02

Tues., May 26 - Primary Runoff
- Registered to vote by 04/27
- Early Voting: 05/18-05/22
- Mail-in ballot request rec'd by 05/15; ballot rec'd back by 05/26

Tues., Nov 3 - General Election
- Registered to vote by 10/05
Early Voting: 10/19-10/30
Mail-in ballot request rec'd by 10/23; ballot rec'd back by 11/03

Voting is as Easy as 1, 2, 3... collect sticker!
Both Travis and Williamson Counties have the same new voting systems.
To see videos on how to use the new voting systems:
Travis County - click HERE
Williamson County - click HERE

LWVTX/LWVUS News

The LWVTX Convention is in Austin on April 17-19. Keep an eye out for more information in future newsletters or at https://my.lwv.org/texas/league-members/convention.


LWVUS DEI Webinars can be found HERE, including:

- Difficult Conversations
- The Power of Words and Common Definitions
- Advancing the League's Goal to Increase Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Through Action

Volunteer Opportunity Spotlight

If you are interested in the state of Education in the Austin area, we need you. Our Education position is in need of further study and updates. While the prior position wording was so specific it was hard to advocate with, the current version is in need of some supporting information which makes it hard to understand our position in areas such as in areas such as pre-K, charter schools, and language that is equitable and inclusive.

We are looking for a member to be the Education Committee Chair for this effort. For more information, please contact Lea Masiello, Policy Positions Director, at lmasielo@lwvaustin.org.
Condolences

Anne Shelby Clark, long-time LWV-AA member and dedicated Affordable Housing Committee volunteer, passed away December 10, 2019. A Celebration of Life service will be held Saturday, January 11 at 2:00 pm at St. David's Episcopal Church, 301 E. 8th Street, Austin 78701. At her family's request, wear something Colorful, Comfortable and Casual to remember this remarkable woman.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests that you make a donation in her name to St. David's Episcopal Church, PLANCTX, Trinity Center, The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society, or a charity of your choice.

Calling all Gardeners!

Our new home at Alamo Drafthouse Cinemas Baker features community gardens for building occupants. This is a project of Karrie League, our landlord. If you would like to be part of the LWV-AA team and can commit at least 3 hours per week to gardening pursuits on the grounds of 3908 Avenue B, please contact Debbi Voss at dvoss@lwvaustin.org.

WELCOME OUR NEWEST MEMBERS!

Sandra Tennant  Hiten and Melissa Patel  Stephanie Chiarello  Emily Campbell

Rachel Haggerty

Creating ★ A MORE PERFECT ★ Democracy
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  www.lwvtexas.org  www.lwv.org

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

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.

Join Our Mailing List!

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