League Calendar

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LWVAA Calendar

Mon., May 4, 6:30 pm, Board Meeting, League Office, 1011 W. 31st St. Members.

Tues., May 5, 10:30 am, 12:30 pm, or 6:30 pm, Volunteer Deputy Registrar Training, Travis County Voter Registrar's office, 5501 Airport Blvd, Austin.

Sat., May 9, 10:00 am - Noon Local Issues Discussion meeting at League office. 1011 West 31st Street, Austin.

Sat., May 9, 10:00 - 11:30 am, Volunteer Deputy Registrar Training, First Unitarian-Universalist Church of Austin, 4700 Grove, Austin.

Tues., May 19, Annual Meeting and Pot Luck Dinner. Trinity United Methodist Church, Members. 4001 Speedway, Austin.

Sat., June 6 Transitional Meeting. Time and place to be determined.

Back issues of the LWVAA Voter can be found at this link.
Come Celebrate at Annual Meeting

LWVAA Annual Meeting and Potluck Supper
Tues., May 19, 6:00 p.m.
Trinity United Methodist Church, 4001 Speedway
Bring a Dish (Preferred) or $10

Plan to celebrate another successful League year by attending our May 19 Annual Meeting, when we’ll gather to enjoy a tasty meal, to socialize, and to take care of business and program matters. This is your opportunity to have a say in the direction the Austin League takes next year.

We will approve the proposed program, budget, bylaws, and nominations for officers, and we'll recognize Leaguers who have gone the extra mile.

Proposed Program Addition for Approval
This year, we will be voting on a proposed addition to our position on city government that supports an Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission (ICRC). It is responsible for drawing the lines for the 10 single-member districts from which members of the Austin City Council are elected. Frances McIntyre, chair of Advocacy, proposed this addition as a concurrence, and the LWVAA Board recommends approval by members at the Annual Meeting. See the following report by Frances that gives the history and justification for this position change. (Note: This report also appears in the 2014 Annual Meeting Workbook as part of the Program Report.)

Judy Clack to Be Honored
This year’s Annual Meeting is dedicated to Judy Clack, who has kept us all informed and organized since June 2011, serving as Voter editor AND as Organization VP, or Office Manager. Read more about Judy’s remarkable contributions to our Austin League in the tribute following Frances’ article the Austin City Council. Plan to come to the meeting to wish her good-bye and good luck on her move to the Pittsburgh area.

Read and Bring Your Workbook
Check out the 2015 Annual Meeting Workbook that was emailed or mailed to you, print it, and save it for future reference. Here is link if you need it. It is your guide to the nuts-and-bolts matters that determine how the Austin League operates. It includes up-to-date local positions on which the League can advocate. Remember to bring your Workbook to the Annual meeting.

~Anne Roussos, editor of the 2015 Annual Meeting Workbook
roussos@swbell.net

Report: Proposed Addition to City Government Position


At an April 6 meeting, the LWVAA board voted to recommend a proposed addition to the City Government position that was submitted by Frances McIntyre as a concurrence.* The addition will be presented for member approval and adoption at the May 19, 2015, Annual Meeting.

Voters Guide Editor
Eliza May
Special Events
Hal Jennings
Webmaster
Donna Pauler
Voter Editor

From the President

Our fiscal year is wrapping up and we are ending the year on a good fiscal note with an impressive list of accomplishments.

The State of the City Auction raised over $5,000 for the Education Fund and over $3,000 for our Austin Area Operating Fund leaving balances of over $19,000 in the Austin Area Operating Account and over $33,000 in the Education Fund.

Membership has increased by 10% up to 232 members

Most recently we lost our Board Secretary, Peggy Stewart, to her long struggle with cancer. In spite of that, we had a good year with very dedicated Board members that bring new skills and knowledge to the Board. Diane Davis has accepted position to fill Board Secretary. Judy Clack, VP Organization will be leaving the Board to help support her family in Pennsylvania. Jo Reichler quickly stepped in to carry on the duties until a new VP is elected. Stewart Snyder, VP Community Relations left early in the year to pursue new interest in Minnesota. Cinde Weatherby stepped up as VP Community Relations and lead this year's Austin Legislative Corp.
Proposed Wording
The change would add a fourth bullet to our position under "City Government #2 Council and Elections," as follows (see the CITY GOVERNMENT section in the LWVAA's Position Statements elsewhere in this Workbook):

City Government

- 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.

History, Explanation and Justification.
At the 2012 Annual Meeting, the LWVAA adopted an update to our position on City Government that relates to city council elections. The change broadened the ways we can support single-member districts to allow us to address this important issue. At the time, there was a fledgling citizens group that was discussing single-member districts, with the aim of getting a citizens initiative on the ballot. Their general purpose was to change the Austin City Council from all at-large to single-member districts. When the citizens group, Austinites for Geographical Representation, had come to a decision on the exact method they agreed upon, they developed a petition that included the particulars of the representation and also included an Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission to draw the district lines.

The LWVAA was able to support this petition because of the change in our position. We also were able to support the Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission (ICRC) because we have a LWV-Texas position that supports redistricting commissions at the state level. The LWV-US position does not address apportionment because it is a matter for the states to deal with. The national position does say, "Based on principles, issue positions and past actions, it appears the League has some leeway on redistricting." Then it lists some criteria, such as citizen participation, transparency, and accountability.

In November of 2012, the ballot measure passed, and the Austin City Charter was changed to incorporate the details of electing council members from 10 districts, with the mayor to be elected at-large. It also included the criteria and duties of the ICRC. The ICRC was chosen and started work in May or June of 2013. The district maps were presented in December of 2013, which gave the prospective candidates the opportunity to begin their campaigns. The November 2014 election was the first change in Austin's governance since the 1970s. The LWV also had been advocating for single-member districts since the 1970s. Our advocacy for this method was significant in getting the measure passed.

The recommended change this year to our position is to add support for an ICRC, which is not included in our local positions.
We have enough information from the state League and some guidance from the national League that allow us to adopt support of a Citizens Independent Redistricting Commission as a concurrence* that does not need to involve a study. We did support the ballot measure that included the ICRC in 2012. I believe we need this delineated in

This year we produced the largest Voters Guide and conducted the most candidate forums in Austin’s history, thanks to the new geographic representation of the Austin City Council. We partnered with the Austin American-Statesman newspaper to distribute over 120,000 Voters Guides. Over $8,000 was raised to produce a Spanish translation of the Voter Guide. We partnered with ThinkVoting to produce the first ever smart phone application for the Voters Guide.

Programs this year featured elected officials Mayor Steve Adler, Retired Judge John Dietz, Senator Kirk Watson, and Texas State Representatives Donna Howard, Cecelia Israel and Elliot Naishtat.

The Anne MacAfee Student Membership Scholarship is well underway with a little over $400 available for Student Membership scholarships. Student Membership Scholarships are available to anyone that meets the requirements of a Student Member for as long as the funds are available. If you'd like to sign up a student for LWV membership, contact Judy Parken, Membership Chair.

It takes a lot of people to manage and run an organization as big as and active as the Austin League of Women Voters. Our Board consists of 7 elected officers and 6 appointed directors. The Board meets the 1st Monday of the month. If you have the time and skills, please join one of our many groups and activities and think about becoming a director.

The Annual Membership meeting is Tuesday, May 19, at Trinity Methodist Church, 4200 speedway. Plan on joining us to elect next year's directors. We'll adopt a budget and program, as well as conduct other business as well as socialize with friends. Have a great summer as we will take a
our positions. Austin is the only municipality to have an ICRC, and we want to keep it that way.

*("Concurrence" is adopting a position that another League has already studied.)*

~ Frances McIntyre, Advocacy Chair and Voter Guide Editor, mcintyre.frances@gmail.com

### Nominating Committee
### Slate of Officers

Following is the Nominating Committed Slate of officers for the 2015 - 2017. This will be voted upon at the annual meeting.

#### Elected Officers and their term of office:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Term</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>President</td>
<td>Carol Olewin</td>
<td>2016</td>
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<tr>
<td>1st VP (Program)</td>
<td>Mary Cullinane</td>
<td>2016</td>
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<tr>
<td>2nd VP (Comm. Rel.)</td>
<td>Cinde Weatherby</td>
<td>2017</td>
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<tr>
<td>3rd VP (Organization)</td>
<td>Jaci Collins</td>
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<tr>
<td>4th VP (Voter Service)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Secretary</td>
<td>Diane Davis</td>
<td>2017</td>
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<tr>
<td>Treasurer</td>
<td>Gwen Santiago</td>
<td>2016</td>
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#### Six Directors Elected for One Year Term:

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<tr>
<td>Advocacy</td>
<td>Frances McIntyre</td>
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<td>Membership Chair</td>
<td>Judy Parken</td>
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<tr>
<td>Membership Records</td>
<td>Jane McFarland</td>
<td>2016</td>
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<tr>
<td>Voter Editor</td>
<td>Donna Pauler</td>
<td>2016</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Voter Registration</td>
<td>June Conway</td>
<td>2016</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Web Master &amp; Blast Ed</td>
<td>Hal Jennings</td>
<td>2016</td>
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#### Off-Board Chairs:

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<td>Maxine Barkan</td>
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<tr>
<td>Development</td>
<td>Kate Canby</td>
<td>2016</td>
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<td>Publicity/Publications</td>
<td>Lea Masiello</td>
<td>2016</td>
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<tr>
<td>Special Events</td>
<td>Eliza May</td>
<td>2016</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Voters Guide, Editor</td>
<td>Frances McIntyre</td>
<td>2016</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Workbook Editor</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nominating Comm</td>
<td>Margit Orange</td>
<td>2016</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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### Honoring Judy Clack

summer break and resume business in September.

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

### From the Webmaster

This month we have been actively supporting the drive to get online voter registration approved by the Texas legislature. Many Facebook posts and Tweets have gone out to our followers to keep them informed and encourage their support and engagement.

We encourage you to "like" or "share" our Facebook posts to help expand the reach of these announcements to expand to all of your friends. See procedure below.

~ Hal Jennings, Webmaster, hal@jenningsweb.us

### Voter ID Update
#### Registration and Volunteer Deputy Registrar Training

UPDATE ON VOTER ID LAW
(from the Austin American-Statesman story of April 27th by Tim Eaton)

PREVIOUSLY: In October of 2014 US District Judge Nelva Gonzales
This year's Annual Meeting is dedicated to Judy Clack. She has been the tie that has bound us together since June 2011, when she joined the LWVAA board as Voter editor and as Organization VP, or Office Manager. In addition, she sends time-sensitive email blasts to members and the public. In these vital roles, Judy has worked tirelessly, setting remarkably high standards. An eagle-eye editor, Judy has expanded the contents and enhanced the quality of the Voter. She solicits material, sends deadline reminders, edits, and publishes on time.

Judy's keen organizational skills are equally evident in the League office, as our corps of some 20 volunteers will confirm. Judy trains each new volunteer and emails everyone weekly reminders of work schedules and timely office duties. Office instructional materials and notes abound, supplies are well stocked, and machines are in working order. Judy has always been on call for questions that volunteers encounter.

You've seen Judy busily involved in nearly every LWVAA event. Because she "loves to learn stuff," she has joined almost all the LWVAA study committees. She is equally committed to voter service, and has helped with voter registration and candidate forums each year. She was co-chair of volunteers for the LWVTX convention in Austin.

Judy has been a League member since 1976, when she joined the LWV Chemung County, in Elmira, NY. She immediately joined the Recycling Committee. A year later, she began a three-year stint as president. Judy says the skills she learned in the League prepared her for a career in college administration. She was also a high school math teacher for six years.

Judy is moving this month to the Pittsburgh, PA, area to be closer to her grandchildren. We extend our special thanks to Judy for her friendship, dedication, and contributions to the LWVAA. She will always be a part of our League family.

Capitol Corps Participants Continue Stellar Performance

Women Voters of Texas positions to the Texas Legislature.
The numbers, as of April 24
Testified 50 times in Legislative Committee public hearings;
Registered support or opposition on 98 bills; and
Delivered 33 personalized letters to Legislators, as well as invitations to the online voter registration briefing to each member's office.

Ramos of Corpus Christi found evidence of racial discrimination in the crafting of Texas' Voter ID Law and ruled the law unconstitutional.

The Texas Attorney General claimed the finding was wrong and appealed the ruling to the 5th Circuit Court of Appeals. He also successfully petitioned the Supreme Court for a temporary order to allow the law to stand for the 2014 elections.

CURRENT: On Tuesday, April 28th, a 5th Circuit of Appeals panel of 3 judges heard arguments from lawyers for the Texas Attorney General's Office and for the lead plaintiffs, US Rep. Marc Veasy D-Ft. Worth and LULAC, and for the US Dept. of Justice, Plaintiff. The Judges must decide if Judge Ramos was "clearly wrong" in her ruling. Each side is given 20 minutes to argue its case and the judges will ask questions. A ruling is expected in the coming months.

The judges hearing this case:
Chief Judge Carl Stewart (appointed by Bill Clinton), Judge Catherina Hayes (appointed by George W. Bush) and Judge Nanette Brown (appointed by Barack Obama).

FUTURE: Whichever way the decision, the case most surely will be appealed to the full 5th Circuit Court of Appeals (one of the most conservative in the nation) or directly to the Supreme Court.

Noteworthy: The plaintiff's argument is not whether Texas can have a voter ID law but that this law as written is unconstitutional, mainly because of the narrow restrictions on acceptable proofs of identity.

Volunteers needed to become Voter Deputy Registrars. VDRs help register eligible citizens to vote by distributing, reviewing, and accepting completed voter registration applications. This training must be repeated every two years. Starting January 1,
While the Corps supports all of the 29 LWV-TX issue areas, actions continued to be focused on the top four priority issues of:

- Education
- Water
- Voting Rights/Elections
- Reproductive Choice/Women’s Health

As mentioned in the April Voter, Chris and Barbara Frandsen and Jane McFarland have played key roles in presenting LWV-TX positions. LWV-AA President Carol Olewin joined the CC participants in testifying. In Carol’s two assignments she set Session records for latest testimony, both after midnight.

New Austin League member Brenda Koegler has assisted with testimony, as well as providing online voter registration issue research and outreach. New member Sara Groff has provided indispensable administrative assistance to the CC team by donating precious hours of time from home.

Other LWVAA members have responded to our calls for assistance whenever received: Julie Moore, Dianne Wheeler, and Delores Block from LWVAA, and Betsey Singleton of neighboring San Marcos.

Of course, Grace Chimene is the one picking up major responsibilities for delivering testimony and covering issues without issue chairs. Major among those issues are open carry, campus carry, and the Medicare gap.

As the month of April closes, online voter registration legislation, one of the LWV-TX priority pieces of legislation, is set for its first public hearing April 27th in the House Elections Committee. A great deal of advocacy on behalf of the OVR bills has been underway with our involvement. Other parties established a website to promote the subject. Facebook and Twitter accounts are underway to continue to spread the word about OVR legislation, with support from Cinde Weatherby and Grace Chimene. Austin’s ThinkVoting team played a role in establishing and maintaining the two social media enterprises. Jeff Cardenas and Jim Nelson of ThinkVoting went above and beyond the call in providing leadership and operations. Be sure to “like” the FB account here or follow @TexansforOVR on Twitter. Here is the Texans for Online Voter Registration website.

~ Cinde Weatherby, 2nd VP Community Relations, Capitol Corp Coordinator cindeweatherby@gmail.com

Action Requests

LWV-TX has distributed several Action Alerts to the full membership, some sent directly to members in stand-alone emails and others associated with the bi-weekly Legislative Newsletter. Please open those and consider taking action on those issues most important to you. Simply picking up the phone and registering your opinion to a staffer in your Legislators’ offices is a big help. The urgency for responding to alerts should increase in the last month of the 84th Legislature before it closes Sine Die June 1, 2015.

2015, all current VDRs and those wishing to become VDRs must get trained. Your term will be January 1, 2015 - December 31, 2016.

Citizens interested in becoming a VDR or renewing their eligibility may attend a one-hour training session held the first Tuesday of each month at 10:30 a.m., 12:30 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. Training is held at the Travis County Voter Registrar’s office located at 5501 Airport Blvd, Austin, TX 78751. Upcoming dates are Tues., May 5 and June 2.

Bruce Elfant, our Travis County Voter Registrar, is offering extra Volunteer Deputy Registrar (VDR) training the second Saturday of each month from 10:00AM - 11:30 am (usually ends at 11:15). The next sessions will be May 9 and June 13 at First Unitarian Universalist Church, 4700 Grover, Austin. Space is limited. Sign up at this link.

~ June Conway, Voter Registration Chair. june_cnwy@yahoo.com

Honors and Memorials

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

"Like" Our League on Facebook

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

1. Go to facebook.com and login to your existing account or create a new one.
Links to all of the Legislative Newsletters and Action Alerts are on the LWV-TX homepage. All detailed testimony provided this Session is also being posted, with regular updates. The link to the testimony action alerts is here:

~ Cinde Weatherby, 2nd VP Community Relations, Capitol Corp Coordinator  cindewhetherby@gmail.com

**Discussion Group: Local Issues at the City Level**

The Local Issues Discussion Group is having a great time and learning a lot. I invite you to come when you can, once a month, to join us as we talk about the issues of the day in Austin. For example, in April, we talked about the Decker Lake golf course, Austin Energy, the South Mopac proposed improvements, City ethical reforms, homestead exemptions, AISD equity study, Travis County’s future bond election and other issues of interest.

Everyone puts in their 2 cents if they choose and everybody becomes better informed. Most of these issues will be discussed for a while as things progress. We don’t try to solve the issues, just become better informed.

We will meet next on **Saturday, May 9th at 10:00 in the League office, 1011 West 31st St.** Our regular schedule is the 3rd Saturday in the month. Join us when you can.

~ Frances McIntyre, Advocacy Chair and Voter Guide Editor, mcintyre.frances@gmail.com  512-451-1551

**Volunteering for Office Corps**

LWVAA has an office on 31st Street just west of Lamar. We maintain a presence in the community by staffing it with volunteers daily from 11 am to 2 pm.

The work consists mainly of opening and handling the mail and donations, plus answering the phone. Occasionally we are asked assist with other clerical tasks for voter services and/or committee work for one or more LWVAA projects or studies.

Each volunteer takes one or more shifts each month (e.g. the 3 Wednesday or 4 Thursday). If you have 3 hours a month to volunteer with us, we’d be happy to have your help. Please contact Jo Reichler.

~Jo Reichler 3rd VP Organization joreichler@gmail.com  512-479-4003.

**Membership Report and Interest Survey**

**Member Interest Survey:**
If you are either a new member or a member who may have a bit of time to volunteer for the League (either regularly or occasionally), please complete this Member Interest Survey. This will help us identify your skills and interests. A few new members have filled this out already, but most of our members

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

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

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

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

**Follow Our League on Twitter**

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

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

2. Search for lwvatx in the search box at the top of the page.

3. On the left hand side of the page, under “People” click on our logo.

4. Click on the “follow” button and then you will be subscribed to the LWVAA page and get updates on any of our posts.

**Shop at Randalls and Support the League**

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

Click on this link for a document to complete and return to any
have not. We especially need to hear from all members who have a little time to help us. Thank you for doing this now.

New Members:
One more individual has joined our ranks as new League member: Anne Pericolas. A warm welcome to you, Anne. As a member of the Austin League, each of you is also a member of the national (LWVUS) and state (LWVTX) Leagues. See these links for an abundance of educational information.

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

Regular and Sustaining Memberships: Of your $60 in regular dues, $54 goes to the LWVTX and the LWVUS, and only $6 is left to support our Austin League. Paying at the sustaining level greatly benefits the Austin League because the extra money stays in Austin and supports our local League's activities.

Thank You, Sustaining Members:
Special thanks to this month’s sustaining members: Cecelia Burke, Julie and Jodie Moore, Pam Reed, Ed Silha household, and Barbara Werth. We are grateful for your additional financial support for our local League.

Thank You, Renewing Members: Many thanks to the following members who also renewed this month: Jan Williams and Carol Wood. We depend on your support and appreciate your renewals.

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

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<td>Regular Dues</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Contact me anytime with your League questions.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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