Calendar

All meetings and events are held at the League Conference Room, 1609 Shoal Creek Drive #202, Austin 78701, unless otherwise noted.

LWV-AA Board Meeting
Tuesday, May 7, 7:00 - 8:30 PM
Members welcome.

Pinot & Policy
Independent Ethics Commission: The Basics
Wednesday, May 15, 6:30 - 8:00 PM
Everyone Welcome.

LWV-AA Annual Business Meeting
Saturday, May 18, 10:00 AM - Noon
Trinity Methodist Church
4001 Speedway, Austin 78751
Members welcome.
RSVP: lwvaustin@lwvaustin.org

View our Calendar of Events at any time by visiting our website.
Independent Ethics Commission: The Basics

Join us at this month's Pinot & Policy to learn about the proposed Independent Ethics Commission in Austin. Learn about what led to the proposal, possible impacts of an IEC, and the research done by the League already. Everyone is welcome!

**May 15, 2019, 6:30 - 8:00 PM**
League of Women Voters Austin Area, 1609 Shoal Creek Blvd #202, Austin, TX 78701

On Saturday, May 4th, from 2 to 4 PM, Common Ground for Texans will host "A House Divided: How Do We Get the Political System We Want?", an audience-based deliberative forum, based on the work of the National Issues Forums Institute (NIFI.)

Ours will be one of many community conversations taking place across the country, exploring diverse perspectives about how we can revive our ability to work together on challenging issues, and what we should do to get the political system we want. Participants will form circles of 8-10, each with a trained volunteer moderator. The League of Women Voters Austin Area is a co-sponsor of this event!

**May 4, 2:00 - 4:00 PM**
Old Quarry Library, 7051 Village Center Drive, Austin, TX 78731

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President's Message

"It was the best of times, it was the worst of times, it was the age of wisdom, it was the age of foolishness, it was the epoch of belief, it was the epoch of incredulity, it was the season of light, it was the season of darkness, it was the spring of hope, it was the winter of despair." - Charles Dickens

As we close out our League year and embark on a new one, this quote reminds me of all the incredible outcomes we achieved, all the things left undone, all the amazing people leaving the board and all amazing people coming on board, all the people we didn't reach, all the knowledge we gained, how much there is left to learn. It is the spring of hope, but I do not believe it was a winter of despair. I know how easy it is to get bogged down by what's wrong, but find it more productive to focus on the positive.

I won't rehash all our accomplishments here again as I've done that throughout the year, but they are recapped in our **Annual Workbook** for you to read, preferably before our Annual Meeting on May 18th. I do want to take the time to recognize the special people leaving the board or other leadership positions:

- Cinde Weatherby, VP Voters Service, and immediate past president, and former VP Community Relations
- Gwen Santiago, Treasurer
- Brenda Koegler, Membership Director
- Mary Jane Burson, VP Community Relations
- Dixie Davis, Advocacy Director
- Ryann Collier, Communications/PR Director
- Karen Kelley, Volunteer Management Director
- Cindy Schaufenbuel, VOTER Newsletter Editor

It has been such a privilege to have served with these amazing women, and I am so glad many of them plan to still be actively involved. If you see them, please thank them for their dedication and service to LWV-AA.
As proud as I am of all that we have accomplished, I am equally excited for all we will achieve in the coming year. Ahead of us we have a move to a new office space, 100th birthday and Fall Kickoff, 2020 Primary Election, and the 2020 LWVTX Convention in Austin, to name just a few things to look forward to. I know we can count on your continued involvement and support to make this a great year!

I hope to see many of you at the Annual Meeting!

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**Elections Information**

Many municipalities and Independent School Districts (ISD) across Travis and William Counties are holding elections on Saturday, May 4th.

The *Voters Guide* is available online only for the May 4th local elections at [LWVAustin.org](http://LWVAustin.org) and [VOTE411.org](http://VOTE411.org). The races the *Voters Guide* covers are:

- Cedar Park - City Council
- Eanes ISD - Board of Trustees, Bond
- Lakeway - Mayor, City Council
- Georgetown - Mayor, City Council
- Georgetown ISD - Board of Trustees
- Hutto ISD - Board of Trustees, Bond
- Hutto - Mayor, City Council
- Leander - City Council
- Pflugerville ISD - Board of Trustees
- Round Rock - City Council
- Taylor - City Council
- Village of Briarcliff - Mayor, Aldermen
- Village of Webberville - Sales Tax Proposition

If you live in one of these areas, please make sure you vote! And don't forget to tell your family, friends, and neighbors to vote, too!

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**Volunteer Opportunities**

**Volunteer Management:**
While this role is currently a Board Director position, it could be changed to a lead/chair position if needed. It could also be split into two positions if needed, one focusing on working with volunteers and leaders to help them find the right role for them and one focusing on finding and implementing the right tools to manage this important role.

**Constant Contact committee:**
Constant Contact is the tool we use to send eBlasts to our members including our monthly newsletter. We have someone who is willing to do the back end maintenance of the database list, but we need one or more people who already know or who are willing to learn how to use Constant Contact communication formatting and templates.

Contact Joyce LeBombard for more information about these roles! [president@lwvaustin.org](mailto:president@lwvaustin.org)

For more volunteer opportunities, please go to [https://lwvaustin.org/volunteer-opportunities/](https://lwvaustin.org/volunteer-opportunities/)
Help us find a new home!

We must relocate our office before October 31, 2019

The office we sublease from Leadership Austin is now needed by them. We sincerely thank Leadership Austin for being wonderful landlords and for letting us sublease the office space and use of their conference rooms.

We use office space for our volunteer staff that run our back-office operations every weekday for a few hours, storage of our short-term records, and storage for supplies, materials and collateral for our many Voters Service, Programs, and Membership events. We use conference room space for board meetings, training, programs, and other committee meetings.

The current office space is really too small for all that we have. We would like to have an area of at least 250-300 sq. ft., plus the use of a large meeting space. While it doesn't have to be free, our budget is limited, and we would like to keep costs down.

If you have or know of an appropriate office space that is available or know of someone who does, we need to hear from you! Please contact Joyce LeBombard at president@lwvaustin.org.

LWVTX/LWVUS News

SUFRAGE CENTENNIAL: TEXAS WOMEN AND THE RIGHT TO VOTE

Join Celina Stewart, LWVUS Director of Advocacy and Litigation, on the evening of Friday, June 28th from 7:00-9:00 pm at the Bullock Museum. She is part of a panel that will explore the movement leading up to women's suffrage, provide some historical context for this era of Texas history, and highlight issues that still have continuing relevance today. This program will coincide with the opening of an exhibition in the Museum gallery exploring the history of women's suffrage.

To learn more and register for this free event, click here.

Join the Election Protection team!

If you'd like to volunteer to part of the Election Protection team to help voters at a polling place in your area, please sign up at this link: tinyurl.com/EP in May.

Those who have done Election Protection work before can take our Election Law refresher course, a 25-minute video, which you can find here: tinyurl.com/MayEPVideo. Those who have not can find the full training here: tinyurl.com/EPTrainingVideo.

If you have any questions, contact Emily Eby at emily@texascivilrightsproject.org.

Get Action Alerts from LWVTX!

To sign up to get LWVTX Action Alerts via email, click here. To read more about the latest LWVTX Action Alerts, view the website at https://my.lwv.org/texas/action-alerts.

Membership Report and Interest Survey
Welcome, New Members: Caitlyn Castillo, Sara Garcia, Mirna Gonzalez, Nancy Hill, Michelle Manning-Scott, Adrienne Matt, Amy Meredith, Minden Pletsch, Joan Yaffe.

Thank You, Sustaining Members: Nancy Bene, Elizabeth Cooper, Jean Frank, Karen Hayward, Aletha Huston, Jody Klopp, Kimberly Levinson, Michelle Manning-Scott, Amy Meredith, Kathryn Mettelka, Julie and Jodie Moore, Joanne Richards, Gwen and Joseph Santiago, Gail Sulak, Barbara Werth, Joan Yaffe.

Thank You, Renewing Members: Sandra Bone, Carol Ahlgren, Nancy Bessent, Sarah Carriker, Karen Darby, Louise Hoberman, Penelope Koo, Lynn League, Christopher Paton, Jo Reichler, Gail Rothe and Myron Hess, Emily Siegel, Dianne Wheeler, Paula Wiesner and Alan Ferguson, Janice and Wayne Williams.

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.lwvtexas.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: Cinde Weatherby, Dianne Wheeler, Erika C Crespo, Heidi Schoenberger-Cobert, Nancy Bene, Michelle Manning-Scott, Aletha Huston, Minden Pletsch, Mary Beth Foster

Voters Guide: Frances McIntyre

Voter Registration: Democratic Women of Wilco PAC

Memorial/Honorary: Sarah Garcia, in memory of Ismelda Garcia


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.

The League of Women Voters Austin Area thanks its generous Celebrating Democracy sponsors!
Honoring Democracy: John Philip Donisi, Sorrento’s Coffee, Texas Disposal Systems

Defending Democracy: Austin Firefighters Association PAC, Alamo Drafthouse Cinema, Global Printing Solutions

Making Democracy Work: Big Creative Productions

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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.

Join Our Mailing List!