Greetings!
Your membership will expire on . If this date is approaching or has passed, you can renew right now via PayPal on the League site here or mail your check to the office. [If you are current with your dues, please ignore this message.]

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LWVAA Calendar

**Tuesday October 11th,** 10:00 am to 7:00 pm. Voter Registration, Thundercloud Subs, 2801 South Lamar, Austin. Last day to register to vote,

**Sunday, October 23** Voters Guide published in *Austin American-Statesman*.

**Monday, October 24 through Friday, November 4** Early Voting begins.

**Monday, November 7, 6:30 pm.** Board Meeting, League Conference Room, 1011 W. 31st., Austin Members.

**Tuesday, November 8,** Election Day.

Back issues of the LWVAA Voter can be found at this link.
From the President

While Labor Day typically is considered the beginning of Election Season, ours is year-round. However, September 2016 was definitely a landmark month for action and public events! There are too many things going on for me to overview here, but look elsewhere in this newsletter for VP-Programs Lea Masiello’s great program on collaborations for getting out the vote; VP-Voters Service Jacklyn Williams’ student voter outreach; and Voter Registration Director June Conway out registering voters too often to count. Everyone is running in high gear! Here are a few that are also top of mind.

Voting Rights Event Kicks Off League Year
We kicked off our League year in a collaboration with three student organizations on the University of Texas Campus, hosting "Voting Rights in Texas and Beyond" at the LBJ School of Public Affairs. It was a wonderful opportunity to truly collaborate with the young men and women of the UT Law School’s American Constitution Society (ACS) and LBJ School's Feminist Policy Alliance and Public Affairs Alliance for Communities of Color. ACS was instrumental in arranging for the speakers; and the Feminist Policy Alliance hosted us at the School’s Bass Lecture Hall. It is invigorating to be alongside the next generation of voting heroes!

In an amazing stroke of luck, our speakers included two leaders in the challenge to the Texas Voter ID law, Chad Dunn, Chief Plaintiff’s Litigator, and Nancy Abudu, Director of Legal Operations for the Florida ACLU. The very next day, Mr. Dunn was active in court once more with a challenge to the way the Texas Secretary of State is promoting the Voter ID changes. These changes allow any registered Texas citizen to be able to vote November 8th. We also heard from Cassandra Champion of the Texas Civil Rights Project, who is leading efforts on voter registration quality reform.

At the event, we made it possible for 51 new Volunteer Deputy Registrars to receive training and be deputized by Travis County Tax Assessor-Collector/Voter Registrar Bruce Elfant.

If you missed this delightful program, have no fear. Our amazing Webmaster/Film Producer Hal Jennings recorded it all. It's available on our YouTube Channel in four segments you can choose from. If you need a primer on what the Austin League does, check out that segment, or each of the three others that feature each of the three featured speakers: Nancy Abudu, Chad Dunn, and Cassandra Champion.

Thanks also go to our Co-Membership Chairs Judy Parken and Brenda Koegler for coordinating refreshments; to VP-Organization Jaci Collins for her usual nametag/registration; Voter Registration Director June Conway, who goes nowhere

Communications Update

Communicating much? You bet!

Be involved: We need the following:
a) photographer who can capture our major events,b) someone who can post our events to community calendars,c) someone to write a member profile for the VOTER. Please contact me if you can help at communications@LWVaustin.org

Facebook: We passed 900 "likes!" Cindy Schaufenbuel, our Facebook and Twitter manager, created Facebook pages for the candidates forums and the kick-off meeting. Each page was "boosted" to improve exposure. Webmaster Hal Jennings tracked the results, and the boosts worked! The more people we reach, the more services we can offer.

E-blasts: We’re respective of your inboxes, while knowing this is the most important election ever. You won't receive a blast unless it's worth your time to open it. E-blasts are your key to getting involved. Thanks to Marisela Salayandia and Leslie
these days without voter registration forms; and Communications Director Charlotte Slack and Social Media Coordinator Cindy Schaufenbuel for tremendous promotion of the event.

**Austin and State Leagues Promote New Voter ID Rules**

While there may be concern about whether or not the Texas Secretary of State is properly promoting the new Voter ID rules, LWV-TX and the Austin League immediately began circulating accurate and positive information as soon as announced. We led the way in quickly posting information on our social media, on our website, and by printing quantities of a trifold pamphlet called the "Handy Dandy Guide to Voting in the General Election Nov. 8th." The Handy Dandy is available in **English** and **Spanish**. It offers concise information on how to vote and register; when and where to vote; and what voters should take to the polling place. It also provides resources for any additional information a vote may need.

Our voting rights event also called attention to the new rules and we continue to speak about them to local groups upon request. If any member or group has questions, we have answers and copies of the Handy Dandy available upon request. Please pass on the web links to your friends, family, co-workers or any group! Less expense to us, and quicker access for them!

**League Candidate Forums Draw Crowds**

As we always do, the League is there when you need information on local candidates. Austin residents turned out in great number for the five City Council Forums, staged in coordination with the City of Austin Ethics Commission. Carol Eckelkamp did an outstanding organizational and hosting job in her new role as Candidate Forum Chair, supported by many League members who also offered voter registration and provided Voter ID information. If you missed the forums, recordings are available on our website. The most recent forum was September 29th, as Carol and her crew worked with the Austin Community College to stage a forum to question each of the ACC Board candidates.

**Pay Attention: Voters Guide is Almost Here!**

Editor Frances McIntyre and her question gang started work in early summer on the Nov. 8th Voters Guide. The production folks, including Jaci Collins and Donna Pauler have been hard the last month getting questions to the candidates and retrieving the answers. A new addition to the VG group is Barbara Werth who will coordinate distribution.

Look for the Guide to be in the **Austin American Statesman** on Sunday, October 24. It will also be available (in English and Spanish) as usual in area libraries and other locations. We need your assistance in making sure the Guide gets out into the neighborhoods. It is especially important we get Guides in the hands of first time voters. Many of those may be Spanish readers, and I request your recommendations on where copies can be placed. Even better, **can you volunteer to identify places**
and take responsibility for getting them there? If so, please call or text me directly at 512-560-1334.

~Cinde Weatherby, President
President@LWVAustin.org

Voter Registration
Poll Workers Needed

Voter Registration was in high gear during September. At many of our events, most attendees were already registered, but we gathered in lots of new voters. We also distributed hundreds of "Handy-Dandy" voter guides with up-to-date Voter ID info and our special bookmark listing helpful web sites to visit with up-to-date Voter ID information. This was an important service, since there is so much uncertainty about the changes in Voter ID requirements. Both are available, in English or Spanish, at the Austin Area LWV office (while supplies last) and the "Handy-Dandy" guide is available online to print yourself at www.lwvaustin.org.

September Voter Registration events:

- All 5 Candidate Forums
- Austin Council of PTAs Annual Meeting
- Craft Brew Fest
- Huston-Tillotson University
- Lifeworks
- Rosewood Courts Apartments
- Texas Gun Sense at Concert Across America
- National Federation of the Blind at Criss Cole Center on National Voter Registration Day
- Five Foundation Communities Meetings

These events netted more than 246 new and updated voters. Thanks to all the volunteers, LWV and partners, for a great job staffing the Voter Registration stations.

October Voter Registration Events:

- People's Community Clinic Grand Opening October 1st
- National Federation of the Blind at the Lighthouse October 1st
- "Any Baby Can" Young Mothers' Graduation Day October 5th
- Presidential Debate screening at Alamo Draft House on S. Lamar and at the Village on October 9
- Thundercloud Subs S. Lamar on Oct. 11th.

Volunteers are still needed for remaining October events. Contact June Conway at 512-834-9129 or at email below.

Poll Workers Needed for Election:
The Travis County Elections office needs early voting poll workers for the 12-day Early Voting Period October 24th through November 4th. You members and others who have been sitting on your duffs watching this election year roll by or want to be a part of it can get in the mix and get paid for it! Go to www.traviscountyclerk.org and click on "Join the Election Team" for info and an application. You can apply for part-time work and probably get an assignment close

Follow Our League on Twitter

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.

Donations for Voters Guide

The League's 2016 November General Election Voters Guide will be indispensable in this extraordinary election cycle. We are currently seeking funding for this latest edition and have a goal of raising $15,000. We are almost to our halfway mark!! We have raised $6,800 so far and are still seeking more.

Here are a few easy ways you can help us meet this goal:
to where you live. The more poll workers, the more Early Voting locations. JUST DO IT!

~ June Conway, 
Voter Registration Director
VoterRegistration@ LWVAustin.org

Volunteer Deputy Registration Training

Volunteers needed to become Volunteer 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. If you haven’t been trained since January 1, 2015, for the term January 1, 2015 - December 31, 2016, new training is required.

You may become a VDR or renew eligibility by attending a one-hour training session held the first Tuesday of each month at 10:30 am, 12:30 pm and 6:30 pm. Training is at the Travis County Voter Registrar’s office located at 5501 Airport Blvd, [map] Austin, TX 78751. Upcoming dates are Tuesdays, October 4 and November 8.

Bruce Elfant, our Travis County Voter Registrar, offers extra VDR training the second Saturday of each month from 10:00 - 11:30 am. (usually ends at 11:15 am). The next session will be October 15 at the First Unitarian Universalist Church, 4700 Grover, [map] Austin. Space is limited. Sign up at this link.

If you are interested in being a VDR in Williamson County, they accept the training offered in Travis County.

~ June Conway, 
Voter Registration Director
VoterRegistration@ LWVAustin.org

General Membership Meeting:
Making Connections

General Membership Meeting 1-3pm, October 2, 2016, 
El Buen Samaritano, 7000 Woodhue St. Austin

Making Connections: Partnering with Non-Profits to Improve Communities

We enjoyed a wonderful program on Sunday, October 2, at El Buen Samaritano's campus on Woodhue Drive. We heard from six speakers about how their non-profit organizations are helping their clients, and particularly, how they strive to see their clients empowered as part of our

~ Sara Groff
Development
development@lwvastin.org

Honors and Memorials

Maxine Barkan, Grace Chimene, Thomas Canby, Anne Shelby Clark, Chris Darmanin, Ruth Davis, Lenora DuBose, Leif Fredin, Glenda Goehrs, Vikki Goodwin, Joan Harman, Cindy Hintikka, Hal Jennings, Melissa Jones, Dr. Marti Kennedy, Carol King,
The organizations represented have established successful records at helping people get affordable housing, health care, quality food, information about healthy lifestyles, including exercise and incorporating fresh produce into their diets. Additionally, several organizations merge these elements with meeting clients' spiritual needs. It was an uplifting and inspiring gathering, and everyone left feeling more connected and ready to implement our "personal action plans" to help make Austin a stronger and more democratic community!

All of these organizations share the goal of empowering people to become part of the conversation of democracy. We can help through our work in voter registration and voter support, and through adding their messages to our own. The common messages is "we believe you matter; that your health matters, and that it is important that you vote." Voting education is key to building trust and respect with these groups, and as Laura Guerra-Cardus of the Children's Defense Fund, pointed out, it helps people become less vulnerable to campaign jargon.

Karen Green from El Buen Samaritano, a comprehensive healthcare, educational, nutritional support facility, told us about how they provide successful after-school tutoring programs with classes in English, healthcare, education about good nutrition, and much more, all connected to helping people meet their goals. We were amazed at how they have improved the lives of their clients over the past 30 years through their outreach efforts. Karen told us their food pantry alone reaches around 5,000 families.

Laura Guerra-Cardus passionately and clearly described the voter navigator project that is helping get more people registered and to the polls. She has been working closely with the League on this project that will really help us connect people with the voting process. She explained to us how nonprofits are now ready to become political and not afraid to venture into the territory of encouraging their clients, when they are eligible, to register and vote. She presented very convincing data and research to illustrate how civic participation builds healthy communities, how we must work to close the "voting gap" that leaves lower-income people out of the democratic process, and how strong nonprofit organizations can lead the way in reducing the general inequalities that have increased over the years.

Carmen Llanes Pulito from GAVA (Go Austin! Vamos! Austin!), also presented compelling information about how this organization has helped people have more access to healthy lifestyles, especially through the corner groceries, through improvements in local, neighborhood parks and playgrounds, and education, education, education! She explained how their activism and their belief that schools are the hub of wellness have changed lives of people in neighborhoods that have been left behind as Austin has been developed. GAVA works to increase the safety of neighborhood parks, for example, by improving lighting and availability of water fountains. GAVA strongly believes that it is important to lift up leadership in communities and help residents to communicate with elected officials to discuss their needs.

Sofia Barbato from Foundation Communities, discussed how they are empowering their residents to register and vote by beginning with the core belief of "you matter, and your vote matters," since many of their residents have not heard that they do matter. They have been working with the League to increase what is already a very

Jerry Levenson, Chalda Maloff, Lea Masielli, Nancy Neavel, Julie Nitsch, Carol Olewin, Phyllis Joan Owens, Kathay Parker, Anne Petricolas, Jo Reichler, Roye Reeves, Martha Rogers, Mary Sue Rose, Gwen Santiago, Shannon Sutherland, Cynthia Schaufenbuel, Lois Shaevel, Charlotte Slack, Kay Taebel, Judy’s Foundation, Dianne Wheeler, Sally Witliff, Carol Wood, and Ruth Yanoff made donations for the Education Fund for the Voters Guide.

Melissa Jones’ made a donation in honor of Magrit Orange. Dianne Wheeler made donation in honor of Frances McIntyre.

Shop at Randalls and Support the League

Randall's 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 Randall's store to join the Good Neighbor Program and help our League.

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
effective outreach program for their residents. Foundation Communities is a leader in establishing affordable housing for many people in Austin, and they continue to develop new communities through their own grant-writing and political action to support affordable housing. Sofia helped us understand how the residents in Foundation Communities represent a diversity of people, some of whom have come out of homelessness, are disabled, or are veterans. We learned about how every FC residential community provides complete support services, helping to break down the barriers that keep people from getting healthcare, from developing healthy lifestyles, and from voting.

She described how they provide robust case management and have strong relationships with organizations, such as Lone Star Circle of Care, to help clients get medical care quickly, rather than spend months on a waiting list. Sofia is planning an excursion-oriented approach to voting this year, with a "walking excursion" to vote at nearby early-voting stations, and a van trip called "Ballots and Burritos" that will take residents to pick up burritos after they vote. It was inspiring to learn of such creativity in meeting people where they "are at."

**Grace Chimene**, of the LWV Texas Board of Directors, has created many of the materials on the LWV-TX website for the Get Out the Vote! initiative. She discussed how we can use these materials to help improve our connections to those populations who are still underrepresented at the polls. Grace encouraged us to "like" the LWV-TX Facebook page and share their messages about voting, and in particular, the "Be a Texas Voter Campaign" section. We should also subscribe to the LWV-TX YouTube channel to increase its power. We can also work on getting public service announcements available on the website out to local radio stations in both English and Spanish.

**Imaad Khan** from Texas Impact, described how this faith-based organization connects with its constituents to improve their quality of life and their representation at the polls. They are also advocates for their clients, for example, helping recent refugees struggling with immigration issues. They believe that they can help communities of faith become empowered to advocate for themselves. Imaad told us about their current initiative, "Justice Sabbath," which asks faith communities to do something around healthcare issues during November 18-20 in order to change the conversation about healthcare.

**Upcoming Programs 2016 - 2017 Programs**

We will be taking part in the state study on independent citizen redistricting committees in 2017 as the materials become available. Also look for e-blasts about unit meetings on Ladders of Opportunity programs starting up again after the election. Finally, we intend to celebrate our all our efforts at registering, informing and getting out the vote after the election, so look for an announcement of a party!

General Membership Meeting 1-3pm, October 2, 2016,
El Buen Samaritano, 7000 Woodhue St. Austin

~Lea Masiello,
1st VP Programs
VP-Programs@LWVAustin.org

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**League Candidate Forums**

League Candidate Forums Educate and Empower Area Voters

Central Texas residents turned out in great numbers to see who wants to win leadership
positions for Austin City Council and Austin Community College Board of Trustee. There were five City Council Forums and one ACC Board of Trustee Forum.

**Carol Eckelkamp**, as Candidate Forum Chair, supported by The Voters Service Committee and many League members who volunteered their time, ensured that we fulfilled our mission to "educate and advocate".

Also offered at all six forums were voter registration opportunities, voter ID information and the opportunity to sign up for our email newsletters. If you missed the forums the recordings are on our website at [lwvaustin.org](http://lwvaustin.org). By reading the **Voters Guide** and watching these forums, the voters can make informed choices at the polls starting October 24, the first day of early voting. A great big thank you to the dozens of volunteers who helped our 2016 forums go smoothly without a hitch. Great job everyone!

~ Carol Eckelkamp
Candidate Forum Chair
Forums@LWVaustin.org

**LWV Integrity Never Quits**

With a television audience predicted to be larger than the Superbowl, the Presidential Debates have begun. Unlike today, the LWVUS used to have a primary role in organizing and conducting the presidential and vice-presidential debates. No more. In 1988, the League bowed out of the debates and explained in a press release that "The League has no intention of becoming an accessory to the hoodwinking of the American Public." What happened?

In 1976, the LWV sponsored three presidential debates between Jimmy Carter and Gerald Ford, and continued to sponsor debates every four years through the 1984 elections. However, after the first debates, the candidates and political parties began jockeying for changes in the format to make their candidates look good on television. These included changes such as not allowing follow-up questions, answering questions from a reporter instead of actually debating, and, in 1988, even providing a box for Dukakis to stand on to equalize height with Bush. The Reagan administration proposed handing over the presidential debates from the F.C.C. to the broadcasters. According to Jill Lepore, author of "The State of Debate" in The New Yorker (Sept 19, 2016), Dorothy Ridings (president of the LWVUS from 1982 through 1986) warned against that move. In her testimony in the Senate hearings, she stated that the profit-making broadcasters would make a travesty of the debates because they would agree to any terms the campaigns demanded: "We firmly believe that those who report the news should not make the news."

The League's departure from sponsoring the debates came after the Republican and Democratic National Committees founded the Commission on Presidential Debates to sponsor the first Bush-Dukakis (1988) debate and the League the second. The two campaigns delivered to both sponsors a Memorandum of Understanding dictating terms. The terms were too much for the League to swallow, and withdrew its sponsorship. LWVUS President Nancy Neuman issued the "League has no
intention of becoming an accessory to the hoodwinking of the American public” press release, adding that "It has become clear to us that the candidates' organizations aim to add debates to their list of campaign-trail charades devoid of substance, spontaneity and answers to tough questions."

A video of that announcement can be seen at: here.

Although the LWV no longer participates in the presidential and vice presidential debates, we can be proud of the stand the League took to maintain integrity. State and local Leagues host candidate forums for candidates running at all levels of government, and continue to reinforce the reality that the "League can't be bought."

~Diane Davis
Board Secretary
Secretary@LWVAustin.org

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 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:
Barbara and Dick Chiarello, Frances Gibich, Margaret Hester, Katherine Hoffman, Elaine Kieffer, Angela Philley, Ellen Strong, and Deborah Voss joined our ranks over the summer. 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 summer's sustaining members:
Robbie Ausley, Randy Chapman and Debra Danburg, Ruth Davis, Leif Fredin, Karen Haschke, Louise Hasty, Delpeha Jester, Joann Lovelace, Sheila Milner, Judy Moore, Belia Nichols, Judy and Ed Parken, Leslie Pool,
Margit and Arnold Orange, and Edward Silha 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 over the summer: Shay Blankenship, Carole Buckman, Jan de Vault, Cindy and Paul Hintikka, Vicki Kullberg, Nancy Neavel, Judi Nudelman, Patricia Oakes, Roye Reeves, Anne Roussos, Cindy and Brian Schaufenbuel, Paul Silver, Kay Taebel and Doris Warlick. 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.

Here is the schedule of dues:

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<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Individual</th>
<th>Household</th>
<th>Student</th>
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<td>Sustaining Dues</td>
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<td>Regular Dues</td>
<td>$ 60.00</td>
<td>$ 90.00</td>
<td>$ 20.00</td>
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Contact one of us anytime with your League questions.

~Judy Parken, Co-Membership Chair, Membership@LWV LWVAustin.org 512-502-0278.
~Brenda Koegler, Co-Membership Chair, Membership@LWV LWVAustin.org