Calendar

Sunday, September 24, 2017, 1:30 - 4 pm, 2017 LWV Austin Area Fall Kick-Off Program, King-Seabrook Chapel, Huston-Tillotson Campus, Parking in University lot on Chalmers Ave., north of 7th Street. (VDR Training, 4 - 5pm.)

Monday, October 2, 4:00 pm, Board Meeting, League Conference Room, 1609 Shoal Creek Blvd. Ste 202 Austin, TX 78701. Members welcome.

October 11, 7-9 pm: One Judge's Response to Truancy with an Innovative Approach to Support Families. Hosted by Charlotte Slack, Circle C (South).

October 11, 11:30-1, Position Update Committees Informational Lunch, Cafe Express.

October 14, 7-9 pm, The AISD Bond Proposition: Understanding the Purpose and the Plan. Austin Community College, Highland Business Campus, Room 201, 5970 Middle Fiskville Road.

October 18, 7-9 pm. One Judge's Response to Truancy with an Innovative Approach to Support Families. Hosted by Judy Parken (North).

October 24, 7-9 pm, Innovative Education at Austin Community College: Supporting Student Success, Transforming Learning, and Developing the Austin Area Workforce. Austin Community College, Highland Campus, meet in front of the Social Staircase, 6101 Airport Boulevard.

Politically Active But Nonpartisan?
Cinde Weatherby, President
Occasionally the League is asked how it can be politically active but still nonpartisan. We want all LWV-AA members and supporters to know the answer.

We observe our "prime directive" of strict nonpartisanship. We never, ever endorse or oppose a political candidate or political party. However, our mission is to educate ourselves and the public so that we are informed in our political activity on important issues.

As a LWV member, you each belong to the League at all three levels -- League of Women Voters of the US, League of Women Voters of Texas and League of Women Voters Austin Area. Each organizational level initiates studies on governance issues that lead to consensus positions and results in advocacy. LWV-AA addresses local issues. LWV-TX is responsible for forming positions addressed at the state legislature. LWVUS topics are national in scope.

We don't expect members to agree with each and every LWV-AA position. Though we do require that you not advocate in the name of the League against a LWV position. We certainly respect your personal beliefs if they disagree with a consensus position.

The cumulative positions at all three levels are available online. LWV-AA positions are stated in each Annual Meeting Workbook for review at the May annual business meeting. You will find those here. The statewide positions may be found here. The LWVUS positions may be found here. These positions are updated from time to time. In fact, LWV-AA's main study in 2017-18 is to revisit six issue areas and suggest updates. Those include: education and equal opportunities, affordable housing, healthcare, criminal justice, environmental issues and transportation.

Extra: There is a wonderful podcast - "What Would Alice Paul Do?" - by two League members. Check out their episode on the value of nonpartisanship in a polarizing world, and like the podcast Facebook page to get updates on episodes.

---

League News to Use
Cinde Weatherby, President

Come early and stay late when we officially kick off the League's year Sunday September 24th with a straight-forward discussion of Mayor Steve Adler's Task Force
Doors open at 1:30 pm for sign-in and mingling, with a 2 pm program start. Stay afterwards (4-5 pm) for Travis County Tax Assessor-Collector/Voter Registrar Bruce Elfant's Volunteer Deputy Registrar training and certification.

**PLEASE RSVP for the event at lwvAustin.org**, as we are expecting a big crowd in the King-Seabrook Chapel. Full event details are also posted on the website.

To get the most from the event, read through the [Task Force Report](#)! You will be glad you did.

**The memorable September 24th events just the beginning**. There are many upcoming programs on the fall horizon. Be sure to open our e-blasts and look at the Facebook posts to get details. The BEST way to stay abreast of daily news is to "like" our Facebook page and choose to receive notifications of posts. It doesn’t clutter your email in-box, and items are posted as soon as details are set on time, date, place.

October 14th, we will host an informative public forum on the proposed AISD School Bond Issue being considered on the November ballot. See Lea Masiello's Programs report below for details.

Quickly following will be a whole series of small and large sessions considering League position updates in six subject areas. These opportunities to learn and participate are coordinated by VP - Programs [Lea Masiello](#); mentored by Advocacy Director [Frances McIntyre](#); and supported by VP - Organization [Debbi Voss](#). New leaders stepping up the challenge of chairing the issue areas:

- Affordable Housing - [Amanda Boudreault](#)
- Education - [GiGi Bryant & Cynthia McCollum](#)
- Criminal Justice - [Lindsey Pappas](#)
- Environment - [Merinda Cutler](#)
- Healthcare - [Katie Goode](#)
- Transportation - [Britin Bostick](#)

**Firing on cylinders is our new expanded and fortified Voters Service Team** headed by VP [Joyce LeBombard](#). The newly named Register & Vote Group, co-chaired by Board member [JoAnn MacKenzie](#) and [Mollie Snow](#), is exploding the number of registration and voter education opportunities. Since June, Joyce's crew has
been extremely busy planning and executing major new and improved services for serving voters and encouraging election turnout. That includes our program in the high schools, supporting the Travis County annual YouthCam public service announcement contest, expanding our role in Naturalization programs, the new You're Never Too Old to Vote program, and even more. If you want to get dynamically involved in nonpartisan voter outreach you will enjoy spending your hours or more will this team.

Programs
Lea Masiello, VP Programs

Scheduled programs in October include:

October 11 and 18, North and South. One Judge's Response to Truancy with an Innovative Approach to Support Families.

October 11, 7-9 pm: Hosted by Charlotte Slack, Circle C (South).
October 18, 7-9 pm. Hosted by Judy Parken (North).
Justice of the Peace Susan Steeg will discuss her innovative program to decriminalize truancy by providing social services and support to families. These unit meetings will bring together topics relevant to education and criminal justice. The two committees working on position updates in these areas should find these meetings relevant to their research.

October 11, 11:30-1, Position Update Committees Informational Lunch, Cafe Express.

Chairs, committee members, and mentors/assistants are invited to lunch to discuss the process and purpose of position updates. All who have volunteered will receive more information on this meeting soon.

October 14, 7-9 pm, The AISD Bond Proposition: Understanding the Purpose and the Plan. Austin Community College, Highland Business Campus, Room 201, 5970 Middle Fiskville Road.

Before Early Voting begins, LWV-AA will sponsor a program on the AISD Bond proposal. We will ask speakers the following: (1) How is equity being addressed in this proposal? (2) How is the bond going to strengthen or weaken the AISD system? (3) How will finances of the bond proposal work and how will they affect citizens and taxpayers? (4) What are models for this proposal and what do they demonstrate? (5) How are demographic considerations being integrated into the proposal? (6) What is the history, rationale, and timeline for the proposal and its implementation? Additional programming and logistical details are forthcoming.

October 24, 7-9 pm, Innovative Education at Austin Community College: Supporting Student Success, Transforming Learning, and Developing the Austin Area Workforce. Austin Community College, Highland Campus, meet in front of the Social Staircase, 6101 Airport Boulevard.

The purpose of this meeting is to highlight the ways in which the ACC Highland Campus completely redesigned their infrastructure, pedagogy, mission, and personnel in order to improve the success rate of their students. The Math Accelerator aims to help students overcome one of the biggest stumbling blocks in their education, which is getting up to speed in basic math skills. The Accelerator is designed so that students work at their own pace through developing math skills, with instructors on hand to help them as needed. With 600 computer stations, it is the largest in the country.
Vive Griffith, faculty at ACC, and Lea Masiello are organizing this meeting. We will meet around the Social Staircase to hear introductory remarks, tour the Math Accelerator and the Learning Lab, and then have a forum, with speakers from these areas: ACC administration; the Math Accelerator; ACC Students, representing the adult population seeking to gain an associate's degree in order to improve their socio-economic status; faculty from Free Minds; and faculty from the Biosciences Incubator.

There are ALWAYS opportunities to get involved. Please contact Lea Masiello (leamasiello@gmail.com) for more information on volunteer opportunities, or questions regarding upcoming programs.

---

**Voters Service**

Joyce LeBombard, VP Voters Service

LWV-AA applied for a grant from LWV-TX to assist in the mitigation of the impact of Texas voter photo ID laws. Together with GO! Austin/iVAMOS! Austin (GAVA) and Austin Interfaith, we aim to understand and educate others on voter photo ID issues, including obstacles to obtaining one, and to provide communities with low election turnouts voter photo ID information. Please contact JoAnn McKenzie (voterRegistration@lwvaustin.org) to volunteer.

The **First Vote!** program is underway and is currently seeking volunteers to inform and register students. We are refining program materials and making connections with schools. Volunteer opportunities include:

- Meet with student focus groups to get feedback
- Become a program presenter
- Build and own a relationship with a school
- Create content for Travis County Voter Registration and the LWV-AA websites
- Schedule and deliver the First Vote! program in schools!

Contact Joyce LeBombard (VP-votersService@lwvaustin.org) for more information.

The **YouthCam Student Public Service Announcement Contest** is designed to promote voter registration and voter turnout, especially among young voters. The contest is open to middle and high school students who create public service announcements aimed at their peers.

Students create 60-second, 30-second, or 15-second PSAs in either English or Spanish. There are prizes for the each categories! The contest runs now until Monday, November 6 at 5PM. Visit Travis County’s website for more information and to view contest rules.
The **Voters Publications Committee**, led by Elizabeth Swaminathan, is developing and updating voter materials, including:

- New bookmarks with important election dates and links for voter information
- LWV-AA Membership Join Us brochures with local league information, how to joining online, and a new way to signup to receive LWV-AA information using your cell phone
- Flyers to encourage using the new system by texting VOTER to 42828

Attending an event on behalf of the League? Members can pick up these materials from the LWV-AA office to distribute at the event.

---

**What has LWV-AA Advocated for Recently?**

Francis McIntyre, Director of Advocacy

We have had two really good results from our advocacy in recent months.

The first was the acceptance of our review of the first draft of CodeNext by the City Code Dept. Our suggestions were mainly about ensuring transparency and including the public in the decision-making process. The CodeNext department said it will address those items in the second draft, due on September 15th. We will review the second draft closely to see how remarks were used.

The second was our advocacy on the goals for Austin Energy. The LWV-AA Board discussed the recommendations to Council from a very diverse group called the Austin Energy Resource Planning Working Group, and we were pleased with their recommendations (Austin Energy resource, Generation and Climate Protection Plan).

That plan maintained the existing affordability (not to increase rates more than 2% per year). It raised goals from 55% to 65% on renewable energy by 2027, increasing the speed with which two Decker natural gas units are closed and beginning to retire the Fayette Power plant, among other suggestions.

The Council listened and their final decision was similar to our suggestions. I received the following comment from Council Person Leslie Pool (Dist. 7):

"Frances, my thanks to you and, by extension, the League. The vote was very strong and did, indeed, reflect the values our community holds dear. Thank you for being such a steadfast part of our work."

Best, Leslie

I think it is impressive that our League has been influential in the making of a land use code (since it is once every 30 years), and we have helped set the goals for Austin Energy for the coming years.

Future advocacy will include more on CodeNext. The third and final draft should be available November 28th, then it will be reviewed by the Land Development Code Advisory Group which will make recommendations to Council. The Council is scheduled to begin review on February 8, 18.
LWV-AA at The Unity Rally for Equality
Mollie Snow, Co-Chair of Register & Vote Committee

LWV-AA took to the Texas State Capitol steps to join those who spoke out on behalf of DACA and families, as well as equal treatment in voting and legislation. League volunteers worked the crowd with our new sashes. The sashes generated a lot of attention and provided an easy, less intrusive way to interact with The Unity Rally participants. We were interviewed and had our photos taken by KXAN, the Austin-American Statesman and the Daily Texan, and, more importantly, we registered 8 new voters.

Cindy Hintikka talking about LWV-AA education and election information to a social work master degree student.

Janis Snow, new VDR, registering her first couple to vote. She shook their hand and asked them to promise to VOTE.

At the League of Women Voter table, I told this new Texas citizen about the League and our kick off on September 24.
Mollie Snow and Joyce Jackson with JOLT member Amenity who was one of several bilingual JOLT VDRs helping register attendees.

LWV-AA at work and collaborating with a bilingual JOLT VDR.

Katherine Hoffman (not pictured), also a LWV-AA VDR worked tirelessly after a busy week. Thanks Katherine!

---

**Membership Report and Interest Survey**

Brenda Koegler, Membership Director

Welcome New Members! Hope you have had the chance to attend one of our new member monthly coffees. We hold new member coffees to serve as a mini-orientation to help them get involved as soon as possible. If you have not had a chance to attend one or would like another opportunity to learn more about the League, please let me know. And a special thank you to this month's Renewing and Sustaining members! We are grateful to Sustaining Members for their additional financial support for our local League.

**Welcome, New Members:**
Lorelei Batislaong, Lindsay Calvert and David Macauley, Alysha Haggerton, Diane Hayes, J Emil Hunziker, Stacy Keese, Kathy Lindauer, Althea Logan (household), Catherine McAnarney, Charlotte Moore, Toni Rayner, Joan Reames, Beth Schrader, Anita Stuckey, and Courtney Szigetvari

**Thank You, Sustaining Members:**
Robbie Ausley, Kate and Tom Canby, Ruth Davis, Karen Haschke, Diane Hayes, Joan and David Hilgers, J Emil Hunziker, Brenda and Dan Koegler, Sheila Milner, Judy Moore, Beth Schrader, Mollie Snow, Laura Yeager

**Thank You, Renewing Members:**
Toye Collins, Marjorie Loehlin, Paul Silver, Polly Street, Mariel Stotts

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.
Member Interest Survey: If you have time to volunteer for the League (either regularly or occasionally), please complete this Member Interest Survey. This information will help us identify your skills and interests, and 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:
Randeen Torvk Ragan
Lorelei Batistaong
Austin Community Foundation
William & Susan Reid
Janis Pinelli
David King
McGray & McGray Land Surveyors, Inc.
James Jack

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.

---

Board of Directors

Cinde Weatherby
President

Lea Masiello
VP Programs
Mary Jane Burson
VP Community Relations
Debbi Voss
VP Organization
Joyce LeBombard
VP Voters Service

Gina McCool
Secretary
Gwen Santiago
Treasurer
Brenda Koegler
Membership
Frances McIntyre
Advocacy & Voters Guide Editor

Cindy Schaufenbuel
Communications
JoAnn McKenzie
Voter Registration
Chrissy Nanton
VOTER Editor
Melissa Crijns
Development

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.
League of Women Voters of the Austin Area
1609 Shoal Creek Blvd. Ste 202
Austin, TX 78701
(512) 451-6710
lwvaustin@lwvaustin.org

How to Follow the League on Social Media