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- 2018 State of the City Dinner & Auction with Travis County Sherriff Sally Hernandez

Calendar

February 5th
- LWV-AA Board Meeting
  7PM at the League Conference Room #202

February 19th
- Primary Voter Registration Deadline

February 20th
- Kendra Scott Jewelry Party
  6-8PM at 3800 N. Lamar Blvd, Ste. 140, Austin, TX 78756
  % of sales benefit LWV-AA

Contact Us
1609 Shoal Creek Blvd, #202, Austin, 78701
512-451-6710
www.lwvaustin.org
lwvaustin@lwvaustin.org

Same Nonpartisan Comprehensive Voters Guide - Different Distribution Method

If you are reading this newsletter, you already know you can depend on educating yourself about candidates for all of the contested positions you will vote on in Travis, Williamson or Bastrop Counties. If you have depended on seeing it show up in your Austin American-Statesman the Sunday before Early Voting begins (Feb. 20th this year), read on...

With ownership of the newspaper changing, the Statesman was unable to lay out, print and circulate the Voters Guide. Fear not, you have multiple ways to be the informed voter. We will not let you down - although we do need your donations to cover printing and distribution previously provided at no charge, and the translation cost. Please support us!

Guides will be available in printed format in all libraries across the three counties. They will also be in other locations that you can find on a list prominently posted on our website. Distribution is set to begin February 15th.

We know many voters prefer to receive information online - and the entire Guide (in both English and Spanish) can also be accessed on the website.

Wanting a Personalized Ballot of Only Those You Will Vote On?

Three steps to skip the candidates' information whom you won't be voting on:
1. Go to VOTE411.org.
2. Enter your residential address to receive candidate positions you will be deciding.
3. Search and print from the website.

Rather Do Candidate Research Online?

While the Texas Legislature hasn't given permission to take your mobile device into the voting booth yet, you can use your device to study the candidates on your phone or tablet. Civic Technology Foundation, a Texas nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization, is working with us to provide LWV-TX and LWV-AA Voters Guides using their ThinkVoting technology. It is available for Apple and Android download and will be operational shortly before early voting.

What’s the Cost To Be an Informed Voter?

First and foremost, there is a very high cost for being an uninformed voter - or not voting at all. Voting for someone you know nothing about can have an undesired outcome. If you don’t vote - you let someone else decide. Just like voting, there is no charge for the LWV-AA Voters Guide, whether printed, online or in the app.

We make the Voters Guide available at no cost, but we can only continue to do so with your support. A huge League thank you to those who have already come forward with
donations! CAMIBAart Gallery owner Troy Campa hosted a voter registration and fundraising event benefitting us January 27th. It featured Zoe Shulman's "The Allegory of Good and Bad Government" exhibition, still open through February 10th.

We are still in dire need of additional donations to cover our greatly increased costs of printing and production. Please hit that red donate button or mail in your checks to us at 1609 Shoal Creek Blvd., #202, Austin, TX 78701.

Fun, Food and Support Go Hand in Hand
Remember - you can enjoy the evening of March 7th at our 26th Annual State of the City Dinner and support the Voters Guide at the same time. Live and Silent Auction items directly benefit the Guide's translation and printing. Travis County Sheriff Sally Hernandez is our featured speaker.

The ever-vivacious and entertaining auctioneer Mary Gordon Spence will be helping you find an interesting experience or treasure. You will find those at the silent auction table too - from a beekeeping tour to a special neighborhood walk with Austin's favorite historian Michael Barnes - and all sorts of other great items or experiences. Most importantly you will share an evening with people who care about our Democracy and our community.

Support the Guide and our other voter publications by reserving your ticket, or becoming a sponsor today!

Most Important News to Use: March 6th Primary
The March 6th 2018 Primary is one of the more important elections in years. Be an informed Austin Area Voter! Don't forget - early voting begins February 20th and runs through March 2nd.

If you are reading this before February 5th, you can still register or update your registration because of a change of address or name change.

If you want to vote by mail, your application to receive a mail-in ballot must be received by the County office by February 23rd and you must return the voted ballot in the mail in time to be in the office by March 6th. Effective January 1, 2018, if you fax or email your request for a ballot, the county has to receive the original in the mail within four days of your faxing or emailing. [What the Legislature gives, they also take away!] Hint: Just mail it and forget about faxing or emailing.

Volunteer Opportunities: First Vote Chair/Co-Chair
Do you have a passion for empowering the voters of tomorrow?

An effective youth civic engagement and voter registration program requires a lot of planning and dedicated, as well as passionate, volunteers. We need a dedicated passionate person(s) to lead our youth voter registration program called First Vote!

The First Vote! Chair/Co-chairs role will:
- Recruit, train and schedule volunteers
- Work with Travis County Voter Registration and other voter efforts on program content and delivery
Our Mission
To encourage the informed and active participation of citizens in government and influence public policy through education and advocacy.

Empowering Voters.
Defending Democracy.

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- Educate school administration about the program
- Analyze and report on program results to the board
- Identify areas to improve

For information on First Vote! Visit the LVW-AA website.

Want to help in other ways? We want to hear from you too! You can schedule schools, present the program, assist with registration and activities and more!

Contact Joyce LeBombard at VP-votersService@LWVAustin.org or 512-585-4090.

2018-2019 LVW-AA Board Members
The nominating committee has met (yes, already!), and we warmly welcome any and all members who are interested in serving on the LVW-AA Board to self-nominate or suggest other members. New members are equally welcome on the board as those who have enjoyed LVW-AA work for a number of years. The board is strengthened by members with a wide variety of backgrounds, experiences, talents, and knowledge. If you aren’t sure where you’d like to serve, or if you have questions about specific positions, please contact any of the nominating committee members below.

Defending our democracy by empowering voters has never been more important. We look forward to hearing from you.

Committee Chair, Charlotte Slack  cbs200@gmail.com
Mary Cullinane  mculli@sbcglobal.net
Gina McCool  gcmcco@gmail.com
Jane McFarland  ajanemc@gmail.com
Carol Todzia  ctodzia@austin.rr.com

2018 State of the City Dinner and Auction
Elizabeth Cooper and Angela Koegler, Special Events Co-Chairs

The EVENT of the year is rapidly approaching. The 26th Annual State of the City dinner is on March 7, 2018, at 6:30 p.m. at the DoubleTree by Hilton Austin Hotel. Join us to hear our featured speaker, Travis County Sheriff Sally Hernandez, live music and entertainment, dinner, a cash bar, and both LIVE and SILENT auctions. Ticket prices are $100 for members and $125 for nonmembers. The deadline to purchase tickets is February 28th. Purchase your tickets now!

In addition to attending the dinner, please consider donating to the silent and live auctions or asking your contacts for sponsorship.

Silent and Live Auctions  → Click here to help. Here are some ideas for donations.
- Gift certificates from your favorite restaurant or spas
- Premium tickets to UT sporting events
- Weekend getaway at vacation condo
- Lunch with a community leader, local celebrity, or author
- Wine tasting or cooking class package
We Believe...

- In the power of women to create a more perfect democracy.
- In representative government and in the individual liberties established in the Constitution of the United States.
- That democratic government depends upon the informed and active participation of its citizens and requires that governmental bodies protect the citizen’s right to know by giving adequate notice of proposed actions, holding open meetings and making public records accessible.
- That the right to vote of every citizen should be protected; that every person should have access to free public education that provides equal opportunity for all; and, that no person or group should suffer legal, economic or administrative discrimination.
- That efficient and economical government requires competent personnel, the clear assignment of responsibility, adequate financing and coordination among the different agencies and levels of government.

Sponsorship ← Click here to help.

- Making Democracy Work - $5,000
- Advancing Democracy - $2,500
- Celebrating Democracy - $1,000
- Honoring Democracy - $500
- Friend of Democracy** - $250

It is sure to be a night for food, fun, fundraising and honors. See you there!

**Sponsor the dinner as a Friend of Democracy and receive two tickets along with special recognition at the event.

Kendra Scott Jewelry Fundraiser on President's Day!

February 19th 6-9PM – 3800 North Lamar Blvd, Suite 140, 7756

Do you enjoy jewelry, drinks and treats, and the company of other League members? The State of the City planning committee invites you to enjoy Sips, Treats and Jewels at Kendra Scott. LWV-AA will receive 20% of the proceeds from the sales during the party.

Please RSVP at SOCdinner@lwvaustin.org by February 15, 2018.

Voter’s Guide Available for Primary Election

Frances McIntyre, Director of Advocacy

The Voters Guide for the March 6, 2018 Primary election will be available before early voting begins February 20th. It will be online at lwvaustin.org, on VOTE411.org, and in print. The printed copies will be available at your local library, the LWV-AA office at 1609 Shoal Creek Blvd. Ste 202, and other places listed on our web page. The Guide data will also be available on The VotingApp-REPRESENT!TX, available on Apple and Android mobile platforms.

Since the Voters Guide will not be printed in the Austin-American Statesman, we could use some help getting the printed copies distributed. If you would like to help distribute Voter Guides, please contact Karen Kelley at kkelley@digitalaustin.com. This is such an important election and we want an informed electorate. LWV-AA hopes to spread the Voters Guide as widely as possible in Travis, Williamson and Bastrop Counties.

Voters Service: Do great work. Set Records. Join us!

Joyce LeBombard, VP Voters Service

Call for Volunteers!

There are many exciting Voters Service volunteer opportunities. I invite you to check them out on the new Membership/Volunteer Bulletin Board on the LWV-AA website. We sure could use your help to make 2018 our most successful year. For more information on how you can make a difference, please contact me at VP-votersService@lwvaustin.org or 512-585-4090 (call/text).

Karen Kelley is our new Voters Guide Distribution Coordinator and also a new member who answered our call for volunteers! She joined the League one day and was in a meeting about Voters Guide distribution the next. Karen immediately stepped up to help lead this critical
New Members
Laura Avila
Kathy Bearden
Tina Brackins
Dawn Capra
Jane Capron
Aida Cerda-Prazak
Terry Cook
Amparo Diaz
Karen Eikner
Lizza Harrison,
Robena Jackson
Heidi Kalla
Karen Kelley
Jennifer McSwain
Maria Milner
Nora Muse
JoAnna Rollings

effort. She, Mary Cullinane and the entire Voters Guide Distribution Committee are doing a great job in a very short period of time. Welcome and Thank You Karen!

Voter Publications
This month we revamped our Handy Dandy Guide and bookmark with information for 2018. We also improved our Spanish version. Thank you Anjanette Gautier, Elsa Reyes, and Maria Milner for the translations!

We gave away 1,500 bookmarks in just two weeks! They are very popular! And I expect the new Handy Dandy Guide will be just as popular. It has all the same information as our bookmark and more.

Register & Vote
The Register & Vote (R&V) Committee sets records! In January they did over 25 events and registered over 489 voters in both Travis and Williamson Counties!!! Let’s give a big round of applause and our thanks for a job well done to JoAnn McKenzie, Mollie Snow, Carol King, Cindy Hintikka and all of you who have signed up and showed up to be Volunteer Deputy Registrars (VDRs) at our events.

This month we participated in a Civic Engagement Workshop hosted by Travis County Voter Registration for Amhiga Hispana organization. The panel discussion involved what it means to be a VDR, the importance of voting and voter education. League member and Audit Committee Chair Elsa Reyes did an exceptional job in discussing our Voters Guide and other League materials published in both Spanish and English.

All of our R&V events are important and photos are posted on our LWV Austin website.

Programs: Transportation, Education, Affordable Housing & Health Care
Lea Masiello, VP Programs and Mary Cullinane, Program Director

If you are concerned about issues related to transportation, education, affordable housing, or health care, participating in one of four committees reviewing these policy issues is a good way to become involved in the League and a good way to get acquainted with other members.

Just to highlight one committee... One group is in the process of reviewing the LWV-AA position on Transportation. As part of their effort, they are looking at an important voter choice - bonds.

As Committee Chair, Britin Bostick says, "If you don't think transportation bonds are important to you, here's why they matter: $482 million (a half billion!) was approved in the City of Austin 2016 Mobility Bond election. The Mobility Bond Corridor Program provides for improvements to several major roadways that affect our overall transportation network. The Program involves development, design, and construction of upgrades along key corridors that enhance mobility, safety, and connectivity for all users-whether they drive, bike, walk, or take transit. The program has a large community input aspect, so if you would like to weigh in on these important mobility plans, you have many opportunities to do so!" Participating on Britin's (bbostick@gmail.com) committee is an important way to make the League's voice heard as well.
The next meeting of the Healthcare Committee is scheduled for Saturday, February 3rd at noon in the League office at 1609 Shoal Creek, Suite 202. All interested persons are welcome. The Affordable Housing Committee has some exciting ideas for educational meetings related to housing in Austin and they will be sharing those with everyone soon.

## Congress Must Pass a Clean DREAM Act

*Frances McIntyre, Director of Advocacy*

We are appalled and disgusted by President Trump's racist statement made during a bipartisan meeting about immigration. Language and ideals like this have no place in our society, and certainly not in our White House.

This administration has done little but implement policies that endorse discrimination against immigrants and communities of color. As a country of immigrants, we are made stronger by our diversity. Crude and bigoted slurs emerging from the Oval Office are shameful.

This, now denied, comment from President Trump occurred during a meeting around a bipartisan compromise to extend protections on the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program. The League of Women Voters urges our leaders to pass a clean DREAM Act to protect, not turn away, the 800,000 young people who were brought to the United States as children.

Stand with the League and contact your senators and representatives.

Reprinted from *Austin American-Statesman*

## 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 you 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:**

Laura Avila, Kathy Bearden, Tina Brackins, Dawn Capra, Jane Capron, Aida Cerda-Prazak, Terry Cook, Amparo Diaz, Karen Eikner, Lizza Harrison, Robena Jackson, Heidi Kalla, Karen Kelley, Jennifer McSwain, Maria Milner, Nora Muse, JoAnna Rollings

**Thank You, Sustaining Members:**

Marion Alsup, Jane Capron, Anne Clark, Terry Cook, Melissa Crijns, Robyn and Richard Diaz, Carol Eckelkamp, Leif and Janet Fredin, Frances Gibich, Lizza Harrison, Joyce Jackson, Ethel Kutac, Jennifer Loeblin, Gina McCool, Miriam Mora, Donna Pauler, Diane Radin, Susan and William Reid, Stephanie Sheppard, Ann Teich
Thank You, Renewing Members:
Mary Ann Baker, Pamela Bixby, Pam Craig, Chantal Eldridge, Mary and Bill Finch, Alice Hammer, Louisa Hoberman, Ruth Koenig, Cynthia McCollum, Catherine McHorse, Hugh M. Moore, Nancy Murphy, Kendall Pace, Elsa Reyes, Nancy Rowland, Eleanor Sellstrom, Susan Shelton, Charlotte Slack, Kay Taebel

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!
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.

First Vote Programs: Chaparral Star Academy & Crockett High School
We held two First Vote! programs this month:
- Chaparral Star Academy - We talked with roughly 30 students about the importance of voting and registered 9. It was good to see so many of them already registered. Several were looking forward to being old enough soon.
- Crockett High School - This was an intensive two day event covering 15 classrooms—and we registered 69 students.

Thank you to Maureen Mercado, Julie Campbell, Mollie Snow, and Sara Hunt for working these important events. I hope more of you will consider volunteering to work with the students. It is so important and fun!

We need help to make an Election Reminder Opt-In program. We ask students to sign a pledge card so we may send them election reminders. We collected 45 pledge cards already! What do we do with them now?! We create an Election Reminder Opt-In program. The students understand this program is not yet implemented and to expect the election reminders in the future. Don't let them down! Help us to make this happen!
PSA YouthCam Contest

The PSA YouthCam project was once again a big success. The students were phenomenal and I encourage you to watch their creative PSAs. There were 58 entries with 48 students winning prizes! The winning videos will be posted online at Travis County Voter Registration website and distributed to local TV stations. In the meantime you can still view ALL the videos [here](#).

60 Seconds Category
- 1st Place "Voting Rights" by Lanier Early College High School
- 2nd Place "Voting is Respect" by Austin High School
- 3rd Place "Vote for Those Who Can't" by Headwaters School Middle School
- Spanish 1st Place "You Betta Votar" by Lanier Early College High School

30 Seconds Category
- 1st Place "Watch" by Lanier Early College High School
- 2nd Place "I wont' Be" by Anderson High School
- 3rd Place "Button Pusher" by Austin High School
- 1st Place Spanish "No Dejas que el miedo gane" by Anderson High School
- 2nd Place Spanish "Speak for All of us who Can't" by Anderson High School
- 3rd Place Spanish "Quien Lo Hara" by Anderson High School

15 Seconds Category
- 1st Place "Tip the Scale" by Manor High School
- 2nd Place "Be Heard" by Lanier Early College High School
- 3rd Place "A Vote It is Us" by Anderson High School
- 1st Place Spanish "Tu tienes el Poder" by Manor High School

People’s Choice Award
- "Fill In the Blank" by Anderson High School.

Board of Directors

Cinde Weatherby
President

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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.