



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®  
OF TEXAS

# IMPACT REPORT 2017



2017 was a year of bold action for the League of Women Voters of Texas. Together, we took our traditions and lifted them to new levels. Together we made a difference.

As we faced the 170 days of the Texas legislature's 85th Session and Special Session, the Texas League advocacy team – board members, issue chairs, capitol corps members, staff, and YOU banded together to boldly make our voices heard like never before. You responded to our new and improved (and weekly!) Capitol Action Reports, our first-ever Capitol Action Minute advocacy videos, and 156 calls to action. Using new technology, we greatly improved the timeliness of our communications to keep up with the fast pace in the

legislature. We didn't shy away from controversial issues like the "bathroom" bill and onerous restrictions on abortion – and you responded. With our new technology, 920 League advocates communicated with their elected officials 4,733 times.

Lobby Days 2017 attracted an overflow crowd at the Capitol and League advocates across the state participated on our first-ever Facebook Live event! Advocates learned about our priority issues then visited or called their legislators.

By multiplying the League's reach, YOU made a difference! Without your emails, letters, calls, and visits we would not have had these successes!

We celebrate the "good bills" that passed in the areas of maternal health, child abuse and neglect, behavioral health and human trafficking! We also celebrate the "bad bills" that did not become law – ever present vouchers, the infamous "bathroom bill", and the absurd anti-tree ordinance bill! Taking bold action in new ways led to success!

Twice as many League leaders attended the 5 Regional Trainings this year. You could feel the excitement as leaders from established and newly forming Leagues gathered to discuss ways to capture the moment.

In July, LWV-Texas took bold action by joining with NAACP Texas and former LWV-Texas President RuthAnn Geer in filing a lawsuit to prevent the Texas Secretary of State from disclosing the personal information of Texas voters to the so-called Election "Integrity" Commission. In October, the court issued a Temporary Restraining Order preventing the release of the data for now. We are cautiously optimistic that we will succeed in keeping your most personal data from disclosure.

Leagues across the state "educated and agitated" in bold new ways to Get Out the Vote for the November 7 Texas Constitutional Amendment Election. In addition to the Voters Guide, LWV-TX student interns from UT, St. Edwards and Texas State produced videos (in English and Spanish!) about each of the Constitutional Amendments.

Together, we took our traditions and lifted them to new levels. The League is continuing its 98-year fight for Texas voters at the courthouse, at the capitol, and by educating Texans to make informed decisions at the ballot-box.

And together we made a difference. I want to thank you for your part in all of this! As a member or a supporter or a donor or all of the above, in League, you made a difference!

*Elaine M. Wiant*

President

## TEXAS LEAGUES

Amarillo  
Austin Area  
Bay Area  
Collin County  
Comal Area  
Corpus Christi  
Dallas  
Denton  
El Paso  
Grayson County  
Hays County  
Hill Country  
Houston Area  
Irving  
Lubbock County  
Marshall/Harrison County  
Midland  
Richardson  
San Antonio Area  
Tarrant County  
Tyler/Smith County  
Victoria  
Wichita Falls

## LEAGUES AT LARGE

Beaumont  
Cy-Fair  
Rio Grande Valley  
Waco Area

League of Women Voters of Texas

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Austin, TX 78701  
Phone 512.472.1100  
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www.lwvtexas.org

## Education & Advocacy

# By the Numbers

## EDUCATION

## VOTERS GUIDES

**32,000** Print Constitutional Amendment Voter Guides Distributed  
**25,300** English • **7,000** Spanish

**16,040** Distributed to Public Libraries with no local League  
**11,620** English • **4,420** Spanish

**14,800** Distributed by local Leagues  
**12,400** English • **2,400** Spanish

LWV-TX Constitutional Amendment Voters Guide was shared on social media by community organizations including: Educators Vote, Jolt, March On, Planned Parenthood of Texas, RevUp Texas, and VotoLatino.

LWV-TX Constitutional Amendment Voters was posted on community websites including: Harris County Elections Website, KUT Website, Travis County Elections website

## SOCIAL MEDIA & WEB STATS

**855,000** Website Visits

**815,000** Facebook Reach:

- **410,000** 85th Texas Legislature
- **60,000** Special Session
- **200,000** Constitutional Amendment Election

**500,000** Twitter Impressions

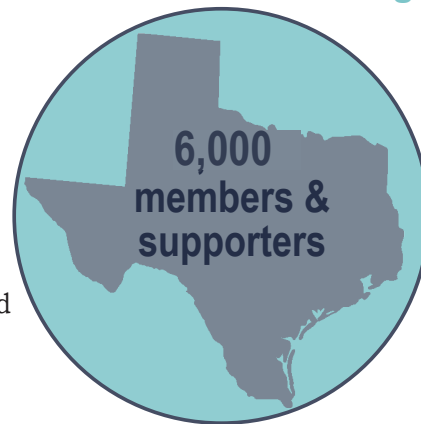
**55,000** Constitutional Amendment Videos Views



LWV-TX Vice President Grace Chimene welcomes League advocates to Lobby Days at the Capitol and around the state via Facebook Live.

## ADVOCACY

*Making Democracy Work®*  
in the 85<sup>th</sup> Texas Legislative Session



Grassroots  
Volunteer  
Organization

**organizing - agitating - educating**

## COMMUNICATE!



**156** Facebook Action Alerts!

**13** Monthly LWV-TX Action Newsletters

**16** Capitol Action Minute videos

## EDUCATE!



**20** Weekly Capitol Action Reports

**22** Issue blogs on LWV-TX Advocacy webpages

## ACTION!



Tracked bills in **26** issue areas

Pro & Con Action on **373** bills

**4,733** emails from constituents to legislators

**533** personal phone calls or visits with  
Texas Legislators

## TESTIFY!



**98** testimonies on **15** issues at committee  
meetings and hearings



# The League in Action!



- 1 LWV-TX sponsored the Women's March on Austin. Thousands of marchers visited the LWV-TX table.
- 2 LWV-Arlington hosted a very packed Regional Training for new and experienced League leaders.
- 3 LWV-TX President Elaine Wiant greets new student interns, Alex Montellano, Jovahanna Avila, and Maria Mendez.
- 4 LWV-Austin Area members register high school students.
- 5 LWV-Lubbock hosted an interactive program on water issues in West Texas.

## Minnie Fisher Cunningham Society



Your League work is an important part of your legacy! Include a gift to sustain the League in your will. Help the League Make Democracy Work in Texas forever!

Minnie Fisher Cunningham was the first Executive Secretary of the League of Women Voters. The Texas native was also the first female pharmacy student at the University of Texas and the first woman to run for the Texas Senate.

Members of the Minnie Fisher Cunningham Society continue the tradition of meeting the challenges of the future by naming the League in their wills for a bequest. These funds are invested and held as long-term reserves while interest, dividends, and growth in capital may be used to support the annual work of the League. you can leave the League a specific bequest, real estate or stocks, or name the League a beneficiary of a retirement account or life insurance policy.

What will be your legacy? For more information visit [www.plannedgiving.lwv.org](http://www.plannedgiving.lwv.org) or call the LWV-TX office at 512-472-1100.

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Elaine Wiant, President (Dallas)  
 Grace Chimene, Vice President (Austin Area)  
 Elizabeth Erkel, Vice President (Collin County)  
 Margaret (Peggy) Hill, Vice President (Bay Area)  
 Nancy Parra, Vice President (Houston Area)  
 Miriam Foshay, Treasurer (Dallas)  
 Marguerite Scott Johnson, Secretary (Hill Country)  
 Connie Born (Comal Area)  
 Amber Briggie (Denton)  
 Marlene Lobberecht (Houston Area/Cy-Fair)  
 Susan Morrison (Austin Area)  
 Carol Olewin (Austin Area)

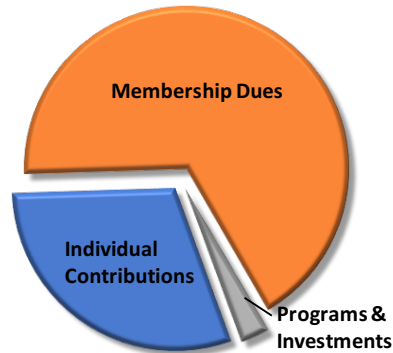
## Financials

# LWV Texas & LWV Texas Education Fund

## 2017 FINANCIAL ANALYSIS

LWV-TX is a 501 (c)(4) non-profit, non-partisan political organization that promotes participation in government and seeks to influence public policy through education and advocacy. The League neither supports nor opposes political parties or candidates. Neither LWV-TX dues nor contributions may be deducted as charitable donations.

### LWV-TX Income • \$41,722

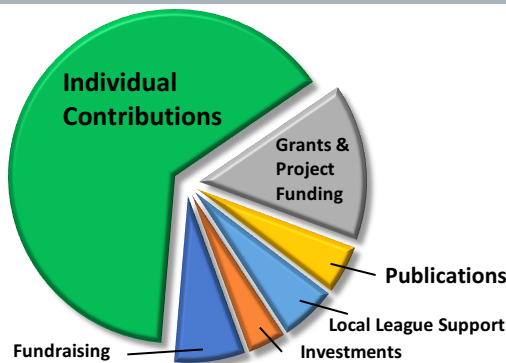


### LWV-TX Expenses • \$43,825



LWV-TEF is a 501 (c)(3) non-profit citizen education and research organization. Donations to LWV-TEF are tax deductible as charitable contributions.

### LWV-TEF Income • \$151,541



### LWV-TEF Expenses • \$110,876

