



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS® OF TEXAS



Presidents Report **February 2017**

There is so much excitement around our priority issues! Approximately 5 million women and men around the world gathered in over 900 cities to join in solidarity on women's rights, voting rights, and all human rights -- for us and our children and our grandchildren.

In keeping with our 97 year history of supporting women's rights, the League of Women Voters was a sponsor of the Women's March on Austin. In addition to the Austin march, Texans gathered in Abilene, Alpine, Amarillo, Beaumont, Brownsville, College Station, Corpus Christi, Dallas, Denton, Eagle Pass, El Paso, Fort Worth, Houston, Lubbock, Marfa, Midland, Nacogdoches, San Antonio, and Wichita Falls! Estimates of the crowd sizes range from a total Texas-wide of about 70,000 to over 175,000.

What a time for the League of Women Voters! The work of the League is clearly every bit as relevant today as it was 97 years ago. The Texas League priority issues are:

Elections and Voting Rights (including online voter registration and redistricting)
Women's Health, and
Public Education.

What better issues to reflect the concerns of the 5 million who turned out to make our voices heard? The Women's March was an historic day that brought attention to our important issues – and our work is stepping up accordingly. Women and men are contacting us from around Texas to get involved in the League.

Last week LWV-Texas held our Lobby Days in Austin. It is always energizing to see so many League members at the Capitol learning about our issues and then visiting their legislators to talk to them about our priorities and listen to their priorities. It was especially energizing this year as we had a capacity crowd. Just before the Lobby Days presentations, LWV-Texas held a Statewide Conference to consider the updated position on redistricting. The Statewide Conference approved the updated position on this very timely issue.

Look for the new ***Capitol Action*** newsletter for updates during the legislative session and take action! The League is a powerful force when we act together. Our legislators respect us and know that we represent more than our 5,000 members and supporters.

Let's keep the momentum going!

Elaine Wiant
President