



League of Women Voters of Texas

January 2017 Action News!

Advocacy Report

Grace Chimene, RN CPNP, *LWV-TX Vice President*

1. The League Issue Chairs are gearing up for the upcoming legislative session. Read about League issues and our positions here: http://www.lwvtexas.org/Priority_Issues.html
2. The League Advocacy program presents Lobby Days on Jan 30/31. On the 30th, come out to the Capitol and advocate! Learn about our four priorities for the session. On the morning of the 31st, we will meet up for a quick bite to eat before we find our way around the Capitol to meet with our legislators. [Sign up for Lobby Days HERE.](#)
3. The three priority issues for the 85th Legislative Session are:
 - Education
 - Voting Rights & Election Laws—with a focus on online voter registration
 - Women's Health

4. Ridiculous “Potty Legislation” at the Texas Capitol

Where Texans use the bathroom should not be a Texas legislative priority! Unfortunately, “Potty legislation” is a priority of Lieutenant Governor Dan Patrick. For political reasons, some folks at the Capitol want to get Texans riled up about where folks go “potty”. (Like Texans can’t figure out which “potty” to use for themselves.) Legislators are diligently trying to make laws to force a child or adult to use the “potty” based on the sex listed on their birth certificate or on their private body parts.

The Lieutenant Governor is picking on this small group of Texans. He is instilling fear and creating a problem where no problem exists. **The League will stand up to protect the civil rights of all people.** No Texan should have to show a birth certificate or prove what private body parts they were born with to use a public bathroom.

Support of gay, lesbian, bi-sexual, and transgender Texans is embedded in the League’s position on Equality of Opportunity. Based on this position the League fights to:

- Protect the civil rights of **all** people.
- Prohibit discrimination against lesbians and gay men in jobs, housing and public accommodations.
- Provide legislation against hate crimes.
- In 2010 we included providing the rights of heterosexual couple to of same gender couples.

[Click here to read the history of the League’s position on Equality of Opportunity.](#)



Leading the fight against “Potty Legislation” is LWV-TX Board Member, Amber Briggle, the [League’s Equality of Opportunity](#) Issue Chair. Among many other things, she is the amazing mom of a transgender child who fights like a “momma bear” for her child’s rights. Recently, her family was invited to visit the White House for movie night! Read about her adventure on Twitter: [@mrsbriggle](#). She actively advocates for LGBT rights with [Equality Texas](#).