

LWV-TX Convention 2010

Educating • Advocating • Celebrating!



April 23-25, 2010 • San Marcos, Texas



**A Tri-League Convention, hosted by
the following LWV-TX local Leagues:**

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San Marcos Area
Wimberley Valley MAL Unit

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

GENERAL INFORMATION:

Convention Floor Plan.....	1
General Information.....	2
Schedule of Events.....	3
Proposed Order of Business.....	4
Proposed Rules	7
Parliamentary Procedures Tips.....	9
Officers and Directors/Trustees.....	12
Issue Chairs.....	22
Nominating Committee Report.....	13
Proposed Bylaws Changes.....	11

BUDGET:

Explanation of Proposed Budgets for 2010-2012.....	15
LWV-TX/TEF Proposed Budget for 2010-2012.....	16
Local League Support for 2010-2012 Budget	17

PROGRAM:

Proposed LWV-TX 2010-2012 Program.....	18
--	----

LONG RANGE PLAN 2010-2015	21
--	----

ANNUAL REPORTS:

Advocacy Committee	22
Citizen Education Committee.....	25
Development & Marketing Committee	27
Fiscal Management & Administration Committee.....	29
Services to Local Leagues Committee.....	30

ADDITIONAL MATERIALS:

Official Delegate Count.....	31
Resolution Forms.....	32

Convention Committee Chair:

Joyce Robinson
jbrobinson@cableone.net

Local Convention Committee:

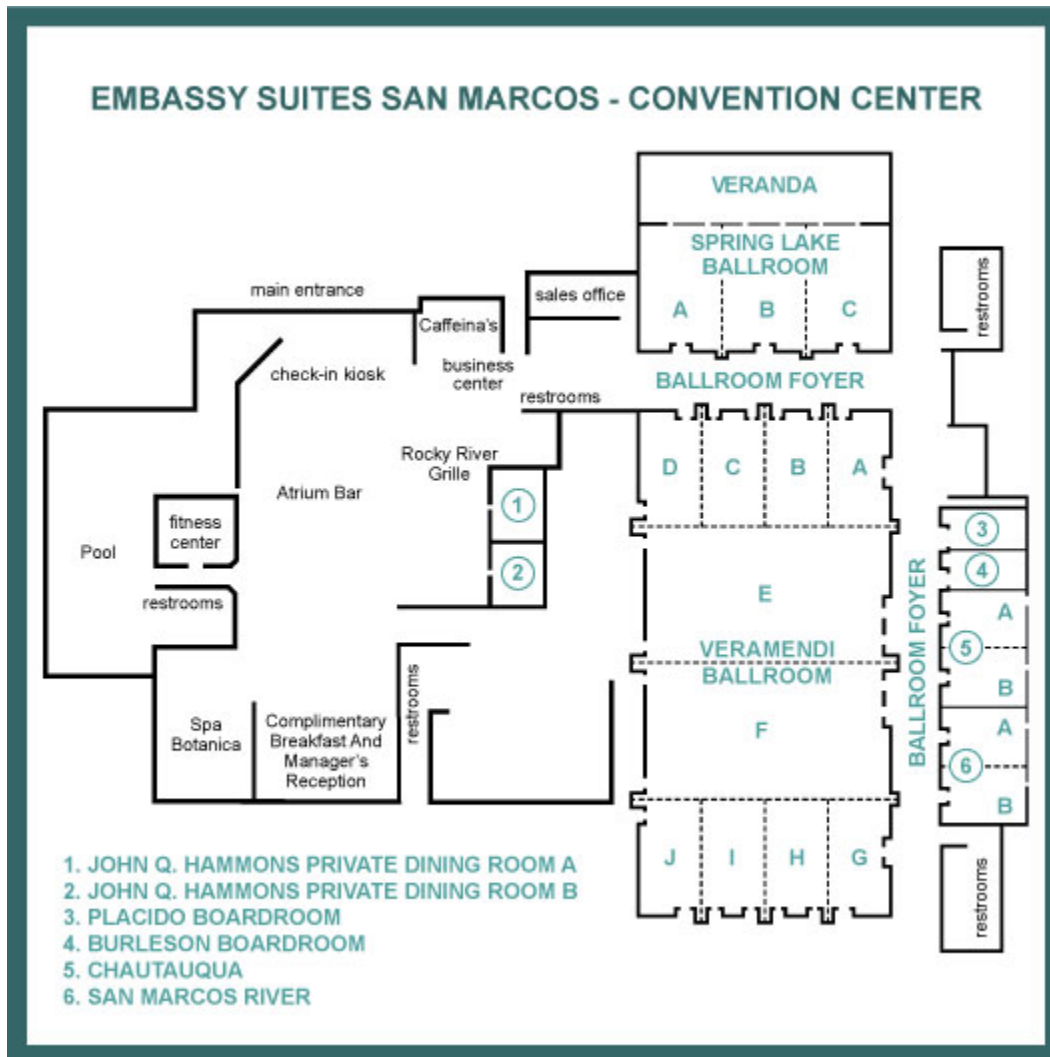
Linda Banks, Chair, lbanks8@austin.rr.com,
Irene Hoadley and Carol Peters

LWV-TX State Office: 512-472-1100 or lwvtexas@lwvtexas.org

Fax: 512-472-4114

Susan Shelton, Executive Director

CONVENTION HOTEL FLOOR PLAN



CONVENTION ROOMS:

LWV-TX Office.....	Placido Boardroom
Registration.....	Outside Placido Boardroom
Plenary Sessions – Saturday & Sunday.....	Spring Lake Salon C
Auction / Coffee Break Room.....	San Marcos River Room
Friday Workshops.....	Veramendi Salons A & B
EAA Luncheon – Saturday.....	Spring Lake Salon B
90 th Birthday Dinner – Saturday.....	Veramendi Salons G & H

GENERAL INFORMATION

BADGES

Participants must wear badges at all times to be admitted to Convention sessions and events.

PLENARY SEATING

Delegates will have designated seats at plenary meetings. Look for your League's name on a table sign. Seating locations will vary from session to session. Observers are seated separately in an open seating area.

ROLL CALL OF LEAGUES

Early in the first plenary meeting, presidents or their representative will line up alphabetically by League name for local League roll call.

Announce your League's name, the number of delegates and observers, and ONE success story about your League since last convention.

GENERAL DISCUSSION AND DEBATE

Delegates must use microphones to address the convention. Speakers must identify themselves by name and League. During debate, the chair will designate pro and con microphones, and debate will alternate between the two.

VOTING

Most votes are voice votes. If in doubt, the chair will call a division of the house, usually by show of hands. If still in doubt the chair will call for a counted vote. No one may enter or leave the room while a vote is taken. Any voting delegate may request a division of the house or a counted vote.

RESOLUTIONS

Two forms for Resolutions were sent in the Convention mailing to local Leagues and may only be submitted by a delegate. They must include the League's name and the name and phone number of the proponent. The Resolutions Committee may assist in developing wording and strategies. See the Proposed Rules in this workbook for more specific information.

PARLIAMENTARY PROCEDURE

Review the Standing Rules and the Parliamentary Pointers in this workbook. During the convention, you may consult the parliamentarian and state board members regarding proper procedure.

COMMUNICATIONS

The LWV-TX Secretary will read announcements at the end of each plenary meeting. To be included, write your brief

announcement and give it to a convention usher or the secretary.

A message board will be provided in the Auction Room. No signs, posters or other materials will be allowed to be affixed to doors or walls in guest or meeting rooms.

QUESTION & ANSWER (Q & A) SESSIONS

Budget and Program Q & A's will be offered on Friday and Saturday evenings. Check the Schedule of Events for times and locations.

CAUCUSES

Before Convention, the LWV-TX Program VP emailed information explaining the process for promoting adoption of a not-recommended item. Rooms will be available on Friday and Saturday evenings for caucuses for discussion and strategizing. To schedule a caucus, contact the LWV-TX Executive Director in the Convention Office/Auction Room. State board members may not participate unless specifically invited.

CONVENTION OFFICE/AUCTION ROOM

Check the Schedule of Events for hours the room is open. Auction items for silent bidding, publications, and other wares are for sale. The Auction Room will be closed during plenary meetings and scheduled meals.

COPYING AND INTERNET SERVICES

The Onsite Business Center offers a photocopier, fax machine, and equipment rental. Internet access is available in every meeting and guest room.

FOOD SERVICE

A complimentary cooked-to-order breakfast is served each morning. Specialty coffees and sundries and wireless Internet access is available in Caffeina's Marketplace. A Manager's Reception is offered each evening in the lobby. Casual dining fare is available in the Rocky River Grille.

POST-CONVENTION ACTIVITIES

Share your digital photos with the League. Choose the five best from the ones you took during Convention and email them to the State Office as a .jpg or .gif. Be sure to include names and captions.

Share Convention experiences and materials with your members. Write an article for your local *VOTER*, report to the board, or speak at a local League meeting or special event.

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

LWV-TX 2010 Convention – San Marcos, TX

FRIDAY, APRIL 23

8:00a – 12:30p	Jacob's Well Excursion
8:00a – 5:00p	Registration
8:00a – 5:00p	Auction Room open for bidding, buying
	Lunch on your own
1:30p – 2:30p	Issue Chair Meeting (Room 1030)
1:30p – 2:30p	Choose one Workshop: Website or Membership/Diversity
2:30p – 3:00p	-- Break -- Auction Room open for bidding, buying
3:00p – 4:00p	Choose one Workshop: Program 101 or Presidents
5:30p	Hotel pickup for Friday night dinner at the Wittliff Collections on Texas State Campus, hosted by LWV-San Marcos
9:30p	Caucus and Q&A's, if any—TBA (list will be posted outside Auction Room)

SATURDAY, APRIL 24

7:00a – 8:30a	Complimentary Breakfast in the hotel
8:00a – 12:00p	Registration continues
8:00a – 10:00p	Auction Room open, except during plenary
8:30a – noon	Plenary Session
10:00a – 10:30a	-- Break -- Auction Room open for bidding, buying
10:30a	Address by LWVUS President, Mary Wilson
Noon	Environmental Awareness Awards Luncheon (Speaker: Al Armendariz, Regional Administrator for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 6, in Dallas)
2:00p – 5:30p	Plenary Session
3:15p – 3:45p	-- Break -- Auction Room open for bidding, buying
3:45p – 5:00p	Plenary Continues
5:00p	Plenary Recesses
5:30p – 6:30p	Happy Hour in the Hotel (Auction Room open)
6:30p	90 th Birthday Celebration (Honoring Maxine Barkan and Live Auction)
9:00p	Caucus and Q&A's: Budget, program, and others TBA (listed outside Auction Room)
9:00p	Resolutions Committee
10:00p	Auction Room closes, bidding over

SUNDAY, APRIL 25

7:00a – 8:30a	Complimentary Breakfast in the hotel (Sit with members of the LWV-TX Board)
8:00a	Recommended Resolutions posted in Auction Room
8:30a – 1:00p	Plenary
10:30a – 11:00a	-- Break --
1:00p – 1:30p	Pick up auction items

**SATURDAY, APRIL 24
FIRST PLENARY SESSION
8:30AM – NOON; 2:00PM – 5:00PM**

PROPOSED ORDER OF BUSINESS

CALL TO ORDER

WELCOMES

Karen Nicholson, LWV-TX President
Carol Belver, LWV-San Marcos President
Susan Narvaiz, Mayor of San Marcos

INTRODUCTIONS

ROLL CALL OF LOCAL LEAGUES (LL) AND MEMBER AT LARGE (MAL) UNITS

ORGANIZATION OF THE CONVENTION

PARLIAMENTARY PROCEDURE BASICS

Dr. Ruth Amend, Parliamentarian

CREDENTIALS REPORT

RULES OF CONVENTION

ADOPTION OF RULES OF CONVENTION

EXPLANATION OF RESOLUTION PROCESS

PRESENTATION AND ADOPTION OF ORDER OF BUSINESS

SECRETARY'S REPORT

Barbara Swartz, LWV-TX Secretary

TREASURER'S REPORT

Edith 'Edie' Jones, LWV-TX Treasurer

BYLAWS PROCESS

Elaine Talarski, LWV-TX Director
State board recommended item to Bylaws

CELEBRATION OF 50 YEAR MEMBERS

Barbara Weinstein, LWV-TX Organization Vice-president

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Barbara Swartz, LWV-TX Secretary

BREAK

ADDRESS

Mary Wilson, LWVUS President

DEVELOPMENT & MARKETING COMMITTEE (D&M) REPORT

Linda Wassenich, *LWV-TX Public Relations Vice-president*

SERVICES TO LOCAL LEAGUES COMMITTEE (SLL) REPORT

Barbara Weinstein, *LWV-TX Organization Vice-president*

Local League Awards

CITIZEN EDUCATION COMMITTEE (CE) REPORT

Janet Imhoff, *LWV-TX Program Vice-president*

Program: Explanation of Process, Presentation of Recommended and Non-recommended Items, Discussion, and Debate

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Barbara Swartz, *LWV-TX Secretary*

BREAK FOR ENVIRONMENTAL AWARDS LUNCHEON

ADVOCACY COMMITTEE (ADV) REPORT

Mary Finch, *LWV-TX Advocacy Vice-president*

ISSUE CHAIR INTRODUCTIONS AND REPORTS

BUDGET

Dolores Geisel, (*LWV-Tarrant County*) *Budget Committee Chair*

Explanation of Process, Presentation

FISCAL MANAGEMENT AND ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE (FM&A) REPORT

Edith 'Edie' Jones, *LWV-TX Treasurer*

NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT

Maxine Barkan, (*LWV-Austin Area*) *Nominating Committee Chair*

NOMINATIONS FROM FLOOR

BREAK

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Karen Nicholson, *LWV-TX President*

PRESIDENT'S AWARD

ISSUE CHAIR INTRODUCTIONS AND REPORTS

LWV-TX NOMINATIONS FOR LWVUS AWARDS

DIRECTIONS TO 2010 LWVUS CONVENTION DELEGATES

50 YEAR LOCAL LEAGUE RECOGNITION

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Barbara Swartz, *LWV-TX Secretary*

RECESS FOR BIRTHDAY GALA DINNER

**SUNDAY, APRIL 25
SECOND PLENARY SESSION
8:30AM – 1:00PM**

PROPOSED ORDER OF BUSINESS

CALL TO ORDER

CREDENTIALS REPORT

ISSUE CHAIR INTRODUCTIONS AND REPORTS

BYLAWS DISCUSSION, DEBATE, AND ADOPTION

BUDGET DISCUSSION, DEBATE, AND ADOPTION

Adopt Per Member Payment (PMP)

Adopt Minimum Support

Adopt Budget

PROGRAM DISCUSSION, DEBATE, AND ADOPTION

BREAK

RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE REPORT

Mary Finch, *LWV-TX Advocacy Vice-president*

AUCTION WRAP-UP

Linda Wassenich, *LWV-TX Public Relations Vice-president*

ELECTION OF LWV-TX BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND NOMINATING COMMITTEE

STATE BOARD FAREWELLS

INVITATIONS TO CONVENTION 2012

"I WISH THE LEAGUE WOULD..."

COURTESY RESOLUTIONS

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Barbara Swartz, *LWV-TX Secretary*

ADJOURN, SINE DIE

PROPOSED RULES

A motion to adopt these rules will be made at the opening plenary meeting. Amendments may be offered at this time and require a majority vote to adopt. The rules, as proposed or amended, require a two-thirds vote for adoption. To suspend a rule at a later time requires a two-thirds vote.

1. Admission to Convention shall be limited to persons displaying official badges, which shall be worn at all meetings of the convention.
2. Delegates, non-voting members (observers), and visitors shall sit in designated areas. Although persons may enter the plenary room after a meeting has begun, no one shall be seated during an address.
3. Only accredited delegates may vote and only delegates or those authorized by the chair or the delegate body may address the convention.
4. In debate, no person shall speak more than once until all others who wish to speak have done so; no person shall speak more than twice on the same motion; debate shall be limited to two minutes per speaker.
5. Each speaker shall use a microphone and announce name and League when addressing the convention.
6. Main motions and amendments of substantial length shall be in writing on forms received from the ushers, signed by name and League. One copy shall be sent to the presiding officer, one copy to the secretary, one copy to the Audio-Visual (AV) staff, and one copy shall be retained by the maker of the motion. Motions shall be identified by the number appearing on the motion form.
7. When a vote is in progress the doors to the meeting room shall be closed and no one may enter or leave.
8. Only announcements that relate to the business of the convention or the welfare of the participants shall be made.

9. Procedure for the Proposed Program:

- A. At the first plenary meeting, the proposed LWV-TX Program for 2010-2012 shall be moved for adoption by a member of the LWV-TX Board. There may be questions for clarification, with responses limited to one minute each, but no additional motions or debate shall be in order at this time. Debate on the proposed program shall occur as designated on the agenda and may continue during the second plenary meeting.
- B. Procedure for considering not-recommended program items:
 1. At the first plenary meeting, any League may move for consideration of not-recommended program items. Presentations shall be limited to one minute. There may be questions for clarification, with responses limited to one minute each, but no additional motions or debate shall be in order at this time. If a not-recommended item is moved for consideration, any delegate may request a statement from the LWV-TX Board, limited to one minute, giving the reasons for not recommending the item.
 2. After all not-recommended items have been moved for consideration, a vote for consideration of each shall take place in the order in which the items were moved for consideration. A majority vote is required to consider a not-recommended item.
 3. Debate and action on not-recommended program items shall take place at the same time as debate and action on the proposed program.
- C. Procedure for concurrence at Convention:
 1. Proposals for concurrence at Convention may be moved for adoption at the first plenary meeting.

2. Debate and action on proposals for concurrence motions shall take place at the same time as debate and action on the proposed program.
- D. Procedure for adoption of program:
1. Action on the proposed program, concurrence proposals, and any not-recommended program items voted for consideration by the delegates and moved for adoption shall take place at the second plenary meeting.
 2. A majority vote shall be required to adopt the proposed program. A two-thirds vote shall be required to adopt a not-recommended item, or to amend or adopt a state League position by concurrence on the convention floor.

10. Procedure for Resolutions:

- A. Resolutions express the will of the convention and are not intended to modify a position. Resolutions shall conform to the following criteria:
1. be within League program;
 2. not circumvent the program process;
 3. involve a single short term action;
 4. deal with a topical, current issue;
 5. have minimum budgetary impact; and
 6. be pertinent to Texas.
- B. Procedure for submission: A resolution may be submitted at Convention to the convention office by Saturday, April 24, 2010, at 12 Noon. It may also be submitted in advance to the LWV-TX office no later than April 21, 2010.
- C. Resolutions recommended and not-recommended by the resolutions committee shall be posted by 8 AM, Sunday, April 25, 2010.
- D. Procedure for adoption of resolutions:
1. The resolutions chair will introduce the recommended proposed resolutions at the second plenary meeting.
 2. Not-recommended resolutions may be moved by any delegate; presentation shall be limited to three minutes. Any delegate may request a statement from the Resolutions Committee giving the reasons for not recommending it.
 3. Debate and action on not-recommended resolutions shall take place at the same time as debate on proposed resolutions. A majority vote shall be required to adopt a proposed resolution. A two-thirds vote shall be required to adopt a not-recommended resolution.

11. The minutes of the convention shall be approved by the LWV-TX Board after review by a committee appointed by the chair to review and correct the minutes.

PARLIAMENTARY PROCEDURE TIPS

All Convention business is accomplished by making, debating and acting upon motions. Once a topic has been introduced by a main motion, seconded and stated by the chair, it is normally before the delegate body for action. However, at League Conventions, some business is introduced at one meeting, with action to continue at a later time. This enables communication and caucusing before final decisions are made. Program and budget are examples of such League business.

When a main motion is pending on the floor, several subsidiary and incidental motions can be made that must be decided before the main motion is acted upon. This means each succeeding motion can be made, if in order, while prior motions are pending.

Subsidiary motions are the tools used to help dispose of the main motions in meetings. Listed in order of rank, they are:

- Postpone indefinitely
- Amend
- Commit or Refer
- Postpone Definitely
- Limit or Extend Limits of Debate
- Previous Question
- Lay on the Table

Specific types of motions are discussed below. If questions arise that are not answered in this section, please consult the parliamentarian.

TO AMEND

(debatable, majority vote)

A motion can be amended by inserting or adding, by striking out, or by striking out and inserting. Amendments must be germane--that is, related to the subject of the motion. A negative cannot be inserted to accomplish what voting against a motion can do.

A motion can be amended several times, but each amendment is considered individually and disposed of before proceeding to the next. An amendment can itself be amended once. Substantial changes in wording should be done through amendment by substitution.

Amendments of any length should be in writing.

Example: I move to amend the motion by striking out the words "evaluation of."

Once all amendments have been acted upon, a vote is taken on the motion "as amended" or as originally made if no amendment has been adopted.

TO POSTPONE INDEFINITELY

(debatable, majority vote)

This motion can be used to diffuse potentially damaging motions.

TO REFER

(debatable, majority vote)

This motion, not often used at League Conventions because of time constraints, is appropriate if more information or extensive rewording is necessary and could best be accomplished by a few delegates.

TO LAY ON THE TABLE

(not debatable, majority vote)

This motion delays consideration of a matter because something else of an urgent nature interrupts. This, too, is seldom used at League Conventions. Although not debatable, a brief explanation of reasons may be given before making a motion.

TO POSTPONE DEFINITELY

(debatable, majority vote)

This motion can be used to delay action to a more opportune time when new information is available or other decisions have been made. The motion should include the place on the agenda when the action is to be resumed.

TO LIMIT OR EXTEND DEBATE

(not debatable, two-thirds vote)

This motion is used when debate needs to be limited as to time or number who wish to be heard, or extended in time, etc.

Examples: I move that debate...

...be limited to one minute per speaker.

...be limited to five speakers pro and five speakers con.

...be extended to ten more speakers, one minute each.

TO CLOSE DEBATE

(not debatable, two-thirds vote)

When debate does not seem to be adding anything to what already has been said, debate may be closed by moving the previous question. If several motions are pending, such as amendments, a motion to close debate on just the immediately pending question or "all pending questions" may be made. If the motion carries, a vote is taken immediately on the question or questions included in the motion to close debate.

Calling out "Question" or "I call the question!" is not appropriate.

Calling the question actually requires a formal motion after being recognized by the chair.

MISCELLANEOUS MOTIONS

The following motions have no rank and are usually "incidental" to the business pending or to Convention operations. Some may interrupt other business. *There is no debate or vote, and the chair usually rules upon these motions.*

The delegate should go to a microphone to receive a colored card, which will tell the president that one of the following motions is about to be made. The delegate will then be recognized to make the motion.

Parliamentary Inquiry

This motion is used to ask for direction or procedure to accomplish a parliamentary maneuver.

Example: Madam President, is it in order to amend this motion?

Point of Information

This motion is used to seek urgent information necessary before decisions can be made.

Example: How much money is in this budget for...?

Point of Order

This motion is used when the Convention Rules or proper procedure is not being followed.

Appeal from the Decision of the Chair

Any ruling of the chair can be submitted to the delegate body for final determination by a motion, which requires a second. The appeal must be made immediately after the contested ruling and is usually debatable. A majority vote decides; a tie vote sustains the chair's ruling.

Division of the Assembly

This requires a standing vote if the voice vote seems inconclusive. A single delegate "calls for a division" and *does not need to use a microphone, but must be heard*.

If a counted vote seems necessary, the delegate makes such a motion, which requires a second majority vote.

To Reconsider a Vote

This motion can be made only by a delegate who voted on the prevailing side and on the same or next day as the vote it proposes to reconsider. The motion can be moved within the time limits, although the vote on the motion may be delayed until a more appropriate time if other business is pending. This motion is usually debatable and requires a majority vote. If the motion to reconsider is adopted, the original motion is again before the delegate body although a decision had not been reached. A vote can only be reconsidered once. Approved bylaw amendments may not be reconsidered.

EXPLANATION OF PROPOSED BYLAW CHANGE

The LWV-TX Board is recommending one change to the bylaws for the organization. The change affects Article X.

Rationale: The amendment makes clear that the state board can propose a concurrence at convention. This would permit the state board to bring to convention updates or amendments to positions, where appropriate, without restudy. This is a useful tool to ascertain member agreement and understanding on a new, revised, or updated position in a timely manner. The national board adopted this same amendment in convention 2008.

PROPOSED BYLAW CHANGE

Article X. Principles and Program.

Section 2. Program.

c. Any League or the state board that plans to propose the adoption or amendment of a state League position by concurrence on the floor of the convention shall give notice to all local Leagues and the state League of its intent to do so at least six weeks before the convention.

OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS/TRUSTEES 2008-2010

League of Women Voters of Texas League of Women Voters of Texas Education Fund

OFFICERS

Karen Nicholson, LWV-TX President, LWV-TEF Chair

Mary Finch, Advocacy Vice-president

Janet Imhoff, Program Vice-president

Barbara Weinstein, Organization Vice-president

Linda Wassenich, Public Relations Vice-president

Barbara Swartz, Secretary

Edith 'Edie' Jones, Treasurer

DIRECTORS/TRUSTEES

Dee Brock

Pat Cheong

Susybelle Gosslee

Linda Krefting

Joyce Robinson

Elaine Talarski

NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT

The slate of nominees for LWV-TX Board positions and Nominating Committee to be elected April 2010 is as follows:

Nominees for Board of Directors for LWV-TX 2010-2012

President: Karen Nicholson (Midland)

Nicholson has served as LWV-TX President the last two years, after being Organization Vice-president of LWV-TX in 2006-08 and a director in 2004-06. She previously served during 1989-95 in several positions, including Organization Vice-president. She also served on the boards of the Leagues in Houston, Richardson, and Midland, where she was president. She is adjunct instructor of mathematics at Midland College, a member of the Midland Independent School District Board, and a public member of the Grievance Oversight Committee, appointed by the Supreme Court of Texas to assist in the review of the lawyer discipline system.

Advocacy Vice-president: Anita Privett (Austin Area)

Privett is currently the State Program Chair for Election Laws. She has also served as the Austin Area Publication Chair and Program Vice-president. She has a professional background in Project Management, organization and computers.

Program Vice-president: Janet Imhoff (Plano/Collin County)

Imhoff is the President Pro Tempe and Program Vice-president for LWV-TX. She has been a League member for more than 30 years, serving numerous positions including president of the Sherman/Grayson County League. She joined the state board in 2003 after retiring from teaching fifth and sixth grades and became Vice-president, Program, in 2006.

Organization Vice-president: Dee Brock (Tyler/Smith County)

Brock has served as President of LWV-Tyler/Smith County for six years. She joined the Tyler League when she moved to Tyler in 1997 and joined the local League board in 2002. She served on the LWV-TX 2008-2010 board as a director and as Voters Service Director this last year.

Public Relations Vice-president: Linda Krefting (Lubbock County)

Krefting served two terms as President of the Lubbock League. She has also served as Vice-president and Director. She is completing her first term as a Director of the LWV-TX board where she served on the Development and Marketing Committee and chaired the Long Range Planning Committee.

Secretary: Barbara Swartz (Houston Area)

Swartz joined the board in 2008 as Secretary. In her many years with the League, she served in all other possible positions. She was on the state board in the late 1980's and was twice president of the Houston Area League. She got her League start 45 years ago in Pennsylvania.

Treasurer: Edith 'Edie' Jones (Tarrant County)

Jones has been on the state board since 2003. She is now the Treasurer of LWV-TX and LWV-TEF and is the Transportation Issue chair for LWV-TX. She chaired the LWV-TEF study on Public Transportation in Texas in 2003-06 and then was a member of the Services to Local Leagues Committee in 2006-08. She has also served as the training coordinator for local Leagues in Texas. She is a past president and treasurer of the Tarrant County League. She is on the Historic and Cultural Landmarks Commission for Fort Worth.

DIRECTORS:

Linda Wassenich (Dallas)

Wassenich is completing her fifth term as Vice-president Public Relations. She was chair of the Development and Marketing and Long Range Planning Committees. She has worked on grants awarded to LWV-TEF from LWVUS, the Open Society Institute and other grantors.

Pat Cheong (Tarrant County)

Cheong joined the board in 2008 after serving as the President and Community Relations Vice President for the Tarrant County League. She chairs the Website Committee and serves on the Services to Local Leagues Committee. She holds a Masters of Social Work degree and has worked as a community planner with United Way of Tarrant County for more than 28 years, including 12 years as director of the Area Agency on Aging of Tarrant County.

Susybel Gosslee (Dallas)

Gosslee joined the board in 2008 after serving three terms as president of LWV-Dallas. She co-chaired a LWVUS project on Homeland Security and Civil Liberties in 2005 in Dallas and has been a LWVUS representative at the UN Committee on the Status of Women in 2006 and 2008. She is the founder of Our Friends Place, a residential program for teen girls who have been sexually or physically abused.

Christina Davis Garcia (Corpus Christi Area)

Garcia served as President of the Corpus Christi Area League for two years. She has held a number of other positions. She is said to be a master communicator and superb organizer by her League peers. Experienced in the newspaper field, she has worked in professional roles in communications and fundraising for over 30 years.

Janice Scheiffer (Plano/Collin County)

Schieffer has served as Voters Service Chair for the Plano/Collin County League from 2007 to the present and has organized candidate's forums. She was Interim Website Chair. She has a professional background in journalism, technical writing, and computer software. She has served professionally in management roles and has strong organization skills.

Mina Fields Johnson (Amarillo)

Johnson's League experience includes president of LWV-Amarillo from 2007-2009, member of the 2008-09 Finance Committee and participant in scholarship review in 2010. She was also Membership Chair of the LWV in Rye, RyeBrook, Port Chester, N.Y., 1968-1970. Johnson is a retired English teacher and has farmed for 26 years in Deaf Smith County.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE:

Chair:

Joyce Robinson (Sherman/Grayson County)

Robinson has served as LWV-TX board secretary, was on the Services to Local Leagues Committee and is Convention Chair for this convention. She is a charter member of LWV-Sherman/Grayson County and has served as President and held other offices there.

Members:

Barbara Weinstein (Dallas)

Weinstein is completing her service as Organization Vice-president and chair of the Services to Local Leagues Committee. She has served on the Website Committee, chair of the 2008 Convention Planning Committee, and Program Chair for Elections/Voting Rights/MotorVoter.

Sondra Ferstl (Denton)

Ferstl first served on the LWV-TX board from 1983-1991 and chaired the Nominating Committee from 1991-1993. She has been President and has held other offices for the LWV-Denton. She has been a member of the LWV-TX Nominating Committee for 2008-2010.

EXPLANATION OF PROPOSED BUDGETS FOR 2010-2012

LWV-Texas (LWV-TX) and LWV-Texas Education Fund (LWV-TEF) are two separate organizations and have separate budgets. The LWV-TX budget is adopted by the members at the biennial Convention; the LWV-TEF budget is adopted by the Board of Trustees at their first meeting after Convention.

Both the LWV-TX and LWV-TEF budgets for the coming fiscal period are presented together in this workbook because they are interrelated. For example, the office is owned by LWV-TEF and LWV-TX pays fair market rent to LWV-TEF. All advocacy work is done through LWV-TX while citizen education activities are done through LWV-TEF. Staff is employed by LWV-TX. All time utilized by staff on citizen education projects is reimbursed by LWV-TEF to LWV-TX as documented by staff time sheets. Income, expenses and staff time for the two organizations are carefully tracked. The budgets reflect the division of shared office staff and expenses among the League committees' activities.

Features of the Proposed Budgets

- There is **no increase** in the Per Member Payment (PMP); it remains \$22 per member, \$11 for each additional member in the household.
- Local Leagues may pay up to 50% of their PMP from their Education Funds. Many more Leagues are using this option.
- The budget is extremely stringent for the coming biennium as a reflection of the economy. During 2008-2010, the board did not have to take any funds from reserves, but we were unable to transfer funds into reserves as of 3/1/2010. During the coming biennium, our plan is to be able to make those reserve transactions.
- The budget reflects an increase in Homeowner Association dues, taxes, and insurance.

If you have questions about the proposed budgets, please contact the Budget Committee Chair by email. She will be available at Convention, along with the other committee members. Prior to the adoption of the budget during plenary, delegates will have an opportunity to ask questions and make comments. Budget Q&A sessions will be held Friday and Saturday night during Convention to give delegates a chance to discuss the budget. We urge delegates to take advantage of those times to obtain advance answers to questions of a detailed or technical nature.

Budget Committee Members:

Dolores Geisel (Tarrant County), Budget Committee Chair dolores.geisel@sbcglobal.net

Karen Nicholson (Midland), President

Edie Jones (Tarrant County), Treasurer

Janet Imhoff (Plano/Collin County)

Linda Wassenich (Dallas)

Mary Finch (Austin Area)

Barbara Weinstein (Dallas)

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF TEXAS SUMMARY BUDGET 2010-2012

League of Women Voters of Texas (LWV-TX)			League of Women Voters of Texas Education Fund (LWV-TEF)		
	Budget 2010-12	Budget 2008-10		Budget 2010-12	Budget 2008-10
Income for LWV-TX			Income for LWV-TEF		
PMP and MAL Dues	75000	92416	PMP from Local Leagues Education Funds	35000	8500
Contributions	40000	46400	Transfer from LWV-TX	0	11000
State Convention	15000	15000	Contributions	160000	151800
State Convention Auction	10000	10000	Rental Income	47520	42000
Fundraising, Special Events	1800	1800	Publications	22000	22000
Publications	1000	1000	Fundraising, Special Events	2000	
Workshops	2600	2600	Investment Income	<u>1500</u>	<u>7000</u>
Investment Income	<u>1500</u>	<u>1500</u>	Total Income for LWV-TEF	<u><u>268020</u></u>	<u><u>242300</u></u>
Total Income for LWV-TX	<u><u>146900</u></u>	<u><u>170716</u></u>	Expenses for LWV-TEF		
Expenses for LWV-TX			Staff	115000	107880
Staff	50000	72520	Property Expense	36000	33100
Office Expense	15000	27900	Office Expense	35000	25100
Rent to TEF	23760	21000	Contracted Services	8000	8440
Contracted Services	8000	8000	League Services Performed	4500	4500
League Services Performed	7500	7500	Publications	25000	25100
Publications	10000	16100	Board Expenses	15000	20000
Board Expenses	15000	20000	State Convention (EAA Luncheon)	<u>5000</u>	<u>5000</u>
State Convention	<u>15000</u>	<u>15000</u>	Total Expenses for LWV-TEF	<u><u>243500</u></u>	<u><u>229120</u></u>
Total Expenses for LWV-TX	<u><u>144260</u></u>	<u><u>188020</u></u>	Transfer to Reserves	<u>24520</u>	<u>13180</u>
Allocations for TEF programs	0	-50,000	Total Expenses after Transfer	<u><u>268020</u></u>	<u><u>242300</u></u>
Transfer to LWV-TEF	0	11000			
Transfer to Reserves	<u>2640</u>	<u>21696</u>			
Total Expenses after transfers	<u><u>146900</u></u>	<u><u>170716</u></u>			

Local League Support for 2010-2012 Budget

League Name	Individual	National	Honorary	First Household	Second Household	Student	PMP/MSP	Total Members
Amarillo	41	5	0	6	6	0	\$1,100	58
Arlington	51	2	0	3	3	0	\$1,221	59
Austin Area	195	40	6	21	24	2	\$5,036	291
Bay Area	27	5	0	6	6	0	\$792	44
Brazos County	19	7	0	0	1	0	\$429	27
Comal Area	32	0	1	7	6	0	\$924	46
Corpus Christi Area	78	6	0	17	14	0	\$2,244	115
Dallas	221	38	15	21	21	1	\$5,565	317
Denton	38	4	0	7	7	0	\$1,067	56
El Paso	24	4	0	6	6	0	\$726	40
Gainesville	19	0	0	0	0	0	\$418	19
Houston Area	235	78	10	26	24	1	\$6,016	374
Irving	60	1	0	3	4	0	\$1,430	68
Kerrville Area	13	0	1	4	4	0	\$418	22
Lubbock County	68	3	0	9	9	0	\$1,793	89
Marshall/Harrison County	12	0	0	3	3	0	\$363	18
Midland	34	2	0	9	8	0	\$1,034	53
Montgomery County	49	1	0	4	5	0	\$1,221	59
Plano/Collin County	29	7	1	4	3	0	\$759	44
Richardson	31	8	1	4	4	0	\$814	48
San Antonio Area	76	16	2	9	10	1	\$1,990	114
San Marcos Area	34	3	0	8	8	0	\$1,012	53
Sherman/Grayson County	31	2	0	4	4	0	\$814	41
Tarrant County	102	9	1	13	14	0	\$2,684	139
Tyler/Smith County	29	2	1	9	9	3	\$965	53
Victoria	9	0	1	3	3	0	\$360	16
Waco Area	26	0	0	2	2	0	\$638	30
Wichita Falls	27	0	0	8	8	0	\$858	43
							\$42,691	2336

PROPOSED LWV-TX PROGRAM FOR 2010-2012

The Program Adoption Process

A major purpose of the LWV-TX Convention is to adopt program. Local Leagues began the program planning process in October and made recommendations for new studies, concurrences or reviews of current program positions to the state board in January. This year 18 Leagues participated; the state board considered their recommendations and adopted a proposed program based on the League responses.

Board Recommendations

The LWV-TX Board recommends retaining all current LWV-TX positions in the areas of Government, Administration of Justice, Social Policy/Human Resources, and Natural Resources for the 2010-2012 biennium. The board is recommending wording changes or additions to four program positions: Criminal Justice and Capital Punishment Reform, Health Care for Those of Lesser Means, Judicial, and Spousal Rape. In addition we recommend one new study: an update of our Water position to consider the marketing of water resources, as recommended by seven Leagues. The delegates will also vote to approve an addition to the Voting Rights/Election Laws position derived from our Voting Procedures study of 2008-10.

Not-recommended Items Eligible for Consideration and Adoption

A list of not-recommended items proposed by local Leagues is listed below. To be moved for consideration at Convention, a not-recommended item must be listed, indicating that it met the bylaws deadline for submission by January 22, 2010. Not-recommended items must be moved for and granted consideration before delegates can debate adopting them as amendments or substitutes to the proposed program. Consideration may be ordered by a majority vote of delegates present and voting. Adoption of a not-recommended item requires a two-thirds vote of delegates present and voting, and must take place on the following day (Bylaws Article X, Section 2.c.). Delegates advocating a not-recommended item should refer to Convention Rule 9 in this workbook.

Concurrence on the Floor of the Convention

Those moving for consideration for concurrence at Convention must have met the requirements of LWV-TX Bylaws Article X, Section 2.d. This states that a League may propose the adoption or amendment of a state League position by concurrence on the floor of the convention, provided they have sent background information, including pros and cons and a rationale for using this form of member agreement to all Leagues at least six weeks before convention. A majority vote places a not-recommended concurrence item before the convention, and a two-thirds vote of delegates present and voting is required for passage.

Tips for Effective Involvement in Program Adoption

- Read the program pages of this workbook and talk to your members before you head to Convention. Delegates go to Convention “informed, but not instructed.”
- Familiarize yourself with Convention Rule 9 on the procedure for program adoption.
- Attend the Program Q&A and caucuses sponsored by delegates promoting not-recommended Program items.
- Hold a caucus to promote your issue and advertise it to the delegates.
- To move a not-recommended item for consideration, it must be listed here. The motion would read, “I move consideration of the not-recommended item (give exact wording of the item you are proposing) as an amendment to the proposed program.”

Proposed Program: New Study

The Board of the League of Women Voters of Texas recommends adoption of the following study:

Marketing of Water Resources in Texas

Focus: An update of our Water position to consider the competition for water in Texas, including governmental policy, public interest rights, and water resource protection concerns.

Scope:

- Analyze current state regulations which govern the sale of water rights by river authorities, groundwater districts, and individual landowners
- Consider ramifications if Texas were to classify water as a commodity rather than a natural resource
- Explore options such as a state-run water marketing administration
- Assess laws that would be needed for interstate or international water transfers
- Assess the best use of our water (i.e., public interest concerns, environmental factors, effect on third parties, future water requirements)

Rationale: This study was recommended by Comal Area LWV and six other Leagues. Wimberley Valley MAL Unit also recommended a study of Water Rights Law which the board felt could be addressed in this study. The issue of the sale of water is a timely one for Texas and is not addressed in our current Water position; the position has not been updated since 1978.

Proposed Program: Amendments to Existing Program

Based on Program Planning responses, the LWV-TX Board recommends retaining all current LWV-TX positions in the areas of Government, Administration of Justice, Social Policy/Human Resources, and Natural Resources, with the following amendments:

1) Criminal Justice and Capital Punishment Reform

The League of Women Voters of Texas supports an equitable system of criminal justice in Texas with the following provisions: Delete: “except in capital cases”

“in addition to execution and life imprisonment.”

elimination of jury sentencing (**except in capital cases**) and revision of the penal code to reduce the disparity of sentences

The League of Women Voters of Texas supports:

reform of the capital punishment system in Texas with the following measures:

- o provide the option of life imprisonment without parole (**in addition to execution and life imprisonment**) to juries in capital cases

Rationale: LWVUS in Convention 2006 voted to adopt the following position by concurrence: “The LWVUS supports the abolition of the death penalty.” In 2003 LWV-TX adopted a position on capital punishment that included references to capital punishment and called for a moratorium on executions while an official study of the capital punishment system is conducted. LWV-TX would still work for a moratorium and study, but as long as there are still references to capital punishment in our position, LWV-TX can not act on any legislation which opposes capital punishment. The board would like to bring the state position into alignment with the national position by deleting the words in bold. (Recommended by Plano/Collin County, Tarrant County, Tyler/Smith County, and former Issue Chair Marjorie Loehlin)

2) Health Care for Those of Lesser Means

The League of Women Voters believes the following services constitute the basic level of health care for those of lesser means: **Add:**

long term care

care for persons with disabilities

Rationale: This position, formerly Health Care for the Medically Indigent, contains a list of basic health care services, but the above items were not included. The board agrees they should be added. (Recommended by Plano/Collin County, Sherman/Grayson County, Tyler/Smith County, and Issue Chair Lynda Ender)

3) Judicial

The League supports the selection of judges in the following manner: Add:

- **Judicial campaigns should be funded with public money**

Rationale: Support of public financing for state elected offices is part of our Political Campaign Process position, but it is recommended we also state this in our Judicial Selection position for emphasis, as long as judges continue to be elected. The board agrees we need to work to remove judicial campaigns from the need to raise funds. (Recommended by Austin Area, Tarrant County)

4) Spousal Rape

Change the title of this position to “Spousal Sexual Assault.”

Rationale: It is recommended that terminology be changed to conform to current criminal code and statutes. (Recommended by Tyler/Smith County)

5) Election Laws and Voting Rights

Add underlined wording:

The League of Women Voters of Texas supports election laws that facilitate citizen participation and voter convenience, as well as voting procedures that may increase voter participation. Our support includes, but is not limited to, the following:

- the use of uniform election dates for local and state elections whenever possible
- consolidation of polling places when several governmental entities conduct elections simultaneously
- reduction of the number of days between the primary and general elections
- Unlimited access to vote-by-mail with no restrictions
- A permanent vote-by-mail list on which any voter may request to be placed
- The establishment of guidelines which would allow jurisdictions to conduct all vote-by-mail elections
- Election day registration
- Election day centralized voting, with applicable safeguards
- Poll-site Internet voting for military/overseas voters

List of Not-Recommended Items

Proposed Concurrences

Mandatory Homeowner Associations (Houston Area)
Water Resources Planning to include playa lakes (Amarillo)
Counting of Prisoners in Redistricting (Dallas)

Proposed Program Recommendations for Study

Dedicated Funds	(Dallas)	Drop-Out Problem	(Tarrant Co.)
Drug Courts	(Sherman/Grayson Co.)	Insurance System of Texas	(Lubbock Co.)
Natural Gas Drilling	(Tarrant Co.)	Predatory Lending Practices	(Houston Area)
Prostitution and Human Trafficking	(Dallas, Houston Area, Austin)	Privatization of Jails	(Sherman/Grayson Co.)
Texas Commissions	(Arlington)	Sustainable Development	(Victoria)
		Tolls in Transportation Funding	(Denton)

LWV-TEXAS (LWV-TX) 2010-2015 LONG RANGE PLAN

GOALS	ENGAGING VOTERS, INCREASING PUBLIC PARTICIPATION Enhancing informed voter turnout. Making elections understandable, relevant. Encouraging informed participation in government.	REFORMING GOVERNMENT, INFLUENCING PUBLIC POLICY Safeguarding democratic processes. Making the system work for people. Reaffirming necessary roles of government and informed public participation.	DEVELOPING LWV-TEXAS Ensuring that state and local Leagues have the resources for continued success: membership, leadership, financial assets, and organizational processes.
IMPACT	<i>Go-To Organization for nonpartisan information on elections, voting and informed public participation.</i>	<i>Go-To Organization for nonpartisan information on LWV-Texas studies and positions.</i>	<i>Increase/diversify membership. Achieve financial stability & security. Strengthen collaborations with & support for local Leagues.</i>
VISIBILITY AND RECOGNITION	<p>Expand distribution & promotion of nonpartisan <i>Voters Guide</i> (English, Spanish, audio) for each election.</p> <p>Pursue nonpartisan candidate debates with statewide availability for state races.</p> <p>Collaborate with local Leagues and others statewide to promote voter registration & turnout of all eligible Texans.</p> <p>Further public participation via website, traditional & new media.</p> <p>Promote LWV as a resource to media for expertise on elections, voting, and informed participation.</p>	<p>Take action on priority program positions, including Advocacy Papers, Legislative Newsletter on website, traditional & new media.</p> <p>Advocate on League issues during the Legislative session with League Issue Chairs, Capitol Corps & League Lobby Day.</p> <p>Increase impact through work with Coalitions/Affiliations.</p> <p>Develop issue forums on public TV on good government issues & distribute to educational institutions.</p> <p>Expand use of new media to provide information for public participation.</p> <p>Promote LWV as a resource to media for expertise on League positions.</p>	<p>Promote League opportunities for skill development, leadership & civic engagement to diverse groups.</p> <p>Provide templates & other concrete assistance to local Leagues for voters service, public forums, taking action & marketing</p> <p>Highlight local Leagues and members on website and in media releases.</p>
ORGANIZATIONAL STRENGTH	<p>Promote League membership & donations in <i>Voters Guides</i> and at candidate forums.</p> <p>Develop steady, nonmember funding for <i>Voters Guides</i> and other Education Fund activities.</p> <p>Encourage those we work with to join/support LWV-TX.</p>	<p>Streamline/clarify state study and consensus procedures.</p> <p>Promote League membership & donations at public forums.</p> <p>Use state studies and positions to develop support from interested individuals, groups.</p>	<p>Maintain affordable membership; establish statewide task force on recruitment, retention and diversity.</p> <p>Expand use of new media to communicate interactively with members and local Leagues. Keep publications updated and available on the website</p> <p>Provide ideas via <i>Texas VOTER</i>, LWV-TX Information emails & state/regional workshops on membership, diversity, development, organization and board structure.</p> <p>Develop funding to support pass-through grants for local League activities.</p> <p>Expand funding through annual donations, contributions to endowment, grants, sponsorships.</p>

Ongoing Activities: *Voters Guides* & other educational publications, Studies, Program Planning & Periodic Program Review, Legislative & Interim Priorities, Budget, Annual Planning, Convention, continuing education workshops.

ANNUAL REPORTS

April 2008 – April 2010

ADVOCACY COMMITTEE (ADV)

Mary Finch (Chair), Dee Brock, Janet Imhoff, and Elaine Talarski

The Advocacy Committee functions as the action arm of LWV-TX. It sets legislative priorities, determines positions on proposed constitutional amendments, oversees lobbying activities, and coordinates legislative interviews. Committee activities implement the long-range plan goal to increase League influence over public policy in Texas and to increase the visibility of the League. Members of the Advocacy Committee also serve on the Citizen Education Committee (CE) because these committees share responsibility for League program.

ISSUE CHAIRS & COORDINATORS

Issue chairs play a central role in the League's mission. All members are encouraged to take time to meet or get better acquainted with these League leaders. Issue chairs, all experts in specific program areas, are at the core of the League's mission to promote informed citizen participation and to affect governmental change through education and advocacy. They follow the legislative session and governmental agencies, e.g. State Board of Education. Interim legislative committees are also followed as these will identify future legislative agendas. In addition to lobbying legislators and their staff, issue chairs use their expertise to track legislation, write advocacy papers, write and give testimony, initiate *Action Alerts*, write press releases, and work on interim legislative priorities. They also write articles for the *Legislative Newsletter* and the *Texas VOTER*, keeping members up-to-date about important state issues. Coordinators assist issue chairs in all these aforementioned activities. Coordinators and issue chairs are energetic, inventive, and informed. It is a pleasure working with them.

Issue statements on the following topics were developed for the 2009 81st Legislative Session with the associated Issue Chairs and Coordinators, and reflect the multi-issue positions of LWV-TX.

I. Government (Coordinator- Julie Lowenberg, Dallas)

Education/Public School Finance- Nan Clayton, Austin Area: Promote adequate state funding for public schools, and changes in the state's accountability rating system to make it fairer and less punitive.

Election Laws and Voting Rights- Anita Privett, Austin Area: Support election laws that facilitate citizen participation and voter convenience as well as monitor all legislation relating to HAVA.

Financing State Government- Bonnie Leitch, Comal Area: Promote adequate, fair funding for major state responsibilities like public education and transportation.

Judicial Selection- Maxine Barkan, Austin Area: Support the appointment/retention method and/or nonpartisan election of the judiciary.

Political Campaign Process/Campaign Finance Reform- Maxine Barkan, Austin Area: Support fair campaign finance laws to reduce the perceived influence of large contributions to candidates and office holders.

Public Policy on Reproductive Choice/Women's Health- Julie Lowenberg, Dallas: Promote and protect women's access to health care, including all aspects of reproductive health.

Redistricting- Elaine Talarski, San Antonio Area: Support an independent redistricting commission.

State and Local Relations- Karen Rankin, Austin Area: Support increased county authority in order to better manage growth in urbanizing areas.

Texas Constitutional Revision- Sandy Ashby, Montgomery County: Support the revision of the State Constitution to make it a framework of basic law. The present Constitution, now 133 years old and with over 450 amendments, no longer serves the needs of good government.

II. Administration of Justice (Coordinator- Elaine Talarski, San Antonio Area)

Capital Punishment- Susybelle Gosslee, Dallas: Promote a moratorium on the death penalty. Support the option of life sentence without parole in capital cases.

Criminal Justice- Susan Smith, Amarillo: Support a professional parole and probation staff and work to decrease their caseload. Provide a secure prison environment with maximum education opportunities.

Drug Laws and Policies- Elaine Talarski, San Antonio Area: Support treatment programs for drug abuse and addiction as alternative to incarceration.

Juvenile Justice- Support and fund substance abuse treatment, mental health needs, and education for youth at risk and for those incarcerated.

III. Social Policy/Human Resources (Coordinator- Reed Bilz, Tarrant County)

Child Abuse and Neglect- Carol Pino, Wimberley Valley: Support the development and implementation of adequate legislation, policies, services, and programs to protect children from abuse and neglect.

Child Health Care- Susan Majors, Richardson: Decrease the number of uninsured children with more efficient enrollment for CHIP and Children's Medicaid. Support 12 months continuous eligibility for Children's Medicaid. Expand CHIP to families with greater assets.

Early Childhood- Marlene Lobberecht, Houston Area: Support early childhood education professional development. Expand access to high quality pre-kindergarten. Improve safe care for infants and toddlers.

Equal Opportunity/Income Assistance- Mildred Pope, Dallas: Support policies that improve well-being for families in poverty, programs that provide job training for living wage jobs, and equal education opportunities from preschool to higher education.

Health Care for the Elderly- Maria Johnson, Austin Area: Support increased funding to provide adequate programs to serve the elderly.

Health Care for Those of Lesser Means- Lynda Ender, Dallas: Support providing basic health care services for those who are unable to pay. Basic services include emergency care, primary care, preventive care, care for catastrophic illness, nutrition, substance abuse treatment, and health education.

Immigration- Millie Whittington, Houston Area: Support state services for undocumented immigrants, especially in the area of education and healthcare. Monitor any attempt to curb civil rights of immigrants.

Services to the Seriously Mentally Ill- Molly Van Ort, Dallas: Maintain and increase funding for services to persons with serious mental illness, and include post-crisis and crisis prevention community care.

IV. Natural Resources (Coordinator- Linda Hanratty, Tarrant County)

Air Quality- Laura Blackburn, Houston Area: Support air quality and climate change legislation.

Energy- Penny Miller, Wichita Falls: Promote incentives for renewable and clean energy sources and energy conservation. Monitor the building of coal fired plants and nuclear power plants. Promote energy policy to reduce global warming.

Hazardous Waste- Susybelle Gosslee, Dallas: Support safe transportation handling and disposal of radioactive materials. Support legislation promoting recycling efforts, in particular for electronic waste.

Land Use- Karen Haschke, Austin Area: Increase county authority to regulate land development. Support full funding for Texas Parks and Wildlife Dept.

Transportation- Edie Jones, Tarrant County: Increase funding for public roads, mass transit, and light rail.

Water- Mary Vogelson, Dallas: Support funding for safe and adequate water supplies, using sound ecological/economic strategies that emphasize conservation. Support enhanced protection for environmental flows; Texas rivers, bays and estuaries.

