



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®
OF TEXAS EDUCATION FUND

For Immediate Release
January 3, 2012
www.lwvtexas.org

Contact: Julie Oliver
joliver@lwvtexas.org
512-791-3397

**LWV-TX ENHANCES NONPARTISAN ELECTION OUTREACH IN 2012 WITH
TEXAS BAR FOUNDATION GRANT AND PROMOTE TEXAS VOTING COALITION**

Austin, TX

“Texas voters face significant new challenges in 2012 with uncertainty about redistricting, the primary election date, and the possibility of restrictive, new photo ID requirements at the polls,” says Karen Nicholson, President of LWV-TX. “LWV-TX and 28 local Leagues across Texas will be increasing outreach to ensure that eligible Texas voters have the nonpartisan, unbiased information and encouragement essential for meaningful participation in 2012 elections.”

Thanks in part to a grant from the Texas Bar Foundation to the LWV-TX Education Fund, LWV-TX and local Leagues will be able to enhance nonpartisan information available to voters for judicial and other races through VOTE411.org. With VOTE411, Leagues can consider covering additional races, candidates in contested races can add brief videos to written responses, and voters can enter an address and review all races and ballot initiatives specific to that address, from President to the local JP, with the “On Your Ballot” feature. Given the uncertainties about redistricting, the “On Your Ballot” feature will help voters determine the appropriate districts in which they will vote.

Updated information on the primary election schedule, redistricting, federal preclearance of the photo ID requirement, and other helpful information is available now on the LWV-TX website, www.lwvtexas.org. Access to VOTE411 and nonpartisan *Voters Guides* in English and Spanish will be added to the LWV-TX website in mid-March in advance of the primary elections now scheduled for April 3.

“Texas voter registration and turnout must improve for Texas to have effective representative democracy,” says Nicholson. Texas is consistently among the lowest states in voter participation. At 32.3%, Texas turnout of the voter eligible population was the lowest of any state in Nov. 2010 and only 4.5% voted on constitutional amendments in Nov. 2012. Texas voter registration also lags national figures. Minorities and younger individuals are particularly under-represented both on voter registration lists and at the polls. “It is absolutely essential that voter registration and turnout improve substantially if there is to be government ‘by the people’ in Texas,” Nicholson continues.

To combat low voter participation in Texas, LWV-TX is spearheading a nonpartisan coalition to Promote Texas Voting (PTXV). “LWV-TX is pleased that the Coalition of Texans with Disabilities, NAACP-Texas, Southwest Voter Registration Education Project, and Texas State Teachers Association have joined in the leadership of the initiative, and invites others—individuals and organizations—to join this nonpartisan endeavor,” says Nicholson. “Working together we can make a difference for Texas.” For additional information about PTXV contact Julie Oliver, joliver@lwvtexas.org.

LWV-TX is grateful to the Texas Bar Foundation for supporting coverage of judicial races through VOTE411. Since its inception in 1965, the Texas Bar Foundation has awarded more than \$13 million in grants to law-related programs. Supported by members of the State Bar of Texas, the Texas Bar Foundation is the nation’s largest charitably-funded bar foundation.

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LWV-TX is a nonpartisan organization that has “educated and agitated” for informed participation in government for over 90 years and believes no form of informed participation is important than voting.