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**Celebrate the Power of the Vote and Engaged Citizenry on August 26,
The 91st Anniversary of the 19th Amendment**

[Austin, TX] – “Celebrate the power of the vote to commemorate the anniversary of the 19th Amendment giving women the right to vote,” recommends Karen Nicholson, President of LWV-TX. “It is easy to take the right to vote for granted and forget the lengthy, arduous struggles that were required to broaden the franchise.”

“An engaged citizenry can and does lead to civic improvement at all levels of government,” Nicholson adds. “Women’s Equality Day is a celebration of such a basic part of our democratic process—the right to vote—and the opportunities to channel that power into real, lasting change, starting at the grassroots level – not just for women but for all of us.”

“Suffragists understood that if you don’t vote, you don’t count,” Nicholson continued. “LWV members are continuously working to get more citizens to exercise their right to vote, to ensure that there are not barriers for individuals to exercise this fundamental right, and that every vote is counted.”

“On this Women’s Equality Day, we take time to recognize not only the historic 19th Amendment, but the tremendous progress we’ve made over the last 91 years in expanding and protecting voting rights,” says Nicholson. “Generation after generation, the work of LWV members is a testament to the incredible legacy of the power of the vote and the importance of activism.”

Nicholson urges all eligible Texans to register to vote and vote in each election. Upcoming opportunities for Texans to go to the polls and demonstrate the power of the vote include the November 8, 2011, Constitutional Amendment Election, primary elections in March 2012, and a general election in November 2012. Voters must be registered at least 30 days in advance of an election.

Texas voters need to be aware of new photo ID requirements scheduled to take effect in 2012 says Nicholson. Beginning in 2012, voters will be required to show a qualified photo ID such as a Texas DPS-issued driver’s license or personal ID card, a US military ID, a US passport, or US citizenship papers that include a photo. The ID needs to be current or to have expired no more than 60 days before the election. It may take several weeks to obtain one of the qualified photo IDs, so voters without a qualified photo ID should plan to obtain one as soon as possible to be prepared for the March primary elections.

August 26 marks the 91st anniversary of the constitutional amendment that granted women the right to vote. The nonpartisan League of Women Voters—founded the same year—has been educating and agitating for active, informed participation in government ever since.

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