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LWV-TX Urges Public Involvement & Civility in Celebration of 91st Birthday

AUSTIN, TX– The League of Women Voters celebrates its 91st birthday on February 14. Since its founding in 1920 by leaders in the women’s suffrage movement, LWV has been educating and agitating for active, informed participation in government. LWV has become synonymous with elections and voting, public engagement and civility.

“There is a critical need for Texas legislators to hear from constituents as the 82nd Texas Legislature makes decisions that impact our lives now and into the future,” according to LWV-Texas President Karen Nicholson. “To meet current needs and continue to invest in the future of our great state,” she continues, “the Legislature must take a balanced approach to addressing the budget deficit, using the rainy day fund and exploring additional revenue sources to avoid disastrous cuts to education, health care and other programs on which Texans depend.

Texas ranked last among the states in turnout of voter eligible population for the 2010 General Elections. LWV-Texas believes improving voter turnout in Texas should be a significant public goal. For that to happen, there needs to be legislative transparency and public involvement in decisions on redistricting and voting that will shape public affairs in Texas for the next decade.

“It is our hope that political leaders and constituents come together to look for common solutions to the tough challenges facing all of us. We take seriously our legacy of providing trustworthy and balanced resources to lawmakers and the public,” says Nicholson.

Resources for the current Texas Legislature, including advocacy papers and a regular Legislative Newsletter, are available on the LWV-Texas website, <http://lwvtexas.org>. Information on bills, members, and committees of the Texas Legislature can be found on the Texas Legislature Online website, <http://www.capitol.state.tx.us>.

For more than 90 years, LWV has stood for and worked towards the civil exchange of different points of view. LWV has helped to improve the functioning of government and bridge the gap between voters and elected officials. From serving on local commissions to holding candidate debates and town hall meetings on important – and sometimes controversial – issues, LWV leaders across Texas are working to make communities healthy, vibrant and strong.

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The League of Women Voters, a nonpartisan political organization, encourages informed and active participation in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy. Membership in the League is open to men and women of all ages. With 91 years of experience and over 800 local and state affiliates, the League is one of America’s most trusted grassroots organizations.