

**HELP SPREAD THE WORD****Linda Krefting, Election Law Issue Chair, Lubbock County**

Texas voters have relied on LWV-TX for more than 90 years to provide straightforward, accurate information on elections. With the new voter photo ID law scheduled to take effect in 2012, there is a real need for the reliable information LWV has always provided.

LWV-TX calls on all members to join with the state and local Leagues in helping Texas voters be prepared should the law be in effect for the March primaries as scheduled. First, be sure that you will have a qualified photo ID if it is needed to vote in the primaries. Second, help others become aware of the requirements so that they too will be able to vote in the primaries.

The US Department of Justice (DOJ) must still “pre-clear” Texas’ voter photo ID requirement before it can take effect, and DOJ may not make a decision until late November or early December. If DOJ does preclear the law to take effect January 1, 2012, voters will have only a few months to make sure they have a qualified photo ID in time for the March 6 primaries. Obtaining a qualified photo ID requires documentation and time. For that reason voters need to understand the requirements even before the DOJ decision is known, so they can be prepared for the March 6 primaries if necessary.

**Qualified Photo IDs**

The photo IDs that can be accepted at the polls under the Texas law are limited to:

- Texas Department of Public Safety-issued driver’s license, personal ID card, concealed handgun license, or election identification certificate; or
- US government-issued passport, military ID, or citizenship papers that include a photo.

Except for citizenship papers, the ID must be current or

have expired no more than 60 days before presentation. The election identification certificate will be available from DPS after Jan. 1, 2012, at no cost to voters who lack a qualified photo ID.

**At the Polls**

When a voter goes to the polls, election workers will check that:

- the photo is of the voter and
- names on the ID and on the voter registration list match.

If the names do not match but election workers determine they are “substantially similar,” the voter will sign an affidavit and be accepted to vote a regular ballot. Voters who wish to align the name on their voter registration with that on their photo ID can change the voter registration name under “Need to Change Something?” at [http://www.votexas.org/change\\_something.html](http://www.votexas.org/change_something.html) or by contacting their county voter registrar. If the names match, the photo ID and voter registration addresses do not need to match; but if names do not match, an address match may help establish that names are substantially similar.

Voters without a qualified photo ID will be offered a provisional ballot and must present a qualified photo ID to the voter registrar within 6 days of the election. If otherwise eligible and a qualified photo ID is presented, the ballot will be counted.

**Exceptions**

- Photo ID is not required of those who vote by mail.
- Voters with documentation of disability and no photo ID may apply for an exemption from the voter registrar.

*.....continued on page 3*

## President's Podium

Karen Nicholson, President, Midland



“ ‘Political’ -- is it a dirty word? We in the LWV think not. Civil discussion, which involves fact, not unsubstantiated opinion, and doesn't dwell on simplistic solutions, is something we model well.” I began my message to League leadership, which we send via email the first of every month, with that, but I think it's a message worth repeating to you, the entire membership.

The LWV has come under fire from several directions, and the latest is that we're too political! What?! We ARE political, and it is not a dirty word. Many, however, do not understand the difference between being nonpartisan in candidates' races and being political when advocating for our positions on issues. I find it a very easy distinction to explain, especially when I add that we advocate for positions only after careful study. As you've heard me say

before, we do not hop on the topic du jour. We advocate on issues which our grassroots propose and study, and on which we then reach consensus. With that explanation, I don't see how any reasonable person can think our being political is a bad thing.

That said, some of your communities may not respond well to the description of the LWV as being political. As I just explained, I feel comfortable using both nonpartisan and political; it is possible to be both. You know your community. If using words other than “political” to explain what the LWV is all about is better for you, then by all means choose words which work for you. We have a complicated story to tell, but we should choose words which are effective in our communities. The LWV story is an important one that we can embrace. The specific words each of us uses are not as important as the entire story we tell.

- Karen

## Around the State

Judy Hollinger, Houston Area



**AMARILLO** is sponsoring a forum on the constitutional amendments. They are also distributing the LWV-Texas Facts and Issues on the Water Study to area elected officials. The August meeting featured a report from a high school student whom several League members had sponsored to attend

a summer Students in Government conference in North Carolina.

**AUSTIN AREA** League members have had four letters to the editor published in the Austin American-Statesman during the last few months. Already looking ahead to 2012, LWV-Austin Area is planning to collaborate with The Bob Bullock Museum on a Women's Equality Day exhibit next year.

**COMAL AREA** has plenty of news. There's a new Constant Contact format for its *VOTER*, a new Facebook page,

and an October fundraising home tour.

**CORPUS CHRISTI** has been awarded a grant from LWV-Texas targeting voter registration for young voters. Plans for 2011-2012 include a new and improved website and quarterly evening meetings to attract working professionals.

**DALLAS** League member Pat Vaughan was honored with the Women's Center of Dallas 2011 Women Helping Women Award on May 19, 2011.

**DENTON** is busy with a local study on the city council, as well as an Encouraging Young Voters project which will reach out to high school seniors. Denton members continue to participate in voter registration at the Naturalization ceremonies in Collin County.

**HOUSTON AREA's** annual summer “field trip” was to the Rutherford B. H. Yates Museum in Houston's historic Fourth Ward. Members are gearing up for the Houston city elections in November with candidate forums and a

.....continued on next page

*Voters Guide* in both English and Spanish

**IRVING** hosted one of the LWV-Texas Summer Seminars on Engaging Young Voters. They recruited a new member from the Irving Chamber of Commerce staff, where the meeting was held. They have a great new website [www.lwvirving.org](http://www.lwvirving.org).

**KERRVILLE AREA** is getting very intentional about membership recruitment and retention with an interest questionnaire and a telephone call to each member or prospect

The **MARSHALL/HARRISON COUNTY** League responded in August to an urgent community need for a public forum on a special election school tax issue. League members plan to continue their Red Nose Campaign which distributes “Rudolph noses” to the young and young-at-heart at Marshall’s Christmas parade in early December. With the theme of “Voting is a Bright Idea”, this raises the League’s visibility in the community and attracts donations.

Several of the METROPLEX area Leagues- **ARLINGTON, RICHARDSON, IRVING AND DALLAS** cosponsored with the Sierra Club a September public forum entitled “Will There Be Enough Water in Texas?”

**MIDLAND** held a Making Democracy Work luncheon in September to honor Dr. Steve Thomas and Midland College for being so supportive of the League’s forums.

**MONTGOMERY COUNTY** had a busy summer hosting one of the LWV-Texas Engaging Young Voters Summer Seminars and presenting two programs on water.

**PLANO/COLLIN COUNTY** is awash in studies this year- with 2 continuing local studies on Indigent and Mental Health Care and the Juvenile Justice Education system and a new local study on Vote Centers. Wow!

**SAN ANTONIO AREA** Leaguers are working on a local fundraiser and planning a great LWV-Texas Convention for Spring 2012. In September, San Antonio Area and five other local Leagues—Comal Area, Kerrville Area, San Marcos, Victoria, and Wimberley Valley—hosted a water forum.

**SAN MARCOS** is preparing for its November city council election with a candidate forum and *Voters Guide*. San Marcos League members are developing a plan to work with San Marcos High School to register 18 year old seniors to vote.

**TARRANT COUNTY**’s young members group, “the Contemporaries.” attended the Engaging Young Voters Summer Seminar in Irving to share some of their success stories.

**TYLER/SMITH COUNTY** has a great new format for its *VOTER*. Check it out at [www.lwvtyler.org](http://www.lwvtyler.org)! Tyler/Smith County members are busy with the Engaging Young Voters project and registering voters at the Naturalization ceremonies.

**VICTORIA** members helped to plan the September forum on water in San Antonio. They will hold a public meeting on the constitutional amendments as well as distribute printed copies of the LWV-Texas Constitutional Amendments *Voters Guide* to the community.

The speaker at the **WICHITA FALLS** September luncheon was former Wichita Falls mayor and current Texas State Representative Lanham Lynne whose topic was the 2011 Legislative Session.

The **WIMBERLEY VALLEY MAL** workshop on Civility in Government was so well received that LWV-San Marcos has asked their help in offering a similar workshop in that community. Wimberley Valley’s fall plans include distributing the LWV-Texas *Voters Guide* on Constitutional Amendments and a voter registration drive.

## HELP SPREAD THE WORD (continued from page 1)

- Voters without a qualified ID because of a natural disaster (within 45 days) or a religious objection to being photographed may vote a provisional ballot and sign an affidavit within 6 days.

LWV-Texas has been actively monitoring the DOJ pre-clearance process and the implementing rules for the photo ID requirement proposed by the Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS) and Secretary of State (SOS). There have been meetings, phone calls, and emails with relevant

officials, and formal written comments have been submitted to DOJ, DPS, SOS. This has been a collaborative effort with involvement of Janice Schieffer (Director-Voters Service), Janet Imhoff (VP-Program), Anita Privett (VP-Advocacy), Julie Lowenberg (Government Coordinator), and Julie Oliver (staff).

Updated information on DOJ processes and implementing decisions by SOS & and DPS is available on the LWV-Texas homepage, [www.lwvtexas.org](http://www.lwvtexas.org).

## Redistricting



**Are you wondering what happened about the 2011 district maps that the Texas Legislature enacted?**

There is a lot going on. Texas bypassed the US Dept. of Justice (DOJ) to ask the DC Federal Courts for pre-clearance of the Texas Legislature's maps by a summary judgment. DOJ and other groups like MALDEF and NAACP have filed their responses to

the state's action. DOJ has indicated that the information used by the Texas legislature to determine compliance with federal law was flawed and recommended that a decision about preclearance should have a full court hearing and thus not be resolved by summary judgment.

A number of groups and some individuals have also sued. Those suits have been consolidated in the San Antonio Federal District Court which has issued an injunction against the newly enacted maps being used at this time since they have not been precleared. The San Antonio court also asked that parties to the suits submit suggested maps so that the court can consider selecting maps to be used temporarily until the legal issues have been resolved which means that the temporary maps would be used for at least one election cycle but possibly more depending on how long it takes to resolve the legal issues.

Important dates:

- The DC Federal Court has agreed with the Dept. of Justice that the Texas House of Representatives, Texas Senate and Texas Congressional maps passed by the 2011 Texas Legislature used an improper standard for measuring minority voting strength and has declared that a full court trial will be necessary to determine whether

**Anita Privett, Advocacy VP, Austin Area**  
the maps meet legal standards. This case will not be resolved in time for candidates to file for 2012 elections.

- Previously the filing dates for getting a place on the ballot were to be Nov. 12 - Dec. 12th. The San Antonio based federal district court changed the dates to Nov. 28 - Dec. 15.
- The San Antonio court will identify new temporary maps for use in the 2012 elections before Nov. 28. They heard testimony earlier in Nov. about what the maps should look like and the State defendants' response to Department of Justice's brief on interim maps was heard on Nov. 15. You can find that testimony at: <http://tinyurl.com/7b9h4uz>.
- We anticipate that temporary maps will be release sometime before Nov. 28th.

If you aren't familiar with the term preclearance perhaps this will help. Section 5 of the Voting Rights Act "freezes election practices or procedures in certain states until the new procedures have been subjected to review, either after an administrative review by the United States Attorney General, or after a lawsuit before the United States District Court for the District of Columbia. This means that voting changes in covered jurisdictions may not be used until that review has been obtained." The "certain states" are those that have a documented history of discrimination and Texas is one of nine states that where the whole state is included. This quote and lots more information can be found at this URL: [http://www.justice.gov/crt/about/vot/sec\\_5/about.php](http://www.justice.gov/crt/about/vot/sec_5/about.php)

Check out our redistricting page on the web at: <http://www.lwvtexas.org/redistricting.php> for links to the maps that were passed by the legislature and other redistricting information including videos of town hall meetings in Dallas and Austin.

## Local Leaguers Honored for Grassroots Efforts

**Steward Snider, LWV-Austin Area President**

um. Nancy and Dick devoted years of volunteerism and support for TFN's work defending public education, religious freedom and civil liberties.

The League congratulates Nancy for receiving this high honor.

"I've known few people more dedicated to ensuring that all Texas kids have an education that is based on sound science and good scholarship, not political agendas. Their work makes them true grassroots champions for real Texas values."

— Austin Mayor Lee Leffingwell

**"Samantha Smoot Activist" Award Winners**



Nancy & Dick\* Neavel  
\*in memorium

The Texas Freedom Network (a non-partisan organization that advances religious freedom and individual liberties) recognized LWVAA member Nancy Neavel and her late husband, Dick (who passed away last year) in a celebration. Nancy was awarded and Dick was memorialized as the "Samantha

Smoot Activists of the Year" at TFN's *Epic Evening* on October 20th at the Bob Bullock Texas State History Muse-

# LWV-Texas Silent and Live Auction

Chris Davis Garcia, 2012 Convention Chair, Corpus Christi



Elaine Talariski, LWV-San Antonio Area;  
Chris Davis Garcia, LWV-Corpus Christi;  
Phyllis Ingram, LWV-San Antonio Area President

**Let's work together to make the LWV Texas Silent and Live Auctions the best ever!** The State League Convention Auction will be as good as members make it. Your support is requested to help raise the money to continue our

proven record of assisting Texans in becoming informed and active participants in the political process.

**The Auctions provide much needed income to help the League Make Democracy Work.** In past years, the most popular items have been certificates for hotel stays, meals, and tickets for events, museums, and plays.

**Local League Boards can help in several ways.** Contact your local Chamber of Commerce to ask for their help to promote your city since Leaguers like to travel around the state. Inform all members that they can make, buy or so-

licit an item from a store or artistic friend to donate to the cause. Donate a period of time at your second home, ski lodge, or lake house as an auction item. Ask your friend to donate their second home as an auction item. All big and little ticket donations are needed.

Go to [www.lwvtexas.org](http://www.lwvtexas.org) website and click on convention to get the donor form. Then mail it to LWV-TX, Attn: Auction, 9511 Faircrest Drive, Dallas, TX 75238 or email the form to [sgosslee@airmail.net](mailto:sgosslee@airmail.net).

Your support is greatly appreciated. Please call 214-732-8610 or email [sgosslee@airmail.net](mailto:sgosslee@airmail.net) if you have any questions and need help with delivery of your Auction contribution(s).



**Save the Date!**  
**Friday-Sunday**  
**April 13-15, 2012**  
**LWV-Texas Convention**  
**San Antonio, Texas**  
**The Hilton San Antonio Airport**

## Holiday Gifts and Year-End Giving Help Make Democracy Work

Need a gift for a special someone this holiday season? A membership in LWV-Texas or a local League might be just thing. Or honor the individual with a contribution to LWV-Texas or the LWV-Texas Education Fund. Whether a LWV membership or contribution in honor, your gift tells recipients how important they are to making democracy work.

Other possibilities for friends and family, stocking stuffers, or hostess gifts include our new LWV note cards (15 cards with envelopes--\$8), 2-color LWV buttons (\$1.50 or 4/\$5), blue LWV grocery totes (\$1.25) or other merchandise. A merchandise order form is available at <http://lwvtexas.org/publications.php> or by contacting the state office (512-472-1100, [lwvtexas@lwvtexas.org](mailto:lwvtexas@lwvtexas.org)).

For year-end contributions, we hope you will consider LWV-Texas and LWV-Texas Education Fund. Gifts to the 501(c)(3) LWV-Texas Education Fund will support voters service activities in the upcoming 2012 election year and are tax deductible. Contributions to the 501(c)(4) LWV-Texas help member services and advocacy.

Gifts and contributions can be made by contacting the state office (512-472-1100, [lwvtexas@lwvtexas.org](mailto:lwvtexas@lwvtexas.org), 1212 Guadalupe #107, Austin, TX, 78701) or online. For membership gifts, click here (<http://lwvtexas.org/join.php>). To make a contribution, click here (<https://app.etapestry.com/hosted/The-LeagueofWomenVotersof/OnlineGiving.html>). Indicate in the comments section if a gift is in honor of a special individual.

## VOTE411 Voters Guide Software for 2012

Janice Schieffer, Voters Service Director, Plano/Collin County



Is your League looking for a more convenient way to provide *Voters Guides* to the community and a simpler way to contact candidates and gather their responses? Consider using VOTE411 for the all-important elections in 2012.

For several years LWVUS has provided online *Voters Guide* capabilities on its VOTE411.org website. LWV-Texas and several local Leagues used it free of charge in 2010 elections to create and publish *Voters Guide* information. This software allows Leagues to control the questions and review candidate responses, which candidates can enter directly online, while it automates candidate notification and tracking. Its “On Your Ballot” feature allows voters to enter their home address and review state and local races

and ballot initiatives specific to that address.

This year LWVUS asked Leagues who use the software to pay annual fees to share some of the costs. Realizing that many local Leagues (LLs) in Texas do not have funds in their budgets to pay the fees, especially if they haven’t had a chance to utilize the software and appreciate its advantages, LWV-Texas has pursued funding to pay the fee for complete coverage for the entire state in 2012. We are well on our way to paying the fees for all LLs who will use the software. LLs have received an email update and will continue to be apprised via email the availability and “how to” for VOTE411.

We encourage all local Leagues to use this software so that we can develop comprehensive coverage of state and local races in an easy-to-use format for voters.

## LWV-Texas Continues to Build the Promote Texas Voting Coalition

To combat low voter participation in Texas, LWV-Texas is spearheading a coalition to Promote Texas Voting (PTXV). The Coalition of Texans with Disabilities, NAACP-Texas, the Southwest Voter Registration Education Project, and the Texas State Teachers Association have agreed to serve as a steering committee. We are now inviting a wide range of organizations—from nonprofits and professional groups to media and businesses—to join PTXV’s nonpartisan efforts to improve voter participation. Local Leagues will also be receiving information about PTXV activities.

We know that eligible citizens are most likely to register and turnout to vote if they

- understand voter registration and election procedures,
- know what is on the ballot and why it matters, and
- are encouraged by those they know in a culture that values voter participation.

Working together, the coalition can provide the essential information and needed encouragement through an extended network to have a positive impact on voter participation in Texas.

## Meet the new additions to the State Office Staff



Julie Oliver joined us in April as a part-time contractor to work on fundraising with the Development and Marketing Committee. She is graduate of UT with both a teaching certificate in social studies and a JD and has extensive experience with large access to justice projects, including fundraising and organizing volunteers. Beyond

actively pursuing grants and other funding possibilities, she has been an essential participant in discussions of improving *Voters Guide* coverage of judicial races and implementation of voter photo ID. Her four dogs keep her quite busy and, as a fan of the Lady Longhorns, she looks forward to the basketball season.



Jeannie Nguyen, a senior at the University of Texas-Austin is currently studying History, Pre-Law. Her focus is Latin American History and she is planning to graduate December 2011. Furthermore, she is also applying to UC Berkeley School of Law for the term of Fall 2012.

Jeannie joined us in June as a part-time Administrative Assistant, and hopes to be an asset to the League as well as learn from it. Aside from being a student, she spends most of her time with her family in Houston or with her pet dwarf rabbit, Bear Grylls.

## Voter Education Through PAVP Pass Through Grants

Janet Imhoff, Program VP, Plano/Collin County



Local Leagues in Tyler/Smith County, Corpus Christi and the Houston area will lead their communities in helping underserved populations learn about Texas' new voter photo identification and voting procedures, with assistance from LWV-Texas grants received through LWVUS' Public Advocacy for Voter Protection (PAVP) initiative.

The fast-paced, interactive Vote 18 game ([www.vote18.org](http://www.vote18.org)) will engage Corpus Christi high school students in the history of voting rights and importance of voting through an LWV-Corpus Christi partnership with community organizations reaching out to local high schools. The expectation is increased registration and voter turn-

out among students and their families.

LWV-Tyler/Smith County's project will educate the community about new voting regulations in Texas through a public meeting and launch a plan for voters to obtain a qualified photo ID.

In the Houston area, LWV-Houston will build on current efforts to help clients of Main Street Ministries obtain a photo ID by developing an internet presence which includes a special Voter ID education piece for its website, establishing a dedicated Voter ID telephone hotline, and collaborating with groups like Super Neighborhood Councils to host workshops.

Look for more information about these projects and their outcomes in upcoming VOTER articles and on the LWV-Texas website!

## Women's Equality Day



Texas Leaguers celebrated Women's Equality Day, August 26, the anniversary of the passage of the 19th Amendment, in a big way this year. The League's enthusiasm for this day is not new, but it is always noteworthy across the state. Put August 26 on your 2012 calendar to celebrate in your community. Here's

a sampling with ideas you can use.

- Eighty-six people attended the **LWV-Amarillo** sponsored Louise Daniel luncheon which featured a program on the history of the campaign to get the vote for women.
- **LWV-Dallas** co-sponsored a celebration at the Dallas City Hall and then participated in a program at the Women's Museum, where an exhibit on the women's suffrage movement is currently featured.
- The **Houston Area League** hosted a packed crowd at an evening cocktail reception which doubled as a fundraiser and an awards presentation to outstanding community leaders.

Dee Brock, Organization VP, Tyler/Smith County

- **LWV-Kerrville Area** held its membership kickoff at a celebratory luncheon on August 26 and garnered eight new members!
- The **Montgomery County League** served a special Women's Equality Day (WED) cake following its August meeting on the water study consensus.
- **LWV-Plano/Collin County** sent its troupe of actors to perform a dramatic presentation about Carrie Chapman Catt and the struggle for women's suffrage for the **LWV-Irving's** celebration of WED.
- The **Tarrant County League** co-sponsored a WED luncheon featuring political strategist Danee Mastagani, conservative activist Diane Criswell, and Fort Worth mayor Betsy Price.
- **LWV-Tyler/Smith County** commemorated WED with an evening reception at the downtown Main Street Art Gallery. Mayor Barbara Bass and federal judge Judith Guthrie both spoke, but the evening's honoree was the surprise presentation of the Making Democracy Work award to Scherel Carver, longtime local and state LWV leader.

## Help the League Save Trees and Money!

In a cost saving effort, LWV-TX will send the *Texas Voter* via email to everyone for whom we have an email address. If you would prefer to receive a copy via the US mail, contact our state office at [lwvtexas@lwvtexas.org](mailto:lwvtexas@lwvtexas.org) or (512) 472-1100 and staff will be happy to send you a hard copy.

# Thank You to our Donors

August 1, 2011 - October 31, 2011

## TX

Naomi Albrecht  
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Veta Winick  
Judy Wood  
Donna Wood-Martin  
Mark Zutkoff

## Honors & Memorials

August 1, 2011 - October 31, 2011

- Lois Carpenter donated to TX in honor of Veta Winick
- Chris Davis Garcia donated to TX in honor of Veta Winick
- Donnette La Faitte donated to TX in honor of Veta Winick
- Wendy Marsh donated to TX in honor of Veta Winick
- Louise Underwood donated to TX in honor of Veta Winick
- Linda Krefting donated to TX in memory of Emil Kneupper
- Lloyd Perkins donated to TX in memory of Arliss Middents
- Anita Privett donated to TX in memory of Emil Kneupper
- Robert Scott donated to TX in memory of Gwen Murphree
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- Frances Emery donated to EF in honor of Veta Winick
- Karen Hostettler donated to EF in honor of Veta Winick
- Sam Keeper donated to EF in honor of Veta Winick
- Celia Morgan donated to EF in honor of Gwen Essinger
- Diane Sheridan donated to EF in honor of Veta Winick
- Louis & Carole Shlipak Philanthropic Fund donated to EF in honor of Veta Winick
- Dave & Anna Shuck donated to EF in honor of Karen Nicholson
- Edith Speert donated to EF in honor of Arlis Olson
- Patricia Swank donated to EF in honor of Veta Winick
- Diane Tasian donated to EF in honor of Susybelle Gosslee
- Rita Taubenfeld donated to EF in honor of Minnie Faulk
- Louise Underwood donated to EF in honor of Veta Winick
- Linda Wassenich donated to EF in honor of Virginia Whitehill
- Linda Wassenich donated to EF in honor of Elaine Wiant
- Margaret DeMoss donated to EF in memory of Mildred Hogstel
- Judy Hollinger donated to EF in memory of Martin Gay
- Sandra Murphree donated to EF in memory of Gwen Murphree
- Barbara Ruud donated to EF in memory of Millard H. Ruud
- Cynthia Schneider donated to EF in memory of Alice Lang Rottenstein
- Barbara Swartz donated to EF in memory of Gwen Murphree
- Mary Titus donated to EF in memory of Ardelle Hamilton
- Linda Wassenich donated to EF in memory of Emil Kneupper
- Veta Winick donated to EF in memory of Gwen Murphree