

About the Society

Dedicated citizens and members of the League of Women Voters know that, as Archibald MacLeish said, "Democracy is never a thing done. It is always something that a nation must be doing." The League was founded in 1920 to teach women about voting. As we look to the future, it is clear that the League is still a very necessary and unique organization with its principles for good government and its nonpartisan positions.

In order to strengthen the financial future of the League, LWV-TX founded the Minnie Fisher Cunningham Society in 2004 to encourage multi-year pledges and planned gifts to the League of Women Voters of Texas and the League of Women Voters of Texas Education Fund for the reserve funds or endowment. The Society is named for the leader of the Texas Women's Suffrage Association and the first staff member of the LWVUS. Minnie Fish, as she was affectionately known, constantly worried about the financial state of the women's suffrage movement and the League of Women Voters. The Minnie Fisher Cunningham Society is dedicated to increasing the financial stability and the endowment of the League of Women Voters in Texas so the League can continue and thrive, focusing on its primary goal of Making Democracy Work. Multi-year pledges to the League promote better financial forecasting and more financial stability for the League. Planned gifts to the Minnie Fisher Cunningham Society for endowment may be made during your lifetime or through your will.

Mission

The League of Women Voters, a nonpartisan political organization, encourages the informed and active participation of citizens in government and influences public policy through education and advocacy.

Core Values

- We are a nonpartisan political membership organization.
- We believe that grassroots initiative and consensus building are the strengths of our organization.
- We believe that our organization models the principles of good governance.
- We consider well before taking action and prepare well before beginning to act.
- We believe that citizenship requires knowledge, as well as the ability and will to act.
- We believe that the responsibility of good government rests on the shoulders of its citizens.
- We believe that the rights of citizens at home and abroad are interdependent.

Summer 2006

Minnie Fisher Cunningham Society

For Planned Giving



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®
OF TEXAS

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LEAVE A LEGACY WITH THE LEAGUE

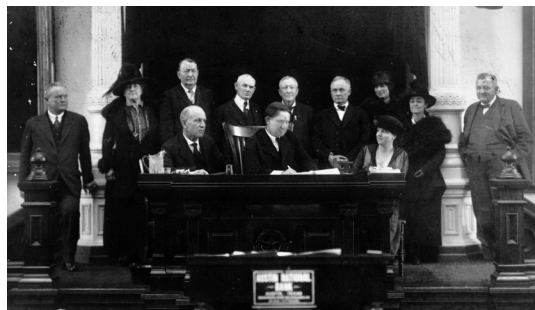
Minnie Fisher Cunningham Society

Ways to contribute and be recognized as a member:

Bequests: Leaving a bequest to the League in your will is one of the most common ways to benefit the League.

The proper wording to make a bequest to LWV-TX is: I bequeath to the League of Women Voters of Texas, a non-profit corporation formed in the State of Texas, with offices at 1212 Guadalupe #107, Austin, TX 78701, (specify gift amount or property).

For LWV-TEF: "I bequeath to the League of Women Voters of Texas Education Fund, a charitable trust formed in the State of Texas, with offices at 1212 Guadalupe #107, Austin, TX 78701, (specify gift amount or property).



Minnie Fisher Cunningham seated with Governor Hobby and other state legislators as the resolution calling for a state constitutional amendment allowing women to vote is signed February 5, 1919.

Photo courtesy of Austin History Center

Life Insurance: A gift of an old or new policy with the League named as the beneficiary and the owner will give you an immediate tax deduction for the gift's value with possible savings in estate taxes. It's an easy way to make a significant gift with minimal expenditure.

Real Estate: A gift of real estate, either in full or with retained ability to use through your lifetime, gives you an immediate income tax deduction for the charitable gift plus no capital gains tax liability and allows you to continue to use the property during your lifetime.

Retirement Plan Gift: A gift of your retirement funds made to the League as a remainder beneficiary after your death avoids tax liability to your heirs, possible estate taxes, and income tax on the plan during your lifetime.

Multi-Year Pledge: Pledge a significant gift (\$5,000 minimum) which can be paid over a period of five years.

Stocks: Gifts of stock to the endowment funds offer you a tax savings by avoiding capital gains on the stock. If you have securities that pay little or no dividends, you may want to consider using those securities to make your gift.

You can also give stock to diversify your assets. For example, if you own securities that have grown in value since you have owned them but yield little income and may have peaked in value, you can use the securities to fund your charitable gifts and use the cash that you would have contributed to buy other stocks. In this way, you can diversify your investments while enjoying a new, higher cost basis.

For more information or to make your plans known, contact: League of Women Voters of Texas, 1212 Guadalupe St., Suite 107 Austin, Texas 78701 or Linda Wasenich, Vice President of Public Relations, 5221 Pebblebrook Dr. Dallas, Texas 75229 214-368-5305 (ph) / 214-368-0611 (fax)

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*The information in this publication is not intended as legal advice.
For legal advice, please consult an attorney.*