

Issues We Support

LWV members can get contact information for issue chairs from the *Handbook and Directory* at <http://www.lwvtexas.org/members/H&D%202010-11.pdf>. Others can contact the issue chairs and coordinators through the state office at lwvtexas@lwvtexas.org.

Government – Coordinator – Julie Lowenberg, LWV-Dallas

Action: To achieve an efficient, effective, and responsive state governmental system through constitutional revision and legislative action which includes:

Constitutional Revision – Sandy Ashby, LWV-Montgomery County

Support the revision of the State Constitution to make it a framework of basic law.

Election Laws and Voting Rights – Linda Krefting, LWV-Lubbock County

Support election laws that facilitate citizen participation and voter convenience as well as monitor all legislation relating to HAVA.

Financing State Government – Bonnie Leitch, LWV-Comal Area

Promote adequate, fair funding for major state responsibilities such as public education and transportation.

Judicial Selection – Barbara Weinstein, LWV-Dallas

Support the appointment/retention method and/or nonpartisan election of the judiciary.

Open Government – Linda Pavlik, LWV-Tarrant County

Promote transparency and public participation in government.

Political Campaign Process – Stewart Snider, LWV-Austin Area

Support fair campaign finance laws to reduce the perceived influence of large contributions to candidates and office holders.

Public Policy on Reproductive Choice/Women's Health – Julie Lowenberg, LWV-Dallas

Promote and protect women's access to health care, including all aspects of reproductive health.

Public School Funding, Testing and Accountability – Nan Clayton, LWV-Austin Area

Promote adequate state funding for public schools, and changes in the state's accountability rating system to make it fairer and less punitive.

Redistricting – A committee will lead this effort, Anita Privett, Advocacy VP, LWV-TX

Support transparency and public input in the 2011 redistricting process.

State and Local Relations – Karen Rankin, LWV-Austin Area

Support increased county authority in order to enable better manage growth in urbanizing areas.

Administration of Justice – Coordinator- Elaine Talarski, LWV-San Antonio Area

Action: To achieve an equitable system of criminal justice in Texas for adults and juveniles which includes:

Capital Punishment – Susybelle Gosslee, LWV-Dallas

Promote a moratorium on the death penalty while an official study is conducted. Support the option of life sentence without parole in capital cases.

Criminal Justice – Open

Support a professional parole and probation staff and work to decrease their caseload. Provide a secure prison environment with maximum education opportunities.

Issues We Support

Drug Laws and Policies – Elaine Talarski, LWV-San Antonio Area

Support treatment programs for drug abuse and addiction as an alternative to incarceration.

Immigration – Sally Bolster, LWV-San Antonio Area

Support state services for undocumented immigrants, especially in the area of education and healthcare. Monitor any attempt to curb civil rights of immigrants.

Juvenile Justice – Open

Support and fund substance abuse treatment, mental health needs, and education for youth at risk and for those incarcerated.

Social Policy and Human Resources – Coordinator – Jensie Madden, LWV-Comal Area

Action: To achieve equal rights for all; to combat discrimination and poverty; and to provide equal access to housing, employment, quality education, and health care in Texas which includes:

Health Care For Those of Lesser Means – Lynda Ender, LWV-Dallas

Support providing basic health care services for those who are unable to pay. Basic services include emergency care, primary care, preventive care, care for catastrophic illness, nutrition, substance abuse treatment, and health education.

Child Abuse and Neglect – Joyce Robinson, LWV-Sherman/Grayson County

Support the development and implementation of adequate legislation, policies, services, and programs to protect children from abuse and neglect.

Early Childhood – Marlene Lobberecht, LWV-Houston Area

Support early childhood education professional development. Expand access to high quality pre-kindergarten. Improve safe care for infants and toddlers.

Child Health – Susan Majors, LWV-Richardson

Ensure that state budget cuts do not undermine children's access to health care. Improve enrollment and retention for CHIP and Children's Medicaid and maintain effective delivery systems for both. Preserve Texas' public health safety net.

Equal Opportunity/Income Assistance – Libbie Terrell Lee, LWV-Dallas

Support policies that improve well-being for families in poverty, programs that provide job training for living wage jobs, and equal education opportunities from preschool to higher education.

Health Care for the Elderly – Lynda Enders, LWV-Dallas

Support increased funding to provide adequate programs to serve the elderly.

Services for the Seriously Mentally Ill – Linda Camin, LWV-Dallas

Maintain and increase funding for services to persons with serious mental illness, and include post-crisis and crisis prevention community care.

Natural Resources – Coordinator – Linda Hanratty, LWV-Tarrant County

Action: To achieve conservation, protection, and judicious development of the state's natural resources which includes:

Air Quality – Laura Blackburn, LWV-Houston Area

Support air quality and climate change legislation.

Issues We Support

Energy – Penny Miller, LWV-Wichita Falls

Promote incentives for renewable and clean energy sources and energy conservation. Monitor the building of coal fired plants and nuclear power plants. Promote energy policy to reduce global warming.

Hazardous Waste – Susybelle Gosslee, LWV-Dallas

Support safe transportation handling and disposal of radioactive materials. Support legislation promoting recycling efforts, in particular for electronic waste.

Land Use – Karen Rankin, LWV-Austin Area

Increase county authority to regulate land development. Support full funding for Texas Parks and Wildlife Dept.

Transportation – Edie Jones, LWV-Tarrant County

Increase funding for public roads, mass transit, and light rail.

Water – Mary Vogelsson, LWV-Dallas

Support funding for safe and adequate water supplies, using sound ecological/economic strategies that emphasize conservation. Support enhanced protection for environmental flows; Texas rivers, bays and estuaries.