



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS
of DALLAS
HANDBOOK
2009 – 2010

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MISSION and PRINCIPLES

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS

Mission

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.

Vision, Beliefs, and Intentions

The goal of the League of Women Voters is to empower people to shape better communities worldwide. The League of Women Voters of the United States is a nonpartisan political membership organization, which:

- Acts after study and member agreement to achieve solutions in the public interest on key community issues at all government levels.
- Builds participation in the democratic process.
- Engages communities in promoting positive solutions to public policy issues through education and advocacy.

The League of Women Voters Education Fund is a nonpartisan public policy educational organization, which:

- Builds participation in the democratic process.
- Studies key community issues at all government levels in an unbiased manner.
- Enables people to seek positive solutions to public policy issues through education and conflict management.

We believe in:

- Respect for individuals.
- The value of diversity.
- The empowerment of the grassroots, both within the League and in communities.
- The power of collective decision making for the common good.

We will:

- Act with trust, integrity, and professionalism.
- Operate in an open and effective manner to meet the needs of those we serve, both members and the public.
- Take the initiative in seeking diversity in membership.
- Acknowledge our heritage as we seek our path to the future.

League of Women Voters of Dallas Diversity Statement

The League of Women Voters of Dallas (LWVD), in both its values and practices, affirms its belief in, and commitment to, diversity and pluralism.

LWVD welcomes any person to participate in any activity of LWVD, regardless of gender, race, religion, age, sexual orientation, national origin, disability, or political persuasion.

LWVD recognizes that diverse perspectives are important and necessary for responsible and representative decision-making.

LWVD subscribes to the belief that diversity and pluralism are fundamental to the values it upholds and that inclusiveness enhances its capability to respond more effectively to changing conditions and needs.

LWVD affirms its commitment to reflecting diversity in its membership, board, staff, and programs.

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF DALLAS - History at a Glance *"A Short Walk through the Decades" by Eleanor Sutherland*

The League of Women Voters of Dallas began as a branch of the League of Women Voters of Texas in 1938. Sixteen women saw that the mission of the League was a way to approach the major issues of the day that was beyond the partisanship of a political party. The Dallas League began its first full year in September, 1939, with 60 members.

The path to becoming a "city" League took members through surveys of both the county and city to aid members in knowing where they live and how their government and cultural entities worked. The women at the start were identified as "Mrs." followed by a husband's name, so we know that Mrs. E.L. DeGolyer was elected first president and Mrs. H. Abbott, vice president.

Getting the work of the League done was through regular meetings and study committees as well as general meetings. Study/committee meetings were held twice a month, general membership meetings monthly. The latter were held at the Melrose and Stoneleigh Hotels. Also, Miss Edna Rowe conducted unit meetings at Cokesbury Book Store in downtown Dallas. She was a longtime teacher at Forest Avenue High School; later she was the principal.

We gained members by word of mouth and invitation from members to their friends. Most members in the early years did not work outside the home. This contributed to the League's ability to research, study, and inform members about the issues of the day as well as more time to attend community meetings and to make sure that League views and positions were understood. The 1950s and 1960s saw the Dallas League's maximum annual membership. The 1970s saw a decline in membership, though, and the minutes frequently mentioned "the increasing number of women returning to school and work."

Even with declining membership through the 1980s and 1990s, and fewer units – from 16 units to 8 by 1992 – the Dallas League continued to adapt to an ever-changing world and to champion important issues. A look at our support positions shows where our interests have focused: education, voters service, trade, foreign affairs and the United Nations, the judicial process, human resources, city/county government and urban planning, human rights and women's issues, and natural resources.

Our members have included women who have moved into their chosen fields with success and given the League credit for, among other things, a great networking opportunity. The League's legislative successes are there, too. In 1949, Texas League president, Mrs. Martin Row, stood at the side of the governor when he signed into law the secret ballot and a bill establishing the juvenile court system. He gave full credit to the League for it all. Mrs. Row had been a Dallas League president prior to becoming LWV-TX board director and president.

Past Presidents

1938-1939	Mrs. E. L. DeGolyer	1965-1967	Mrs. Sam Faris (Fran)
1939-1940	Mrs. George Abbott	1967-1969	Mrs. Laurence Perrine (Catherine)
1940-1941	Mrs. Walter Watson	1969-1971	Mrs. Henry Lanz (Teddy)
1941-1942	Mrs. J. B. Perry (later, Mrs. Banks Upshaw)	1971-1973	Mrs. Lee R. Johnson (Jean)
1942-1943	Mrs. Allen Merriam	1973-1975	Mrs. Winthrop A. Clark (Diana)
1943-1944	Miss Sara Daniels	1975-1977	Mrs. Hal Sutherland (Eleanor)
1944-1945	Mrs. H. A. Trexler	1977-1979	Mrs. Herbert Wincorn (Pearl)
1945-1946	Mrs. Martin Row	1979-1981	Mrs. Dan E. Polter (Lucy)
1946-1947	Mrs. Donald C. Bennett	1981-1983	Mrs. William J. Materka (Barbara)
1947-1949	Mrs. William B. Ruggles	1983-1985	Pat Nicklaus Sabin
1949-1951	Mrs. W. W. Clawson	1985-1987	Rebecca Bergstresser (Paul)
1951-1953	Mrs. William B. Ruggles	1987-1991	Julie Lowenberg (Michael) (two terms)
1953-1955	Mrs. Sidney E. Cockrell, Jr. (Lila)	1991-1993	Barbara Weinstein (Myron)
1955-1961	Mrs. Colin Macdonald (Virginia) (three terms)	1993-1995	Jean Aratingi (Michael)
1961-1963	Mrs. John K. Godbey (Jo Fay)	1995-1999	Linda Wassenich (Mark) - (two terms)
1963-1965	Mrs. Edward C. Fritz (Genie)	1999-2005	Susybell Gosslee (three terms)
		2005-2007	Katherine Homan
		2007-2009	Libbie Lee

Myrtle Bales Bulkley Award

The Myrtle Bayles Bulkley Award is given annually to an LWVD member in recognition and appreciation of many years of exceptional service to LWVD and to the community.

Liz Wally 2009 Recipient

Award Background

The Myrtle Bales Bulkley award was first presented at the Annual Meeting in 1989 and it has been given yearly ever since. The award was named in honor of Myrtle Bales Bulkley, a charter member of LWV-US, long time member of LWVD, and mother of League member Virginia Whitehill.

Myrtle was born in 1899, in the farming community of Colo, Iowa. She attended Iowa State Teachers College just prior to the passage of the Women's Suffrage Amendment in 1920. As a student she worked with other young women who lobbied for suffrage by giving talks, writing letters, and making posters.

Myrtle Bulkley was a Charter Member of the League of Women Voters, which she joined during a visit to Washington D.C. in 1920. She also was proud of having attended meetings at the home of Alice Paul, the suffragist who organized picketing of the White House in 1918, which successfully persuaded the President to support Votes for Women.

The suffrage movement sparked a lifetime of activism for Myrtle. Following a year as a teacher in a one-room school house in rural Iowa, she left her position to become an advance agent on the Chautauqua circuit, booking the traveling lecturers and entertainers who brought culture and enlightenment to small towns in America. After that she left Iowa and became a sales representative for Compton's Encyclopedia in New York. She wrote the first sales manual for Compton's—an innovation at the time—which was translated into several languages.

At age 26, she married Harold Bulkley. They had two children, a daughter, Virginia, and a son, Jonathan. From her home in Pelham Manor, NY, she remained active in the League and perhaps owing to her experience with the Chautauqua circuit, was able to get prominent people like suffragist Carrie Chapman Catt and Ralph Bunche to address the League.

Myrtle moved to Dallas in 1972. Several years later, when conservative forces tried to rescind Texas' ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment, she was among the speakers defending the ERA in an address to the Texas Legislature. She told them, "I want the ERA for my daughter and granddaughters, but I want it for myself, too." She got a standing ovation. Myrtle died in Dallas in 1990.

-Prepared by Virginia Whitehill, Myrtle's daughter

Virginia Macdonald Leadership Award

The Virginia Macdonald Leadership Award is given from time to time to an LWVD leader who has exhibited courage in working for change and who inspired leadership in others.

Linda Sharp 2009 Recipient

Award Background

In 1996 the Dallas League initiated an award to honor the lasting legacy of courage and inspiring leadership of Virginia Macdonald.

Virginia was born in St. Paul, Minnesota in 1898. Developing her civic awareness early, she graduated from the University of Minnesota with a degree in Political Science and became a social worker in her home town. She joined the League in 1932. During World War II, Virginia joined her husband at several U.S. Marine bases around the country. After his detachment from the Corps in 1946, they chose Dallas as home base for Mr. Macdonald's insurance business.

Virginia became the Dallas Board Secretary in 1947, a position she had filled on the Minneapolis League Board. Shortly after her election as Dallas League President in 1955, she obtained co-sponsorship from SMU of the national League project "The Freedom Agenda," a series of seminars designed to review, discuss and promote understanding of our constitutional freedoms as defined in the Bill of Rights. A record crowd of more than 170 people attended the lectures at SMU after the project came under attack from publications and organizations of the far right. Because of warnings against the demagoguery of Senator Joseph McCarthy and the House Un-American Activities Committee, Virginia's steadfastness in defending the project and SMU President Dr. Willis Tate's involvement were models of courage under fire. She even stood up to the FBI investigation of her as a possible communist!

Virginia served as Dallas League President for six years; 1955-1961. She was elected to the state board in 1962 and the national board in 1964. She was also a charter member of the Dallas United Nations Association and strongly supported such national League issues as foreign economic policy and U.S.-China relations. In Dallas, Virginia spoke out for the League on methods for achieving school integration, not a favorite topic for many Dallasites in 1960. After her national board service, Virginia returned to the Dallas League board and served for 15 years as secretary from 1967 to 1982.

Perhaps the most outstanding memory of Virginia among several generations of Dallas League members is that of League mentor and trainer. On and off for some thirty years she taught new board members the fundamentals of the League and how each individual portfolio contributed to what she championed: total board responsibility.

Virginia died in 1983 having been a League member for over 50 years. In addition to her service, Virginia will be remembered for her integrity, fierce loyalty to the League, courage, independence, precision and a sense of humor "...as firm in a considered opinion as she is open to a new idea..."

The Myrtle Bayles Bulkley Award and the Virginia Macdonald Leadership Award are given to individual LWVD members at the annual meeting. Recipients are selected by a committee composed of past recipients and two current board members.

Past Myrtle Bayles Bulkley Award Recipients

Eleanor Sutherland	1989	Barbara Weinstein	1999
Pearl Wincorn	1990	Linda Wassenich	2000
Bea Sutherland	1991	Sandy Greyson	2001
Diana Clark	1992	Fran Faris	2002
Catherine Perrine	1993	Jo Fay Godbey	2003
Helen Harwig	1994	Roger Kallenberg	2004
Rebecca Bergstresser	1995	Becky Sykes	2005
Essie Reed	1996	Nancy Todes	2006
Barbara Materka	1997	Pat Vaughan	2007
Virginia Bulkley Whitehill	1998	Susybelles Gosslee	2008

Past Virginia Macdonald Leadership Award Recipients

Julie Lowenberg	1996	Harryette Ehrhardt	2003
Dorothy Masterson	1997	Molly Rooke	2004
Molly Van Ort	1998	Joanne Hill	2005
Genie Fritz	1999	Adlene Harrison	2006
Mary Vogelsson	2000	Marsha Fogarty	2007
Lucy Polter	2001	Linda Camin	2008
Pat Sabin	2002		

President's Meritorious Service Award

Cecilia McKay 2009 Recipient

The President of LWVD may give one or more awards to deserving members at the Annual Meeting each year. Suggested guidelines include:

1. An LWVD member and volunteer who is not currently serving on the LWVD board at the time the award is presented.
2. An LWVD member who has demonstrated devoted service to LWVD that is above and beyond the norm, over a period of years.
3. An LWVD member who has been recommended by the members of the Board and/or the Awards Committee.
4. An LWVD member who has not been a recipient of other LWVD awards, notably the Bulkley Award or the Macdonald Award.

The chosen honoree shall receive a certificate or other token of recognition.

Past President's Meritorious Service Award Recipients

Jean Cozzens & Mary Fugger	1996	Nancy Todes & Jane Davis	2003
Madeleine Hervey, Robin Yaklin, & Margie Haley	1997	Barbara Downey	2004
		Linda Wassenich	2005
Ann Jones & Mary Vogelsson	1998	Dorothy Box & Ann Adams	2006
Pat Vaughan & Bessie Weed	1999	Ann Jones, Brenda Marks & Linda Sharp	2007
Agnes Ellsworth	2002	Becky Brakke, Alix Mason & Jane Pak	2008

POLICIES and BYLAWS

LOCAL POLICIES STATEMENT

LWV-US NONPARTISAN POLITICAL POLICY AND LOCAL AMPLIFICATION

Article II, Section 2 of the League of Women Voters US Bylaws delineates the League's policy: "The League shall not support or oppose any political party or any candidate."

It is the duty of the Board to see that the League is in fact nonpartisan and that what it does and says is not influenced by any party or candidate. All members of the League of Women Voters of Dallas, including Board members, are encouraged to participate as individuals in partisan political activities. Such activities may include, but are not limited to, attending precinct caucuses and party conventions, making financial contributions to the candidates of their choice, and allowing their names to be used in support of particular candidates.

The President, Advocacy Vice President, Community Relations Vice President, Publicity Director, Voters Service Director, and Voters Guide Editor, however, may not participate in conspicuous partisan political activities during their terms of office. League members should take care not to represent their partisan political activities as League policy and should not use the name of the League in such a way as to imply endorsement of or opposition to any candidate for elected office.

LOCAL PUBLIC POLICIES (As approved at the Annual Meeting – April 2005)

SPEAKING FOR THE LEAGUE: Only the President or those authorized by the President shall speak officially for the League of Women Voters of Dallas. League members speaking publicly in opposition to a League position shall not identify themselves as League members.

SERVICE ON BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS: Appointment of a League Board member to a governmental committee or commission must be reported to the Board. The League takes initiative in recommending people to serve on appointed public boards, committees, and commissions. When the League member represents the League, the Board is not bound to support the commission's recommendations. The Board may issue a statement in explanation of the League's position and may specify what portion of the commission's report the League does and does not support.

REPRESENTATIVES TO OTHER ORGANIZATIONS: The President and the Advocacy Vice President shall annually, in June, review the League-appointed representatives to other organizations and act as necessary to renew or revise these appointments, subject to Board approval where appropriate.

COALITIONS and ASSOCIATIONS: The League of Women Voters of Dallas reserves the right to withhold its name from any statement or action taken by a coalition of which it is a member that does not reflect the League's consensus positions. If a coalition or association supports or opposes candidates, the League shall publicly issue a statement disassociating itself from such support or opposition.

DIRECTORY: The Directory of the League shall not be used for other than League purposes without prior Board approval. Each member is responsible for notifying the League office how she/he wishes her/his name to be listed in the Directory.

PETITIONS: Only petitions relating to League positions, which have received prior approval of the Dallas League Board, shall be circulated during League meetings.

VOTER: The local newsletter, The Dallas *VOTER*, may carry announcements of other organizations' activities when they relate to League program or concerns, if space is available in the *VOTER*.

USE OF OFFICE EQUIPMENT: The equipment in the League office is to be used only for League purposes and operated only by trained operators.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST: Members of the local Board shall not receive material compensation, such as salaries or stipends, for services rendered, nor shall they sell professional services or products to the LWV-Dallas. (In a not-for-profit organization, it is inappropriate for those who govern to receive material compensation for performing the services they have deemed necessary to carry out the mission of the organization.)

The office staff shall not be members of the local Board. It is considered inappropriate for those earning a fee to be a part of the decision making body that hires, fires, and determines salary and benefits.

In any matter in which a local Board member or a member of her/his family has a financial interest, the Board member shall refrain from participating in the discussion prior to a vote and shall refrain from attempting to influence the outcome of a vote, and shall abstain from voting.

COPYRIGHT: The League retains all right, title, and interest in all material prepared by League members for League use or distribution under League auspices. All copyrights to such material belong to the League.

LOCAL ORGANIZATION POLICIES

PROGRAM AND FISCAL YEARS: The program year, the fiscal year, and the development year shall run concurrently from June 1 to May 31. Retiring officers or directors shall work with their successor until the new director is familiar with the portfolio.

STANDING COMMITTEES:

- Annual Meeting Awards: Appointed each year by the president to choose recipients of the Myrtle Bales Bulkley Award and the Virginia Macdonald Award prior to the annual meeting. It is composed of past recipients and two current board members. The Bulkley Award is given annually. The Macdonald may be given at the discretion of the committee.
- Budget: Article VI, Section 4 of the bylaws.
- Bylaws: appointed each year by the president.
- Development: Shall consist of the organization vice president, four League members appointed by the president, and the president, ex officio, to oversee and conduct fundraising events.
- Finance: Shall consist of the treasurer, three League members appointed by the president, and the president, ex officio, to exercise supervisory authority over the investment management of LWV-D/DEF assets. It is responsible for quarterly reporting to the full board on the performance of LWV-D/DEF investments.
- Local Policy Review: appointed each year by the president.
- Local Program Exploratory & Planning: appointed each year by the program vice president to make proposals for local program. This chairman shall not be a Board member.
- Nominating: Article VIII, Section 1 of the bylaws.
- Periodic Program Review Committee: in June of each year, the Program vice president appoints a committee of three, including, if possible, an outgoing president or vice president, to review selected existing local positions and recommend changes as necessary. The number of positions reviewed each year by this Periodic Program Review Committee will be such as to allow a total review to be completed every four years.
- Personnel: Shall consist of the secretary, treasurer, organization vice president, and the president, ex officio, to conduct initial training of the Office Administrator and subsequent annual job performance reviews in December. Review results are reported in January to the Board, which can recommend to the Budget Committee any cost of living or merit raises.

AGENDA: The President prepares an agenda for each Board meeting based on advice from the other officers.

EXPENSES: Budgeted expenditures from portfolio funds are left to the discretion of the appropriate Board member. If expenditures exceed the budgeted amount, Board approval is required. Corresponding in-kind donations to cover expenses must be reported to the Board.

MEMBERSHIP SCHOLARSHIPS: Contributions to the Scholarship Fund will be used to pay membership dues for LWVD members who, because of financial hardship, need assistance paying all or part of their annual membership dues. Abatement of dues may be granted using the following procedures:

- Requests for scholarship assistance will be referred to and authorized by the Organization VP or Membership Director, before being forwarded to the Treasurer for posting.
- A partial or whole abatement of dues may be granted. A limit to the amount used for this purpose shall be determined by the Board at the beginning of each fiscal year.
- Candidates will be considered on the basis of a combination of need, of past contributions of time and talent, on future participation, and/or on the value the applicant places on membership in the League.
- The scholarship shall expire at the end of the scholarship year (anniversary date of the grant). Both new and renewal applications will be considered according to the above criteria.

POLICY FOR GRANTS OR PROJECTS FUNDED BY NON-LEAGUE SOURCES:

- Criteria for consideration of grants or projects:
 - Each project proposed shall be reviewed by the Board to ensure that it is compatible with League purposes, policies, program, and principles. (The project should relate to Voters Service, a League position, a study, or an issue of direct interest to the League.)
 - League members must have the capabilities and resources to meet the project's requirements and objectives, either on their own or with assured available outside assistance.
 - The scope, work requirements, financial needs, and time limits of the project should be clearly established before authorization of the project by the Board.
- Management Procedures:
 - Organization
 - ❖ Responsibility for overseeing a project will be assigned to the appropriate vice president.
 - ❖ A manager will be designated for the project, with Board approval, and will be responsible for administering the project.
 - (1) It is strongly recommended that no Board member be a project manager unless the scope of the project falls within the normal responsibilities of the Board member's portfolio.
 - (2) No Board member may accept monetary compensation over and above expenses for serving as a project manager.
 - (3) If a contract requires acceptance of a stipend as part of a project, the Board member shall return the stipend to the League as a personal contribution, less any taxes incurred. This is to avoid possible conflict of interest.
 - ❖ To the extent justified by the scope and cost of the project, one or all of the following may be designated, with approval, to work under the general jurisdiction of the project manager:
 - (1) Project treasurer, with line responsibility to the project manager and functional responsibility to the League treasurer.
 - (2) Such other assistants to the project manager as are appropriate.
 - Finances
 - ❖ A proposed budget for each project should be submitted for Board approval prior to commencement of the project.
 - ❖ Accurate, up-to-date records shall be kept, according to accepted accounting standards, under the direction of the League treasurer.
 - ❖ A separate League account may be maintained for large projects. Smaller projects may be handled through regular League accounts unless otherwise specified by grantor.
 - Reporting
 - ❖ Regular reports of cash receipts, cash disbursements, and remaining cash balance will be submitted to the League treasurer, with any appropriate comments, including known unpaid obligations.
 - ❖ A final financial report of receipts, disbursements, and remaining cash balance will be submitted to the League treasurer and designated vice president not more than 60 days after the project completion date.
 - ❖ A final summary report of the project shall be submitted to the president and designated vice president not more than 60 days after completion of the project.

INVESTMENT POLICY and GIFT ACCEPTANCE POLICY: These are on file in the LWVD Office and can be made available to members upon request.

BYLAWS

(As amended at Annual Meeting 2009)

ARTICLE I NAME

The corporation to which these bylaws pertain is the League of Women Voters of Dallas ("LWVD"). The League is an integral part of the League of Women Voters of the United States ("LWV-US") and the League of Women Voters of Texas ("LWV-TX").

ARTICLE II PURPOSES AND POLICY

Sec. 1. PURPOSES. The purposes of LWVD are to promote political responsibility through informed and active participation in government and to act on selected governmental issues.

Sec. 2. POLITICAL POLICY. LWVD shall not support or oppose any political party or any candidate.

ARTICLE III MEMBERSHIP

Sec. 1. ELIGIBILITY. Any person who subscribes to the purposes and policies of LWVD shall be eligible for membership.

Sec. 2. TYPES OF MEMBERSHIP.

a. Voting Members. Citizens at least 18 years of age residing within the United States, a territory or an associated commonwealth, who join the League shall be voting members of local Leagues, state Leagues, and of the LWV-US;

(1) Individuals who live within an area of a local League may join that League or any other local League;

(2) Those who reside outside the area of any local League may join a local League or shall be state members-at-large;

(3) Those who make a lump-sum life membership payment to the LWV-US shall be paid life members and those who have been members of LWVD for 50 years or more shall be honorary life members excused from the payment of dues.

b. Associate (Non-Voting) Members: Individuals joining LWVD who are less than 18 years of age or who are not United States citizens shall be associate (non-voting) members.

ARTICLE IV BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Sec. 1. POWERS AND DUTIES. LWVD is directed by its Board of Directors ("Board"), the Board having full charge of and full power and authority to manage and conduct by a majority vote the property and business of LWVD, subject to the instructions of the Voting Members. The Board plans and directs the work necessary to carry out the program adopted by the national convention of LWV-US, the state convention of LWV-TX and the annual meeting of LWVD ("Annual Meeting"). The Board may create special committees, as it deems necessary.

Sec. 2. NUMBER, MANNER OF SELECTION, AND TERM OF OFFICE. The Board consists of at least seven elected officers of the League, eight elected directors, and not more than eight appointed directors. One half of the elected directors shall be elected at each Annual Meeting and shall serve for a term of two years or until their successors have been elected and qualified. In the event co-presidents or co-vice presidents are elected, the number of officers shall increase accordingly.

Sec. 3. QUALIFICATIONS. Any person elected or appointed or continuing to serve as an officer or director shall first be a Voting Member.

Sec. 4. VACANCIES. Any vacancy occurring in the Board, other than in the office of president, by reason of the resignation, death, or disqualification of an officer or elected member, may be filled, until the next Annual Meeting, by a majority vote of the remaining members of the Board.

In case the president shall be temporarily unable to perform her duties, the president, if available, shall designate one of the vice presidents to act as president until such time as the president shall be able to resume her duties, or until the next Annual Meeting. If the president shall be unavailable, or if the president's office should become vacant, the remaining officers shall have the authority to designate one of the vice presidents as temporary president until the next meeting of the Board at which time the Board shall elect a new president by majority vote.

At the Annual Meeting the un-expired term of any officer or elected director whose office may have become vacant shall be filled by regular nomination and election.

The absence of any member of the Board from three consecutive Board Meetings may be deemed a resignation from the office.

- Sec. 5. MEETINGS. There shall be at least nine regular meetings of the Board annually. The president, together with a majority of the officers, may call special meetings of the Board and shall call a special meeting upon the written request of five members of the Board.
- Sec. 6. QUORUM. A majority of the members of the Board shall constitute a quorum.

ARTICLE V OFFICERS

- Sec. 1. ENUMERATION AND ELECTION OF OFFICERS. The officers of LWVD shall be a president, or two co-presidents, four vice presidents with co-vice presidents if necessary, a secretary, and a treasurer. These shall be elected for a term of two years by the Voting Members at an Annual Meeting and take office on June 1. The president, one vice-president, and the secretary shall be elected in the odd numbered years. The other three vice presidents and the treasurer shall be elected in the even numbered years. The president-elect shall be elected in even numbered years for a one-year term. Should there be a need to elect co-presidents or co-vice presidents in any of these positions, then the number of officers shall increase accordingly.
- Sec. 2. THE PRESIDENT. The duties of the president shall be to preside at all meetings of LWVD and the Board; to sign or endorse checks, drafts, and notes; to serve as ex officio member of all committees except the nominating committee; to have such usual powers of supervision and management as may pertain to the office of the president; and to perform such other duties as may be designated by the Board.
- Sec. 3. THE PRESIDENT-ELECT. The president-elect shall perform such duties as prescribed by the president or co-presidents and the Board; shall be familiar with the duties of the presidency and may be nominated for that office the year following election as president-elect. In the event of absence, disability, resignation, or death of the president, the president-elect may possess all the powers and perform all the duties of that office until such time as the Board shall fill the vacancy.
- Sec. 4. THE VICE PRESIDENTS. It shall be the duty of each vice president to supervise and coordinate the activities of an assigned jurisdiction and, when so designated, to perform the duties of the president. The vice presidents shall perform such other duties as the president and the Board may designate.
- Sec. 5. THE SECRETARY. The duties of the secretary shall be to keep the minutes of all meetings of the Membership and the Board; to sign, with the president, all contracts and other instruments when so authorized by the Board; and to perform other such functions as may be incident to the office.
- Sec. 6. THE TREASURER. The duties of the treasurer shall be to collect and receive all moneys and be the custodian of these moneys; to deposit them in a bank designated by the Board and to disburse the same only upon the order of the Board; and to present a statement to each Board Meeting and an annual report to the Annual Meeting. The treasurer shall be bonded or insured under LWVD's liability insurance policy and books of the treasurer shall be audited or reviewed annually.

ARTICLE VI FINANCIAL ADMINISTRATION

- Sec. 1. FISCAL YEAR. The fiscal year of LWVD shall commence on the first day of January each year.
- Sec. 2. DUES.
- a. Annual dues shall be payable on the first day of the anniversary month of a member's joining LWVD. The amount of the dues shall be determined by a majority vote of those Voting Members present and voting at the Annual Meeting. Any member who fails to pay dues within two months after dues become payable shall be dropped from the membership rolls. When two or more members reside at the same address in a common household, the dues payment determined at the Annual Meeting shall be made for the first member; a payment equal to one half the amount of the dues shall be paid for each other member. After eight months, the additional memberships will be subject to renewal on the full member's anniversary date.
 - b. Members who have been enrolled in LWVD or any other integral part of LWV-US for 50 years or more, or who have paid to the LWV-US a lump sum for life membership, shall be life members and shall not be required to pay annual dues. A state and local League shall be excused from making a per member payment for paid life or honorary life members.
- Sec. 3. BUDGET. A budget for the ensuing year shall be submitted by the Board to the Annual Meeting for adoption. The budget shall include support for the work of LWVD, LWV-TX, and LWV-US.

Sec. 4. BUDGET COMMITTEE. A budget committee shall be appointed by the Board at least two months prior to the Annual Meeting to prepare and supervise a budget for the ensuing fiscal year. The proposed budget shall be sent to the Membership at least 21 days before the Annual Meeting. The treasurer shall not be eligible to serve as chair of the budget committee.

ARTICLE VII MEETINGS

Sec. 1. MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS. There shall be at least four meetings of the Membership each year, such as Issue Forums, General Meetings, Combined Unit Meetings, and the Annual Meeting.. Time and place shall be determined by the Board.

Sec. 2. ANNUAL MEETING. The Annual Meeting is a meeting of the Membership that shall be held in the spring of each year, the exact date to be determined by the Board. The Annual Meeting shall:

- a. Adopt a local program for the ensuing year,
- b. Elect officers, directors and members of the nominating committee,
- c. Adopt a budget, and
- d. Transact such other business as may properly come before the Annual Meeting.

Sec. 3. QUORUM. Ten percent of the Voting Members shall constitute a quorum at all meetings of the Membership.

ARTICLE VIII NOMINATIONS AND ELECTIONS

Sec. 1. NOMINATING COMMITTEE. The nominating committee shall consist of five Voting Members, two of whom shall be members of the Board. The chair and two members, who shall not be members of the Board, shall be elected at the Annual Meeting. Nominations for these offices shall be made by the current nominating committee. The other members shall be appointed by the Board immediately following the Annual Meeting. Any vacancy on the nominating committee shall be filled by the Board. The chair of the nominating committee shall request suggestions from the Voting Members for nominations for officers and directors.

Sec. 2. REPORT OF THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE AND NOMINATIONS FROM THE FLOOR. The report of the nominating committee of its nominations for officers, directors, and members of the succeeding nominating committee shall be sent to the Membership at least 21 days before the Annual Meeting. Immediately following the presentation of this report, nominations may be made from the floor by any Voting Member, providing the consent of the nominee shall have been secured.

Sec. 3. ELECTIONS. The elections held at the Annual Meeting shall be by ballot, except that when there is only one nominee for each office, election shall be by voice vote. Nominees receiving a majority vote of those Voting Members present and voting shall be elected. Absentee or proxy voting shall not be permitted.

ARTICLE IX LOCAL PROGRAM

Sec. 1. AUTHORIZATION. The governmental Principles adopted by the national convention of the LWV-US constitute the authorization for the adoption of program.

Sec. 2. PROGRAM. The program of LWVD shall consist of (a) action to implement the Principles, and (b) those governmental issues chosen for concerted study and action.

Sec. 3. PROGRAM SELECTION. The Annual Meeting shall select local program, using the following procedures:

- a. Voting members may make recommendations to the Board at least two months before the annual meeting. The Board shall consider these recommendations when it formulates a proposed program.
- b. The proposed program shall be sent to the Membership not less than 21 days before the Annual Meeting along with the non-recommended items..
- c. A majority vote of those Voting Members present and voting at the Annual Meeting shall be required for adoption of subjects in the proposed program.
- d. Any program item submitted by voting members two months before the annual meeting but not recommended by the Board may be adopted by the Annual Meeting provided that:
 - (1) The Annual Meeting shall order consideration by a majority vote of those Voting Members present and voting, and
 - (2) The Annual Meeting shall adopt the item by a two-thirds vote of those Voting Members present and voting.

Sec. 4. EMERGENCY PROGRAM PROCEDURES. Additions to the program necessitated by altered conditions may be made by the Board, provided notice of any proposed additions and

explanations has been sent to the Membership at least one month in advance of the decision by the Board. A two-thirds vote by the Board shall be required to adopt any addition.

Sec. 5. MEMBER ACTION. Members may act in the name of LWVD only when authorized to do so by the Board.

Sec. 6. BOARD ACTION. The Board may act on local program only after consensus and concurrence has been reached by the Membership.

Sec. 7. CONCURRENCE, AN ALTERNATE FORM OF MEMBER AGREEMENT:

a. To update or enlarge an existing local program position, the Program Review Committee or a Board appointed Committee shall review the issue and present its recommendations, along with the pros and cons, for Board approval. The approved recommendations and the pros and cons shall then be presented to the membership through a general meeting and/or a unit meeting not less than 21 days before the Annual Meeting in order to be considered for their concurrence and adoption.

b. To concur with a consensus reached by another Local League, a Committee shall be appointed by the Board to consider the other League's Facts and Issues, pros and cons, and then present those findings to the membership through a general meeting and/or a unit meeting for their concurrence.

ARTICLE X NATIONAL CONVENTION, STATE CONVENTION, AND STATE COUNCIL

Sec. 1. NATIONAL CONVENTION. The Voting Members or the Board, at a meeting before the date on which the names of delegates must be sent to the LWV-US office, shall select delegates to the national convention of LWV-US in the number allotted LWVD under the provisions of the bylaws of the LWV-US.

Sec. 2. STATE CONVENTION. The Voting Members or the Board, at a meeting before the date on which names of delegates must be sent to the LWV-TX office, shall select delegates to the state convention of LWV-TX in the number allotted LWVD under the provisions of the by-laws of the LWV-TX.

Sec. 3. STATE COUNCIL. The Voting Members or the Board, at a meeting before the date on which the names of delegates must be sent to the LWV-TX office, shall select delegates to the state council of LWV-TX in the number allotted LWVD under the provisions of the bylaws of the LWV-TX.

ARTICLE XI PARLIAMENTARY AUTHORITY

The rules contained in Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised shall govern LWVD in all cases to which they are applicable and in which they are not inconsistent with these bylaws.

ARTICLE XII AMENDMENTS

These bylaws may be amended by a two-thirds vote at the Annual Meeting, provided the amendments were submitted to the Membership in writing at least 21 days in advance of the Annual Meeting.

LWVD and LWVD EDUCATION FUND

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President Sandy Greyson

Vice President of Advocacy Brenda Marks

Vice President of Organization Katherine Homan

Vice President of Program Mildred Pope

Vice President of Voter Outreach Cherlyn Remington

Secretary Suzanne Wills

Treasurer Miriam Foshay

Director Ann Adams

Director Judy Coats

Director Barbara Downey

Director Carolyn Dunnigan

Director Rose Harder

Director Judy Jacks

Director Ellen Key

Director Philippa McDonald

Director Karlton Remington

OFF BOARD ASSIGNMENTS

Member Records Lea Frailey
 Alice Johnson

STANDING COMMITTEES

Annual Meeting Awards Rose Harder, Katherine Homan, and
Committee Linda Sharp & Liz Wally - Co-Chairs

Budget Committee Miriam Foshay, Julie Lowenberg, Pat
 Vaughan, and Michelle Manners -
 Chair

Bylaws Committee Barbara Downey, Ellen Key, and Rose
 Harder - Chair

Development Committee Linda Wassenich - Chair

Finance Committee Judy Jacks, Jane Mac Adams, and
 Suzanne Wills, and Miriam Foshay -
 Chair

Local Policy Review Committee Carolyn Dunnigan, Rose Harder,
 Cherlyn Remington, and Katherine
 Homan - Chair

Local Program Exploratory & Miriam Foshay, Mildred Pope, Eleanor
Planning Committee Sutherland, Pat Vaughan, Suzanne
 Wills, and Gayle Hurst - Chair

Nominating Committee Claire Buie Chaney, Mildred Pope,
 Linda Sharp, Suzanne Wills, and Arline
 Pitt - Chair

Periodic Program Review Judy Coats, Genie Fritz, Susybelle
Committee Gosslee, and Brenda Marks - Chair

Personnel Committee Miriam Foshay, Suzanne Wills, and
 Katherine Homan - Chair

UNIT LEADERSHIP 2009 – 2010

Unit Coordinator

Ellen Key

Wednesday Unit

Meeting at 10 AM in Piney Woods Room 203
of Center for Community Cooperation at 2900 Live Oak, Dallas 75204
on Sept. and Dec. 9, 2009 and Jan. 13, March 10 and April 7, 2010
Mildred Pope & Suzanne Wills, Co-Unit Leaders

Dallas Evening Unit

Meeting at 6:30 PM in 2nd Floor Community Room of Central Market
5750 E. Lovers Lane at Greenville Avenue
on Sept. and Dec. 9, 2009 and Jan. 13, March 10 and April 7, 2010
Jan Anderson, Unit Leader

Thursday Unit

Meeting at 9:30AM at 9041 Drumcliffe Lane, Dallas 75231
(Glee Huebner's house) on Dec. 10, 2009
Meeting at 9:30AM at St. Thomas Episcopal Church,
6525 Inwood at Mockingbird
on Jan. 14, March 11 and April 8, 2010
Gayle Hurst, Eleanor Sutherland & Pat Vaughan, Co-Unit Leaders

LWVD Membership Rate Schedule

Membership Level	Amount
Individual membership	\$60/year
Additional household memberships	\$30/year each
Patron membership	\$150/year
Benefactor membership	\$500/year
Student membership	\$25/year

Reduced membership rates are available upon request. Please call the League office at 214-688-4125. Contributions to the LWVD Scholarship Fund (not tax-deductible), which supports reduced rate memberships, are welcome.

Dues paid to the LWVD automatically enroll you as a member of both the LWV-TX and the LWV-US, but are not tax-deductible.

If you wish to make a tax-deductible contribution to the LWV - Dallas Education Fund, please make out a separate check to LWVDEF.

ON WRITING ELECTED OFFICIALS

(portions excerpted from "How To Write Government Officials,"
an LWW-TX publication available in print and online at www.lwvtexas.org)

Correct addresses, salutations and closings for letters are below (except for the president, letters are closed with "*Sincerely yours,*"). Other information such as email addresses and fax numbers can be found at the web site following each official's title.

President www.whitehouse.gov
The President
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20500
Dear Mr. President:
Very respectfully yours,

Governor www.governor.state.tx.us
The Honorable (full name)
Governor of Texas
State Capitol
P.O. Box 12428
Austin, TX 78711-2428
Dear Governor (last name):

Vice President www.whitehouse.gov
The Vice President
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510
Dear Mr. Vice President:

Lt. Governor www.senate.state.tx.us
The Honorable (full name)
Lieutenant Governor of Texas
P.O. Box 12068
Austin, TX 78711-2068
Dear Lt. Governor (last name):

U. S. Senator www.senate.gov
The Honorable (full name)
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510
Dear Senator (last name):

State Senator www.senate.state.tx.us
The Honorable (full name)
Texas Senate
P.O. Box 12068
Austin, TX 78711-2068
Dear Senator (last name):

U. S. Representative www.house.gov
The Honorable (full name)
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515
Dear Mr./Mrs./Ms. (last name):

State Rep. www.house.state.tx.us
The Honorable (full name)
Texas House of Representatives
P.O. Box 2910
Austin, TX 78768-2910
Dear Representative (last name):

County Judge www.dallascounty.org
The Honorable (full name)
County Judge
411 Elm St., Suite 250
Dallas, TX 75202
Dear Judge (last name):

Cty. Commissioner www.dallascounty.org
The Honorable (full name)
County Commissioner
411 Elm St., Suite 250
Dallas, TX 75202
Dear Commissioner (last name):

Mayor www.dallascityhall.com
The Honorable (full name)
City Hall
1500 Marilla 5FN
Dallas, TX 75201
Dear Mayor (last name):

City Councilmember
www.dallascityhall.com
The Honorable (full name)
City Hall
1500 Marilla 5FN
Dallas, TX 75201
Dear Councilmember (last name):

BUDGETS

LWVD

LWVD is a 501 (c) (4) organization, which is a classification under the IRS code of a nonprofit tax exempt charitable organization to which donations are not tax-deductible.

LWVD BUDGET for 6/1/09 – 12/31/09

Carryover from FY ending 5/31/2009	\$ 1,000
<u>Revenue</u>	
Dues	8,930
Contributions	3,000
Overhead reimbursement	<u>11,755</u>
Total revenue	<u>\$ 24,685</u>
<u>Expenses</u>	
Office expenses	\$ 18,850
Organization	2,635
Support LWV (PMPs)	<u>3,200</u>
Total expenditures	<u>\$ 24,685</u>
Net	<u>\$ 0</u>

LWVD Budget Key

Revenue

Dues: General membership dues are \$60 per year. Lower rates apply to members from the same household and to students. Some members choose to pay higher patron or benefactor rates.

Contributions: Donations from members, in addition to dues.

Overhead reimbursement: The Education Fund reimburses of 60% office expenses and 85% of *VOTER* expense.

Expenses

Office expenses: Office rent and expense, including salary of office administrator, supplies and telephone.

Organization: Includes member handbook, travel and convention expenses, annual meeting, *VOTER*, and annual giving letter expenses.

Support LWV (PMPs): 50% of required payments to League of Women Voters of the United States and League of Women Voters of Texas.

LWVD Education Fund

LWVD Education Fund is a 501 (c) (3) organization, which is a classification under the IRS code of a nonprofit tax exempt charitable organization to which donations are tax-deductible.

The League of Women Voters of Dallas Education Fund (LWV-DEF) was incorporated in 1983 as an exempt organization under Section 501(c)(3) of the Texas Nonprofit Corporation Act . Its Certification of Incorporation Charter Number is 648085.

Contributions and bequests to LWV-DEF may be deducted for income tax purposes. The Internal Revenue Service (IRS) classifies LWV-DEF as a 501(c)(3) organization and its federal identification number is 75-1876278.

LWV-DEF operates exclusively for educational purposes and carries out its purpose through research and other appropriate nonpartisan informational projects. LWV-DEF holds funds for the educational and charitable benefit of LWV-Dallas.

LWV-DEF is governed by a board of trustees, whose members serve concurrently as the board of directors of LWVD. The trustees ensure that contributions to LWV-DEF are managed according to IRS requirements and LWV-DEF policies.

LWVD Education Fund BUDGET for 6/1/09 – 12/31/09

Carryover from FY ending 5/31/2009	\$ 9,455
 <u>Revenue</u>	
Contributions	4,000
Fundraisers	2,000
Investment Income	<u>2,600</u>
 Total revenue	 <u>\$ 18,055</u>
 <u>Expenses</u>	
Overhead reimbursement	11,755
Accounting expenses	550
Educational activities	2,550
Support LWV (PMPs)	<u>3,200</u>
 Total expenses	 \$ 18,055
 Net	 <u>\$0</u>

LWVD-EF Budget Key

Revenue

Contributions: Donations from members and the general public.

Investment income: Dividends and interest.

Expenses

Overhead reimbursement: The Education Fund reimburses of 60% office and 85% of *VOTER* expenses.

Accounting expenses: Form 990 preparation and review of books.

Educational activities: Includes forums, Voters Guide, YEO.

Support LWV (PMPs): 50% of required payments to League of Women Voters of the United States and League of Women Voters of Texas.

CALENDAR

2009 – 2010 LWVD CALENDAR

Month	Day	Time	Event
Sept. 2009	9/10		Unit Meetings
	10		Deadline for October <i>VOTER</i> articles
	27		Voter Registration Drive at Dallas Zoo
	29	11:30 AM	Rails & Roads Transportation Forum - Belo Mansion
Oct. 2009	1	11:00 AM	Board Meeting
	5		<u>Last Day to Register to Vote for November 3 Election</u>
	8	11:30 AM	Combined Unit Meeting on Tree Ordinance Revision
	8		Deadline for November <i>VOTER</i> articles
	18		Voter Turnout Drive at Dallas Zoo
Nov. 2009	19-30		<u>Early Voting for November 3 Election</u>
	3		<u>Election Day</u>
	5	11:00 AM	Board Meeting
Dec. 2009	10/11		Unit Meetings - Concurrence on State Alternative Voting Methods
	11		Deadline for December <i>VOTER</i> articles
	3	11:00 AM	Board Meeting
	9/10		Unit Meetings - State and Local Program Planning
Jan. 2010	10		Deadline for January <i>VOTER</i> articles
	7	11:00 AM	Board Meeting
	13/14		Unit Meetings with invited guest speakers
week of Feb. 2010	14		Deadline for February <i>VOTER</i> articles
	25th		General Meeting on Inland Port
	1		<u>Last Day to Register to Vote for March 2 Primary Election</u>
	4	11:00 AM	Board Meeting
Mar. 2010	11		Deadline for March <i>VOTER</i> articles
	12	11:30 AM	Susan B. Anthony Award Luncheon
	16-26		<u>Early Voting for March 2 Primary Election</u>
	2		<u>Primary Election Day</u>
	4	11:00 AM	Board Meeting
Apr. 2010	10/11		Unit Meetings with invited guest speakers
	11		Deadline for April <i>VOTER</i> articles
	21		Voter Registration at Dallas Arboretum
	27	8:30 AM	Annual Meeting
	1	11:00 AM	Board Meeting
Mid-Month	7/8		Unit Meetings - Local Study on Economic Development Tools
	8		Deadline for May <i>VOTER</i> articles
	13		<u>Runoff Primary Election Day</u>
			General Meeting with Mayor Leppert on the Greening of Dallas
May 2010	23-25		State Convention in San Marcos
	4/26-5/4		<u>Early Voting for May 8 Local Election</u>
	6	11:00 AM	Board Meeting
	8		<u>Election Day</u>
	12/13		Unit Meetings - "Do Your Own Thing"

PROGRAM POSITIONS

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS

PROGRAM POSITION PRINCIPLES

The League of Women Voters believes in representative government and in the individual liberties established in the Constitution of the United States.

The League of Women Voters believes that democratic government depends upon the informed and active participation of its citizens and requires that governmental bodies protect the citizen's right to know by giving adequate notice of proposed actions, holding open meetings, and making public records accessible.

The League of Women Voters believes that every citizen should be protected in the right to vote; that every person should have access to free public education which provides equal opportunity for all; and that no person or group should suffer legal, economic or administrative discrimination.

The League of Women Voters believes that all powers of the U.S. government should be exercised within the constitutional framework of a balance among the three branches of government: legislative, executive, and judicial.

The League of Women Voters believes that efficient and economical government requires competent personnel, the clear assignment of responsibility, adequate financing and coordination among the different agencies and levels of government.

The League of Women Voters believes that responsible government should be responsive to the will of the people; that government should maintain an equitable and flexible system of taxation, promote the conservation and development of natural resources in problems which affect the general welfare, promote a sound economy and adopt domestic policies which facilitate the solution of international problems.

The League of Women Voters believes that cooperation with other nations is essential in the search for solutions to world problems, and that the development of international organization and international law is imperative in the promotion of world peace.

Whatever the issue, the League of Women Voters believes that government policy, programs, and performance must meet these criteria:

- *Well-defined channels for citizen participation and review*
- *Coordination among agencies and levels of government*
- *Adequate financing*
- *Effective enforcement*
- *Competent personnel with clear responsibilities*

ACTION and ADVOCACY

The League of Women Voters takes action on an issue or advocates for a cause when there is an existing League position that supports the issue or speaks to the cause.

Positions result from a process of study. Any given study, whether it be National, State, or Local, is thorough in its pursuit of facts and details. As the study progresses, a continuing discussion of pros and cons of each situation occurs. Prior to the results of the study being presented to the general membership, study committee members fashion consensus questions that are then addressed by the membership.

Additional discussion, pro and con, takes place as members (not part of the study committee) learn the scope of the study. After the members reach consensus, the board forms positions based on that consensus.

It is the **consensus statement** – the statement resulting from the consensus questions – that becomes a position. Firm action or advocacy can then be taken on the particular issue addressed by the position. Without a position, action/advocacy cannot be taken.

GLOSSARY OF LEAGUE LINGO (from www.lwv.org)

ACTION: Promoting the League's positions on local, state and national public policy issues to government officials, the media and the public.	ILO: Acronym for an Inter-League Organization, formed by local Leagues within a county, metropolitan area or region to act on issues that are beyond the local League area in scope.
ACTION ALERT: Request from the LWVUS or state League to take action in support of a League position.	PMP: Acronym for Per Member Payment, the amount of money paid to the LWVUS and the state League on behalf of each member.
ANNUAL MEETING: Local year-end business meeting to elect officers and directors, vote on bylaw changes and adopt a budget and program of work for the next year.	POSITION: A statement of the League's point of view on an issue, arrived at through member study and agreement (consensus or concurrence), approved by the appropriate board and used as a basis for League action.
ASSOCIATE MEMBER: A non-voting member of the League, such as a person under 18 years of age or a non-citizen.	PRINCIPLES: Governmental standards and policies supported by the League as a whole. They constitute the authorization for adoption of program at all levels.
CONSENSUS: Collective opinion of a substantial number of League members, representative of the membership as a whole, after objective study of an issue.	PROGRAM: Selected governmental issues chosen by members at the local, state and national levels for study and action.
CONCURRENCE: Agreement by League members with a position on an issue reached by a small group of members or by another League.	PROGRAMS: Plans for speakers, discussion or other activities for League meetings.
CONVENTION: A state or national League meeting held every other year at which delegates elect officers and directors for the biennium, adopt program, make bylaw changes and adopt a budget, usually for one year. Local Leagues send delegates to state convention, local and state Leagues send delegates to national convention.	UNIT: Groupings of members within large local Leagues to provide more opportunity for discussion. Units may be time-oriented (day, evening, lunch hour), geographically oriented, or both.
COUNCIL: An assembly of delegates held in alternate years to adopt a budget and assess program developments. Local Leagues send delegates to state council, state Leagues send delegates to national council.	VOTERS GUIDE: Nonpartisan publication giving candidates' qualifications and positions on selected issues.
EDUCATION FUND: The tax-deductible arm of national, state and large local Leagues, handling funds to be used only for educational purposes, not for action on issues.	VOTERS SERVICE: Year-round activity to help citizens be politically effective and to encourage their participation in the political process. Registering voters and presenting factual, nonpartisan information on candidates and election issues are basic voters service activities.
HONORARY LIFE MEMBER: A person who has been a member for 50 years or more. Life members are excused from dues payment and their Leagues pay no per member payment (PMP) for them.	VOTING MEMBERS: All League members who are U.S. citizens and at least 18 years old.

Local Program 2009 - 2010

LWVD program includes the following 2009-2010 item for study and consensus, as well as positions for support and action. Choosing a study topic involves the entire membership, and the process is usually begun at program planning meetings early in the calendar year. Recommendations for next year's program topics and studies are submitted by the Local Program Exploratory & Planning Committee for publication in the Annual Meeting Workbook. Members make their final choice for the final year's program at the Annual Meeting.

Local Studies

Economic Development Tools for the City of Dallas

Rationale: The City of Dallas has a number of economic development tools that it uses to encourage development and redevelopment in the city. Two of these tools are tax increment finance districts (TIFs) and municipal management districts (MMDs). There are currently 18 TIFs and 3 MMDs in Dallas. LWVD does not have a position with regard to these items and therefore cannot address them

Scope: To educate LWVD members about TIFs and MMDs and their use in Dallas.

Focus: To determine the use of TIFs and MMDs in relation to the city's tax base. How many are too many? Are the state guidelines for the use of TIFs and MMDs being followed? Is the city adhering to its financial standards in the use of these economic development tools?

Study Committee

Judy Jacks and Barbara Downey, co-chairs; Linda Camin, Theresa Daniel, Miriam Foshay, Genie Fritz, Susybelle Gosslee, Brenda Marks, Linda Sharp, Beverly Tobian, and Mary Vogelsson

League of Women Voters of Dallas

Local Positions

(reformatting approved at Annual Meeting 2006)

I. LOCAL GOVERNMENT

A. Appointed Boards and Commissions, City and County (1972 - 73). The League of Women Voters of Dallas supports:

1. Appointment of qualified citizens who will represent the community and can serve under established term, attendance and conflict of interest policies
2. Orientation for prospective and new board members
3. Regular meeting times and places convenient for members, clients and visitors
4. Regular reporting to City Council or Commissioners' Court of board's activities and recommendations for change
5. Serious consideration by the City Council of specific recommendations submitted by appointed boards and commissions, appointed task forces, and ad hoc committees.

B. City Government

1. Council Manager system of government (1979-80; PPR 1993-94, 2002-2003). The League of Women Voters of Dallas supports the Council Manager system of government in Dallas with a strong City Council including:

- recognition that the Mayor and City Council members are full-time positions and creation of an independent compensation commission to periodically evaluate mayoral and council compensation
- authorization of City Council members to hire their own staff
- extension of City Council member terms to 4 years

- authorization of the City Manager, Mayor and/or 3 City Council members to put an item on the City Council agenda
 - adjustment of the budgetary process to allow earlier and more input from City Council members, including City Council involvement in initial planning of annual budget priorities and guidelines
 - creation of a comprehensive plan for the City by the City Manager in consultation with the Mayor, City Council and other governmental entities
 - creation of a permanent comprehensive city planning department headed by a professional planner
 - inclusion of the requirement for an ethics commission in the City charter
 - provision for an ongoing charter review process
 - no allocation of any portion of the City budget to individual City Council members to be spent in their districts
 - neither the Mayor nor any City Council member having veto power
2. Citizen participation in the city budget process (1986-88). The League of Women Voters of Dallas supports:
- provisions for systematic, public participation, early in the budget-making process, in indicating annual budget priorities and guidelines
 - use of a variety of approaches to help citizens acquire necessary skills and knowledge for effective participation
 - action by the city to give citizens the opportunity to participate by giving adequate notice of proposed actions, holding open meetings and making public records accessible
3. Police/Community relations (PPR 1996). The League of Women Voters of Dallas supports:
- the Dallas Police Department in its primary role of law enforcement and crime prevention
 - expansion of police-community programs by coordination with other city, state and federal agencies to use storefront operations to attack crime-causing problems; encouragement of citizen participation in all community service programs; and adequate funding for police officers and community programs
 - greater emphasis on human relations training for both recruits and veteran officers by using trained human relations professionals to give input and evaluate courses offered by the Police Academy and pre- and post-testing of cadets to evaluate effectiveness of training
 - a Citizens' Police Review Board with expanded functions to include a widened scope of complaints to be reviewed automatically and strengthened subpoena power by removing the veto ability from the technical advisory committee and allowing police officers who are the subjects of complaints to be subpoenaed
4. Municipal Bonds for City of Dallas (2007). Support of:
- Planning for the bond process with informed citizen participation, including:
 - Using a transparent strategic planning process connected to a Master Plan, comprehensive plans, or a Capital Improvement Plan related to city needs with periodic update to citizens as the basis for bond elections
 - Complete and accurate disclosure of all bond propositions, made available to all citizens throughout the planning and election process
 - Involvement of citizens during the entire municipal bond process through an appointed citizen review or advisory committee that is open to citizen comments and recommendations and monitors the bond process from needs assessment to project completion
 - Ongoing presentations/reports of city needs by city staff to public
 - Formal annual reports to citizens and city council members of the progress of the bond projects throughout the life of the bond project
 - Bond elections that include:
 - Increased citizen education by the city staff using a variety of methods to encourage citizen and city council member comments and recommendations
 - Distribution to all voters of truthful, clear, and accurate printed informational material about the bond propositions, with such materials clearly marked as having been produced by the city and approved by the city council
 - Education for the public about substantive changes to a previous bond project,

- Full disclosure regarding all propositions, including the projects' cost estimates and evaluations through an open process
- Listing under the same heading or category general obligation bond projects that involve phases of construction in more than one bond election so voters can track the project
- Projects that are balanced and equitable throughout the city, based on a needs list and a comprehensive plan, with a priority assigned to projects that benefit the whole city
- No line items for discretionary spending
- General obligation bonds that are:
 - Used for capital improvements that have a projected life longer than the term of the bond
 - Not used for routine maintenance of existing facilities
- Allowing citizens to vote again on bond projects when compelling situations develop, such as:
 - Major changes from what was originally presented on the ballot to the voters
 - Major cost overruns
 - Catastrophes or emergencies

5. Bill of Rights (PPR 1996). The League of Women Voters of Dallas supports adoption by the Dallas City Council of a Bill of Rights and Responsibilities. The Dallas Bill of Rights and Responsibilities is a call to create a new social contract, a new understanding between the people of our City and our City government.

This Bill of Rights and Responsibilities derives its authority from the U.S. Constitution's Bill of Rights. Amendment IX says the enumeration in the Constitution of certain rights shall not be construed to deny or disparage others retained by the people. Amendment X says powers not delegated to the United States by the Constitution, nor prohibited by it to the States, are reserved to the States respectively, or to the people. State and federal sovereignty does not relieve us of the obligation to govern ourselves.

The League of Women Voters of Dallas interprets the U.S. Bill of Rights proactively. We not only retain rights and powers over our own lives and civic institutions, but also have the obligation to exercise those rights.

- participation: all residents of the City of Dallas, 18 years old and older, shall have the right to vote for representatives, in fairly apportioned districts, for all public policy decision-making bodies which affect their welfare; and they shall be free to seek public office and serve as public representatives
- environment: the City of Dallas shall guarantee clean air and water, freedom from exposure to environmental hazards indoors, and preservation and conservation of natural open spaces and parks
- conscience and expression: the City of Dallas shall make no law establishing a religion nor prohibiting the free exercise of religious conscience, nor make a law which interferes with the rights of freedom of speech, of freedom of the press, to petition the government or to assemble peacefully
- privacy: the City of Dallas shall protect an individual's right to privacy including choice in human reproduction and the use of life support systems
- nondiscrimination: the City of Dallas shall not, directly or indirectly, discriminate against persons because of race, religion, gender, sexual orientation, disability, age, national origin or citizenship status
- children: every child is entitled to have basic needs met, such as: food, clothing, health care, attention, education, nurturing, freedom from exploitation and a community advocate to see that these rights are implemented
- safety: the City of Dallas shall maintain a safe environment for individuals, free from threats, violence, abuse or official misconduct. This right shall be guaranteed by independent civilian oversight
- education: the City of Dallas shall guarantee that every person has access to free public education
- housing: adequate shelter from the elements shall be the right of every person

C. County Government. The League of Women Voters of Dallas supports:

1. County road work priorities based on traffic volume and street conditions, but with consideration also given to citizen requests and recommendations resulting from meetings between Commissioners, local officials and civic leaders (1984, PPR 1996)
2. Efficient registration and election procedures to insure trust and accountability in the election process, including: (2002-04)

- registration compliance with the National Voter Registration Act by the Department of Public Safety and other public service agencies and increased access to registration forms in libraries, high schools and other academic institutions, post offices, public service agencies and citizenship ceremonies
- timely processing of registration applications
- more effective recruitment of election judges and clerks by advertising the need for election judges and clerks and increasing their pay
- more effective training of Election and Registrar Departments' personnel, election judges and election clerks, including payment for training of election judges and clerks
- Early Voting and Election Day Voting:
 - increased efforts to publicize locations of polling places in advance of elections
 - wider distribution of sample ballots and voter education materials
 - improved access to registration status and election process information by voters, judges and clerks at polling places on Election Day
 - efforts to assure accuracy of vote counting and recounting
 - efforts to insure accessibility of polling places for physically challenged citizens
- Mail Ballot Voting: reform of mail ballot process to achieve integrity of ballot, elimination of the courier process for collection of mail ballots, keeping the identity of persons who have applied for mail ballot as a non-public record until after the election and making available more education about the mail ballot process

D. Economic Conversion (PPR 1996). The League of Women Voters of Dallas supports:

1. Involvement of the federal, state and local governments in the process of economic conversion from military industry to the production of civilian goods, services and facilities
2. Action by local governments and the private sector to provide financial incentives, educational opportunities and organizational coordination to facilitate economic conversion
3. Regional private/public partnership for planning and implementing economic conversion

II. SOCIAL POLICY

A. Education. The League of Women Voters of Dallas supports:

1. School policies and practices which will continue to improve the quality of education in the Dallas Independent School District (DISD)
2. A free interchange of information between school officials and the community (1959-63)
3. Quality integrated schools in the Dallas area (1971-72, updated 1981, 1990)
 - positive leadership by the school trustees, Superintendent and principals, together with the cooperation of the media, religious, business and political leaders and promotion of inter-ethnic dialogue among parents, teachers, students and principals aimed at planning and implementing school integration
 - a curriculum designed to improve understanding among all races and cultures; various types of magnet schools; preservation of naturally integrated neighborhood schools; and effective measures to prevent discrimination in classrooms, teacher assignments and school activities
 - use of buses when necessary; an integration plan equally shared by the whole metropolitan area
 - a tax rate adequate to finance quality, integrated education
4. Policies and measures of the DISD aimed at the achievement of sound mental health practices (1968-69, PPR 1990), including: special education classes as needed for the emotionally disturbed, in-service training for school nurses and teachers on recognition of emotional disturbance in students, consultation with mental health personnel and agencies, mental health counseling for students in all grades, and communication with and education of parents on mental health goals in the schools
5. A curriculum starting in primary grades and continuing through high school on age-appropriate life skills and responsibilities including problem solving, communication, parenting, substance abuse, sex education, and violence prevention (1991-93)
6. Abolition of corporal punishment as a means of discipline management in schools. (PPR 1994)

B. Housing. The League of Women Voters of Dallas supports:

1. Fair, affordable housing for all who need it, supplied throughout the region by the combined efforts of all government entities and the private sector
2. Effective measures by the public and private sectors to ensure an adequate and habitable housing stock, stable neighborhoods and community redevelopment with sufficient services to provide a decent quality of life
3. Fair enforcement of both landlords' and tenants' rights and obligations
4. Affordable housing for the very low-to-moderate income families (1996):
 - increased accountability for public funds that are designated to foster home ownership for low-to-moderate income families in Dallas
 - a single point of contact to serve as a clearinghouse for information on, registration for, and the promotion of various programs and entities that work to foster home ownership for very low-to-moderate income households in Dallas
 - a task force of government and private sector groups to work on establishing a responsible entity to
 - act as clearinghouse for information
 - promote programs
 - promote coordination and cooperation among the various entities and the consolidation of programs and efforts, as appropriate for programmatic and cost effectiveness
 - monitor results of programs for measurable outcomes and cost
 - supervise the education of participants, coordinate counseling programs for new buyers and provide follow-up support to home owners

C. Health Services (1968 – 70). The League of Women Voters of Dallas supports:

1. Establishment of comprehensive mental health services in Dallas County to provide continuity of care to all residents, including:
 - the use of public funds to develop and support mental health services
 - conduct research
 - train personnel with special attention to the mental health needs of children and adolescents, including adequate psychiatric treatment and residential facilities
2. Maternal and child health measures, including:
 - public education on maternal and child health problems
 - adequately staffed and easily accessible, quality maternal and child health facilities with decentralized services
 - services to preschool children in child health clinics
 - the provision of family planning services as a regular part of medical care
 - the use of public funds for family planning
3. Reorganization of the City of Dallas and Dallas County Public Health Departments allowing for a merger for some or all services (PPR 1992, 1996)

D. Resources for Children and Youth (1991 – 93). The League of Women Voters of Dallas supports:

1. Comprehensive health and human services policies for and coordinated among the City of Dallas, Dallas County, and the DISD, including a goal to strengthen families of all kinds
2. A budget process at each level of government (City, County, school districts) that addresses issues and service needs as well as departmental needs, sets a high priority on prevention programs, and is preceded by coordinated strategic planning and goal setting
3. Action by government agencies and the private sector to facilitate better coordination and accessibility of programs serving youth, such as:
 - the establishment of a network of youth serving agencies in neighborhood centers throughout Dallas County
 - careful and continuous strategic planning for these centers to assure basic core services, including adequate funding
 - services that are comprehensive and flexible, decentralized, family and prevention oriented, and outcome focused
4. Child care that:
 - is affordable, high quality, accessible and safe
 - is subsidized by the City for needy parents and guardians, with some provision by the City for training providers
 - has developmentally appropriate programs and facilities
 - has City-provided and coordinated information services
 - includes the establishment of programs by industry, churches and other private groups through encouragement by the City (PPR 1997)

Administration of juvenile justice in Dallas County: continue efforts to encourage and implement citizens' involvement in the juvenile justice system (PPR 1995)

III. NATURAL RESOURCES

A. Solid Waste (1972 – 73). The League of Women Voters of Dallas supports long range solid waste planning with emphasis on recycling and use of newest technology, including:

1. Separation of solid waste at the source until community materials separation and recovery stations are available
2. Continued limited use of sanitary landfills in strict compliance with state regulations
3. Regional planning and full participation in a regional program

B. Regional Planning (1976, PPR 1994). The League of Women Voters of Dallas supports NCTCOG providing regional services for governmental functions affecting the natural environment and cooperation with effective regional planning that involves participation of all local governments in the region.

C. Transportation (1973-74, 1976-78, PPR 1993). The League of Women Voters of Dallas supports mass transportation as an essential public service, subsidized from public funds as necessary, including:

1. A balanced system, which provides for alternate and coordinated forms of transportation while preserving and improving environmental quality
2. Citizen education and participation early and during the entire planning process through consistent communication between government and its constituents
3. Coordination of transportation into a regional system which has a board of directors composed of private citizens and elected officials representing participating cities and counties, the power to carry out its transportation functions through the action of a board of directors, and the power to levy a sales tax up to 1%

D. Urban Planning (1968-69, updated 1970-71, 1973-74, 1984, 2004). The League of Women Voters of Dallas supports:

1. An effective city-wide comprehensive planning program including:
 - a high quality of development, redevelopment, and preservation
 - involvement of all segments of the Dallas community in decisions at all stages of planning including defining community values; setting neighborhood goals, objectives and priorities; suggesting implementation tools; and providing mechanisms for continuous feedback and periodic review
 - the completion of a community plan for each standard statistical community
 - protecting and fostering stable and redeveloping residential areas and communities
 - a diverse and attractive urban form with ample open space in all areas, increased landscaping in commercial and high-density areas, and maintenance of sites through follow-up code enforcement
 - appropriate incentives to encourage private sector provision of infrastructure and amenities
 - consideration of the impact of zoning changes and other land use decisions on the quality, cost and availability of housing
 - a strong and qualified urban planning staff to spearhead the work of the community in planning, zoning, transportation and other related issues
 - building, maintaining and updating a database of urban information, including the census
2. Carefully planned public acquisition of flood plain lands (1970 - 71)
3. Enforcement of laws affecting zoning in flood plain lands not in public ownership (1970-71)
4. Comprehensive subdivision regulations regarding open space and preservation of natural stream corridors (1970-71)
5. Cooperation with effective regional planning

E. Fair Park (PPR 1993, 1999). The League of Women Voters of Dallas supports:

1. Maximizing the use and attractiveness of Fair Park
2. Improvement of the management of Fair Park through:
 - centralized and entrepreneurial management methods
 - increased cooperation among the city, the park department and the various museums at Fair Park
 - income generation by placing a surcharge on special events and/or leasing Park facilities while maintaining free admission to the Park
3. Strengthened relationship between Fair Park and the surrounding neighborhood by:
 - protection of existing housing stock
 - a better link between Fair Park, downtown and the Arts District
 - improved security in the neighborhood

- employment of more area residents
 - promoting events geared to the neighborhood
- F. Trinity River Corridor (1994-95).** The League of Women Voters of Dallas supports:
1. Flood damage reduction
 - use of a system-wide approach in decision-making by planners, developers and implementing agencies, with the inclusion of plans for repairing and raising existing levees
 - preference for non-structural methods for future flood damage reduction
 - discouragement of future filling and development in the flood plain
 - enforcement and city-wide application of existing regional fill permits and flood plain ordinances
 - implementation of only cost-effective projects with positive environmental benefits
 - use of funding from all available sources
 - allowance in the 100-year flood plain of only flood-friendly recreational and horticultural-related structures
 - restriction from the flood plain of all residential, business, educational, and research and development centers
 - retaining areas bought out by the city for park and flood damage reduction purposes rather than selling them for future development
 - avoidance of taking existing or proposed parklands for the design, construction or relocation of any Trinity River levee
 - a policy that forbids the inclusion of a “grandfather clause” for future levees or other structural flood solutions, without regard for cost, who pays or effects on the environment or residents downstream
 - establishment of a voluntary relocation and buy-out program for businesses and residents in the flood plain, plus the enactment of a city ordinance to allow payment at a fair market price and financial incentive for property owners
 2. Transportation
 - compatibility with development of park and open space facilities
 - provision of convenient, safe and practical access to recreation areas from surrounding neighborhoods
 - ensurance that solutions do not become safety and noise barriers to recreation/open space uses
 - preservation of natural areas, such as forests, wetlands, wildlife habitats
 - ensurance of air and water quality in the corridor and adjoining neighborhoods
 - availability of federal transportation funds which could be leveraged for recreational trail enhancement and levee building SHOULD NOT be the MAIN consideration in deciding where a high-speed highway should be located.
 - a city search for all possible sources of funding for transportation solutions
 3. Economic Development
 - support and commitment of financial and other resources to encourage economic development in Southern and West Dallas communities along the Trinity River
 - projects appropriate to the corridor and the natural environment and compatible with the character of existing neighborhoods
 - inclusion of area residents and business owners in decision-making
 - residential and non-residential mixed-use development
 - upgraded infrastructure and zoning to further urban revitalization and discourage incompatible land use
 4. Recreation and open space
 - development of regional plans for coordinating open space development in the Trinity River Basin (1970-71, PPR 1999)
 - inclusion of water amenities, such as off channel lakes, fountains and reflecting pools in Trinity Park, providing environmental considerations such as water quality and sediment contamination are recognized and solved (1994-95, PPR 1999)
 - development of park and open space facilities and features, focusing on preservation of the natural environment and existing forests and providing for both active and passive recreational opportunities (1994-95, PPR 1999)
 - high priority for the purchase of parks and open space in the flood plain, given a limited or one-time-only opportunity (1994-95, PPR 1999)
 - closed, environmentally safe landfills used as park and open spaces (1994-95, PPR 1999)

- preservation of the "Great Trinity Forest" to be made accessible by an environmentally sensitive trail system with only footpaths in the high quality forest areas (1994-95, PPR 1999)
 - public costs of the construction and maintenance of the project should not to exceed its public benefits (1994-95)
5. Environmental restoration and preservation (1994-95)
- efforts to clean up the areas of the river where environmental degradation has taken place
 - increased and strengthened enforcement of city codes with an increase in fines for illegal dumping
 - upgraded zoning to address incompatible land use
 - public education program about solutions to illegal dumping, littering and storm drain dumping
 - removal of old landfills, illegal fills, litter and toxic dumping
 - restoration of wetlands, forests and natural areas
 - clean-up and monitoring of air and water pollution
 - a work program for juveniles and violators on work release to do environmental preservation and restoration

League of Women Voters of Texas

State Study 2008-2010

(Adopted by Convention 2008)

Title:	Voting Procedures to Increase Voter Participation
Focus:	Procedures to be studied include vote-by-mail, Internet voting, same-day registration, centralized voting on election day (as is done in early voting), overseas ballot procedures, procedural barriers to voting, and any others that may increase voter participation. Some of those listed are now in use or being considered in other states, so their experiences will help in the assessment of pros and cons.
Study committee:	Charlotte Foulkes (Arlington), Renee Cross (Houston Area), Pat White (El Paso), Reed Bilz (Ft. Worth), Diane Sheridan (Bay Area)(for the final editing and layout), Jayne Krawietz (Midland) - chair.

Summary of State Program Positions

The pamphlet, *"We Support,"* summarizes League of Women Voters of Texas (LWV-TX) program positions reached by statewide member study and agreement. LWV-TX positions are detailed in the publication *"Program Perspectives."* LWV-TX also acts under positions taken by the League of Women Voters US, whose positions are detailed in the publication *"Impact on Issues."*

I. GOVERNMENT

- A. Election Laws and Voting Rights:** Action to protect the right of every citizen to vote.
- B. Executive, Legislative, and Judicial:** Action to achieve an efficient, effective, and responsive state governmental system.
- C. Financing State Government:** Action to achieve a flexible, coordinated state financial structure with equitable taxation and increased accountability.
- D. Intestacy:** Action to maintain equitable intestacy laws.
- E. Political Campaign Process:** Action to achieve a more competitive, less expensive, and fairer system of electing candidates to office.
- F. Public School Finance:** Action to achieve a high quality education for all Texas public school children through an equitable school finance system.

G. Redistricting: Action to achieve an effective method for congressional and state legislative redistricting.

H. State-Local Relations: Action to achieve more flexible structures and adequate powers at the regional and local level.

I. Texas Constitutional Revision: Action to achieve revision of the Texas Constitution.

II. ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE

A. Criminal Justice: Action to achieve an equitable system of criminal justice in Texas.

B. Drug Laws and Policies: Action to achieve policies for prevention and treatment as an alternative to incarceration.

C. Juvenile Justice: Action to achieve an effective state juvenile justice system and to prevent juvenile violence and crime.

D. Spousal Rape: Action to assure equal treatment for all sexual assault victims.

III. SOCIAL POLICY/HUMAN RESOURCES

A. Child Abuse and Neglect: Action to achieve the development and implementation of adequate legislation, policies, services, and programs to protect children from abuse in their families and homes.

B. Child Care: Action to achieve policies, legislation, and programs that address the needs of all Texas children and families for accessible, affordable, and quality child care.

C. Child Support Enforcement: Action to achieve equitable and efficient means of enforcing court orders for child support.

D. Domestic Violence: Action to reduce the incidence of domestic violence, to alleviate its effects, and to enhance enforcement of the law.

E. Equal Opportunity/Income Assistance: Action to achieve equal rights for all, combat discrimination and poverty, and to provide equal access to housing, employment, and quality education in Texas.

F. Health Care for the Medically Indigent: Action to achieve a basic level of health care for the medically indigent.

G. Health Care System for Older Texans: Action to create a comprehensive health care system for older Texans that ensures a seamless continuum of quality care.

H. Immigration: Action to achieve adequate state funding and support for local, public, and private programs that meet the special needs of immigrant populations and development and utilization of an immigration status verification system that protects privacy and ensures accuracy.

I. Post-Divorce Payments: Action to enable courts to award appropriate post-divorce payments.

J. Public School Testing and Accountability (2008) Action to support standardized achievement tests, an accountability system to ensure standardized curriculum is being taught, equitable opportunity for academic achievement, and support for teachers in mandated testing environment.

K. Services for the Seriously Mentally Ill: Action to achieve for all persons who are seriously mentally ill the right to have access to services designed to help them reach and maintain an optimal level of functioning in the least restrictive environment.

IV. NATURAL RESOURCES

A. Air: Action to achieve improvement of air quality through effective standards and strict enforcement.

B. Land Use: Action to achieve conservation and judicious development of land resources through a comprehensive land use policy that assures adequate protection of the environment, improvement of the quality of life, and wise use of our natural resources.

C. Transportation: Action to achieve a system to move people and goods that includes a variety of modes that is efficient, convenient, and cost effective.

D. Water: Action to achieve conservation, protection, and judicious development of surface and groundwater resources through a comprehensive state water plan.

League of Women Voters of the United States

Summary of National Public Policy Positions

Details of LWV-US positions can be found in the publication *"Impact on Issues."* This publication is designed to help League leaders use LWV-US public policy positions effectively at the state and local levels. In addition to the official statements of position for each program area, this publication briefly traces significant past actions and achievements, and indicates links among positions. Statements of position and other official language are in bold type.

REPRESENTATIVE GOVERNMENT

Promote an open governmental system that is representative, accountable and responsive.

Voting Rights

Citizen's Right to Vote. Protect the right of all citizens to vote; encourage all citizens to vote.

DC Self-Government and Full Voting Representation. Secure for the citizens of the District of Columbia the rights of self-government and full voting representation in both houses of Congress.

The Election Process

Apportionment. Support apportionment of congressional districts and elected legislative bodies at all levels of government based substantially on population.

Campaign Finance Reform. Improve methods of financing political campaigns in order to ensure the public's right to know, combat corruption and undue influence, enable candidates to compete more equitably for public office and promote citizen participation in the political process.

Selection of the President. Promote the election of the President and Vice President by direct popular vote and work to abolish the Electoral College. Support uniform national voting qualifications and procedures for presidential elections. Support efforts to provide voters with sufficient information about candidates.

Citizen Rights

Citizen's Right to Know/Citizen Participation. Protect the citizen's right to know and facilitate citizen participation in government decision making.

Individual Liberties. Oppose major threats to basic constitutional rights.

Public Policy on Reproductive Choices. Protect the constitutional right of privacy of the individual to make reproductive choices.

Congress and the Presidency

Congress. Support responsive legislative processes characterized by accountability, representativeness, decision-making capability and effective performance.

The Presidency. Promote a dynamic balance of power between the executive and legislative branches within the framework set by the Constitution.

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

Promote peace in an interdependent world by working cooperatively with other nations and strengthening international organizations.

United Nations

Support a strong, effective United Nations to promote international peace and security and to address the social, economic, and humanitarian needs of all people.

Trade

Support U.S. trade policies that reduce trade barriers, expand international trade and advance the achievement of humanitarian, environmental and social goals.

U.S. Relations with Developing Countries

Promote U.S. policies that meet long-term social and economic needs of developing countries.

Arms Control

Reduce the risk of war through support of arms control measures.

Military Policy and Defense Spending

Work to limit reliance on military force. Examine defense spending in the context of total national needs.

NATURAL RESOURCES

Promote an environment beneficial to life through the protection and wise management of natural resources in the public interest.

Natural Resources

Promote the management of natural resources as interrelated parts of life-supporting ecosystems.

Resource Management

Promote resource conservation, stewardship and long-range planning, with the responsibility for managing natural resources shared by all levels of government.

Environmental Protection and Pollution Control

Preserve the physical, chemical and biological integrity of the ecosystem, with maximum protection of public health and the environment.

Air Quality. Promote measures to reduce pollution from mobile and stationary sources.

Energy. Support environmentally sound policies that reduce energy growth rates, emphasize energy conservation and encourage the use of renewable resources.

Land Use. Promote policies that manage land as a finite resource and that incorporate principles of stewardship.

Water Resources. Support measures to reduce pollution in order to protect surface water, groundwater and drinking water.

Waste Management. Promote policies to reduce the generation and promote the reuse and recycling of solid and hazardous wastes.

Nuclear Issues. Promote the maximum protection of public health and safety and the environment.

Public Participation

Promote public understanding and participation in decision making as essential elements of responsible and responsive management of our natural resources.

Agriculture Policy

Promote adequate supplies of food and fiber at reasonable prices to consumers and support economically viable farms, environmentally sound farm practices and increased reliance on the free market.

SOCIAL POLICY

Secure equal rights and equal opportunity for all. Promote social and economic justice and the health and safety of all Americans.

Equality of Opportunity

Equal Rights. Support ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment and efforts to bring laws into compliance with the goals of the ERA.

Education, Employment and Housing. Support equal access to education, employment and housing.

Fiscal Policy

Tax Policy. Support adequate and flexible funding of federal government programs through an equitable tax system that is progressive overall and that relies primarily on a broad-based income tax.

Federal Deficit. Promote responsible deficit policies.

Funding of Entitlements. Support a federal role in providing mandatory, universal, old-age, survivors, disability and health insurance.

Health Care

Promote a health care system for the United States that provides access to a basic level of quality care for all U. S. residents and controls health care costs.

Immigration

Support reunification of immediate families; meet the economic, business and employment needs of the United States; and be responsive to those facing political persecution or humanitarian crises.

Provision should also be made for qualified persons to enter the U.S. on student visas. All persons should receive fair treatment under the law.

Meeting Basic Human Needs

Support programs and policies to prevent or reduce poverty and to promote self-sufficiency for individuals and families.

Income Assistance. Support income assistance programs, based on need, that provide decent, adequate standards for food, clothing and shelter.

Support Services. Provide for essential support services.

Housing Supply. Support policies to provide a decent home and a suitable living environment for every American family.

Child Care

Support programs and policies to expand the supply of affordable, quality child care for all who need it.

Early Intervention for Children at Risk

Support policies and programs that promote the well-being, development and safety of all children.

Violence prevention

Support prevention programs in communities.

Gun Control

Protect the health and safety of citizens through limiting the accessibility and regulating the ownership of handguns and semi-automatic weapons. Support regulation of firearms for consumer safety.

Urban Policy

Promote the economic health of cities and improve the quality of urban life.