



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®  
OF THE HOUSTON AREA

**96th Annual Meeting**

**2016**

**Report to the Membership**

**And**

**Workbook**

**League of Women Voters of the  
Houston Area**

*The League of Women Voters of the Houston Area, 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.*

# **96th Annual Meeting League of Women Voters of the Houston Area**

## **Monday, May 16, 2016**

**Southwest Multi-Service Center  
6400 High Star Drive  
Houston, TX 77074**

**6:30 pm**

**Keynote Address  
Chief Martha Montalvo  
Interim Houston Police Chief  
Houston Police Department  
Annual Meeting follows immediately**

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*The presence of 18 members will constitute a quorum, enabling us to conduct business at this Annual Meeting (Bylaws, Art. VIII, Sec 3).*

*Please note that this workbook includes information about programs and outreach activities conducted by our affiliated organization, the League of Women Voters of Houston Education Fund.*

**League of Women Voters of the Houston Area  
96th Annual Meeting  
Monday, May 16, 2016**

**Order of Business**

**Call to Order**

Aimee Mobley-Turney

**Organization**

Aimee Mobley-Turney

Appointment of Parliamentarian

Appointment of Timekeeper

Appointment of Committee to Approve Minutes

Adoption of Order of Business

Adoption of Rules

**Treasurer's Report**

Leslie Taylor

**Local Issues: Study and Advocacy**

Jeff Reichman

Adoption of Proposed Program

**Report of the Budget Committee**

Sharon Cunningham

Adoption of the Budget, 2016-2017

**Awards and Appreciations**

Report of the Awards Committee

Phyllis Frye

**President's Remarks**

Aimee Mobley-Turney

**Report of the Nominating Committee**

Anne Herbage

Election of Officers 2016-2018

**Old Business**

Aimee Mobley-Turney

Resolution on Organizational Responsibility

**New Business**

Aimee Mobley-Turney

**Advice to the Board** (I wish the Board would...)

Aimee Mobley Turney

**Announcements**

Aimee Mobley Turney

**Adjourn**

**The League of Women Voters of the Houston Area**  
**Minutes of the 95th Annual Meeting**  
**May 20, 2015**

\*The Annual Meeting of the League of Women Voters of the Houston Area was called to order at 6:24 pm by President Aimee Mobley-Turney. A quorum of members having been recorded as present, the business of the Annual Meeting commenced.

**Call to Order:** 6:24 PM

Aimee Mobley Turney

Quorum was certified by the presence of at least 20 members

**Opening Ceremony (50 year member recognition)**

Sharon Cunningham

Olga Bennett- 61 years, Alice May Berthelsen- 58 years, Gloria Herman- 58 years, Elizabeth Rack- 65 years, Jackie Zilker- 56 years

**Consent Items**

Aimee Mobley Turney

Appointment of Parliamentarian- John Bernman

Appointment of Timekeeper-Mary Titus

Appointment of Committee to Approve Minutes-Beni Guterrez and Marcia Miquelito

Appointment of the Sergeant at Arms-

Adoption of Order of Business

Adoption of Rules

No additions to the agenda, adopted as submitted

**Treasurer's Report**

Leslie Taylor

**Report of the Budget Committee**

Sharon Cunningham

Adoption of the Budget, 2015-2016-combined budget passed

Meeting suspended to hear guest speaker

Meeting reconvened at 7:14 PM

**Report of the Awards Committee**

Linda Cohn

Carolyn Mata, outstanding service; Aimee Turney, special recognition; Voter Registration Team, Claudia Ortega-Hogue, Beni Gutierrez, Judy Hollinger, Mary Titus and Tom Berg; Rising Stars, Lindsay Munoz; Helen Hunter Award, Tom Berg

Motion to accept the awards committee report- passed

**President's Remarks**

Aimee Mobley Turney

**Report of the Nominating Committee**

Nancy Parra

Election of Officers, 2015 – 2016

Additions to committee nomination, Judy Hollinger was nominated to serve as VP for Membership in opposition to the committee nomination of Danita Gallegos for VP of Membership. Written ballots were passed out and counted-Danita Gallegos was elected VP for Membership. A motion was made to accept the additional nominees by acclamation-passed.

**Old Business**

**New Business**

Aimee Mobley Turney

Program items-update to charter schools issue requested by Jan Wilbur, President accepted request

Motion for clarification made by Sharon Cunningham and seconded by Tom Berg on organizational responsibility for various administrative and other functions-passed

**Good of the Order (I wish the Board would...)**

Aimee Mobley Turney

Hire a Development Director (Jan Wilbur)

**Announcements****Meeting Adjourned 8:12 PM**

*-minutes recorded by Mary Ellen Whitworth and approved by Beni Guitierrez and Marcia Miqueloto*

## **Proposed Rules for the Annual Meeting**

### **Composition**

Admission to the Annual Meeting is open to voting members, associate members and guests. Only voting members may vote.

### **Quorum** (ART VIII, SEC 3, LWV-HA BYLAWS)

Eighteen members must be present in order to conduct business at this meeting.

### **Debate**

Only voting members have the privilege of the floor. No person may speak twice until all who wish to speak have had an opportunity to do so. Each speaker shall identify herself or himself. Each debate speaker shall be limited to one minute, plus the time required to complete a sentence.

### **Closing Debate**

A motion to halt debate is stated as "I move the previous question." This motion, which must be seconded, is not debatable and must be put to an immediate vote. A two-thirds vote is necessary to adopt this motion. If adopted, debate is immediately ended, and the motion under debate is voted upon.

### **Voting Procedures**

A majority of those qualified to vote and voting shall constitute an election of officers. Nominations for officers may be made from the floor by any voting member at the appropriate time, provided the consent of the nominee has been secured.

### **Bylaws**

Bylaws may be amended by a two-thirds vote of the voting members present and voting, provided the amendments have been submitted to the membership in writing at least one month in advance.

### **Annual dues**

Annual dues are determined by a three-fifths vote of those present and voting.

### **Budget**

Adoption of the budget requires a majority vote.

### **Governing Rules**

The Rules contained in "Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised" shall govern in all cases to which they are applicable and not inconsistent with the Bylaws.

## **Report of the President Aimee Mobley-Turney**

Welcome to the 96<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the League of Women Voters of the Houston Area.

This has been a year of genuine growth and courageous change, and most certainly another year of outstanding service to the Houston Community.

Our several Committees and League Leaders have tackled organizational challenges with patience and determination. Their reports highlight success, define new paths and offer sturdy proposals for the future. Please take care to consider their assessments. Vibrant discussion and consensus support remain our proven strength.

Lyn Walshak and her nominations committee recruited me in 2013 to ascend the leadership to my position to bridge the gap between the members with more years of service and those with fewer years of service to create a sustainable organization. Mary Lee Burrus, Nancy Parra and now Ann Herbage and their committees have continued to recruit members to the board of directors with the same vision of a sustainable organization.

I liken my experience to inheriting a vintage dress from an older relative who participated in the women's suffrage movement. The dress is beautiful and elegant and it surely turned heads when my relative wore it. Yet it didn't fit well when it was inherited thanks to the undergarments that women wore when the dress was originally made and the difference in our physiques. I tried to wear it without making alterations a few times yet found that it was much more comfortable and flattering after a visit with a tailor when adjustments were made to accommodate my physique. It would have also been nice to have been able to talk to the relative about their experiences wearing the dress as sitting down, ascending and descending stairs and walking required modifications to the way that I that I am comfortable doing these things.

We tried some things that didn't work well last year and others that worked very well. We did not have a calendar planning meeting and our board training was minimal. The board of directors, committee chairs and Rising Star leaders will have a strategic planning meeting in June. Another meeting will follow with board training and calendar planning. Our Rising Stars program has drawn so much attention throughout the state that we were asked to conduct a panel at the LWV Texas State Convention. Our voter registration program at naturalization ceremonies and phone bank programs have garnered national attention among LWV chapters and the media. We have been asked to participate in panels at the LWV National Convention on both topics.

We're tailoring the League of Women Voters of the Houston Area to fit the lifestyles of members with careers so that our organization will continue to be sustainable yet it is important for us to preserve the traditions that have earned our impeccable reputation for fairness and impartiality. I'd love to hear from our members with years of service about their experiences with our traditions so that we can understand the modifications we might need to make to our comfortable ways of doing things while continuing to grow our sustainable organization.

## **Reports on Special Projects**

### **Rising Stars Event – Chairs: Johnna Carlson, Justin Concepcion**

The Rising Stars event on Thursday, January 14th was a rousing success. We recognized the group projects from Jesse Bounds, Lawrence Nkadi and Niki Virani Poonawala. Dr. Noreen Khan-Mayberry was our Carrie Chapman Catt recipient.

### **15<sup>th</sup> Annual Repast Luncheon – Chairs: Linda Cantu, Januari Leo**

The 15th annual Repast Luncheon was held on May 3, 2016, honoring Texas Representative Garnet Coleman and Harris County Judge Ed Emmett. Ernie Manouse served as moderator. The luncheon sold out and fundraising goals were met.

### **Speakers Bureau, President Ariana Montelongo de Valdivia**

The Greenway Toasmasters Club has changed its format. Speech topics are now confined to the League of Women Voters, suffrage and election matters. Its members are Rising Stars, John Behrman and Aimee Mobley Turrney. The club recently voted to meet twice a month. The first meeting of the month will be a business meeting, focusing on the elements of conducting a successful meeting using Roberts Rules of Order. The second meeting of the month will be reserved for speeches and table topics related to the League of Women Voters, suffrage and election matters. Members of this club have represented the League of Women Voters of the Houston Area and the League of Women Voters Education Fund in speaking roles in Harris and Waller County.

### **Houston MediaSource**

Our partnership with Houston MediaSource enabled us to produce round table presentations on a wide variety of topics of importance to the community. The one-hour League programs aired on the first Thursday of each month and were moderated by Rising Stars. These are a very effective means of sharing information since the reach of these programs (original live broadcast, live streaming, rebroadcast and on-demand viewing on our website) is far beyond what we can achieve by sending speakers to small groups and organizations. We do not have a way of measuring the numbers of broadcast viewers but we do know that on-demand views of these programs were well over 1,500.

### **Directory**

The directory for the League of Women Voters of the Houston Area was not prepared for the 2015-2016 year. An electronic version is ready to be produced upon conclusion of the annual meeting when the members of the board of directors are elected by the membership and a calendar meeting when dates are agreed upon for the events for 2016-2017. The directory will more than likely be electronic as was introduced in 2013 and available with a password to the membership. A limited amount of copies will be printed for members without a computer.

### **2016 Directory of Elected Officials (Voters Key)**

The online version of the DEO will be updated following the May Runoff Election.



## **Reports of the Vice Presidents and Their Committees**

### **Executive Vice President – Claudia Ortega-Hogue**

The office of Executive Vice President is relatively new to LWV-Houston. It was established in 2013 and designed to accommodate a flexible portfolio of duties. EVP responsibilities would reflect the experience and special talents of the office-holder as well as help balance the overall needs of the organization.

It is my pleasure to report these elements of service to LWV-Houston and to the Houston Community. Additional details may be found as part of committee reports.

- Led (in coordination with VP CE Tom Berg) the Naturalization Ceremony team that monthly worked alongside the NC Co-Chairs (Mary Titus and Beni Gutierrez), the United States Citizenship & Immigration Services, the United States District Court, the Harris County Tax Assessor-Collector Voter Registrar and the Harris County Attorney to organize a voter registration service that typically enrolls 85% of newly eligible voters within minutes of their Citizenship oath. This year, we registered thousands of voters. Please refer to the Civic Engagement report. This program is a point of pride for the LWV-Houston Education Fund.
- Executed Media Outreach Efforts in both Spanish and English: Univision 45 (Local), Univision Contigo (National), Channel 13-ABC, Houston Chronicle, NY Times, Fusion (National).
  - Sept 22nd National Voter Registration Efforts – Phone Bank, Twitter Parties, Live Web Chat.
  - Dec. 2015 – League of Women Voters of the Houston Area profiled on Voter Registration Efforts - [http://www.nytimes.com/2015/12/20/magazine/block-the-vote.html?\\_r=0](http://www.nytimes.com/2015/12/20/magazine/block-the-vote.html?_r=0)
  - April 2016 - Connected National Univision – Univision Contigo with the LWV USA to implement national campaign, Vota Por Tu America.
- Co-chaired 2015 Citizenship Month Efforts for the City of Houston
  - Tom Berg steering committee member on behalf of the League of Women Voters (marketing materials).
- Currently Appointed by Mayor Sylvester Turner to Co-Chair the 2016 Advisory Council of International Communities for the City of Houston.
- Annual Meeting 2016 Logistics: securing venue, food, key note speaker.
- Backdrop and Navigational Signage for the League of Women Voters of Houston: durable pop up banners that can be used to promote and enhance LWV-Houston's community presence
  - Linda Cohn and Tom Berg – donors for each banner
- Website – revisions and updates. Please refer to the report provided by Melanie Scruggs, Website Chair.
- Contracts: developing a sturdy framework for League obligations and alliances. Please refer to the report provided by Dr. Reynaldo Guerra, Contracts Chair.
- Development Committee: Pursuing and reviewing grant funding to support the League's mission. Please refer to the report provided by Aimee Bertrand, Development Committee Chair.

- Naturalization application workshops: helping qualified Legal Permanent Residents complete their Citizenship Applications. Efforts provided by Office of International Communities with the City of Houston, Neighborhood Centers Inc, NALEO Educational Fund, and Univision 45.
- Coordinating with the 2016 Rising Stars team to support efforts with the University of Houston project to identify Neighborhoods with low turnout rates and Neighborhood Centers Inc to integrate voter engagement activities and services. This will allow to build capacity and provide funding within the League of Women Voters of the Houston Area.



#### **Website and Social Media – Melanie Scruggs**

The LWV HA and LWV-H EF website is undergoing a complete redo expected to be complete in summer 2016. The volunteers working on the new website include Melanie Scruggs and Jeff Reichman with a great deal of support from the President, Vice President, Treasurer, and former President Nancy Parra. The goal of the switch to a new website is to simplify and update the layout in Wordpress, which is a popular and effective website platform, making it easier for volunteers to make changes and updates to the site. There will also be integrated pages with a new LWV HA and LWV-H EF member database to streamline membership and communications sign-up forms as well as event registrations. The calendar is being updated and will be a one-stop shop for all events happening in the local League in addition to election information. Ideas and suggestions for the new website are welcome and may be sent to the volunteers at [website@lwwhouston.org](mailto:website@lwwhouston.org).

#### **LWV Houston Contract Committee - 2015-2016 Summary – Rey Guerra**

The Think Voting Contract to develop The Voting App was reviewed, redlined, and re-negotiated.

In summary, the purpose of The Think Voting Contract called for the League to prepare Content from the League's Voter's Guide to be presented in The Voting App developed by Think Voting, giving credit to the League for providing the Content.

It is the opinion of the Contracts Committee that the "spirit" of The Voting App is one that should be embraced and pursued. However, the current nature of preparing Content in a format that Think Voting can use is cumbersome and extremely time consuming. An alternative much more efficient method exists

utilizing what's called an API (Application Programming Interface). Coordination with LWV-US (Megan Brown) will be required to utilize this method. Also, a study of the effectiveness of working with Think Voting versus alternative options should be evaluated prior to pursuing another voting app-type contract.

### **Vice President for Membership Affairs – Sarah Schimmer**

The League of Women Voters Houston continues to maintain a thriving membership. Looking ahead, the LWVHouston will engage and grow membership and have a presence at program events, debates and forums, and social events. The years ahead will be positive and engaging. Many thanks to both long term sustaining members and new members for your dedication to the vision of the organization.

### **Vice President for Issues Study and Advocacy – Januari Leo**

#### **October**

The League of Women Voters-Houston hosted panelists with opposing and supporting views on the Houston Equal Rights Ordinance, Proposition 1 ballot item. Panelists included: Andy Taylor, Attorney with Andy Taylor & Associates, PC, John O'Neill, Attorney and Partner with Winston & Strawn, LLP, Brad Pritchett, Political Director with Houston Unites, and Gilbert Herrera, Founder of Herrera Partners. Nancy Sims, Senior Vice President of Pierpont Communications, moderated the panel discussion.

#### **January**

The League of Women Voters-Houston was proud to partner with Glasshouse Policy to help launch MobilityHouston. MobilityHouston is a community-wide engagement initiative to ensure all Houstonians have a voice in developing a more connected, livable city. MobilityHouston is an online and in-person platform for all Houstonians to explore discrete topics which impact Houston mobility and propose their solutions to Houston's transportation issues. After months of online conversation, in-person meetings and town halls, MobilityHouston will conclude with the presentation of citizen-sourced policy solutions for community, stakeholder, and City Council consideration.

The kickoff town hall took place on Friday, January 29th at the Houston Technology Center (410 Pierce St). There was a networking reception from 6-6:30PM, and the program will ran from 6:30-8PM.

On January 7th, the League utilized our monthly Houston Media Source show to host a panel discussion featuring Thomas Visco with Glasshouse Policy, Council Member David Robinson, and Michael Payne with Bike Houston.

#### **Statewide Payday Lending Consensus**

The League of Women Voters-Houston submitted input to the state chapter in regards to their payday lending report. Utilizing a different method that surveyed the entire League membership via SurveyMonkey as opposed to just in Units, LWV-Houston submitted 16 responses to the state.

#### **Democracy Month**

The League of Women Voters of the Houston Area and Houston MediaSource TV held a conversation on what it will take to get more women running for office in Harris County, and what Houstonians can do to help. Panelists included State Representative Ana Hernandez, Judge Debra Ibarra Mayfield, and Kathryn Chace of KChace Consulting. The conversation was hosted by LWVHouston Rising Star Reda Marie Hicks. The show was rebroadcast multiple times and archived on YouTube.

The League of Women Voters of the Houston Area and Sketch City partnered for a hack night about technology and democracy. Great projects were discussed and a series of lightning talks about voting, tech, data, and the democratic process occurred. Civic hack nights are free, 2.5 hour events where people get together to work on projects for the public good. The event was open to the public. Attendees included software developers, designers, academic researchers, data journalists, high school students, analysts of all stripes, urban planners, policy wonks, entrepreneurs, elected officials, and curious citizens who want to make Houston better through technology. Throughout the space, people broke into clusters to discuss and work on projects.

We capped off #DemocracyMonth with another amazing Town Hall event. Have you ever thought about running for office? Do you know someone you think should be running? Do you know where to start a campaign for elected office? The League of Women Voters of the Houston Area and our event partner the Hobby Center for Public Policy, partnered with The Black Sheep Agency and January Advisors for a Town Hall on The Nuts and Bolts of Running for Office. We had two fantastic panels of experts to walk through the ins and outs of how to run, and how to fund a run, for public office. The event was broadcast live and archived on YouTube.

### Vice President for Civic Engagement – Tom Berg

Tom Berg resigned from the board of directors on April 7, 2016. We wish to thank him for his dedication and service to the League of Women Voters and congratulate him for accomplishing his goal since joining the board of replacing himself and other board members with a sustainable board of directors. Following are reports obtained from the committee chairs reporting to the Vice President for Civic Engagement.

### General Election Voter's Guide 2015 – Committee Chair Linda Cohn

#### VG 2015 - The Committee

Tom Berg Supervising	VP (Civic Engagement)
Jackie Alfred	Chair Emeritus
Linda Cohn	Chair
Bette John Budget	Candidate contact (spreadsheet development, non-responder follow-up)
Sharon Cunningham Budget	Candidate contact (spreadsheet development, non-responder follow-up)
Dana Kervin	Question development
Judy Hollinger	VG Fundraising
Kathy Cheng Proofing	Marketing follow-up, personal print distribution to media
Liza Alonzo	Marketing, distribution, question development
Rey Guerra	ThinkVoting collaboration: contract negotiations, data transfer

### Part I: Wrapping up VG 2015

#### a. Overview

- 1. Voters Guide** provided election info and unedited candidate responses to select policy questions, covering Municipal Elections, School Board Elections and state and local ballot issues
- 2. Candidate rate of response:** 80% (extensive coaxing required, several candidates submitted responses after print deadline)
- 3. Editions**
  - a. Print edition: 28-page tabloid in English (21K run) and 28-page tabloid in Spanish (10K run)
  - b. Digital editions (English and Spanish) posted to website and circulated via nonprofits, media, schools
  - c. Interactive edition available at [www.VOTE411.org](http://www.VOTE411.org)
  - d. Pilot project: Runoff Mini-Guide (digital, English only)

#### b. Commentary: The Good

- 1. Project delivered** on time, adequate quality, under budget
- 2. Committee held together nicely**, excellent mix of steadfast veterans with sterling newbies
- 3. New! Houston Public Library System**, historically a major print distribution point, agreed to post official desk signage encouraging the use of LWV digital resources
- 4. Print remainders** tallied at approximately 3%, a very tolerable overage
- 5. Every member of the LWV-Houston Ed Fund Board of Trustees** offered a personal financial contribution in support of VG 2015

### **c. Commentary: The Wobbly Bits**

- 1. Budget** concerns
  - a. balancing aspirations and utility with capacity is always a tricky business
  - b. under financial and deadline pressure, exec com decided to retain a full menu of VG services for VG 2015 (print, digital, interactive editions; English and Spanish)
- 2. Leadership** and executive guidance
  - a. CE VP introduced an all-digital approach to publication and circulation after many years of multiple distribution vectors (print, pdf, interactive). Community response was favorable.
  - b. In order to best protect the *Voters Guide's* well-earned reputation as an honest broker of information, the present VG Committee urges all Board Trustees and future VG Committees to be mindful of personal political activity that may be interpreted as League favoritism toward a particular candidate or as League sympathy for a particular issue. For example, the Board may wish to ask Trustees who are active campaigners to recuse themselves from VG question development or VG committee service.
- 3. Timeline** anxiety
  - a. wiggle-room built into the production timeline was spent on cajoling candidate participation
  - b. what best serves the electorate: maximum participation or strict enforcement?
- 4. ThinkVoting app** (a private, for-profit initiative) collaboration did not play out well
  - a. Imperfect concept
  - b. Logistics (transfer of LWV-Houston proprietary data and developing terms of collaboration) a significant drain on League resources
  - c. Errors, confusions, weak accessibility detracted from utility of apps as ultimately published
- 4. Mail distribution** to membership was single-purpose and pricey (\$570)
  - a. No cost-sharing or vector-sharing with other LWV functions (e.g., membership directory, fundraising appeal, organization promotions or omnibus calendar of League events)
  - b. Cost ultimately charged in total to C(4) function
- 5. Runoff Mini-VG**, with refreshed info and new candidate questions (English- language, digital edition only) did not spark oodles of interest
  - a. candidates awash in questionnaire fatigue (64% responded, most only after post-deadline coaxing)
- 6. Environmental questionnaire**, a parallel collaborative project led by CEC, occasioned a smidge of candidate confusion, gnawed at primacy of LWV- Houston VG

### **Part II. VG Primary Elections 2016: Foundational Decisions**

- a. Produce, publish and distribute a VG to the Texas Primary Elections (March 1, 2016)?
- b. Cover all races?
- c. English and Spanish?
- d. Print *and/or* digital *and/or* interactive distribution vectors?
- e. Membership distribution:
  1. (Option 1) For print VG: should this be snail-mailed to each member in a single-purpose envelope or combined with other LWV materials?
  2. (Option 2) For digital VG only: should a heads-up letter be launched to each member (snail-mail and/or email) early on?
- f. Acknowledgement conundrum: should active candidates referenced in the present VG be included in the honor roll of contributors? (Note: issue bleeds into sponsorship acknowledgements at Repast, RS events)

### **Part III. VG Primary Elections 2016: Logistical Decisions**

- a. Determine capacity and compliance across the staff/contract worker/volunteer divide



- b. Determine which logistical matters can be researched and resolved within the committee or within the civic engagement function, and which must be resolved at higher levels (e.g., candidate questions, extending candidate response deadlines)
- c. Budget considerations – hire contract worker for data management?
- d. Candidate questions
  - 1. Broadside to public asking for suggestions?
  - 2. Ask academics, politicians, journalists, sister civic organizations for suggestions?
  - 3. Ask LWV-Houston members for suggestions?
  - 4. Ask expansive philosophical questions or narrower questions specific to each office that will be covered?
- e. Appointment of committee members and special task assignments
- f. VOTE411.org: use, abandon or modify?
  - 1. provides on-line utility for data collection and production management; after publication may be accessed by voters who wish to research their specific ballots
  - 2. Why we love VOTE411
    - a. LWV-US owned and operated, licensed through LWV-TX
    - b. *New!* no charge to Texas Local Leagues
    - c. High standards of dignity, probity, user privacy
    - d. Megan Brown (LWV-US) manages system; she is friendly, cheerful, responsive
    - e. Andrea Flores (graphic artist) is skilled in using system to access and process candidate data for print/digital VG.
  - 3. Why we don't love VOTE411
    - a. Internal optics are odd, old, clunky
    - b. Sometimes does weird things with no apparent trigger; requires careful monitoring
- c. Public interface is not well suited for Texas elections
  - 1. No black box warning about connectivity in the polling place
  - 2. Allows side-by-side comparison of only two candidates for each office
  - 3. Does not allow a freeze deadline for responses: candidates may access their profiles in perpetuity, filing after the print/digital deadline, changing previously posted responses, adding/removing videos or photographs.

## VG 2015 - The Donors General Election Edition



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**GRATEFULLY ACKNOWLEDGES THE  
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NOTE: One copy provided to each LWV-Houston member via postal mail  
Copies available at League events (e.g., candidate forums)  
Approx 12 individual copies mailed to non-members on request  
Remainders: 3%  
VOTERS GUIDE DISTRIBUTION: DIGITAL (confirmed):  
Houston Public Library  
Rice University



Urban League  
Houston Chronicle  
KPRC-TV  
Campus Vote Project

## Primary Election Voter's Guide 2016 – Committee Chair Liza Alonzo

### VG Primary Elections 2016 - The Committee

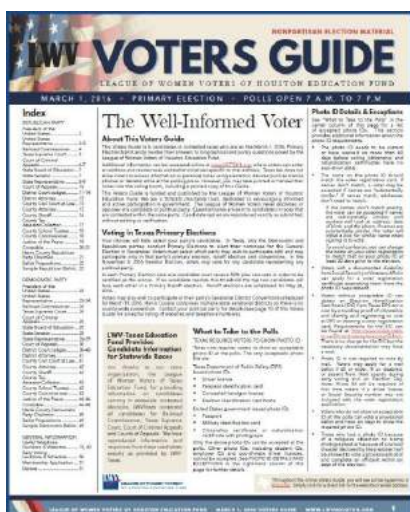
Tom Berg  
Liza Alonzo  
Bette John

Sharon Cunningham

Dana Kervin

Supervising VP (Civic Engagement)  
Chair  
Candidate contact (spreadsheet development, non-responder follow-up; questionnaire development)  
Budget, candidate contact (spreadsheet development, non-responder follow-up; questionnaire development)  
Candidate contact

### Voters Guide 2016 Primary Elections March 1, 2016



### Wrapping Up VG 2016: Primary Elections Edition

All-digital Publication and Distribution

#### a. Overview

1. **Voters Guide** provided election info and unedited candidate responses to select biographical and policy questions, covering all contested federal, state, county and party leadership races as well as party ballot issues for both the Democratic and Republican Primary elections.

a. All content for statewide races provided by LWV-TX.

b. All content for 175 races within LWV-Houston's service area produced and published by LWV-Houston.

2. **Candidate rate of response:** 70%

- a. Compares unfavorably with 86% rate of response for similar LWV- Houston's *Guide to the Primary Elections* in 2014.
- b. Compares favorably with national trends as reported anecdotally by LWV-US.
- c. Extensive coaxing required via follow-up emails, phone calls and texts; several candidates submitted post pdf-deadline responses for inclusion at interactive website only.

### 3. Editions

- a. *New!* All-digital publication and distribution.
- b. Published in both English and Spanish.
- c. Pdf editions (English and Spanish) posted to website, circulated and linked via nonprofits, media, schools, partisan vectors.
- d. Interactive edition available at [www.VOTE411.org](http://www.VOTE411.org).
- e. Runoff Mini-Guide (English only) anticipated.

### 4. Financial, production and distribution detailed stats:

#### b. Commentary: The Good

- 1. **Project delivered** on time, robust quality, spending less than half the allocated budget.
- 2. **Committee held together nicely**, adjusting with aplomb to developments.
- 3. **New! Houston Public Library and Harris County Library**, historically major print distribution centers, posted official desk signage encouraging the use of LWV digital resources, conveniently available at on-site computer banks.
- 4. **Every member of the LWV-Houston Ed Fund Board of Trustees** offered a personal financial contribution in support of *VG 2015* and *VG Primary Edition 2016*.

#### c. Commentary: The Wobbly Bits

##### 1. Budget concerns

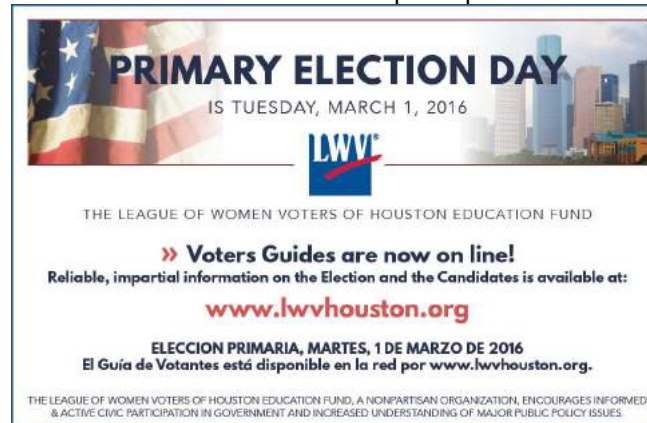
- a. Balancing aspirations and utility with capacity a continuing challenge.

##### 2. Leadership and executive guidance

- a. CE VP introduced an all-digital approach to publication and circulation after many years of multiple distribution vectors (print, pdf, interactive). Community response was favorable.
- b. In order to best protect the Voters Guide's well-earned reputation as an honest broker of information, the present VG Committee urges all Board Trustees and future VG Committees to be mindful of personal political activity that may be interpreted as League favoritism toward a particular candidate or as League sympathy for a particular issue. For example, the Board may wish to ask Trustees who are active campaigners to recuse themselves from VG question development or VG committee service.

##### 3. Timeline anxiety

- a. Dangerously tight production timeline allowed no wiggle room.
- b. Translation requirements resulted in a very slightly delayed *Guía*, ultimately published just one day after the start of Early Voting.
- c. Cajoling candidate responses: what best serves the electorate: maximum participation or strict enforcement? CE VP made the call for maximum participation.



### **VG Primary Elections 2016 – Distribution**

All-digital publication and distribution

#### **a. Confirmed Sightings: Links and Website Embeds (closely tracks established distribution)**

1. Houston Public Library
2. Harris County Library System
3. Rice University
4. Houston Community College Libraries
5. Urban League
6. Houston Chronicle
  - a. news articles
  - b. journalists' blogs
  - c. editorial (pre-Election Day GOTV column)
7. Campus Vote Project
8. Texas League of Young Voters
9. Univision
10. Telemundo
11. KTRK-TV
12. KPRC-TV
13. VOTE411.org

#### **b. Direct email distribution (closely tracks past patterns)**

1. Approx. 12 individuals, at their request.
2. Carl Whitmarsh, vast but unofficial Democratic Party Circulation (NOTE: pdf and links made available to both GOP and Dems).

#### **c. Response to email broadsides announcing VG (kitchen sink mailing list; approx. 1800 subscribers) (closely tracks past patterns)**

Date	Click-throughs to pdf Edition of VG,	Timing	FB Likes	Twitter Shares	LinkedIn shares
Launch First announcement	2,155 (note: Primary Election VG 2014 launch yielded 8K+ hits)	Saturday launch E-Day minus 17 days	17	21	21
Second announcement	210	Friday before start of	12	23	24
Third announcement	180	E-Day minus 1 day	13	22	22
Fourth announcement	28	E-Day: noon	11	22	22

**d. Google Analytics:** VOTE411 interactive website, 1 January 2016 through 1 March 2016  
(closely tracks past patterns)

City	Acquisition		
	Sessions	% New Sessions	New Users
	<b>82,132</b> % of Total: 63.45% (129,434)	<b>66.93%</b> Avg for View: 69.49% (-3.69%)	<b>54,970</b> % of Total: 61.12% (89,944)
1. <a href="#">Houston</a>	<b>13,251</b> (16.13%)	70.02%	9,279 (16.88%)
2. <a href="#">Dallas</a>	<b>9,022</b> (10.98%)	68.19%	6,152 (11.19%)
3. <a href="#">Austin</a>	<b>7,905</b> (9.62%)	62.40%	4,933 (8.97%)
4. <a href="#">San Antonio</a>	<b>4,351</b> (5.30%)	69.13%	3,008 (5.47%)
5. <a href="#">Fort Worth</a>	<b>4,247</b> (5.17%)	65.27%	2,772 (5.04%)
6. <a href="#">Plano</a>	<b>2,977</b> (3.62%)	64.39%	1,917 (3.49%)
7. <a href="#">Arlington</a>	<b>1,899</b> (2.31%)	65.09%	1,236 (2.25%)
8. <a href="#">Amarillo</a>	<b>1,075</b> (1.31%)	62.70%	674 (1.23%)
9. <a href="#">Richardson</a>	<b>1,009</b> (1.23%)	62.04%	626 (1.14%)
10. <a href="#">Lubbock</a>	<b>990</b> (1.21%)	63.13%	625 (1.14%)

**e. New! Facebook paid boosts in English and Spanish (cost: \$100.00): a joyous success story**

Views	Comments and Shares	Click-throughs to VG at LWW-Houston Website
44,000+	1290+	400+

This was effective but can be improved with better targeting and more experience with the Facebook ad approach. The unboosted *Guia* was viewed almost 700 times by comparison. Recommend that if both are produced, both should enjoy targeted boosting for the November general election.

It's up, it's live! The 2016 Houston Area Voters' Guide is available for download at [lwvhouston.org](http://lwvhouston.org) right smack dab at the top of the home page. Just in time for early voting starting Tuesday, February 16 through February 26 and Election Day on March 1st. If you've been holding on to your mail-in ballot, well, wait no more. Be an educated voter on all the contested races and propositions for each major party. Make informed choices. Your vote matters. Proximamente en español!



# VOTERS GUIDE

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF HOUSTON EDUCATION FUND

MARCH 1, 2016 • PRIMARY ELECTION • POLLS OPEN 7 A.M. TO 7 P.M.

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## The Well-Informed Voter

### About This Voters Guide

This Voters Guide lists candidates in contested races who are on the March 1, 2016, Primary Election ballot and provides their answers to important and timely questions covering the League of Women Voters of Houston Education Fund.

Additional information can be obtained online at [www.lwvhouston.org](http://www.lwvhouston.org), where voters can enter an address and receive more in-depth information specific to their address. Voters are also able to view information on proposed issues and questions on the ballot. This information is available online at the time of the election. However, you may also receive information on the issues through a printed copy of this Guide.

This Voters Guide is funded and published by the League of Women Voters of Houston Education Fund. We are a 501(c)(3) charitable trust dedicated to encouraging informed and active participation in government. The League of Women Voters does not endorse or support any candidate or political party. Candidates are not to be included in this Guide if they are not on the ballot. Candidates are not to be included in this Guide if they are not on the ballot.

### Voting in Texas Primary Elections

Your choice will help select your party's candidates. In Texas, only the Democratic and Republican parties conduct Primary Elections to select their nominees for the General Election. In November, voters must select which party they wish to participate with and may participate only in that party's primary election, runoff election and convention. In the November 6, 2016 General Election, voters may vote for any candidate representing any political party.

In each Primary Election, each candidate must receive 30% of the vote in order to be certified as the winner. If no candidate receives this threshold, the top two candidates will face each other in a Primary Runoff election. Runoff elections are scheduled for May 20, 2016.

Voters may also wish to participate in their party's National General Convention scheduled for March 10, 2016. Voters Countywide may participate in this election as there is no runoff election. Contact your political party for details on page 10 of this Voters Guide for a complete listing of national and state-level candidates.

### LWV-Texas Education Fund Provides Candidate Information for Statewide Races

Our Guide is our state information. The League of Women Voters of Houston Education Fund, for providing information on candidates running in statewide, contested elections. LWV-Texas contacted all candidates for Reformed Commissioner, Texas Supreme Court, Court of Criminal Appeals, and Courts of Appeals. We have provided information and responses from these candidates exactly as provided by the "New Texas".

### What to Take to the Polls

PLEASE REMEMBER: Voters are asked to bring the following items to the polls:

- Texas voter registration card or other acceptable photo ID
- Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS) issued photo ID
- Driver license
- Personal identification card
- Concealed handgun license
- German identification card
- United States government issued photo ID
- Passport
- Military identification card
- Consensus card with photograph
- Only the above photo IDs can be accepted at the polls. Other photo IDs, including student IDs, employer IDs and non-state issued IDs, are not accepted. See [www.dps.texas.gov](http://www.dps.texas.gov) for a complete listing of the acceptable photo IDs.

Through the Voter's Guide, you will see which photo ID is accepted. Simply check it off on the back of your ballot.

### Photo ID Details & Exceptions

See "What to Take to the Polls" in the center column of this page for a list of accepted photo IDs. The voters are asked to bring additional information about the photo ID requirements.

- The photo ID needs to be current or have expired no more than 90 days before voting. Outdated and non-current photo IDs are not accepted.
- The name on the photo ID should match the voter registration card. If names don't match, a voter may be accepted if names are "substantially similar." If names match, addresses don't need to match.
- If the name, don't match exactly, the voter can be accepted if names are "substantially similar." If names match, addresses don't need to match.
- To avoid confusion, you can change the name on your voter registration to match that on your photo ID at least 30 days prior to the election.
- Voters with a documented disability from local law enforcement officers can bring a letter from a local law enforcement officer, signed by the officer, stating that the voter is eligible to vote.
- Voters without acceptable ID can obtain an Election Identification Certificate (EIC) from Texas DPS or its local law enforcement officer. The EIC can be provided at the polling station and is required for voters at the polling station. The EIC can be found at [www.dps.texas.gov](http://www.dps.texas.gov).
- Photo ID is not required to vote by mail. Voters may bring a mail ballot to the polls, or a ballot, or absent from their county during early voting and on Election Day. Voters who do not have a photo ID will be required to bring their voter registration card to the polls.
- Voters who do not have a photo ID at the polls may vote at a provisional ballot and have 30 days to show the required photo ID.
- Voters who lack a photo ID because of a religious objection to being photographed because of a religious objection to being photographed will be allowed to vote provisional ballot and complete an affidavit with a day of the election.



**VG Primary Elections 2016 - The Donors**  
 As acknowledged in the *Voters Guide* honor roll.  
 (active ballot candidates are silently appreciated)



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**ANNE CLUTTERBUCK**  
**ELLEN COHEN**  
**LINDA COHN**  
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**LIZ VALLETTE**  
**LYNN WALSHAK**  
**JAN WILBUR**

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 HOUSTON AREA

The League of Women Voters is a non-partisan political organization founded in 1920. We encourage the informed and active participation of citizens in all aspects of government. The League of Women Voters never endorses or opposes any candidate or political party. For more information call the League of Women Voters of the Houston Area at 713.784.2923, visit our [website](#), follow us on [Twitter](#), or friend us on [Facebook](#).


**We Welcome  
New Members.**  
 You can submit your  
membership application [here](#).

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## **To The Future: VG General Election 2016**

### **a. Foundational Decisions**

1. Produce, publish and distribute a VG to the General Election, November 8, 2016?
  - a. English and Spanish?
  - b. Three possible distribution vectors, in any combination:
    1. Print
    2. Digital pdf
    3. Interactive VOTE411.org
  - c. Social media ad boosting?
2. A note about **VOTE411.org**
  - a. Provides web-based administrative system for candidate data collection and management; after publication may be accessed by voters who wish to research their specific ballots.
    1. Why we love VOTE411:
      1. LWV-US owned and operated, licensed through LWV-TX.
      2. *New!* no charge to Texas Local Leagues.
      3. High standards of dignity, probity, user privacy.
    2. Why we don't love VOTE411:
      1. Internal optics can be odd, awkward.
      2. Sometimes does weird things with no apparent trigger; requires careful monitoring.
      3. Public interface is not well suited for Texas elections:
        - a. No black box warning about connectivity in the polling place.
        - b. Allows side-by-side comparison of only two candidates for each office.
    4. Candidate interface a bit clunky:
      - a. Does not allow a freeze deadline for responses: candidates may access their profiles in perpetuity, filing after LWV-Houston's deadlines, changing previously posted responses, adding/removing videos or photographs.
      - b. Candidates will receive auto-generated response receipts even if they file after deadline, very occasionally creating improper publication expectations.

### **b. Logistical Decisions**

1. Determine capacity and compliance among staff, contract workers and volunteers.
2. Determine committee appointments, production timeline soon after start of 2016-2017 League Year.

**General Election Voter's Guide 2016 – Committee Chair Liza Alonzo**

**2016 LWV Houston Voter Guide Working Timeline**

Date	Function
<b>Tuesday, November 8<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Election Day</b>
<b>Friday, November 4</b>	<b>Last Day Early Voting</b>
<b>Monday, October 24<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>First Day of Early Voting</b>
Monday, October 3 <sup>rd</sup> -Monday, October 10 <sup>th</sup>	Guide Distribution Process
Monday, October 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Guides Available to Public
Friday, September 30 <sup>th</sup>	Pick-Up Guides from Printer
Monday, September 26 <sup>th</sup> -Thursday, September 29 <sup>th</sup>	Guide Printing
Tuesday, September 13 <sup>th</sup> -Friday, September 23 <sup>rd</sup>	Final Guide Editing & Translating Efforts
Monday, September 12 <sup>th</sup>	Guide Survey Questionnaires Due
Monday, August 29 <sup>th</sup>	E-Mail out Surveys to candidates (layout as received)
<b>Friday, August 26<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Last day for write-in candidacy</b>
July 2016	Guide Question Unveiling Reception (Tentative)
Wednesday, July 13 <sup>th</sup> -Monday, July 18 <sup>th</sup>	Load candidate information & questions into 411
Wednesday, July 6 <sup>th</sup>	Review Questions & Submit to Board
Friday, July 1 <sup>st</sup>	Mail Out Sponsorship Requests and Guide Delivery Requests
Wednesday, June 1 <sup>st</sup> -Friday, July 1 <sup>st</sup>	Solicit & Collect Guide Questions through google docs
May 2016-June 2016	Meet w/ LWV Treasurer Recruit Committee Members & Convene Guide First Committee Meeting Outline Marketing Plan Start compiling candidate information Gather Repast Sponsor List & begin shaping fundraising list

Notes for consideration: Draft sponsor letter from President, Develop Sponsor list with fundraising committee, Develop process for tracking sponsors, develop a guide distribution team



Contact Information: Liza Alonzo (Chair) (713) 894-4729, liza.alonzo@gmail.com,  
VotersGuide@lwvhouston.org

## Voter Registration – Committee Chairs Beni Guterrez and Mary Titus

### Naturalization Ceremonies

2015 - 2016 NATURALIZATION CEREMONIES					
NC Date	Number of Petitioners	Voter Registrations on the Spot	Rate of Response	Number of Countries	Number of Incomplete Voter Registrations
<b>2015</b>					
Jun. 24	2,495	1,814	73%	135	
Jul. 22	2,607	2,014	77%	132	
Aug. 26	2,710	2,148	79%	137	
Sept. 23	2,456	1,661	68%	126	19
Oct. 21	2,036	1,576	77%	121	
Nov. 18	1,636	1,383	85%	115	18
Dec. 19	73	66	90%	30	0
Dec. 16 (Lake)	1,470	1,123	76%	110	9
<b>2016</b>					
Jan. 14	1,005	833	83%	90	4
Feb. 18	2,288	1,909	83%	118	20
Mar. 30	2,563	2,096	82%	122	18
Apr. 27	1,957	1,492	76%	106	17
May. 18					
	23,296	18,115	78%		105

### **Voter Registration Community Events**

Voter Registration in the Houston Area has been very successful with many requests being made through the League office. We try to be as active as possible. It is only by volunteers that we are able to participate at many events. We have provided services to universities, community colleges, high schools and community events.

We thank our volunteers for all the time that they provide to assist potential voters in registering to vote. Looking forward to another successful year.

### **Debates and Forums – Committee Chairs John Gorczynski and Reda Hicks**

LWV-HEF again partnered with Houston MediaSource TV to sponsor a series of “Candidate Conversations” programs prior to the November General Election. The format for the programs was informal but informative with each candidate being given an opportunity to speak individually with moderators from our Rising Stars and Aimee Mobley Turney and Tom Berg moderating the mayoral conversation.

“Candidate Conversations” programs held prior to the General Election covered City of Houston Races races for Mayor, Controller, City Council District and At Large Positions. Runoff conversations included Controller, At Large Position 5, District J and District H.

The programs were telecast and streamed live from the studios of Houston MediaSource TV were rebroadcast several times on the Houston MediaSource channel and were available for on-demand viewing via the internet at <http://vimeo.com/channels/lwvhouston>. In addition to being available on the LWV website, the on-demand link was embedded on political blogs, candidate websites and websites of sister civic organizations.

Additionally, as part of our General Election partnership with KPRC (Ch 2) and Telemundo, we helped produce a live mayoral debate and runoff debate. The programs were covered live and then made available on the KPRC and LWV websites. John Gorczynski and Reda Hicks served as LWV Houston panelists for both debates.

The League of Women Voters of Houston Education Fund also played a part in the Mayoral Candidate Forum in Partnership with Blueprint Houston and 20 other environmental non-profits and Houston Community College. The Forum was broadcast live on Houston MediaSource and rebroadcast several times before the election.

### **Sugarland Mayoral Debate**

The Aga Khan Council for the Southwestern United States, ABC-13, the League of Women Voters of Houston Education Fund, and the University of Houston Student Government Association **were partners for the** Decision 2016: Sugar Land Mayoral Debate on April 23 at 10:30 am t the Ismaili Jamatkhana and Center. The **5 candidates** competing for mayor shared the stage for a 90-minute debate. At the center of the debate were questions about how the city will manage its explosive growth around issues of economic development, safety, infrastructure, environmental preservation, and arts and culture. After the debate, guests had an opportunity to meet with the candidates and their fellow Sugar Land citizens. Reda Hicks served as the emcee for the event.

### **Pearland City Council Forum**

Rising Star Quentin Wiltz led our panel discussion at Houston MediaSource Television for Pearland City Council Position 6. All four candidates participated and the video continues to be viewed as the runoff election will occur in a few weeks.

### **KPRC Election Hotline, Committee Chairs Sarah Schimmer and Reda Hicks**

LWV once again partnered with KPRC (Channel 2) to provide election hotline services for both the Primary and General Elections. Volunteers answered phones in shifts between 6 am and 6:30 pm on General Election and Primary Days.

**Report of the Treasurer**  
**Leslie Taylor**

5:20 PM  
05/04/16  
Accrual Basis

**League of Women Voters of the Houston Area**  
**Balance Sheet**  
As of May 4, 2016

	<u>May 4, 16</u>
<b>ASSETS</b>	
Current Assets	
Checking/Savings	
Bank of America checking	29,505.71
PayPal	1,680.30
Total Checking/Savings	<u>31,186.01</u>
Total Current Assets	<u>31,186.01</u>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b><u>31,186.01</u></b>
<b>LIABILITIES &amp; EQUITY</b>	
Equity	
Opening Balance Equity	13,878.02
Unrestricted Net Assets	-240.00
Net Income	17,547.99
Total Equity	<u>31,186.01</u>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES &amp; EQUITY</b>	<b><u>31,186.01</u></b>

League of Women Voters  
of the Houston Area

Statement of Activities  
(aka Profit Loss)

June 1, 2015 - May 4, 2016

	A	B	C	D	E
1					
2		June 1, 2015 to May 4, 2016	2015-16 Budget	% of Budget	Treasurer's notes
3	<b>INCOME</b>				
4	<b>Membership Activities</b>				
5	Dues	10850.00	14215.00	76.33%	
6	Strategic Planning	0.00	300.00	0.00%	
7	Annual Meeting	165.00	1400.00	11.79%	
8	End of Year Campaign	0.00	1000.00	0.00%	
10	<b>Fundraisers</b>				
14	<b>New Funding Avenues</b>				
15	Aimee's Birthday	0.00	900.00	0.00%	Event did not happen
16	Ann Herbage sale	0.00	700.00	0.00%	Event did not happen
19	<b>Restricted Contributions</b>				
21	State Convention Hospitality	2336.96	2800.00	83.46%	Port of Houston Tour Income
24	<b>Unrestricted Contributions (not events)</b>				
25	Memorials	16377.00	0.00		Includes Barb Swartz bequest
26	Corporate Donations		0.00		
27	Member Donations	1276.97	1700.00	75.12%	
28	Non Member Donations	627.38	0.00		
30					
31	<b>Grants</b>				
35	<b>Other Income</b>				
38	Membership List Sale	0.00	500.00	0.00%	
39	In-Kind Contributions of Goods	0.00	500.00	0.00%	
41	Misc. Revenue	-742.25			??? Investigating why this appears in QB
42	<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	30891.06	24015.00	128.63%	

League of Women Voters  
of the Houston Area

Statement of Activities  
(aka Profit Loss)

June 1, 2015 - May 4, 2016

	A	B	C	D	E
2		June 1, 2015 to May 4, 2016	2015-16 Budget	% of Budget	Treasurer's notes
43	<b>EXPENSE</b>				
44	<b>Member Service</b>				
45	Directory	0.00	600.00	0.00%	
46	Awards	0.00	100.00	0.00%	
47	Voter	0.00	0.00		
48	End of Year Campaign	0.00	75.00	0.00%	
49	Membership	0.00	70.00	0.00%	
50	New Member orientation	0.00	50.00	0.00%	
51	Annual Meeting	538.92	1250.00	43.11%	\$400 deposit to Caterer & last year expenses
52	Annual Meeting Workbook	0.00	80.00	0.00%	
53	LWV-T PMP	2021.50	2221.00	91.02%	
54	LWVUS PMP	3056.00	3123.00	97.85%	
55					
56	<b>Development</b>				
60	Annual Report to Public	0.00	50.00		
61					
62	<b>New Funding Avenues</b>				
63	Aimee's Birthday Party	0.00	250.00	0.00%	Event did not happen
64	Ann Herbage sale	0.00	100.00	0.00%	
66					
67	<b>Board</b>				
68	State Convention Hospitality	872.92	2800.00	31.18%	
69	Strategic Planning	125.00	50.00	250.00%	Room for June 4, 2016 workshop
70	Convention/Council	940.00	0.00		Some prepaid costs for LWV-US June 2016
71					
72	<b>Advocacy</b>				
73	Coalitions/Organizations		200.00	0.00%	
74	Lobbying		60.00	0.00%	
75					
76	<b>Administrative Expense</b>				
77	Telephone & internet	405.33	450.00	90.07%	
78	Website	89.66	466.00	19.24%	
79	Office Supplies	114.05	60.00	190.08%	
81	PayPal & Bank Charges	592.92	500.00	118.58%	
82	Postage and Delivery	445.94	50.00	891.88%	Mailing City Election VG to members
83	Rent	2387.00	2604.00	91.67%	

Annual Meeting Workbook

May 2016

League of Women Voters  
of the Houston Area

Statement of Activities  
(aka Profit Loss)

June 1, 2015 - May 4, 2016

	A	B	C	D	E
		June 1, 2015 to May 4, 2016	2015-16 Budget	% of Budget	Treasurer's notes
2					
84	Maintenance/Cleaning	0.00	68.00	0.00%	
85					
86	Maintenance of Equipment	0.00	20.00	0.00%	
87	Equipment (new) e.g. printers	0.00	80.00	0.00%	HEF has not yet billed for new printer
88	Software Updates (quickbooks)	0.00	0.00		
90	Inkind Contribution of Goods	0.00	500.00	0.00%	
91					
92	<b>Payroll</b>				
93	Admin Asst /office administrator wages	1284.12	2250.00	57.07%	Staff down to one day a week January - April
94	Payroll Taxes Fed	147.01	194.00	75.78%	HEF overbilled for HA share; to be corrected
95	Auto expense	0.00	8.00		
96	Contract/Professional Services	0.00	500.00	0.00%	Did postcard 990 return in house
97	Staff Development/Training	0.00	100.00	0.00%	
98					
99	<b>Insurance</b>			102.07%	
100	D&O	246.20	0.00		
101	General Liability & Workers Comp	0.00	260.00	0.00%	
102	Workers Comp	60.00	40.00	150.00%	
103					
108	<b>Program</b>		0.00		
113	<b>Voters Service</b>		0.00		
120	<b>Debt Payment HA to HEF</b>	<b>4746.00</b>	4000.00	118.65%	
121					
122	<b>Reserve (Contingency) &amp; Adjust</b>	<b>16.50</b>	786.00	2.10%	printing & copying letter to members
123	<b>TOTAL EXPENSE w/o debt</b>	<b>13343.07</b>			Matches QB total expense
124	<b>TOTAL EXPENSE</b>	18089.07	24015.00	75.32%	Includes debt payment
125					
127	Income - Expense w/ debt payment	17547.99			Matches QB Net Income

7:00 PM  
05/04/16  
Accrual Basis

**League of Women Voters of Houston Education Fund**  
**Balance Sheet**  
**As of May 4, 2016**

	<u>May 4, 16</u>
<b>ASSETS</b>	
Current Assets	
Checking/Savings	
Bank of America checking	101,735.88
PayPal	716.63
Total Checking/Savings	<u>102,452.51</u>
Other Current Assets	
Accounts Receivable from HA	-146.10
Undeposited Funds	145.00
Total Other Current Assets	<u>-1.10</u>
Total Current Assets	<u>102,451.41</u>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<u><b>102,451.41</b></u>
<b>LIABILITIES &amp; EQUITY</b>	
Liabilities	
Current Liabilities	
Credit Cards	
BoFA Credit Card	10.00
Total Credit Cards	<u>10.00</u>
Other Current Liabilities	
Payroll Liabilities	24.14
Total Other Current Liabilities	<u>24.14</u>
Total Current Liabilities	<u>34.14</u>
Total Liabilities	<u>34.14</u>
Equity	
Opening Balance Equity	60,814.65
Unrestricted Net Assets	-110.18
Net Income	41,712.80
Total Equity	<u>102,417.27</u>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES &amp; EQUITY</b>	<u><b>102,451.41</b></u>



League of Women Voters  
of Houston Education Fund

Statement of Activities

June 1, 2015 - May 4, 2016

	A	B	(aka Profit/Loss) D	E	F
1		June 1, 2015 to May 4, 2016	2015-16 Budget Modified	% of Budget	Treasurer's notes
2	<b>INCOME</b>				
3	<b>Membership Activities</b>				
7	End of Year Campaign	0	500.00	0.00%	
8					
9	<b>Fundraisers</b>				Total net Fundraisers
10	Fall Fundraiser/Rising Stars	8633.04	11100.00	77.78%	Net
11	2015 Repast (August 2015)	37430.00	29883.00	125.26%	Net
12	2016 Repast (Spring 2016)	33815.00	30000.00	112.72%	Net
13	<b>New Funding Avenues</b>				
16	Women's Equality Day (removed)	0.00	0.00		
17					
18	<b>Restricted Contributions</b>				
19	Voters Guide	5690.00	5000.00	113.80%	
20	State Convention Hospitality	0		0.00%	
21	LWV TX 411 Refund	100.00	100.00	100.00%	
22	Vote Murals Project	0.00	3000.00	0.00%	
23	<b>Unrestricted Contributions (not events)</b>				
24	Memorials	775	1800.00	19.38%	
25	Corporate Donations	3682.47	4000.00	92.06%	
26	Member Donations	16960	1850.00	916.76%	Bert & Joan Golding \$15,000
27	Non Member Donations	358	0.00		QB Unrestricted - other
30					
31	<b>Grants</b>				
32	LWVUS Grants(Voter Project)	400.00	0.00		Voice Your Vote Grant
33	Foundation Grants	0.00	0.00		
35	<b>Other Income</b>				
36	Interest	449.81	350.00	128.52%	
37	Sublet Rent	1740.00	1740.00	100.00%	
38	Membership List Sale	0	500.00	0.00%	
39	In-Kind Contributions of Goods	3809.91	800.00	476.24%	Better reporting of In-Kind
40	Debt Payment HA to HEF	4746.00	4000.00	118.65%	
41	Income before Debt Payment	113843.23			Matches QB total income
42	<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>118589.23</b>	<b>94123.00</b>	<b>120.95%</b>	



League of Women Voters  
of Houston Education Fund

Statement of Activities

June 1, 2015 - May 4, 2016

	A	B	(aka Profit/Loss) C	D	E	F
1		June 1, 2015 to May 4, 2016	2015-16 Budget Modified	% of Budget	Treasurer's notes	
43	<b>EXPENSE</b>					
44	<b>Member Service</b>					
48	End of Year Campaign	0	75.00	0.00%		
53	LWV-T PMP	2192.50	2221.00	98.72%		
54	LWVUS PMP	3056	3123.00	97.85%		
55						
56	<b>Development</b>					
57	Fall Fundraiser/Rising Stars	2529.24	1625.00	155.65%	Venue required minimum	
58	2015 Repast (August 2015)	11906.53	11030.00	107.95%	includes some donations in kind	
59	2016 Repast (Spring 2016)	11767.53	12050.00	97.66%	includes some donations in kind	
60	Annual Report to Public	0	50.00	0.00%		
61						
62	<b>New Funding Avenues</b>					
65	Women's Equality Day (removed)	0.00	0.00			
66						
67	<b>Board</b>					
68	State Convention Hospitality	0	0.00			
69	Strategic Planning	0	250.00	0.00%	to be used for June 4, 2016	
70	Convention/Council	861.96	0.00		Prepaid expenses for June 2016 LWV-US	
71	<b>Advocacy</b>					
72	Coalitions/Organizations	1215.00	800.00	151.88%	includes Sec. of State School	
73	Lobbying	0.00	0.00			
74	<b>Administrative Expense</b>					
75	Telephone & Internet	1621.24	2400.00	67.55%		
76	Website	372.61	1864.00	19.99%	Thank M.S. for volunteer work	
77	Office Supplies	351	240.00	146.25%	most donated	
78	PayPal & Bank Charges	1474.73	1000.00	147.47%		
79	Postage and Delivery	31.04	200.00	15.52%		
80	Rent	9548.00	10416.00	91.67%		
81	Maintenance/Cleaning	16.97	272.00	6.24%		
82	Printing & Copying/ Marketing	961.49	0.00		Includes donated banners	
83	Maintenance of Equipment	0.00	80.00	0.00%		
84	Equipment (new) e.g. printers	279.99	320.00	87.50%	includes donated printer & new printer	
85	Software Updates (quickbooks)	431.92	380.00	113.66%	QB Payroll functions	
86	Member list purchase from LWV-H	0.00	500.00	0.00%		
87	Inkind Contribution of Goods	0	800.00	0.00%	booked in other categories	
88						

Annual Meeting Workbook

May 2016

League of Women Voters  
of Houston Education Fund

Statement of Activities

June 1, 2015 - May 4, 2016

	A	B	(aka Profit/Loss) D	E	F
1		June 1, 2015 to May 4, 2016	2015-16 Budget Modified	% of Budget	Treasurer's notes
89	<b>Payroll</b>				
90	Admin Asst /office administrator wages	5440.30	9000.00	60.45%	
91	Payroll Taxes Fed	1918.02	776.00	247.17%	probably overpaid; asking accountant
92	Auto expense	0.00	32.00	0.00%	
93	Contract/Professional Services	687.5	700.00	98.21%	
94	Staff Development/Training	0	0.00		
95	Outside contract services	95.17	0.00		
96	<b>Insurance</b>				
97	D&O	984.00	1670.00	58.92%	
98	General Liability & Workers Comp	0	1040.00	0.00%	Billed in May; term starts June 1
99	Workers Comp	239.00	160.00	149.38%	
104	<b>Program</b>				
105	Facts & Issues	0.00	100.00	0.00%	
106	Focus on Issues Forums	431.48	600.00	71.91%	
107	Program Study	0.00	0.00	0.00%	
108	<b>Voters Service</b>				
109	Voter Registration	179.46	270.00	66.47%	
110	Voters Guide/vote 411	14506.17	26240.00	55.28%	Did not print Primary VG
111	Debates & Candidate Forums	0.00	750.00	0.00%	
112	Handy Dandy (Voter Information)	0.00	0.00	0.00%	
113	Directory of Elected Officials/App	0.00	85.00	0.00%	
114	Vote Murals Project	0.00	3000.00	0.00%	
115	Reserve (Contingency) & Adjustments		0.00		
116	Reconciliation discrepancies	255.17			Paypal does not reconcile
117	<b>Expense w/o debt payment</b>	73354.02			QB total expense 73,354.82
118	<b>Debt payment HA to HEF</b>	4746.00	4000.00		
119	<b>TOTAL EXPENSE</b>	78100.02	94119.00	82.98%	
120	<b>Income - Expense (w/o debt payment)</b>	<b>45235.21</b>			Does not match QB net income because of debt payment and QB net other income
121	<b>QB Net Income</b>	<b>41712.80</b>			
122	<b>Difference B 124 &amp; QB net Income</b>	<b>3522.41</b>			
123	<b>QB Net other income</b>	<b>1224.39</b>			Asking accountant
124	<b>Add lines A126 +A127</b>	<b>4746.80</b>			80 cents out of balance

### **Local Program Recommendation 2016-2017**

The board of directors of the League of Women Voters of the Houston Area recommends the following update:

An update of the proposals put forth for coastal flooding relating to hurricanes along the Texas Coast.

FOCUS: there are several studies already underway to identify ways to protect the coastal areas and the ship channel from hurricane storm surge. At some point these studies should result in actually implementing a plan to protect the coastal area and the ship channel.

SCOPE: This update would focus on monitoring those studies to make sure the public is given opportunities to participate in planning and commenting on those plans.

RATIONALE: For years dire warnings have been given about the devastation that would result if a hurricane hit just the right place for the storm surge to come up the ship channel. If there is a hurricane that hits Houston in the near future, we simply are not ready. This study is recommended by the Natural Resources Committee and by the Midwest unit and has already identified a robust committee to conduct the work if the study is adopted the annual meeting.

## **Proposed Budget for Fiscal Year 2016-2014**

### **Report of the Budget Committee Sharon Cunningham, Chair**

*Please note that the membership is presently charged with approving a budget for the League of Women Voters of the Houston Area only. A budget for the League of Women Voters of Houston Education Fund will be approved by the LWV-Education Fund Board of Trustees at their first meeting of the 2016-2017 fiscal year. Items pertaining to the LWV-Education Fund are included for information only.*

#### **Budget Committee:**

Sharon Cunningham, Chair, Leslie Taylor, Treasurer, Bette John, Jeff Reichman, Melanie Scruggs, Aimee Mobley-Turney, Board President, (ex-officio)

#### **Budget Committee Observations and Recommendations**

Simply put, the Education Fund does not have enough revenue to cover its expenses. Events are our only ongoing source of revenue on the Ed Fund side and aren't producing enough revenue to cover expenses. This situation is continuing from recent years but remedial action is now imperative.

Based on income and expense estimates provided by leaders responsible for various Ed Fund activities and accounts, expenses exceeded income by \$17,200. The Committee got the deficit down to \$8,514.

The Committee saw no new sources of revenue and further major cuts in projected spending require direction from the Trustees.

Currently Ed Fund assets are substantial. The Golding's \$15,000 donations last year and this year, revenue from two Repasts this year, and deferral of some budgeted expenditures contributed to the growth in assets.

If the Trustees agree to take the actions described below, the Committee can support earmarking up to \$8,514 of current Ed Fund assets as a last resort if this is the only way to cover the expenditures.

#### **Trustee Action Steps Required to Address Financial Insufficiencies**

1. Shortly after Board elections, appoint a committee to develop a recommendation to the Board as to whether Voters Guides should be printed and digital or only digital and whether in English only. Enough time should be allowed for in-depth deliberation and timely initiation of preparation process to publish the November Voters Guide. The proposed budget covers one Voters Guide and includes no income and \$11,400 in expenses. Both income and expenses should be addressed. Voter Guide question development should commence in June/July. That committee must keep in mind the following fiscal year there will be two elections – the City and the Primary – double the cost of one.
2. Develop a comprehensive fundraising plan, including exploration of grant opportunities, maximizing net event revenue, conducting a strong end-of-year dues collection and donation campaign, and other initiatives to increase revenue. Assign oversight to a member of the Board. As of March 17, collected dues are only 63% of anticipated amount.
3. Have a calendar planning meeting in June. Establish event dates and coordinators as soon as possible.
4. Develop an administrative management plan to effect office management actions included in the budget (e.g. quarterly office cleaning, purchase/installation of a new printer) and steward insurance contracts, use of IT contractor and other administrative activities.
5. Conduct overall budget reviews quarterly to track whether income and expenses are in line with expectations. Budget Committee participation is recommended. Debrief after each fundraising event, annual meeting, and per member payment to LWV-US and TX comparing results with expectations and note any ways to improve results.
6. Board/Trustees should have an efficient and uniform process for review and approval of ex-budget requests.

	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N
1				LWV-HA (c4)			LWV-HEF (c3)			Combined HA & HEF		
2		YTD March 17, 2016 HA	% 2015-16 Budget HA		2016-17 Proposed Budget HA	YTD March 21, 2016 HEF	% 2015-16 Budget HEF		2016-17 Proposed Budget HEF	2016-17 Proposed Budget HEF	2015-16 Proposed Budget Combined	2015-16 Proposed Budget Combined
3	<b>INCOME</b>											
4	<b>Membership Activities</b>											
5	Dues	8935	63%	14215	14180	0		0	0	14180	14215	
6	Strategic Planning	0	0%	300	300	0		0	0	300	300	
7	Annual Meeting	125	9%	1400	1675	0		0	0	1675	1400	
8	End of Year Campaign	0	0%	1000	1000	0		500	500	1500	1500	
9	<b>Fundraisers</b>											
10	Fall Fundraiser/Rising Stars	0	0%	0	0	8633	78%	11100	8633	8633	11100	
11	Deferred May 2015 Repeat	0	0%	0	0	34430	115%	29883	0	0	29883	
12	Repeat	0	0%	0	0	28550	95%	30000	45000	45000	30000	
13	Women's Equality Day	0	0%	0	0	0	0%	0	6550	6550	0	
14	<b>New Funding Avenues</b>											
15	Amee's Birthday	0	0%	900	0	0	0%	0	0	0	0	
16	Ann Heritage sale	0	0%	700	700	0	0%	0	0	700	700	
17	<b>Restricted Contributions</b>											
18	Voters Guide	0	0%	0	0	5690	114%	5000	0	0	5000	
19	State Convention Hospitality	2291	82%	2800	0	0	100%	0	0	0	2800	
20	LWV TX 411 Refund	0	0%	0	0	100	100%	100	0	0	100	
21	Vote Murals Project	0	0%	0	0	0	0%	3000	1000	1000	3000	
22	<b>Unrestricted Contributions (not associated with Events)</b>											
23	Memorials & Requests	16377	0%	0	500	775	43%	1800	1000	1500	1800	
24	Corporate Donations	0	0%	0	0	3682	92%	4000	3000	3000	4000	
25	Member Donations	585	34%	1700	600	16960	917%	1850	1850	2450	3550	
26	Non Member Donations	158		0	160	358		0	400	560	0	
27	<b>Grants</b>											
28	LWVUS Grants(Voter Project)	0	0%	0	0	0	0%	0	0	0	0	
29	Foundation Grants	0	0%	0	0	0	0%	0	0	0	0	
30	<b>Other Income</b>											
31	Interest	0	0%	0	0	450	129%	350	0	1740	350	
32	Sublet Rent	0	0%	0	0	1450	83%	1740	0	1740	1740	
33	Membership List Sale	0	0%	500	500	0		0	0	500	500	
34	In-Kind Contributions of Goods	114	23%	500	200	1713	214%	800	500	700	1300	
35	Debt Payment HA to HEF				0	4746	119%	4000		0	4000	
36	<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	28585	119%	24015	19815	107537	114%	94123	70173	89988	117238	



	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N
1				LWV-HA (c4)				LWV-HEF (c3)			Combined HA & HEF	
			YTD March 17, 2016 HA	% Budget HA	2015-16 Budget HA	2016-17 Proposed Budget HA	YTD March 21, 2016 HEF	% Budget HEF	2015-16 Budget HEF	2016-17 Proposed Budget HEF	2016-17 Proposed Budget Combined	2015-16 Budget Combined
2												
37												
38	<b>EXPENSE</b>											
39	<b>Member Service</b>											
40	Directory		0	0%	600	1100	0		0	0	1100	600
41	Awards		0	0%	100	150	0		0	0	150	100
42	Voter		0	0%	0	60	0		0	0	60	0
43	End of Year Campaign		0	0%	75	113	0		75	112	225	150
44	Membership (includes orientation)		17	24%	70	200	0		0	0	200	70
45	New Member orientation		0	0%	50	0	0		0	0	0	50
46	Annual Meeting (includes workbook)		125	10%	1250	1675	0		0	0	1675	1250
47	Annual Meeting Workbook		0	0%	80	0	0		0	0	0	80
48	LWV-T PMP		2013	91%	2221	2226	2192	99%	2221	2226	4452	4442
49	LWVUS PMP		3056	98%	3123	2511	3056	98%	3123	2511	5022	6246
50	<b>Development</b>											
51	Fall Fundraiser/Rising Stars		0	0%	0	0	2529	156%	1625	1630	1630	1625
52	Deferred 5-15 Repeat		0	0%	0	0	11907	108%	11030	0	0	11030
53	Repeat		0	0%	0	0	1638	13.59%	12050	12800	12800	12050
54	Women's Equality Day		0	0%	0	0	0	0%	0	2755	2755	0
55	Annual Report to Public		0	0%	50	50	0	0%	50	50	100	100
56	<b>New Funding Avenues</b>											
57	Aimee's Birthday Party		0	0%	250	0	0	0%	0	0	0	250
58	Ann Heritage sale		0	0%	100	100	0	0%	0	0	100	100
59	<b>Board</b>											
60	State Convention Hospitality		766	27%	2800	0	0	0%	0	0	0	2800
61	Strategic Planning		0	0%	50	300	0	0%	250	0	300	300
62	Convention/Council		140		0	540	0	0%	0	2160	2700	0
63	<b>Advocacy</b>											
64	Coalitions/Organizations		0	0%	200	225	1215	152%	800	1150	1375	1000
65	Lobbying		0	0%	60	0	0	0%	0	0	0	60
66	<b>Administrative Expense</b>											
67	Telephone & internet		331	74%	450	445	1473	61%	2400	1775	2220	2850
68	Website		66	14%	466	240	280	15%	1864	960	1200	2330
69	Office Supplies		114	190%	60	115	351	146%	240	465	580	300
71	Electronic transaction fees		427	85%	500	600	1401	140%	1000	3000	3600	1500
72	Postage and Delivery		446	892%	50	85	31	16%	200	60	145	250
73	Rent		1953	75%	2604	2604	8680	83%	10416	10416	13020	13020
74	Maintenance/Cleaning		0	0%	68	68	5	2%	272	272	340	340
75	Printing/ Copying		0	0%	0	40	0		0	160	200	0

	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N
1	LWV-HA (c4)						LWV-HEF (c3)					
		YTD March 17, 2016 HA	% Budget HA	2015-16 Budget HA	2016-17 Proposed Budget HA	YTD March 21, 2016 HEF	% Budget HEF	2015-16 Budget HEF	2016-17 Proposed Budget HEF	2016-17 Proposed Budget HEF	Combined Budget Combined	2015-16 Budget Combined
2												
76	Maintenance of Equipment	0	0%	20	0	0	0%	80	320	320	400	100
77	Equipment (new) e.g. printers	0	0%	80	80	80	0%	320	380	380	380	400
78	Software Updates (quickbooks)	0	0%	0	0	378	0%	380	380	380	380	380
79	Member list purchase from LWV-HA	0	0%	0	0	0	0%	500	500	500	500	500
80	Member Contribution of Goods		0%	500	0	0	0%	800	0	0	0	1300
81	Payroll											
82	Admin Asst. office administrator wages	1183	53%	2250	2800	5167	57%	9000	11200	14000	11250	
83	Payroll Taxes Fed	100	51%	194	214	1074	138%	776	857	1071	970	
84	Auto expense	0	0%	8	8	0	0%	32	32	40	40	
85	Contract/Professional Services	0	0%	500	700	688	98%	700	4800	5500	1200	
86	Staff Development Training			100	35				140	175		
87	Insurance											
88	D&O	246	0%	0	251	985	59%	1670	1005	1256	1670	
89	General Liability	0	0%	260	252	0	0%	1040	1006	1258	1300	
90	Workers Comp	60	150%	40	61	239	149%	160	245	306	200	
91	Program											
92	Facts & Issues	0	0%	0	0	0	0%	100	100	100	100	
93	Focus on Issues Forums	0	0%	0	0	81	14%	600	600	600	600	
94	Program Study	0	0%	0	0	0	0%	0	0	0	0	
95	Voters Service											
96	Voter service promotion	0		0	0	961		0	100	100	0	
97	Voter Registration	0	0%	0	0	0	0%	270	1300	1300	270	
98	Voters Guide/Vote 411	0	0%	0	0	14601	56%	26240	11400	11400	26240	
99	Debates & Candidate Forums	0	0%	0	0	0	0%	750	1000	1000	750	
100	Handy Dandy (Voter Information)	0	0%	0	0	0	0%	0	200	200	0	
101	Directory of Elected Officials/App	0	0%	0	0	0	0%	85	0	0	85	
102	Vote Murals Project	0	0%	0	0	0	0%	3000	1000	1000	3000	
103	Debt Payment HA to HEF	4746	119%	4000	0	0	0%	0			4000	

	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N
1				<b>LWV-HA (c4)</b>			<b>LWV-HEF (c3)</b>					
2			YTD March 17, 2016 HA	% Budget HA	2015-16 Budget HA	2016-17 Proposed Budget HA	YTD March 21, 2016 HEF	% Budget HEF	2015-16 Budget HEF	2016-17 Proposed Budget HEF	2016-17 Proposed Budget Combined	2015-16 Budget Combined
104 Expense before Contingency			15789	68%	23229	17848	59012	63%	94119	78687	96535	117348
105 Contingency Expense			0		786	1967			0	0	1967	786
106 Total Expense			15789	66%	24015	19815	59012	63%	94119	78687	98502	118134
107 Difference Expense vs Income			12796		0	19815	48525		4	-8514	-8514	4
108												
109												
110												
111												
112												
113 LWV Houston Area				INCOME	EXPENSE	FROM RESERVES		Total Assets as of March 21, 2016				
114 LWV Houston Education Fund				\$19,815	\$19,815	\$0		\$30,945				
115				\$70,173	\$78,687	\$8,514		\$105,215				
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## **Report of the Awards Committee**

### **Phyllis Frye, Chair**

Committee: Phyllis Frye (Chair), Linda Cohn, Sharon Cunningham, Aimee Mobley-Turney (ex officio)

The Awards Committee has the pleasure of recognizing League members for distinguished service. In keeping with custom, choices will be revealed at the Annual Meeting. Criteria used to evaluate honorees are presented as part of this report, along with recommendations to future Awards Committees.

1. Continue the practice of presenting Outstanding Service Awards for notable accomplishment to individuals who, over the course of the League year, have shepherded a significant program or project to great success. Criteria, or yardsticks, to evaluate activities and performance, include:

Is the activity mission-critical?

Is it driven by the organization's goals, (e.g. financial development, membership growth/diversity, strong leadership, organizational excellence, community outreach)?

Is it relevant?

Did it attain results?

The number of Outstanding Service Awards presented each year should not be limited, but the Awards Committee should take care to maintain high standards and avoid citing too many recipients so that these recognitions remain a distinctive and meaningful honor.

2. Continue the practice of presenting an annual Helen Hunter Award, but only when there is a suitable candidate.

Helen Hunter served as League President from 1982-85. Our present guidance states that "The Helen Hunter Award is presented to the individual who, over the course of membership, by productive work and by excellent deportment, has furthered the mission of the League of Women Voters." We recommend additional research into Helen Hunter's background and vision to further detail criteria for this award.

2015-2016 Awards Presented at 95<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting

#### **I. Fulfilling the Promise**

Ours is an organization on the cusp of its one hundredth birthday.

In every generation, good and decent people with a penchant for public service have stepped forward to inspire, to lead and to take care of the nuts and bolts of management that provide the platform for us to go out into the world and work towards an ever-better democracy.

This was true in 1920, when LWV-Houston President Miss Florence Sterling famously hired a brass band to march down Main Street to celebrate the adoption of the Nineteenth Amendment.

And it's true today, when so many who lead full and busy lives nevertheless choose to give huge chunks of time and talent to the League of Women Voters and to furthering the civic virtues we embrace.

\*For her enduring devotion to our organization and for her steadfast commitment to the Guiding Principles of the League of Women Voters, a special citation was presented to Carolyn Mata.

\*For her commitment to the civic virtues and in recognition of her willingness to take up the Challenges of League Leadership, a special citation was presented to Aimee Mobley Turney.

#### **II. Outstanding Achievement Awards**

Outstanding Achievement Awards are our way of saluting individuals who have tackled a mission-critical League program and shepherded that project to exceptional results.

\*We begin by noting that

Some Americans are born on United States soil or born to American parents. And some Americans come to citizenship by an affirmative act of Naturalization. It's a complicated and costly process. But on Naturalization Days in Houston, when a United States District Judge asks that hands be raised and the citizenship oath is spoken, something magical happens. Vexations and disappointments drain away and there we stand, shoulder to shoulder, Americans together, proud citizens and guardians of our great national traditions.

For more than a decade the League of Women Voters has had the honor of being present at every single Houston Area Naturalization Ceremony for the purpose of staffing an impeccably executed on-the-spot voter registration service. This is a convenience to be sure, but it's also part of the celebration of the day. We rejoice with these newest Americans and encourage each to immediately join the electorate and to become an American in full.

In 2014, over 13,000 new voters were welcomed to the body politic in just this way. *Thirteen thousand new voters.* That's more than the entire population of Katy or Galena Park and that's more voters than there are in all of Duval County or Blanco County. This is a mighty program.

Naturalization Days are glorious. But if you were to take a peek behind the curtain you'd see League leaders dragging traffic cones across the pockmarked pavement of the M. O. Campbell Center parking lot at 5:00 am. You'd see media interviews in progress before dawn. You'd see team leaders prepping and hauling signage, writing implements, voter registration applications, badges, lapel pins, collection pouches and refreshments to fuel the corps of volunteers. You'd see leaders organizing, briefing, re-briefing, cajoling, instructing, outfitting and monitoring the troops. And you might see, as I once saw, a team leader sprint across three rows of stadium seats to correct the transgressions of an overly-enthused volunteer before United States Marshals could become involved.

For outstanding leadership in providing an on-the-spot voter registration service for newly naturalized Americans, distinguished achievement awards was awarded to the very best Voter Registration team in the League universe:

- \* Claudia Ortega-Hogue
- \* Tom Berg
- \* Beni Gutierrez
- \* Mary Titus
- \* Judy Hollinger

A bit of inside baseball: we'd like to point out that each name as it appears on the certificate is an exact match for the name as recorded on the official voter registration rolls.

\* WOMEN'S EQUALITY DAY/RISING STARS

Not surprisingly, the League of Women Voters likes to commemorate Women's Equality Day, the anniversary of 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment to the Constitution, the Women's Suffrage Amendment. We celebrate with a little party, and also by inaugurating a new group of Rising Stars: a competitively-selected group of young men and women who are building a record of accomplishment and who are offered a year of opportunities to share their talents and widen their reach as models of excellence in civic engagement.

This year, especially, the planning was fearsome, the fundraising was fulsome – a threefold increase over the previous year - and our Class of Rising Stars is awesome.

For outstanding service in chairing the 2014 Women's Equality Day and Rising Stars projects, a special achievement award was awarded to Lindsay Munoz.

### III. Helen Hunter Award

The Helen Hunter Award is the award that has a whiff of the heroic about it: the sense that something significant, something enduring, is better about our organization because of the recipient's vision and good works.

The award was established twenty years ago in honor of Helen Hunter, a much-loved League member who served as President from 1982 to 1985. Recipients have included the magnificent Barb Swartz, Margaret Kolodzie, Judy Hollinger, Jan Wilbur, Jackie Alfred, Bette John, Nancy Parra, Alice May Berthelsen, and our exemplary colleague standing next to me, Sharon Cunningham.

A Helen Hunter Award is not realized each year. That would make it too pedestrian. This accolade only flies when the merit is unquestionable.

The citation proclaims that the recipient has, over the course of membership, advanced the mission of the League of Woman Voters in a cordial, steady and effective way, thereby bringing great credit to the League of Women Voters and great benefit to the community we serve.

True to these precepts, the Helen Hunter Award for 2015 goes to someone

- \* who has cultivated new members and developed new leadership
- \* who has forged community partnerships and bolstered funding
- \* who has diligently served on the frontlines of voter and citizenship outreach
- \* who has employed a broad knowledge of public matters and a certain eloquence to elevate the substance and tone of so many League endeavors
- \* who has offered wise guidance to ease organizational challenges and whose effective work has plugged more than a few organizational holes
- \* who has Tweeted and Facebooked and been a League ambassador to new media and old media and everything in between
- \* and he's been pretty cool about letting various elements of this organization camp out in his conference room.

The Helen Hunter Award for 2015 was awarded to Tom Berg.

**Report of the Nominating Committee  
Ann Herbage, Chair**

**New Officers and Directors: 2016-2018**

**Nominations Committee Members:** Ann Herbage, Chair, Reynaldo Guerra, Beni Gutierrez, Lindsay Taylor Munoz, Lisa Robertson

**Nominations Committee Recommendations**

Treasurer - Leslie Taylor  
VP Membership - Sarah Schimmer  
VP Civic Engagement - Reda Hicks (for the unexpired term)  
VP Study and Advocacy - Jeff Reichman

**Director Positions 2016-2018**

Linda Cantu  
Marisol Valero  
Pam Gaskin  
Reynaldo Guerra

**2016-2017 Nominations Committee Members**

Lisa Robertson, Chair  
Beni Gutierrez  
Judy Hollinger

The board of directors will appoint two board members to the nominations committee.

The nominations committee also asks that Caroline Garry be appointed to the board by the board of directors when possible.