

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS
OF THE HOUSTON AREA

98TH ANNUAL MEETING

Report to the Membership
AND WORKBOOK

2018



AMERICAN REPAST | John Ross Palmer

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.



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS
OF THE HOUSTON AREA



**98th Annual Meeting
League of Women Voters of the Houston Area**

**Tuesday: May 15, 2018
6:00 pm**

**Keynote Presentation
Kinder Institute for Urban Research
2018 Houston Civic Health Index**

Annual Meeting follows immediately.

Leonel Castello Community Center
2101 South Street
Houston Texas 77009

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The presence of 24 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 projects conducted by our affiliated organization, the League of Women Voters of Houston Education Fund.

The League of Women Voters of Houston, a nonpartisan organization, encourages informed and active civic participation in government and increased understanding of major public policy issues. We never endorse or oppose any political candidate or political party.

**League of Women Voters of the Houston Area
98th Annual Meeting
Tuesday: May 15, 2018**

Order of Business

Call to Order	Linda Cohn
Organization	Linda Cohn
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 Action	Jeff Reichman
Adoption of Program, 2018-2019	
Report of the Bylaws Committee	Nancy Parra
Adoption of Amendments to the Bylaws	
Report of the Budget Committee	Sharon Cunningham
Adoption of the Budget, 2013-2014	
Awards and Appreciations	Judy Hollinger
Report of the Awards Committee	
President's Remarks	Linda Cohn
Report of the Nominating Committee	Laura Blackburn
Election of Officers and Directors, 2018-2019	
Call for Recommendations to the Board	Linda Cohn
Announcements	Linda Cohn
Adjourn	

The League of Women Voters of the Houston Area

May 15, 2018

Proposed Rules for the Annual Meeting

Composition

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

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

Twenty-four members must be present 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.

**Minutes of the 97th Annual Meeting of the League of Women Voters of the Houston Area
University of Houston-Downtown Milam & Travis Room
May 15, 2017**

President Aimee Mobley Turney called the 97th annual meeting of the League of Women Voters-Houston Area to order at 7:30 PM. John Behrman appointed Parliamentarian for the proceedings by the president and Rebecca Rodriguez appointed Time Keeper. Two volunteers Amy Carl and Zak Miller motioned to approve the minutes.

The order of business (agenda) approved without objections. Leslie, Taylor, Treasurer, provided the Treasurer's report. Income exceeded expenses. Four people renewed membership prior to the start of the meeting. Invoices for membership dues submitted to members for renewal. Without any objections, the treasurer's report was accepted.

Jeff Reichman, Vice President for Study and Advocacy presented three proposals:

- 1) Harris County Elections technology and cybersecurity infrastructure (policies and procedures)
- 2) Update and prioritize LWV-HA existing positions on issues
- 3) An environmental Study was approved last year at annual meeting will be conducted during the 2017-2018 League year.

Phyllis Frye motioned for acceptance of proposals. No discussion ensued so report was accepted.

Sharon Cunningham, Chair of Budget Committee presented the 2017-2018 budget for League of Women Voters-Houston Area. Members of Budget Committee are Jackie Alfred, Linda Cantu, Leslie Taylor, Zachary Miller and Aimee Mobley Turney. Proposed budget for FY 2017-2018 is \$17, 485.00. Proposed expenditures is \$17, 485. Sharon Cunningham motion for adoption of FY 2017-2018 budget. Budget approved by the membership.

Phyllis Frye, Chair of LWV-HA Awards Committee. Members of Award Committee are Linda Cohn, Jackie Alfred, Aimee Mobley Turney and Nancy Parra.

Loss of four LWV-HA members: Teri Hershey, Sam Keeper, Sharon Friedman, & Elizabeth Rack

Special Achievement Awards (8): Leslie Taylor, Aimee Bertrand and Linda Cantu, Sharon Cunningham, Jeff Reichman, Amy Carl and Tawny Tidwell and Liz Alonzo, Aimee Bertrand & Linda Cantu for revitalization of Development Committee

Liz Alonzo for work on Voter's Guide

Award/Gift presented to Aimee Mobley Turney by LWV-HA Board

Sam Keeper Award for Excellence in Voter Service (4): Reda Hicks, Pam Gaskin, Judy Viebig & Claudia Ortega Hogue

Helen Hunter Award: Laura Blackburn

Phyllis Frye moved to accept the awards. General acceptance by the membership.

President Aimee Mobley Turney offered remarks concerning her service on the LWV-HA Board and as president. These are some of the accomplishments: 5-year strategic plan, update website, Partnership with Houston Public Library, Hobby Center & Baker Institute, Partnership with

Discovery Green, structural change of Rising Star Program, office space at Houston Area Urban League and testifying on Gun Safety Issue.

Lisa Robertson, Chair of Nominating Committee presented the slate of candidates for 2017. Committee members: Pam Gaskin, Beni Gutierrez, Judy Hollinger and Annie Johnson Benifield. Any nominations from the floor stated three times. Phyllis Frye moved that the membership vote for the slate of candidates presented. Membership voted by voice vote. President Aimee Turney thanks the outgoing board.

League of Women Voters-Houston Area meeting adjourned at 8:55 PM.

Report of the President

Linda Cohn

Welcome to the 98th Annual Meeting of the League of Women Voters of the Houston Area. This has been a year of outstanding service to the Houston community. We gather today to celebrate our civic mission and to gather courage for innovations that are essential to securing our future.

We have employed Manifest Creative, a highly regarded management agency, to assume responsibility for routine administrative functions, allowing us to reliably delegate tasks associated with office space, office equipment and clerical chores. Professional, comprehensive staffing promises enhanced continuity and high standards of competence, allowing us to effectively realize our civic engagement goals.

Director Aimee Woodall has arranged, pro bono, for her firm *The Black Sheep Agency* to conduct a community survey seeking to explore LWV-Houston's public profile, leading to insights that will point to stronger communications and a better brand narrative. This project is presently in progress and will continue in the new League year.

Most significantly, we are now committed to ending our status as a bifurcated organization. The League of Women Voters of the Houston Area and the League of Women Voters of Houston Education Fund are destined to become dormant, to be succeeded by a single new entity that will combine the mission and organizational features of both. This refinement is in keeping with present regulations governing non-profits and with trends among local and state Leagues, offering the advantage of streamlined, more efficient management. We look forward to announcing that our refreshed structure is ready to launch.

As you review the reports of our several Committee Chairs and League Officers please take care to consider their assessments. We are all steadfastly attached to the idea that civic engagement is a proven path to a more perfect public life, and that, most certainly, remains our greatest strength.

Reports on Special Projects

Rising Stars Program

Chairs: Zak Miller, Isabel Longoria, Liza Alonzo

On behalf of the League of Women Voters of the Houston Region, we are happy to provide this report on the Rising Stars Class of 2017/2018.

Recruitment and Selection Process

Our Rising Stars class was opened for applicants during the Spring of 2017. The program was shifted from the previous one day event fundraising and ceremony model, to monthly leadership development workshops with the hopes of bolstering the ranks of active LWV-Houston volunteers. The class was chaired by Board Members Dr. Liza Alonzo and Zak Miller, and League member Isabel Longoria.

The class was selected based on their previous community involvement and their commitment to public service and civic engagement in Houston. Of 45 applicants, the final class of 20 was also selected to match the political, racial, age and gender diversity of the Greater Houston region. Class acceptance emails were sent in anticipation of the welcoming ceremony conducted during the 2017 Annual Meeting.

Official List of 2017/2018 Class of Rising Stars:

Tonisha Alexander	Shelby Hansen	Blair Parker
Kamah Asha Wilson	Sarah Kim	Tiko Reynolds-Hausman
Glenda Duru	Immanuel Lewis	Karen Rugaard
Elizabeth Ericson	Marissa Marquez	Michelle Shabani-Ritchell
Sarah Gabbart	Christopher Moore	Dolores Colunga-Stawitz
Sabiha Gire	Cassie Myatt	Phillip Yates
Greg Griffin	Franny Oxford	

The induction ceremony included a candle lighting ceremony, printed certificates of recognition, and the following pledge:

And so ladies and gentlemen, you have been called to greater public service by the League of Women Voters. You have kindled the flame of your civic virtue, and so now I ask -
Will you uphold the ideals of the League by encouraging greater participation in public life?
Will you work to promote civic responsibility through informed and active participation in government?
Will you cherish the right to vote and encourage others to do the same?
If so, answer by saying, "I Do".

The new ceremony, coupled with the Annual Meeting, was well received by the inductees and LWV members alike. The move to couple the events allowed for increased participation and recognition by long standing League members, which helped to further integrate the Rising Star program as a value tradition within the League as a whole.

Leadership Workshops:

Monthly leadership and general learning workshops were held at partnering locations across the City. This both worked to strengthen relationships with our partners and demonstrate our commitment to the Rising Stars of being equitable in our outreach to every community in Houston. The schedule of workshops was as follows:

June 2017: League of Women Voters Houston 101

Location: Urban League Offices

Boarded Members presented the class with an overall orientation and introduction to the League and its work. This session worked with the class to help them understand why they were chosen for the program, and what the expectations would be, and attempt to interest the Rising Stars in volunteering with different committees.

July 2017: Deputy Voter Registrar Training

All Rising Stars who attended became official deputy voter registrars in Harris County and received a special lecture for County staff on local voter registrations and trends.

August 2017: *Cancelled due to Hurricane Harvey*

September 2017: Party Politics 101

Location: Baker Ripley's Leonel Castillo Community Center

Representatives of the Republican, Democratic, Green, and Libertarian political parties were invited to share their party philosophy and structure to demonstrate our commitment to non-partisanship and gain further insight on the role of political campaigns in civic engagement.

October 2017: Communications Training

Rising Stars were joined Mike Morris of the Houston Chronicle and Tim Lankford of Outreach Studios to talk about how politics shapes election coverage and how to write, pitch, and respond to the media. Earlier in the month, several class members attended the League's "Women's Equality Day" event as well.

November & December 2017: OKRA Fundraising Project

Location: Okra Charity Saloon

Rising Stars had an amazing opportunity to participate in the Okra Charity Saloon's fundraising competition. Each month the OCS selects area non-profits from a competitive applicant pool to be a featured organization. Patrons were able to "vote" for their favorite of five organizations by placing tickets in the "ballot box" that corresponds to each of the five. At the end of the month, winning organization receives a percentage of the bar's profits for that month. The LWV came very close to winning it outright, but it was a terrific lesson in organizing, creative marketing, and the power of group action. Hopefully the coming year's class can make our participation even more successful next time.

January 2018: General Volunteering

In lieu of the class project as previously planned; it became obvious that Rising Stars were more interested in putting their newly learned skills by becoming immediately involved in League activities. Rising Stars began to volunteer with various League committees, including compiling the 2018 Primary Voter Guide, registering voters ahead of the primary, and aiding with televised town halls, and other such projects.

February 2018: Voting Laws CLE & General Volunteering

Location: Texas Southern University

The class was invited to attend a CLE organized by Texas Southern University and the

American Constitution Society on voting rights laws in Texas. They learned about various voting rights laws, the roll of precinct judges in elections, and how to become an official election observer.

Various class members also engaged in League volunteer opportunities at a Citizenship Ceremony and continuing to educate voters ahead of the primary.

March 2018: General Volunteer & Repast Luncheon

Rising Stars continued to integrate themselves as active members by helping distribute voter guides, working the KPRC Voter Hotline, and purchasing tickets to attend the annual Repast Luncheon.

Reflections

After interviewing the several Rising Star members we are inclined to conclude that the restructuring of the Rising Star Program is headed in the right direction. The emphasis on League and leadership education created several new very active members who might not otherwise have engaged as strongly. Those who stuck through the entire program reported feeling like they understood the mission and work of the League, appreciated the opportunities to immediately engage in meaningful work, and felt they had learned skills and knowledge that could be applied to their personal and professional lives.

However, the first year of the longer time commitment of the program was a shock to some who did not participate in any workshops or activities past the initial ceremony and League 101 workshop. Active Rising Stars also reported wanting to more direct mentorship or “internship” opportunities with Board Members and official committees in addition to the short-term projects they were able to assist with.

As such, and as the League year draws to a close, we are confident that the out-going class will serve as an example to their predecessors about what it truly means to be a Rising Star, and a member of the League of Women Voters. We hope to continue the program next year and restructure it to have fewer “class days” and more active apprenticeships with official committees.

Women’s Equality Day

Chairs: Rey Guerra, Kathy Cheng

Our Women’s Equality Day commemoration featured a special screening of the popular “Wonder Woman” movie. This autumn event, adjusted to accommodate the disruptions of Hurricane Harvey, turned out to be a sturdy fundraiser and an enjoyable evening.

Repast

Chairs: Aimee Bertrand, Lindsay Munoz, Mary Benton

The 2018 Repast with Political Pioneers was celebrated with a capacity crowd of nearly 300 attendees at the Junior League of Houston on March 26. The event was emceed by Grace White of KHOU News and featured Ernie Manouse of Houston Public Media’s interview of the 2018 Honorees: The Women of Houston City Council - Mayor Pro Tem Ellen Cohen, Council Member Brenda Stardig, Council Member Karla Cisneros and Council Member Amanda

Edwards. The honorees were introduced by Mayor Sylvester Turner. The program also included recognition of the passing of Council Member Larry Green and his commitment to public service. Event attendees included oodles of elected officials, longtime league members and previous honorees.

The event brought in just over \$32,600 (more than \$5,000 over the 2017-2018 budgeted income). Co Chairs Mary Benton, Aimee Bertrand and Lindsay Munoz worked with a dedicated team of volunteers to lead this event to success. Special thanks goes to Co Chair Emeritus, Linda Cantu, and LWV president, Linda Cohn, for their dedicated support and guiding hands lent to this fundraiser.

Report of the Treasurer

Leslie Taylor

The Balance Sheet and statement of Activities to be made available at the Annual Meeting should be current through the end of April 2018 (one month short of the fiscal year).

Both the LWV Houston Area and the LWV Houston Education Fund struggled to meet budget expectations. Income fell short in both budgets and expenses exceeded HEF budget expectations. The Voters Guide expenses exceeded budget by over 200 percent because each party primary had a record number of candidates and a record high percentage of those candidates participated by answering the Guide questions. Fortunately, LWV Houston Education Fund had a healthy reserve to begin the fiscal year, so the exceptionally bulky Voters Guide could be funded. Our reserve is depleted by roughly \$17,000 (as of April 1, 2018) but still healthy by non-profit standards. We still have more than six months of operating costs on hand as cash reserves in the Education Fund. We have cash reserves in LWV HA as well.

The transition from operating with volunteer staff in rented office space to turning over most management and bookkeeping functions to Manifest Creative was a principal reason overhead (administrative and payroll) expenses exceeded budget. Manifest Creative is being paid a flat rate of \$2,000 a month for the functions it agreed to take over for both LWV Houston Area and LWV Houston Education Fund. The budgets did not contain line items for this fee. Your Treasurer asked in September that the budget committee be convened to present revised budgets to the Boards, but that did not happen. Instead, the bookkeeper and Treasurer attempted to allocate the Manifest Creative fee to some of the line items that were included within their scope of work (*e.g.* bookkeeping, administrative assistant, contract/professional). I recommend that future Budget Committees and the Board revise the budget when unexpected and substantial expenses arise throughout the year.

The President and Manifest Creative attempted to reduce rent expense by negotiating for a smaller space at the Houston Area Urban League. However, no new lease was presented, so it was decided to move our possessions to a rented storage facility, mothball the server and computer equipment and convert to a virtual server. This was accomplished at the end of March.

The cost of converting to a virtual server should be partially offset by April and May rent that would have been owed if we had stayed in the old space.

Two pass-through grants to the LWV Houston Education Fund for \$500 each were refunded at the request of LWV Texas for failure by LWV HEF to report as required. I highly recommend to the incoming Board of Directors, that the Board insist on being informed about all grant proposals and require regular progress reports about the projects outlined in funded grants.

I found this year as Treasurer to be exceptionally difficult because of a lack of two-way communication between the President and Treasurer. I sincerely hope that communication will be better next fiscal year.

Respectfully submitted,

Leslie Copeland Taylor

Report of the Vice President for Membership Affairs

Judy Hollinger

It has been a busy and rewarding year for LWV-HA membership. Our number of members increased by 20% bringing us to a total of 315 members as of April 15, 2018.

The Membership Committee (Jackie Alfred, Beth Antonius, Linda Cantu, Sandy Cazemier, Sharon Cunningham, Beni Gutierrez, Bette John, and Leslie Taylor) established goals and procedures to both increase membership and encourage participation by members in league projects. A Member Directory and Handbook was published in August, 2017 and mailed to all LWV-HA members. A member newsletter was published 3 times during the League year and distributed electronically and also by U.S. mail to those members without email addresses. Two orientation meetings were held to acquaint members with league procedures and activities.

The staff at Manifest Creative (MC) was responsible for monitoring dues payments, sending out renewal reminders and referring membership questions. Working with Maureen Maiuri with MC was extremely beneficial to the League and its members. Monthly reports and member rosters were coordinated between the Membership VP and MC resulting in significant improvement in accuracy and accessibility of member information.

Recommendations for future: Increase follow up of new members to welcome them and assess their interests and desired level of participation in the local league. Explore changes to unit structure both in terms of content material and purpose of meetings and consider “virtual” units. Improve member retention rates.

Report of the Vice President for Issues: Study and Advocacy

Jeff Reichman

Over the course of the last year, we have been working hard on the LWV Houston election cybersecurity study. This study looks at the voting machines used by Harris County, the physical security processes for voting machine access, best practices for election cybersecurity from across the county, and best practices for public sector cybersecurity in general.

In March 2018, the scope of the study expanded to include the ePollBook, an iPad app developed by the Harris County Clerk's Office to eliminate physical poll books. This system stores the Harris County voter rolls, and augments it with personally identifiable information such as disability status, and when and where a person voted. As a result, our study of the ePollBook is a separate section of the election cybersecurity study.

Due to added study requirements, the complicated and protected nature of voting machine information, and the controversy surrounding election cybersecurity in general, we are extending this study into the new League year. We hope to conclude the study prior to the November 2018 general election, and use the findings to help the Texas Secretary of State make informed decisions about certifying voting machines for Texas counties.

We recommend no new studies for the 2018-2019 League Year.

Report of the Vice President for Civic Engagement

Reda Hicks

LWV's Civic Engagement Committee has been hard at work producing a number of community-facing programs geared toward empowering and engaging the voters of the Greater Houston Area. These activities included the voter's guide, Rising Stars Program, voter registration at naturalization ceremonies, debates and forums, and a Primary Day Phone Bank.

Voters Guide

Chair: Jackie Alfred

The League served the Houston community once again this year by providing comprehensive election resources and unedited candidate information through our *Voters Guides*. Your dues and support of League events helped provide the funding that makes the *Voters Guide* possible!

Two Guides were produced during the past year, one for the November General Election and another for the March Primary Election. The November Guide was produced in English and Spanish. It was available in the electronic format only. The Guide featured candidates for Houston ISD Board members and Houston Community College Board of Trusts (all but 2 candidates responded) as well as information about State and Local Ballot Issues including the important City of Houston ballot issue addressing the future of Houston's pension system. Thousands of our neighbors used the Guide as reliable source of information. Links to the Guide

were shared and posted on Twitter® and websites throughout the community– even Mayor Turner re-tweeted the link to his extensive group of Twitter followers.

The Primary Voter Guide was the largest we have ever produced – 68 pages, published in English and Spanish, and produced in both print and electronic editions! We had over 90% of the candidates respond to our questionnaire. Each League member was mailed a paper copy of the Guide and about 26,000 printed Guides were distributed through local libraries, schools, universities, community centers, churches and sister civic organizations. Commercial and non-profit media as well as many civic organizations and individuals helped us “get the VG link out” to a broad and diverse sector of the community through Twitter® and Facebook® as well as by embedding the Guide or links on their websites. The Guide generated over 21,000 unique visitors to the LWV-HA website. Nearly 23,000 people also accessed our candidate information through the Vote411 system.

Over 40 people worked to produce the *Voters Guides* during the past year – they included new and seasoned League members, Rising Stars, and four contract employees who provided design, translation and technical services. Thank you to all the question writers, database compilers, candidate callers, proofers and distribution assistants as well as the staff at Manifest Creative who were part of Voters Guide Team!

Voter Registration at Naturalization Ceremonies

Mary Titus, Ann Wood, Beni Gutierrez

We continue to provide an on-the-spot voter registration service at all Houston Area Naturalization Ceremonies. Over 10,000 new voters was welcomed to the electorate in the 2017-2018 League year.

LWV's Debates and Forums committee produced a number of pieces of content in partnership with Houston Media Source this year. We continue to produce policy content and civic-facing conversation through episodes of *Public Affairs*, *Public Access*; this year, those segments featured conversations with community partners on hot topics in Houston, as well as introductory conversations featuring some of this year's Rising Stars. In the run-up to the primaries, we also featured *Conversations with the Candidates* for a number of county, state, and national races on the Houston ballot throughout the month of February.

On Primary Day, LWV partnered with KPRC and Telemundo to produce a Primary Day Phone Bank. The phone bank ran from 6am to 7pm, manned by over 50 volunteers, and was a resource for hundreds of Houston area families searching for information about when, where, and how to cast their ballot. Together with community partners, we fielded over 950 calls on Primary Day! Also, for the first time ever, we were able to offer a dedicated Spanish-speaking information line via KPRC's new studio technology, and with the help of our friends at Mia Familia Vota and the Houston Hispanic Forum. We fielded 101 calls in Spanish, and anticipate that number will only increase as Spanish-speakers in the Houston area become aware of the resource. We are already planning to partner with KPRC and Telemundo again for an Election Day Phone Bank.

Local Programming

Jeff Reichman

As previously noted, due to added study requirements, the complicated and protected nature of voting machine information, and the controversy surrounding election cybersecurity in general, we are extending this study into the new League year. We hope to conclude the study prior to the November 2018 general election, and use the findings to help the Texas Secretary of State make informed decisions about certifying voting machines for Texas counties.

We recommend no new studies for the 2018-2019 League Year.

Report of the Bylaws Committee

Chair: Nancy Parra

Committee: Leslie Taylor, Marisol Valero

The committee suggests the following changes to the bylaws:

Article I Sec. 1 and throughout: When abbreviation is used, it will be “LWV-HA” and “LWV-TX.”

Article IV. OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

Sec. 1 New Language

Sec. 1 ENUMERATION AND ELECTION. The officers of the League of Women Voters of the Houston Area shall be a president, four vice presidents, a secretary, and a treasurer. All officers shall be elected at an annual meeting and shall take office ~~immediately~~ **at the beginning of the next fiscal year** for terms of two years or until their successors have been elected. The president, two vice-presidents and the secretary shall be elected in odd-numbered years. Two vice-presidents and the treasurer shall be elected in even-numbered years.

Rationale: New officers should take office at the beginning of the next fiscal year, June 1; not when the annual meeting occurs. This is in keeping with LWV-TX.

Sec. 3 Editorial Change

Sec. 3 THE VICE-PRESIDENTS. The vice-presidents shall perform such duties as the president and the board may designate. The board of directors shall designate one vice-president ~~which of the vice-presidents shall possess the authority~~ to conduct the business of the organization in the event of a temporary absence of the president that the president is temporarily unable to do so.

Rationale: Editorial changes were made to facilitate the understanding of the language in this section.

Article V. BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Sec. 1 New Language

Sec. 1. NUMBER: MANNER AND SELECTION AND TERM OF OFFICE. The board of directors shall consist of the officers of the League, eight elected directors, and not more than eight appointed directors. Four directors shall be elected by the general membership at each annual meeting and shall serve for a term of two years. ~~or until their successors have been elected and qualified.~~ The elected members shall, **by majority vote**, appoint such additional directors, not exceeding eight, as they deem necessary to carry on the work of the League. The terms of the appointed directors ~~shall be one year and shall be from the date of the appointment~~ and shall expire at the ~~conclusion of the next annual meeting~~ **end of the fiscal year of appointment**

Rationale: The first change is editorial in nature, and the second change is to indicate that a majority vote of the board is needed to appoint additional directors. The appointment begins from the date the board votes to accept the appointment until the end of the fiscal year of the appointment. See the previous comment under Sec. 1 on board terms relative to the beginning of the next fiscal year or the end of the current fiscal year.

Sec. 3 New language and format

Sec. 3. VACANCIES.

- a. Any vacancy occurring in the board of directors by reason of the resignation, death, or disqualification of any officer or elected member may be filled ~~until the next annual meeting~~ **until the end of the current fiscal year** by a majority vote of the remaining members of the board of directors.
- b. Should an officer fail to serve an entire two-year term, the board may appoint a replacement for the remainder of the fiscal year; the nominating committee will suggest a replacement for the remainder of the term, and the membership will elect an officer to fill the remainder of the term so that officer terms remain staggered
- c. Three consecutive absences from a board meeting by any member without a valid reason shall be deemed a resignation, **effective only upon majority vote of the remaining members of the board.**
- d. ~~At any regular or called special meeting of the board of directors, any one or more of the officers and/or directors~~ Any officer or director may, at any board meeting, propose a resolution removing an officer or director. Adoption requires approval by two-thirds vote of ~~may be removed by a two-thirds vote of all~~ the directors presently in office.
- e. Any officer or director whose removal has been proposed shall be given at least ten calendar days' notice of intent to take such action and an opportunity to be heard in person at the board meeting where the potential removal is to be discussed.

Rationale: A new format was adopted to separate the diverse items of the paragraph that describes different types of vacancies, requiring different board votes, majority as opposed to two-thirds. The new language in “a” reflects board terms beginning at the next fiscal year. The new language in “b” is to ensure that officer terms remain staggered. The new language in “c” was adopted to ensure that the board voted on the dismissal of a board member due to absences. The change in language in “d” is mainly editorial.

The bylaws committee considered allowing appointments to last until the end of the term of the officer or director being replaced but decided against this change because it could circumvent the duties of the nominating committee. The bylaws committee was asked to consider striking from “e” the provision for the opportunity for the director or officer being removed to be heard. The committee thought that any director or officer should have a chance to make his or her case for staying in office.

Sec. 5 Language deletion

Sec. 5. MEETINGS. There shall be at least six regular meetings of the board of directors annually. The president may call special meetings of the board of directors and must call a special meeting upon the written request of five members of the board. Special meetings may be held by electronic **communication**. ~~means, such as telephone conference call, video conferencing or email.~~ The use of electronic meetings shall be reserved for those issues needing a decision before an in-person meeting is scheduled. Procedural rules shall be established by the Board.

Rationale: “Electronic means” was changed to “electronic communication,” and the types of communication were deleted as they are constantly evolving.

ARTICLE VI. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Sec. 1 Language deletion

Sec. 1. COMPOSITION. The executive committee shall consist of the president, four (4) vice presidents, secretary, and treasurer. ~~and at least two (2) directors appointed by the president.~~

Rationale: The executive committee does not need two additional directors as this would mean the executive committee consists of more than half the board.

Sec.2 Language change

Sec. 2. POWERS. The executive committee may make decisions not affecting major League policy and may conduct emergency business between board meetings. The executive committee shall act as the hiring committee for the recruitment of any ~~executive director~~ **paid personnel and/or management company**. All decisions made by the executive committee must be ratified by the board at its next regular meeting.

Rationale: LWV-HA no longer employs an executive director but may in the future hire other paid personnel. A management company was recently hired.

ARTICLE VII. FINANCIAL ADMINISTRATION

Sec. 3 Language change

Sec. 3. BUDGET. A budget for the ensuing year shall be submitted by the board of directors to the annual meeting for adoption. The budget shall ~~include~~ support the work of the League as a whole. The proposed budget shall be made available to all members ~~one month~~ **fourteen calendar days** before the annual meeting.

Rationale: The deletion of “include” is editorial. “One month” has been changed to “fourteen calendar days” throughout the Bylaws. Information can be sent rapidly through electronic communication to the membership so that one month is no longer needed to distribute information. This change means more time can be spent in developing the activity at hand.

ARTICLE VIII. MEETINGS

Sec. 1 Language change

Sec. 1 MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS. There shall be at least ~~four~~ **three** meetings of the membership each year: **a calendar planning meeting, a program planning meeting and an annual meeting.** Time and place shall be determined by the board of directors.

Rationale: Four meetings of the membership were reduced to three and these meetings are specified: calendar planning to plan the activities of the League year; program planning to review the positions of the national, state and Houston Leagues; and the annual meeting to elect officers and vote on any changes to the program, bylaws, etc. The meetings of the membership are not to be confused with the Education Fund meetings, sometimes referred to as “General Meetings,” dealing with specific issues. There is no limit to the number of these meetings that are held or not.

ARTICLE IX. NOMNATIONS AND ELECTIONS

Sec. 1 Language deletion

Sec. 1. NOMINATING COMMITTEE. The nominating committee shall consist of five members, two of whom shall be members of the board of directors. No person shall serve on the nominating committee for more than 2 out of 3 years. The chair and two members, who shall not be members of the board, shall be elected at the annual meeting. All members of the Nominating Committee shall be voting members of the League. Nominations for these offices shall be made by the current nominating committee. The other members shall be appointed by the board of directors. Any vacancy of the nominating committee shall be filled by the board of directors. ~~Suggestions for nominations for officers and directors may be sent to this committee by any voting member.~~

Sec. 2. SUGGESTIONS BY MEMBERS. The chair of the nominating committee shall request suggestions from the general membership for offices to be filled.

Rationale: The last sentence of Sec. 1 was deleted because Sec. 2 essentially says the same thing.

Sec. 3 Language change

Sec. 3 REPORT OF THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE AND NOMINATIONS FROM THE FLOOR. The report from the nominating committee of its nominations for officers, directors, and the members of the succeeding nominating committee shall be made available to all members ~~one month~~ **fourteen calendar days** before the date of the annual meeting. Following the

presentation of this report at the annual meeting, nominations may be made from the floor by any voting member provided the consent of the nominee shall have been secured.

Rationale: See the rationale in Article VI, Sec. 3 for changing “one month” to “fourteen calendar days.”

Article X. **League Program**

Added title to Article X as it did not have one.

Sec. 3 (b) Language change

(b) The proposed program shall be made available to all members ~~one month~~ **fourteen calendar days** before the annual meeting.

Rationale: See the rationale in Article VI, Sec. 3 for changing “one month” to “fourteen calendar days.”

Sec. 4 Language change

Sec. 4. Change in adopted program; ~~in the case of altered conditions~~, may be made provided that: (1) information concerning the proposed changes has been sent to all members at least ~~two weeks~~ **fourteen calendar days** prior to a general membership meeting at which the change is to be discussed and (2) final action by the membership is taken at a succeeding meeting.

Rationale: First change is editorial; second change, see the rationale in Article VI, Sec. 3 for changing “one month” to “fourteen calendar days.”

ARTICLE XI. NATIONAL CONVENTION, STATE CONVENTION AND COUNCIL

Sec. 1 Language change to correct typo

Sec. 1. NATIONAL CONVENTION. The membership or the board of directors at a meeting before the date on which the names **of** delegates must be sent to the national office shall select delegates to the convention in the number allotted to the League of Women Voters of the Houston Area under the provisions of the bylaws of the League of Women Voters of the United States.

ARTICLE XIII. AMENDMENTS

Sec. 1 Language change

Sec. 1. AMENDMENTS. These bylaws may be amended by a two-thirds vote of the voting members present and voting at the annual meeting, provided the amendments were submitted to the membership in writing at least ~~one month~~ **fourteen calendar days** in advance of the meeting. The board of directors shall consider the recommended changes to the bylaws which were sent in by voting members two months prior to the annual meeting and shall submit their recommendations to the general membership along with those changes they have been asked to consider but do not recommend.

Rationale: See the rationale in Article VI, Sec. 3 for changing “one month” to “fourteen calendar days.”

Proposed Budget for Fiscal Year 2018-2019

Report of the Budget Committee

Chair: Sharon Cunningham

Committee: Leslie Taylor (Treasurer), Jackie Alfred, Linda Cantu, Zak Miller, Marisol Valero,
Linda Cohn (ex officio)

The membership is charged with adopting a budget for the League of Women Voters of the Houston Area. A budget for the League of Women Voters Houston Education Fund will be approved by the LWV-Education Fund Board of Trustees at their first meeting of the 2018-2019 fiscal year. The Education Fund budget is included for information only.

New Budget Format

With assistance from Manifest Creative's bookkeeper, the budget documents have been reformatted. The new format allows for easily produced reports configuring data for many useful purposes, for straightforward access to information a CPA needs for IRS filings and for funding information of interest to donors.

Now that the Budget Committee is familiar with it, we find the data organization useful.

The HA and HEF budget documents are on the two pages following this report.

Houston Area Budget Overview

All of the costs shown relate directly to Membership, overhead costs are shared by the Education Fund. Most are split 20% HA / 80% HEF. Bookkeeping with a 50/50 split is an exception as dues maintenance requires significant accounting effort.

Since HA has limited revenue sources, for some years the organization has allocated to HEF half of the Per Member Payments (PMP) sent to LWV-US and LWV-TX. This year, it is proposed to have HA pay the full PMP amount. Due to extraordinary Voters Guide expenses, HEF requires more help.

The proposed budget for HA projects a deficit of \$3,936.

Our bookkeeper, who works only for nonprofit organizations, has reconfirmed the guideline that nonprofits should have an asset balance large enough to cover six months of expenses. As of March 31, HA has a bank balance of \$35,285, large enough to cover 3.6 years of expenses w/o any further income.

I wish I could present a more favorable bottom line amount. One bright spot is that the Membership is increasing.

Budget Data begins on page 19.

LWV-Houston Area: Budget Summary - June 1, 2018 - May 31, 2019

	OVERHEAD	FUNDRAISING	PROGRAMS				LWVHA TOTAL
			Membership	Directory	Annual Meeting	TOTAL PROGRAMS	
REVENUE							
Contributions	-	1,300	-	-	-	-	1,300
Membership Dues	-	-	17,500	-	-	17,500	17,500
Less LWV-T PMP	-	-	(5,600)	-	-	(5,600)	(5,600)
Less LWV-US PMP	-	-	(7,875)	-	-	(7,875)	(7,875)
Net Membership Dues	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Earned Income	-	-	500	-	-	500	500
TOTAL REVENUE	-	1,300	4,525	-	-	4,525	5,825
EXPENSES							
Association Management	4,800	-	-	-	-	-	4,800
CC processing fees	-	-	400	-	-	400	400
Coalitions/organizations	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Convention/Council	180	-	-	-	-	-	180
Fees/licenses	200	-	-	-	-	-	200
Food/Beverage	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Insurance	246	-	-	-	-	-	246
Marketing/Advertising	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Office Supplies	-	-	100	-	-	100	100
Postage/Delivery	-	-	225	225	-	450	450
Printing/Copying	-	-	50	407	100	557	557
Professional Services	2,250	-	-	-	-	-	2,250
Storage	238	-	-	-	-	-	238
Telephone/Internet	204	-	-	-	-	-	204
Venues	60	-	-	-	-	-	60
Website	76	-	-	-	-	-	76
TOTAL EXPENSES	8,254	-	775	632	100	1,507	9,761
SURPLUS / (DEFICIT)	(8,254)	1,300	3,750	(632)	(100)	3,018	(3,936)

LWV Houston Education Fund																		
Budget Summary - June 1, 2018 - May 31, 2019																		
	OVERHEAD	FUNDRAISING							MISSION								LWVHEF Total	
		Repat		WED		Fndrsg General	Total Fundraising		Rising Stars		Voters Guide	Voter Reg	Other Voter Services	Study/Advoc	Total Mission			
		Cash	Cash	In-Kind	Cash	In-Kind		Cash	In-Kind	Cash	In-Kind	Cash	Cash	Cash	Cash	Cash	In-Kind	Cash
REVENUE																		
Contributions	-	38,000	2,500	13,150	300	6,450	57,600	2,800	-	600	10,000	1,500	-	2,000	13,500	600	71,100	3,400
Earned Income	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL REVENUE	-	38,000	2,500	13,150	300	6,450	57,600	2,800	-	600	10,000	1,500	-	2,000	13,500	600	71,100	3,400
EXPENSES																		
Association Management	19,200	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	19,200	-
CC processing fees	-	1,000	-	300	-	-	1,300	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,300	-
Coalitions/Organizations	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Convention/Council	720	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	720	-
Décor	-	-	1,000	150	-	-	150	1,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	150	1,000
Event Entertainment	-	-	-	1,035	-	-	1,035	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,035	-
Equipment Rental	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Fees/Licenses	800	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	800	-
Food/Beverage	-	9,650	-	725	300	-	10,375	300	-	300	-	1,200	-	500	1,700	300	12,075	600
Honorarium	-	320	-	-	-	-	320	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	320	-
Insurance	985	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	985	-
Marketing/Advertising	500	30	-	65	-	-	95	-	-	-	65	-	65	-	130	-	725	-
Office Supplies	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	450	-	-	450	-	450	-
Postage/Delivery	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	200	-	-	-	200	-	200	-
Printing/Copying	-	100	-	125	-	-	225	-	-	-	12,135	-	150	-	12,285	-	12,510	-
Professional Services	4,600	300	1,500	300	-	-	600	1,500	-	-	9,600	250	500	-	10,350	-	15,550	1,500
Storage	950	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	950	-
Telephone/Internet	816	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	816	-
Transportation	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,500	1,500	-	1,500	-
Venues	240	-	-	250	-	-	250	-	-	300	-	-	-	1,000	1,000	300	1,490	300
Website	306	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	306	-
TOTAL EXPENSES	29,117	11,400	2,500	2,950	300	-	14,350	2,800	-	600	22,000	1,900	715	3,000	27,615	600	71,082	3,400
SURPLUS / (DEFICIT)	(29,117)	26,600	-	10,200	-	6,450	43,250	-	-	-	(12,000)	(400)	(715)	(1,000)	14,115	-	18	-
in-kind columns only shown if needed.																		

League of Women Voters Houston					
Dual Budget Summary					
as of 4/11/2018					
		LWVHA	LWVHEF		GRAND TOTAL
REVENUE		Cash	Cash	In-Kind	
	Contributions	\$ 1,300	\$ 71,100	\$ 3,400	\$ 75,800
	Membership Dues	\$ 17,500	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 17,500
	Less LWV-T PMP	\$ (5,600)	\$ -	\$ -	\$ (5,600)
	Less LWV-US PMP	\$ (7,875)	\$ -	\$ -	\$ (7,875)
	Net Membership Dues	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
	Earned Income	\$ 500	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 500
	TOTAL REVENUE	\$ 5,825	\$ 71,100	\$ 3,400	\$ 80,325
	EXPENSES				
	Association Management	\$ 4,800	\$ 19,200	\$ -	\$ 24,000
	CC processing fees	\$ 400	\$ 1,300	\$ -	\$ 1,700
	Coalitions/Organizations	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
	Convention/Council	\$ 180	\$ 720	\$ -	\$ 900
	Décor	\$ -	\$ 150	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,150
	Event Entertainment	\$ -	\$ 1,035	\$ -	\$ 1,035
	Equipment Rental	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
	Fees/Licenses	\$ 200	\$ 800	\$ -	\$ 1,000
	Food/Beverage	\$ -	\$ 12,075	\$ 600	\$ 12,675
	Honorarium	\$ -	\$ 320	\$ -	\$ 320
	Insurance	\$ 246	\$ 985	\$ -	\$ 1,231
	Marketing/Advertising	\$ -	\$ 725	\$ -	\$ 725
	Office Supplies	\$ 100	\$ 450	\$ -	\$ 550
	Postage/Delivery	\$ 450	\$ 200	\$ -	\$ 650
	Printing/Copying	\$ 557	\$ 12,510	\$ -	\$ 13,067
	Professional Services	\$ 2,250	\$ 15,550	\$ 1,500	\$ 19,300
	Storage	\$ 238	\$ 950	\$ -	\$ 1,188
	Telephone/Internet	\$ 204	\$ 816	\$ -	\$ 1,020
	Transportation	\$ -	\$ 1,500	\$ -	\$ 1,500
	Venues	\$ 60	\$ 1,490	\$ 300	\$ 1,850
	Website	\$ 76	\$ 306	\$ -	\$ 382
	TOTAL EXPENSES	\$ 9,761	\$ 71,082	\$ 3,400	\$ 84,243
	SURPLUS / (DEFICIT)	\$ (3,936)	\$ 18	\$ -	\$ (3,918)

Report of the Awards Committee

Chair: Judy Hollinger

In keeping with tradition, awards will be announced at the Annual Meeting.

Report of the Nominating Committee

Chair: Laura Blackburn

Committee: Annie Benifield, Sharon Cunningham, Aimee Bertrand, Amy Carl

The Nominations Committee is pleased to present this slate of candidates, nominated to serve as Officers and Directors of the League of Women Voters of the Houston Area. Officers and Directors will be elected by majority vote of the membership at the Annual Meeting on May 15, 2018. Short biographies of the nominees are provided.

Zak Miller

Treasurer (2018-2020)

Aimee Woodall

Vice President Marketing (unexpired term) (2018–2019) Aimee Woodall

This position replaces the Executive Vice President position for a one-year term. The Board of Directors will reevaluate officer roles before 2019 nominations process begins.

Marisol Valero

Vice President Membership Affairs (2018-2020)

Reda Hicks

Vice President Civic Engagement (unexpired term) (2018–2019)

Phillip Yates

Vice President Study and Advocacy (2018-2020)

Liza Alonzo

At Large Director (2018 – 2020)

Marissa Marquez

At Large Director (2018 – 2020)

MaryJane Mudd

At Large Director (2018 – 2020)

Jeff Reichman

At Large Director (2018 – 2020)

Judy Hollinger

At Large Director (unexpired term) (2018 – 2019)

Isabel Longoria

At Large Director (unexpired term) (2018-2019)

Sharon Cunningham

2019 Nominating Committee, Chair

Franny Oxford

2019 Nominating Committee, Member

Nancy Sims

2019 Nominating Committee, Member

These Officers and Directors were elected by the membership at the 2017 Annual Meeting and will return to complete their terms of service:

Linda Cohn, President (2017-2019)

Aimee Bertrand, Secretary (2017-2019)

At Large Directors (2017-2019)

Tom Berg

Amy Carl

Leadership Development Recommendations

This year we anticipate merging our HA(c)(3) and HEF(c)(4) entities, finalizing development of revised Bylaws and taking an in-depth look at our organizational structure and leadership roles which will involve analyzing our officer job descriptions and our leadership development plans – all of this while funding and progressing our Voter Service, Study & Advocacy and Rising Star missions. Even for our stellar slate of Officers and Board members, these are challenging work items! The membership needs to pitch in on tasks and committees to help.

To effectively accomplish this work, the 2018 Nominations Committee recommends that all levels of the organization – Membership, Rising Stars, and the Board actively recruit and then orient and develop their members. We need existing and new committees made up of Board and non-Board Members to assist the Board in effectively accomplishing the work items. Executive Committee oversight of Board orientation and development and committee organization will enhance the effectiveness of these steps.

Though this will be a challenging year, one of the byproducts will be more informed, trained and able team members ready to step up. The 2019 Nominations Committee will assist in assuring we have up-to-date descriptions for our officer positions available for next year's nomination process.

Nominees

Dr. Liza Alonzo has actively served as a member and partner of the League for several years including chairing the Voters Guide in 2016. As a former Rising Star, Liza has helped shape the program in 2017 alongside her co-chairs. Liza is a graduate of the United Way's Project Blueprint program. In addition to the League, she volunteers with the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo Go Tejano committee. Alonzo works in Advancement at the University of Houston-Downtown where she has served in a variety of capacities since 2003. Liza is married with two sons, Liam and Luke and two dogs, Marty and Ollie.

Reda Hicks is Senior Counsel, Americas Region, for Panalpina, Inc., a global shipping and logistics company. She serves as Chair of the board of Leadership Houston, and is a member of the boards of directors of the Texas Lyceum, and Sketch City. Reda is a mother of three and the wife of a retired Army veteran. She serves as the Houston Steering Committee Member of the Texas Veteran Spouse Network and on the Advisory Board of the Military Family Advisory Network.

Judy Hollinger joined the LWV-HA in 1997. She served as Vice President, Membership for 2017-2018. Previously she has served the local league as Voter Editor, Community Relations/Voter Services VP, Repast Chair, President, Membership Chair, and Local Arrangements Chair for 2016 LWV-TX Convention. Judy also served on the LWV-TX Board as Director and MLD (Membership Leadership Development) Coach.

Isabel Longoria currently serves as an Associate State Director of Outreach and Advocacy with AARP Houston. Her previous work experience includes political campaigns and working for elected officials in the Houston area, with a focus on Latino and LGBT community organizing. Outside of AARP, Isabel serves on the Mayor's LGBTQIA Advisory Board, the New Leader's Council Board, the League of Women Voters Rising Star team, and the UT Austin - LBJ School of Public Affairs Alumni Organization. She graduated with a Bachelor's of Sociology from Trinity University (2010) and a Master's in Public Affairs from the University of Texas LBJ School Of Public Affairs (2012).

Marissa Marquez is an attorney, certified mediator, and currently is a Human Resources Business Partner at Legacy Community Health. She is a diversity and inclusion advocate as she is a member of the Texas Diversity Council and of the Houston Bar Association's Gender and Fairness Committee. She is on the BikeHouston board and is a certified licensed cycling instructor through the League of American Bicyclists. Marissa was born and raised in Laredo, Texas and is fluent in Spanish.

Zachary (Zak) Miller is the manager for communications and government affairs at Outreach Strategists where he heads up content creation for a wide variety of clients, from individuals to institutions and corporations. He is also an instructor at Lone Star College where he teaches government, and he serves as President of his HOA. Zak also a member of the board directors for Leadership Houston and, of course, The League of Women Voters.

MaryJane Mudd is an award-winning communicator whose work has positively impacted for-profit organizations such as Shell Oil, ConocoPhillips, Air Liquide America and Dow Chemical as

well as non-profits including the American Red Cross, University of Houston Downtown and the Houston Technology Center. As communications officer for the Red Cross, she led local Public Affairs activities for Hurricane Harvey, representing the organization in approximately 60 television, press and radio interviews, including national interviews with CBS, ABC, NPR, the WSJ and USA Today. MaryJane serves on the Board of Directors of Leadership Houston, the national Tuberous Sclerosis Alliance and the Purdue University Parent & Family Advisory Board; she has previously served as president of the Houston Chapter of the American Marketing Association. MaryJane is the mother of three beautiful young women, including one with special needs. She advocates for those with special needs through creative writing and public speaking.

Jeff Reichman is the founder of data science consulting firm January Advisors and the non-profit Sketch City. He has served as an officer of LWV Houston from 2016-2018 as well as on the budget committee.

Marisol Valero is a Community Developer at BakerRipley, where she oversees the programs and operations of Leonel Castillo Community Center in Houston's Near Northside Community. Previously, she managed the Immigration & Citizenship Program at BakerRipley, where she helped to oversee the program's efforts to provide a variety of legal services to low-income immigrants in the Houston community. Marisol is an At Large Director for the League of Women Voters Houston-Area board. She is a proud graduate of the University of Houston - Main and a Violence Against Women Act survivor.

Aimee Woodall leads The Black Sheep Agency, a cause-driven brand strategy firm that works with impactful companies and organizations to activate communities around things that matter. A tireless advocate for social change and a firm believer in the power of creativity to solve any problem, Aimee focuses her company's efforts solely on impact—serving nonprofits, civic organizations and for-profit companies who prioritize social responsibility and balance purpose with profit. A founding member of The Creative Alliance, her clients include the Obama Administration, The CW Network, NRG, BakerRipley, Avenue360, Harris Health and grassroots causes across the nation.

Phillip J. Yates, MBA, JD is an attorney licensed to practice law in the State of Texas. He is currently working at the Law Office of Yates & Associates, where he focuses on bankruptcy, commercial and civil litigation. Phillip serves on the board of directors for the Loan Star Justice Alliance, 100 Black Men of Houston, and he's a radio host for a community talk radio show on Synergy Radio Network. He has over 7 years of experience of performing advocacy and outreach work through the Houston Area Urban League. Phillip is also proud member of Leadership Houston's Class XXXIII, Houston Lawyers Association, and of course, The League of Women Voters.

**League of Women Voters of the Houston Area
Board of Directors, 2018-2019**

Position	Officer/Director	Term of office
President	Linda Cohn	2017-2019
Secretary	Aimee Bertrand	2017-2019
Treasurer	Zak Miller	2018-2020
Vice President: Membership Affairs	Marisol Valero	2018-2020
Vice President: Civic Engagement	Reda Hicks	2018-2019
Vice President: Study and Advocacy	Phillip Yates	2018-2020
Vice President: Marketing	Aimee Woodall	2018-2019
Director	Isabel Longoria	2018-2019
Director	Judy Hollinger	2018-2019
Director	Tom Berg	2017-2019
Director	Amy Carl	2017-2019
Director	Jeff Reichman	2018-2020
Director	MaryJane Mudd	2018-2020
Director	Marissa Marquez	2018-2020
Director	Liza Alonzo	2018-2020
Nominating Committee: Chair	Sharon Cunningham	2018-2019
Nominating Committee: Member	Franny Oxford	2018-2019
Nominating Committee: Member	Nancy Sims	2018-2019
Nominating Committee: Member	Board Member (TBD)	2018-2019
Nominating Committee: Member	Board Member (TBD)	2018-2019

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS
OF THE HOUSTON AREA

We're making democracy work.



2018

AMERICAN REPAST | John Ross Palmer

An original work by John Ross Palmer, created to celebrate the League of Women Voters of Houston Education Fund as Mr. Palmer's Charity of the Year for 2014. "American Repast" shows the League and American colors of red, white and blue in a contemporary and symbolically appropriate fashion. Although these colors can become polarized by politics, they do co-exist, blend together and work together to form a piece of beauty.

