



100th Annual Meeting

League of Women Voters of Houston
2020 Report to the Membership and Workbook



The League of Women Voters of Houston is a nonpartisan organization that believes in the power of every person to create a more perfect democracy. Together, we support the desire, right and knowledge for all to participate and be heard.

**Empowering voters.
Defending democracy.**
lwwhouston.org



100TH ANNUAL MEETING

League of Women Voters of Houston

Monday: May 18, 2020

6:00 pm–7:00 pm

To ensure the safety and good health of our members and guests, and in compliance with present government regulations guiding public assemblies, this Annual Meeting will be conducted entirely via the Zoom electronic platform.

Part I. Organization

- Order of Business
- Minutes of the Previous Annual Meeting (June 3, 2019)
- Proposed Rules for the Annual Meeting

Part II. Reports Presented for Information

- Report of the President
- Reports on Special Projects
- Report of the Treasurer
- Reports of the Vice Presidents and Their Committees

Part III. Reports Presented for Deliberation and Determination

- Local Programming (issues: study and advocacy), 2020-2021
- Report of the Budget Committee, Fiscal Year 2020-2021
- Report of the Awards Committee
- Report of the Nominating Committee

A quorum of 19 members will enable us to conduct business at this Annual Meeting.

Order of Business

Call to Order

MaryJane Mudd

Organization

MaryJane Mudd

Appointment of Parliamentarian
Appointment of Timekeeper
Appointment of Committee to Approve Minutes
Adoption of Order of Business
Adoption of Rules

About Our Organization

MaryJane Mudd

The Year in Review: Empowering Voters, Defending Democracy

Treasurer's Report

Zak Miller

Report of the Budget Committee

Katie Campbell

Adoption of the Budget, 2020-2021

Local Issues: A Program for Study and Action

Phillip Yates

Adoption of Program, 2020-2021

Forward View: Marketing

Aimee Woodall

Forward View: Volunteer Engagement

Liza Alonzo

Awards and Appreciations

MaryJane Mudd

Report of the Awards Committee

Report of the Nominating Committee

MaryJane Mudd

Election of Officers and Directors

Concluding Remarks, Adjourn

MaryJane Mudd

Minutes of the 99th Annual Meeting

June 3, 2019

Call to Order

President Linda Cohn called the meeting to order at 5:45 pm.

Speaker

Douglas Ray of the Harris County Attorney's Office spoke to the attendees regarding the history and current state of voting in Harris County.

Organization

Liza Alonzo was appointed Parliamentarian.

Jackie Alfred was appointed timekeeper.

Isabel Longoria moved to adopt minutes. Tom Berg seconded. The motion was approved by acclamation.

Isabel Longoria moved to follow the order of business and adopt rules as outlined in meeting packet. Tom Berg seconded.

All motions were approved by acclamation.

About Our Organization

President Linda Cohn discussed the future of the organization, including the restructuring of the organizations (LWV Houston and Education Fund) from two to a consolidated organization. New board responsibilities and a continued relationship with Manifest Creative were described. The new Code of Conduct adopted by the Board was previewed by President Cohn.

Katie Laird from The Black Sheep Agency gave a presentation on the rebranding effort for the League.

President Cohn reviewed the year's activities.

Local Issues: A Program for Study and Action

Vice President Phillip Yates presented the report of the Committee for Study and Advocacy.

The board of directors recommended this course for the 2019 -2020 League year:

1. Our Election Cybersecurity study, begun in 2017, will be concluded with a report at this Annual Meeting.
2. A proposed Environmental Study with special reference to coastal issues, first activated in 2017, will become dormant. We will continue our environmental advocacy work as appropriate, as our current state and local positions direct.
3. Review existing local positions and recommend updates as needed. (amended language by Jackie Alfred) Motion was assumed.

Discussion:

A member of the audience asked about the election cybersecurity study.

Jeff Reichman noted that when we began reviewing election cybersecurity two years ago, we were the first league to investigate this. We put together items for the state league to review. The state league has since created points related to this (available on the state League website), including: paper records for voting machines, post election audits by the state, state of the art security protection including disaster recovery drills should be adopted, etc.

A resolution to adopt the report of the Committee on Study and Advocacy was assumed by the President and adopted by acclamation.

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Zak Miller gave an informal report on the state of the League's finances, noting the \$43,000 net income from the Repast event. A more formal presentation of the organization's fund balances will be given at the next board meeting, when funds from Repast are reconciled.

Report of the Budget Committee

Katie Campbell gave the report of the Budget committee. She noted that given the costs still coming in related to Repast, the current budget is still unreconciled.

She then walked through the budget, piece by piece.

Three options relative to the Voters Guide were presented to the attendees. The attendees were more supportive of Option 1 than others.

Isabel Longoria moved to call the question:

Adoption of the Budget contingent upon ability to raise funds to meet needs of Option 1 for Voters guide.

The motion was approved by acclamation, but a few dissenting votes were made.

Awards and Appreciations

Jeff Reichman presented the report of the Awards Committee.

Julia Retta and Annie Pope were presented an Outstanding Achievement Award for their work on the Women's Equality Day event.

Amber Burton Alfred and MaryJane Mudd were presented an Outstanding Achievement Award for their work on the Repast event.

Zak Miller was presented an Outstanding Achievement Award for his innovation and work as Treasurer.

Reda Hicks was presented an Outstanding Achievement Award for her work on the KTRK voters' help line.

Aimee Woodall was presented an Outstanding Achievement Award for her work on the rebranding of the LWV Houston.

Sharon Cunningham was presented an Outstanding Achievement Award for her invigoration of the Nominations Committee.

The Sam Keeper Award for Voters services was presented to Isabel Longoria for her work on the Voters' Guide.

The Helen Hunter Award was presented to Annie Benifield for her commitment to the League.

President's Remarks

Linda Cohn gave brief remarks of gratitude for her time as president and membership in the organization.

Report of the Nominating Committee

Sharon Cunningham gave the report of the Nominations Committee, as follows:

President (2019-2021) – MaryJane Mudd

Secretary (2019-2021) – Marissa Marquez

Vice President for Marketing (2019-2021) – Aimee Woodall

Vice President for Voter Services (2019-2021) – Annie Benifield

Director At Large (2019-2020 completing an unexpired term) – Tom Berg

Director At Large (2019-2020 completing an unexpired term) – Amy Carl

Director At Large (2019-2021) – Amber Burton Alfred

Director At Large (2019-2021) – Renee Cross

Director At Large (2019-2021) – Tiko Reynolds-Hausman

Director At Large (2019-2021) – Courtenay Siegfried

Nominating Committee Chair (2019-2020) – Franny Oxford

Nominating Committee Member (2019-2020) – Aimee Bertrand

Nominating Committee Member (2019-2020) – Nancy Sims

The report of the nomination committee was accepted by acclamation.

Call for Recommendations to the Board

Newly-elected President, MaryJane Mudd, asked for recommendations for the upcoming year. Leslie Taylor requested training for officers and directors about way League works, program, roles of vice presidents.

Nancy Parra recommended representation from Houston at future state and national conventions.

Randall Baxley asked about possibility of online voting for League-related business.

An unidentified volunteer registrar asked if there is an easier way to register voters, possibly via collection sites. She also requested a multi-lingual informational piece for voters.

Laura Blackburn requested that members be given the opportunity to self identify interest in volunteer opportunities.

Jackie Alfred asked that as we develop the new website that we load a video in each of 4 languages that we translate the Voters Guide to, about how to use voting machines.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:12 pm by MaryJane Mudd.

- *Reported by Aimee Bertrand, Secretary*
- *Reviewed and Approved by Michelle Levi McDaniel and Michelle Shabani-Ritchel*

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

Nineteen members must be present to conduct business at this meeting. This number represents the required eight percent of active members as of January 31, 2020.

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.

Bylaws

Bylaws may be amended by a two-thirds vote of members present and voting.

Annual Dues

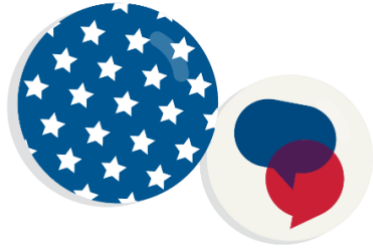
Any change to annual dues is determined by a three-fifths vote of those present and voting.

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

MaryJane Mudd

It is my honor to present the 2019-2020 Annual Report of the League of Women Voters of Houston. It's been an incomparable time—a Centennial year that started with an important election and concluded with a global pandemic. Through it all, I have been humbled more than once to meet League members, partners and friends who are uncompromisingly dedicated to ensuring the League remains a steady, nonpartisan force for democracy.

Early in the year, our Board of Directors and Committee Chairs held a full-day retreat to determine how we could build from the solid foundation created by those before us. It was determined that a drill-down on our value proposition would help us better communicate to new members, while developing a strategic volunteer program would allow us to provide members with opportunities to participate in the democratic process. Both initiatives were launched and are under way.

In the meantime, we remained steadfast in our dedication to Voter Services. Our nonpartisan Voters Guide was produced for the November 2019 General Election in English, Chinese, Spanish and Vietnamese—the only League in the state to do so. And for the first time, voters could link directly to their personal ballot via Vote411.org from the newly designed Voters Guide page on our website. The Voters Guide was also offered in English for the March 2020 Primary Election.

Our dedicated League volunteers provided on-the-spot voter registration service at all Houston area Naturalization Ceremonies, welcoming 23,889 new Americans to the electorate within minutes of their citizenship oath. This number represents an 85% rate of response among those newly eligible. New citizens came from more than 100 countries for each ceremony. These activities only scrape the surface of the work of our Voter Services team, and I hope you will read the full briefing later in this report.

In October 2019, our Study & Advocacy Committee partnered with the League of Women Voters of Texas, Texas Southern University, the Houston Area Urban League and Texas Civil Rights Project to facilitate a townhall meeting on Census 2020 and Redistricting. This program was aimed at mobilizing and training our community for the Texas Legislature's public input hearings for the 2021 Redistricting. It offered opportunities for community members to participate in government by improving the redistricting process and aiding the Legislature with information about a region's unique geographic and demographic characteristics from those residents most familiar with their own neighborhoods.

Our Rising Stars Program continued with an outstanding group of people who are enthusiastic about public service and democracy. In September 2019, the 2018 class concluded with the celebration of Women's Equality Day at a League-organized event attended by leaders across the city, and the 2020 Class organized their own fete for the holidays, raising \$1,000 in ticket sales.

Voter empowerment starts with a steady flow of nonpartisan information. Beyond our outstanding Voters Guide, League volunteers hosted a Mayoral Debate in November 2019 with partners KPRC-2, the Houston Chronicle and Telemundo Houston. About 450 people attended the event at Houston Baptist University while the networks streamed to their own audiences. Our phone banks also offered essential assistance on election days in November 2019 and March 2020, with 80 volunteers answering about 800 calls in English and Spanish in 2019 and 65 volunteers answering 700 calls in English and Spanish in March.

We have been more proactive with media than ever, with leaders pursuing or accepting interviews underpinning the mission of the League, and nonpartisan "Conversations With the Candidates" being taped live on Houston Media Source and pushed out through various social media channels. More than 40 Conversations programs were taped during the past year, with interviews of nearly all candidates in local races, as well as subject matter experts in a variety of relevant fields of interest.

Finally, we embarked upon a major rebranding effort that refreshed our look significantly across multiple platforms. This was no small task, as our Board member's marketing agency contributed more than 1,000 hours of time, *pro bono*, to ensure not only a visually stunning brand but one that was founded on strategic thinking around future growth.

Financially, the League has done an outstanding job of maintaining fiscal discipline in the 2019-2020 year. Going forward we will need to strengthen fundraising activities and development that support our work and mission. With the loss of revenue from event-based fundraising due to COVID-19, including our luncheon dedicated to the 100 Year Centennial, it will be necessary to explore new avenues for funding and consider ways to manage and conserve remaining funds. To support this, we have created and filled the role of Vice President of Development on our Board of Directors.

These are merely highlights, and highlights cannot adequately represent what goes into supporting a steady democracy. Highlights can't help us visualize longtime League members who get up at 5 a.m. and drive to M.O. Campbell Education Center to register thousands of new citizens. They can't help us see rows of people at a TV studio on Election Day, answering hundreds of calls and patiently, gently offering nonpartisan guidance to those who need it. They surely can't put us in the shoes of the teams of volunteers who pull off the Voters Guide, from questionnaire, to candidate follow-up, to recording of the candidate's own words into the booklet, to designing, then printing and distribution, and uploading it to an online resource – in four languages.

I hope you will read this Annual Report with the enthusiasm and interest of those who do this work, and if you are one of them, I thank you with absolute sincerity. We have a lot before us this year but with all of us working together, we'll get it done. Onward!

Best regards,
MaryJane Mudd

Reports on Special Projects

Defining Our Value Proposition for Members and Volunteers

Chair: Courtenay Siegfried

In 2019, the Board recognized the need to clearly define and communicate the League's value proposition for members and volunteers and prioritized a messaging workshop at the August Board Retreat. At that retreat, three primary objectives emerged: 1). To increase income from membership fees; 2). Increase the number of actively engaged members, especially among younger audiences to foster the next generation of civically engaged Houstonians; 3). Increase general awareness of LWV-Houston's important mission and activities.

LWV-Houston membership has many benefits to the individual, and three distinct messages rose to the top:

- Members of LWV-Houston are vital to supporting the desire, right, and knowledge for all people to be heard and participate in a more perfect democracy.
- Members of LWV-Houston take an active role in helping their community connect with political and civic leaders who can amplify their voices.
- Members of LWV-Houston gain access to working committees, democracy and policy educational events, meet the candidate forums, and other benefits.

The updated messaging was integrated into League messaging soon-after, including on the Membership page of the website and at public events.

Rising Stars Program

Chairs: Michelle Shabani-Ritchel, Tim Lankford

The 2019 Rising Stars class concluded in September 2019 with the celebration of Women's Equality Day. Then Rising Star, and current Board member, Michelle Levi McDaniel led the committee which organized this event. To conclude the event, Michelle was awarded the 2nd Sarah Schimmer Award, for her excellence as a Rising Star.

The 2020 class of Rising Stars was selected in the fall of 2019. As in past years, our search for interested applicants was sent out to the general membership via our website and newsletter, as well as to our former Rising Stars. Several of our chosen candidates came recommended by former Rising Stars, as well as members of the LWV Houston Board. As our program continues, we will continue to reach out to these sources, as well as grow our use of social media to find qualified candidates from outside of our usual sources.

The current class of Rising Stars was chosen because of their enthusiasm for community involvement, their knowledge of issues relevant to many different communities within Houston, and their high level of participation in public service. Their applications were reviewed by Michelle Shabani-Ritchel, as well as Tim Lankford; a former Rising Star, and newest Co-Chair of the Rising Stars program.

Official List 2019/2020 Rising Stars

Andrea Elizondo	Clarence Francis	Gareth Morgans	Jessica Wiggins
Jon Garcia	Justin Washington	Mark Solano	Mary Davis
Sophie Moll	Paige Powell	Paula Santamaria	Rocio Rubio
Stephanie Gomez	Taiya Youngs	Victoria Lara	Will Janowski

After orientation, the Rising Stars were tasked with organizing the 2nd Annual Rising Stars Holiday Party. Our Rising Stars set their own goal of making at least \$1000 in ticket sales, a goal they successfully achieved and beat. Building on the success of the first event, this year our informal fundraising event grew its net proceeds by over 30%! This event will continue to be a part of the Rising Stars program, with each class putting its own spin on the event.

Our program consists of monthly leadership development workshops which focus on the fundamentals of the LWV, and they are encouraged to join the various committees which make up the leadership of the LWV Houston. To date they have worked on the 2020 Primary Voters Guide, the Centennial Committee, and more.

Unfortunately, as daily life was disturbed by the growing threat of COVID-19, so was the Rising Stars program. After our February session on the Voters Guide, our monthly meetings were suspended for the safety of all involved. We will re-evaluate this as the situation evolves, always erring on the side of caution. Our Rising Stars are being kept abreast of the League's activities, and are being asked to keep participating in all League activities when possible. We look forward to resuming the program when we can be sure that we are proceeding in a way which is safe, and still offers value to the participants.

Women's Equality Day

Our Journey...Women's Equality

Chair: Michelle M. McDaniel

September 9, 2019 - Booked Design House

Guest Speaker Nancy Sims

Women's Equality Greetings & Welcome Mayor Sylvester Turner

The League of Women Voters hosted our annual Women's Equality Day in celebration of the journey of women's rights and voting. This year's host committee welcomed and catered to over 150 guests at the Booked Design House. Our President Mary Jane Mudd welcomed our elected officials and Michelle Shabani, Rising Star Chair awarded Michelle M McDaniel our Rising Star of the Year. We appreciate our Equality sponsors for their support and attendance:

Booked Design House
Elite Image Tax & Notary Service LLC
Hawes Hill & Associates, Official Sponsor
House of Couture Houston
J Warfield Enterprises
Nuksy's Fine Catering

Centennial Programming

Chair: Tiko Reynolds-Hausman

The year 2020 marks 100 years since the 19th amendment gave women the right to vote. In celebration, LWV has collaborated with The Heritage Society, Houston Public Library and University of Houston Women's Studies to honor and celebrate the women of the movement, past, present and future.

The Heritage Society (THS) is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization whose mission is to tell the stories of the diverse history of Houston and Texas through collections, exhibits, educational programs, film, video, and other content. THS has curated an exhibit that will pay homage to the pioneers of the suffrage movement. The exhibit will run throughout the year. Additionally, there will be a monthly lecture series that will highlight Houston's efforts in the movement.

In partnership with the Houston Public Library and the University of Houston, The Suffrage Centennial Book Club will feature a monthly book selection and complimentary film to highlight diversity within the movement throughout the year. The book club will also feature a Meet the Author event to encourage discussion. The book club reminds us of the original intent as we explore the motivations and aspirations of early suffragists and the women in politics that have largely remained hidden figures for much of the one-hundred years since women got the vote.

The LWV will continue to collaborate through-out the year with other local organizations who will be honoring the Suffrage movement.

Volunteer Engagement

Chair: Liza Alonzo

Committee: Annie Benifield, Tiko Hausman, Mika Rao Kalapatapu, Marissa Marquez, MaryJane Mudd, Claudia Ortega-Hogue, Franny Oxford

Charge: Inventory, evaluate and recommend a structure to expand, organize and employ volunteer efforts for the League.

Timeline:

- Liza Alonzo and Mary Jane Mudd met via phone on Nov 4, 2019, to discuss project, scope, timeline and set first meeting date for the committee.
- Liza Alonzo and Joyce LeBombard met via phone on Nov. 8, 2019, at Mary Jane Mudd's recommendation to learn what the Austin chapter was doing with regard for volunteer efforts.
- The first Volunteer Engagement committee meeting was held on Saturday, Nov. 23, 2019, with Annie Benfield, Liza Alonzo, Mary Jane Mudd and Tiko Hausman present.
- Liza Alonzo presented update and committee progress at the Board Retreat held on Jan. 26, 2020.

Meeting Efforts:

- Overview and inventory of board membership & roles;
- Discussion of LWV Houston functional areas to assess gaps and opportunities;
- Charting of functional areas within current leadership to assess gaps and opportunities;
- Organizational chart drafted for board review and discussion at board retreat
- The second Volunteer Engagement committee meeting was held on Saturday, March 7, 2020, with Liza Alonzo, Claudia Ortega-Hogue, Tiko Hausman, Mika Rao Kalapatapu, Marissa Marquez, Mary Jane Mudd, and Franny Oxford.

Meeting Efforts:

- Creation of new job descriptions
- At-Larger Directors assignment recommendations made
- Newly drafted job descriptions were collected, compiled, and sent to the board for review and feedback on April 1, 2020.
- Liza Alonzo met with Franny Oxford via phone on Saturday, April 18, 2020 for conversation on organizational chart and nominations for FY2020 in preparation for the annual meeting.

Resources:

[Link to Organizational Chart](#)

[Link to Job Descriptions](#)

HMS-TV Telecasts

Public Affairs, Public Access Program, 2019-2020

Chair: Gene Preuss

February

Education. The guests, Juliet Stipeche, Director of the Houston Mayor Sylvester Turner's Office of Education; Lawrence A. Allen, Jr, a current member of the State Board of Education and Director of Special Projects for HISD; and former State Board of Education chair Thomas Ratliff, all have tremendous experience in public education at the local and state level. Their perspectives on funding and curriculum brought a wealth of experience to the program.

<https://youtu.be/EvflgXZeCLI>

March

Voter Registration Purge & International Women's Day. The first segment focused on the state's efforts to remove almost 100,000 people from the Texas voter rolls who were believed to be ineligible. Dr. Deborah Liles, PhD, a resident of North Texas whose registration status was in question; and Special Assistant County Attorney. Douglass Ray were the guests. The second part of the show was devoted to International Women's Day events planned in the Houston area. Our guests Dan Stoecker and Noël Bezette-Flores of United Nations Association Houston told the panel about the upcoming festivities. Our guest hosts were attorney Graciela "Graci" Saenz, Dr. David Branham, UHD Professor of Political Science and UHD Honors Program student Jocelyne Torres. https://youtu.be/b_WeBZ7bjpg

April

Women's Health & Prejudice, Bigotry, And Hate Crimes. Guest Evelyn Delgado, President of Healthy Futures Texas & Chair of the Texas Women's Healthcare Coalition. For the second part of the program we discussed **prejudice, bigotry, and hate crimes** with Dr. Thomas E. Ford, professor of Social Psychology at Western Carolina University. Phillip Yates, Vice President for Study and Advocacy, League of Women Voters Houston Area; Dr. Heather Goltz, UHD Associate Professor of Social Work; and, Dr. Mari Nicholson, UHD Director of University Honors Program co-hosted the conversation. <https://youtu.be/lwT8Hrm5yrl>

May

Domestic Violence in Houston and New Voting Rules. Dr. Christina Hughes, Assistant Professor of Political Science, and Archie Gayle, University of Houston-Downtown Honors Student co-hosted the discussion with our two guests, Maisha Colter of Aid to Victims of Domestic Abuse, and Roxanne Werner of the Harris County Clerk's Office. For the first half of the program, the panel talked about the very serious problem of Domestic Violence in Houston. For the second half of the program, the panel discussed a new way of voting at any open polling location on election day, and not just in your precinct, and other information about voting in Harris County <https://youtu.be/SbC8JAutRBI>

June

19th Amendment History in Texas and LGGTQ Student Issues. Co-host Archie Gayle, University of Houston-Downtown Honors Student, and I discussed an upcoming exhibit **“Women’s Power, Women’s Vote”** at the Texas State Library and Archives in Austin with Susan Floyd, Maggie Nunez, UHD alumna and member of Out for Education, discusses life as a **LBGTQ college student**. In the second segment of the program, UHD’s Dr. Alexander Bielakowski, an assistant professor of history and Richard Selvera, Director of Veterans Services explained **veterans’s issues in higher education**.

July

There was no show due to the national holiday.

August

Police Relations in Houston. The guests, Houston Police Department Assistant Executive Chief Troy Finner, HISD Chief Paul Cardova, and UHD Community Relations Officer Lt. Fred Varala discussed with co-host, UHD Honors Student Ali Reyes how educational and city police departments work to keep the community safe.

September

The September program was exchanged with a *Conversations with the Candidates* show.

October

Redistricting in Texas with guests LVW Texas’ Stephanie Swanson,, Joaquin Gonzalez of the Texas Civil Rights Project, political scientist David Branham, and student Kimberly Guidon. The guests discussed the importance of the upcoming 2020 US Census and ideas for the resulting redistricting to serve various communities.

November

Community Service And Engagement In Higher Education. Guest William V. Flores, discussed his new book *Democracy, Civic Engagement, and Citizenship in Higher Education*, and political scientist Christina Hughes and LVW volunteer Taiya Youngs discussed ways young people can become active citizens.

December

2019 League of Women Voters of Houston Recap. A Lookback at LWV Houston activities and highlights in 2019. Guests were LVW Houston president MaryJane Mudd, Vice President for Voter Affairs Annie Johnson Benefield, and Rising Star Taiya Youngs.

January

100th Anniversary of The Ratification of The 19th Amendment And Women’s History. Guests were historian Rachel Gunter of Collin College in Plano, TX, and Angela Boswell, Dean of Arts & Sciences Henderson State University in Arkansas author of *Women in Texas History*.

February

The show was a rerun due to a scheduling conflict with the Houston MediaSource personnel.

March

2020 Harris County Primary Elections. A review of the primary election results for the area, state, and nation with political scientists William V. Flores and David Branham.

Conversations with Candidates, 2019

Houston City Council Elections

Thursday, August 29, 6:30–7: 30pm, Council Member, District A

Moderator: Gene Preuss

Volunteers: Christian Tijerina, Ali Ramirez, Jeffrey Cabrera

Candidates: Marina Coryat, Lois Myers, Mehdi Cherkaoui, Amy Peck, and Iesheia Wilson.

Video Link: https://youtu.be/7P4t1_3aAZ0

Thursday, August 29, 8–9pm, Council Member, District B

Moderator: Gene Preuss

Volunteers: Christian Tijerina, Ali Ramirez, Jeffrey Cabrera

Candidates: Broderick Butler, Karisma Gillam, Alvin Byrd, Tarsha Jackson, Karen Kossie-Chernyshev, Alyson Quintana, Huey German-Wilson, and Robin Anderson.

Video Link: https://youtu.be/XxUcp86e_JQ

Friday, August 30, 6:30–7: 30pm, Council Member, District C

Moderator: Gene Preuss

Volunteers: Taiya Youngs, Brandt Wild, Khoa “Kevin” Nguyen

Candidates: Sean Marshall, Candelario Cervantes, Shelley Kennedy, Michelle Ganz, Greg Meyers, Rodney Hill, Bob Nowak, Gladys House, Daphne Scarbrough, Abbie Kamin, Mary Jane Smith, and Felix Cisneros.

Video Link: <https://youtu.be/GEw3hlaNWNs>

Friday, August 30, 8–9pm, Council Member, District D

Moderator: Gene Preuss

Volunteers: Taiya Youngs, Brandt Wild, Khoa “Kevin” Nguyen

Candidates: Anthony Allen, Travis McGee, Dontrell Montgomery, Rashad Cave, Ken Moore, Marlon Christian, Carolyn Evans-Shabazz, Andrew Burks, Jr., Dennis Griffin, Nissi Hamilton, and Carla Brailey.

Video Link: <https://youtu.be/6AISCJlhra0>

Thursday, September 5, 6:30–7: 30pm, CONTROLLER

Moderator: Amy Carl

Candidates: Chris Brown and Orlando Sanchez

Thursday, September 5, 8 – 9pm, MAYOR

Moderator: Tim Lankford

Volunteers: Taiya Youngs

Candidates: Kendall Baker, Dwight A. Boykins, Derrick Broze, Tony Buzbee, Naoufal Houjami, Bill King, Sue Lovell, Demetria Smith, and Roy J. Vasquez

Video Link: <https://youtu.be/3x1HrwhBhwE>

Friday, September 6, 6:30–7: 30pm, Council Member, District E

No one responded to invitations

Friday, September 6, 8–9pm, Council Member, District F

Moderator: Michelle Levi McDaniel

Volunteers: Taiya Youngs, Brandt Wild

Candidates: John Nguyen and Tiffany Thomas

Video Link: <https://youtu.be/ycl1HjFEN34>

Thursday, September 12, 6:30–7: 30pm, Council Member, At-Large Position 5

Moderator: Amy Carl

Candidates: Sallie Alcorn, Catherine Garcia Flowers, Eric Dick, Marvin McNeese, Jr., and Sonia Rivera

Video Link: <https://youtu.be/6pro6zlOMLk>

Thursday, September 12, 8–9pm, Council Member, District G

Moderator: Tim Lankford

Volunteers: Taiya Youngs

Candidates: Crystal Pletka and Greg Travis

Video Link: <https://youtu.be/mjISvCZQJ68>

Friday, September 13, 6:30–7:30pm, Council Member, At-Large Position 4

Moderator: Gene Preuss

Volunteers: Taiya Youngs, Brandt Wild

Candidates: Bill Baldwin, Tiko Reynolds-Hausman, Anthony Dolcefino, Letitia Plummer, Nick Hellyar, James “Joe” Joseph, Jason Rowe, and Ericka McCrutchon.

Video Link: <https://youtu.be/nrl2AStqaKM>

Friday, September 13, 8–9pm, Council Member, At-Large Position 3

Moderator: Gene Preuss

Volunteers: Taiya Youngs, Brandt Wild, Jessica Torres

Candidates: Marcel McClinton, Michael Kubosh, and Janaeya Carmouche

Video Link: <https://youtu.be/Zb4a4Q6O5es>

Thursday, September 19, 6:30–7:30pm, Council Member, District H
Rescheduled to October 11 due to Tropical Depression Imelda

Thursday, September 19, 8–9pm, Council Member, At-Large Position 2
Rescheduled to October 11 due to Tropical Depression Imelda

Friday, September 20, 6:30–7:30pm, Council Member, District I

Moderator: Gene Preuss

Volunteers: Taiya Youngs, Jessica Torres

Candidates: Robert Gallegos

Video Link: <https://youtu.be/5BxAtGKvkFE>

Friday, September 20, 8–9pm, Council Member, At-Large Position 1

Moderator: Gene Preuss

Volunteers: Taiya Youngs, Brandt Wild, Jessica Torres

Candidates: Raj Salhotra & Larry Blackmon

Video Link: <https://youtu.be/tSB6qy594jc>

Friday, September 27, 6:30–7:30pm, Council Member, District J

Moderator: Gene Preuss

Candidates:

Friday, September 27, 8–9pm, Council Member, District K

Moderator: Gene Preuss

Candidates: Kim Sauke

October 4, Texas House District 148 Special Election

Moderator: Gene Preuss

Candidates: Adrian Garcia, Rob Block, Carol Denson, Terah Isaacson, Michele Leal, Mia Mundy, Penny Morales Shaw, Chris Watt, Anna Eastman, Chris Carmona,

Friday, October 11, 6:30–7:30pm, Council Member, District H

Moderator: Tim Lankford

Candidates: Karla Cisneros and Isabel Longoria

Friday, October 11, 8–9pm, Council Member, At-Large Position 2

Moderator: Annie Johnson Benifield

Candidates: Willie R. Davis and M. “Griff” Griffin

Conversations with Candidates, 2020

Houston City Council Elections 2020

Wednesday, February 12

6:30 – 7:30 Harris County Commissioner Pct. 3 – Democratic Candidates

Moderator: Tim Lankford

Candidates: Michael Moore, Morris Overstreet, Diana Martinez Alexander

8 – 8:30 Harris County Commissioner Pct. 3 – Republican Candidates

Moderator: MaryJane Mudd

Candidate: Tom Ramsey

Wednesday, February 19

6:30 – 7:30 Harris County Sheriff, County Attorney & Tax Assessor – Republican Candidates.

Moderator: Gene Preuss

Candidates: Paul Day & Chris Daniel

8 – 8:30 Harris County Sheriff – Democratic Candidates

Moderator: Gene Preuss

Candidate: Ed Gonzalez

Wednesday, February 26

6:30 – 7:30 Harris County Attorney & Tax Assessor -Democratic Candidates

Moderator: Gene Preuss

Candidates: Christian Dashaun Menefee and Ben Rose

8 – 8:30 Harris County Commissioner Pct. 1 – Democratic Candidates

Moderator: Jessica Wiggins

Candidate: Rodney Ellis



REPORT OF THE TREASURER

Zak Miller

The League of Women Voters of Houston and the Houston Education Fund (hereafter the League) remain in good financial standing.

League of Women Voters of Houston

Balance Sheet

As of April 20, 2020

	<u>Apr 20, 20</u>
ASSETS	
Current Assets	
Checking/Savings	
BOA Checking	<u>31,259.64</u>
Total Checking/Savings	<u>31,259.64</u>
Accounts Receivable	
Accounts Receivable	<u>135.34</u>
Total Accounts Receivable	<u>135.34</u>
Other Current Assets	
Undeposited Funds	<u>315.00</u>
Total Other Current Assets	<u>315.00</u>
Total Current Assets	<u>31,709.98</u>
TOTAL ASSETS	<u><u>31,709.98</u></u>
LIABILITIES & EQUITY	
Equity	
Unrestricted Net Assets	<u>33,902.11</u>
Net Income	<u>-2,192.13</u>
Total Equity	<u>31,709.98</u>
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	<u><u>31,709.98</u></u>

League of Women Voters of Houston

Profit & Loss by Class

June 1, 2019 through April 20, 2020

	Overhead	Fundraising	Membership (Programs)	General (Programs)	Total Programs	TOTAL
Income						
Contributions	0.00	8,515.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	8,515.00
Membership Dues	0.00	0.00	13,585.00	0.00	13,585.00	13,585.00
Total Income	0.00	8,515.00	13,585.00	0.00	13,585.00	22,100.00
Cost of Goods Sold						
Less LWV-T PMP	0.00	0.00	6,534.00	0.00	6,534.00	6,534.00
Less LWV-US PMP	0.00	0.00	9,504.00	0.00	9,504.00	9,504.00
Total COGS	0.00	0.00	16,038.00	0.00	16,038.00	16,038.00
Gross Profit	0.00	8,515.00	-2,453.00	0.00	-2,453.00	6,062.00
Expense						
Association Management	4,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	4,000.00
CC Processing Fees	0.00	0.00	780.46	0.00	780.46	780.46
Office Supplies	122.97	97.19	0.00	0.00	0.00	220.16
Postage/Delivery	0.00	0.00	692.92	0.00	692.92	692.92
Professional Services	2,206.50	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2,206.50
Storage	254.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	254.00
Telephone/Internet	90.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	90.00
Transportation						
Mileage	10.09	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	10.09
Total Transportation	10.09	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	10.09
Total Expense	6,683.56	97.19	1,473.38	0.00	1,473.38	8,254.13
Net Income	-6,683.56	8,417.81	-3,926.38	0.00	-3,926.38	-2,192.13

League of Women Voters of Houston Education Fund

Balance Sheet As of April 20, 2020

	Apr 20, 20
ASSETS	
Current Assets	
Checking/Savings	
BOA Checking	93,222.56
Total Checking/Savings	93,222.56
Accounts Receivable	
Accounts Receivable	2,467.69
Shared Expenses Owed by LWVHA	279.40
Total Accounts Receivable	2,747.09
Other Current Assets	
Undeposited Funds	418.03
Total Other Current Assets	418.03
Total Current Assets	96,387.68
Other Assets	
Pre-paid Insurance	106.10
Total Other Assets	106.10
TOTAL ASSETS	96,493.78
LIABILITIES & EQUITY	
Liabilities	
Current Liabilities	
Accounts Payable	
Accounts Payable	7,600.00
Total Accounts Payable	7,600.00
Total Current Liabilities	7,600.00
Total Liabilities	7,600.00
Equity	
Perm. Restricted Endowment	23,280.00
Temp. Restricted Net Assets	2,660.00
Unrestricted Net Assets	82,566.69
Net	
Income	#####
Total Equity	88,893.78
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	96,493.78

League of Women Voters of Houston Education Fund														
Profit & Loss by Class														
June 1, 2019 through April 20, 2020														
	Rising Stars	Voters Guide	Voter Registration	Other Voter Service	Website	Study/Advocacy	Total Programs	WED	Repast	General	Total Fundraising	Overhead	TOTAL	Endowment
	(Programs)	(Programs)	(Programs)	(Programs)	Programs	(Programs)		Fundraising	Fundraising	Fundraising	Fundraising			
Income														
Contributions	0.00	6,953.20	3,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	9,953.20	55.00	0.00	27,479.04	27,534.04	-135.34	37,351.90	17,000.00
Event Income	1,147.04	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,147.04	2,177.12	320.00	0.00	2,497.12	0.00	3,644.16	0.00
Total Income	1,147.04	6,953.20	3,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	11,100.24	2,232.12	320.00	27,479.04	30,031.16	-135.34	40,996.06	17,000.00
Expense														
Association Management	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	16,000.00	16,000.00	0.00
CC processing fees	188.21	72.38	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	260.59	231.73	753.06	88.18	1,072.97	0.00	1,333.56	0.00
Food/Beverage	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	282.85	0.00	0.00	282.85	0.00	282.85	0.00
Insurance	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,189.49	1,189.49	0.00
Marketing/Advertising	0.00	0.00	0.00	340.00	738.71	59.95	1,138.66	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,138.66	0.00
Office Supplies	0.00	0.00	524.16	0.00	0.00	0.00	524.16	0.00	0.00	67.31	67.31	1,315.86	1,907.33	0.00
Postage/Delivery	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	229.40	229.40	0.00
Printing/Copying	0.00	26,088.00	989.55	0.00	0.00	0.00	27,077.55	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	27,077.55	0.00
Professional Services	0.00	24,657.65	-1,500.00	0.00	0.00	250.00	23,407.65	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2,476.00	25,883.65	0.00
Storage	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	864.60	864.60	0.00
Telephone/Internet	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	360.00	360.00	0.00
Transportation	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	11.83	0.00	11.83	0.00	11.83	0.00
Mileage	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	16.24	0.00	0.00	16.24	0.00	16.24	0.00
Venues	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	237.50	0.00	0.00	237.50	0.00	237.50	0.00
Website	0.00	800.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	800.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	276.31	1,076.31	0.00
Total Expense	188.21	51,618.03	13.71	340.00	738.71	309.95	53,208.61	768.32	764.89	155.49	1,688.70	22,711.66	77,608.97	0.00
Net Income	958.83	-44,664.83	2,986.29	-340.00	-738.71	-309.95	-42,108.37	1,463.80	-444.89	27,323.55	28,342.46	#####	-36,612.91	17,000.00

In order to maintain good fiscal discipline, the Treasury undertook the following actions in the 2019-2020 League year.

The process for merging the two entities into a single 501(C)3 organization was brought further to conclusion. Once completed this merger will save considerable time and money by allowing for an easier reconciliation process. Until the merger is finalized, the Board voted on a resolution to allow for shared expenses to be paid and reimbursed between them once a year rather than monthly.

In order to find potential cost savings, the League's Treasurer, Budget Chair, and Vice President of Development solicited a proposal for services from Frost Bank. A conference call was held with Frost Bank on March 13. The Covid 19 pandemic has delayed further action at this time, however it is recommended that this item be revisited in the coming year.

The League is very fortunate to have received support from many wonderful individuals whose donations of time, talent, and treasure have helped us continue to provide our many services. We are grateful to enjoy the contributions of so many committed supports from the Board, our membership, and the community at large.

Thanks to the support of the late Mr. Cunningham the League has been gifted with a bequest of \$17,000 dollars to start an endowment fund. This money is being held until the proper due diligence and administrative action can be taken to create the fund. This endowment will provide an additional financial instrument that will support the League's future fiscal health. In the same spirit of generosity long-time friends of the League Bert and Joan Golding made a gift of \$23,000 that was used to help support the League's Voters' Guide. As the League looks to share information with an ever-wider audience the financial support and generosity of our donors is critically important.

Nowhere has devotion to the League shined more brightly than in the astounding in-kind contributions of our friends at the Black Sheep Agency who have provided more than \$100,000 worth of marketing and communications services to the League.

Overall the League has done an outstanding job of maintaining fiscal discipline in the 2019-2020 year. Going forward the League will need to strengthen fundraising activities and development that support our work and mission. With the loss of revenue from event-based fundraising it will be necessary to explore new avenues for funding and consider ways to manage and conserve remaining funds.



REPORT OF THE VICE PRESIDENT FOR MARKETING

Aimee Woodall

Over the course of 100 years, we have created an extensive history with our community through experience and trust. We've been a resource that digs deep and prides ourselves on providing factual, unbiased, nonpartisan information to empower the voices of our community in the civic space, regardless of gender, race, socio-economic status, sexual orientation, religion and creed.

But momentum in the civic space has grown significantly and impacted our landscape to look a lot different than it did when the League first formed. The rise of activism has spurred a new age of civic discourse and engagement where every day a new movement or organization calls for attention, saturating the market and digital space. Individuals and groups are expecting us to meet them where they are with messaging that embodies our vision and values, calls to action that inspire engagement and offer value and a visual identity that makes us memorable. It's crucial our organization adapt and modernize to stay relevant and engage the diverse audiences that are driving change today.

Over the past year, we've dedicated more than 1,000 hours to evolving the League of Women Voters of Houston brand and communications strategy. After conducting a combination of primary and secondary research to navigate our chapter's strengths, opportunities and tensions, we found several insights that would help us shape what was next—

- The League is full of honest leaders and members committed to breaking voting barriers.
- Our reputation precedes us.
- Our voting resources and guides are sought after by many.
- The community is hungry for more engagement opportunities.
- To truly represent the diverse voices of Houston, we must address misconceptions and connect with the different demographics.
- Communications must be more frequent and consistent.

As a result of this endeavor, we have successfully—

- Introduced a new, modern brand that has flexibility for storytelling, event promotion and overall mission-driven communications, moving to an overall look and feel that speaks to the League's purpose, activism, credibility, nonpartisanship, trustworthiness and inclusivity by weaving in buttons as a creative element that nods to supporters of government and community movements in eras past.
- Refreshed our website for an optimal user experience, to serve as a centralized up-to-date resource library and activation center connecting individuals to events and data.
- Established a consistent presence on our three social platforms to foster a digital community reflective of our city's diversity, where members of any political affiliation can come together and speak cooperatively about issues and opinions with no threat of being judged. Facebook has become our greatest touchpoint to drive traffic from, Instagram shares our visual story and Twitter partakes in ongoing, trending conversations. All three follow our educate, recruit and call to action framework.
- Increased cadence with email sends and long-form content to build awareness, increase engagement and share thought leadership that can reach new audiences.
- Created environmental and collateral design to drive voter engagement at tabling events, on METRO buses, naturalization ceremonies and in other public spaces.
- Built a growing marketing and communications volunteer team of 22 passionate humans, including a full-time fellow, to support Centennial celebrations and the newly established communications ecosystem.

We are proud of the work that has been accomplished this past year and hope that it will set us up for stronger communications and community engagement in the years to come, with the overall goal of growing and engaging more of our community in the democratic process.

Be sure to visit the new site and follow our social channels if you aren't already. Both are great resources for current League and election news.



REPORT OF THE VICE PRESIDENT OF FUND DEVELOPMENT

Michelle M McDaniel

Fund Development was created to ensure that the League could capture potentially new sponsors and donors to meet the financial needs of the League of Women's Voters Houston. The Fund Development 2020 goals are to include:

- Thank you cards to current and past sponsors and donors
- Identify and develop new donors, sponsors, and community partners
- Review upcoming events for the remainder of the year for targeted (Specific) donors per event
- Work directly on the budget committee to ensure approved spending and financial goals of the League

Thank you to the Fund Development committee members Zak Miller, Katie Campbell, and Sharon Cunningham.



REPORT OF THE VICE PRESIDENT FOR MEMBERSHIP AFFAIRS

Mika Rao Kalapatapu

Committee: Liza Alonzo, Franny Oxford, Michelle Shabani, Courtney Siegfried

Goals:

1. Streamline membership on-boarding / orientation experience for new members.
2. Activate current members through volunteer opportunities and social interactive mixers
3. Increase LWV-Houston's membership to reflect Houston's demographics

Total membership as of April 15, 2020 is 240.

Thanks to the Marketing Committee led updates to the LWV Houston website and social media strategy, we now have the right tools to recruit new members to our organization. However, as new members consider signing up, the leadership team recognizes we need to be clear about the value proposition for these individuals.

In an effort to not only attract, but also retain, new members, the Volunteer Engagement Team is looking closely at what roles new and prospective members can be plugged into. (*Please see Volunteer Engagement Report for more details*) We hope to establish a liaison to the In the Loop (and other) Unit meetings and also create a role specifically designed to onboard new members and host opportunities for members to meet monthly. From our conversations with new and prospective members, the committee believes that LWV-Houston members are seeking ways to convene, whether online or in person. Before 2020 is over, we hope to launch a "Pinot and Policy" monthly event for members to gather informally on a regular basis.

The Membership Committee is focused on identifying numerous opportunities for members to connect, volunteer and support the organization's mission. In March of 2020, the League entered into a promising partnership with the Alley Theatre where LWV-Houston members received a discounted rate for the timely play, 1984, and an opportunity to attend a VIP

reception. Unfortunately, the play was cancelled due to COVID-19 concerns. However, we are optimistic about future events with Alley Theatre and other organizations.

The Rising Stars program continues to successfully identify and fuel the efforts of new cohorts. This group meets monthly and tackles a number of important topics. They are well poised to feed the pipeline for membership in the future. *(Please see the Rising Starts report for more details).*

The Nominating Committee has also continued to recruit high caliber members to the organization and the board. This year, we welcomed new board members thanks to the hard work of this group. *(Please see the Nominating Committee's report for more on this.)*

Thank you all for your patience as our board and this committee continues to work on making our organization better equipped to lead our members. If you have any questions, please reach out to mika.rao@gmail.com



REPORT OF THE VICE PRESIDENT FOR LOCAL STUDIES AND ADVOCACY

Phillip Yates

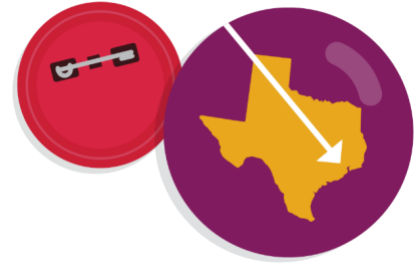
Over the course of last year, the study and advocacy committee focused its attention on issues surrounding the Census and Redistricting. This includes our Citizens Training on Redistricting and advocating to the Commissioner's Court about the importance of having adequate resources to promote awareness and increase civic participation in Harris County, specifically for Census 2020.

In October 2019, the League of Women Voters Houston partnered with the League of Women Voters of Texas, Texas Southern University, Houston Area Urban League, and the Texas Civil Rights Project to facilitate a townhall meeting on Census 2020 and Redistricting. This program was aimed at mobilizing and training our community for the Texas Legislature's public input hearings for the 2021 Redistricting. The Texas House Redistricting Committee began the process for the 2021 re-drawing of state and federal legislative districts in the fall of 2019. Public comments at the Committee hearings will be used to assist the Legislature when it draws district boundaries. This program expanded opportunities for community members to participate in government by improving the redistricting process and aiding the Legislature with information about a region's unique geographic and demographic characteristics from those residents most familiar with their own neighborhoods.

As we continue to oppose partisan and racial gerrymandering, the committee recommends that we continue to study Texas Redistricting, and promote a transparent and accountable redistricting process.

Additionally, the Study and Advocacy Committee recommends the following study and advocacy initiatives for the 2020-2021 League Year:

1. Safe and Accessible 2020 Election Season Amid Covid-19
2. 87th Texas Legislature – 2020 Legislative Interview: November 2020 – February 2021.
3. League Women Voters of Houston – Lobby Day: February 2021
4. Census 2020
5. Texas Redistricting
6. Ranked Choice Voting
7. Updating Existing Local Position



REPORT OF THE VICE PRESIDENT FOR VOTER SERVICES

Annie Johnson Benifield

In the 2019-2020 League year LWV-Houston has:

- Conducted an **on-the-spot voter registration service at all Houston Area Naturalization ceremonies, welcoming 23,889 new Americans to the electorate** within minutes of their citizenship oath. This number represents an 85% rate of response among those newly eligible. New citizens came from over 100 plus countries for each ceremony.
- Conducted voter registration in a number of venues (high schools, colleges, corporations, union halls, medical facilities) with corps of Volunteer Deputy Voter Registrars (VDVRs), often partnering with other organizations committed to expanding the electorate in the Houston Area.
- Conducted a televised series of ***Conversations With The Candidates*** leading up to the November 2019 local election (city council, mayoral candidates and controller) and March 2020 Primary. Numerous viewers got to know local candidates through these televised series of *Conversations*. Additional educational topics were covered, such as voter registration and International Women's Day.
- Compiled, published and distributed *Voters Guides* in print, electronic and interactive formats. The *Guide* was produced for the November 2019 General Election in English, Chinese, Spanish and Vietnamese and in English for the March 2020 Primary Election. Forty-four thousand print copies of the *Voters Guides* were distributed to the general public at no cost during the two election cycles via libraries, schools, universities, neighborhood centers and civic organizations. Non-profit and commercial media, universities and civic organizations embedded or referenced the *Guide* on their websites, and everyone was, as always, was invited to read, download, link and share through social media.

- Provided a build-your-personal-ballot using the interactive VOTE411 tool. For the first time, voters could link directly to their personal ballot on VOTE411 from the newly designed *Voters Guide* page on our website. There voters were able to access information about ballot issues (including all statewide Constitutional Amendments) as well as candidate information and responses. All information was available in English and 3 alternative languages. Thousands of earnest voters found impartial and comprehensive information at www.VOTE411.org.
- Offered a newly designed, interactive dedicated *Voters Guide* page on our website, which included impartial information about the candidates, voting processes and procedures, ballot issues, interactive maps to locate polling locations and more.
- Developed and executed a Voter Education Campaign in partnership with METRO. In advance of the 2019 election and 2020 primary election, all buses and light rail trains featured placards with basic election information plus QR codes pushing to a more detailed menu of LWV information and services.
- Conducted several media interviews, including these segments with KPFT: August 26, 2019 on the League and Suffrage, voting and gerrymandering on July 3, 2020 and a feature leading up to the March Primary about Voters Guide and Vote 411. An in depth background interview with KUHF radio (June 28, 2019 2019) explored How Texas Prevented Black Women from Voting after passage of the 19th Amendment (Women Suffrage and Black Women Involvement.).
- Participated in these forums: UT School of Public Health On Ballot Initiatives as part of their Voter Education Project, October 23, 2019, the AARP TeleTownhall @ METRO Headquarters October 23, 2019 on State Constitution Ballot Measures.

Voters Guide

Chair: Jackie Alfred

November 2019 and March 2020 Voters Guides by the numbers:

- **Number of Pages** – November 2019 - 44 pages; March 2020 Primary – 44 pages
- **Number of Candidates (in opposed races) Responding** – November 2019 – 143 (91% response rate); March Primary - 193 (94% response rate)
- **Languages** – 4 – English, Chinese, Spanish and Vietnamese
- **Formats** – 3 – Print, Electronic, Vote411 Interactive platform

- **Number of Printed Copies Produced and Distributed:** November 2019 – 15,400 English, 5,800 Chinese, 4,000 Spanish, 1,100 Vietnamese; March 2020 Primary (English only) – 14,000.
- **Number Users of the Online Electronic Edition Page on our website:** November 2019: 27,638 pageviews; March 2020 Primary: 32,283 pageviews.
- **Number of Vote411 Sessions:** November 2019: approx. 30,000; March 2020 Primary: approx. 40,000.
- **Number of Volunteers, Staff, Vendors** – 45 volunteers; 12 vendors paid for their services including: Graphic and Web Design team, IT Support; Translators, LWV Office Support and Printer
- **Number of Area Leagues Collaborating/Coordinating with LWV Houston** – 7 (Austin, Bay Area, Beaumont, Brazoria County, CyFair, Fort Bend County, Montgomery County)

Notable “Firsts”:

- In addition to translating responses from local candidates and ballot issues into Chinese and Vietnamese, we also translated Statewide Constitutional Amendments and the responses from Statewide Candidates into Chinese and Vietnamese and made these translations available to all Texas Voters who used Vote411.
- LWV Houston was the first League in the country to publish candidate information in 4 languages on Vote411.
- The totally redesigned version of the electronic Voters Guide, in 4 languages options, was available on our website and provided voters with an easy to use and easy to read alternative to the print edition. [Notable: at the request of many users we also continued to post the PDF of the print edition in all languages.]

Moving into 2019 and Beyond:

1. We hope to be able to provide the Voters Guide for the November 2020 General in 4 languages in both print and electronic formats, but this will depend on available funding. The cost of printing and translation services coupled with the ever-growing number of candidates seeking office is straining our budget. New funding sources and updated procedures for VG users to make donations in support of the Guide are being developed.
2. We will continue to seek new community partners to assist in distributing and publicizing the VG.

We will continue to make design modifications to our electronic edition that will enhance to end-user experience.

Voter Registration Report for 2019 (June 2019-April 2020)

Chairs: John Byrd and Nancy Kral

Non-naturalization voter registration activities for League of Women Voters-Houston:
LWV-Houston provided 228 VDVRs for 58 registration drives at 26 venues.

A total of 1738 new voter registrations were collected.

Voter registrations by “location”:

- High Schools: 537
- Colleges: 978
- Other: 223

Locations included the following:

- Lone Star College (numerous campuses)
- Houston Community College (numerous campuses)
- University of Houston
- Texas Children’s Hospital (medical school and numerous locations)
- Houston City Hall ceremony
- Bayou City Events Center
- Tomball ISD (numerous campuses)
- Klein ISD (numerous campuses)

LWV-Houston partnered with other organizations in promoting voter registration including the following:

- NALEO
- Bonding Against Adversity
- Society for Performing Arts
- Mi Familia Vota
- Lone Star College
- and regional LWV chapters in the Houston area

Initiatives include the following:

Online VDVR request form. This is operational and the goal is to use an automated system starting Fall 2020 (such as sign up genius) for communicating with VDVRs who have volunteered for an event.

Distribution of voter registration materials to support VDVRs at registration events. Issue: we do not have a central, convenient place to store materials for volunteers to access. Lone Star

College is working with LWV in the North Houston area. Goal for next year is to partner with Houston Community College to be able to store materials in a convenient location (ex: Social Sciences Department office?).

Initiative for next year: Expand voter registration opportunities into the Aldine ISD and Spring ISD areas, partnering with Baker Ripley, Bonding Against Adversity, Mi Familia Vota, ISDs, regional LWV chapters, or others.

Initiative for next year: Work with companies' Legislative Affairs officers to have voter registration events in businesses. Goal: have events in 3 locations during the 2020-2021 year.

As of March 2020, with the pandemic, voter registration events have been cancelled for the indefinite future. Had we have had the opportunity to register folks throughout 2020, our numbers would have even been stronger.

This is the first year that LWV-Houston has had a non-naturalization voter registration committee. It is a work in progress, but we have had a positive year and look forward to continued outreach utilizing even more VDVRs and events.

Voter Registration at Naturalization Ceremonies

Chair: Judy Viebig

Committee: Lauren Blanton, Rosalie Buggs, Beni Gutierrez, Judy Hollinger, Tracy Brown, and Annie Johnson Benifield

The number of petitioners for Naturalization increased significantly following the 2018 Midterm election. In 2019, 15 Naturalization Ceremonies were held which resulted in almost 30,000 registered new citizens. For 2020, 16 Naturalization Ceremonies were originally scheduled; however, Naturalization Ceremonies for the Month of March and April were cancelled due to the Coronavirus resulting in a negative impact on our projected numbers for the annual report. By 2020, there were increases in the numbers of new voter registrations and the number of enthusiastic new Volunteer Deputy Voter Registrars (DVRs).

To accommodate the increases in numbers, several League of Women Voters Naturalization DVRs teamed together to provide more structure to the Naturalization voter registration process. The current process involves a more formal written procedure, more extensive emailed information, a short-required orientation training for new volunteers, and more oversight and follow-up.

The results of the efforts from June 2019 through April 2020 are illustrated by the following:

Number of Naturalization Ceremonies	12
Number of DVRs working to register voters	161
Number of new DVRs	110
New citizens naturalized	28,256
Voters registered	23,889

These numbers include the registration of 90 per cent of petitioners during the last Naturalization Ceremony in February 2020.

Special Election Programming

Chair: Reda Hicks

Mayoral Debate 2019: We hosted four mayoral candidates for a debate, hosted in partnership with the Houston Chronicle, KPRC, and Telemundo Houston. The event took place live at Houston Baptist University, and included an in-person audience of approximately 450, a broadcast audience on KPRC, and streaming audiences on KPRC, Telemundo, and each network's respective social channels. Fifteen volunteers assisted in the production of this debate.

November 2019 Phone Bank: We hosted a bilingual phone bank in partnership with KPRC and Telemundo Houston for the November Elections. The phone bank took place at KPRC's studios over thirteen hours, from 6am to 7pm on Election Day. Approximately 80 volunteers from LWV Houston and partner organizations were trained in the weeks ahead of the phone bank, and assisted the League with shifts, and fielded over 800 phone calls in English and Spanish.

Primary 2020 Phone Bank: We hosted a bilingual phone bank in partnership with KPRC and Telemundo Houston for the Primary Elections in March. The phone bank took place at KPRC's studios over thirteen hours, from 6am to 7pm on Primary Day. Approximately 65 volunteers from LWV Houston and partner organizations assisted the League with shifts, and fielded over 700 phone calls in English and Spanish.



REPORT OF THE BUDGET COMMITTEE

Proposed Budget for Fiscal Year 2020-2021

Chair: Katie Campbell

On April 16th, the Budget Committee met via video conference to discuss the FY19-20 and upcoming FY20-21 budget. Due to COVID-19, the League was unable to hold Repast, causing a net loss of about \$39k for the Education Fund and a net loss of about \$3k for Houston Area for the year.

The Committee agreed that taking a very low-risk approach to developing the FY20-21 budget was appropriate given the state of the economy and the uncertainty of the coming year. The organization has enough cash to manage another negative year, but will need to monitor funds very closely. The Budget Committee prepared a budget for both organizations with the assumption that fundraising would be minimal in 2020, but resume in the spring of 2021 for Repast. Should extra funds become available, the Committee recommends that it be allocated to the 2020 Presidential Election Voters Guide. The Committee also recommends that the Board make targeted efforts to secure funding for the Voter Guide, especially for additional languages. Mission critical items like the Voters Guide and Voter Registrations at Naturalization Ceremonies should be prioritized and all expenses should be evaluated by the Treasurer to mitigate unforeseen budget losses.

The Committee will reassess the budget each quarter to track progress on income and expenses and make any recommended changes to the Board.

Click here for [Proposed Budget](#).



REPORT OF THE AWARDS COMMITTEE

Chair: Jeff Reichman

It is a pleasure and privilege to honor the outstanding service of our League members. These awards cover the true diversity of activities and interests of our local league, from refreshing our public image to retooling our internal processes that make our League function. You'll recognize some familiar names and faces on the awards roster this year, but you'll also meet some new League members who are making important contributions. In keeping with tradition, 2020 recipients will be revealed at the Annual Meeting.

Outstanding Achievement Awards are presented for notable accomplishment, recognizing individuals who, over the course of the League Year, have shepherded a significant program or project to great success. The number of Outstanding Achievement Awards is not limited but the Awards Committee takes great care to maintain the highest standards. These recognitions must remain a distinctive and meaningful honor.

The Helen Hunter Award was established in 1995 to honor Helen Hunter, LWV-Houston president from 1982-1985, and to recognize and encourage exemplary leadership. The Helen Hunter award is not presented every year, but rather only when the Awards Committee is able to identify a candidate of exceeding merit. The citation celebrates an individual who, *over the course of League membership, has epitomized the exemplary spirit of Helen Hunter in furthering the mission of the League of Woman Voters in a cordial, steady and effective way; who has brought great credit to the League of Women Voters of Houston; and who has thereby brought great benefit to the community we serve.*

The Awards Committee is pleased to recall this honor roll of Helen Hunter Award recipients:

1995 Claudia Kemondo
1996 Melba Drake
1997 Margaret Kolodzie
1998 Mary Gillete

2002 Bette John
2003 Alice May Berthelsen
2004 Jan Wilbur
2005 Barb Swartz
2006 Gwen Essinger
2008 Judy Hollinger
2009 Millie Whittington
2010 Linda Cohn
2011 Sharon Cunningham
2012 Nany Parra
2013 Jacqueline Alfred
2015 Tom Berg
2016 Novelle Doherty
2017 Laura Blackburn
2018 Ann Herbage
2019 Annie Benifield

The Sam Keeper Award for Excellence in Voter Services was established by Board resolution in 2015 in honor of *Sam, The Voter Man*, our beloved Voter Registration chair. Beni Gutierrez and Mary Titus shared the inaugural Sam Keeper Award in 2016 in recognition of their fine work in registering newly naturalized Americans. In 2017 the Sam Keeper Award was shared by Judy Viebig, Pam Gaskin, Reda Hicks and Claudia Ortega Hogue. In 2018 the Sam Keeper Award was presented to Jackie Alfred, honoring her accomplishments as *Voters Guide* chair. In 2019 the Sammie was presented to Isabel Longoria in recognition of her extraordinary work in expanding the reach of our mighty *Voters Guide*.



REPORT OF THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Chair: Franny Oxford

Committee: Courtenay Siegfried, Aimee Bertrand, Renee Cross, Nancy Sims

Summary of Nominations: 2020-2022

At-Large Director:	Phillip Yates
At-Large Director:	Michelle Carnahan
At-Large Director:	Liza Alonzo
At-Large Director:	Jeff Reichman
Treasurer:	Katie Campbell
VP of Membership:	Mika Rao
VP of Study and Advocacy:	Zak Miller

One-year Term Nominations: 2020-2021

Nominations Committee Chair:	Rocio Rubio
Nominations Committee Members:	Victoria Ann Cordova Jenni Rebecca Stephenson

Completing Unexpired Terms: 2019:2021

At-Large Director:	Tiko-Reynolds Hausman
At-Large Director:	Amber Burton
At-Large Director:	Renee Cross
At-Large Director:	Courtenay Siegfried
VP of Marketing and Communications:	Aimee Woodall
VP of Voter Services:	Annie Benefield
Secretary:	Gracie Garces (mid-term appointment)
President:	MaryJane Mudd

The Nominations Committee is pleased to present this slate of candidates, nominated to serve as Officers and Directors and the Nominating Committee of the League of Women Voters of

Houston. Election will be held by majority vote of the membership at the Annual Meeting on May 18, 2020. Short biographies of the new nominees can be found below.

2020-2021 Officers:

VP of Membership:	Mika Rao
VP of Development:	Michelle Levi (anticipated appointment by incoming Board)
VP of Study and Advocacy:	Zak Miller
Treasurer:	Katie Campbell

2020-2021 At-Large Directors:

At-Large Director:	Phillip Yates
At-Large Director:	Michelle Carnahan
At-Large Director*:	Liza Alonzo
At-Large Director*:	Jeff Reichman
At-Large Director*:	Claudia Ortega-Hogue (anticipated appointment by incoming Board)
At-Large Director*:	Michelle Shabani (anticipated appointment by incoming Board)

**serving for a second consecutive term*

One-year Term Nominations: 2020-2021

Nominations Committee Chair:	Rocio Rubio
Nominations Committee Members:	Victoria Ann Cordova
	Jenni Rebecca Stephenson
	Claudia Ortega-Hogue (anticipated appointment by incoming Board)
	Courtenay Siegfried (anticipated appointment by incoming Board)

The newly elected Board will have the opportunity to appoint additional At-Large Directors for a one-year term.

Accomplishments, Observations, and Recommendations

The Nominations Committee Chair attended many board meetings and retreats. Working together with Board President MaryJane Mudd, Liza Alonzo and several other Board members, the Nominations Committee has backfilled multiple roles over the course of the year, and is well positioned to add several new non-elected leadership roles for particular areas of interest for the next two years. This expanded organizational chart is based on feedback from our friends at the League of Women Voters, Austin Area. Due to the workload and opportunities associated with the election year, and the obstacles to voting presented by the Covid-19 virus, we recommend that the Vice Presidents, and LWV Houston President, meet to discuss these new roles and make the appropriate appointments as soon as June 1, 2020. We are thankful for the commitment and passion of all of our officers, Board members, and volunteers. We look forward to helping accomplish the goals of the League in the coming year.

Biographical Information on New 2020-2021 Nominees

Mika Rao, VP of Membership: Mika has a long history in ensuring representation and engagement among all communities as far back as the 1990s when she founded a nonprofit organization committed to getting out the vote among the South Asian American community. She has lived in the greater Houston area since 2007. Mika joined LWV-Houston leadership in this role mid-year and is excited about the opportunity to engage current members and attract new members. Mika is the VP of Communications for IDEA Public Schools, and has previously served as Managing Director, Communication and Public Affairs for Teach for America. Mika attended University of Pennsylvania and Boston University.

Michelle Levi, VP of Development: Michelle was a member of the League of Women Voters Rising Stars class of 2018. Michelle was appointed to the VP of Development role mid-year in 2019, after knocking the annual Women's Equality Day event out of the park. Michelle is CEO of Elite Image Tax and Notary Service, and attended Baylor University with a Bachelors in Business Administration.

Zak Miller, VP of Study and Advocacy: Having served successfully in a number of League of Women Voters and Leadership Houston roles, including, most recently, LWV-Houston Treasurer, Zak is excited to move into a role that combines his love of Houston policy matters and longer-term, in-depth discussion of every side of the issues and opportunities that face our region. Zak is the Director of Communications and Client Services at Outreach Strategists, LLC. He attended University of Michigan and the University of St. Thomas.

Katie Campbell, Treasurer: Katie came to the League of Women Voters leadership team through the Rising Stars Program. She served last year as a thoughtful, organized, and proactive Budget Committee Chair. She worked closely with Zak Miller last year in his role of Treasurer, and has proven that she has the tenacity, expertise, and presence to be an outstanding Treasurer. Katie is the Senior Manager of Operations and Events for the Houston Arboretum and Nature Center, and attended Southwestern University.

Phillip Yates, At-Large Director: Phillip Yates also came to the League of Women Voters through the Rising Stars program, class of 2016. Phillip is an attorney focusing on helping small businesses achieve their potential. He has served on several boards, including the Houston Area Urban League, 100 Black Men of Metropolitan Houston, and Diversity Fund Houston Phillip served the League most recently as the VP of Study and Advocacy. He attended Stephen F. Austin and Texas Southern Universities.

Michelle Carnahan, At-Large Director: Michelle is new to the League of Women Voters Leadership team, but has served very successfully in similar leadership capacities for the Boards of Leadership Houston and St. Thomas High School. Michelle has experience as an election judge, election analyst and a VDVR. She is a Public Health Strategic Data Analyst for Harris County Public Health. Michelle also teaches Political Science at University of St. Thomas. Michelle attended the University of Texas at San Antonio and the University of St. Thomas.

THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF HOUSTON

Board of Directors and Nominating Committee, 2020-2021

Position	Officer/Director	Term of office
President	MaryJane Mudd	2019-2021
Secretary	Graci Garces	2019-2021
Treasurer	Katie Campbell Shumway	2020-2022
Vice President: Membership Affairs	Mika Rao	2020-2022
Vice President: Voter Services	Annie Benifield	2019-2021
Vice President: Study and Advocacy	Zak Miller	2020-2022
Vice President: Marketing	Aimee Woodall	2019-2021
*Vice President: Fund Development	Michelle Levi McDaniel	2020-2021
Director at Large	Liza Alonzo	2020-2022
Director at Large	Jeff Reichman	2020-2022
Director at Large	Michelle Carnahan	2020-2022
Director at Large	Phillip Yates	2020-2022
Director at Large	Renee Cross	2019-2021
Director at Large	Amber Burton	2019-2021
Director at Large	Tiko Reynolds-Hausman	2019-2021
Director at Large	Courtenay Siegfried	2019-2021
*Director at Large	Michelle Shabani-Ritchel	2020-2021
*Director at Large	Claudia Ortega Hogue	2020-2021
*Director at Large	Nancy Kral	2020-2021
Nominating Committee: Chair	Rocio Rubio	2020-2021
Nominating Committee: Member	Victoria Ann Cordova	2020-2021
Nominating Committee: Member	Jenni Rebecca Stephenson	2020-2021
*Nominating Committee: Member	Claudia Ortega Hogue	2020-2021
*Nominating Committee: Member	Courtenay Siegfried	2020-2021

*It is anticipated that the Board of Directors will nominate and ratify these one-year appointments at the first meeting of the 2020-2021 League Year. The addition of no more than five additional one-year Directors-at-Large may be ratified by majority vote of the sitting Board at any time. All appointees end their terms of service in May 2021, at the conclusion of the League year