

**LEAGUE OF
WOMEN VOTERS
HOUSTON**

**102nd
ANNUAL REPORT**

**05
23
22**



102nd ANNUAL MEETING

League of Women Voters of Houston

Monday: May 23, 2022

6:00 pm – 7:30 pm

Part I. Organization

Order of Business (page 2)

Minutes of 101st Annual Meeting, May 27, 2021 (page 3)

Proposed Rules for the Annual Meeting (page 4)

Part II. Reports Presented for Information (begins on page 5)

Report of the President

Reports on Special Projects

Report of the Treasurer

Reports of the Vice Presidents and Their Committees

Part III. Resolutions Presented for Deliberation and Determination

Report of the Budget Committee, Fiscal Year 2022-2023

Report of the Committee on Local Studies and Advocacy, 2022-2023

Report of the Membership Committee on revised Dues Structure

Ratification of operational Bylaws

Report of the Board Governance Committee, presenting candidates for League office

A quorum of 21 members will enable us to conduct business at this Annual Meeting.

Order of Business

Call to Order Annie Johnson Benifield

Organization Annie Johnson Benifield

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

About our Organization Annie Johnson Benifield
The Year in Review: Empowering Voters, Defending Democracy

A Special Resolution on Revising Membership Dues Mika Rao

Treasurer's Report Katie Shumway

Report of the Finance Committee Katie Shumway
Adoption of the Budget, 2022-2023

Report of the Committee on Local Studies and Advocacy Zak Miller
Adoption of Program, 2022-2023

A Special Resolution Ratifying Our Bylaws Annie Johnson Benifield

Awards and Appreciations Jeff Reichman
Report of the Awards Committee

Nominations Report of the Board Governance Committee Franny Oxford
Election of Officers and Trustees

Announcements Annie Johnson Benifield

Adjourn Annie Johnson Benifield

Minutes of the 101st Annual Meeting

May 27, 2021

To ensure the comfort and good health of members and guests, this Annual Meeting was conducted entirely via the Zoom electronic platform.

The parliamentarian having confirmed that a quorum of 31 members was present, President MaryJane Mudd called the meeting to order at 6:01 pm.

President Mudd presented a review of the year's abundant accomplishments, available for review in the Annual Report at <https://lwvhouston.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/05/Annual-Report-2021.pdf>.

The Report of the Budget Committee, as presented by Katie Shumway, was adopted without objection.

The Report of the Study/Advocacy Committee, as presented by Zak Miller, was adopted without objection. No formal studies will be launched during the 2021-2022 League year.

A special resolution ratifying the dissolution of our heritage 501(c)4 corporate entity was adopted without objection. Henceforth all business will be conducted within out 501(c)3 charitable trust.

The Report of the Nominations Committee was adopted without objection. Details are available in the [Annual Report](#).

The Report of the Awards Committee was adopted without objection.

The Helen Hunter Award was presented to Renee Cross.

The Sam Keeper Award for Excellence in Voter Services was presented to Norm DeMoose of the United States

Citizenship and Immigration Services.

Outstanding Achievement Awards were presented to Lauren Blanton and Carol Shattuck.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:00 pm

Proposed Rules for the Annual Meeting

Structure

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

Quorum

Twenty-one members must be present to conduct business at this meeting. This number represents the required five percent of active members as of January 31, 2022.

Debate

Only 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. Speakers shall identify themselves. Each 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 present and qualified to vote shall constitute an election of officers. Nominations for officers may be made from the floor by any voting member at the appropriate time.

Annual dues

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

Bylaws

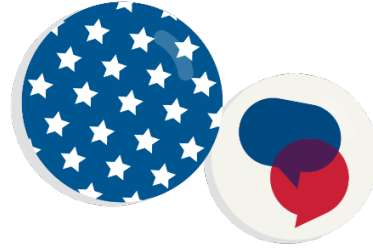
Bylaws may be amended by a two-thirds vote of members present and voting.

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 PRESIDENTS

Linda Cohn and Annie Johnson Benifield

President's Message (Part I) Linda Cohn

At our 2021 Annual Meeting, I was elected to serve as president with the understanding that it would be my pleasure to resign when personal circumstances allowed Vice President Dr. Annie Johnson Benifield to ascend to the presidency.

In addition to maintaining a robust menu of voter services and cultivating durable community relationships, we began the League year with the launch of two major organizational initiatives. First, Houston Endowment invited us to submit a grant application for organizational support funding, holding out the possibility of hiring executive staffing to look after administrative duties such that the Board of Trustees might assign. A full application was submitted in December, 2021; a determination is expected in June, 2022.

Second, [Projects Matter](#), a local consulting firm facilitating the work of both nonprofit and commercial corporations, was engaged to (1) assess the civic landscape and identify the most realistic, effective ways to serve our mission, and (2) review our internal structure with an eye to expanded reach and greater efficiencies.

Finally, our heritage framework as a bifurcated entity with 501(c)3 and 501(c)4 elements was well and truly ended. We are now in all aspects a 501(c)3 charitable trust, an arrangement that more accurately reflects our role and function in the community. A refreshed statement of bylaws was developed and approved by our Board of Trustees and by LWV Texas, and at this Annual Meeting is submitted to the membership for final ratification.

As I had explained in a personal note to our Board of Trustees, the greatest honor of my civic life has been the privilege of casting a ballot in every election since 1971. The second greatest honor of my civic life has been the privilege of serving three terms as president of the League of Women Voters of Houston. My current term ended in the planned manner with my resignation on December 31, 2021, when Dr. Benifield took up the duties of League leadership. Annie is a woman of exceptional experience, vision and strength. I thank her and I thank you all for your trust and abundant courtesies, and ask you to always remember that we are living the suffragist dream.

President's Message: Part II
Dr. Annie Johnson Benifield

Greetings and welcome to all the wonderful members of the League. Today's annual meeting is the start of the 102nd year of the League of Women Voters of Houston (LWVH) continued legacy of empowering voters and defending democracy in the civic space.

Increasingly, the need to advocate for voting rights in our democracy is atop the League of Women Voters of Houston's agenda. Needless to say, LWVH never thought in the 21st Century that voting rights would still be at the forefront of political discourse. There have also been incredible opportunities to expand our reach by creating partnership with groups, institutions/entities that assist in ensuring that voters' empowerment through our voter registration efforts and every citizen voice is heard through voting.

The League of Women Voters of Houston has tremendous assets: a dedicated board of directors, membership, and a core of volunteers who share the League's mission of empowering voters and defending democracy. Since Jan. 1, 2022, the LWVH Board of Directors contributed over 1,000 volunteer hours through meetings, planning events, and outreach efforts. The League core group of volunteers, some are members and others are not, engaged in approximately 70 voter registration events throughout the Harris County/Houston area that were heralded for reaching nonvoters. In addition, the League also furnished more than 30, 000 voter registration applications to the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services for disbursement to new citizens. What a triumph!

There are some exceptional things that require highlighting concerning the League and its presence in the civic space. A competitive civic engagement training program has certificated over 195 individuals over the past 12 years with 15 cohorts still in the pipeline. These individuals continued to serve sometimes on the League's board but also in other civic organizations lending their talent and skills to community improvement.

Ensuring voters are equipped with nonpartisan, fact-based information about candidates and issues is the reason for the League's signature Voters Guide. An extraordinary team compose relevant questions and follow ups with candidates to secure an 85% response rate. Publishing a digital and print version of the Voters Guide in multiple languages is no small feat.

After a two-year hiatus, the League's Repast committee put together a luncheon that was engaging and informative, demonstrating the "Rebirth of Civic Life." A phenomenal team worked effectively to triumph in a brief period, which resulted in a major success. This fundraising effort will facilitate the continued publishing of the Voters Guide.

As president of the League of Women Voters of Houston for not quite five months, my amazement never ceases at the level and depth of commitment by the League's Board, members, and core of volunteers who step forward repeatedly to enhance the League's reputation as a civic, nonpartisan organization. LWVH is continuously speaking out to educate voters about Texas' new voting rules under SB1.

I am honored to serve as the League's president. Thanks so very for this incredible opportunity to serve the League's membership and Houston/Harris County community in this capacity.

Reports on Special Projects

Rising Stars Program

Chairs: Renee Cross, Lou Weaver

The 2021-2022 Rising Stars cohort consists of seven dedicated individuals reflecting the diversity and energy of Houston. Recruitment appeals were made through the LWV's social media and shared by members and former Rising Stars, on the LWV website and in newsletters, and via personal contact from the co-directors and members. The following individuals began their work as LWV civic engagement champions in September 2021:

Cherelle Duncan
Jack Enright
Tonya Knauth
Cathryn Martinez
Megan Sip
Priscila True
Caroline Wilkinson

The Rising Stars meet virtually once a month as a group with the co-directors to discuss ideas and progress on their activities. Their projects focus on two primary areas: voter participation and program development. Led by Priscila True, the Rising Stars are identifying best practices for encouraging voter engagement in low turnout areas in Harris County after statistical analysis conducted by Jack Enright. Tonya Knauth is leading the effort to develop a guide for Rising Stars program participants and directors with assistance from Megan Sip and Caroline Wilkinson. Cathryn Martinez is coordinating a special summer event celebrating the current Rising Stars and introducing the next cohort while Cherelle Duncan has worked to identify potential donors. Guest speakers at the monthly meetings included LWV Vice President for Voter Engagement Nancy Kral, Harris County Election Division Coordinator Murphy Guinane and Harris County Analyst Hector De Leon.

In addition to the monthly meetings, the Rising Stars routinely work together via Slack. Their final deliverables will be shared with the public through the LWV's social media and website and printed materials.

HMS-TV Telecasts

Chair: Gene Preuss

Programming has still been affected by the COVID outbreaks that limit the number of guests at Houston MediaSource studios. We are still doing Zoom interviews, though more and more shows are once again produced in-studio. We held our first Conversations with the Candidates since the shut-down this year.

January, 2021

Discussing the Events at the US Capitol. A review of the riots at the US Capitol in January 2021, with political scientists Ann Collins of McKendree University in Lebanon, IL, and Ashleen Menchaca Bagnulo at Texas State University in San Marcos, TX.

February, 2021

African American History Month. A discussion about the importance of African American history with Don Caleb, II, an educator, historian, and parent. Miguel Ceasar, Acting Manager of the Houston Public Library's Gregory School, talks about the resources available at the Gregory School archives.

March, 2021

Winter Storm Uri and the Energy Question in Houston. Amy Peck, Houston City Council Member for District A, discusses the effect of the winter storm on Northwest Houston. Mannti Cummins, the director of Energía Veleta, discusses wind power in Texas, and Gavin Dillingham with the Houston Advanced Research Center (HARC) discusses the future of energy resources.

April, 2021

Property Taxes and the Houston Police Chief. Elizabeth Doss, Assistant Chief Deputy of Operations with the Harris County Tax Assessor-Collector's office, and excerpts from an October 2019 interview with Troy Finner, Executive Assistant Chief for Houston Police, who became chief in 2021.

May, 2021

Program rerun. No new show this month

June, 2021

Harris County DA's "Safe Gun Storage" Program. Harris County District Attorney Kim Ogg; Dr. Sandy McKay, Department of Pediatrics, McGovern Medical School, UT Health Science Center, Michele Oncken, Mental Health and Child Fatality Division Chief, Harris County District Attorney's Office, Augie Reyes, King's Armory Facebook Group, and Marentha Sargent, Bay Area Be Smart discuss the importance of gun safety in the home.

July, 2021

Opportunities with the Houston League of Women Voters. Mika Rao Kalapatapu, LWV VP for Membership, Trustee Rene Cross discusses the Rising Stars program

August, 2021

Breaking the Quorum. Texas House Representatives Christina Morales and Ron Reynolds discuss the Democrats' walkout from the Legislative Session. State Senator Paul Betancourt discusses the Special Legislative sessions. Professors of Political Science Drs. David Branham, and William V. Flores comment.

September, 2021

Gerrymandering. Guests attorney C. Robert "Bob" Heath, editor of Steve Bickerstaff's *Gerrymandering Texas* published by Texas Tech University Press (2020) followed by a panel discussion with Drs. Alexander Bielakowski, David Branham, and William V. Flores discussing the 2nd Special Legislative Session and the Effects of Afghanistan withdrawal on Houston, Texas, and the Nation.

October, 2021

Anti-Asian Discrimination. Kathy Cheng discusses the Asian Pacific Islanders American Public Affairs anti-discrimination rally in Sugarland.

November, 2021

What is Critical Race Theory? Vida Robertson, Director of the Center for Critical Race Studies at the University of Houston-Downtown, discusses the controversy over teaching Critical Race Theory.

December, 2021

Redistricting. Dr. Christina Hughes, Political Science professor and Mario Salinas civic engagement advocate discuss redistricting and its effect on voting in the upcoming elections.

Conversations with the Candidates, 2021

Houston City Council District G Special Election 2022

Thursday, Dec 30

6:30 – 7:30

Moderator: Gene Preuss

Candidates: Duke Millard, Piper Madland, Raul "Roy" Reyes, Jr.

Democracy is Good for Business

It's a simple message but one that bore repeating as our nation's bedrock political system was being questioned: Democracy Is Good for Business. And so, in cooperation with other local civic organizations, LWV Houston launched a project with that name.

We urged for-profit and non-profit endeavors to stand with us in affirming that they:

- Believe in democracy and the right to vote
- Are against discriminatory legislation designed to limit Americans' ability to vote, and;
- Agree that all politicians should commit to encouraging every citizen to vote

Houston Board Trustee Tiko Reynolds-Hausman led our effort in cooperation with LWV Texas and LWV US. It was another way in which we were good for democracy and democracy was good for us.



REPORT OF THE TREASURER

Katie Campbell Shumway

FY21-22 Financial Review

Finance Committee: Katie Campbell Shumway (chair), Annie Benifield, Nancy Kral, Zak Miller, Carol Shattuck

Despite another year of virtual meetings and covid-related uncertainty, LWVH exceeded budget expectations for the year, laying the foundation for transformative projects in 2022 and 2023. Board Giving reached 100%, and new use of the GoFundMe platform resulted in over \$6,000 in donations from across the country supporting Voter Services. These funds were used for printing, trimming, and distributing voter registration forms, new election education materials, and volunteer supplies for voter registration outreach events. New grants provided funds for youth programs, targeted outreach in underserved communities, and new citizen voter materials. In the spring of 2022, the Board of Directors began a formal Strategic Planning project with Projects-Matter.

Receivables from the project include:

- Capacity Assessment intended to evaluate the strengths, identify risks, and to highlight opportunities for improvement (cost \$4k, completed Feb 2022)
- Strategic Planning (cost \$5,500, ongoing with completion date of May/June 2022)
 - Two in-person group sessions resulting in SMART outcome-driven goals and notes/content for final report
 - Stakeholder interviews
 - Strategic Growth Report includes
 - Executive Summary (can be used for funders and other interested stakeholders)
 - Organizational Overview
 - Opportunities and Challenges
 - Goals and Objectives
 - Implementation, Timeline, and Responsibilities
 - Evaluation and Iteration (forms for Board and Committee use)

At the February Board of Directors meeting, the creation of a Special Projects/Rainy Day Fund was approved. These funds can be used for restricted projects such as website development, the Voters Guide, Voter Services, and unforeseen expenses. A portion of unused funds from FY21-22 will be allocated to the Special Projects/Rainy Day Fund with sufficient cash left for unrestricted cash flow purposes. The Treasurer will evaluate the minimum cash needed at the beginning of the fiscal year before transferring assets into the new fund. This year's allocation is expected to be \$73,000, leaving approximately \$65,000 in the operating account. The Board will review and approve the use of these funds as needed.

FY21-22 Budget Proposal

The Finance Committee reviewed and discussed the proposed FY21-22 budget for the League of Women Voters of Houston on May 13, 2022. Highlights of this meeting include requests for funds related to voter services and registration, targeted marketing efforts, and flat expenses related to operations. The Committee also discussed

investing in a new website to meet the needs of members, volunteers, and board members. After discussion, the Finance Committee approved the budget for recommendation to the League's Board of Directors and membership.

Budget charts begin on the following page.

League of Women Voters of Houston
FY22-23 Budget
June 2022 through May 2023

	PROGRAMS							
	General / Other	Rising Stars	Voters Guide	Voter Registration	Naturalization	Website	Study/ Advocacy	TOTAL PROGRAMS
	Budget	Budget	Budget	Budget	Budget	Budget	Budget	Budget
Contributions	-	-	25,000	5,000	3,500	-	-	33,500
Event Income	-	1,250	-	-	-	-	-	1,250
Earned Income	-	-	1,150	-	-	-	-	1,150
Allocated from Prev. Year	-	-	-	6,000	1,500	30,000	2,500	40,000
In-Kind	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Membership Dues	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total Income	-	1,250	26,150	11,000	5,000	30,000	2,500	75,900
Less LWV-T Dues	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Less LWV-US Dues	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total Cost of Good Sold	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Gross Profit	-	1,250	26,150	11,000	5,000	30,000	2,500	75,900
Association Management	-	-	5,000	-	-	5,000	-	10,000
Salaries & Contractor Wages	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Benefits	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
CC processing fees	-	200	150	200	-	-	-	550
Coalitions/Organizations	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Convention/Council	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,000	1,000
Event Entertainment	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Fees/Licenses	-	-	-	-	-	150	-	150
Food/Beverage	-	500	-	1,500	2,500	-	1,000	5,500
Insurance	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Marketing/Advertising	-	-	1,000	1,500	500	850	-	3,850
Office Supplies	-	-	-	2,750	2,500	-	-	5,250
Postage/Delivery	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Printing/Copying	-	-	24,000	3,750	3,000	-	500	31,250
Professional Services	-	-	30,000	1,000	-	30,000	-	61,000
Storage	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Telephone/Internet	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Mileage/Travel/Accommodations	-	-	-	-	-	-	4,500	4,500
Venues	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Website	-	-	5,000	-	-	1,000	-	6,000
Total Expense	-	700	65,150	10,700	8,500	37,000	7,000	129,050
Net Revenue	-	550	(39,000)	300	(3,500)	(7,000)	(4,500)	(53,150)

prepared on 5/13/2022

League of Women Voters of Houston
FY22-23 Budget
June 2022 through May 2023

	FUNDRAISING					Overhead	Budget FY22-23	Projected FY21-22
	Women's Equality Day	Repast	Membership	General / Other	TOTAL FUNDRAISING			
	Budget	Budget	Budget	Budget	Budget	Budget	Budget	Actual
Contributions	-	-	-	100,000	100,000	-	133,500	130,000
Event Income	1,500	40,000	-	-	41,500	-	42,750	50,000
Earned Income	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,150	1,150
Allocated from Prev. Year	-	-	-	-	-	-	40,000	-
In-Kind	-	-	-	-	-	20,000	20,000	10,000
Membership Dues	-	-	25,000	-	25,000	-	25,000	24,000
Total Income	1,500	40,000	25,000	100,000	166,500	20,000	262,400	215,150
Less LWV-T Dues	-	-	10,000	-	10,000	-	10,000	8,140
Less LWV-US Dues	-	-	15,000	-	15,000	-	15,000	11,840
Total Cost of Good Sold	-	-	25,000	-	25,000	-	25,000	19,980
Gross Profit	1,500	40,000	-	100,000	141,500	20,000	237,400	195,170
Association Management	-	-	-	-	-	30,000	40,000	24,000
Salaries & Contractor Wages	-	-	-	-	-	20,000	20,000	10,000
Benefits	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
CC processing fees	100	1,000	900	5,000	7,000	-	7,550	2,500
Coalitions/Organizations	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Convention/Council	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,000	300
Event Entertainment	-	500	-	-	500	-	500	-
Fees/Licenses	-	-	-	-	-	800	950	40
Food/Beverage	160	10,000	-	-	10,160	500	16,160	10,000
Insurance	-	-	-	-	-	2,000	2,000	1,785
Marketing/Advertising	-	500	2,500	-	3,000	1,380	8,230	4,000
Office Supplies	-	-	-	-	-	1,200	6,450	1,629
Postage/Delivery	-	-	500	160	660	250	910	1,228
Printing/Copying	-	500	-	100	600	-	31,850	27,000
Professional Services	-	-	-	5,000	5,000	7,500	73,500	26,000
Storage	-	-	-	-	-	1,440	1,440	-
Telephone/Internet	-	-	-	-	-	1,260	1,260	1,260
Mileage/Travel/Accommodations	-	-	-	-	-	-	4,500	100
Venues	125	500	-	-	625	-	625	500
Website	-	-	-	-	-	-	6,000	358
Total Expense	385	13,000	3,900	10,260	27,545	66,330	222,925	110,700
Net Revenue	1,115	27,000	(3,900)	89,740	113,955	(46,330)	14,475	84,470

prepared on 5/13/2022



REPORT OF THE VICE PRESIDENT FOR MARKETING

Roxanne Werner

Our marketing initiative continued to reflect so well on the organization, building news of our many services and spreading the word about important electoral deadlines and events. We published newsletters for general distribution and remained active in the paid social media universe, all backed by informative and original graphic design.



REPORT OF THE VICE PRESIDENT OF FUND DEVELOPMENT

Carol Shattuck

Resources Raised Current Fiscal Year

- 225 gifts have been made since the beginning of the fiscal year (June 1, 2021 – May 17, 2022), totaling \$82,902, with an average gift amount of \$368. 8 gifts were made since the last April 20 report totaling \$370. (Source: Manifest Spreadsheet on Contributions, last updated 5/10/22).
- Table and ticket sales for the REPASt luncheon are \$51,144 as of May 12, up from an estimate of \$30,000 one month ago. This is great progress in the last month, but this number does not represent the final numbers for the luncheon.
- Breaking down the *preliminary* estimate of income from the luncheon:
 - 54% of the luncheon revenue (\$27,600/120 people) came from table purchases or sponsorships,
 - 32% came from ticket sales (\$16,244/99 people) and
 - 14% came from donations (\$7,300), people who contributed but did not attend the luncheon.
- In addition to these numbers, the LWV's Go Fund Me campaign raised \$6,110 (since launched). The campaign includes 70 donations and an average gift size of \$87.
- **Adding these three numbers together is \$140,156**, up from \$118,697 in April. The increase is almost exclusively due to the luncheon.
- There are 411 members of the League of Women Voters – Houston (Source: Manifest Spreadsheet on Membership).
- The Fund Development Advisory Committee will meet for the 4th time on Thursday, 5/19/22 to continue planning for a Matching Gifts Campaign. The total goal is \$50,000, including a \$25,000 matching gift and \$25,000 in contributions. The campaign is scheduled for September 12-23, 2022.
- At the April Fund Development Advisory Committee meeting, the participants discussed promoting the VOTE 411 LWV-US system and using the resources from the Matching Gifts Campaign to strengthen the usability of the LWV-H website so that it can utilize all the features of VOTE 411 which incorporates the excellent research completed by the VG volunteers on local candidates and constitutional amendments. The goal is to improve the user's experience, making it more interactive. Funds will also be used to expand awareness of the VG in the community. The LWV-H Communications Committee has also been approached to help develop the messages for the Matching Gifts Campaign over the summer.

- Houston Endowment proposal will go before their board in June and, if approved, LWV would have access to these resources by August 2022. These resources will be significant. The recent strategic planning process of the LWV-H board should provide guidance on the best possible use of these resources.
- Five priorities came out of the recent strategic planning process, including:
 - Grow the organizational/operational capacity (board, volunteers, future staff)
 - Build financial sustainability for the organization
 - Reach out to and involve more diverse populations in the LWV-H, working to better understand the factors that influence civic participation within diverse communities in Houston
 - Increase membership engagement and participation in LWV-H decision-making
 - Increase community awareness of the LWV-H as a resource on the power of civic participation to create positive community change.
- A fundraising database has been purchased (Little Green Light) and, once LWV-H's current spreadsheet data has been migrated over to the database, it will help us learn more about giving and membership trends and enable LWV-H to more easily assess progress in achieving fundraising and membership goals.

Thoughts for Annual Meeting:

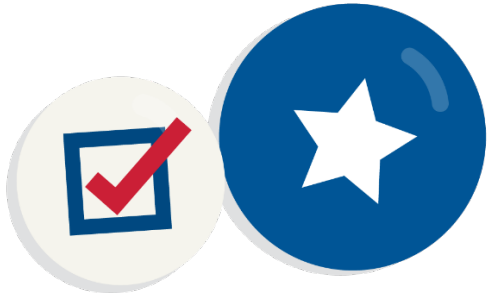
- Outcome of strategic planning sessions will provide helpful guidance in setting specific objectives for LWV-H in the coming years.
- (Lean on Katie's report for details) LWV-H now has working capital to make critical investments in infrastructure.
- The growing interest in LWV-H from institutional funders, individual donors and new members positions LWV-H to continue to make significant strides toward strengthening civic engagement and democracy in the Houston community.



REPORT OF THE VICE PRESIDENT FOR MEMBERSHIP AFFAIRS

Mika Rao Kalapatapu

We end the League year with a muscular roster of 448 members, 213 of whom joined our ranks since our last annual meeting.



REPORT OF THE VICE PRESIDENT FOR STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS

Claudia Ortega Hogue

Report of the Vice President for Strategic Partnerships

Claudia Ortega Hogue

Victoria Cordova, Speakers Bureau Chair

Speaking Engagements

- The Landing at Augusta Woods Senior Living
 - Presentation: Educational Presentation on Women's Equality Day
- Pine Trails Community Improvement Association
 - Presentation: Election Process and Voting Machines
- Texans YMCA
 - Panel: Civic Engagement, Local Issues and Advocacy
- All in Together – Voter Registration and Services, Civic Engagement, Local Issues and Advocacy
- Houston Public Library
 - Presentation: Voter Registration and Services, Civic Engagement
- IDEA Public Schools
 - Virtual Panel: Primary Ballot
- Jesse H Jones Park & Nature Center
 - Community Outreach: Voter Registration
- Zeta Tau Lambda Chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc
 - Panel: Voter Information for Local and Runoff Elections
- Prairie View A&M University National Alumni Association
 - Panel: Civic Engagement, Local Issues and Advocacy / State of LWV Houston
- East Houston Retired Education Association
 - Presentation: New Voting Rules
- Shadow Creek Ranch Retirement Community
 - Presentation: New Voting Rules and Mail-in Ballot Process

- Chinese American Petroleum Association (CAPA)
 - Keynote Presentation: Election Procedures, Election Process
- Wheeler Avenue Baptist Church
 - Presentation: Education on Voting
- Spring ISD Trustee Elections Forum Hosted by Council of PTAs
 - Moderating Forum: Candidates
- National Coalition of 100 Black Women Houston Metro Chapter
 - Legislative Day Town Hall “Small Wins”: LWV Mission, Voting, Voter Challenges
- LWVTX Austin Convention
 - Panel: Building Meaning Relationships with the Latina Community

Community Outreach Events

- Houston Hispanic Chamber of Commerce
 - LWV Booth: 2021 Annual Luncheon & Business Expo
 - LWV Booth: 2022 Women’s Leadership Conference & Business Expo
 - Attended: The State of Hispanics – Data Summit
- Houston Media Source
 - Downtown Rotary Club of Houston
- Consulate General of Mexico in Houston
 - Instituto de los Mexicanos en el Exterior Community Leadership & Dialogue
- Consulate of Israel to the SW
 - Honoring Hispanic Heritage Month
- Camara Empresarios Latinos de Houston
 - Topic: Importance of Voter Registration in the Business Community (in progress)
- Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo
 - Rodeo Community Reception
 - Mayor’s Turner’s Rodeo Kickoff

Media Outreach + Interviews

- Univision Houston + Univision Texas
 - Solidify Houston Media and Statewide Partnership with Houston, Austin, Dallas, San Antonio, RGV/McAllen
- KPRC Channel 2 LWV Election Day Helpline
 - Election Day / Promoting Hotline (713-778-8920)
- Univision 45 Primera Hora Morning Newscast
 - Topic: Primary Elections / Voter Registration
- Univision 45 Houston Contigo en la Comunidad
 - Topic: November Elections and Early Voting
- Univision 45 Houston Contigo en la Comunidad
 - Zoom Interview: Primary Elections and Voter Registration

- Telemundo 47 Houston
 - Election Day Live News @KPRC Helpline
- Univision 45 Houston Contigo en la Comunidad
 - Live Interview: Texas Primary Runoff Election
- Univision 45 Houston / 5pm News
 - Topic: Proposition 1 and Proposition 2

Community Connections:

- Astros Foundation, Texans, Latinos Entrepreneurs of Houston, The Houston Area Women’s Center, Tejano Center for Community Affairs, Latinos for Education, United Way Houston, Mi Familia Vota, Office of New Americans & Immigrant Communities, BakerRipley, Discover Fitness Foundation, AVANCE, Catholic Charities, Morales Funeral Foundation, American Jewish Committee, East End Chamber of Commerce, Center Point Energy, Univision 45 Houston, LULAC, Harris County District Clerk, Amegy Bank, Clear Channel, Mayor’s Hispanic Advisory Committee, University of Houston-Downtown, Houston Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, General Consulate of Mexico in Houston, Harris County Boards and Commissions, American Leadership Forum, Harris Health, University of Houston, AT&T, Office of Harris County Judge Lina Hidalgo, Greater Northside District, Visit Houston, Houston ISD, AARP, East End District, Avenues CDC, YMCA, Lift Fund, National Hispanic Professional Organization (NHPO), Houston Millennials, World Affairs Council of Greater Houston, FIEL, Greater Houston Community Foundation (GHCF), etc.

Congressional Connections:

- Senator John Cornyn, Senator Ted Cruz, Congressman Brian Babin, Congressman Kevin Brady, Congressman Dan Crenshaw, Congresswoman Lizzie Fletcher, Congresswoman Sylvia R. Garcia, Congresswoman Sheila Jackson Lee, Congressman Al Green, Congressman Michael McCaul, Congressman Weber, and Congressman Troy Nehls.



REPORT OF THE VICE PRESIDENT FOR LOCAL STUDIES AND ADVOCACY

Zak Miller

As 2021 gave way to 2022, the Study and Advocacy Committee (S&A) continued to meet and discuss important topics presented last year. Chief among those were a focus on how to promote and educate people on the issue of Ranked Choice Voting, continued outreach to elected officials, and participation in local efforts aimed at making redistricting and the mapping process as fair and non-partisan as possible. Although in person gatherings have returned as of this writing, the conditions of the pandemic were felt throughout much of the past year and have only begun to abate. However, S&A, like the League itself, persevered and continues to be a central component of the League's mission.

Among the charges approved by the membership for our focus this year was the issue of Ranked Choice Voting. The League has been in favor of this important electoral approach, and we were excited to welcome the President of Ranked Choice Voting, Harriet Wasserstrum, to share information with us, and through the League's social media presence, the membership, and the public at large. The S&A committee is committed to helping educate our members to normalize the concept within our broader political discourse. We were also pleased to welcome the Houston Chapter head for Ranked Choice Voting, Randy Kepner, who explained the process in detail as a speaker in the League's Salon series.

During the redistricting process, S&A shared information with the public and encouraged informed participation through the limited means made available, including testimony, letter writing, and submission of proposed maps. While the ongoing pandemic conscribed much of the usual activity, public input into the redistricting process was a natural extension of the committee's work advocating for Census participation in 2020.

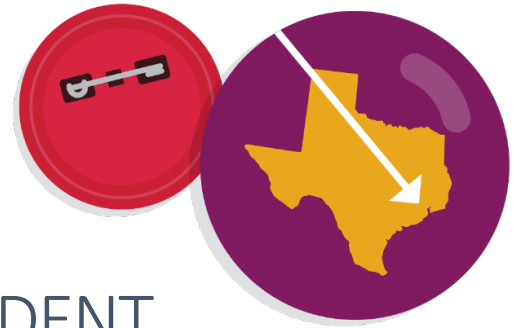
The League's efforts in redistricting reached their culmination when S&A Committee Member Jack Enright. Jack presented his proposed map of Harris County Commissioners' precincts at a Precinct 4 meeting led by Commissioner Jack Cagle, and twice at the Harris County Commissioners' Court in person. He had previously attempted to provide testimony on the maps virtually at the Texas House Redistricting Committee before the meeting was cancelled due to the legislative walkout in support of voting rights that started the same day.

The Enright Map, as it came to be known, was published in the Houston Chronicle and displayed at several voting sites throughout the county. The maps were drawn using various software programs and data sources to ensure communities of interest were represented and lines were drawn fairly. He also attended trainings put on by groups like MGGG and the Texas Civil Rights Project to further his knowledge of the subject. He worked with a representative with Harris County Precinct 2 and members of Houston in Action to generate support and improve the quality of the map.

As part of the Committee's charge to examine issues of social justice, we were pleased to welcome Susybelle Gosslee, the LWVTX Issue Chair for Hazardous Materials and Nuclear Waste, who provided a deeper dive into the proposed nuclear and hazardous waste transport routes that would cut through both Dallas and Houston.

As the League year draws to a close, the Study & Advocacy Committee proposes the following topics for the 2022/2024 committee focus:

- Ranked Choice Voting
- Issues of Racial and Social Justice
- Issues of Redistricting
- Climate Change with a local focus on issues of Flood Mitigation
- Issues of Reproductive Healthcare and Reproductive Rights
- Issues of Campaign Finance



REPORT OF THE VICE PRESIDENT FOR VOTER SERVICES

Nancy Kral

Naturalization Ceremonies

Due to Covid, large Naturalization Ceremonies conducted by federal judges have been suspended since the February 2020 ceremony.

In June 2020, US Citizenship and Immigration Services began holding small, administrative naturalizations in their offices. Voter Services had congratulatory notes printed with LWV information which are stapled to highlighted Voter Registration Applications and delivered regularly to USCIS offices.

Starting in April 2021, USCIS began holding monthly events at MO Campbell Center, but only for the naturalized citizens and one guest each. LWV has not yet re-started our in-person naturalization efforts.

We continue to provide congratulatory notes and voter registration cards to new citizens. Since March 2020, LWV-Houston has provided over 50,000 applications with notes to USCIS for distribution in the citizenship packets all receive.

We are hopeful that we will be invited to return to in-person naturalization ceremonies soon, hopefully in June 2022.

Secretary of State Issues

After learning that the Secretary of State's office was unable to provide us with new voter registration cards, due to paper shortages, budget constraints, and other excuses, LWV-Houston partnered with LWV-Texas to draw attention to the problem.

It is especially problematic for Texas where we do not have online voter registration (as 40+ other states do). In response to the SOS action, we followed their direction to "find a donor" and started a Go Fund Me page. We received over \$5000. from across the United States to support our efforts and have voter registration cards printed.

We received national media exposure from Late Show with Stephen Colbert and This Week with George Stephanopoulos, CNN, as well as local and state coverage.

We were outspoken advocates for citizens whose ballots had been rejected due to cumbersome, confusing vote by mail procedures.

Adopt a Post Office Initiative

During the 2021-22 year, Voter Services continued to work with volunteers who kept voter registration cards available at their local post offices.

We plan to ramp up and get more than our current approximately 41 post offices covered for the Fall 2022 election. Some post offices are reluctant to participate, and we will continue to keep trying to get more post offices to participate.

Voter Services has committed to keep post offices supplied with Voter Registration Applications.

Register to Vote Boxes in County Clerks Offices & Others Planned

Not only in post offices, Register to Vote boxes were placed in all 16 of the Harris County Clerk's offices.

As we did for the last election, in Fall 2022, we hope to approach a varied group of restaurants, coffee shops, hardware stores, bike shops, and grocery stores to try to get our boxes displayed and remind citizens on the importance of voting.

QR Code

We continue to use our Vote411 QR Code in all marketing and voter empowerment events.

Harris County Public Library and Houston Public Library

We have agreements with the libraries of Harris County to host National Voter Registration Day events, distribute our Voters Guide, distribute our Be A Voter push cards, and display our new Voter Empowerment posters.

Voters Guides

Once again, Voter Services provided the non-partisan Voter Guide.

353 candidates, in 118 races were contacted by LWV/Houston. This does not include candidates contacted by LWV/TX or LWV/US. 316 candidates responded.

12,000 copies of our 48 page Spring 2022 Voters Guide publication were printed and distributed.

The Harris County Public Library and Houston Public Library continue to be important partners in distributing the voter guides. Patrons were able to get a copy from the front desks at the libraries.

We had other groups that helped us distribute the Voters Guide, but we know that we can do better outreach.

The voter guides were also available on the LWV/Houston Website and VOTE411. Guides were available online in 4 languages: English, Spanish, Chinese, and Vietnamese.

National Voter Registration Day

We participated in National Voter Registration Day again in 2021. Approximately 35 locations were staffed throughout the Houston area to register citizens to vote and to provide voter information. We expect an even larger number of locations for the upcoming Sept. 20, 2022 NVRD.

Voter Empowerment (formerly GOTV – Get Out the Vote)

We have had posters printed, flyers made, bookmarks, push cards, Be a Voter pins, t-shirts, yard signs, and more produced to remind people that they are empowered when they vote.

Phone Bank/Help Line with KPRC Channel 2

Voter Services worked with KPRC Channel 2 to staff an election day help line for the March 2022 primary. We will have another event there for the November general election day this year.

Voter Registration Coordinators

We have a network of 16+ LWV coordinators who partner with the Harris County Elections Office, neighborhood events, and our volunteers, so that we can tailor-make events for the wide variety of needs that exist in the Houston area.

Back to School Backpack Event with Mayor's Office

Working with Mayor Turner's Office and the Houston Food Bank, we distributed thousands of our voter bookmarks along with food, backpacks, and school supplies at NRG

Partner with Election Administration Office

We have developed a good working relationship with the Harris County Election Administration office. We work with their employees that are "in the field," as well as have monthly meetings with the EA Office managers to ensure a good working relationship.

High Schools and Colleges – including Medical Schools

We helped register and educate voters at a variety of high schools, colleges, and even medical schools in the Texas Medical Center.

Congratulations Cards to Graduating Seniors

We started a new program this year where we provide voter registration cards attached to this congratulations note from LWV-Houston. We distributed over 2500 (as of May 10) and we hope to distribute another 5000 by mid June, when graduation season ends.

Houston Area Sports Teams

We held voting events at both a Houston Texans football game and a Houston Astros baseball game.

Partnered with Other Groups

We held voter registration and voter empowerment events with Houston Women's March, at Discovery Green, working with City Councilman Robert Gallegos and Mayor Sylvester Turner, nonprofit Coalition of Community Organizations, Houston Millennials, and the YMCA, companies such as Shell Oil, Barnaby's Café, and many more. We welcome the opportunity to partner with other groups who share our same non-partisan, pro-democracy and empowerment goals.

Communication

We had a busy year.

We now have over 500 names of volunteers in our data base. We now have divided up our groups of volunteers into geographic areas so that people will be notified of neighborhood events, as well as our large area-wide events.

And We're Ready To Do It Again!



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 newer League members who are making important contributions. In keeping with tradition, 2022 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.

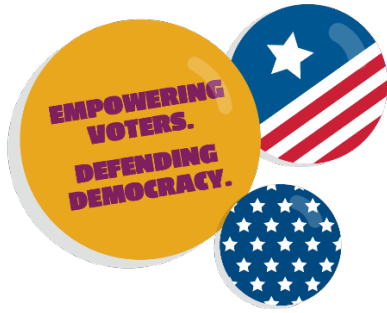
The Helen Hunter Award was established in 1995 to honor Helen Hunter, LWV-Houston president from 1982-1985, and to recognize and encourage exemplary leadership. The award is not presented every year, but rather only when the Awards Committee is able to identify a candidate of exceeding merit. The citation 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	2005 Barb Swartz	2013 Jacqueline Alfred
1996 Melba Drake	2006 Gwen Essinger	2015 Tom Berg
1997 Margaret Kolodzie	2008 Judy Hollinger	2016 Novelle Doherty
1998 Mary Gillete	2009 Millie Whittington	2017 Laura Blackburn
2002 Bette John	2010 Linda Cohn	2018 Ann Herbage
2003 Alice May Berthelsen	2011 Sharon Cunningham	2019 Annie Benifield
2004 Jan Wilbur	2012 Nancy Parra	2020 Liza Alonzo
		2021 Renee Cross

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*. The award for 2020 went to **Nancy Kral** and **John Byrd** for their innovative work in organizing voter registration services. In an innovative acknowledgement of his outstanding support of voter registration at Naturalization Ceremonies, the 2021 Sam Keeper award went to **Norman DeMoose of the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services**.



REPORT OF THE BOARD GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE - NOMINATIONS

Chair: Franny Oxford

Committee: Liza Alonzo, Nancy Kral, Phillip Yates, Rocio Rubio

The Board Governance Committee is pleased to present this slate of candidates for election as officers and trustees of the League of Women Voters of Houston:

Treasurer:	Katie Shumway
VP, Membership Affairs:	Tiko Reynolds-Hausman
VP, Development:	Carol Shattuck
VP, Study/Advocacy	Naomi Williams
Trustee at Large:	Katherine Summerlin
Trustee at Large:	Priscila True
Trustee at Large:	Virginia Johnson
Trustee at Large:	Alan Bernstein
Trustee at Large:	MaryJane Mudd
Trustee at Large:	Gene Preuss
Trustee at Large:	Archna Bhasin
Trustee at Large:	Michelle Levi McDaniel

The Board Governance Committee is pleased to present this slate of candidates for election as members of the Board Governance Committee for 2022-2023:

Chair: Nancy Kral

Co chair: MaryJane Mudd

Member: Linda Cantu

Member: Jordan Jupe

Member: Michelle Levi

-please see notes on League governance on the next page

League Governance 2022-2023

The Board Governance Committee wishes to affirm the League's duty to promote civic engagement and therefore seeks to build League governance that will effectively support this mission.

Candidates designated in boldface type will be presented to the membership for election at the Annual Meeting on May 29, 2022. All others are continuing in their ongoing terms of office.

Position	Officer/Trustee	Term of Office	
President	Annie Johnson Benifield	2021-2023	
Secretary	Melissa Padden	2021-2023	
Treasurer	Katie Campbell Shumway	2022-2024	
Vice President: Membership Affairs	Tiko Reynolds-Hausman	2022-2024	
Vice President: Study and Advocacy	Naomi Williams	2022-2024	
Vice President: Marketing	Roxanne Werner	2021-2023	
Vice President: Development	Carol Shattuck	2022-2024	
Vice President: Voter Services	Nancy Kral	2021-2023	
Vice President: Strategic Partnerships	Claudia Ortega Hogue	2021-2023	Designated as President Elect
Trustee at Large	Katherine Summerlin	2022-2024	
Trustee at Large	Priscila True	2022-2024	
Trustee at Large	Virginia Johnson	2022-2024	
Trustee at Large	Alan Bernstein	2022-2024	
Trustee at Large	MaryJane Mudd	2022-2024	
Trustee at Large	Gene Preuss	2022-2024	
Trustee at Large	Archna Bhasin	2022-2024	
Trustee at Large	Michelle Levi McDaniel	2022-2024	
Trustee at Large	Renee Cross	2021-2023	
Trustee at Large	Amber Burton Alfred	2021-2023	
Trustee at Large	Graci Garces	2021-2023	
Trustee at Large		2021-2023	Board may fill this position at will.