



2023

Annual Meeting

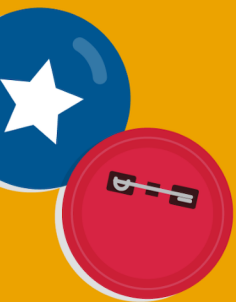
Monday, May 22, 2023



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IMPACT REPORT

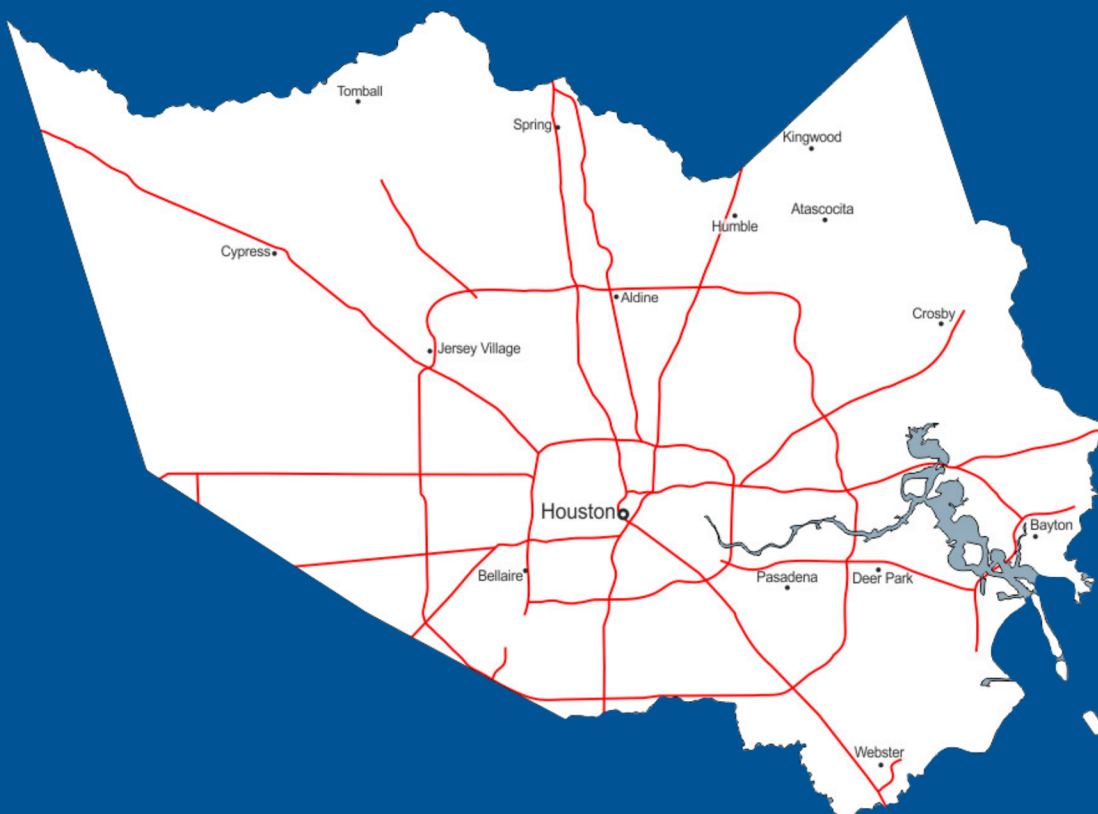
Since its formation 103 years ago, the League of Women Voters of Houston has been a guiding light for all who believe that the strength of our democracy lies with the citizens. The League has grown in stature and prestige because it has never wavered in its nonpartisan efforts to encourage the informed and active participation of citizens in government. In practice, this means that the League works to increase understanding of major policy issues and influences these policies through education and advocacy.

The League fosters a thriving democracy by engaging all people in the political process through nonpartisan information sharing, passionate civic engagement, and by providing opportunities to participate in the democratic process.



As one of the most diverse cities in the nation, increasing voter turnout in Houston has the biggest impact on defending democracy, and with increasingly restrictive voting laws, action is as urgent as ever.

Houston has over 1.3mil eligible voters, but only 56.5% turned out to vote in 2020 and even less (37.9%) in 2022.



**16,431
NEW VOTER
REGISTRATIONS**



**37,908
FACE TO FACE
INTERACTIONS**



**65,672
VOTERS GUIDES
DISTRIBUTED**



**7,474
VOLUNTEER
HOURS**



2023 ANNUAL MEETING AGENDA

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

Speaker

Clifford Tatum

About our Organization

Annie Johnson Benifield

The Year in Review: Empowering Voters, Defending Democracy

Introduction of the Executive Director

Katie Campbell Shumway

Report of the Finance Committee

Jackie Kacen

ACTION: Adoption of the Budget, 2023-2024

Report of the Study and Advocacy Committee

Naomi Williams

ACTION: Adoption of Program, 2023-2024

A Special Resolution on Amending Bylaws

Annie Johnson Benifield

ACTION: Adoption of Revised Bylaws

Presentation of Awards

Renee Cross

Special Recognition

Carmela Walker

Report of the Board Governance Committee

Nancy Kral

ACTION: Adoption of Board Officers and Trustees

Announcements

Annie Johnson Benifield

Adjournment

Annie Johnson Benifield

PRESIDENT'S REMARKS

DR. ANNIE JOHNSON BENIFIELD

Greetings LWV Houston members,

Lena Horne had this to say, "it's not the load that breaks you down, it's the way you carry it." I sincerely hope that the League reflects and represents how I sought to carry it. So, my sincere hope is that the League is reflective and representative of the difference in leadership styles.



For the past 17 months, my tenure as the first woman of color to serve as President of the League of Women Voters of Houston has been nothing less than challenging, but very rewarding in immeasurable ways. Being president of a historical and iconic organization resulted in some incredible successes of which I along with the Board and membership are so abundantly proud of and which I will highlight in my final message.

When my journey started as President of the League of Women Voters, I had three goals in mind. First, develop a strategic plan. Second, build out the League's committee structure. Third, achieve financial sustainability. So far, the League's adoption of a strategic plan, and its implementation are well on its way. The other two goals are moving forward toward full implementation as well. This is truly remarkable in such a short period of time. The League is clearly on a path to success.

In my capacity as President, I, along with other board members conducted numerous media interviews. Uniquely, I had the incredible opportunity to conduct 17 presentations on voting rights, constitutional amendments, and serve as moderator for two candidate forums. In addition to that, personally I participated in 41 interviews by the media (foreign and domestic) via radio, television, podcast, Instagram live, etc. to promote the League's position on important policy issues. This exposure facilitated the League's position on policy issues and gave us a voice in the public square. Given the current political climate, the media exposure represented a truly meaningful opportunity to speak up and out, ensuring voters had factually based nonpartisan information to make informed decisions on political candidates, public policy, and constitutional amendments.

Over the past year, the League planned, executed and/ or participated in many amazing activities in the civic square which sharing with the membership, will further facilitate a strong sense of pride and unity. It strengthens your "why", meaning why you joined and continue to volunteer with this incredible organization.



In June 2022, after a two-year hiatus due to COVID, the League was invited back to Naturalization Ceremonies in M. O. Campbell. Approximately 15,000 new citizens were registered to vote. As a result, they can now actively engage and participate in the political process. The 20 to 25 dedicated corps of volunteers are instrumental in the League's work in this arena.



Because the League is a grassroots organization with all volunteers, the Houston Endowment (HE) invested in our mission with a substantial financial grant to build capacity. As a direct result of HE funds, the League hired an Executive Director, Katie Campbell Shumway to provide some continuity and consistency in executing its strategic plan. Moreover, our executive director will facilitate the raising of revenue with the Fund Development Team with the intent to better access underserved communities. The goal of accessing these communities will be achieved by partnering with other nonpartisan like-minded groups-groups who are aligned with democratic principles associated with promoting voting rights and access for all citizens to successfully engage in a substantive way.

Due to this momentum, another major partnership commenced with the Houston Chronicle. The Houston Chronicle agreed to print and digitally distribute the League's signature voter education document, the Voters Guide to its online customers. What an amazing feat for both parties? This amazing collaboration facilitated the League expanded its distribution of the Voters Guide beyond libraries (HCPL and HPL), to community centers, community colleges, universities, and churches and quite literally to any group and/or individual who requested copies. To facilitate greater access for people with disabilities, a large text and audio edition of the signature Voters Guide will be available for the Fall 2023 local elections. We are now exploring additional opportunities to collaborate with the Chronicle, such as partnering for a candidate forum and educational presentations. Recently an education reporter from the Houston Chronicle provided an in-depth presentation to League members on the Texas Education Association Takeover of the Houston Independent School District.

As a follow on to efforts related to League's voter empowerment activities at the high school graduation efforts, HISD invited the League of Women of Houston to conduct voter registration in its 40 high school during opening week in August 2022. This was such an exceptionally proud moment for the League and its outreach efforts. To date a significant number of students, staff, and faculty readily embraced this empowerment opportunity.

The League is in its 103rd year of existence. In August 2022, LWV Houston celebrated Women Equality Day in partnership with the Heritage Society Museum. More than ninety plus community members attended this



historical celebration. The League's ongoing partnership with the Heritage Society allows for more collaboration in a variety of programs, such as the 45th Anniversary of the National Women's Conference in Houston.

On September 20, 2022, National Voter Registration Day (NVRD) was another major triumphant event for the League. The League's work along with numerous partners: Harris County Public Library, Houston Public Library, University of Houston Downtown, Lone Star College, Houston Community College, San Jacinto, and private businesses culminated into over 300 individual registrations that day. The League's participation in more than 40 plus voter registration activities across Houston/Harris County enhanced the League's presence in underrepresented communities.



Over the years the League consistently partners with KPRC Channel 2 on NVRD. KPRC provides news coverage from various sites to facilitate citizens knowing where to go to register to vote. The Election Day Phone Bank is also a phenomenal partnership the League has with KPRC where its members and partners volunteer to answer the phone and provide critical election related information, such as polling locations and registration status. Last fall, the League and its partners were responsible for answering approximately 1,000 calls in English and Spanish across a 12-hour period.



The League of Women Voters of Houston also held its first Early Vote Rally at the historical Emancipation Park in Third Ward on October 22, 2023. For this event numerous partners (Houston Mayor's Office NAACP, HAUL, The Defenders Network Divine Nine, UHSGA, People's Legal Clinic, METRO and Wheeler Avenue Social Justice Ministry) turned out and financially supported this gallant effort. Also, Voters Guides were distributed to the attendees to take back to their respective communities for distribution. More than 150 people

showed up along with the Harris County Election Administrators to demonstrate how to utilize the new election machines.

During the last year, the League, through its long-term partnership with Houston Media Source, conducted several public access public affairs and conversations with the candidates. The topics covered include Gun Violence, 2022 topic news stories, Texas Latino Conservatives and Looking forward and backward for the League with the addition of an executive director and the future focus of the league.

Last fall 11 candidates on the ballot were interviewed for Conversations with the Candidates. Presented by the League, a varied set of hosts demonstrated the League's willingness to tap into

the expertise of its diverse board. Voters deserve programs and events that will inform them to the greatest extent possible about candidates who are seeking elected office. The Houston Media Source (HMS), through a long collaborative relationship with the League has been a major provider of this.

On February 28, LWV Houston joined LWVTX and other Leagues from across the state at Lobby Day at the state capitol. Seventeen (17) LWV Houston members visited 31 legislators offices and conversed with staff and legislators identifying four primary issues of focus: Voting, Gun Safety, Education, and Women Reproductive Health. League members left information packets and have subsequently responded to LWVTX Action Alerts on these issues to our respective legislators.



In April 2023, the League began an office lease which is a major step toward a more stable environmental setting for building partnerships with nonpartisan groups who strongly support democratic ideas. Having a centralized location enhances the League's ability to reach out to underserved/underrepresented groups whose voices need to be heard in the public square as well as in the political arena.

My parting message to LWV Houston members is my service as president has been a truly inspiring journey. This expedition and the successes over the past 17 months cause me to be hopeful for the organization's future. The continuance of its mission of empowering voters and defending democracy is really needed in these turbulent times when democracy is on the ballot. The continued growth potential of the League membership can only make it a more powerful civic organization. With strong member support and accountability from the Board, the League of Women Voters of Houston has an extraordinarily bright future.

Democracy is truly not a spectator sport where one gets to come into the arena and watch activities unfolds from the bleaches. Rather, democracy is a gladiator sport where one must fight for justice, equality, equity through exercising one's vote.

Thank you so very much for the opportunity to serve as President of the League of Women Voters of Houston. I trust that my leadership positioned the organization for continued growth and development. Again, thank you.

Annie Johnson Benifield

President, LWV Houston

FY22-23 FINANCIALS

Fundraising efforts supported a year of robust programming and operational investment. Our first Matching Gifts Campaign raised \$80,000. Due to a strong giving year by individuals and foundations, the League exceeded budget expectations. Income increased by 11% compared to last fiscal year, resulting in support for a record number of voter empowerment events. The League was able to produce new educational materials distributed at outreach events and by partner organizations, widening its impact.



The transformational Houston Endowment grant provided stability and financial support for key programs including voter services, study and advocacy, and naturalization ceremonies. Renewed grants from LWVUS provided funds for youth programs, targeted outreach in underserved communities, and new citizen voter materials. The hiring of an Executive Director in December 2022, and securing office space in spring 2023, increased organizational capacity and provides a foundation to implement larger programs and opportunities in the coming year.

A portion of unused funds from the Special Projects/Rainy Day Fund and grant monies was invested in short-term, interest-earning accounts which is generating additional income. The Treasurer, along with the Executive Director, evaluate cash flow needs on a continuous basis and recommend investment allocations to the Finance Committee and Board in accordance with financial policies and procedures. Each year, a cash flow projection is created to determine the minimum cash needed to operate the organization and to clarify if excess cash can be allocated to the Special Projects/Rainy Day Fund.

The projected financial outcome for FY 22-23 can be found on the budget page in the italicized blue column.

Restricted/Unrestricted Liquid Assets (as of 5/8/2023): \$144,988.90

Restricted/Unrestricted Temporary Investments (as of 5/8/2023): \$250,000 (maturity by Sept 2023)

Restricted Endowment: \$24,568.00

TOTAL ASSETS: \$419,556.90

Estimated value of volunteer hours 7,474 hours x \$31.80 = \$237,673.20

FY23-24 BUDGET PROPOSAL

With significant grant funding secured for the next two fiscal years, the League will be able expand key mission-related programs, especially the Voters Guide and voter services. The Special Projects/Rainy Day Fund remains intact and will provide for sustainable spending should an unforeseen crisis occur.

Volunteer and Board of Trustee feedback from the 2022 Strategic Plan and subsequent meetings are reflected in the FY23-24 budget in contract staff additions, an office lease, and investments in membership, development, and marketing. Previous capital improvements (office furniture, computers, website) were not executed in FY22-23 as planned and have been allocated to FY23-24.

Fiscal Year 2023-2024 Budget Summary

Gross Revenue: \$511,250

Expense: \$510,028

Net Revenue: \$1,222

The Board of Directors reviewed and approved for recommendation to the Membership the proposed FY23-24 budget for the League of Women Voters of Houston on April 24, 2023.

The proposed FY23-24 Budget reflects a modest increase in income compared to FY22-23 with growth expected from individual, corporate and foundation giving, luncheon revenue, in-kind contributions for the Voters Guide, and interest earned from investments. Compared to last year's actual budget, a conservative growth income (~\$16K) is budgeted since non-cash items such as in-kind and website allocation from FY22-23 do not require additional funding.

Included in this year's budget are requests for funds related to the Voters Guide, expanded voter services, voter registration, naturalization ceremonies, increased marketing and communication funding, and an increase in contract wages for administrative support. The League will also implement a new website project to meet the needs of voters, members, and volunteers. Administrative tasks previously completed by Board members and volunteers will be contracted out. Operational expenses include office space and supplies, fees/licenses, insurance, phone, and postage.

The Board will review and approve the use of these funds as needed. Expenditures have increased to reflect the growth in activities and fundraising momentum. There is an inflation increase in all categories, with a larger expense for the Voters Guide due to multiple election cycles and an expanded guide. Other budgetary increases are previously described.



		PROGRAMS	FUNDRAISING	OVERHEAD	TOTAL	
		23-24 budget	23-24 budget	23-24 budget	22-23 projected	23-24 budget
Ordinary Income/Expense						
Income						
Contributions						
	Individuals	26,500.00	57,000.00	1,000.00	63,216.85	84,500.00
	In-Kind	41,500.00	0.00	0.00	25,000.00	41,500.00
	Corporate	5,000.00	16,000.00	0.00	16,367.01	21,000.00
	Foundation	9,500.00	275,000.00	0.00	280,420.00	284,500.00
Total Contributions		82,500.00	348,000.00	1,000.00	385,003.86	431,500.00
Membership		0.00	25,000.00	0.00	24,149.35	25,000.00
Event Income		1,250.00	66,000.00	0.00	60,000.00	67,250.00
Interest Earned		0.00	0.00	2,500.00	1,409.64	2,500.00
Total Income		83,750.00	439,000.00	3,500.00	470,562.85	526,250.00
Cost of Goods Sold						
LWV of Texas PMP			6,000.00	0.00	8,569.00	6,000.00
LWV of US PMP			9,000.00	0.00	12,464.00	9,000.00
Total COGS			15,000.00	0.00	21,033.00	15,000.00
Gross Profit		83,750.00	424,000.00	3,500.00	449,529.85	511,250.00
Expense						
Total Payroll Expenses		29,700.00	34,700.00	54,800.00	57,573.14	119,200.00
Association Management		11,000.00		27,000.00	26,400.00	38,000.00
Professional Services		98,400.00	42,600.00	19,000.00	44,264.71	160,000.00
Intern Compensation & Training		10,070.00	6,520.00	0.00	0.00	16,590.00
Office Lease		9,600.00	4,800.00	9,600.00	6,000.00	24,000.00
Office Supplies		10,100.00		10,000.00	10,323.12	20,100.00
Marketing/Advertising		9,500.00	1,000.00	2,000.00	1,745.30	12,500.00
Printing/Copying		58,750.00	5,000.00	1,000.00	33,252.39	64,750.00
Postage/Delivery		500.00	1,600.00	750.00	825.82	2,850.00
Telephone/Internet		0.00	0.00	3,000.00	2,274.21	3,000.00
Bank Service Charges		0.00	0.00	0.00	40.00	0.00
Convention/Council		0.00	0.00	0.00	2,046.49	0.00
Décor		0.00	2,500.00	0.00	1,000.00	2,500.00
Event Entertainment		0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Fees/Licenses		400.00	700.00	750.00	60.00	1,850.00
Food/Beverage		8,700.00	15,000.00	1,750.00	10,201.16	25,450.00
Insurance		1,650.00	0.00	3,000.00	2,851.00	4,650.00
Storage		0.00	0.00	1,578.00	1,233.00	1,578.00
Transportation		0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Mileage/Parking		0.00	0.00	250.00	58.16	250.00
Venues		1,000.00	3,000.00	500.00	4,352.33	4,500.00
Website		2,000.00	2,000.00	1,000.00	403.49	5,000.00
CC processing fees		360.00	2,650.00	0.00	2,592.26	3,010.00
Total Expense		251,730.00	122,320.00	135,978.00	207,496.58	510,028.00
Net Ordinary Income		-167,980.00	301,680.00	-132,478.00	242,033.27	1,222.00

PROGRAM REPORTS

Voter Services

Voter Empowerment Events

350 events were hosted by hundreds of dedicated League volunteers in greater Harris County. Voter Engagement events result in new registrations, but more importantly, they provide opportunities for voters to ask election questions and gain meaningful, nonpartisan educational materials. An estimated 14,000 person-to-person conversations were held at these events in nearly every zip code in the city of Houston. Regular outreach at the University of Houston-Downtown motivated new volunteers to get involved with the League and an enhanced relationship with the Harris County Elections Administration has increased event participation.



Youth Civic Engagement

In the fall of 2022 and spring of 2023, the League partnered with Houston ISD to educate and empower young voters. The first widespread effort of its kind, the events resulted in hundreds of conversations with high school students, newly registered voters, and an ongoing relationship with HISD for future outreach opportunities. This is a major step towards our goal to create diverse civic leaders in the Houston area. Below is a summary of the experience:

- # of total schools – 40+ high schools in fall and spring
- # of volunteer hours – 724+ hours
- # of registered voters – 400+ new voters
- # of nonpartisan educational materials distributed – 1,850+ pamphlets, bookmarks, etc.

In addition to high schools, the League partnered with local universities to host nonpartisan educational outreach booths throughout the year and at graduation. Additionally, the League's high school initiative contributed to election research conducted by students at Rice University. In 2023-2024, the League is looking forward to a new expanded presence at Texas Southern University (one of the nation's largest historically black colleges and universities).



Voters Guide

As the cornerstone publication of the League, the Voters Guide was distributed in print and online to 65,322 voters and in some cases, in multiple languages. For decades, this resource has provided voters with the only comprehensive summary of candidate positions with relevancy to the office for which they are running. Last year, the Houston Chronicle committed to printing the Voters Guide in English as an in-kind donation to the League. Alleviating printing costs, the League can allocate funding to translations, distribution, and expansion of other nonpartisan election resources.



New Voter FYI pamphlets have been translated into Spanish, Vietnamese, and Chinese and provide important voter ID information, election dates, and answer common voting questions. The distribution and organization of all materials was fully supported by League volunteers who are leaders in the community. Together, with other organizations and volunteers, they contributed 5,300+ hours of service from June to November to ensure materials were available in as many locations as possible. The dedication of League volunteers is impressive as they continue showing up to empower voters and defend democracy.

Election Helpline, Expanded Initiatives, and More
Hosted at KPRC Channel 2, Katherine Culbert and Priscila True co-chaired the annual Election Day Helpline. 60 volunteers answered over 1,000 phone calls with questions ranging from polling locations to registration confirmations, and a Spanish speaking line was available.



On October 22, the League hosted an Early Voting Rally to empower voters and connect with the community at Emancipation Park. Participants included the City of Houston Mayor's Office, Texas Children's Hospital, Social Justice Ministry, Houston Area Urban League, and many more.

Voter registration boxes continue to be maintained in post offices, libraries, apartment complexes, and many more locations across Houston. Speaking of apartments, Linda Cantu and Voter Services Volunteers began important work in targeted outreach in apartment buildings. These communities are often carved out and ignored by other organizations. The League is committed to working with property owners, management districts, and HAA to develop civic engagement programs to help register voters and bring them to the polls this November.

As the largest committee in the organization, the Voter Services team does much more than can be summarized in this report. We hope that you will consider joining this group of incredible volunteers to get involved.

Fund Development

As previously mentioned, generosity from the Houston Endowment launched the League's strategic plan into motion. This capacity-building grant has afforded the organization the opportunity to hire staff, secure an office lease, and invest in technology to expand website capabilities. Another achievement was the remarkable success of the Fall Matching Gifts Campaign, which raised \$80,000 from generous supporters of the League's mission. Some donors are noted below in appreciation for all that they do for the organization. Please note that this list does not include the full scope of support over the past year.

\$20,000+

Houston Endowment
Maud Lipscomb

\$5,000+

Anonymous
Paul and Marian Cones
Sharon Cunningham
League of Women Voters of Texas
League of Women Voters of the United States
Omega Life Membership Foundation, Inc.



\$2,500+

The Honorable Leslie Briones
CenterPoint Energy
Renee Cross
Greater Houston Builders Association
The Honorable Peggy Hamric
The Honorable Kristen Hawkins
Houston Association of REALTORS
Glenna Pierpont
Teresa McCanlies
Michelle McDaniel
The Honorable Esmeralda Moya
The Honorable RK Sandill
Bobbi Samuels
Carol Shattuck
University of Houston – Main Campus
University of Houston – Downtown



Total Projected Unrestricted and Restricted Contributions Revenue for FY22-23: \$385k-\$400k+

Membership

343 student, individual, household, and lifetime members as of 5/5/2023

For the first time, quarterly Membership Town Hall meetings were offered to update and engage with members more frequently. More in person membership meetup events will be held and a members-only website portal will be launched in the coming year. The membership portal will include easy renewals, membership offers and discounts, and an optional directory.



Rising Stars

A signature League initiative, the Rising Stars Program develops leadership skills, increases confidence in working in government or running for elected office and connects civically minded citizens. Participants of the Rising Stars program have spoken with thirty-one legislators representing the Houston area. They continue to record redistricting testimony and have developed a long-term storage solution to capture current and historical data that can be used for future hearings.

During the legislative session, volunteers visited the Texas Capitol to discuss important issues such as voting rights, women's healthcare, education, and gun safety. Participants included volunteers, board leadership, and graduates of the Rising Stars program.

Marketing

Volunteers and board leadership participated in 28 media interviews throughout the year. These included radio interviews on Houston Matters, TV broadcasts on ABC 13, KPRC 2, Telemundo, Univision, and print interviews.



Study & Advocacy

88th Texas Legislative Session

Sixteen volunteers traveled to Austin in February as part of the LWV Texas Lobby Days event. Groups met with 31 legislative offices representing Houston and provided important information about League issues.

“A truly democratic day for democracy. It was fascinating to actually meet with some of the elected officials and their Chief of Staff or Legislative Directors. It is an enlightening process to participate in. LWV members can actually witness who listens to their constituents and who does not.” – Lobby Days Volunteer

Almost each week, LWVTX circulated Action Alerts for members to contact their representatives on important bills actively being considered at the Capitol.



In the Loop Unit Meetings

One of the most important components of the League is the Unit System. Our League of Women Voters of Houston Unit Meetings are a wonderful way to become better informed about topics of interest to our city while meeting and developing friendships with local League members. Presently there is one Unit in Houston, but we are working to expand Units in Houston to accommodate the various schedules of our members. Attendance varies between 8 - 25 members. Topics this year included Gun Safety Laws in TX, Abolishing the Electoral College, Reviewing Harris County Propositions on Ballot, Ranked Choice Voting, Review of LWV Texas Legislative Priorities, Public Education in TX and the TEA Takeover of HISD. Currently, members and guests meet monthly via Zoom on the fourth Wednesday at 11:30 am – 12:30 pm for either a member-led discussion or a guest speaker. LWV Houston sends In the Loop meeting notifications via email and posts on LWV Houston calendar of events.

Conversations with Candidates and Public Affairs, Public Access

In partnership with Houston Media Source, the League interviewed and produced free, educational digital programming during the election season. These programs were viewed nearly 900 times online.



Thursday, October 13 | SBOE Dist 6 – Will Hickman, Michelle Palmer, and Rebekah Plourde

Thursday, October 20 | SBOE Dist 8 - Audrey Young | County Commissioner Pct 2 – Adrian Garcia

Thursday, October 27 | County Commissioners Pct 4 & US Rep Dist 38 | Lesley Briones, Duncan Klaussmann, and Joel DeJean

Thursday, November 3 | Harris County Judge | Lina Hidalgo and Naoufal Houjami

July 2022 – *Gun Violence with Sheriff Ed Gonzalez, LWV Texas Amy Mobley Turney, and Augustine Reyes.* <https://youtu.be/pwa4bSVHpWM>

August 2022 – *Crystal Okorafor, Deputy Inspector General OPRA on One Safe Houston, and Jack Enright on LWWH Rising Stars Program*

September 2022 – *Battle for The Heart of Texas* <https://youtu.be/vR4YXMQjSg4>

January 2023 – *Top News Stories of 2022*, David Branham and William V. Flores, <https://youtu.be/TpBozqFaK48>

February 2023 – *Looking forward and Back with the League*, Annie Johnson Benifield and Katie Campbell Shumway, <https://youtu.be/vUKHoO0sh00>

March 2023 – *Texas Latino Conservatives with Orlando Sanchez, Historic rehabilitation of LULAC Council 60 Clubhouse*

Strategic Partnerships

Informing the public about voting rights issues and providing nonpartisan election information is one of the most important aspects of the organization. In partnerships with nonprofits, civic groups, government entities, and businesses, the League often speaks at events throughout the city and nationwide. This year, volunteers spoke at engagements representing 37 unique zip codes and reaching individual audiences of over 4,000 people and thousands more through media interviews.

Speaking Engagements & Presentations:

- Prairie View A&M University
National Alumni Association
- LWVUS National Convention
- Houston Public Library
- Brazos Towers at Bayou Manor
Retirement Community
- LULAC
- Women Equality Day Heritage
Society Museum
- Houston Community College



- Kappa Alpha Psi Leadership Conference Voter Empowerment
- Phi Beta Sigma
- Rice Black Student Association
- San Jacinto Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution
- Bonding Against Adversity
- Mayor's Hispanic Advisory Board
- Moderator Candidate Forum LSC – Tomball
- The Misses Podcast
- Harris County Department of Education
- Women Professionals in Government
- Crossing Point Christian Church
- Montrose Civic Association LWVH & Voter Education
- Chi Omicron Omega Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc.
- East Harris County Empowerment Council-
- IDEA Public Schools (state-wide)
- Power On Heels Education Fund
- TIRR MEMORIAL HERMANN
- National Women Conference (NWC) 45th Anniversary
- PAVE
- East Houston Retired Education Association
- East Early College High School
- Wheeler Avenue Baptist Church
- Shadow Creek Ranch Retirement Community
- Chinese American Petroleum Association (CAPA)
- LWV of Gunnison Valley
- Sherwood Oaks Women's Club
- Ismaili Jamatkhana and Center
- Sherwood Oaks Women's Club
- NDWA/We Dream In Black Houston
- Spring ISD Trustee Elections Forum Hosted by Council of PTAs
- LWV- Galveston At Large

Media Interviews

- Podcast w/ Harris County Public Library
- KHOU 11 HISD Youth Voter Registration
- I AM A Voter Roundtable KTRK ABC 13
- ABC Your Voice, Your Vote
- KPRC 2 News Midday, National Voter Registration Day (NVRD)
- KPRC 2 Houston Newsmakers
- Houston Matters
- KPRC 2 Syan Rhodes Interview
- Isiah Factor Uncensored Early Voter Rally FOX 26
- Early Voting in Texas Rally @ Emancipation Park ABC 13 KTRK
- Real World, Real Talk KTSU Early Vote Rally & Election Information
- Newsbreak
- Defender Profile
- The Misses Podcast Voting
- ABC 13 Voting Segment
- Black Sheep Agency Voter Engagement Instagram Live
- Houston Chronicle Profile Story
- Election Day Questions Town Square NPR 88.7
- Election Day Information KPRC 2 5 Spot Interviews
- Naturalization Story
- Houston Matters
- ABC 13 KTRK

AWARDS

The Helen Hunter Award

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	2011 Sharon Cunningham
1996 Melba Drake	2012 Nany Parra
1997 Margaret Kolodzie	2013 Jacqeline Alfred
1998 Mary Gillete	2015 Tom Berg
2002 Bette John	2016 Novelle Doherty
2003 Alice May Berthelsen	2017 Laura Blackburn
2004 Jan Wilbur	2018 Ann Herbage
2005 Barb Swartz	2019 Annie Benifield
2006 Gwen Essinger	2020 Liza Alonzo
2008 Judy Hollinger	2021 Renee Cross
2009 Millie Whittington	2022 Zak Miller
2010 Linda Cohn	

The Sam Keeper Award

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.

- 2016 Beni Gutierrez and Mary Titus (naturalization ceremonies)
- 2017 Judy Viebig, Pam Gaskin, Reda Hicks, and Claudia Ortega Hogue (naturalization ceremonies)
- 2018 Jackie Alfred (voters guide)
- 2019 Isabel Longoria (voters guide)
- 2020 Nancy Kral and John Byrd (voter registration)
- 2021 Norman DeMoose (naturalization ceremonies)
- 2022 Virginia Johnson (voters guide)

2023-2024 BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Officers		Term Exp.
Claudia Ortega-Hogue	President	2025
Allison Gower	Vice President, Communications and Marketing	2025
Jackie Kacen	Treasurer	2024
Irene Nunez	Vice President, Membership	2025
Madison Polston	Secretary	2025
Carol Shattuck	Vice President, Fund Development	2024
Priscila True	Vice President, Voter Services	2025
Naomi Williams	Vice President, Study and Advocacy	2024
Trustees at Large		
Shelly Baker	Trustee at Large	2025
Alan Bernstein	Trustee at Large	2024
Terri Chen	Trustee at Large	2025
Jack Enright	Trustee at Large	2024
Virginia Johnson	Trustee at Large	2024
Ximena Mondragon	Trustee at Large	2025
Gene Preuss	Trustee at Large	2024
Ameena Rasheed	Trustee at Large	2025
Tiko Reynolds-Hausman	Trustee at Large	2024
Cherise Story	Trustee at Large	2025
Katherine Summerlin	Trustee at Large	2024
Sarah Syed	Trustee at Large	2025
Staff		
Katie Campbell Shumway	Executive Director	
Governance & Nominating Committee		
MaryJane Mudd	Chair	2024
Jordan Jupe	Co-Chair	2024
Ramiro Ojeda	Member	2024
Daler Wade	Member	2024
Luz Flores	Member	2024

All board members agree to actively serve on a League Committee, attend meetings, and participate in events to support the mission of the League. Trustees at Large have specific assignments and committees that are subject to change based on organizational need.