

TO: LL Presidents; MAL Unit Chairs; DPM

LWV-Texas

October 1989

FROM: Rebecca Bergstresser, Advocacy Committee Chr.  
3758 Pallos Verdas Dr., Dallas 75229  
214/350-2167

LL Pres. Mailing; DPM

I. A. 2.

Action-State

ACTION ON PROPOSED CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS  
(See the Voters Guide for explanations and pros and cons)

At the September 8-10 state board meeting, the board voted to support five of the 21 propositions on the November 7 ballot and to register again our disapproval of a constitution that requires such frequent amendments for reasons too often better addressed in statute. We will be holding a news conference during the second week in October to announce our positions. We will discuss the reasons we support propositions 1, 2, 11, 18, and 19--and explain again that the Texas Constitution needs to be revised so that it doesn't have to be amended so much.

Our goal is to make as significant an impact as possible by giving you the information you need to answer follow-up questions locally. We hope you will encourage your local media to publicize our positions and that you will also join forces with other supporters in your communities. (For information about Political Committees [PACs] which you may or not need in order to do this, see the accompanying memo.)

As in 1987, we will stress our disapproval of the process of legislating by amending the constitution for items better addressed by statute. Our disapproval is based on our position on Texas Constitutional Revision. We think a constitution should be a basic framework of law, such as the U.S. Constitution, and not the hodgepodge of amendments that is the Texas Constitution. In the last three amendment elections, beginning in November 1987, voters have been confronted with 49 proposed amendments and two referenda. The escalating number and complexity of amendments simply underscores the fact that the Texas Constitution is out of date. It fails to give legislators the guiding principles and basic tools they need to resolve the issues facing them as they approach the twenty-first century. We believe it is a great disservice to the voters of the state to ask them to vote on such a large number of amendments dealing with matters which range from very significant to trivial, and which, more often than not, are couched in vague and misleading language.

Given our stand against the process, is it inconsistent to take positions on individual propositions? Not at all. In fact, our support for propositions 1, 11, and 19 rests in large part on the fact that they would remove from the constitution exactly the kinds of matters that do not belong there. In supporting two others, propositions 2 and 18, we are recognizing that, while we continue to advocate for a better process, we must still work through the current process if we are to achieve objectives in which League members have invested many years of study and advocacy.

The propositions on which we are taking action prior to the November election, and the basis for League support, are as follows:



Proposed Constitutional Amendments, p. 2.

PROPOSITION 1 - Legislative salaries.

In our Executive, Legislative, and Judicial position, the League supports adequate compensation for legislators and elimination of salary amounts from the constitution. The current \$600 a month salary is hardly adequate, and we support the increase this proposition would allow. This proposition removes the salary amounts from the constitution and ties them to the governor's salary. The result is an increase in salary. The governor's salary is included in the Legislative Budget Board's recommended budget each biennium and is generally a non-controversial component of the budget eventually passed by the legislature. Although some might question the wisdom of putting legislators in a position to determine indirectly their own salaries, the board felt that the opportunity to remove the specific figures from the constitution --a long-time goal of the League--was not to be missed. This is true despite the misleading language in which the proposition is phrased!

PROPOSITION 2 - Water development bonds.

Support for this proposition is based on national and state positions advocating pollution abatement, safe drinking water, and conservation. Passage of this amendment would enable the state to begin to improve deplorable conditions of poor water supply and unsanitary wastewater disposal that exist along the Texas-Mexico border.

PROPOSITION 11 - Legislative per diem.

The board's decision to support this is based on the same League position as Proposition 1. It would permit more adequate reimbursement of per diem (daily) expenses for state legislators and would remove the specific amount from the constitution.

PROPOSITION 18 - Agricultural water conservation bond time limit.

Support for this is based on state and national League positions on water conservation. In 1985 the League supported the amendment authorizing the bond program that would be extended by this proposition.

PROPOSITION 19 - Authorizing local government investments.

This proposition would give the legislature authority to define by statute the investments that local taxing jurisdictions may make, thus removing constitutional prohibitions on certain types of investments. The board decided to support this on the basis of our Financing State Government position calling for application of appropriate fiscal management and business practices to conduct state business; our Texas Constitutional Revision position supporting a coordinated finance structure capable of flexibility; and our State-Local Relations position favoring flexible government structures for counties and municipalities, together with legislative and financial powers adequate to provide local services. We believe that this amendment would remove restrictions that do not belong in the constitution and would give to the legislature appropriate and necessary authority to make fiscal decisions.

Refer to the Voters Guide for more detailed discussion of these propositions.

The fact that LWV-TX is approving some propositions and not opposing any of them should not be construed as a sign of tacit approval or disapproval of the



Proposed Constitutional Amendments, p. 3.

rest. It is essential that voters carefully consider each proposition on its own merits.

LWV-TX is activating its general purpose political committee (or PAC) with contributions from members of the state board so that the action we take on our positions will be financed by PAC funds. After we announce our position in mid-October, LWV-TX will be sending out letters and editorial opinion pieces to selected newspapers throughout the state.

We hope that local Leagues will participate in the LWV-TX campaign by writing letters to the editor and letting members and others know about our concerns. We also encourage local Leagues to identify other groups in their communities supporting these propositions and to enter coalitions as appropriate. You could offer to go together to speak to the editorial board of your local newspaper. The following list of statewide groups with announced positions on these propositions should help you get started (others undoubtedly will have declared by the time you receive this):

Proposition 1: This is expected to be hotly debated and visible. A group called "Citizens for Good Government" is one of the lead organizations supporting it. For information about their activities in your area call 512/474-8848. Also supporting propositions 1 and 2 are the Sierra Club, Common Cause, and the Texas Chamber of Commerce.

Proposition 2: Supporters include Texas Chamber of Commerce, Texas Water Conservation Association, and Industrial Areas Foundation Network. Because of its impact on the Valley, this proposed amendment has attracted interest from a number of Hispanic organizations. This proposition presents especially good coalition opportunities for local Leagues.

Proposition 11: See 1.

Proposition 18: Supporters include Texas Chamber of Commerce, Texas Water Conservation Association, Texas Farm Bureau, Groundwater Districts Association.

Proposition 19: If you haven't already made friends with your city or county treasurer, this may be your chance! This proposition is supported by the Government Financial Officers Association and the Texas Municipal Treasurers Association. They anticipate a quiet campaign and frankly hope that people will vote for this just because it's there.

Please feel free to contact me (address and phone above) if you have questions about any of this.

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MEMBERS AT LARGE IN LEGISLATIVE DISTRICTS  
NOT ASSIGNED TO LOCAL LEAGUES

TEXAS SENATE

District 24 - Temple Dickson

Kelly Ausley, Brownwood  
Harry and Mary Farrell, Temple  
Louis Franklin, Abilene  
Shirley Glandon, Abilene  
Phyllis Graham, Marble Falls  
Paul G. Hansen, Temple  
Darnell Holden, Ballinger  
Julia Marsden, Burnet  
Edith Russman, Temple  
Mary Weathers, Temple  
Kathy Webster, Abilene

TEXAS HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

District 1 - Barry Telford  
2 - L.P. (Pete) Patterson

Mattie Mae Jones, Texarkana  
Dolores Hayter, Paris  
Ann Norment, Paris

3 - Bill Thomas  
4 - Keith Oakley  
7 - Gerald V. Yost  
8 - Sam Russell

Latane Speer, Kilgore  
Mary Cay Jones, Avinger  
Doris McWilliams, Avinger

10 - Jerry K. Johnson  
12 - Clyde Alexander

Mellie Howard, Corsicana  
Geddes McLaughlin, Eustace  
Ivy V. Geiger, Brenham  
Julia Humphrey, Brenham

13 - Dan Kubiak

Jane Reynolds, Hillister

17 - Billy Clemons  
18 - Allen Hightower  
20 - Curtis Soileau  
28 - John Willy

Rebecca Boyd, Brazoria  
Nell Copeland, Angleton  
Agnes Edwards, Lake Jackson  
Kelly McClendon, Clute  
Jean & Robert Herlin, Palacios

29 - D.R. (Tom) Uher  
30 - Robert Saunders  
31 - Tim Von Dohlen

Jane Altom, Gonzales  
Annette Farley, Vanderbilt

33 - Robert Earley  
37 - Irma Rangel  
38 - Kenneth R. Fleuriet

Miriam Lemmons, Kingsville  
Katherine Costley, Harlingen  
Myrtis Huffman, Harlingen  
A. Lloyd Ryall, Harlingen  
Jean Lauder, Mercedes  
Mardell D. Hayes, Los Fresnos  
Jo Singer, Laredo

39 - Rene O. Oliveira  
43 - Henry Cuellar  
44 - Ernestine Glossbrenner



45 - Tom Cate  
46 - Edmund Kuempel  
52 - Parker McCullough

53 - Dianne White Delisi

54 - Leyton Black  
57 - Allen Place  
64 - John Cook  
65 - Jim Parker

66 - Robert Junell

68 - Pete Gallego

69 - Troy Fraser  
75 - Gary Watkins  
77 - Jim D. Rudd  
78 - David Counts  
79 - Bob Hunter

80 - Charles Finnell

84 - Warren Chisum  
85 - James E. (Pete) Laney  
86 - John T. Smithee  
88 - David Swinford

Phyllis Graham, Marble Falls  
Hilda McCraw, Georgetown  
Nancy Stackhouse, Georgetown  
Julia Marsden, Burnet  
Harry & Mary Farrell, Temple  
Paul G. Hansen, Temple

Elton Montgomery, Graham  
Kelly Ausley, Brownwood  
Darnell Holden, Ballinger  
Elaine Bridges, San Angelo  
Barbara Strenth, San Angelo  
Jacqueline Shannon, San Angelo  
Virginia Carrico, Big Bend  
George & Martha Floro, Alpine  
Robert C. Grubaugh, Big Spring

Leslie Floyd, Denver City

Louis Franklin, Abilene  
Shirley Glandon, Abilene  
Kathy Webster, Abilene  
Margaret Hutchinson, Bowie  
Dorothy Prunty, Jacksboro

Mr&Mrs M.L. Ellzey, Perryton  
Elva Reeves, Dalhart

PLEASE NOTE: Because this list was compiled with reference to a standard map of Texas and the legislative district maps (with very small print) in the Texas State Directory, there is considerable possibility for error! If your listing is incorrect, please call or write a correction to the state office. Local League assignments for senate and representative districts are listed on pages 25-26 of the 1990-91 League Directory.



ORDER FORM  
LWV-TX LEGISLATIVE NEWSLETTER

Once again LWV-TX will provide Members at Large not in Units a free subscription to the Legislative Newsletter, UPON REQUEST. It is sent by First Class mail to subscribers once a week, on the average, during the session.

This is a great opportunity for every League member to keep up with how League issues are faring in the legislature, and what you personally can do to help. "Action Alerts" to notify members of the need for prompt action on a League priority will be sent in the newsletter.

IF you know someone who would be interested in up-to-the-minute accounts of what's happening in Austin and the League's lobbying efforts, they may order by sending \$25 dollars along with the coupon below to the state office.

RETURN TO:      LWV-TX  
                 1212 Guadalupe #107  
                 Austin, TX 78701

BY:              January 2, 1990

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PLEASE SEND FREE LEGISLATIVE NEWSLETTER TO:

Name \_\_\_\_\_ (MAL) Day phone \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_  
Special interests \_\_\_\_\_  
State sen. district # \_\_\_\_\_ State rep. district # \_\_\_\_\_

PLEASE SEND PAID (\$25 each for non-members) SUBSCRIPTIONS TO:

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Day phone \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_  
Special interests \_\_\_\_\_  
State sen. district # \_\_\_\_\_ State rep. district # \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Day phone \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_  
Special interests \_\_\_\_\_  
State sen. district # \_\_\_\_\_ State rep. district # \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Day phone \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_  
Special interests \_\_\_\_\_  
State sen. district # \_\_\_\_\_ State rep. district # \_\_\_\_\_

12/90



**LWV-AUSTIN AREA OFFERS**  
**BED AND BREAKFAST FOR WOMEN'S LEGISLATIVE DAYS**

League members who will be attending Women's Legislative Days on February 18 and 19, 1991 are invited to stay with members of the LWV-Austin Area for "Bed and Breakfast."

This offer is available for the evenings of Sunday, February 17 (remember the early-Monday League briefing), Monday, February 18, and Tuesday, February 19. The charge, payable to the Austin Area League, is \$25 per person, per night.

Please let them know if you would like to take advantage of their hospitality. They need to know by February 4, 1991 so that assignments can be made. You will be contacted by the LWV-Austin Area with details.

Return the coupon below to: LWV-Austin Area  
1011 West 31st Street  
Austin, TX 78705  
(512/451-6710)

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**BED AND BREAKFAST WITH THE LWV-AUSTIN AREA**

Please make reservations for:

Name \_\_\_\_\_ LWV \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_  
Day Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Evening Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
Night(s) reserved \_\_\_\_\_ 17 \_\_\_\_\_ 18 \_\_\_\_\_ 19

Name \_\_\_\_\_ LWV \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_  
Day Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Evening Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
Night(s) reserved \_\_\_\_\_ 17 \_\_\_\_\_ 18 \_\_\_\_\_ 19

Name \_\_\_\_\_ LWV \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_  
Day Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Evening Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
Night(s) reserved \_\_\_\_\_ 17 \_\_\_\_\_ 18 \_\_\_\_\_ 19

Name \_\_\_\_\_ LWV \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_  
Day Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Evening Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
Night(s) reserved \_\_\_\_\_ 17 \_\_\_\_\_ 18 \_\_\_\_\_ 19

Name \_\_\_\_\_ LWV \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_  
Day Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Evening Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
Night(s) reserved \_\_\_\_\_ 17 \_\_\_\_\_ 18 \_\_\_\_\_ 19



# MEMO

LWV-Texas  
November 1990  
LLP Mailing; DPM  
LX Workshops

TO: LL Presidents; MAL Unit Chairs; DPM  
FROM: Evelyn Bonavita, LWV-TX Program Vice President

**WOMEN'S LEGISLATIVE DAYS** (see also the camera-ready article for local *VOTERS*).  
Mark Monday, February 18, and Tuesday, February 19 in your calendars now for Women's Legislative Days in Austin. A steering committee of statewide women's groups, including the League, has been working for months to bring you the best Women's Legislative Days ever!

As a special feature this year, the state League has arranged a two-hour lobbying briefing directed to League issues and members, featuring our new lobbyist, Nancy Engman. We hope you can come to Austin early on Monday morning, February 18. We have reserved a room at the Thompson Center convenient to the opening session of Women's Legislative Days. The training session will be 9 to 11 am, giving you plenty of time to register and eat lunch before the keynote address. Anticipate a \$5 registration fee to cover the cost of room rental. Details will be sent in January.

Women's Legislative Days will formally begin at 1 pm Monday with a keynote address by Harriet Woods of Missouri, who served as lieutenant governor of that state from 1985-89 and then ran for the U.S. Senate. She was the first woman elected to a statewide office in Missouri. Following her will be a repeat of the popular "How to Lobby," which starred Carol Barger (then with Consumers Union) and John Hildreth (currently with the consumer group). Finally, we'll have an address by Elaine Baxter, Iowa's secretary of state. She will talk about electing and appointing women to office. A panel of women office-holders will respond. The recent state elections usher in expanded opportunities for Texas women, and Women's Legislative Days will be even more exciting than usual as a result.

The afternoon will end with a reception honoring Rep. Ernestine Glossbrenner, chair of the House Education Committee. Monday evening, for those who purchase tickets, there will be a roast of a noted public official hosted by the Texas Women's Political Caucus. On Tuesday there will be a series of workshops on current legislative issues. Four of these have been set up by the LWV-TX on important League issues (redistricting, recycling, community involvement in environmental decisionmaking, and financing state government), and there will be many others of great interest. On Tuesday afternoon attendees are urged to arrange visits to their legislators because Women's Legislative Days is not only an educational opportunity, but a chance to do important League lobbying as well.

LWV-TX has reserved 30 rooms at the Crest Hotel on Town Lake for Monday night, the 18th. The rates are \$55 for a single or a double, and \$63 for a triple or quadruple. The reservation number is 1-800-456-5253. YOU MUST MAKE YOUR OWN RESERVATIONS. THE CUT-OFF DATE FOR RESERVATIONS IS THREE WEEKS BEFORE THE CONFERENCE, ON JANUARY 28, SO BE SURE TO RESERVE EARLY! Tell them you are with the League of Women Voters of Texas and the Women's Legislative Days group.

Information on Women's Legislative Days will be appearing in the next *Texas VOTER*. All League members will also be receiving a registration form, with complete details of the workshops and speakers, in the mail shortly after Christmas. When you plan, REMEMBER the League's special early-Monday



briefing which won't be listed on the registration form you receive in the mail.

We have managed to keep the conference registration fee at \$35, which is the same as it was two years ago. This will cover Monday afternoon's general session at the LBJ Library, the reception for Rep. Glossbrenner at the Crest Hotel (with heavy hors d'oeuvres), and the workshops the next day. The cost of the "roast" is extra.

This is an exciting time for women and state government. Women's Legislative Days provides a wonderful opportunity for all of you to participate in the excitement. Make your plans now!

#### TEXANS FOR CHOICE

This statewide coalition of pro-choice groups, of which the League is a member, is planning a major fund-raiser in Houston on December 13. This will be a reception honoring Lt. Gov. Bill Hobby and Diana Hobby for their efforts on behalf of an individual's right to make reproductive choices. It will take place at the Warwick Wyndham, and League members in the Houston area (and elsewhere) are urged to attend to show their support in this very important matter.

#### PEOPLE FIRST

Another coalition to which we belong is People First, which encourages the legislature to put the needs of *people first* when appropriating money. People First is gearing up for this crucial session of the legislature and is interested in recruiting local League members who might be interested in becoming members of local committees that will work in support of the state coalition's efforts. This means talking to local editorial boards, providing facts and information from local human service agencies to the state coalition, and in general publicizing the critical need for more funding for human services throughout the state. If you are interested, please give me a call (512/828-1368). I represent the League on the steering committee of People First and will give you more information.

#### FIFTH GOVERNOR'S CONFERENCE ON PREVENTION OF CHILD ABUSE

A very informative conference on child abuse prevention will be held on January 17 and 18, 1991, at the Hilton Airport Hotel in Austin. Participants will be leaders in child welfare, child care workers, school personnel, law enforcement officials, and a number of others. Featured speakers will be Nancy Amidei, social policy activist; Robert Fathman, clinical psychologist; and Phil Strickland, chairman of the CARE coalition (Children Abused, Rejected, Endangered). Twenty-four workshops will be offered. The full-conference cost is \$90, including a Thursday social and Friday dinner. The cost of on-site registration will be higher, and there are special fees for selected parts of the conference. For more information, call Wendell Teltow, Texas Coalition for the Prevention of Child Abuse, Austin, 512/250-8438.

#### INTERESTING PUBLICATIONS

The Texas Comptroller has been publishing reports on *Dollars We Deserve* during the past year. The reports concern the dollars that Texas does not, but could, receive from federal programs, primarily in areas of health and human services. The latest installment (fourth in the series) is *Texas' Medicaid Suffers Federal Funds Shortfall*. It is highly recommended reading. To obtain copies for your League, write Texas State Comptroller, Economic Analysis Center, PO Box 13528, Cap. Stn., Austin TX 78711.

Another worthwhile publication is from the Texas Research League called *TRL Reports on Health Insurance Issues*. It is a summary of the study they did of "the issues and consequences of private sector approaches to providing and extending health insurance coverage" and gives fascinating information on the medically needy and uninsured in Texas. For copies call 512/472-3127.

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CAMERA-READY COPY FOR LOCAL VOTERS  
(AMENDED TO INCLUDE INFORMATION ABOUT BED & BREAKFAST WITH LWV-AUSTIN AREA)

PLEASE DISCARD THE COPY THAT DOES NOT CONTAIN BED & BREAKFAST INFORMATION

PLAN NOW!!  
WOMEN'S LEGISLATIVE DAYS 1991

All League members are invited to what is guaranteed to be an exciting Women's Legislative Days in Austin on February 18 and 19, 1991.

Preceding Women's Legislative Days will be a Monday morning League-style briefing on League issues and lobbying. This "how-to" session will feature our own League lobbyist, Nancy Engman. It will be held on Monday February 18 from 9-11 am, at the Thompson Center, next to the Women's Legislative Days site. Details will be sent to local Leagues in January. Registration for this special briefing is \$5 per person.

Women's Legislative Days begins with a Monday afternoon general session at the LBJ Library with a keynote address by Harriett Woods, the first woman elected to statewide office in Missouri. Following a humorous how-to-lobby session will be a reception honoring Rep. Ernestine Glossbrenner for her work on the House Public Education Committee. Tuesday morning will feature workshops at the Thompson Conference Center on issues of importance in the 72nd Legislature. Leagues will lobby their own legislators Tuesday afternoon.

Registration for Women's Legislative Days is still only \$35, which covers the Monday afternoon session and reception and the Tuesday morning workshops. A Monday evening "roast" sponsored by the Texas Women's Political Caucus will be an additional charge. A reservation form for the conference will be sent to every League member shortly after the holidays. For more information, call Evelyn Bonavita at 512/828-1368.

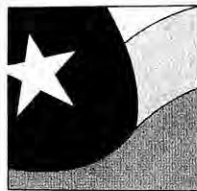
You can enjoy the hospitality of members of the LWV-Austin Area who will be providing "Bed and Breakfast" for Women's Legislative Days. Their charge, which will be returned to the Austin Area League, is \$25 per person, per night for Sunday, Monday, or Tuesday nights--February 17, 18, and 19. MAKE RESERVATIONS BY SENDING THE COUPON BELOW TO LWV-AUSTIN AREA, 1011 WEST 31ST STREET, AUSTIN, TX 78705, BY FEBRUARY 4. They will contact you with details.

Thirty rooms for Monday night have been set aside for League members at the Crest Hotel on Town Lake at \$55 for a single or double, \$63 for a triple or quadruple, plus 13% bed tax (LWV is not exempt). YOU MUST MAKE YOUR OWN RESERVATIONS WITH THE HOTEL BY JANUARY 28, 1991.

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BED AND BREAKFAST WITH THE LWV-AUSTIN AREA

Please reserve the night(s) of \_\_\_\_\_ 17 \_\_\_\_\_ 18 \_\_\_\_\_ 19  
Name \_\_\_\_\_ LWV \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_  
Day Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Evening Phone \_\_\_\_\_





# LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF TEXAS

1212 Guadalupe, No. 107 • Austin, Texas 78701 • Tel 512/472-1100

## LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES FOR THE 72ND LEGISLATURE 1991

The League of Women Voters of Texas has as its goals for the 72nd Legislature:

**CHILD CARE:** to support measures that make quality child care affordable and available

**NATURAL RESOURCES:** to promote legislation on waste, water, and air that protects human health and safety and the environment:

- \* reduction of hazardous waste
- \* implementation of a regional water management plan that will reduce water use from the Edwards Aquifer and maintain needed spring flows
- \* implementation of water conservation programs and standards
- \* strengthening the Texas Clean Air Act with special emphasis on reducing toxic air emissions

**FINANCING STATE GOVERNMENT:** to support measures to ensure that state government is adequately funded through an equitable system of taxation:

- \* adoption of an adequately funded school finance plan that is equitable to students and taxpayers
- \* funding of human services at sufficient levels
- \* broadening of the state's tax base with more progressive taxes

The League will also devote special attention to the following issues:

**REPRODUCTIVE CHOICES:** oppose legislation that would limit a woman's right to make reproductive choices

**REDISTRICTING:** support measures that would create an effective method for congressional and legislative redistricting

**CHILD SUPPORT ENFORCEMENT:** support legislation that would create equitable and efficient means of enforcing court orders for child support.



### WRITE-IN CAMPAIGNS WHAT WORKS & WHAT WILTS

DO	DON'T
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• PLAN YOUR PRESENTATION</li> <li>• USE LOCAL CONSTITUENTS</li> <li>• REFER TO THE SPECIFIC BILL</li> <li>• SHOW HOW IT AFFECTS THE AUTHOR PERSONALLY</li> <li>• KEEP IT SIMPLE; ONE KEY MESSAGE PER LETTER</li> <li>• ASK FOR A SPECIFIC ACTION</li> <li>• THANKS FOR SUPPORT</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ASK PEOPLE TO CREATE FROM NOTHING</li> <li>• CONCENTRATE ON AUSTIN WRITERS</li> <li>• JUST ADDRESS THE ISSUE</li> <li>• MORALIZE THE RIGHT THING TO DO</li> <li>• WASTE WORDS</li> <li>• BE VAGUE ABOUT WHAT YOU WANT</li> <li>• MISS AN OPPORTUNITY TO BE GRATEFUL</li> </ul>

### IMPACT HIERARCHY

MEDIA	IMPACT	SPECIAL EFFECTS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• PETITIONS</li> <li>• FORM LETTERS</li> <li>• POSTCARDS</li> <li>• CUSTOM LETTERS</li> <li>• TELEGRAMS</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• MAIL LOG: ONE LINE</li> <li>• MAIL LOG: ONE LINE</li> <li>• MAIL LOG: ONE LINE</li> <li>• MAIL LOG: DEPTH OF SUPPORT</li> <li>• DEPTH OF SUPPORT; COMMITMENT</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• VOTER NUMBER</li> <li>• MULTIPLE LETTERS</li> <li>• USE COLORS; VOTER NUMBER; 15¢ POSTAGE</li> <li>• EACH GETS A REPLY</li> <li>• RAPID RESPONSE TO ALERT</li> </ul>



**OFFICE VISITS  
WHAT TO SAY BEHIND CLOSED DOORS**

DO	DON'T
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• PLAN YOUR PRESENTATION</li><li>• BE CLEAR AND CONCISE</li><li>• RESPECT LEGISLATORS' TIME</li><li>• ASK FOR A SPECIFIC ACTION</li><li>• USE EMOTIONAL ANECDOTES</li><li>• REPEAT KEY MESSAGES</li><li>• PROVIDE A FACT SHEET</li><li>• SHOW SINCERE GRATITUDE</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• OVERLOAD</li><li>• AVOID TOUGH ISSUES</li><li>• TAKE TIME FOR GRANTED</li><li>• BE VAGUE ABOUT ACTION</li><li>• TELL JUST THE FACTS</li><li>• WANDER FROM THE POINT</li><li>• TALK FACTS AND FIGURES</li><li>• FORGET APPRECIATION.</li></ul>



## LEGISLATIVE PRESENTATION OUTLINE FORM FICTIONAL EXAMPLE

### INTRODUCTION

Introduce yourself, and members of your delegation. Describe whom you represent.

*Hello, I'm \_\_\_\_\_, with the Texas Association of Dry Cleaner Suppliers. We represent the 47 firms that distribute solvents to dry cleaners and carpet cleaners throughout Texas.*

### POSITION

State clearly the issue you want to discuss, and your position on this issue.

*I'd like to discuss House Bill 1527 by Mitchell, creating a fund to clean up non-fuel chemical spills. We believe this is a good bill in concept, but it needs an important amendment to make it work right.*

### PERSONAL EXPERIENCE; "I FEEL... FELT... FOUND...."

Relate your own personal experience with the subject. Tell your own story. Use the phrases, "I feel..." or "I felt..." with "I found...."

*One of our members recently lost an account he'd been serving for five years. The customer told him he was underbid by another supplier. Our member felt helpless. When he complained, I looked into the matter, and found that the other supplier was from out of state. I felt horrified, because I knew these interstate distributors don't insure their cargoes against a spill that could pollute water supplies. When I saw Mitchell's bill, requiring distributors to contribute to a spill clean-up fund, I thought I had found the answer. Then I found that the bill doesn't cover chemicals originating out-of-state. In this form, the bill won't solve the environmental problem. One bad spill from an out-of-state distributor, who doesn't contribute to the fund, could bankrupt the fund. Then we all look bad.*

### KEY MESSAGE

State your key message(s). Keep it simple. Be direct. State no more than three key messages.

*All distributors should contribute to the clean-up fund. We depend on government to apply laws equitably to everyone, and particularly not to penalize in-state suppliers over out-of-state businesses.*

*Texas suppliers want to protect the environment. In these hard economic times, a lot of unscrupulous out-of-state operators may try to get into the Texas market, increasing the chances of a serious spill.*

### LOCAL IMPACT

Describe the impact of your request on the Legislator's home district. Be specific and quantify wherever possible. Be ready to provide backup, if asked.

*In your district alone, 22 dry cleaners use about 63,000 gallons of solvent a year, and employ over 1,100 people. Over half the population uses dry cleaning services at least once a year. We need to protect these people and the environment. Your local suppliers safely deliver dry cleaning solvents every day, but they face stiff competition from unregulated out-of-state suppliers, particularly near the Louisiana border. This bill will help protect the environment, but only if it applies universally.*

### ASK FOR SUPPORT AND A SPECIFIC ACTION

Ask the Legislator for help and support. Ask for a specific action to help your cause.

*I would like you to carry this amendment to Mitchell's H.B. 1527, and then to support the amended bill in the full Business & Commerce Committee mark-up session.*

### THANKS

Always show sincere gratitude for past support, for listening to you, or for future support.

*I know you are concerned about environmental issues like we are. You also supported TBDCE during last session's Sunset review, and we appreciate your help. Thank you for listening to us today, and for your help with this amendment.*



### COMMITTEE TESTIMONY DON'T PANIC, PREPARE!

DO	DON'T
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• PLAN YOUR PRESENTATION</li> <li>• BE INFORMED</li> <li>• DELIVER AND GRAB</li> <li>• USE POSITIVE TONE</li> <li>• BE ASSERTIVE</li> <li>• USE YOUR OWN WORDS</li> <li>• SPEAK ONE-ON-ONE TO FRIENDLY FACES</li> <li>• VISIT PANEL MEMBERS BEFORE HAND: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>‡ BUILD RELATIONSHIPS</li> <li>‡ PLANT QUESTIONS</li> <li>‡ PREVIEW OPINIONS</li> <li>‡ PREPARE GOOD ANSWERS</li> <li>‡ BUILD CREDIBILITY</li> </ul> </li> <li>• KEEP IT SIMPLE</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• MISS THE KEY MESSAGE</li> <li>• GIVE WRONG INFORMATION</li> <li>• READ DULL TESTIMONY</li> <li>• ARGUE, THREATEN, OR CONDESCEND</li> <li>• BE AGGRESSIVE</li> <li>• TRY TO IMPRESS WITH JARGON</li> <li>• SPEECHIFY TO THE WHOLE COMMITTEE</li> <li>• GRANDSTAND FROM OUTSIDE THE SYSTEM: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>‡ NOT ADVERSARIES</li> <li>‡ NOT DISSENTION</li> <li>‡ NOT GOSSIP</li> <li>‡ NOT PARALYSIS</li> <li>‡ NOT HOSTILITY</li> </ul> </li> <li>• COMPLICATE ARGUMENTS, HANDOUTS, VISUALS</li> </ul>



December 4, 1990

TO: PROGRAM DIRECTORS (ONBOARD AND OFFBOARD)  
FROM: REBECCA BERGSTRESSER, ADVOCACY COMMITTEE CHAIR  
ABOUT: GETTING READY FOR THE LEGISLATIVE SESSION

-----  
TRAINING SESSION, JANUARY 10-11, AUSTIN: A training session for on- and off-board program directors and other interested individuals on how to lobby will be held in Austin on January 10-11, 1990. The session will begin at 1:00 p.m. on Thursday, January 10 and will conclude at 9:00 p.m. The expense of overnight accommodations and dinner for program directors will be paid by LWVTEF since the session will be a general training session on how to lobby. Wish we could also fund travel expenses, but at this point it looks as though we cant. Special rate fares are still available so make your reservations as soon as possible. RSVP to me or to the office, including your travel plans so that we can think about transportation.

Among the topics to be covered will be: how the bill service works; how to read a bill and what to do with it; where to go for information about the issue; how and how not to work with coalitions; when testimony is needed and how to prepare effective testimony; how to communicate effectively with legislators and their staff; and what kinds of action are effective in various legislative situations. Please send me any other questions you would like to have answered during this session.

ADVOCACY COMMITTEE MEETING, FRIDAY, JANUARY 11, 9 A.M. TO 12 NOON: All on- and off-board program directors are invited to attend a meeting of the LWV-Texas Advocacy Committee meeting to discuss action procedures and strategies for the legislative session.

LEGISLATIVE NEWSLETTER: All on- and off-board program directors - especially those with priority and secondary issues - are automatically contributors to the Legislative Newsletter, which will be published weekly once the session begins. Specific details about articles, guidelines, and deadlines will be discussed in later memos as well as at the LWV-Texas Advocacy Committee Meeting on January 11. However, it is not too early to begin thinking in terms of articles for the early numbers that summarize issues and give an overview of anticipated legislative action in your program area.

LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES: Please check the mailing to local Leagues for the adopted Legislative Priorities, which differ slightly in emphasis from the preliminary list. The changes reflect revised predictions about the areas in which legislation



is likely to be introduced and acted upon by the legislature. Our lobbyist, Nancy Engman, will concentrate her attention on Child Care and Financing State Government.

BILL SERVICE: We have subscribed to Capitol Information Service to supply us with bills in our priority and secondary issue areas. Nancy is already receiving bills, screening them, and sending them on to directors. Nancy will not keep copies of bills, so it is up to each director to let her know as soon as possible which bills are important and need to be followed for action. Bills are being routed as follows:

Abortion - Evelyn Bonavita

Appropriations:

Department of Human Services

Department of Health

Texas Water Commission - Catherine Perrine

Water Development Board - Catherine Perrine

Texas Air Control Board - Sue Barham

Department of Mental Health/Mental Retardation - Bonnie Bowman

Day Care - Karen Nicholson

Education Finance - Rebecca Bergstresser

Voter Registration - Ruth Ann Geer

Environment and Waste Disposal - Mitzi Vorachek

Husband and Wife - Toni Ferrell

Parent and Child - Toni Ferrell

Open Records and Open Meetings - Evelyn Bonavita

Special Districts - Water and Utility - Catherine Perrine

Special Districts - River Authorities - Catherine Perrine

Taxation - State - Rebecca Bergstresser

Water - Catherine Perrine

As bills begin to arrive, if you find yourself perplexed about how to respond to them please give me a call. This is a "learn-as-you-go" job!

BUDGET ALLOCATIONS FOR ACTION ON PROGRAM: On page 18 of your LWV-Texas Directory you will find the budget for Program and the Legislative Office, in categories T and U. Line item T2, Program action, is the budget for action by on- and off-board program directors for the upcoming session, and other expenses related to action on state program items. This has been designated as follows:

<u>Priorities</u>		<u>1800</u>
Child Care	500	
Finance	500	
Natural Resources	800	
<u>Secondary Issues</u>		<u>900</u>
Choice	300	
Redistricting	300	
Child Support Enforcement	300	

<u>All Other Issues</u>	<u>300</u>
<u>Other action-related expenses</u>	<u>500</u>
<u>Total</u>	<u>3500</u>

These funds are available to reimburse directors for expenses incurred for telephone, travel, photocopies and faxes, postage, etc. while taking action on LWV-T program positions. To be reimbursed, directors should fill out a voucher and attach receipts for all expenses claimed, and mail it to LWV-Texas Treasurer Barb Swartz. It seems practically certain that expenses will exceed the amounts budgeted, so it is essential before making any major expenditures (for travel, for example) to check with me, Evelyn Bonavita or Diane Sheridan to make sure that reimbursement is allowable. Sending in a voucher for unreimbursed expenses is also greatly appreciated, because it enables LWV-Texas to demonstrate to potential contributors that we have strong board and member support for our own organization. Please realize, though, that such expenses are not tax-deductable (unless you are employed and in a situation where you can demonstrate persuasively to the IRS that these expenses constitute an expense of doing business - and you are heartily advised to check with your accountant before doing this!).

This promises to be a very lively session. I am pleased that we are making good progress in preparing for it. Please feel free to call or write if you have questions or suggestions about any of this.

Rebecca Bergstresser  
 3758 Pallos Verdas Dr.  
 Dallas, TX 75229  
 214/350-2167 FAX 214/352-5658



# MEMO

LWV-Texas

October, 1990

LLP Mailing; DPM; MAL Mailing

II.A.2.a., Public School Finance

TO: LL Presidents; MAL Unit Chairs; DPM; Members at Large not in units

FROM: Rebecca Bergstresser, Advocacy Committee Chair  
3758 Pallos Verdas Drive, Dallas 75229, 214/350-2167

## ANTICIPATED LWV-TEXAS LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES FOR THE 72ND LEGISLATURE

At the September board meeting, LWV-Texas directors adopted the following issues as probable legislative priorities for the coming session. Subsequent developments, such as the court ruling on school finance, and member input on child care during the consensus process, could result in some changes in emphasis. However, it is advisable to begin thinking in terms of finding people to cover these general areas. The top three issues were chosen for priority attention because they have received significant League attention during the interim at the state and local levels.

In the 72nd Texas Legislature, the PRIMARY goals of the League of Women Voters of Texas will be:

**Reproductive Choices:** to oppose legislation that interferes with a woman's right to reproductive choices.

**Child Care:** to support measures that make quality child care affordable and available. (The degree of emphasis depends on the outcome of the consensus process.)

**Natural Resources:** to promote legislation on waste, water, and air that protects human health and safety and the environment:

- reduction of hazardous waste
- implementation of a regional water management plan that will reduce water use from the Edwards Aquifer and maintain needed spring flows
- requirements for implementation of water conservation programs by water suppliers
- strengthening of the Texas Clean Air Act with special emphasis on reducing toxic air emissions

The following SECONDARY issues will also be followed by the League, with action to be taken as personnel, resources, and time permit:

Restructuring State Finance  
Funding Human Services  
Redistricting  
Child Support Enforcement

## THE SEARCH FOR A LOBBYIST WAS SUCCESSFUL!

LWV-Texas directors approved the search committee's recommendation to hire Nancy Engman as the League's lobbyist for the 72nd regular session. Nancy's previous experience includes serving as Senior Research Assistant

---more---



to the Speaker of the Massachusetts House of Representatives; Executive Director of the Housing and Redevelopment Authority of the City of Shakopee, Minnesota; and Association Manager for the Texas chapter of the National Association of Housing and Redevelopment Officials. She has been a resident of Austin since 1979. Her work with LWV-Texas will officially begin November 1, 1990.

Search committee members Evelyn Bonavita, Sondra Ferstl, Diane Sheridan, and Rebecca Bergstresser (Chair) learned a great deal about the hiring process and about lobbying in general. We were pleased by the number and caliber of applicants for the position. We feel sure the League will benefit not only from the services of a well-qualified individual, but also from an expanded appreciation of the people and resources available for working with the Texas Legislature.

#### LEGISLATIVE INTERVIEWS

Materials for legislative interviews are being prepared. We will try to send the packets in a separate mailing to local League presidents prior to the election. Local Leagues that have large numbers of legislators to interview may want to begin recruiting volunteers to conduct interviews, except in those districts where the outcome of the election may result in a change in the League assignments listed on pp. 25-26 of the *League Directory*. DO NOT INTERVIEW ANY CANDIDATES IN CONTESTED RACES PRIOR TO THE ELECTION. THIS WOULD APPEAR PARTISAN.

#### ADVOCACY PAPERS

A new *Advocacy Paper* is planned for the 1991 session on the subject of Child Care, if LWV-Texas members reach consensus. We also anticipate one or more *Advocacy Papers* on natural resources issues.

###





Make Democracy Work!

## of the League of Women Voters of Texas

The League will again publish its *LEGISLATIVE NEWSLETTER* during the 1991 regular session of the Texas Legislature to keep members and the public informed about issues of major importance that are likely to be considered by the 72nd Legislature.

The *NEWSLETTER* is -

- o reported weekly
- o mailed first class
- o an excellent source of up-to-the-minute news of the legislature as it happens.

The *NEWSLETTER* will give priority coverage to proposed legislation on:

- o Reproductive Choices
- o Natural Resources--  
water, air, and waste
- o Child Care

And also report on:

- o Restructuring State Finance
- o Funding Human Services
- o Redistricting
- o Child Support Enforcement
- o ...and other League issues.

The *NEWSLETTER* includes:

- o *The Week at the Legislature*  
A candid account of legislative activity. ← sp.
- o *Action Alerts* - A call to mobilize the League's grassroots network of members and friends to influence key votes.

The League of Women Voters of Texas is a nonpartisan, multi-issue, grassroots organization with 3500 members across the state. The League takes action only on issues its members have studied and on which they have reached agreement.

-----  
YES! I want to stay informed on public interest issues. Please send me the 1991 *LEGISLATIVE NEWSLETTER* for the low subscription price of \$25 for non-members (\$20 for League members). I have enclosed \$\_\_\_\_\_ for my subscription(s). (Order by December 21, 1990)

Name	Title	Organization	
Address	City	State	Zip
Telephone (w)	(h)	State Representative District	State Senate District

Make checks payable to:  
**League of Women Voters of Texas** (Not deductible as a charitable donation.)

Mail to: LWV-Texas  
1212 Guadalupe, #107  
Austin, Texas 78701  
512/472-1100

**FIRST CLASS**

The League of Women Voters  
has a FIRST CLASS answer.

~~The~~ League of Women Voters of Texas  
1212 Guadalupe, Suite 107  
Austin, Texas 78701

**FIRST CLASS**

Want to stay informed on public interest issues  
during the next Legislative Session?



Did or copy machine of know?  
it's not slight. Do you like this  
screen or logo?



Here's a FIRST CLASS way to  
Make Democracy Work!

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a charitable donation.)

Mail to: LWV-Texas  
1212 Guadalupe, #107  
Austin, Texas 78701  
512/472-1100

DATE: Thursday, Oct.4

TO: BW, EB, DS, SO (too late for RB)

FROM: SC

RE: LEG.NEWSL. FLYER

I'm out of time & have to send this. Can't work on it again until Monday nite.

1. Forgot to take "the" from the return address.
2. Still may adjust the column sizes at bottom of page where the "Mail to" section is
3. The screen behind the logo should have been light. Now I can't get the graphic to reverse (white Texas on darker background) and can't figure out what I'm doing wrong. I really like it light grey better. Use imagination.
4. Should "Make democracy work" be larger? Closer to center? Above the logo? If I get four different answers, I'll ignore at least 3.
5. Question for Joann: do we want the telephone number on this? You get to decide.

Still not ready to give BW the camera-ready copy till I hear back from the other three. Please call by Monday if at all possible. Thanks

Tue.

*Forgot Mon. is a holiday*  
P.S. Talked to Bill Ferrell and he doesn't remember discussing a new nameplate for the Legislative Newsletter. He could probably be persuaded, but it may slow things down.



For more information, contact:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone(s):

_____ (Area Code, Number, Ext.)	TTY equipped?	Yes( )	No( )
	Answered 24 hours?	Yes( )	No( )
_____ (Area Code, Number, Ext.)	TTY equipped?	Yes( )	No( )
	Answered 24 hours?	Yes( )	No( )
_____ (Area Code, Number, Ext.)	TTY equipped?	Yes( )	No( )
	Answered 24 hours	Yes( )	No( )

Application Procedure:

Application for service should be made by:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Person wanting service

\_\_\_\_\_  
Family member/relative/guardian

\_\_\_\_\_  
Professional referral from: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Other (Specify): \_\_\_\_\_

Apply for service by:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Non-emergency walk-in

\_\_\_\_\_  
Emergency walk-in

\_\_\_\_\_  
Telephone

\_\_\_\_\_  
Written request

\_\_\_\_\_  
Appointment by telephone

\_\_\_\_\_  
Appointment in writing

\_\_\_\_\_  
Other (Specify): \_\_\_\_\_



TO: V & M  
FROM: SCHEREL  
RE: Draft of Leg.Newsletter flyer

QUESTIONS:

1. Do we want "Legislative Newsletter" always in caps? That's how it was on Barbara's copy to me.
2. Do we want the bulk mail indicia? If we omit it, we can have the "FIRST CLASS" on outside of ~~envelope~~ as well. P. O. will not allow us to use the "FIRST CLASS" if sent bulk.
3. Under Action Alerts: I didn't intend for the words after LEGISLATIVE NEWSLETTER to be in italics. Am changing it immediately.
4. Shouldn't the effect of first class mail (i.e. receiving news as it happens) be stated, rather than implied? Or is the up to the minute enough?
5. Should the LWV-TX logo be on this anyplace?
6. Will it be printed in one or two colors of ink? If we want two colors, I can do camera-ready color separations, with the words "FIRST CLASS" and the logo on one sheet for one color and text on another. However, a printer could do separations for a camera charge.

P.S. I'm getting "hard disk failure" messages and plan to ship my computer to Illinois on Friday. However, this is on a floppy and I could edit and print at work or mail the floppy to the office, as it's Word Perfect 5.0 and Bitstream fonts.

*new logo - old art*



Apply to:

Any agency office

Agency main office only

Agency branch offices only

Other referral agent (specify below)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Agency Time: \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone(s) :

TTY equipped? Yes ( ) No ( )  
 Answered 24 hours? Yes ( ) No ( )  
 (Area Code, Number, Ext.)

TTY equipped? Yes ( ) No ( )  
 Answered 24 hours Yes ( ) No ( )  
 (Area Code, Number, Ext.)

TTY equipped? Yes ( ) No ( )  
 Answered 24 hours Yes ( ) No ( )  
 (Area Code, Number, Ext.)

Do you maintain waiting lists:    Yes( )    No( )

If so, what is the usual time on the waiting list between application and initiation of service:

Service Eligibility:

Are there any specific criteria which a person must satisfy to receive service? (Please check(✓) any that you use and indicate the specific criteria. (For example, " Age - minimum 15 years, maximum 23 years."))

Age

Income

Sex

Ethnicity

Employment Status

Military Status

**Make Democracy Work!**  
**Subscribe to the League of Women Voters of Texas**  
**LEGISLATIVE NEWSLETTER**



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Also report on:

- o Restructuring State Finance
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- o Redistricting
- o Child Support Enforcement
- o ...and other League issues.

**ACTION ALERTS:**

the League's calls to action, in the *LEGISLATIVE NEWSLETTER*, on key votes at critical moments.

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-----  
YES! I want to stay informed on public interest issues. Please send me the 1991 *LEGISLATIVE NEWSLETTER* for the low subscription price of \$25 for non-members (\$20 for League members). I have enclosed \$\_\_\_\_\_ for my subscription(s). **(Order by December 21, 1990 in order to receive complete edition.)**

Name	Title	Organization	
-----			
Address	City	State	Zip
-----			
Telephone (w)	(h)		
-----			

Make checks payable to: League of Women Voters of Texas (LWV-TX)  
Mail to: LWV-Texas  
1212 Guadalupe, #107  
Austin, Texas 78701



**FIRST CLASS**

The League of Women Voters  
has a FIRST CLASS answer.

The League of Women Voters of Texas  
1212 Guadalupe, Suite 107  
Austin, Texas 78701

BULK RATE  
U.S. Postage Paid  
Austin, Texas  
78701  
Permit No. 144

Want to stay informed on public interest issues  
during the next Legislative Session?

MEMO: B.W. to S.C.

9/24/90

I do believe that there is too much "stuff" for the middle panel, but I know you'll take care of that! I have sent copies to all of the initials today.

TRAVEL PLANS FOR THE LEGISLATIVE FLYER.....

9/24/90 DRAFT copies sent. S.C. will format and send her final DRAFT when she is finished to the same initials.

When she receives corrections or O.K.'s back on final draft, S.C. will produce camera ready copy and send to S.O. October 12th sounds reasonable to me.

When the final copy is ready, E.B. & R.B. will decide:

what color paper

how many copies

complete marketing plan,  
(where goes, who does)

D sh.  
S.C.  
H.D.  
MAM  
VEB.  
R.B.



TOP PANEL LEGISLATIVE FLYER

MAKE DEMOCRACY WORK

Subscribe to the League of Women Voters of Texas

LEGISLATIVE NEWSLETTER

The League will again publish its LEGISLATIVE NEWSLETTER during the 1991 regular session of the Texas Legislature to keep members and the public informed about issues of major importance that are likely to be considered during the session.

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- .published weekly
- .mailed first class
- .an excellent (a great) source of up-to-the-minute news on important legislation.

MIDDLE PANEL LEGISLATIVE FLYER

The NEWSLETTER will give priority coverage to proposed legislation <sup>on</sup> :

- \* Reproductive <sup>C</sup>hoices
- \* Natural Resources  
water, waste, and air
- \* Child Care

and also report on:

- . Restructuring State Finance
- . Funding Human Services
- Redistricting
- . Child Support Enforcement
- . and other League issues.

CONTINUE ON MIDDLE PANEL

\* ACTION ALERTS \*

... the League's calls to action on key votes at critical moments

... in the LEGISLATIVE NEWSLETTER

The League of Women Voters of Texas is a nonpartisan, multi-issue, ~~grassroots~~ grassroots organization with 3500 members across the state. The League takes action only on issues its members have studied and ~~on~~ on which they have reached agreement.

BOTTOM PANEL...

YES! I want to stay informed on public interest issues. Please send me the 1991 LEGISLATIVE NEWSLETTER for the low subscription price of \$25 for non-members (\$20 for League members).

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Name	Title	Organization
------	-------	--------------

Address	City	State	Zip
---------	------	-------	-----

Telephone (w)	(h)
---------------	-----

Make checks payable to: League of Women Voters of Texas (LWV-TX)

Mail to: LWV-Texas

1212 Guadalupe #107

Austin, Texas 78701

512/472-1100

NOTE: It was agreed by all who looked at the flyer that the outside was just fine. Only question would be to include or not the Bulk Mail permit stamp. ~~B.W. says why not, we may want to use it.~~

*cannot use text class on the  
outside of express bulk stamp*



PROFESSIONAL SERVICES CONTRACT  
between  
LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF TEXAS  
and  
NANCY ENGMAN

DSW  
NE  
RB  
EB  
SF  
SO

STATE OF TEXAS  
COUNTY OF TRAVIS

SECTION 1. PARTIES TO THE CONTRACT

This contract and agreement is made and entered into by and between the League of Women Voters of Texas, hereinafter referred to as the "League," and Nancy Engman. The parties hereto have severally and collectively agreed and by the execution hereof are bound to the mutual obligations and to the performance and accomplishments of the tasks hereinafter described.

SECTION 2. PERIOD OF CONTRACT

This contract and agreement shall commence on November 1, 1990, and shall terminate on June 1, 1991, unless extended by mutual agreement. This contract may be terminated upon written notice by either party by giving not less than thirty (30) days advance notice to the other party.

SECTION 3. STATEMENT OF SERVICES TO BE PERFORMED

Nancy Engman shall provide services regarding monitoring and lobbying the Texas Legislature for the League on issues that the League has selected for action during the 72nd Texas Legislature. The specific activities are described in the attached exhibit entitled "Job Description."

SECTION 4. BASES FOR CALCULATING COST

Nancy Engman will be reimbursed \$10,000 for her work during the seven (7) months of this contract. In addition, the League will reimburse Nancy Engman up to \$500 to cover the costs of expenses directly related to carrying out the duties described in the "Job Description."

SECTION 5. PAYMENT FOR SERVICES

Payment for services shall be made in seven equal monthly payments on the last business day of each month upon presentation of a statement of services rendered and direct costs incurred. The total reimbursement for direct costs incurred shall not exceed \$500. Taxes due are the responsibility of Nancy Engman. The League shall not be liable for any costs incurred by Nancy Engman that have not been billed within sixty (60) days following termination of this contract.

SECTION 6. REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

Nancy Engman shall work under the supervision of the Advocacy Committee Chair, Rebecca Bergstresser, and shall report directly to her.

SECTION 7. INDEPENDENT CONTRACTOR

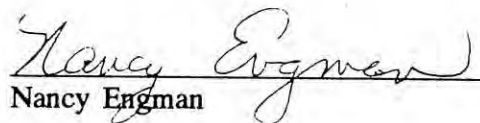
It is expressly understood and agreed upon by both parties herein that the League is contracting with Nancy Engman as an independent contractor and not as an employee of the League.

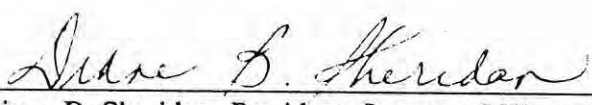
Professional Services Contract between LWV-Texas and Nancy Engman, p.2

SECTION 8. ORAL AND WRITTEN AGREEMENTS

All oral and written agreements between the parties hereto relating to the subject matter of this contract that were made prior to the execution of this contract have been reduced to writing and are contained herein.

WITNESS our hands effective this 31<sup>st</sup> of October, 1990.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Nancy Engman

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Diane B. Sheridan, President, League of Women Voters of Texas



EXHIBIT

JOB DESCRIPTION  
LOBBYIST FOR LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF TEXAS

1. Work on one to three legislative priorities designated by the LWV-Texas board for emphasis during the 1991 regular session of the Texas Legislature. Period of employment to last from November 1, 1990 through June 1, 1991.
2. Work for an average of approximately 20 hours per week, with initial weeks having fewer hours and final weeks more.
3. Prior to the legislative session, meet with the LWV-Texas Legislative Strategy Committee to discuss probable developments on priorities and to plan strategies.
4. Confer weekly or as necessary with the Legislative Strategy Committee members during the session to update them on issues and obtain approval for subsequent plans of action.
5. Screen bills on selected priorities and forward to directors.
6. Inform directors whose issues have priority status about meetings, hearings, and sessions dealing with their items.
7. Attend committee meetings, hearings, legislative sessions, and other events relevant to priorities.
8. Work with legislators and with representatives of other organizations to incorporate LWV-Texas recommendations into drafts of bills.
9. Notify those directors with priority issues when testimony on their items is necessary. Advise on drafting. Present if necessary.
10. File testimony upon request for those LWV-Texas program directors whose items are receiving attention but are not priorities.
11. Notify directors of priority issues when Action Alerts are necessary. Advise on drafting and strategy.
12. Help target key legislators for local League action on priorities.
13. Write the cover article "This Week at the Legislature" for the *Legislative Newsletter*.
14. Provide own office, employees, and supplies.
15. Inform LWV-Texas board prior to any visible political participation, and follow ethical and professional standards.

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# MEMO

LWV-Texas

October, 1990

LLP Mailing; DPM; MAL Mailing

H.A.2.a., Public School Finance

TO: LL Presidents; MAL Unit Chairs; DPM; Members at Large not in units

FROM: Rebecca Bergstresser, Advocacy Committee Chair  
3758 Pallos Verdas Drive, Dallas 75229, 214/350-2167

## ANTICIPATED LWV-TEXAS LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES FOR THE 72ND LEGISLATURE

At the September board meeting, LWV-Texas directors adopted the following issues as probable legislative priorities for the coming session. Subsequent developments, such as the court ruling on school finance, and member input on child care during the consensus process, could result in some changes in emphasis. However, it is advisable to begin thinking in terms of finding people to cover these general areas. The top three issues were chosen for priority attention because they have received significant League attention during the interim at the state and local levels.

In the 72nd Texas Legislature, the PRIMARY goals of the League of Women Voters of Texas will be:

**Reproductive Choices:** to oppose legislation that interferes with a woman's right to reproductive choices.

**Child Care:** to support measures that make quality child care affordable and available. (The degree of emphasis depends on the outcome of the consensus process.)

**Natural Resources:** to promote legislation on waste, water, and air that protects human health and safety and the environment:

- reduction of hazardous waste
- implementation of a regional water management plan that will reduce water use from the Edwards Aquifer and maintain needed spring flows
- requirements for implementation of water conservation programs by water suppliers
- strengthening of the Texas Clean Air Act with special emphasis on reducing toxic air emissions

The following SECONDARY issues will also be followed by the League, with action to be taken as personnel, resources, and time permit:

Restructuring State Finance  
Funding Human Services  
Redistricting  
Child Support Enforcement

## THE SEARCH FOR A LOBBYIST WAS SUCCESSFUL!

LWV-Texas directors approved the search committee's recommendation to hire Nancy Engman as the League's lobbyist for the 72nd regular session. Nancy's previous experience includes serving as Senior Research Assistant

--more--



to the Speaker of the Massachusetts House of Representatives; Executive Director of the Housing and Redevelopment Authority of the City of Shakopee, Minnesota; and Association Manager for the Texas chapter of the National Association of Housing and Redevelopment Officials. She has been a resident of Austin since 1979. Her work with LWV-Texas will officially begin November 1, 1990.

Search committee members Evelyn Bonavita, Sondra Ferstl, Diane Sheridan, and Rebecca Bergstresser (Chair) learned a great deal about the hiring process and about lobbying in general. We were pleased by the number and caliber of applicants for the position. We feel sure the League will benefit not only from the services of a well-qualified individual, but also from an expanded appreciation of the people and resources available for working with the Texas Legislature.

#### LEGISLATIVE INTERVIEWS

Materials for legislative interviews are being prepared. We will try to send the packets in a separate mailing to local League presidents prior to the election. Local Leagues that have large numbers of legislators to interview may want to begin recruiting volunteers to conduct interviews, except in those districts where the outcome of the election may result in a change in the League assignments listed on pp. 25-26 of the *League Directory*. DO NOT INTERVIEW ANY CANDIDATES IN CONTESTED RACES PRIOR TO THE ELECTION. THIS WOULD APPEAR PARTISAN.

#### ADVOCACY PAPERS

A new *Advocacy Paper* is planned for the 1991 session on the subject of Child Care, if LWV-Texas members reach consensus. We also anticipate one or more *Advocacy Papers* on natural resources issues.

###



# MEMO

LWV-Texas

November 1990

LLP Mailing; DPM; MAL Mailing

I.A.2. Action-State

TO: LL Presidents; MAL Unit Chairs; DPM; Members at Large not in units

FROM: Rebecca Bergstresser, Advocacy Committee Chair  
3758 Pallos Verdas Drive, Dallas 75229, 214/350-2167, Fax: 214/352-5658 (9am-4pm)

## LWV-TX PRIORITIES FOR THE 72ND LEGISLATURE

With slight changes in emphasis from the anticipated priorities announced in the October Advocacy Memo to local Leagues, LWV-Texas legislative priorities were adopted by the state board at its November meeting. These changes in prioritization reflected several developments that took place during the intervening months, including the court decision in the school finance case and positions taken by newly elected state leaders.

In order to be adopted as a priority, each of the issues below meets the following criteria:

- probability that the issue will be the subject of legislative action during the session
- local Leagues have lively interest and are well-informed about the issue
- LWV-TX monitoring and action on the issue during the interim
- expertise on the part of state program directors and associate directors

In the 72nd Texas Legislature, the PRIMARY goals of the League of Women Voters of Texas will be:

**Child Care:** to support measures that make quality child care affordable and available

**Natural Resources:** to promote legislation on waste, water, and air that protects human health and safety and the environment:

- reduction of hazardous waste
- implementation of a regional water management plan that will reduce water use from the Edwards Aquifer and maintain needed spring flows
- implementation of water conservation programs and standards
- strengthening of the Texas Clean Air Act with special emphasis on reducing toxic air emissions

**Financing State Government:** to support measures to ensure that state government is adequately funded through an equitable system of taxation:

- adoption of an adequately funded school finance plan that is equitable to students and taxpayers
- funding of human services at sufficient levels
- broadening of the state's tax base with more progressive taxes

The following SECONDARY issues will also be followed by the League, with action to be taken as personnel, resources, and time permit:

**Reproductive Choices**

**Redistricting**

**Child Support Enforcement**

Secondary issues will be monitored and can be elevated to priority status if needed. Reproductive choices was moved from a priority to a secondary issue after the election of a pro-choice governor and lieutenant



governor. However, a number of parental consent bills are being filed and pro-choice officials will need pro-choice groups and individuals to speak out in support of their stance.

#### ADVOCACY PAPERS

Current plans are for LWV-Texas program directors to prepare advocacy papers on Child Care, Water Conservation, Hazardous Waste, and Financing State Government. These will be useful for educating membership about LWV-Texas priority issues, as well as for informing elected and appointed officials and the public. Additional information on Advocacy Papers will be included in the January mailing to local Leagues.

#### GETTING READY FOR THE LEGISLATIVE SESSION

By the time you receive this, the beginning of the session will be less than six weeks away. By all estimates, it will be a rough session even by Texas standards, with a projected shortfall that observers are estimating at \$3 billion and up, a threatened court takeover of public schools unless the legislature adopts an equitable funding plan by September 1, 1991, and the redrawing of all Texas state and national legislative districts.

LWV-Texas is well on the way to building an effective statewide network for effective advocacy on League issues. Our lobbyist, Nancy Engman, is already at work representing us at pre-session workshops, gathering information on our issues, and building networks with like-minded organizations. We have identified priorities and secondary issues for the session.

Local Leagues can strengthen this effort by:

- designating local League "specialists" on state action priorities and issues;

- designing a plan for local response to the Action Alerts to be published in the *Legislative Newsletter*. For best results, this plan should involve not only local League leadership but should have a provision for activating local League members. Awards will be presented at LWV-Texas Convention in May for the best local League system for coordinated response to an Action Alert;

- planning to attend the LWV-Texas legislative briefing and training for local League members on February 18, 1991, from 9:00 to 11:00 am. This will precede the opening session of Women's Legislative Days (see Evelyn Bonavita's memo on Program). PLEASE NOTE THAT YOU WILL NEED TO PLAN TO ARRIVE EARLY ON LEGISLATIVE DAY FOR THIS BRIEFING; BE SURE TO SCHEDULE TRAVEL ACCORDINGLY. At this briefing, our League lobbyist, Nancy Engman, will give a report on her activities. Other plans for the briefing are still fluid, so this is your chance to say what you want and need in the way of training and information in order to lobby effectively on LWV-Texas issues. Please call, write, or fax your suggestions to me (see above).

- completing the Legislative Interviews as soon as possible and returning the completed forms to the state office. Remember, the sooner you do them the easier it will be to reach your legislators!

- encouraging your members and others in your communities who want good information on legislative issues to subscribe to the LWV-Texas *Legislative Newsletter*. Each local League will receive two free copies. Leagues with program specialists may wish to order additional subscriptions for each one.

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EOB  
RB  
SO

NOV 12 1990

1300 Guadalupe/Suite 1  
Austin, Texas 78701  
P. O. Box 13205  
Austin, Texas 78711  
(512) 479-0700

(Confirmed w/ Rebecca)

## SUBSCRIPTION AGREEMENT 72nd LEGISLATURE (1991 - 1992)

Customer: League Of Women Voters Account#: 0118-0000 Box#: \_\_\_\_\_ Route#: S  
Contact: Ms. Nancy Engman Phone#: (512) 327-6611 FAX: \_\_\_\_\_  
Deliver To: Ms. Nancy Engman Bill To: League Of Women Voters  
2305 Camino Alto 1212 Guadalupe, Suite 107  
Austin, TX 78746 Austin, TX 78701

### REGULAR SESSION HARDCOPY SERVICES

1. 1 Basic Subscription (November 1990 - June 1991) \$ 1,600.00  
House and Senate Daily Reports, Committee Hearing Schedules, Floor Calendars,  
Weekly List of Bills Filed by Subject, Weekly Committee Schedules,  
Legislative Handbooks, and Sine Die Report  
Copies of Bills as indicated below:  
All Bills X Bills by Subject \_\_\_\_\_ Bills on Request up to \_\_\_\_\_  
2. \_\_\_\_\_ Copies of Bills ONLY as indicated below: \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
All Bills \_\_\_\_\_ Bills by Subject \_\_\_\_\_ Bills on Request up to \_\_\_\_\_  
3. \_\_\_\_\_ Daily Publications Only (No Weekly Publications) \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
4. \_\_\_\_\_ Daily House and Senate Reports Only (No Committee Schedules or Floor Calendars) \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
5. \_\_\_\_\_ Exclusive Bill Tracking Report (Run Last Action Report on \_\_\_\_\_ (Specify Day-of-week)) \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
5a. \_\_\_\_\_ Additional Copies of Above Exclusive Bill Tracking Report \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
6. \_\_\_\_\_ Daily Committee Proceedings Report \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
7. 16 Legislative Handbooks (Included with the basic service at no additional charge)  
7a. 13 Additional Legislative Handbooks @ \$1.00 /each \$ 13.00  
8. \_\_\_\_\_ Other: \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
9. \_\_\_\_\_ Other: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

### CONTINUING SERVICES

10. \_\_\_\_\_ Legislative Clipping Service (\_\_\_\_\_ thru \_\_\_\_\_) \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
10a. \_\_\_\_\_ Additional Copies of Legislative Clipping Service (\_\_\_\_\_ thru \_\_\_\_\_) \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
11. \_\_\_\_\_ Capitol Report (\_\_\_\_\_ thru \_\_\_\_\_) \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
11a. \_\_\_\_\_ Additional Copies of Capitol Report (\_\_\_\_\_ thru \_\_\_\_\_) \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
12. \_\_\_\_\_ Other: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

### REGULAR SESSION ON-LINE ELECTRONIC SERVICE

13. \_\_\_\_\_ Unlimited Use \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
14. \_\_\_\_\_ Measured Use (Plus \$.20/minute of connect time usage fee) \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
15. \_\_\_\_\_ Other: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

### REGULAR SESSION ELECTRONIC DOWNLOAD SERVICE

16. \_\_\_\_\_ Transaction Download Service \$ \_\_\_\_\_

### PC-BASED ELECTRONIC TRACKING SYSTEM

17. \_\_\_\_\_ Basic System \_\_\_\_\_ Advanced System \_\_\_\_\_ Professional System \$ \_\_\_\_\_

### INTERIM ON-LINE ELECTRONIC SERVICE

18. \_\_\_\_\_ Interim On-Line Service (Unlimited Use) \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**TOTAL** (Plus Sales Tax, if applicable) \$ 1,613.00

### SPECIAL SESSION HARDCOPY SERVICE

(Assumes the same level of service as during the Regular Session)

\$ 150.00 Base Charge Plus \$ 10.00 per day NOT TO EXCEED \$ 350.00 per session

### SPECIAL SESSION ELECTRONIC SERVICE

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ Unlimited Use On-Line Service (Available at no additional charge to interim electronic users.)  
\$ \_\_\_\_\_ Action Download Service  
\$ \_\_\_\_\_ PC-Based System (Download Fee Only)  
\$ \_\_\_\_\_ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

### BILLING INSTRUCTIONS

\_\_\_\_\_ Lump Sum \_\_\_\_\_ Annual \_\_\_\_\_ Semi-Annual \_\_\_\_\_ Quarterly \_\_\_\_\_ Monthly (24 mths) \_\_\_\_\_ Monthly (Session)

Taxable (Y/N): \_\_\_\_\_ Special Instructions: \_\_\_\_\_

### AUTHORIZATION SIGNATURES

CIS: Amy Stubblefield 11-9-90 Customer: Joan M. Zuckerman 11/30/90  
(signature) (date) (signature) (date)



BB - Bruce Bowman  
EB - Evelyn Bravitz

KB - Rebecca  
SB - Sue Barham  
TF - Toni Terrell  
RAG - Ruth Ann Gear

KN - Karen Nicholson  
CP - Catherine Perrine  
MV - Miki Vorachek



Account Name:	
Contact Name:	
Account #	Box #

479-6700

**SUBJECT CATEGORIES FOR THE 72nd LEGISLATURE, 1991**  
(Numbers In Parentheses Represent Average Number of Bills Filed for Subject)

1077

EB	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1005 Abortion (7) <input type="checkbox"/> 1015 Aeronautics (36) <input type="checkbox"/> 1025 Aging (61) <input type="checkbox"/> 1035 Agriculture & Forestry (134) <input type="checkbox"/> 1045 Alcoholic Beverage Regulation (59) <input type="checkbox"/> 1055 Alcoholism & Drug Abuse (Treatment) (75) <input type="checkbox"/> 1065 Amusements, Games, & Sports (73) <input type="checkbox"/> 1075 Animals & Veterinary Medicine (51) <input type="checkbox"/> 1085 Appropriations (Except Approp. Bill) (59)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1310 Day Care (31) <input type="checkbox"/> 1315 Disaster Preparedness & Relief (7) <b>KN</b>
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1095 Appropriations - General Approp. Bill (8) (Specify Article or Agency Below) <b>TDMHMP</b> <b>TDHS, TDH, TWC, TWDB, TACB</b> <b>CTX Dept of Human Services,</b> <b>Health, TX Water Commission,</b> <b>Water Development Board, CP</b> <b>80 Air Control Board, Dept of</b> <b>80 Mental Health/Mental Retardation</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1330 <b>EDUCATION - ALL</b> (1189) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1331 Finance (Primary/Secondary) (150) <input type="checkbox"/> 1332 Higher (307) <input type="checkbox"/> 1333 Junior College Districts (27) <input type="checkbox"/> 1334 Primary & Secondary (397) <input type="checkbox"/> 1335 Teachers and Other Personnel (127) <input type="checkbox"/> 1336 Vocational (24) <input type="checkbox"/> 1337 Finance (Higher) (100) <input type="checkbox"/> 1339 Generally & Other (57)
	<input type="checkbox"/> 1105 Arts & Humanities (23)	<input type="checkbox"/> 1350 <b>ELECTIONS - ALL</b> (225) <input type="checkbox"/> 1351 Administration (102) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1352 Candidates, Finance, Contrib., Discl. (53) <input type="checkbox"/> 1353 Voter Registration (25) <b>RAG</b> <input type="checkbox"/> 1359 Generally & Other (45)
	<input type="checkbox"/> 1110 <b>BUSINESS &amp; COMMERCE - ALL</b> (288) <input type="checkbox"/> 1111 Blue Laws (2) <input type="checkbox"/> 1112 Foreign Trade Zones (8) <input type="checkbox"/> 1113 Manufacturing (22) <input type="checkbox"/> 1114 Small & Minority Business (31) <input type="checkbox"/> 1119 Generally & Other (225)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1365 Energy (Including Oil & Gas) (115) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1375 Environment & Waste Disposal (211) <b>MV</b>
	<input type="checkbox"/> 1125 Cemeteries (17) <input type="checkbox"/> 1135 Charitable & Nonprofit Organizations (78) <input type="checkbox"/> 1145 Chemicals (54) <input type="checkbox"/> 1155 City Government (356) <input type="checkbox"/> 1165 Civil Remedies & Liabilities (Incl. Tort) (203) <input type="checkbox"/> 1175 Coastal Affairs & Beaches (54) <input type="checkbox"/> 1185 Common Carriers & Transportation (129) <input type="checkbox"/> 1195 Communications & Press (News Media) (31) <input type="checkbox"/> 1205 Construction & Construction Materials (80) <input type="checkbox"/> 1215 Consumer Protection (63) <input type="checkbox"/> 1225 Corporations & Associations (84) <input type="checkbox"/> 1235 Corrections Systems (153) <input type="checkbox"/> 1245 County Government (350)	<input type="checkbox"/> 1390 <b>FAMILY - ALL</b> (329) <input type="checkbox"/> 1391 Family Violence (44) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1392 Husband & Wife (44) <b>TF</b> <input type="checkbox"/> 1393 Juvenile Delinquency (67) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1394 Parent & Child (158) <input type="checkbox"/> 1399 Generally & Other (16)
	<input type="checkbox"/> 1250 <b>COURTS - ALL</b> (629) <input type="checkbox"/> 1251 Appellate (47) <input type="checkbox"/> 1252 Civil Procedure (123) <input type="checkbox"/> 1253 County & Statutory (122) <input type="checkbox"/> 1254 District (93) <input type="checkbox"/> 1255 Judges (Including Judicial Selection) (105) <input type="checkbox"/> 1256 Juries (45) <input type="checkbox"/> 1257 Justice (25) <input type="checkbox"/> 1258 Municipal (27) <input type="checkbox"/> 1261 Small Claims (3) <input type="checkbox"/> 1269 Generally & Other (39)	<input type="checkbox"/> 1400 <b>FINANCIAL - ALL</b> (284) <input type="checkbox"/> 1401 Banks (55) <input type="checkbox"/> 1402 Credit Unions (12) <input type="checkbox"/> 1403 Savings & Loans (28) <input type="checkbox"/> 1404 Generally and Other (189)
	<input type="checkbox"/> 1280 <b>CRIMES - ALL</b> (492) <input type="checkbox"/> 1281 Against Morals (53) <input type="checkbox"/> 1282 Against Persons (101) <input type="checkbox"/> 1283 Against Property (40) <input type="checkbox"/> 1284 Alcohol & Drugs (DWI/BWI/DUID) (109) <input type="checkbox"/> 1285 Prevention (17) <input type="checkbox"/> 1286 Weapons (29) <input type="checkbox"/> 1287 Victims (40) <input type="checkbox"/> 1289 Generally & Other (103)	<input type="checkbox"/> 1415 Fire Fighters & Fire Protection (137) <input type="checkbox"/> 1425 Fireworks (7) <input type="checkbox"/> 1435 Government Ethics & Reform (61) <input type="checkbox"/> 1445 Governor (30) <input type="checkbox"/> 1455 Handicapped Persons (110)
	<input type="checkbox"/> 1300 <b>CRIMINAL PROCEDURE - ALL</b> (520) <input type="checkbox"/> 1301 Arrests & Investigations (82) <input type="checkbox"/> 1302 Bail & Pretrial Procedure (44) <input type="checkbox"/> 1303 Sentencing & Punishment (226) <input type="checkbox"/> 1304 Trial (60) <input type="checkbox"/> 1305 Posttrial Procedure (27) <input type="checkbox"/> 1306 Criminal Records (20) <input type="checkbox"/> 1309 Generally & Other (61)	<input type="checkbox"/> 1460 <b>HEALTH &amp; MEDICAL CARE - ALL</b> (785) <input type="checkbox"/> 1461 Births, Deaths, & Vital Statistics (19) <input type="checkbox"/> 1462 Emergency Medical Services (44) <input type="checkbox"/> 1463 Food & Nutrition (24) <input type="checkbox"/> 1464 Hospitals (Ex. Spec. Dist.) (81) <input type="checkbox"/> 1465 Malpractice & Regulation of Doctors (130) <input type="checkbox"/> 1466 Medicine, Drugs, & Pharmaceutical (45) <input type="checkbox"/> 1467 Mental Health & Mental Retardation (137) <input type="checkbox"/> 1468 Physical Fitness (13) <input type="checkbox"/> 1469 Generally & Other (235) <input type="checkbox"/> 1471 Communicable Diseases (57)
		<input type="checkbox"/> 1475 Highways, Roads, & Streets (113) <input type="checkbox"/> 1485 Historic Preservation & Museums (30) <input type="checkbox"/> 1495 Housing (59) <input type="checkbox"/> 1505 Human Relations & Discrimination (61)
		<input type="checkbox"/> 1510 <b>HUMAN SERVICES - ALL</b> (244) <input type="checkbox"/> 1511 Child Services (86) <input type="checkbox"/> 1512 Direct Assistance (11) <input type="checkbox"/> 1513 Food Programs (7) <input type="checkbox"/> 1514 Medical Assistance (79) <input type="checkbox"/> 1515 Generally & Other (61)
		<input type="checkbox"/> 1517 Industrial & Economic Development (79)
		<input type="checkbox"/> 1520 <b>INSURANCE - ALL</b> (456) <input type="checkbox"/> 1521 Insurers & Agents (153) <input type="checkbox"/> 1522 Fire & Allied Lines (43) <input type="checkbox"/> 1523 Motor Vehicles (44) <input type="checkbox"/> 1524 Life, Health, & Accident (121) <input type="checkbox"/> *** Workers' Compensation (See 1555) <input type="checkbox"/> 1529 Generally & Other (95)
		<input type="checkbox"/> 1535 Juvenile Boards & Officers (52)

**SUBJECT CATEGORIES**  
**72nd LEGISLATURE, 1991**  
 (continued)

Account Name _____
Account # _____ Box # _____

EB

<b>I550 LABOR &amp; EMPLOYMENT - ALL (207)</b> <input type="checkbox"/> I551 Agricultural Workers (8) <input type="checkbox"/> I552 Health & Safety (24) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> I553 Management & Employee Relations (14) <input type="checkbox"/> I554 Wages & Benefits (40) <input type="checkbox"/> I555 Worker's Compensation (57) <input type="checkbox"/> I556 Unemployment (37) <input type="checkbox"/> I559 Generally & Other (27)	<b>I830 SPECIAL DISTRICTS &amp; AUTH. - ALL (441)</b> <input type="checkbox"/> I831 Hospitals (79) <input type="checkbox"/> I832 Navigation & Ports (16) <input type="checkbox"/> I833 Soil & Water Conserv. & Reclamation (88) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> I834 Water & Utility (137) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> I835 Transportation Authorities (36) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> I836 River Authorities (10) <input type="checkbox"/> I837 Housing Authorities (10) <input type="checkbox"/> I838 Emergency Services Districts (10) <input type="checkbox"/> I839 Generally & Other (35) <input type="checkbox"/> I840 Public Health Districts (10) <input type="checkbox"/> I841 Rural Fire Prevention Districts (10)
<input type="checkbox"/> I565 Land Use, Zoning & Annexation (33) <input type="checkbox"/> I575 Lawyers (46) <input type="checkbox"/> I585 Legislature (106) <input type="checkbox"/> I595 Military & Veterans (62) <input type="checkbox"/> I605 Mines & Mineral Resources (30) <input type="checkbox"/> I610 Notaries (10) <input type="checkbox"/> I615 Nursing Homes (52) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> I629 Occupational Regulation, Other (101) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> I635 Open Records & Open Meetings (59)	<input type="checkbox"/> I845 State Agencies, Generally (191) <input type="checkbox"/> I855 State Finances, Management & Control (177) <input type="checkbox"/> I865 State Symbols (15)
<b>I650 PARKS &amp; WILDLIFE - ALL (126)</b> <input type="checkbox"/> I651 Hunting & Fishing (54) <input type="checkbox"/> I652 Parks (22) <input type="checkbox"/> I653 Water Safety/Boating (14) <input type="checkbox"/> I659 Generally & Other (36)	<b>I870 SUNSET LEGISLATION - ALL</b> <input type="checkbox"/> I871 Accountancy, Texas State Board of Public <input type="checkbox"/> I872 Aircraft Pooling Board, State <input type="checkbox"/> I873 Architectural Examiners, Texas Board of <input type="checkbox"/> I874 Bar of Texas, State <input type="checkbox"/> I875 Barber Examiners, State Board of <input type="checkbox"/> I876 Capital Metro Transp. Authority (Austin) <input type="checkbox"/> I877 Civil Defense & Disaster Compact Admin. <input type="checkbox"/> I878 Conservation Foundation, Texas <input type="checkbox"/> I879 Cosmetology Commission, Texas <input type="checkbox"/> I880 Dallas Area Rapid Transit <input type="checkbox"/> I881 Disabilities, Council on <input type="checkbox"/> I882 Fire Protection Personnel Stnds. & Educ. <input type="checkbox"/> I883 Fire Fighters' Pension Commissioner <input type="checkbox"/> I884 Funeral Service Commission, Texas <input type="checkbox"/> I885 Good Neighbor Commission of Texas <input type="checkbox"/> I886 Health & Human Svcs. Coord. Council <input type="checkbox"/> I887 Highways and Public Trans., State Dept. <input type="checkbox"/> I888 Housing Agency, Texas <input type="checkbox"/> I889 Irrigators, Texas Board of <input type="checkbox"/> I890 Jail Standards, Commission on <input type="checkbox"/> I891 Law Examiners, Board of <input type="checkbox"/> I892 Long-term Care Coord. Council - Elderly <input type="checkbox"/> I893 Motor Vehicle Commission, Texas <input type="checkbox"/> I894 Pension Review Board, State <input type="checkbox"/> I895 Prisons, Contracts for Private or County-run <input type="checkbox"/> I896 Purchasing and General Services Comm. <input type="checkbox"/> I897 Real Estate Commission, Texas <input type="checkbox"/> I898 Research Laboratory Comm., Texas National <input type="checkbox"/> I899 Structural Pest Control Board, Texas <input type="checkbox"/> I900 Surveying, Texas Board of Professional Land <input type="checkbox"/> I901 Turnpike Authority, Texas <input type="checkbox"/> I909 Generally and Other (15)
<input type="checkbox"/> I675 Peace Officers & Law Enforcement (267) <input type="checkbox"/> I680 Political Subdivisions - Generally (300) <input type="checkbox"/> I685 Pressure Vessels (3) <input type="checkbox"/> I695 Private Investigators & Security Agents (25) <input type="checkbox"/> I705 Probate (37) <input type="checkbox"/> I715 Product Liability (8)	<input type="checkbox"/> I920 <b>TAXATION - ALL (576)</b> <input type="checkbox"/> I921 City (25) <input type="checkbox"/> I922 County (25) <input type="checkbox"/> I923 Energy Resources (40) <input type="checkbox"/> I924 Income (26) <input type="checkbox"/> I925 Sales & Use (91) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> I926 School Districts (25) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> I927 State (85) <input type="checkbox"/> I928 Property (225) <input type="checkbox"/> I929 Generally & Other (34)
<b>I720 PROPERTY INTERESTS - ALL (378)</b> <input type="checkbox"/> I721 Eminent Domain (19) <input type="checkbox"/> I722 Landlord & Tenant (26) <input type="checkbox"/> I723 Mortgages & Liens (73) <input type="checkbox"/> I724 Personal Property (48) <input type="checkbox"/> I725 Real Property (194) <input type="checkbox"/> I729 Generally & Other (18)	<input type="checkbox"/> I935 Tourism (10) <input type="checkbox"/> *** Transportation (See Common Carriers)
<input type="checkbox"/> I735 Prosecuting Attorneys (48) <input type="checkbox"/> I745 Public Lands & Buildings (118) <input type="checkbox"/> I748 Public Financing (100)	<b>I940 UTILITIES - ALL (149)</b> <input type="checkbox"/> I941 Electric & Gas (65) <input type="checkbox"/> I942 Telephone (34) <input type="checkbox"/> I943 Cable Service (15) <input type="checkbox"/> I949 Generally & Other (35)
<b>I750 PUBLIC OFFICERS &amp; EMPLOYEES - ALL (234)</b> <input type="checkbox"/> I751 State (129) <input type="checkbox"/> I752 Other than State (86) <input type="checkbox"/> I753 Generally (19)	<input type="checkbox"/> I955 Validating Acts (11)
<input type="checkbox"/> I765 Public Purchasing (129) <input type="checkbox"/> I770 Statutory Revision (Non-Substantive) (20) <input type="checkbox"/> I775 Redistricting (13)	<b>I960 VEHICLES &amp; TRAFFIC - ALL (331)</b> <input type="checkbox"/> I961 Drivers Licenses (49) <input type="checkbox"/> I962 Equipment, Liab. & Safety Responsibility (83) <input type="checkbox"/> I963 Rules of the Road (60) <input type="checkbox"/> I964 Vehicle Registration (68) <input type="checkbox"/> I969 Generally & Other (71)
<b>I780 RESOLUTIONS - ALL (656)</b> <input type="checkbox"/> I781 Administration & Rules (55) <input type="checkbox"/> I782 Federal Government Related (42) <input type="checkbox"/> I783 Interim Studies (77) <input type="checkbox"/> I784 Joint (Proposed Constitutional Amend.) (185) <input type="checkbox"/> I785 Legislative Policy (125) <input type="checkbox"/> I786 Suits vs. State (98) <input type="checkbox"/> I789 Other (74)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> I975 Water (except Special Districts) (153)
<b>I800 RETIREMENT SYSTEMS &amp; PLANS - ALL (139)</b> <input type="checkbox"/> I801 Employees Retirement System (37) <input type="checkbox"/> I802 Teacher Retirement System (41) <input type="checkbox"/> I803 County & District (8) <input type="checkbox"/> I804 Judicial (7) <input type="checkbox"/> I805 Municipal, Police and Fire Fighters (27) <input type="checkbox"/> I806 Private Retirement & Pensions (3) <input type="checkbox"/> I809 Generally & Other (16)	
<input type="checkbox"/> I815 Safety (69) <input type="checkbox"/> I820 Science & Technology (54)	



MEMO

LWW-Texas

November 1990

Special LLP Mailing; NOT ON DPM

H.C. Legislative Interviews

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TO: Local League Presidents/Legislative Chair; MAL Unit Chairs

FROM: Rebecca Bergstresser, Advocacy Committee Chair  
3758 Pallos Verdas Drive, Dallas 75229; 214/350-2167

#### LEGISLATIVE INTERVIEWS

In this mailing you will find the materials you need to carry out interviews with your newly elected legislators. These interviews are always informative and usually enjoyable but—most important—they are essential to our legislative effort. The materials in this mailing are:

- List of local League interview assignments
- Legislative Interview Packets for each legislator you are assigned to interview containing
  - one instruction sheet for the interviewer(s)
  - one copy of the biography report (Form #1)
  - one copy of the legislative interview (Form #2)

If it is impossible to do the assigned interviews, it is important to let me know at the address or phone number above as soon as possible.

The deadline for returning the forms to the state office is January 4, 1991. Mail to 1212 Guadalupe #107, Austin, TX 78701.

### LOCAL LEAGUE ASSIGNMENTS FOR LEGISLATIVE INTERVIEWS

In order to get the Legislative Interview packets to you as quickly as possible so that you can begin doing them immediately after the elections (the sooner you begin, the easier it will be to connect with your representatives!), the assignments are being done before the election. This means some uncertainty about the best assignments in some districts. In addition, you are more familiar than I am with the ways in which local Leagues relate to district lines.

For both of these reasons, the list includes possible alternate assignments that may work better for you. Please note that the League listed in the left column has primary responsibility for the interview, and is asked to either do it or take responsibility for negotiating directly with another League to accept the responsibility. If the interview is delegated to an alternate League, please notify me of the change in assignment. Where local Leagues share legislators, it would be a good idea to include representatives from each League at the interview.

The words "if possible" next to one of your assigned districts means that the district appears to be in your League's vicinity, and if you can find League members willing to do the interview it will be most appreciated. If you cannot do them please let me know as soon as possible.

LOCAL LEAGUE	STATE SENATORIAL DISTRICT(S)	STATE REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT(S)
Amarillo	31	86 87
Arlington	18 22 (or Cleburne, Tarrant, Denton)	93 94 96 (or Tarrant)
Austin Area	14 (or San Marcos)	48 49 50 51
Bay Area	11 17 (and/or Ft. Bend)	24 25 129 130
Baytown	6	128
Beaumont	4	20 if possible 21 22 23
Brazos County	5	14



<i>LOCAL LEAGUE</i>	<i>STATE SENATORIAL DISTRICT(S)</i>	<i>STATE REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT(S)</i>
Cherokee Co. Prov.	3	11
Cleburne MAL Unit		58
Corpus Christi	20	33 if possible 34 35 36 37 if possible
Dallas	16 23	100 101 102 103 104 105  107 108 109 110 111  114 (and/or Richardson)
Denton	30 (or Sherman, Wichita Falls, or Gainesville)	59 61
Edinburg/McAllen	27	40 41 42
El Paso	29	70 71 72 73 74
Fort Bend Co. MAL Unit		26
Gainesville		63

*LOCAL LEAGUE**STATE  
SENATORIAL  
DISTRICT(S)**STATE  
REPRESENTATIVE  
DISTRICT(S)*

Houston Area

7  
11  
13 (or Ft. Bend)  
15125  
126  
127  
  
131  
132  
133  
134  
135  
136  
137  
138  
139  
140  
141  
142  
143  
144146  
147  
148  
149  
150

Irving

98  
99  
106

Kerrville Area

25

67

Lubbock

28

82  
83

Marshall/Harrison Co.

1

9

Midland

75  
76

Montgomery County

15  
16

Orange Area

19

Pearland Area

27  
145



<i>LOCAL LEAGUE</i>	<i>STATE SPECIAL DISTRICT(S)</i>	<i>STATE REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT(S)</i>
Plano/Collin County	2	60
Richardson	8 (and/or Dallas)	112 113
San Antonio Area	19 21 26	115 116 117 118 119 120 121 122 123 124
San Marcos		47
Sherman		62
Tarrant Co.	12	89 90 91 92 95 97
Tyler		5 6
Victoria	18	32
Waco Area	9	55 56
Wichita Falls	30	81

## LEGISLATIVE INTERVIEW PACKET

LWV-Texas  
1212 Guadalupe #107  
Austin, TX 78701  
November 1990

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### INSTRUCTION SHEET FOR INTERVIEWERS

*Why is LWV-Texas asking local Leagues and members at large to do Legislative Interviews?*  
Personal interviews are an important step in establishing and maintaining good relationships with elected officials. Personal contacts by League members with their state legislators are the basic building blocks of an effective statewide grassroots network; the League's strong personal presence at the local level is what gives League lobbying at the state level its clout. It is very important for League members to communicate regularly with their legislators even though we may sometimes disagree on issues.

These interviews also provide the state League with valuable information about how legislators feel and what they know about issues important to the League. This information can make all the difference in planning effective legislative strategy on League issues. In addition, the interviews give legislators a chance to discuss what is important to them. These should be relaxed conversations; this is NOT the time for hard lobbying.

*When and How to Set Up the Interview.*

As soon as the election is over, send a letter of congratulations to your legislator(s). Mention in the letter that you will be in contact to arrange an interview. Remember that legislators become quite busy as the session approaches. Do try to interview them as soon as possible.

Wherever possible, assign interviewers to legislators who represent them. As soon as the letters have gone out, the interviewer should call and ask to schedule an interview of 30 minutes to one hour (at the most). Explain that the purpose is to get acquainted and to hear what the legislator has to say about some of the current state issues.

Before the interview, League interviewers should acquaint themselves with some of the background on each question. The object is not to become experts in each area--the interview is NOT a lobbying session--but to explain, if asked, why the League is interested in the subject and what action we may have taken in the past. *We Support*, *Program Perspectives*, *Impact on Issues* (LWVUS), facts & issues, and recent *Texas VOTER* articles are good sources of information.

*The Interview.*

We strongly urge you to take two but no more than three people with you to conduct interviews. Plan who will introduce the group, and who will ask questions. Have a timed agenda in mind so that you keep the interview moving. Do NOT take notes during the interview but plan to confer immediately afterward if possible to record your recollections.

The interview should take no more than 30 minutes to an hour. Tell the lawmaker there are as many as seven questions if time permits. Mention the subject matter of all the questions to



prevent spending too much time on questions at the beginning of the interview. The interviewer may also change the order of questions if conditions warrant. It is not necessary to get long answers to every question. The objective is to get a "snapshot" of the legislator's views, not a detailed picture. If the legislator is uninformed or uninterested, don't persist or argue or explain. In the unlikely event that the legislator is confrontational or hostile, simply state that the issue is one your members really care about and that you appreciate the legislator's interest even if your views differ. If questioned about whether members really agree, explain that positions are reviewed and readopted every two years.

Be sure to save a few minutes for the last question, even if it is necessary to skip questions above it. This is a courteous way to finish up the interview and will provide useful insights into the legislator's interests.

*After the Interview.*

Write up your report as soon as possible after the interview while it is fresh in your memory. Try to schedule a few minutes after the interview for interviewers to rehash what was said and the impressions you received. It is helpful to have ALL the interviewers in on the rehash. What one forgets, another might remember.

Make a copy of the answers for any other Leagues in the legislator's district, and one for your own files. Send one copy of Form #1 (biography form) and one copy of the Form #2 (interview form) to the state office. Deadline for returning the questionnaires is Friday, January 4, 1991.

To all who participate in the legislative interview process: THANK YOU FOR HELPING TO MAKE THE LEAGUE THE MOST EFFECTIVE GRASSROOTS ORGANIZATION IN TEXAS!

**BIOGRAPHY REPORT--FORM #1**

*PLEASE DO NOT ASK YOUR SENATOR OR REPRESENTATIVE THESE QUESTIONS--either directly or by mail. THIS FORM IS TO BE FILLED OUT BY THE LOCAL LEAGUE. If you are unable to complete this data sheet, please return it with as much information as you have available (campaign material, clippings, Voters Guides, etc.)*

Return to: LWV-Texas  
1212 Guadalupe, #107  
Austin, Texas 78701  
By: January 4, 1991

SENATOR/REP. \_\_\_\_\_ District# \_\_\_\_\_ PARTY \_\_\_\_\_

LOCAL ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_ AGE \_\_\_\_\_

OCCUPATION \_\_\_\_\_

EDUCATION \_\_\_\_\_

When first elected to this office? \_\_\_\_\_

Other experience in government--what, when, where \_\_\_\_\_

Other political history of importance such as party leadership or vigorous but unsuccessful candidacy in the past:

Is this legislator generally considered to be aligned with any particular faction of interest in the legislature, state government, business interest(s), etc. ? \_\_\_\_\_

Please give your evaluation of this legislator and his/her attitude toward the League. \_\_\_\_\_

Your comments and judgment concerning this member of the legislature and your evaluation of these responses are very important. They supply us with our most valuable information for lobbying. Please give any other pertinent or useful information that you have available, such as community interests, group support or opposition, etc. during the legislator's campaign. \_\_\_\_\_

Reported by \_\_\_\_\_ LWV \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
Other Leagues in this legislator's district \_\_\_\_\_



LEGISLATIVE INTERVIEW--FORM #2

*THIS FORM IS TO BE FILLED OUT BY THE LOCAL LEAGUE. DO NOT GIVE IT OR MAIL IT TO THE LEGISLATOR. This form is designed to guide you in interviewing your legislators about prospects for action on state issues during the 72nd session of the legislature.*

Return to: LWV-Texas  
1212 Guadalupe #107  
Austin, TX 78701  
By: January 4, 1991

Name of legislator \_\_\_\_\_ Party \_\_\_\_\_

Senate or House district# \_\_\_\_\_ County of residence \_\_\_\_\_

Any special circumstances of interview \_\_\_\_\_

Local League(s) participating \_\_\_\_\_

Number present \_\_\_\_\_

1. *The state has experienced continuous financial crisis since 1984. Some of the suggested remedies include a state income tax, expansion of business and sales tax bases, and a state lottery. What methods do you advocate to address this issue?*

2. *Health and human service programs are facing an estimated \$350 million budget deficit in state funds for the remainder of Fiscal Year 1991. In addition, significant spending increases are projected for FY 1992 and 1993. What measures would you support to fund the FY 1991 shortfall and to provide essential services to people in 1992-1993?*

3. *What is your position on bills that limit a woman's right to make reproductive choices?*

--more--

4. *Availability, affordability, and quality are important issues in child care. What role should state government play in addressing these issues?*

5. *How should the legislature encourage industry to reduce hazardous waste at the source?*

6. *What legislative action do you think is needed to deal with groundwater management in Texas?*

7. *What are YOUR goals for this legislative session?*

---

**QUESTION TO BE ANSWERED BY THE INTERVIEWER:**  
What other information did you gather from this interview?

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Portfolio \_\_\_\_\_  
LWV of \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

**Reminder:**     *Write up the report as soon after the interview as possible.*  
                  *Make a copy for your files and for any other League in legislator's district*



4. Availability, affordability, and quality are important issues in child care. What role should state government play in addressing these issues?

5. How should the legislature encourage industry to reduce hazardous waste at the source?

6. What legislative action do you think is needed to deal with groundwater management in Texas?

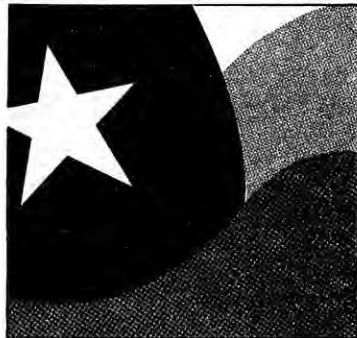
7. What are YOUR goals for this legislative session?

---

QUESTION TO BE ANSWERED BY THE INTERVIEWER:  
What other information did you gather from this interview?

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Portfolio \_\_\_\_\_  
LWV of \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

Reminder: Write up the report as soon after the interview as possible.  
Make a copy for your files and for any other League in legislator's district



# memORandum

## LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF TEXAS

1212 Guadalupe, No. 109 • Austin, Texas 78701 • Tel 512/472-1100

OSK MB  
RB MAM  
CW  
MV  
GS  
JB  
EB  
CP  
TE

October 16, 1990

TO: Natural Resources Corps, Diane, and Rebecca and Nancy  
FROM: Evelyn  
RE: Training for legislative session

This memo is attached to the registration form for the Sierra Club's biannual legislative workshop. It is well worth going to, especially if you are fairly new to lobbying, the legislature, or even natural resources issues. It is on a Saturday, and if you decide to go, remember that you can stay at the office (up to three of you if you're friendly) if you want to stay the night. The cost will have to come out of your budget or your pocket, but it is worth the effort and expense.

We have been asked by Garry Mauro's office to pick a date for a briefing by the Land Commissioner (or staff person I assume) on some natural resource issues he will be working on during the session. One of these is his oil spill legislation that is already written and, I assume, being passed around for signing-on by interested parties. Remember the natural gas in auto fleets and buses bill that we signed on to during the last regular session? This will probably take the same form, with interested parties giving their input and criticism before the session. We will not be a lead party on this legislation.

Another subject the Land Commissioner wants to talk about is recycling--no details yet, but our waste folks may have an idea. The other issue is parks, also no details.

My suggestion is that we tell the Land Commissioner we would like this briefing on November 16 (provided, of course, that he is re-elected), the day before the Sierra Club workshop. Those who can and want to can come in on Friday and stay through Saturday for both events.

Rebecca is calling some of you about this, and I need immediate response because I have to let the Land Office know as soon as possible. If no one is willing to be there, Rebecca and Nancy probably should attend.

Evelyn



### Sierra Club Endorses Morales for Attorney General

The Sierra Club announced last week that it is endorsing State Representative Dan Morales in his race for Attorney General of Texas. Ken Kramer, Director of the Lone Star Chapter of the Sierra Club, said that the organization's endorsement of Morales is based on his willingness to support and push for new initiatives to provide for stronger and more effective enforcement of state environmental laws. Kramer said that the Club also feels that, based on the group's experiences in working with Morales and with his opponent, State Senator Buster Brown, in the Legislature, Morales will be a more dependable supporter of environmental measures.

Texas Sierra Club Political Committee Vice-Chair Arthur Kuehne noted that Sierra Club leaders had the opportunity to directly compare the views of both Morales and Brown on a number of key environmental and related issues. Both candidates responded to the Sierra Club's political questionnaire which had been submitted to them in January, and Kuehne commended both the candidates for answering the questionnaire and providing the data necessary for the Club to make an informed decision.

Kuehne noted that the differences between the two candidates on their views regarding enforcement of environmental laws was quite clear from their questionnaire responses. He said that **the key difference between Morales and Brown on the environmental enforcement issue** is that Morales supports and will push for statutory authority to give the Attorney General's office independent jurisdiction to initiate proceedings to regulate and enforce environmental laws while Brown opposes giving the Attorney General this authority. Kuehne said that this new authority is greatly needed because as of now the Attorney General must await referral of cases from the state regulatory agencies before he can pursue them in court, and many citizens feel that these agencies have not been zealously pursuing court action against polluters. Independent authority to the Attorney General would allow that official to have the power to make sure that the regulatory agencies do their job in aggressively taking polluters to court.

Kuehne pointed out that another key difference is that Morales would be willing to bring lawsuits on behalf of the citizens of Texas against the U. S. Environmental Protec-

tion Agency to force the agency to carry out federal environmental laws. Brown responded that he would not be willing to do so.

In addition, Kuehne noted that Morales last fall developed and released a strong ten-point environmental plan that includes additional proposals to enhance enforcement of environmental laws. Among these is a proposal to create in the Attorney General's office the authority to oversee, review, and approve all agency administrative penalty proceedings and settlements. Yet another is a plan to create a 1-800 hotline directly to the Environmental Protection Division of the Attorney General to allow individuals to report environmental problems and violations of immediate concern. Kuehne said that the Morales' environmental platform also demonstrates a strong commitment to a number of other state efforts to reduce toxic waste generation and develop and utilize stronger criminal laws—including prison sentences for corporate officers--aimed at environmental offenders.

Sierra Club Director Kramer said, that in addition to Morales' strong environmental platform, the Club has also been impressed with his willingness to support controversial environmental protection measures. Kramer noted, for example, that Morales had supported, without reservation, the proposed Texas Rivers Protection Act in the last session of the Legislature. That act would have protected certain designated river segments from channelization and reservoir construction. Sen. Brown, on the other hand, voted against the bill on the floor of the Senate, despite the fact that the Sierra Club and other groups had modified the bill to meet concerns of riverside landowners and others, despite Brown's being kept fully informed about the changes made to meet his objections to the bill, and despite the support for the bill from two-thirds of the membership of the Senate. Kramer said that it appeared in this instance that Brown was listening more to objections from certain river authorities and not to the diversity of people and groups who were supporting the bill.

Kramer noted that Brown had sponsored certain legislation in past legislative sessions that was supported by the Sierra Club. These included a bipartisan bill to facilitate the use of conservation easements to protect wildlife and preserve undeveloped areas as well as a negotiated bill to

*continued on page 5*

## Sierra Club Biennial State Legislative Workshop - Austin - November 17, 1990

The Sierra Club will hold its biennial Legislative Workshop this fall in preparation for the 1991 regular session of the Texas Legislature. The workshop will be held in Austin on Saturday, November 17. The event is open to Sierrans and other environmental and conservation groups and individuals who are interested in environmental issues and legislative lobbying.

The workshop will begin at 9:00 a.m. (registration starts at 8:30 a.m.) and will be followed at 5:30 p.m. by a social hour (cash bar) and a dinner with after-dinner speaker. The workshop will open in the morning with a session on "Communicating with Legislators"-led by legislative staff members and grass roots organizers who will share experiences and tips on how citizens can effectively lobby legislators on issues of concern (either from their districts or in Austin). This session will be very important in helping attendees maximize the information which they will receive as part of the rest of the day's activities.

The latter part of the morning will feature concurrent workshop sessions that are tailored to the interests and experience of attendees. One of the concurrent sessions, primarily for those who have not been active in legislative lobbying activities before or who would like a "refresher" course, will focus on the structure of the Texas Legislature and the process by which laws are made in the Legislature. The other session will be on the funding of state environmental protection and natural resource programs for the upcoming 1992-1993 biennium (the 1991 Legislature will determine appropriations for state agencies for that period). Representatives of several state agencies will participate in the session to explain their respective funding needs.

Lunch will be provided and will afford the opportunity for informal discussions among attendees. The afternoon will be devoted to concurrent sessions and a final wrap-up session on major environmental and natural resource issues which are likely to be on the legislative agenda during the upcoming 72nd Texas Legislature. The issues to be addressed in concurrent sessions will include Air Quality and the Greenhouse Effect, Coastal Management and Oil Spill Response, Highway Department Sunset Review, and Waste Reduction and Management (hazardous wastes and municipal garbage). The wrap-up session will provide brief information on other

issues and groups which will be working on those issues. Written materials on all of these issues will be available at the workshop.

The full registration fee for the workshop (\$30) will include lunch, dinner, morning and afternoon refreshments, and written materials. Those who wish to attend the workshop should send in their registration form so that it arrives **NO LATER THAN November 12**. That will allow adequate time for arrangements for meals and materials to be made for the workshop. The registration fee itself may be paid in advance or on the day of the workshop. When sending in the registration form, the attendee should indicate preferences for concurrent sessions. These are not binding, but they will help determine the room arrangements for respective sessions. **Please get your registration forms in as early as possible. In 1988 we had the maximum number of attendees we could accommodate (approximately 120), and we will probably have to limit attendance to that number.**

Registration forms should be sent to the Sierra Club State Conservation Office, P.O. Box 1931, Austin, TX 78767. If a check for registration fees or dinner guests is sent with the form, the check should be made payable to "Sierra Club."

The workshop will be held this year at a new location: the Conley-Guerrero Senior Activity Center, a City of Austin facility located at 808 Nile Street in east Austin. In order to reach the facility from Interstate 35, take the exit which includes 12th Street. Head east on East 12th Street to Pleasant Valley Road. Turn right (south) onto Pleasant Valley Road. Nile Street intersects Pleasant Valley Road. Turn right onto Nile Street. The Center will be on your right. It is located next to Rosewood-Zaragosa Clinic.

For those who live outside of Austin and who wish to attend the workshop, sleeping accommodations will be provided on a space-available basis. Need for sleeping accommodations should be indicated in the space on the registration form.

Additional information about the workshop may be obtained by writing to the address indicated above or by calling the Sierra Club State Conservation Office in Austin (512/477-1729).



# Registration Form - Sierra Club Legislative Workshop - November 17, 1990

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone No.: (A.C. \_\_\_\_\_)

Late Morning Concurrent Sessions (Please check one):

\_\_\_\_\_ A. "Structure of the Texas Leg./Law-Making Process"

\_\_\_\_\_ B. "Funding Environmental/Natural Resources Programs"

Please indicate your preference for afternoon Issue Discussions by ranking these issues from "1" (highest) to "4" in order of your interest in the issue:

\_\_\_\_\_ Air Quality/Greenhouse Effect

\_\_\_\_\_ Coastal Management/Oil Spill Response

\_\_\_\_\_ Highway Department Sunset Review

\_\_\_\_\_ Waste Reduction and Management (Haz. Waste/Municipal Garbage)

Please indicate if you need overnight lodging (lodging will be provided in local Sierrans' homes, on a space-available basis - registrants needing lodging on Friday night will be contacted in advance with a lodging assignment):

\_\_\_\_\_ Friday evening

\_\_\_\_\_ Saturday evening

Please register:

\_\_\_\_\_ person(s) for workshop with dinner (\$30 each)

\_\_\_\_\_ person(s) for workshop without dinner (\$20 each)

\_\_\_\_\_ guest(s) for dinner (\$10 each)

Payment enclosed: \$ \_\_\_\_\_ REGISTRATION DEADLINE: NOVEMBER 12

Make checks payable to "Sierra Club" and send to:  
Sierra Club State Conservation Office  
P. O. Box 1931, Austin, TX 78767.

### SUBSCRIPTION FORM - STATE CAPITOL REPORT

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

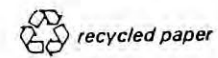
\_\_\_\_\_ ZIP CODE

PHONE NO. \_\_\_\_\_

Enclosed is my check (made payable to "Lone Star Chapter, Sierra Club") for a:  
☐ \$15 (Individual) or (Citizen Group)   ☐ \$20 (Govt. Agency)   ☐ \$25 (Corporation or Association)  
Subscription to the State Capitol Report for one year. Tear off this sheet and mail envelope to  
Sierra Club, State Conservation Office, P.O. Box 1931, Austin, Texas 78767.

STATE CONSERVATION OFFICE  
LONE STAR CHAPTER, SIERRA CLUB  
P.O. BOX 1931  
AUSTIN, TEXAS 78767

Evelyn Bonavita  
LWV of Texas  
334 Royal Oaks Dr  
San Antonio, TX 78209





**ORDER FORM**  
**LWV-TX LEGISLATIVE NEWSLETTER FOR LOCAL LEAGUE BOARD MEMBERS**

Once again LWV-TX will provide each local League and MAL Unit with two free subscriptions to the Legislative Newsletter. This mostly weekly newsletter is published during the Texas legislative session and is primarily a tool to help League members be effective lobbyists on League issues and League priorities.

One free subscription will be sent to each local League president or chair of a MAL Unit, and the other will be sent to whomever is designated on the form below. If you do not designate anyone, the president or chair will automatically also receive the second free copy.

In addition, we urge you to order paid subscriptions to the newsletter for all local League board members who will respond to Action Alerts on legislative issues. (Action Alerts require a quick response, so sharing your copy is not always easy.) Thanks to those of you who have already published the subscription coupon in your VOTERS and encouraged your members to subscribe!

RETURN TO:        LWV-TX  
                  1212 Guadalupe #107  
                  Austin, TX 78701

BY:                December 21, 1990

-----  
LWV/MAL Unit of \_\_\_\_\_  
Person ordering \_\_\_\_\_ Day Phone \_\_\_\_\_

PLEASE SEND SECOND FREE LEGISLATIVE NEWSLETTER TO:  
Name \_\_\_\_\_ Day phone \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_  
Special interests \_\_\_\_\_  
State sen. district # \_\_\_\_\_ State rep. district # \_\_\_\_\_

PLEASE SEND ADDITIONAL PAID (\$20 each for members) SUBSCRIPTIONS TO:  
Name \_\_\_\_\_ Day phone \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_  
Special interests \_\_\_\_\_  
State sen. district # \_\_\_\_\_ State rep. district # \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Day phone \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_  
Special interests \_\_\_\_\_  
State sen. district # \_\_\_\_\_ State rep. district # \_\_\_\_\_

11/90

LWV-TEXAS  
1990-91 ADVOCACY AWARD

FOR THE BEST LOCAL SYSTEM  
FOR A COORDINATED RESPONSE TO AN LWV-TX ACTION ALERT

At Convention '91 in San Antonio, the LWV-TX will recognize local Leagues for their accomplishments in advocating for League-supported legislation at the state level by giving an award for the best local system for a coordinated response to an LWV-TX Action Alert.

HOW TO ENTER

Local Leagues can enter this contest by submitting a brief (one page, single-spaced) description of the system: what it is; how it works; how it worked in action (if applicable); results (if applicable).

CRITERIA FOR JUDGING ENTRIES

Entries will be judged on the basis of:

- the percentage of local League members involved
- the percentage of assigned local legislators contacted
- any tangible results: letters, conversations, or other acknowledgement. "Correct" voting by the legislator is not necessarily a criteria, but evidence that a relationship of mutual respect and consultation has been established would be significant.

PRIZES!

A first prize of significant(!) value will be awarded to the winning League. We plan to publish entries in a guide for local Leagues for local advocacy on state issues.

SUBMIT ENTRIES TO:

LWV-TX  
1212 Guadalupe #107  
Austin, TX 78701

BY:

April 1, 1991



*Distrib. on  
letterhead to  
all legislators, gov. &  
lt. gov.*

May 23, 1990

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS URGES STATE OFFICIALS TO ACT

ON SCHOOL FUNDING CRISIS

The League of Women Voters of Texas urges the legislature and the governor to take whatever steps are necessary to resolve the school funding crisis before it goes to the court master on June 1.

Whether the solution is to override the governor's veto or to pursue an alternative compromise, the League urges legislators to act immediately to achieve a school funding reform bill by June 1 that will implement equalization by levelling up.

The consequences of the governor and the legislature failing to achieve such a compromise will be devastating and they will negatively impact public schools in Texas for years to come.

The solutions under consideration at present assuredly are not perfect, but the massive levelling down that will result from equalization without additional funding is worse than any of them. Furthermore, elected state officials will be powerless to take corrective action once the court has taken control.

Texas is in a moment of crisis with far-reaching implications for our future. The League appeals to our elected state officials to act now.



League of Women Voters of Texas  
1212 Guadalupe, #107 • Austin, Texas 78701 • Tel.512/472-1100

May 24, 1990

**- - ACTION ALERT - -**

On Wednesday, May 23, LWV-Texas issued the enclosed statement to legislators, the governor, the lieutenant governor, and the press. It makes the simple point that a school finance reform bill which achieves equalization by levelling up must be passed, and it must be passed by June 1. We may not like the bill or the funding mechanism, but if legislators do it now they will have the opportunity to return in January and repair it. The alternative is much worse, and will leave public schools beyond the reach of the legislature for years.

Please contact your legislators immediately with the message that a school funding solution and financing mechanism must be passed by June 1. If an override is still a possibility, encourage them to support the override. If it is not, ask them to support a school funding reform package that achieves equalization by levelling up. It is especially important to contact legislators who appear likely to sustain the veto or ~~who~~ say they would only support new funding if it is accompanied by more education reforms than those already incorporated in the current bill. Education reform is not the issue before the court; it is finance reform that must be addressed by June 1. Tell them that there is strong public sentiment to keep Texas schools out of the court's control.

It is impossible to predict what the situation will be in Austin by the time you receive this alert. The simplest solution to the crisis will be to override the governor's veto on both the finance reform bill and the funding mechanism. Time has run out on other options. It is being said that the court will accept proposals up until June 21, and many of the players are proceeding

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Response form on the other side



on this assumption. As of this writing, it is not clear whether this is a valid assumption.

It has been frustrating to watch the school finance fray from the sidelines over the past few weeks. LWV-Texas had not leapt in because there has not seemed to be a good option to support. The current school funding bill has features the League can generally support, including equalization by levelling up, but LWV-Texas has not wanted to support the sales tax increase as a funding mechanism.

However, the alternative funding proposals on the table have equally serious shortcomings. The amounts that could be raised without a tax increase, by shifting funds from other programs or among fund balances, are not sufficient to achieve equalization by levelling up. Moreover, the League opposes taking funds from health and human services programs to finance school reform. Worse than any of these, in terms of levelling down, would be equalization with no additional funds, which the court master has indicated will be his solution if elected officials cannot achieve a solution by June 1, 1990. None of the finance options which the League would favor, such as restructuring of sales or corporate taxes, are under consideration, nor would it be possible to consider them at this late date.

Therefore, although LWV-Texas had previously opposed a sales tax increase as a means of funding school finance reform, we are not opposing it at this time because this may be the only legislation that can be passed in time to meet the court deadline.

If you have any questions about this Action Alert, please call LWV-Texas Advocacy Committee Chair, Rebecca Bergstresser (214/350-2167).

RESPONSE FROM YOUR LEAGUE

*An Action Alert means your League's help is CRITICALLY needed. (See "Taking Action: Guidelines for Local Leagues" in the League Directory). Leagues are expected to respond to Action Alerts or explain why they are not responding. Action Alerts never come at convenient times, but League response can be very effective in influencing policy-makers. Thanks!*

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Public School Finance Action Alert Response Form  
May, 1990

(Detach and mail to LWV-TX, 1212 Guadalupe #107, Austin TX 78701)

LWV/MAL Unit of \_\_\_\_\_ Person reporting \_\_\_\_\_

Contacted Representative(s)/Senator \_\_\_\_\_

Their response(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Number of calls made \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Not responding because \_\_\_\_\_



# MEMO

LWV-Texas

August, 1990

LLP Mailing; DPM; MAL Mailing

II.A.2.a., Public School Finance

TO: LL Presidents; MAL Unit Chairs; DPM; Members at Large not in units

FROM: Rebecca Bergstresser, Advocacy Committee Chair  
3758 Pallos Verdas Drive, Dallas 75229, 214/350-2167

## THE SPECIAL SESSIONS ON SCHOOL FINANCE

What happened? Why did it take so long? What did the League do? What next?

*Adapted from a speech to the LWV-Kerrville Area*

Equity for taxpayers, educational reform, and the money to fund them were the issues addressed in the four special sessions of the Texas Legislature devoted to school finance that took place this spring. A continuing monkey wrench in the legislative machinery throughout the sessions was partisan positioning for the fall elections, which will be particularly important because of their significance for legislative redistricting in 1991. Another factor was the governor's lengthy insistence on no substantial tax increases.

The Texas Supreme Court's demand for equity, meaning that local school districts should be able to raise equal amounts of funds with the same local tax effort, was the ultimatum that precipitated the search for a school funding solution. The governor and legislative leaders reached agreement, at the last possible moment, on an assortment of provisions addressing equity:

- The legislature adopted an "equity standard" of 95% in the basic school funding tier. This sets a state goal of having 95% of Texas school children in districts that receive equal state funding for equal tax effort in the first level, or "tier," of school funding (known to school finance experts as the Basic Program of the Foundation School Program). The equity for the second tier (Guaranteed Yield Program) which provides state matching funds for optional local enrichment was reduced to 90% as a result of the governor's insistence on keeping the cost down. To qualify for maximum state funding, local districts will be required to have a tax rate of \$1.18 per \$100 of assessed value, implemented over five years. This will require significant tax rate increases for many districts, although poor districts are already much closer than rich ones to this high rate.
- The need for state aid to poor districts for capital funding was addressed by creating an Emergency Facilities Program, setting aside \$45 million for grants to poor districts for emergency facilities needs and debt service.

These steps toward a more equitable school finance system were partially mitigated in the short run by "hold harmless" provisions which prevent losses to wealthier school districts in 1991.

Educational reform was strongly pushed by the governor's representatives, by business groups, and by many legislators as a precondition to acceptance of the additional funding needed to achieve equity. Although educational reform was unnecessary from the court's point of view, it was an essential part of the political solution that made the compromise palatable. Reform meant different things to different people, but the final version of the bill included these:

- The governor was given power to appoint the commissioner of education. The State Board of Education, which formerly held that power, was left with the responsibility of presenting candidates to the governor

---more---



for approval or rejection. Original proposals by both the governor's Task Force on School Finance and the Senate Education Committee would have given the commissioner much more power at the board's expense.

- A small step was taken toward reducing red tape by allowing "exemplary school districts" (to be defined) to be exempted from some state requirements and rules (to be specified by the commissioner of education).
- Funds were set aside for districts to apply for grants for "innovative programs" in areas defined by the legislature. These include school year restructuring, alternative learning environments, child care, extended school day, and magnet schools. Cut from the list was voucher programs, which the League opposed in its statement to the Senate Education Committee.

**MONEY, MONEY, MONEY!** It was clear to almost everyone from the beginning that more money would be required to achieve equity. But there were many conflicting views as to how much and where it should come from. The eventual compromise of \$528 million for 1990-91 and at least \$4.2 billion by 1995 was much closer to the senate's original proposal than the governor's. However, the governor succeeded in changing the funding mix, with the sales tax increase at one-fourth rather than one-half cent. The difference will be made up by whopping increases in "sin" taxes on tobacco and alcoholic beverages, an allocation from the newly created "Rainy Day" Fund, and \$60 million in cuts in other state spending.

One issue on which advocates at opposite ends of the spending proposals tended to agree, in opposition to those in the middle of the spectrum, was that optional local spending by wealthy districts should be curbed. All participants acknowledged that without capping local enrichment it is virtually impossible to achieve full equalization of spending across the state. (The League opposes caps on local enrichment.)

**THE POLITICS OF REDISTRICTING.** Because control of the legislature during the 1990's is at stake in the November elections, almost all party leaders and legislators were obsessively reluctant to make themselves vulnerable on taxing and spending issues. Generally, most Republicans tended to dig in firmly behind the governor on his "no tax" stand. Democrats, with more minorities among their representatives and constituents, were inclined to support spending increases but determined to force Republicans to share responsibility for any tax increases. This high-stakes game set the stage for the prolonged standoff over how much additional spending to approve and how to fund it.

**WHAT THE LEAGUE DID:** The League endeavored to keep members—as well as legislators and the public— informed about the basic issues and options regarding school finance. LWV-TX did not address educational reform issues, other than vouchers, because the League has no positions on reform issues. Without a continuing presence in Austin it was difficult to decipher the rapidly shifting factions, determine which emerging compromise had a chance, or act fast enough to have an impact. To make matters worse, specific school funding formulas are fiendishly complicated. For example, the adopted formula is expressed as follows:  $GYA = (GL \times WADA \times DTR \times 100) - LR$ ; try asking your legislator what it means.

This is why LWV-TX took a broad-brush approach emphasizing the need for additional money and the importance of accomplishing the court-ordered finance reforms on time to meet the court deadline. Local Leagues did well in passing information on to members, sending representatives to school finance workshops, holding public forums with legislators and school officials, and responding to the Action Alerts that were issued at the beginning and the end of the sessions. Given the difficulties under which the public worked to keep up with issues and developments, this was a significant service.

**WHAT NEXT?** The court has allowed the compromise to take effect for the 1990-91 school year, avoiding major disruption to local districts. However, plaintiffs contend that the new finance plan does not go far enough to achieve equal access by poor districts to funding for schools. The court will rule on the new plan in September. Most observers believe that school finance will continue to be a hotly contested issue in Texas for the foreseeable future.



July 27, 1987

To: All persons carrying a program portfolio on or off board; Diane; Myrtle; S.O.

From: Louise Cummine

RE: BUDGET ALLOCATIONS FROM BUDGET ACCOUNT NUMBER T.2

I am going to try a different way of handling the budget for the program portfolios. I have divided the money among the portfolios (see below). However, I will keep a running account of the expenditures and Myrtle will pay all bills from one account number rather than breaking it into a number of sub accounts. The purpose of this procedure is to comply with the auditor's suggestion to decrease the number of sub accounts.

WHEN YOU HAVE A BILL, SEND IT TO ME ALONG WITH YOUR VOUCHER. I will note it in the records and send it on to Myrtle for payment.

We have a very small program budget to be divided among a cast of thousands. All of the allocations are small. It is designed primarily for postage and phone calls--no travel unless you want to use your whole allocation on one (short) trip and then give up writing and talking. This budget does not cover the expense of work on the new program item, that comes from TEF.

Domestic Violence	75.	Mateele Rittgers
All other WUTL	75.	Debbie Stine
Admin. of Justice	75.	Diana Clark
Juvenile Justice	75.	Lois Carpenter
Social Policy	75.	Rebecca Bergstresser
Pub. School Finance	75.	Karen Miller
Health CMI	125	Sally Coughlin
Water	75.	Catherine Perrine
Air	75.	Kathy Jacob
Land Use	50.	Carol Wilson
National Security	100.	D. Stine and Mary Alice Pisani
Basic Human Needs	125.	Barbara McCormick
Fin. State Govt.	75.	Rebecca Bergstresser
Energy/Cont. Dep.	75	D. Stine
Govt.(all items except FSG)	100	
Periodic Prog. Rev.	100.	
 TOTAL	 1300.	



TO: LL Presidents; MAL Unit Chairs; DPM  
FROM: Evelyn Bonavita, PPRC Director  
10322 Meadow Lake Lane, Houston 77042  
713/952-9847

LWV-Texas  
October, 1989  
LLP Mailing; DPM  
I.A.2.  
Action--State

PPRC NAMED TOP INTERIM LEGISLATIVE PRIORITY

In response to the concerns Leagues statewide have expressed since the U.S. Supreme Court handed down its decision in the Webster case July 3, the state board at its September meeting chose Public Policy on Reproductive Choices (PPRC) as our top advocacy priority for the coming year. The governor has threatened to include abortion legislation in his call for the special session starting November 14, and certainly the subject has become an issue in the political campaigns already started. The board determined that the state League must be ready to respond to these challenges. Be sure to read the memo from Nancy Neuman in a 9/89 mailing from LWVUS. It provides essential information on League advocacy on PPRC.

A coalition of statewide organizations is being formed called Texans for Choice. The League has been invited to join, and the board is currently collecting the information necessary to make the decision on whether or not to do so. This coalition includes many of the organizations with which we have lobbied so closely over the years: Texas Family Planning Association, Texas Abortion Rights Action League, Texas NOW, Texas Women's Political Caucus, and Texas Civil Liberties Union. The coalition is hiring an executive director and plans to become active in keeping abortion off the agenda for the special session. The coalition will not be endorsing or opposing candidates.

Coalitions

We know that local Leagues are also being asked to join coalitions, and we encourage you to do so if careful consideration by the board reveals that the group will be organized such that the League's goals will be achievable. Please note that the League must very careful to maintain its nonpartisan position, so be sure that the coalition is not planning to take positions for or against candidates or parties. Some organizations that belong to the coalition can be partisan, and this should not stop you from joining if the coalition itself does not endorse or oppose. As with any coalition, you will want to be active in its leadership, comfortable that public statements will be made only with your consent, aware of financial obligations, and so on.

Texans for Choice is planning a rally on Sunday, November 12, 2:00 p.m., on the south steps of the state Capitol in Austin. This is National Mobilization Day, when pro-choice citizens from throughout the country are marching on Washington and holding rallies in each state. We urge your attendance at the Austin rally to show support for the issue. The timing is great for us, since the special session starts November 14, and we want to show legislators that we do not want changes in abortion laws that would limit choice. It's been a long time for many of us since we've attended a rally, but now is the time to show our concern.



#### Maintaining Nonpartisanship

There is extensive talk among pro-choice people that now is the time to vote for or against candidates based on the single issue of choice. Local Leagues must avoid this kind of talk because it jeopardizes our nonpartisanship. The League as an organization never encourages voting for candidates based on a single issue, and we cannot condone doing so now. What you do personally in the voting booth is your business, but please do not support this position in your VOTERS or by giving members and the public information on legislators that is concerned only with their positions on choice.

#### What Local Leagues Can Do

We do encourage you to have meetings on PPRC. If you have time left in your fall schedules, a meeting that details the various Texas laws dealing with abortion restrictions and gives lobbying tips to League members or others might be interesting. Invite representatives from Planned Parenthood, or your state legislator; plan a panel discussion with League members who are conversant with the League position and can give important background information on the history of League involvement. Look in your files for Facts and Issues: Public Policy on Abortion that was used in 1982 when we did the study. LWVEF has a fine publication called Coping with Conflict: Reproductive Choices and Community Controversy that deals with the kinds of issues we are confronting today. (See LWVUS Catalog for ordering information.) Both could be the basis of a good meeting, especially if your members do not understand the League's position and need education. Remember also that there is an article on reproductive choices in the July/August National VOTER.

As we draw closer to the statewide elections in 1990, Leagues may be confronted with questions on our position on choice. REMEMBER, WE ARE PRO-CHOICE, NOT PRO-ABORTION. We do not judge the morality of abortion. Our concern is who decides. We believe in a woman's right to make reproductive choices and not have them made for her by state government (or local or federal government, either). We can ask a question about the subject in our Voters Guides, but the question should be worded in a way that is free of bias. The same rule applies to candidates forums: the question can be asked, but do not make the forum a referendum on the candidates' positions on this subject. Remember, we are supporting issues, not candidates, and we must emphasize this again and again.

Finally, if you have members who want to take immediate action on this issue, tell them that the state League will be monitoring the special session and will let them know right away if abortion is listed in the call. Meanwhile, we remind you that Leagues were urged to write the governor (with copies of their letters to the lt. governor and their legislators) and let him know that we do not want abortion restrictions brought up in the special session. (Thanks for the great letters!) Members are urged to write these letters also. When you lobby on choice, remember that it is not an issue open to compromise. (Think of it like civil rights.) But do use the same calm, factual lobbying tactics for which the League is known.

\* \* \* \* \*



TO: LL Presidents; State Unit Chair; DPM  
FROM: Rebecca Bergstresser, Advocacy Committee  
3758 Pallos Verdas Dr., Dallas 75229  
214/350-2167

LWV-Texas  
August 1989  
LL Pres. Mailing; DPM  
I. A. 2.  
Action-State

BALLOT ISSUES AND THE ESTABLISHMENT OF POLITICAL COMMITTEES

Any League that decides to spend money to support or oppose a ballot issue at any level of government must set up a political committee (formerly political action committee). Ballot issues include constitutional amendments, referenda, bond issues, charter amendments, and the like that are placed on an election ballot for voter approval. (Legislative lobbying does not require a political committee.) At its September meeting the LWV-Texas board will decide whether or not to support or oppose any of the 21 proposed constitutional amendments on the November 1989 ballot. If we decide to take action, we will be asking local Leagues to take action as well, so a political committee would be necessary.

To set up a political committee, Leagues must do one of two things. Either establish a separate organization on a one-time basis for a specific ballot issue, in which case they file with the appropriate election official; or set up an ongoing General Purpose Political Committee, which files with the Secretary of State and remains in existence to be reactivated as needed. Both kinds of committees must

- call the Elections Division of the Secretary of State's office (1-800-252-VOTE) for information and the requisite forms;
- file a written appointment of campaign treasurer before any funds are taken in or expended;
- keep accurate records of all transactions which could become reportable;
- file sworn statements with the appropriate official;
- identify the nature and source of political advertisements.

A General Purpose Political Committee must file a report even when it is not active. If a report is late, a fine of \$100 is assessed. A general purpose committee must be in existence for 60 days and have at least 10 contributors before it can make expenditures related to a campaign.

A League may set up a political committee with League funds, but after that, contributions must come from individuals. It is advisable to keep the money in a bank account separate from the League treasury. A League that establishes a General Purpose Political Committee should file with the IRS for an Employer Identification Number that is separate from the number assigned to the League.

# # # # #



TO: LL Presidents; MAL Unit Chair; DPM  
FROM: Evelyn Bonavita, Program VP, LWV-TX  
10322 Meadow Lake Lane, Houston 77042  
713/952-9847

LWV-Texas  
July, 1989  
LL Pres. Mailing; DPM  
I. A. 2. a.  
Legislative Newsletter

ADDITIONS AND CORRECTIONS TO WRAP-UP LEGISLATIVE NEWSLETTER

Public School Finance

In the June wrap-up edition of the Legislative Newsletter, please make the following important correction. In the last line of the section on Public School Finance, which said, "To be sure, this amendment would mean only that school districts would pay more interest . . . ," the word should be "lower" not "more."

Water

Please re-label the section "Groundwater Districts" to read "Groundwater Protection."

Add the following information:

Groundwater Districts (Newsletters #16 & #18): SB 62 (Sims) to create a very small district in Pecos County died in the House Natural Resources Committee, as did SB 1656 (Montford), which would have created a district covering all but 6% of Ector County. As previously mentioned, bills for a West Edwards district were killed in committee by proponents of management of the entire aquifer by one regional or state agency. All other bills proposing new groundwater districts passed. If confirmed by local voters, thirteen additional districts will have groundwater management powers. Most are new single-county districts having powers assigned by Chapter 52 of the Water Code.

Additional information:

City Water Pollution Abatement Programs (Newsletters #16 and #12): HB 1546 (T. Smith), which authorizes the Texas Water Commission to review and approve city programs for the control and abatement of water pollution, was amended in the senate, went to conference committee, and passed without the amendment on the final day of the session.

Rivers Protection Act (Newsletter #12): SB 370 (Santiesteban) was amended to make it acceptable to most of its opponents, but died in the House Calendars Committee.

Bonds and Colonias: Probably the water bill attracting the most public interest during this session is one on which the League did not testify, SB 2 (Santiesteban), generally referred to as "the colonias bill." This complex legislation authorizes state cost-sharing for water and sewer facilities in low-income areas of the state and for wastewater treatment projects in Mexico that will improve water quality in the Rio Grande. Up to \$100 million of the \$500 million in new Water Development Fund bonds proposed by SJR 5 (Montford) may be used to finance these projects if approved by Texas Voters this November.

# # #



TO: LL Presidents; State Unit Chairs; DPM  
FROM: Rebecca Bergstresser, Advocacy Committee  
3758 Pallos Verdas Dr., Dallas 75229  
214/350-2167

LWV-Texas  
October 1989  
LL Pres. Mailing; DPM  
I. A. 2.  
Action - State

"THE GOOD, THE BAD, AND THE UGLY":

NEW FACTS ABOUT PACS

(Hand this gently to your PAC treasurer)

We have received some new information about political committees (PACs) and their relation to ballot issues. This memo supplants to a great extent the salmon-colored memo in the last mailing. We believe this will simplify things for many Leagues and hope this will encourage you to get involved in the November election. However, the usual caveats about PAC reports still apply. The good and bad news:

**THE GOOD:** If a local League spends less than \$100 to inform members and the public during this campaign, it may use local League funds (NOT 501(c)(3) Education Funds!!!!) and it need not file any reports at all. In this case, there is no need for a PAC or a PAC treasurer. It is still important to keep well-documented records of activities and expenditures, especially any that involve non-members.

Leagues that spend more than \$100 but less than \$500 must form a PAC, but may qualify for less onerous "modified reporting procedures." The key to this is to establish a budget at the outset and NOT OVERSPEND. CALL THE SECRETARY OF STATE'S OFFICE (number below) TO DETERMINE THE PROCEDURES NECESSARY FOR YOUR PARTICULAR LEAGUE.

**THE BAD:** There are stringent reporting requirements for all PACs. The first is to give notice when yours is activated by filing with the secretary of state the form that appoints your PAC treasurer.

Please take notes of these VERY IMPORTANT DATES FOR PAC REPORTS:

- October 10: 30-day report due on contributions and expenditures from date of appointment of campaign treasurer, or since last report, through September 28.
- October 30: Eight-day report due on contributions and expenditures from September 29 through October 28.
- January 15, 1990: Final report due on all other activities from October 29 on.

**... AND THE UGLY:** If you do form a PAC you MUST follow the rules. Failure to "file timely" (i.e., get your forms filed on time) can be classified as a misdemeanor and can cost as much as \$100 in fines.

Since each League will have different circumstances, the best course of action when in doubt is to call the secretary of state's office for specific instructions. Mr. Edward Shack, the attorney in that office, says he is looking forward to 35 League phone calls. (1-800-252-VOTE)

# # #



THIS POLICY SUPERSEDES ALL PREVIOUS POLICIES

LWV-Texas  
February, 1985  
Readopted Sept. '87

## TAKING ACTION: GUIDELINES FOR LOCAL LEAGUES

Write the mayor or governor...call the city manager...testify before the planning and zoning commission...monitor the courts...visit your legislator...write a letter to the editor...sponsor a meeting to publicize a problem and offer solutions...join a coalition to campaign for some issue...litigate...these are all examples of ACTION to which these guidelines apply.

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➡➡ ON YOUR MARK ➡➡ GET READY ➡➡ GET SET ➡➡ ACT ➡➡

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ACTION is our League effort to bring about governmental change based on the positions we derive through member study and consensus.

Because we are a multi-level organization with positions at each level, we must often coordinate our action efforts in order to speak with one voice.

Because we are a multi-level organization, we choose issues for priority attention at all levels in order to allocate resources effectively and maximize political impact.

The guidelines that follow are designed to make it easier for your League to take action.

If, at any time, you are unsure about what action to take, the state board program directors stand ready to assist you. Officers and directors are listed in the LWV-Texas State Directory. If you are unsure which person to call, the state office will assist you.

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➡➡ ON YOUR MARK ➡➡

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The following action guidelines apply to all Leagues:

Leagues only act when we have a local, state, or national position or are acting under League principles.

Never lobby in opposition to a League position.

Elected officials respond best to their own constituents. Therefore, lobby only your own unless otherwise directed.

Read Fundamentals for Local League Boards (LWV-Texas), ACTION (LWVUS), and In League (LWVUS). All provide inspiration as well as guidance.

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➡➡ GET READY ➡➡

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Before taking action on an issue, determine the following:

under what position you wish to act--local, state, national, or principles

what you wish to accomplish

who is authorized to act for your League--check your local policy guide

whether state or national or other local Leagues will be affected by your action

whether pre-clearance is needed from LWV-Texas, LWVUS, or other local Leagues before you act (see chart, p. 2). Leagues do not need to request authorization from the LWVUS to act at the national level on national positions under which the LWVUS board has already taken action.

who must receive copies of your letter, testimony, etc. (see chart, p. 2)



## ➡ GET SET ➡

There are two kinds of action requests from LWV-Texas and LWVUS--Action Alerts and What You Can Do. Action in response to these requests is expected and does not require pre-clearance.

An Action Alert means your League's help is critically needed. Leagues are expected to respond to Action Alerts or explain to the appropriate board (state or national) why they are not responding. Action Alerts provide specific instructions and a return form to indicate the action taken or why action was not taken.

What You Can Do appears in LWVUS Report from the Hill and LWV-Texas Legislative Newsletter. It provides inspiration for additional action on subjects that may be of special interest to your League.

The effectiveness of action by local Leagues is bolstered by action your members undertake as individuals.

WHEN YOUR LEAGUE WANTS TO INITIATE ACTION ON ITS OWN BEHALF, USE THE FOLLOWING CHART. IF YOU DON'T FIND YOUR NEEDS ADDRESSED, CALL THE APPROPRIATE PROGRAM DIRECTOR.

Action you initiate often requires contacting officials shared with other Leagues. Occasionally, you may wish to contact officials other than your own. For these reasons, pre-clearance is often necessary when you initiate action.

Examples:

LWV-Hometown wants to testify before a state legislative committee holding a hearing in their town. Even though they have no legislators on the committee, they believe this is a good opportunity to advocate the League's state groundwater positions. After pre-clearance with the LWV-Texas Water Director, they're ready to act.

LWV-Hometown wants to lobby for increased funding for a special hospital district, using their local position for improved health care for the indigent. Since there are three other Leagues in the hospital district, LWV-Hometown calls the LWV-Texas Human Resources Director for pre-clearance. The LWV-Texas Director advises LWV-Hometown to pre-clear with the other affected LL's and proceed to act as long as they don't mind.

WHAT TO DO WHEN YOUR LEAGUE WANTS TO INITIATE ACTION BEFORE A...

LOCAL GOVERNMENT OR OFFICIAL (your League's only) city council, mayor, planning commission, school board...	A
REGIONAL AGENCY OR OFFICIAL (shared with other local Leagues) common city government or special purpose district, council of governments, regional task force...	A B C
STATE GOVERNMENT OR OFFICIAL state representative, senator, governor, state agency...	A B
FEDERAL GOVERNMENT OR OFFICIAL member of Congress, federal agency, the president...	A B D

A - local board decision; copy to local League files  
 B - pre-clear with appropriate LWV program director; copy to state office  
 C - pre-clear with affected local Leagues: copy to these local Leagues  
 D - pre-clear with LWVUS (sometimes LWV-Texas can pre-clear for you); copy to national office

## ➡ ACT ➡ ACT ➡ ACT ➡ ACT ➡ ACT ➡



TO: LL Presidents; State Unit Chair; DPM; MALs      LWV-Texas  
FROM: Evelyn Bonavita, LWV-TX Leg. Director      February 1989  
10322 Meadow Lake Lane, Houston 77042      LL Pres. Mailing; DPM  
713/952-9847      I.A.2.  
Action--State

#### REPORT FROM THE LEGISLATIVE OFFICE

As you know, my move to Houston has caused some major changes in the legislative office, but everything is running smoothly now. We have hired Jan Albers, past LWV-Texas program vice president and legislative director, to be our monitor on the two legislative priorities: community alternatives to prisons; and services for those with serious mental illness. Jan will work with the legislature and LWV-T program directors to promote our issues. (Nancy Chick, listed in the December mailing to local Leagues as our legislative monitor, had to resign because of child care scheduling problems.)

The Legislative Newsletter will be written and produced in Houston by Evelyn Bonavita, legislative director, and Deborah Cooper, LWV-Houston member. Evelyn will continue to handle the advocacy agenda and plans to visit Austin often.

#### Coalitions

The state board, at its January meeting, voted to continue LWV-Texas' membership in the Texas Council on Family Violence and to endorse Sexual Assault Awareness Week (April 16-22). The board also decided to send \$25 to the National Organization for Women to help defray expenses of the Celebration of Reproductive Freedom on the steps of the state Capitol on January 21. On February 1 LWV-TX was part of an official announcement of a new coalition named Clean Air Texas. Other members are the General Land Office, gas and pipeline companies, Sierra Club, Texas Environmental Coalition, Audubon, etc.

LWV-Texas Education Fund rejoined the Texas Environmental Coalition. LWV-TEF will again cosponsor the annual Wilderness PowWow coordinated by the Texas Committee on Natural Resources.

#### For Your Information

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Although dropout prevention in our public schools is not a state League issue since we have not studied the subject, local Leagues may be interested in learning more about this important problem. For copies of the first paper and for more information, write the Texas Research League, P.O. Box 12456, Austin, TX 78711. Phone: 512/472-3127.

#### "Taking Action"

Enclosed in this mailing is "Taking Action," the bright pink paper that provides general guidance for local Leagues in taking action. If, during the legislative session, you are asked by a legislator, organization friend, or elected official to take action on a certain state legislative issue, please consult "Taking Action." Be sure to call the appropriate state League program director before taking any state legislative action that LWV-TX has not specifically requested.

# # # # #

The Legislative Newsletter will be written and produced in Houston by Evelyn Bonavita, legislative director, and Deborah Cooper, LWV-Houston member. Evelyn will continue to handle the advocacy agenda and plans to visit Austin often.

#### Coalitions

The state board, at its January meeting, voted to continue LWV-Texas' membership in the Texas Council on Family Violence and to endorse Sexual Assault Awareness Week (April 16-22). The board also decided to send \$25 to the National Organization for Women to help defray expenses of the Celebration of Reproductive Freedom on the steps of the State Capitol on January 21. On February 1 LWV-TX was part of an official announcement of a new coalition named Clean Air Texas. Other members are the General Land Office, gas and pipeline companies, State Club, Texas Environmental Coalition, Audubon, etc.

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# League of Women Voters of Dallas

2727 INWOOD ROAD • DALLAS, TEXAS 75235 • 214/351-4125

November 17, 1988

NOV 21 1988

DSW  
LCW  
EB  
RB  
SO

Ms. Irene Ramirez  
Ms. Monica Fried  
Women's Issues Network  
5526 Dyer, #1175  
Dallas, Texas 75206-5021

Dear Irene and Monica:

The League of Women Voters of Texas, as well as the Dallas League, will support your efforts to have a state statute enacted which will prohibit sex and other forms of discrimination by certain private clubs. The League may be listed as supporting the proposed legislation. We do request, however, that any public statements, written testimony, or letters to legislators be cleared in advance with Rebecca Bergstresser for LWV-T.

Please keep us informed of the progress of this effort. You may contact either Rebecca (350-2167) or Julie (352-4667) if you have questions or need further information.

I would be willing to accompany you and representatives of other interested groups to visit Rep. Wolens and Sen. Johnson (or other members of the Dallas delegation) concerning the proposed law, my schedule permitting. If and when contacts need to be made with legislators from other counties, League participation should be cleared through Rebecca for the state League.

Sincerely,

*Julie Lowenberg*  
Julie Lowenberg  
President

JL/mcc



cc: Ms. Rebecca Bergstresser  
3758 Pallos Verdas  
Dallas, Texas 75229

Ms. Diane Sheridan  
President, League of  
Women Voters of Texas  
1212 Guadalupe, #107  
Austin, Texas 78701

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the prohibition of discrimination in certain public accommodations and associations; providing a penalty.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

SECTION 1. DISCRIMINATION UNLAWFUL. It is an unlawful discriminatory practice to deny any person the full and equal enjoyment of the goods, services, facilities, privileges, or advantages of any public accommodation or public association because of race, color, religion, disability, national origin, sex, or age.

SECTION 2. DEFINITIONS.

(a) An "accommodation" or "association" is an entity that provides any of the following goods, services, facilities, privileges, or advantages to its customers, clients, patrons or members or to guests of its customers, clients, patrons, or members: food or meals; drink, alcoholic or non-alcoholic; overnight lodging; exhibitions; entertainment, live, broadcast or recorded meetings; meeting rooms; reading rooms; social gatherings; sports equipment, areas or facilities; or exercise equipment, areas or facilities.

(b) An accommodation or association is "public" if the gross receipts from the provision of its goods, services, facilities, privileges, or advantages exceed in any year the sum of \$100,000.

SECTION 3. PROTECTED ACTION. An accommodation or association is not subject to Section 1 where its discrimination



is necessary to the advocacy of an expressive or religious viewpoint; the practice or exercise of religious beliefs and customs; or the protection of bodily dignity or privacy.

SECTION 4. CRIMINAL OFFENSE.

(a) A person commits an offense if the person knowingly violates Section 1 of this Act.

(b) An offense under this section is a Class B misdemeanor.

SECTION 5. CIVIL ACTION.

(a) Any person aggrieved by a violation of Section 1 of this Act may bring a civil action for damages against the accommodation or association that engages in the violation.

(b) A plaintiff who prevails in an action under this section, by securing a favorable judgment or settlement, is entitled to attorney's fees. A defendant who prevails in an action under this section and who shows that plaintiff's case is patently frivolous is entitled to an award of attorney's fees.

SECTION 6. EMERGENCY. The importance of this legislation and the crowded condition of the calendars in both houses create an emergency and an imperative public necessity that the constitutional rule requiring bills to be read on three several days in each house be suspended, and this rule is hereby suspended.



TO: LL Presidents; State Unit Chair; DPM

LWV-Texas

November 1988

FROM: Evelyn Bonavita, LWV-TX Legislative Director  
10322 Meadow Lake Lane, Houston 77042  
713/952-9847

LL Pres. Mailing; DPM

I. A. 2.

Action - State

#### LWV-TEXAS LEGISLATIVE ACTIVITIES

##### Legislative Priorities

At its November meeting, the state board chose two issues as the top LWV-Texas legislative priorities for the next session of the Texas Legislature: services for the seriously mentally ill, and community alternatives to prison. The board approved the consensus for the study we just completed on Services for the Seriously Mentally Ill (see Mary Alice Pisani's memo in this mailing for the position statement), and we have an active committee (Mary Alice Pisani, Rebecca Bergstresser, and Sally Coughlin) ready to begin working on this issue. Diana Clark, with the help of Austin League member Mary Blackstock, will be handling community alternatives to prison, which means lobbying for halfway houses, restitution centers, creative methods of probation, and certainly more funds for the Texas Adult Probation Commission.

Secondary legislative priorities will be merit selection of judges, indigent health care, financing state government, public school finance, open meetings, domestic violence, public policy on reproductive choices, water management, and waste management. These will receive constant attention, but will not have the budget or high profile of the two top priorities.

League members have expressed interest in Texas Constitutional Revision. We have determined that this is not a good year to push for this in the legislature. Instead, our efforts will be directed toward educational efforts in local communities and lobbying of appropriate candidates for statewide office in 1990.

##### Legislative Interviews

The state legislative interview forms have been mailed out to all Leagues. The deadline is January 30 for returning the completed forms. This should give most of you time to see your senator and/or representative(s) and complete the form. Remember that during the early days of the legislative session members of the Texas Legislature are usually at home in their districts on Friday as well as the weekend, so if you are unable to conduct your interview before the session starts on January 10, please try to see your lawmaker on a weekend.

##### Advocacy Papers

State League program directors will be writing advocacy papers on services for the seriously mentally ill and on community alternatives to prison. We will also be updating and reprinting the paper on financing state government from the last session because we think it is important to be ready if the legislature begins to implement any recommendations of the Select Committee on Tax Equity. These three advocacy papers will be sent to local League in January. For those of you who still have copies of our paper on the merit selection of judges, that one is still accurate. Another advocacy paper that is still current is the one on Texas Constitutional Revision. We encourage you to make copies of that one and distribute it widely. (See LWV-Texas 1988-89 Directory for information on ordering Advocacy Papers.)

-over-



### Women's Legislative Days

The highly successful biennial Women's Legislative Days will take place on Monday and Tuesday, February 13 and 14, 1989, at the Joe C. Thompson Center in Austin. The keynote speaker will be Ann Lewis, newswoman and national political consultant. There will be a general session on how to lobby and a panel discussion on "Texas Tax Reform: Is This the Year?" with noted statewide panelists on Monday afternoon. Tuesday morning will be devoted to the presentation of some thirty workshops on a variety of current issues before the legislature, from getting women elected to office to the school finance lawsuit. League issues covered will be tax reform, prisons vs. community alternatives, and funding for human services. Tuesday afternoon we will lobby at the Capitol.

We have made arrangements for League members to receive a rate of \$55 a night at the Marriott at the Capitol Hotel during the conference. This rate applies if one person or up to four stay in the room. Our legislative briefing session for League members will be held at the Marriott at the Capitol Tuesday morning before the workshops begin. The Marriott also provides free shuttle service to the Thompson Center. You must make your own hotel arrangements. Reservations should be made before January 29, 1989. Be sure to mention Women's Legislative Days and the League of Women Voters when making your reservations. The address of the hotel is 701 East 11th, Austin 78701. The telephone number is 512/478-1111.

Your registration fee will cover the cost of a wine and "heavy" hors d'oeuvres reception in honor of Lt. Gov. Bill Hobby, which will be at the Austin Crest Hotel on Monday evening. Following the reception will be a roast of Ann Richards at the Hyatt Hotel (two blocks from the Austin Crest) presented by the Texas Women's Political Caucus. Tickets will be sold during the conference on Monday.

All League members will be receiving a brochure that will have complete information on the conference, as well as a registration form. Make your reservations early because there is a \$10.00 late charge for reservations postmarked after February 1, and the conference is always fully booked. Space is on a first-come, first-serve basis.

Women's Legislative Days is always a fun event--a highlight of each legislative session. Come and bring your friends; League membership is not a requirement. It's a great time to "network" as well as lobby.

# # # # #

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TO: LL Presidents; DPM

FROM: Evelyn Bonavita, Legislative Director  
10322 Meadow Lake Lane, Houston 77042  
713/952-9847

LWV-Texas  
November 1988  
LLP Mailing; DPM  
I. A. 2.  
Action - State

BE INFORMED & INVOLVED: READ THE LEGISLATIVE NEWSLETTER

Once again LWV-Texas will be publishing the Legislative Newsletter during the Texas legislative session. The Legislative Newsletter is primarily a tool to help League members be effective lobbyists on League issues and League priorities. Top priorities identified are services for the seriously mentally ill and community alternatives to prison.

The newsletter analyzes bills relating to these issues, as well as the others in our list of secondary priorities (see enclosed memo from Evelyn Bonavita). It includes reports on committee and agency hearings and tells you which legislators need to be written about a specific bill and when to do so.

Each local League and state unit will receive two free subscriptions to the mostly weekly Legislative Newsletter. One will be sent to the president or chair of a state unit, and the other will be sent to whomever the president designates on the form below. If you do not designate anyone, the president or chair will automatically also receive the second free copy.

Subscriptions to the Legislative Newsletter are essential for all local League board members who will respond to Action Alerts on legislative issues. (Action Alerts always require quick response, so sharing your copy is not easy.) The newsletter is a great way for all League members to be informed and involved in the 71st session of the Texas Legislature.

-----  
RETURN TO: League of Women Voters  
1212 Guadalupe, #107  
Austin, TX 78701

Please send second free Legislative Newsletter subscription for the LWV of:

\_\_\_\_\_  
(League name) to \_\_\_\_\_ (Name of recipient)  
\_\_\_\_\_  
(Address) (ZIP)

-----  
RETURN TO: League of Women Voters  
1212 Guadalupe, #107  
Austin, TX 78701

ADDITIONAL PAID SUBSCRIPTION(S) @\$15.00 each (which is enclosed):

NAME \_\_\_\_\_  
ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_  
CITY \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

(Use additional paper if necessary)



## Regulative Priorities

- 2C SSMI - list someone to help MaP -  
1C Indigent health care - insurance, risk pool,  
Overcrowded <sup>Diana Clark</sup> prisons - <sup>2 interim committees</sup> Community alternatives  
JSG - put in AFDC Con. Cap - <sup>RB</sup> to look at <sup>Kay Gavin?</sup>  
Public School Finance - look for someone +  
Water - have C.P. write an advocacy paper  
1C **TOR** - Mary Ann Moxon? - Sue Barham?  
Marilyn Stavano, S.A. - Lucy Pelter?  
AFDC -  
Sally - advocacy paper needs  
rewriting or substantial revision

Merit Selection - demoted  
Air - 2<sup>nd</sup> string  
Haz. Waste - 2<sup>nd</sup> string

Janice May - R WV-a  
Bonnie Bowman - Arlington - SSMI  
Rancy Price - PS Finance  
Jody Westbrook - principal - Richardson  
Carol Wilson - TOR -

## Super Tuesday

Time between filing deadline and getting  
information out  
Extended time between primary and  
general election

TO: LL Presidents; State Unit Chair; DPM; MALs      LWV-Texas  
February 1989  
FROM: Evelyn Bonavita, LWV-TX Leg. Director      LL Pres. Mailing; DPM  
10322 Meadow Lake Lane, Houston 77042      I.A.2.  
713/952-9847      Action--State

REPORT FROM THE LEGISLATIVE OFFICE

As you know, my move to Houston has caused some major changes in the legislative office, but everything is running smoothly now. We have hired Jan Albers, past LWV-Texas program vice president and legislative director, to be our monitor on the two legislative priorities: community alternatives to prisons, and services for those with serious mental illness. Jan will work with the legislature and LWV-T program directors to promote our issues. (Nancy Chick, listed in the December mailing to local Leagues as our legislative monitor, had to resign because of child care scheduling problems.)

The Legislative Newsletter will be written and produced in Houston by Evelyn Bonavita, legislative director, and Deborah Cooper, LWV-Houston member. Evelyn will continue to handle the advocacy agenda and plans to visit Austin often.

Coalitions

The state board, at its January meeting, voted to continue LWV-Texas' membership in the Texas Council on Family Violence and to endorse Sexual Assault Awareness Week (April 16-22). The board also decided to send \$25 to the National Organization for Women to help defray expenses of the Celebration of Reproductive Freedom on the steps of the state Capitol on January 21. On February 1 LWV-TX was part of an official announcement of a new coalition named Clean Air Texas. Other members are the General Land Office, gas and pipeline companies, Sierra Club, Texas Environmental Coalition, Audubon, etc.

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# # # # #

TO: LL Presidents; State Unit Chair; DPM  
FROM: Evelyn Bonavita, LWV-TX Leg. Dir. &  
ADV Ctte. Chr.  
10322 Meadow Lake Lane, Houston 77042  
713/952-9847

LWV-Texas  
October 1988  
LL Pres. Mailing; DPM  
I. A. 2.  
Action--State

POSITIONS ON PROPOSED CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS

At its September meeting, the state board voted to oppose the three proposed constitutional amendments on the ballot in November. (Pros and cons on these proposed amendments were in the August local League mailing and are in the state Voters Guide.)

All three amendments propose the establishment of dedicated funds in the state constitution, and the League considers constitutionally dedicated funds a serious obstacle to sound fiscal management by the legislature. Our Financing State Government position calls for "removal of provisions relating to dedicated funds" from the state constitution and making them statutory. Constitutionally dedicated monies cannot be used when other pressing state needs demand attention. Education, human services, mental health facilities, prisons--all must take a back seat in the budget while much-needed money is first set aside to meet the constitutional requirements of funds set up sometimes decades ago. A fund established by statute as we recommend, remains under the control of the legislature.

In this mailing and in the October Texas VOTER, LWV-Texas is announcing its position on these proposed amendments to its members, but because of a shortage of resources and the need for the energies of the staff and board to be directed to the Phone-a-Thon and other current commitments, the board does not plan a major publicity campaign.

# # # # #



TO: LL Presidents; State Unit Chair; DPM  
FROM: Evelyn Bonavita, Legislative Director  
1212 Guadalupe #107, Austin 78701  
512/472-1156 (leg. office)

LWV-Texas  
August 1988  
LL Pres. Mailing; DPM  
I. A. 2.  
Action-State

BALLOT ISSUES AND THE ESTABLISHMENT OF POLITICAL COMMITTEES

Any League that decides to spend money to support or oppose a ballot issue at any level of government must set up a political committee (formerly political action committee). Ballot issues include constitutional amendments, referenda, bond issues and the like that are placed on an election ballot for voter approval. At its September meeting the LWV-Texas state board will decide whether or not to support or oppose any of the three constitutional amendments being proposed. If we decide to take action, we will be asking local Leagues to take action as well, so a political committee would be necessary.

To set up a political committee, Leagues must establish a separate organization either on a one-time basis for a specific ballot issue (in which case they file with the appropriate election official); or they can set up an ongoing General Purpose Political Committee, which files with the Secretary of State and remains in existence to be reactivated as needed. Both kinds of committees must

- file a written designation of campaign treasurer before any funds are taken in or expended;
- keep accurate records of all transactions which could become reportable;
- file sworn statements with the appropriate official;
- identify the nature and source of political advertisements.

A General Purpose Political Committee must file a report even when it is not active. If a report is late, a fine of \$100 is assessed.

A League may set up a political committee with League funds, but after that, contributions must come from individuals. It is advisable to keep the money in a bank account separate from the League treasury. A League that establishes a General Purpose Political Committee should file with the IRS for an Employer Identification Number that is separate from the number assigned to the League.

Interested Leagues should call the Elections Division of the Secretary of State's office (1-800-252-VOTE) for information and the requisite forms.

# # # # #

TO: LL Presidents; State Unit Chair; DPM	LWV-Texas
	May 1988
FROM: Evelyn Bonavita, Legislative Dir.	LL Pres. Mailing; DPM
8601 Candelaria Dr., Austin, TX 78737	I. R.
512/288-2303	Publications
512/472-1156 (leg. office)	

USEFUL PUBLICATIONS FROM OTHER ORGANIZATIONS

Well-informed League members who would like to know more about state issues than can be found in newspapers or on television might like to obtain copies of the following publications. They are generally free of charge upon request if not too many copies are requested at once. We suggest that you write and ask that you be put on the appropriate mailing lists.

Fiscal Notes. Provides interesting, up-to-date articles on state finance and the economic condition of the state. Bob Bullock, State Comptroller, Economic Analysis Center, P.O. Box 13528, Capitol Station, Austin, TX 78711.

Analysis. Well-researched articles on state issues; respected by state opinion-makers. Texas Research League, P.O. Box 12456, Austin, TX 78711

Legislative News. Interesting write-ups of state issues from business point of view. Texas Association of Taxpayers, Inc., 400 West 15th St., Suite 400, Austin, TX 78701.

Public Affairs Comment. Published four times a year with in-depth comment on important subjects. LBJ School of Public Affairs, Office of Publications, P.O. Drawer Y, University Station, Austin, TX 78713.

There are other publications that are helpful but to which you must subscribe for a nominal fee.

Legislative Newsletter, League of Women Voters, 1212 Guadalupe #107, Austin, TX 78701. This is published weekly during the regular session of the legislature and consists of updates on how League issues are doing in the legislature. Absolutely indispensable to League members! Cost is \$15. Every League president receives two free issues. Members at large are entitled to a free subscription if they request it. LWV-Texas will send subscription information closer to the start of the 1987 legislative session.

State Capitol Report, Sierra Club, State Conservation Office, P.O. Box 1931, Austin, TX 78767. Published periodically throughout the year, it contains accurate news of environmental activities in the state, with the emphasis on state government. Cost is \$15.

TACAA Journal, Texas Association of Community Action Agencies, 2015 South IH-35 Suite 101, Austin, TX 78741. This has information about human service issues and also excerpts the Texas and Federal Registers. Membership in TACAA is \$12, and cost of Journal is \$10 more. If you are not a member of TACAA, cost of Journal is \$25.

# # # # #



May 5, 1988

TO: State Board On- and Off-Board Program Directors  
FROM: Evelyn Bonavita, Legislative Director  
RE: The beginning of starting to commence to decide on legislative  
priorities, et.al, tentatively (!)

At the June board meeting the Citizen Education and Advocacy  
Committees will be discussing tentative legislative priorities,  
advocacy papers, and legislative questionnaires. I am requesting  
that any of you who would like to put forward your suggestions on  
what you think will be coming up in the legislature next January  
please put your ideas, briefly, in a pre-board memo for the next  
board meeting. The deadline is May 20. (Copies to Diane, Louise, S.O.)

This request is directed primarily at off-board directors since  
you probably will not be at the June board meeting. Diana and  
Kathy, I know I talked to you at Council, but could you jot down  
your thoughts and send them off to the state office?

Thanks.

TO: LL Pres./Social Policy Directors

FROM: Barbara McCormick, MBHN Assoc. Dir., LWV-T  
12119 Boheme, Houston, TX 77024  
713/464-8802

LWV-Texas  
April 1988  
Special LLP Mailing; DPM  
II. A. 2. j.  
SP/HR-Meeting Basic  
Human Needs

A C T I O N   A L E R T

NATIONAL WELFARE REFORM LEGISLATION--SENATE BILL 1511

BACKGROUND The U.S. House of Representatives approved HR 1720, or the Family Welfare Act of 1987, last December. Passing this legislation was the first step toward genuine welfare program reform in the opinion of many advocates, including the League. The challenge is now to work for an equally strong bill in the senate. Presently, the senate counterpart to HR 1720 is S. 1511, the Family Security Act, sponsored by Senator Moynihan of New York. The League is very concerned about this bill in its present form because it does not require states to provide the levels of supportive services such as job training, employment, education, child care, or medical benefits which we believe are essential to help move families away from welfare to self sufficiency. We are also concerned that adequate funds are not being proposed in S. 1511 for a new federal program of income assistance for families with dependent children.

PLEASE WRITE TO SENATOR BENTSEN IMMEDIATELY AND TELL HIM THAT:

1. Welfare reform is an issue of concern for Texans. We believe that the need for assistance in Texas has greatly increased in recent years and that Texans want programs which help those families who are most in need;
2. S. 1511 should be strengthened so that it would require, not just encourage, states to provide training, education, and other supportive services. Specifically, the changes in S. 1511 that we support at this time are:
  - \* a mandate that states provide a range of meaningful education, employment, and job training opportunities for participants;
  - \* child care provisions for all participants in the job training program;
  - \* sufficient transitional support services such as child care and extended medical care to assist income assistance recipients as they move into employment and to enable them to stay employed;
  - \* elimination of the waiver provision which would allow as many as 10 states to eliminate or change basic programs of income assistance;
3. The League supported HR 1720 because it mandates that the states provide remedial education, English as a second language, skills training, and job readiness preparation. We believe that these kinds of programs will help families break the cycle of poverty and reduce the numbers who need assistance in our state and nation.

-over-



Our Texas lobbying is crucial to the strengthening of this bill at this point because Senator Bentsen is the chairman of the Senate Finance Committee. S. 1511 is now in the subcommittee on family and social security of the Senate Finance Committee. Senator Bentsen will play a major role in what kind of bill comes from the Finance Committee. It is important that local Leagues, individual League members, as well as other concerned people in your community write or call Senator Bentsen's office as soon as possible. His address is United States Senate, Washington, D.C. 20510.

(It would be helpful for individual member action if VOTER editors included the major points of the Action Alert in their May VOTERs.)

The latest LWVUS Duplicate President's Mailing contained additional background information about S. 1511. The April 1988 Report from the Hill also has a good article.

Please send a copy of your letter to LWVUS and to LWV-Texas. Thank you.

LWV-Texas  
1212 Guadalupe, #107  
Austin, TX 78701

LWVUS  
1730 M Street, NW  
Washington, D.C. 20036

# # # # #

DSL  
EB  
BO

January 4, 1988

FOR: January 15 mailing to local Leagues  
FROM: Evelyn Bonavita, Legislative Director

The following is a short paper on issues that the state League currently considers of major concern<sup>and</sup> that we hope that 71st Legislature will address. Local Leagues are encouraged to share this information with legislative candidates. If a candidate wants additional information beyond what can be supplied locally, call the appropriate LWV-T program director for help. Also included in this mailing is an informative background/advocacy paper on constitutional revision.

The League of Women Voters of Texas is a nonpartisan political organization that encourages the informed and active participation of citizens in government. There are 3800 members of the Texas League in 37 local Leagues in the state. The League lobbies on issues after members have selected and studied them, and arrived at consensus on public policy recommendations.

To the League the most important current concern in Texas is financing of state government. We urge the legislature to restructure the state's financial system to assure adequate revenue and ease of admim<sup>n</sup>istration and to meet the economic, social, and environmental needs of the state. We have testified before the Select Committee on Tax Equity, set up by the 70th Legislature, and hope it will recommend a tax structure that is equitable, responsive, progressive, and flexible.

After confronting a constitutional amendment election in November which burdened the voters with a selection of 25 possible amendments and two state-wide binding referenda, the League concluded it was time to revise the Texas constitution, a position we have held for 34 years. The legislature should



set to work to formulate a new constitution that is a framework of basic law shorn of the unnecessary provisions the constitution now contains. The League would gladly work with any group or legislator willing to undertake this task, the first step of which should be to select a revision process.

It is time to join the majority of other states and start appointing judges in Texas, taking into consideration merit and competence. The League believes this can be done by a combination of nomination by a nonpartisan commission, initial executive appointment, and a nonpartisan, noncompetitive election to retain the seat. Our present method of electing judges leads to abuse, with voters often ignorant of the qualifications of judicial candidates and judicial campaigns receiving funds from lawyers with vested interests in the outcome of the election.

Texas lags behind most states in its funding of human services. The League advocates an increase in Aid to Families with Dependent Children, adequate funding of the indigent health care program, and more money for the family shelter programs that help victims of family violence.

The League also continues to monitor the status of environmental programs at the state level. Recent budget cutbacks at state agencies mean these programs are in danger of becoming underfunded and ineffective. We encourage the legislature to direct more state resources toward this important area.

(1)

It is nine months until the Texas Legislature goes into session, and during this period of gestation these are the <sup>League</sup> legislative issues we think will be of importance. Keep them in mind for candidate forums and as possible legislative priorities.

Now - in no particular order:

1. Tax reform, tax re-structuring, - whatever you want to call it. The Select Committee on Tax Equity will be coming out with its recommendations, and Rebecca ~~Forgotten~~ <sup>we</sup> ~~has~~ <sup>have</sup> been following its activities closely.
2. Services for the seriously mentally ill. Granted, we haven't finished our study, but we do hope to have <sup>and it</sup> consensus <sup>will be</sup> in time for the legislature in January. And as you know, this issue has been receiving a lot of attention for a long time.
3. Constitutional revision - This may not be a concern that leaps to every legislator's mind, but it is certainly a perfect League issue and it's high time it was addressed - once again - by the legislature. We'll be talking about this more tomorrow morning.
4. Merit selection of judges - in case you think this looks like a familiar subject, yes, we have been working on this for a little while. But as you are aware, nothing's been done,



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the situation gets worse, and we have lots of legislative attention being paid to the subject. In addition to these four issues let me list a few more which we might have to deal with:

1. Water - the governor has set up a task force on water resources development and protection. Furthermore, groundwater protection is still a long way from being assured in Texas.
2. Redistricting - this is the last session before the 1990 census, and it is the last time to try to change the way the state mismanages legislative & Congressional district line-drawing before 1991, when it drops ~~everything~~ to redistricting becomes the primary concern of the legislature.
3. Public school finance - everyone is aware that the state's <sup>method</sup> way of financing public schools has been declared unconstitutional, and the solution to the problem - if it comes about - may be both painful and expensive.

And let us not forget League concern about indigent health care which has hardly been funded adequately yet, stricter domestic violence laws, hazardous waste legislation and enforcement, and a possible attempt to restrict the reproductive choices

of Texans.

These are — one and all — possible legislative priorities for the next session. <sup>There may be some we haven't thought of.</sup> We'll be deciding about that during the next few months. For now, we encourage you to familiarize yourselves with League positions on these issues and to ask candidates what they think and what their answers are. You'll be pleasantly surprised sometime to discover how much they welcome people with concrete suggestions about current concerns. And in nine months, when the legislature is "born", you'll be ready to go!



①

First I'd like to tell you a little about the League of Women Voters. We're a unique, multi-issue, activist network that derives its ~~energy~~ strength from the energy and commitment of several hundred thousand members and supporters nationwide. We are a nonpartisan political organization which encourages the informed and active participation of citizens in government and influences public policy through education and advocacy.

We are essentially 2 organizations:

- the voters service organization that registers voters, puts on presidential debates (and also state debates and local <sup>candidate</sup> forums), and writes and publishes Voters Guides
- the study and action organization that chooses an issue to study, researches the issue, presents programs <sup>and publications</sup> on the issue, and then reaches a consensus of its members and takes action. ~~We~~ We never support or oppose a candidate, but we do lobby on issues.

The League is a 3-tiered, strongly grass roots organization (national, state, and local Leagues), and one of the most important contributions to voter education of the national League of Women Voters has been <sup>what is</sup> almost the creation of televised presidential debates. I hope some of you were able to watch the 4th of the series of League-sponsored ~~the~~ debates last weekend from Manchester, New Hampshire. They were on CNN at 4:00 on

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Saturday and Sunday, the Democrats on Saturday, the Republicans on Sunday. Both were moderated by Edwin Newman.

Here is the schedule for the rest of the primary debates:

March 5 and 6 - from Nashville, Tennessee - the first one being Republican, the second Democratic - this will be right before Super Tuesday.

April 16 and 17 - from the Eastman Theatre, Rochester, New York. This starts with the Democrats, and the Republicans on the second day.

June 4 and 5 - El Camino College, Torrance, California. Republicans first, Democrats second.

All these debates will be broadcast live on CNN, and many PBS stations will pick them up as will many National Public Radio stations. All the debates are scheduled for 4:00 p.m. Central Standard Time.

The League created such a success with its televised debates that this time there has been an <sup>effort</sup> ~~effort~~ ~~from~~ by the political parties and other groups to "horn in" on our debates. That's why you've seen such a proliferation of them during this election year. Mention AAUW?

As far as the state League is concerned, our efforts on Voter Service are in two areas: we have sponsored the Texas gubernatorial debates (last time both in the <sup>Rep</sup> primary and in the general election), and we write



③

publish and distribute the state Voters Guide for every statewide election.

The state board <sup>of the League</sup> months before an election, draws up the list of questions for the candidates, ~~being~~ assuring that the questions cover issues of concern in the state. In the case of a constitutional amendment election like the one we had last November, state board members research and write up the pros and cons on the proposed amendments. In the upcoming primary Voters Guide there will be statewide judicial candidates and Railroad Commission candidates. The rest of the statewide offices are up in 1990. The local Leagues publish Voters Guides with the local candidates, as well as Congressional, legislative, and State Board of Education candidates.

After we have drafted the questions we send them, with a cover letter, to all the candidates. Then we call and call and call and remind <sup>and</sup> nag and finally go to press. This year, of course, was extremely difficult because Super Tuesday cost us a month of valuable preparation time. The deadline for filing was Jan. 4, but the election is March 8. So we've really been pressed to get this out in time. Our local Leagues, especially our big ones, run this Voters Guide and their own, either independently or ~~to~~ in their local newspapers, so we have to publish the state Voters Guide in plenty of time for them to get it.

④  
I want to read you a story that illustrates  
the quick-thinking flexibility of a typical  
local league member.

One of the strengths of local Leagues (we have 38 in Texas) is their voter registration efforts. If people know us at all, they know about our registering voters. We set up tables in shopping malls, we visit nursing homes, we hand out forms at PSA meetings, we give speeches on voting in high school. We enlist volunteers during the last days before the 30-day cut-off before an election to man our local offices and register numbers of would-be voters. During elections we answer questions from confused voters and sometimes drive people to the polls. We are also involved in ABC election night reporting when local League members all over the country make money for themselves and the state League by reporting the vote count in certain precincts after the polls close.

All of the above are activities in the Voter Service area of the League. But, as I mentioned, we also study issues and lobby on our positions. Here are some of our advocacy papers, which are short write-ups of current issues we are concerned about and which will be considered by the legislature. These were all written before the last session of the legislature, but they are essentially still current. Certainly the container deposit paper is still up-to-date.

As another service to citizens of Texas the League also publishes and distributes



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this brochure, When You Go to Austin. It is distributed free to groups or individuals who want information on legislators, their offices, where they sit, and how to move about the state Capital.

Are all of you fairly new League members?  
Have any of you belonged to Leagues in other  
communities or states? Names? -

~~Since~~ My title on the state board is legislative director, which means that I lobby the state legislature <sup>we</sup> on state League issues. I'll explain how this works in a minute.

How many of you went to Women's Legislative Day last year? How many of you have visited the State League office? One room in that office is the legislative office. It has my desk and all the files and the postage meter, too, but that's beside the point.

During the regular session of the Legislature, which, as I'm sure you know, comes every January of every odd-numbered year, I hire a secretary for the 5 months of the session, move out of my office which I turn over to my secretary, and move into the president's office which I then share with Neane Sheridan when she's in town and assorted other state board program directors who come to Austin to lobby. This room doubles as a bedroom for state board people from out of town since it has a couch that makes up into a bed and a full bathroom.

We'd like to have League members come visit the office since we own it <sup>checked and</sup> <sup>does</sup> everyone of you is part owner.

My job is to keep track of what the legislature is doing, - to put out a weekly Legislative Newsletter during the session.



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(every local president gets two free copies or the subscription is only \$1.5), to coordinate testimony before legislative committees and state agencies, to monitor and/or testify before committee meetings, and to attend interim committee meetings and rule-making proceedings <sup>of state agencies</sup>. My job is essentially <sup>that of</sup> a full-time lobbyist done by an unpaid volunteer. But it is really stimulating and exciting, and you ~~really follow~~ <sup>actually are</sup> ~~you~~ in the middle of things that are important to Texas.

Claudine ~~has~~ asked me to talk a little bit about the possibility of tax reform and what I think might be important issues before the legislature next January. The reason I combine these two topics is because tax reform will certainly be an issue for the 71<sup>st</sup> Texas Legislature, and it is also important to the League.

I'm sure you are all aware that the League simply can't run up to the legislature to lobby for a good and worthy cause <sup>whenever we feel like it</sup>. First we have to study the issue (either at the national or state level), come to a consensus on the subject, and <sup>elect or</sup> appoint a state program director on the issue - either off or on-board - and then we can run up to the legislature <sup>and lobby</sup>. Well, we have studied financing the state government, and although the study was done quite a while ago, our position is current enough to let us respond to events that are happening on this issue. We testified during the

(3)

last session against a proposed Constitutional amendment that would have banned the institution of a personal income tax because our position endorses this tax as the fairest and most progressive for the state. Since ~~then~~ <sup>the session</sup> we have been following efforts to do something about our antiquated tax structure. The legislature set up a high-powered committee to study the problem and come up with suggestions for the 71<sup>st</sup> Legislature. The committee is called the Select (you know it's high-powered, when "select" is in the title; <sup>Pass</sup> Perso's Committee that came up with HB 72 was called the Select Committee on Public Education) Committee on Tax Equity, and it is composed of a bunch of important men — no women, of course — who are working extremely hard studying the current tax structure of the state and ~~that~~ <sup>those of</sup> other states. They met yesterday in Austin and —

— They have not begun the hard part of the job yet, which is to come up with recommendations on changes, but a personal income tax as well as a corporate income tax have been mentioned more than once.

Two months ago I would have said that tax reform would definitely happen in the next session. Let me tell you, a legislative session like the last one, where there was a huge deficit and extreme pressure to cut every program in sight and no way to get more money except with



(4)

a tax bill levied on a state with high unemployment and a terrible economy is not a legislative session I would like to lobby again in a million years. I know nobody wanted that to happen again so there was a lot of pressure to ~~restructure~~ <sup>restructure</sup> the tax system to ~~remove~~ <sup>modernize</sup> our reliance on oil and gas and to ~~update~~ <sup>modernize</sup> the ~~whole~~ process to <sup>enable the state to</sup> ~~bring in~~ more tax dollars ~~in a~~ more fair and efficient manner.

However, in the last months Comptroller Bullock has predicted that we will not have a deficit next time. Indeed, we will probably ~~begin~~ <sup>begin</sup> the next biennium with a \$700 million surplus. Treasurer Ann Richards has even projected a \$400 million surplus. This good news tends to relieve the pressure somewhat to do something about the tax structure. Nothing's really changed. We're just not as worried! So we'll see what the committee comes up with. There are some other <sup>state</sup> needs which tend to <sup>re-</sup>apply the pressure ~~again~~. The most important of these, of course, is the financing of our public school system. It has been declared unconstitutional because it is inequitable, and <sup>another important</sup> ~~a~~ committee has been appointed to study this problem. It may come up with a solution that requires many more state dollars to correct the inequities in funding.

Another League issue that the next legislature will take up is merit selection of judges.

5)

This has, many of you might know, been one of our League legislative priorities <sup>for several sessions</sup>. We've ~~kept~~ thinking that this year surely there's enough support to make a change in the way we choose our judges. Well, this year we have the bad publicity two of the justices <sup>on the Supreme Court</sup> received when they were reprimanded by <sup>the</sup> Commission on Judicial ~~Conduct~~ <sup>ethics</sup>; there ~~was~~ the enormous campaign contributions made by lawyers and law firms with business before the court to candidates running for the court; and there is John Hill, who resigned as Chief Justice of the Supreme Court so he could pursue the quest of a merit selection process. The League, incidentally, is on ~~the~~ committee he set up for this purpose. However, on the other side of the issue are trial lawyers, with a lot of money and a lot of influence, and the overwhelming support voters gave <sup>in</sup> the referendum on the ballot in the Democratic primary which called for "~~the~~ maintaining our right to elect Texas judges." The League urged a "no" vote on this referendum, but we did not prevail. We'll just have to wait and see what happens, but I'm sure that these forces that want to continue with the current method will certainly be telling the 87% vote in favor on the referendum <sup>during</sup> ~~after~~ the <sup>next</sup> legislature.

As you know, we are in the middle of a state League study of services for the seriously mentally ill. We'll be finishing that study and reaching



(6)

consensus before the 71<sup>st</sup> Legislature goes in so I'm sure we'll be working hard on this issue. I can't get ~~that~~ <sup>never</sup> explicit on this subject because we don't have a position yet — we may not reach consensus at all, as a matter of fact — but if we do, this will be on our priority list. Our director who is heading up this study, Mary Alice Pisano from Brazos County ~~League~~, is very sharp, with a political mind and a good committee, and I'm sure she'll want to be very active. This may be a big subject for the League, but I'm not ~~sure~~ certain how important it will be in the over all list of items before the legislature. Services to the seriously mentally ill are usually decided at interminable meetings of the House Appropriations Committee and in rule making by the HMR agency. I don't think ~~it's~~ <sup>there's</sup> a real sexy ~~subject~~, and it already has a ~~best decision~~ as far as media attention goes, but ~~I could be wrong~~.

Another League issue which could be sexy, though simply because every Texan now has a position on it after last November, is constitutional revision. After 25 proposed constitutional amendments and two statewide, heading, probably illegal, referendum confronted voters, many of them ~~threw~~ <sup>threw</sup> up their hands in despair. ~~It surely did them~~ <sup>many realize how</sup> how ridiculous it is to go to the polls every year to vote on amendments to a document that is cumbersome, out of date, and full of unnecessary language and information.

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Our position on revising the document dates from the sixties and we worked closely on the revision that was attempted and eventually failed in the seventies. That attempt, <sup>incidentally</sup>, is what discourages ~~some~~ <sup>all</sup> state leaders who can remember the hard work and disappointment. But we don't have to duplicate our mistakes. There are other ways of cleaning up the document than convening a Constitutional Convention. This is ~~factually~~ <sup>factually</sup> an ideal League issue. We have the reputation for fairness and dispassion needed to get people to start looking at what needs to be done. We don't think it will be done overnight, and certainly not in 1989. But we need to start. We want local League folks to ask candidates about the issue, hand out copies of our new advocacy paper at gatherings, and talk up the subject. Write letters to the editor. ~~Seek the help of~~ <sup>Seek the help of</sup> other organizations. As a matter of fact, this - constitutional revision - will be the subject of an action workshop at state Council in April in Sherman. We want your ideas and plans on making it really happen!

These are four issues I think the League will be working on during the 71<sup>st</sup> Legislature. ~~The state board has not compiled its priorities yet. You're the first group I've actually revealed it to -~~ <sup>the state board has not</sup> And the list is ~~can be~~ <sup>can be</sup> much longer than this. We're still concerned ~~with~~ <sup>about</sup>



environmental protection, women's reproductive rights, AFDC ~~funding~~ <sup>funding</sup>, indigent health care, and domestic violence. A long list. We'll be busy, so stay tuned. I encourage all of you to subscribe to the Legislative Newsletter, which we mail out every Friday, 1<sup>st</sup> class, during the session. It is more timely than most other newsletters and certainly goes out more often.

### Any questions?

If you want to stay informed about what the League is doing, the Newsletter is the source of information. And ~~we don't~~ <sup>the state League doesn't</sup> operate in a vacuum. Our program directors <sup>and</sup> may do our direct lobbying, but our strength lies in our grass roots, and that's you. We ask you to write or call your legislators when we think it's important, and your representatives and senators listen to you. You have the power of the ballot, the greatest power there is in the political arena. If I've learned anything as I've lobbied, it's that a legislator responds to what his constituents want. So make your desires known. It's what democracy is all about.

I hope I've told you some interesting things tonight. I'd be glad to answer questions.

Scherel  
Diane  
Muelyn  
Debbie

January 19, 1988

FOR: February 1988 VOTER

FROM: Debbie Stine, 7209 E-2 Kress, Corpus Christi, 78413

ACTIVIST SURVEY

TO ALL LEAGUE MEMBERS

If you

--are interested in helping state League program directors lobby for  
League positions on state and national issues;

--would like to write letters, make telephone calls, or visit elected  
officials;

--want to become a League activist and influence public policy,

then fill out the form below, checking the box in your area of interest.

(The state program director on that issue will be in touch when the need  
arises.)

-----  
Name \_\_\_\_\_ League \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ (h) \_\_\_\_\_ (o) \_\_\_\_\_

- ☐ Issues dealing the women under Texas law such as domestic violence,  
child support enforcement, post-divorce payments, and reproductive choices
- ☐ How state government operates, including redistricting, merit selection  
of judges, voting rights, and financing state government
- ☐ Revising our much-amended state constitution
- ☐ "People issues" such as health care for the medically indigent, welfare  
reform, Aid to Families with Dependent children, and child care



- ☒ Environmental concerns such as air quality, groundwater protection, hazardous waste management, and litter reduction on our highways
- ☐ National security issues such as arms control, our ever-increasing defense budget, and Star Wars

Please send form to: LWV-Texas

1212 Guadalupe, #107

Austin, Texas 78701

"Involving Women in the Political Process"  
February 15, 1988, 7 pm  
University Savings, 308 East Hopkins Street  
Moderator: Margaret Lindsey

- \* Voter Services  
Evelyn Bonavita  
*Presented by the San Marcos Area League of  
Women Voters*
- \* The Delegate Selection Process  
Frances Emery  
*Presented by the Hays County Women's  
Political Caucus*
- \* Ups and Downs of Running a Campaign  
Caroline Scott  
*Presented by the San Marcos Business and  
Professional Women's Club*



#### SPONSORS

All four groups are local units of national organizations and support legislation to meet the needs of women. Each group offers opportunities to influence public policy and to achieve positive societal and community change, a support system of dynamic women, and continuing education through workshops, seminars, and special programs. Although each group has "women" in the name, each allows and welcomes membership of men in the organization.

- \* AAUW has worked steadily for the advancement of women's education, the advancement of women in society, and the betterment of the community. *For more information, call Judy Telford, 353-8143.*
- \* BPW/USA is a national organization founded in 1919. Its goal is to promote full participation in the workforce, equity, and economic self-sufficiency for America's working women. *For more information, call Jeannie Lewis, 353-2872.*
- \* LWV is a nonpartisan organization that works to educate citizens and encourage their participation in government and is a major source of nonpartisan information on candidates, issues, voter registration, and elections. *For more information, call Jane Hughson, 396-8107.*
- \* WPC is a non-partisan coalition of feminists from all backgrounds who encourage the full and informed participation of women in the political process. *For more information, call Melissa Millecam, 392-7530.*

TYLER COMMISSION FOR WOMEN  
EAST TEXAS WOMEN'S RESOURCE COUNCIL

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF TYLER  
THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT TYLER

Sponsored by

A SEMINAR • JANUARY 30, 1988



GETTING HER IN OFFICE

GETTING HER IN OFFICE

League of Women Voters of Tyler  
P. O. Box 6313  
Tyler, Texas 75711

Bulk Mail  
Permit  
Non-Profit  
Organization  
Permit #1143

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## Registration Form

Mail Registration to: LWV-Tyler, P. O. Box 6313, Tyler, Texas 75711  
Fee: \$10 before January 26  
\$15 after January 26

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: Day \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Night \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Make check payable to: *League of Women Voters of Tyler*



# GETTING HER IN OFFICE

January 30, 1988

The University of Texas at Tyler  
Administration Building • Room 127

Almost seven decades ago women won the vote and today over half of the voters are women. But only a tiny minority of those female voters represent their communities on boards and commissions, on policy making bodies and in state and national offices. This wasted wealth of talent and resourcefulness should not continue. Women belong alongside men in the corridors of political power.

This half-day seminar will target the prospective office-holder and her supporters who wish to see her there.

• **A Step Beyond Suffrage: Women in Power.** The difference women can make — how and why women should participate in politics today. Dr. Jeanie Stanley, UT Tyler Department of Social Sciences.

• **In the Running: Nuts and Bolts of Campaign Management.** Strategic planning, power bases, platforms, parties and polls. Mary Elizabeth Jackson, political consultant.

• **A Woman's Place: Getting Appointed.** Targeting the jobs you can best fill and getting yourself placed there. Judith Guthrie, U.S. Magistrate.

• **Reaching Out: Conducting an Effective Media Campaign.** The issues and your image are equally important in influencing voters. How to make your message known. Kay Langford, Sparrowhawk, media consultant, Lufkin.

• **Money Means Clout: The Ins and Outs of Fundraising.** From grassroots support to the corporate dollar, how to organize events and solicitations. Joy Wright, volunteer fundraiser.

• **The Voice of Experience: Women Who Ran.** Officeholders and challengers from various levels of government talk about their mistakes and successes.

## PROGRAM

8:30 – 9 a.m. Registration and Continental Breakfast

9 – 9:15 a.m. Welcome and Introductions

9:15 – 9:45 a.m. Keynote Address: A Step Beyond Suffrage — Dr. Jeanie Stanley

9:45 – 10:30 a.m. In the Running: Nuts and Bolts of Campaign Management

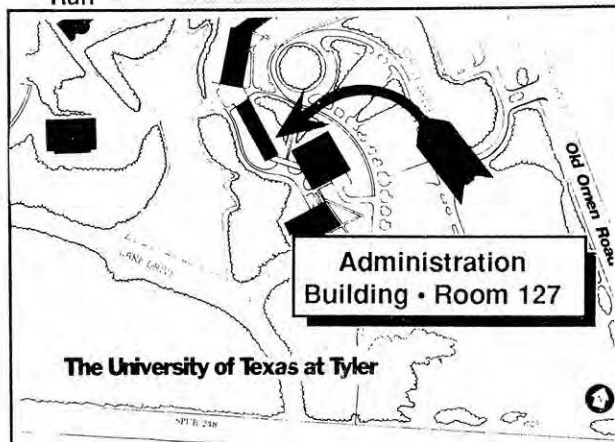
10:30 – 11 a.m. A Woman's Place: Getting Appointed

11 – 11:15 a.m. Break

11:15 – 11:45 a.m. Reaching Out: Conducting an Effective Media Campaign

11:45 a.m. – 12:15 p.m. Money Means Clout: The Ins and Outs of Fundraising

12:15–1 p.m. The Voice of Experience: Women Who Ran



## REGISTRATION INFORMATION

• Registration \$10 if postmarked by January 26, \$15 if postmarked *after* January 26.

• Make checks payable to League of Women Voters of Tyler.

• Mail to LWV-Tyler, P.O. Box 6313, Tyler, Texas 75711

• Registration includes half-day seminar, seminar materials, continental breakfast and break refreshments.

• For further information call (214) 566-7371.

## PLANNING COMMITTEE

Sue Barham, chair  
Margaret Birdsong  
Scherel Carver  
Toni Ferrell  
Amy Glenn  
Susie Hudson  
Mary Elizabeth Jackson  
Jane Oswalt  
Barbara Sjerven  
Jeanie R. Stanley

*Funded in Part by a Grant from*  
The League of Women Voters of Texas  
Education Fund  
1212 Guadalupe, Suite 107  
Austin, Texas 78701

"Involving Women in the Political Process"

February 15, 1988, 7 pm, University Savings, 308 E Hopkins.

This program will be sponsored by the San Marcos Branch of the American Association of University Women (AAUW), the San Marcos Business and Professional Women's Club (BPW), the San Marcos Area League of Women Voters (LWV), and the Hays County Women's Political Caucus (WPC). This is the first time these groups have come together to co-sponsor a program.

Since 1988 is a presidential election year, and Texas is now a "Super Tuesday" state, this subject was chosen to inform and educate. It should be of special interest to anyone contemplating running for office, assisting in a campaign, or interested in the details of the election process.

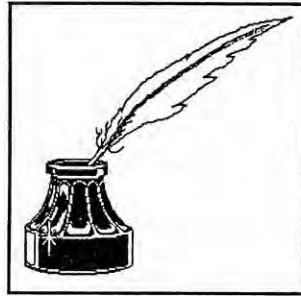
- \* AAUW will cover the History of Women in Texas Politics.
- \* LWV will present information about the League: what it stands for, details of the preparation of voters' guides, voter registration, presidential debates, and election laws.
- \* WPC will discuss the delegate process, including the rules and how to become a delegate at the various levels, from local to national.
- \* BPW will present information on how to run a campaign, how much does it cost, how to obtain support, and how citizens can participate in a campaign.

This event will be free and open to the public. This will be an informative evening for anyone interested in politics.

Background information on sponsoring groups:

- \* All groups are local units of national organizations and support legislation to meet the needs of women. Issues that are of importance are pay equity, better child and dependent care, fair pension laws, equity in insurance, equal opportunity in education and training, and the Equal Rights Amendment. Each group offers opportunities to influence public policy and to achieve positive societal and community change, a support system of dynamic women, and continuing education through workshops, seminars, and special programs. Although all four groups have "women" in the name, each allows and welcomes membership of men in the organization.
  - \* The WPC is a multipartisan coalition of feminists from all backgrounds who encourage the full and informed participation of women in the political process to assure an equal voice in political decision making, candidate selection, and legislation. They recruit, train, and support women to run for elective office.
  - \* BPW/USA is a national organization founded in 1919. Its goal is to promote full participation in the workforce, equity, and economic self-sufficiency for America's working women. BPW founded the National Council on the Future of Women in the Workplace which is playing a vigorous role in exploring the implications for women in the workforce.
  - \* AAUW is the largest and oldest national organization working for the advancement of women. From its beginning in 1881, the Association has worked steadily for the advancement of women's education, the advancement of women in society, and the betterment of the community. AAUW offers grants to resume academic work or renew skills toward career advancement.
- \* The LWV is a nonpartisan organization that works to educate citizens and encourage their participation in government; takes action on selected governmental issues based on local, state, and national studies; and is a major source of nonpartisan information on candidates, issues, voter registration, and elections.





## THE TEXAS CONSTITUTION THE TIME FOR REVISION IS HERE

### WHY THE TEXAS CONSTITUTION IS IN NEED OF REVISION

In 1987, Americans celebrated the 200th anniversary of the signing of the United States Constitution. In Texas, comparisons were inevitably made between the rarely amended federal document and the much amended Texas Constitution. The Texas Constitution, adopted in 1876, strongly reflects the political environment of that era. In the turbulent post-Civil War Reconstruction period, Texas was ruled by carpetbaggers who, unlike the majority of Texans, had not supported the Confederacy. Governing under the Constitution of 1869, the Reconstruction era legislature had been giving money to the railroads and supporting private business. When the supporters of confederate ideals regained power, they drafted a new constitution with strong safeguards against these and other abuses of power. Texas is still governed under the Constitution of 1876.

The first proposed amendment was submitted to the voters only three years later, in 1879. Since then, 464 additional amendments have been proposed, 56% in the last twenty-five years alone. In November 1987, voters were asked to vote on 25 amendments and the state's first two binding, though not constitutionally authorized, referenda. That very fact indicates that the current constitution is no longer able to meet the governmental needs of a large state in a modern age.

The legislature proposes many amendments because the constitution does not allow legislators to resolve some problems by statute. For example, revisions to the property tax code exempting certain items from *ad valorem* taxation must be made by the voters rather than their representatives, though voters are seldom adequately informed about the implications of their votes. The present constitution also requires voters statewide to approve changes in a single hospital district's boundaries and to allow the office of treasurer to be abolished in a certain county, issues about which those counties' residents are better informed. The Texas Constitution is also cluttered with antiquated items such as references to pensions for Civil War soldiers' widows and payment of a contractor who built a state college fifty years ago. The problem with the 1876 Constitution is not that it is old but rather that it is too long, too detailed, all-inclusive, inflexible, ambiguous, and unorganized.

### LAST ATTEMPT AT REVISION

Curtailling the need for frequent amendment and creating a basic framework of government require revision of the Texas Constitution. The last serious attempt to rewrite the constitution began in 1971 when the Texas Legislature sent the voters a proposed amendment authorizing the 63rd Legislature to convene itself as a constitutional convention in 1974 and to establish a Constitutional Revision Commission in 1973 to gather suggestions for the convention. Texas was in tune with the times as at least one fourth of the states were drafting and, in some instances, adopting new or revised constitutions during those years. This focus on constitutional revision was attributed to a national trend to reassess the role of the states in the federal system and to attempt to expand state powers and functions to enable states to perform additional responsibilities effectively.

The Texas Legislature approved the document produced by the convention and sent it to voters for ratification in November 1975. Voters were asked to vote on each article in the proposed constitution, rather than voting the entire document up or down. The entire proposal was defeated in spite of strong support from the many individuals and groups that helped draft the document. Among those who worked to defeat the proposal were county people who feared a loss of power and then - Governor Dolph Briscoe who campaigned actively for defeat. Fear of change and uncertainty about what the new document would bring were also factors in its downfall.

### THE 1987 ELECTION

As government watchers agreed, following the defeat of the proposed constitution in 1975, at least a decade would have to pass before attempts at revision would be feasible again. When voters were faced with the long and complex

ADVOCACY PAPER

ballot in November, 1987, the League of Women Voters decided that the time had again come to advocate constitutional revision. The League called for voters not only to study the ballot issues and try to cast informed votes but also to let their legislators know they were tired of such frequent amendments. Media support for revision was widespread.

#### **WHAT MAKES A GOOD CONSTITUTION?**

Based on criteria for a good constitution using classic definitions established by constitutional scholars and consistent with model constitutions drafted by groups such as the National Municipal League, the League advocates a Texas Constitution that includes the following:

- a bill of rights
- a framework of basic law
- clear separation of powers with responsibility definitely assigned
- qualifications for voter eligibility and guarantees of fair elections
- provisions for justice with a minimum of delay
- a coordinated finance structure capable of flexibility
- maximum home rule for municipal and county governments with coordination of overlapping functions
- provisions for support of public education
- provisions for support of public health and welfare services
- provisions for amendment and revision
- basic policies regarding state employee selection, retention, and promotion

A good constitution should contain only those matters fundamental to the operation of state government. It should be logically arranged, adaptable to future times, and flexible enough to address a wide range of problems. Limitations on the power of government should be carefully drawn and nonessential details avoided.

#### **OPTIONS FOR REVISING THE TEXAS CONSTITUTION**

There are various ways to undertake a revision, and it is time that state leaders begin to explore all avenues to streamline our constitution to make it a viable document with which to enter the twenty-first century. Certainly, bitter memories of the abortive revision attempt of the seventies make any serious consideration of another constitutional convention like the last one very unappealing. Most current legislators do not express any enthusiasm for using the convention method for constitutional revision. A convention of citizens, while appealing to the League, would likely still be seen as a threat to those in power. Gradual revision, revision by "defect," or a system for routine revision could be considered. The recent successful recodification of the Election Code and the earlier recodification of the Family Code could serve as models. Ridding the constitution of clutter could be a good first step. Determining how to give the citizens a voice in bond issuance while not adding excessive detail to the constitution could also be considered.

The League believes the first step toward constitutional revision should be for state leaders to appoint a blue-ribbon committee whose charge would be to study the current constitution and propose options for ways to clean it up and revise it. This committee should establish criteria for revision similar to ones listed above and should also look to model constitutions and constitutional scholars for guidance. To be successful, a constitutional revision method committee would have to be bi-partisan, broad-based, and representative of the diverse interest groups that will be concerned with any significant revisions of the constitution. Ultimately, proposed revisions must be submitted to a vote of the people.

Today's state leaders need to take decisive action to devise creative methods to revise the Texas Constitution. There is never going to be a time when constitutional revision is easy, but to delay revising this document any longer will leave the people of Texas without the constitution they deserve to meet their needs for the next hundred years.



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1212 Guadalupe #107 Austin, Texas 78701  
(512) 472-1100  
January 1988



TO: LL Presidents; State Unit Chairs; DPM

FROM: Evelyn Bonavita, Legislative Dir.

LWV-Texas  
January 1988  
LL Pres. Mailing; DPM  
I. A. 2.  
Action-State

#### LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

*The following is a short paper on issues that the state League currently considers of major concern and that we hope the 71st Legislature will address. Local Leagues are encouraged to share this information with legislative candidates. If a candidate wants additional information beyond what can be supplied locally, call the appropriate LWV-T program director for help. Also included in this mailing is an informative background/advocacy paper on Texas Constitutional Revision. It, too, is designed to help you lobby legislative candidates.*

The League of Women Voters of Texas is a nonpartisan political organization that encourages the informed and active participation of citizens in government. There are approximately 3800 members of the Texas League--36 local Leagues and nearly 100 members at large. The League lobbies on issues after members have selected and studied them and arrived at consensus on public policy recommendations.

#### Financing State Government

(Rebecca Bergstresser)

To the League the most important current concern in Texas is financing of state government. We urge the legislature to restructure the state's financial system to assure adequate revenue and ease of administration and to meet the economic, social, and environmental needs of the state. We have testified before the Select Committee on Tax Equity, set up by the 70th Legislature, and hope it will recommend a tax structure that is equitable, responsive, progressive, and flexible.

#### Texas Constitutional Revision

(Louise Cummins)

After confronting a constitutional amendment election in November which burdened the voters with a selection of 25 possible amendments and two binding statewide referenda, the League concluded it was again time to urge the revision of the Texas Constitution, a position we have held for 34 years. The legislature should set to work to formulate a new constitution that is a framework of basic law shorn of the unnecessary provisions the constitution now contains. The League would gladly consider working with any group or legislator willing to undertake this task, the first step of which should be to select a revision process.

#### Merit Selection of Judges

(Diana Clark)

It is time to join the majority of other states and start appointing judges in Texas, taking into consideration merit and competence. The League believes this can be done by a combination of nomination by a nonpartisan commission; initial executive appointment; and a nonpartisan, noncompetitive election to retain the seat. Our present method of electing judges leads to abuse, with voters often ignorant of the qualifications of judicial candidates, and judicial campaigns receiving funds from lawyers with vested interests in the outcome of the election.

-over-

Because of our position on the merit selection of judges the League urges a "no" vote on the referendum which has been placed on the ballot in the Democratic primary March 8. The referendum asks voters to choose between the current method of electing judges and an appointment process.

(Rebecca Bergstresser)

#### Human Services

Texas lags behind most states in its funding of human services. The League advocates an increase in Aid to Families with Dependent Children, adequate funding of the indigent health care program, and more money for the family shelter programs that help victims of family violence.

#### Natural Resources


(Kathy Jacob, Catherine Perrine, Diane Sheridan)

The League also continues to monitor the status of environmental programs at the state level. Recent budget cutbacks at state agencies mean these programs are in danger of becoming underfunded and ineffective. We encourage the legislature to direct more state resources toward the regulation of air, water, and waste.

# # # # #



TO: LL Presidents; State Unit Chairs; DPM

FROM: Evelyn Bonavita, Legislative Dir  


LWV-Texas  
August 1987  
LL Pres. Mailing; DPM  
I. A. 2.  
Action-State

BALLOT ISSUES AND THE ESTABLISHMENT OF POLITICAL COMMITTEES

Any League that decides to spend money to support or oppose a ballot issue at any level of government must set up a political committee (formerly political action committee). Ballot issues include constitutional amendments, referenda, bond issues and the like that are placed on an election ballot for voter approval. At its September meeting the LWV-Texas state board will decide whether or not to support or oppose any of the 25 constitutional amendments and two referenda being proposed. If we decide to take action, we will be asking local Leagues to take action as well, so a political committee would be necessary.

To set up a political committee, Leagues must establish a separate organization either on a one-time basis for a specific ballot issue, in which case they file with the appropriate election official. Or they can set up an ongoing General Purpose Political Committee, which files with the Secretary of State and remains in existence to be reactivated as needed. Both kinds of committees must

- \* file a written designation of campaign treasurer before any funds are taken in or expended;
- \* keep accurate records of all transactions which could become reportable;
- \* file sworn statements with the appropriate official;
- \* identify the nature and source of political advertisements.

A General Purpose Political Committee must file a report even when it is not active. If a report is late, a fine of \$100 is assessed.

A League may set up a political committee with League funds, but after that, contributions must come from individuals. It is advisable to keep the money in a bank account separate from the League treasury. A League that establishes a General Purpose Political Committee should file with the IRS for an Employer Identification Number that is separate from the number assigned to the League.

Interested Leagues should call the Elections Division of the Secretary of State's office (1-800-252-VOTE) for information and the requisite forms.

# # # # #

TO: LL Presidents; State Unit Chairs; DPM  
FROM: Evelyn Bonavita, Legislative Dir.

LWV-Texas  
October 1987  
LL Pres. Mailing; DPM  
I. A. 2.  
Action-State

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS YOU MAY BE ASKED  
ABOUT THE LEAGUE'S POSITION ON  
THE CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS AND REFERENDA  
ON THE NOVEMBER 3, 1987 BALLOT

1. *Tell me briefly what position the League is taking on the constitutional amendments.*

The League will not support or oppose any particular amendment nor are we telling people to vote for or against any or all of the amendments.

We are taking advantage of the fact that voters have an overwhelming number of issues on which to vote this November to say we oppose the way Texas operates its government by amending the constitution to address issues that often should be addressed by legislation. The constitution needs to be revised in order to curtail endless amendments.

We want voters to be aware that they need to consider each amendment very carefully and consider the overall impact of voting for or against it.

2. *Where else can I get information about the League's position on the amendments?*

Enclosed in this mailing is the press release used at the October 7 press conference and a summary of the amendments from the House Research Organization. The August, 1987 mailing contained a revised list of the amendments themselves. Local League presidents will be sent an op-ed article and a list of newspapers to which it will be released. The Voters Guide contains the ballot wording of the proposed amendments, an explanation of what the amendment would do, and the pros and cons of the amendment. The Voters Guide is purely educational and makes no reference to the League's position.

3. *Is the League implicitly opposing all of the amendments when we say we don't like the system?*

No. We are not telling voters to vote against everything on the ballot just because the process is so bad that it brought us 27 propositions. There are a lot of very important issues on this ballot, and voters must decide which they want to support or oppose. Just because the ballot is long does not mean there are not important issues on it.

4. *Could the League take a stand on any of the amendments?*

We do have positions that address a few of the amendments, but the board decided that to take action on a few amendments at the same time as we object to the process would dilute the impact of our message.

-over-



5. *If the League is not supporting or opposing all the amendments or any particular amendment, why must we use our Political Action Committee to pay for the action we take?*

Technically, we may not have to do so. However, we feel that our position against running the government from the constitution will be perceived as opposition. Therefore, we decided not to take any chances and be sure we are within the law by paying for the action out of our PAC.

We are always especially careful not to jeopardize the Voters Service work we do, which is done by the League of Women Voters of Texas Education Fund, and the Ed Fund can never lobby. By speaking out for constitutional revision, we are lobbying.

6. *What does the state board want local Leagues to do about the League's position?*

We hope you will contact your local papers and encourage them to run the press release if they have not already done so. Also ask them to run the op-ed piece we will send directly to 50 major Texas papers and to local League presidents with the list of those newspapers. Submit it directly to papers not on our list. We also hope you will inform your members of our position and provide them with information to help them cast an informed vote.

It is not appropriate to discuss the League's position at a meeting held solely for the purpose of providing pro/con information about the amendments. To do so would be mixing advocacy in a Voters Service function.

7. *Do local Leagues which promote the League's position also have to use a political committee to do so?*

Yes. An August 1987 memo to local Leagues describes the use of political committees (PACs). October 5 was the deadline for activating your political committee; if you do not have an active PAC, you may lobby only your own members.

8. *If the League does not like the current system of amending the constitution so often, what would we like?*

For more than thirty years, League members have supported revision of the Texas Constitution. The League supports eleven principles for a good constitution, which are listed in LWV-Texas Program Perspectives. In Program Perspectives, League members can also find an explanation of how the position has been used in the past to promote constitutional revision.

9. *Does the League have a specific proposal for revising the constitution?*

No. We could be flexible about the method of revising the constitution as long as the method allowed for adequate public input and met our other principles of good government.

10. *Does the League plan to lead a campaign to revise the constitution?*

The League is urging the legislature to make plans for revision. We also know that successful revision is possible only with broad-based support. Perhaps that support will grow if voters complain to their legislators about the length and complexity of this ballot. Not voting will not make the point.

October 1987

11. *By singling out groups of amendments for comment, such as those that deal with financial issues, are we not implying that we oppose them?*

Our purpose in showing groups of amendments, like those that deal with finance and those that deal with separation of powers, is to illustrate for voters that amendments must be looked at as a whole in order to see the impact they can have. And at the same time that voters consider the amendments in the context of the whole, they must also look at each one carefully to determine which, if any, they would like to support and which, if any, they would like to oppose.

12. *Is the League board not abdicating its responsibility to our members and the public by taking a position against the system rather than telling us how to vote?*

The board believes that voters, given adequate information provided by the League and in the news, will be able to cast a somewhat informed ballot. Because so few people or organizations, including the legislature, look at the overall impact of voting for or against the amendments, we feel that we are acting responsibly by doing so.

13. *Why is the League taking action on the amendments? I thought we were nonpartisan.*

The League of Women Voters of Texas is a nonpartisan political organization which takes action on issues after members have studied and reached agreement on what public policy changes are required to address the problems identified. LWV-Texas has a position favoring revision of the Texas Constitution.

The League of Women Voters of Texas Education Fund is a nonpartisan but purely educational organization that never lobbies. The LWV-TEF published a Voters Guides that provides an explanation of each proposed amendment and a balanced presentation of the pros and cons of each.

14. *What do I do if I get questions about particular amendments?*

If you need information about particular amendments, contact the state office, Louise Cummins, Diane Sheridan or me to find out which state League program specialist researched the amendment.

# # # # #





LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF TEXAS  
1212 GUADALUPE, #107 • AUSTIN, TEXAS 78701 • (512) 472-1100

## PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

OCTOBER 7, 1987

CONTACT: Evelyn Bonavita [REDACTED]

In an announcement today, the League of Women Voters of Texas objected to the process that has burdened voters with decisions on 25 proposed amendments and two statewide referenda on the November 3 ballot. LWV-Texas President, Diane Sheridan of Taylor Lake Village, stated, "The Texas Constitution needs revision, not constant amendment. The League urges the voters of Texas to do two things:

- become knowledgeable about the issues and cast an informed vote;
- call or write their legislators and let them know that they do not approve of a ballot with 27 complicated issues."

The League feels many of these amendments should not be in a constitution, which is supposed to be a basic framework of law. The League of Women Voters of Texas will not support or oppose any or all of the proposed constitutional amendments and referenda on the November ballot. The League is taking this unusual stance because the ballot is so long and the issues so complex that voters will be discouraged from voting in an election that could significantly change the way we govern and finance the state. It is because Texas has an outdated constitution that these kinds of amendments are necessary.

- more -

10/7/87

The present system, by which Texans are asked to vote on what seem to be ever-increasing numbers of amendments makes voters take responsibility for matters that are often best handled by their legislators. "We are the people; we are not the legislature," said Sheridan. "Reading the ballot wording alone does not give a voter enough information about the consequences of a yes or no vote. The only information the state furnishes all voters does not provide enough of an explanation to show, for example, whether a bond issue will be repaid from proceeds of the project or whether it will be a draw on general revenues."

Taken as a whole, these 25 amendments could have a profound impact on the way this state is governed and financed. Five of the amendments would authorize a total of \$1.925 billion in state general obligation bonds. Supporters believe these bonds could help rejuvenate the sagging state economy and address pressing needs such as prison construction. But voting for all these bond amendments would change forever the "pay as you go" concept embodied in the constitution. Voters may choose to change that concept, but they at least ought to know that they are doing so, and looking at the amendments one by one will not make that clear.

Similarly, voters should know that the constitution prohibits the state from using public funds to benefit private business, and that may be altered as well. Three of the amendments deal with state support for private enterprise.

Several amendments would affect the separation of powers of the legislative and executive branches. Supporters feel allowing legislators to serve in executive branch committees and agencies would enhance coordination, but opponents worry about abuses of power. Before voters



act on individual amendments, they should decide if they support an overall change in the balance of power.

Two binding statewide referenda are proposed on the November ballot, but there is no right of referendum in Texas. The legislature has simply deferred to the people the decisions on two politically sensitive issues: pari-mutuel betting and election or appointment of the State Board of Education. Establishing provisions for referendum is the sort of thing that belongs in a constitution, but there is no amendment proposed on that.

It is going to be virtually impossible to inspire people to vote on a ballot that is so long and complex. Voters need to let their legislators know they are tired of this. This message will not be sent by not voting; low turnout will just be blamed on voter apathy rather than voter disgust.

The League believes it is time to revise the Texas Constitution so that it becomes a basic framework of government. The U.S. Constitution, the bicentennial of which we are celebrating this year, has survived because it is just that--basic. It has been amended only 26 times to address important issues such as abolishing slavery and giving women the right to vote.

In its 111 years of existence, the Texas Constitution has been amended 287 times and is cluttered with antiquated provisions. "No wonder the Texas Constitution is five times longer than the U.S. Constitution," Sheridan said.

The League is saying to voters, "Vote, but take a careful look at what you are voting on." And we are saying to the Texas Legislature, "Enough is enough. Let us work together to halt this ridiculous system of running the government by means of the constitution."

# # # # #

TABLE  
1876 CONSTITUTION  
AMENDMENTS PROPOSED AND ADOPTED

year proposed	number proposed	number adopted	year proposed	number proposed	number adopted
1879	1	1	1937	7	6
1881	2	0	1939	4	3
1883	5	5	1941	5	1
1887	6	0	1943	3**	3
1889	2	2	1945	8	7
1891	5	5	1947	9	9
1893	2	2	1949	10	2
1895	2	1	1951	7	3
1897	5	1	1953	11	11
1899	1	0	1955	9	9
1901	1	1	1957	12	10
1903	3	3	1959	4	4
1905	3	2	1961	14	10
1907	9	1	1963	7	4
1909	4	4	1965	27	20
1911	5	4	1967	20	13
1913	8*	0	1969	16	9
1915	7	0	1971	18	12
1917	3	3	1973	9	6
1919	13	3	1975	12††	3
1921	5**	1	1977	15	11
1923	2†	1	1978	1	1
1925	4	4	1979	12	9
1927	8**	4	1981	10	8
1929	7**	5	1982	3	3
1931	9	9	1983	19	16
1933	12	4	1985	17**	17
1935	13	10	1986	1	1
			1987	28**	(a)
TOTAL PROPOSED 465			TOTAL ADOPTED 287		

NOTES

- \* Eight resolutions were approved by the legislature, but only six were actually submitted on the ballot; one proposal that included two amendments was not submitted to the voters.
- \*\* Total reflects two amendments that were included in one joint resolution.
- † Two resolutions were approved by the legislature, but only one was actually submitted on the ballot.
- †† Total reflects eight amendments that would have provided for an entire new Texas Constitution and that were included in one joint resolution.
- (a) Twenty-five of the 28 proposed amendments appear on the 1987 general election ballot, and the remaining three will be submitted to the voters on November 8, 1988.

FROM: "Analyses of Proposed Constitutional Amendments and Referenda," Texas Legislative Council, September 1987.



FROM: "1987 Constitutional Amendments and Referendum Propositions,"  
August 17, 1987, House Research Organization.

#### INTRODUCTION

This year's ballot will include 25 proposed constitutional amendments, surpassing the previous record for a single election of 16 amendments submitted on Nov. 8, 1966 (all but one were approved). Voters this year will also be asked whether two statutes previously enacted by the Legislature should take effect -- SB 15, permitting pari-mutuel wagering on horse races and greyhound races, and SB 86, cancelling next year's scheduled election of the State Board of Education and retaining selection of board members by appointment.

Since the order of the amendments on the ballot was selected at random, related amendments are scattered throughout the ballot. This Introduction lists some of the related amendments and also includes some general background about the constitutional amendment process.

#### Joint Resolutions

All constitutional amendments are proposed by the Legislature in the form of joint resolutions. A joint resolution proposing a constitutional amendment must be approved by a two-thirds vote of each house of the Legislature (100 votes in the House of Representatives; 21 votes in the Senate). The joint resolution includes the text of the proposed amendment along with other provisions such as the date on which the proposed amendment will be submitted to state voters and the wording of the amendment proposition that is to appear on the ballot.

One of the joint resolutions, SJR 12, is unusual because it includes two separate amendments. Both deal generally with tax exemptions -- Amendment No. 10 would allow certain personal property to be exempted from local taxation, and Amendment No. 11 would exempt certain goods in transit from local taxation.

#### Publication

Art. 17, sec. 1 of the Texas Constitution requires that a brief explanatory statement of the nature of any proposed constitutional amendment, along with the wording of the ballot proposition for the proposed amendment, be published twice in each newspaper in the state that prints official notices. The first publication of that notice must be made not later than 50 days, and not more than 60 days, before the date of the election.

The secretary of state's office prepares the explanatory statement, which must also be approved by the attorney general.

The secretary of state's office arranges for the required newspaper publication, often by contracting with a state press association. The estimated cost of publishing each proposed amendment twice in newspapers across the state is \$45,000.

#### Implementing Legislation

Some amendments to the Constitution require no additional legislation to implement their provisions. Other amendments grant general authority to the Legislature to enact legislation in a particular area or within certain guidelines. These amendments require implementing legislation to fill in the details of how the amendment will operate. The Legislature frequently adopts implementing legislation in advance, with the effective date of that legislation contingent on voter approval of a particular amendment. If the amendment is rejected by the voters, then the implementing bill, or at least those portions on the bill dependent on the constitutional change, are inoperative.

#### State Bonds

##### General obligation bonds

General obligation bonds are a means of using the state's credit to borrow money for a particular purpose. The state pledges its "full faith and credit" as a guarantee that the bond principal and interest will be repaid. Repayment of the bonds has first claim on revenues deposited in the state treasury.

Art. 3, sec. 49 of the Texas Constitution prohibits the creation of state debt, with a few minor exceptions. Therefore, in order for the state to use its credit to issue state general-obligation bonds, an amendment to the Constitution specifically authorizing those bonds must be approved.

Five amendments on the November ballot would authorize a total of \$1.925 billion in state general-obligation bonds:

- Amendment No. 8 -- \$500 million, for prison,  
youth correction and mental  
health/retardation facilities
- Amendment No. 7 -- \$400 million, for local  
public works
- Amendment No. 23 -- \$400 million, for water development
- Amendment No. 19 -- \$500 million, for super collider  
assistance



Amendment No. 6 -- \$100 million, for agricultural development;  
\$15 million, for new product development;  
\$10 million, for small business support

Amendments No. 7, 8 and 23, authorizing a total of \$1.3 billion in state general-obligation bonds, have been offered as a package called the "Build Texas" program.

#### Bond review board

All of the amendments authorizing issuance of general-obligation bonds provide for prior review and approval of those bonds by a state agency. During the 1987 regular session the Legislature enacted SB 1027, creating the Bond Review Board consisting of the governor, the lieutenant governor, the speaker of the House, the state treasurer and the comptroller.

A question has arisen about whether the House speaker, as a member of the legislative branch, can serve on a board that exercises executive functions without violating the constitutional separation-of-powers requirement. All of the amendments proposing general-obligation bonds specifically provide that members of the executive, legislative or judicial branches can serve on any bond review board. In addition, Amendment No. 21 on the November ballot would grant general authority to the Legislature to include the House speaker on committees that include members of the executive branch and exercise executive functions.

#### State Support for Private Enterprise

Various provisions of the Texas Constitution prohibit state or local governments from using public funds or credit to benefit private individuals or enterprises. Amendment No. 4 on the November ballot would allow the Legislature to authorize government assistance for certain economic-development purposes. It is a companion to Amendment No. 6, which would authorize issuance of state general-obligation bonds to finance state economic-development programs.

Two other amendments on the November ballot would create exceptions to the broad restrictions on state and local support of private enterprises. Amendment No. 1 would permit the state to guarantee up to \$5 million for a self-insurance fund established by the grain warehouse industry. Amendment No. 5 would amend Art. 3, sec. 52-b of the Constitution, which

prohibits public assistance to build or maintain turnpikes. It would permit the Highway Department to participate in joint projects with the Texas Turnpike Authority and would also permit certain counties to levy a tax to supplement turnpike toll revenues.

#### Legislative and Executive Branches

Several amendments would alter the relationship between the executive and legislative branches of state government:

Amendment No. 9 would make legislators eligible for election or appointment to an executive office during the term for which they were originally elected.

Amendment No. 21, mentioned earlier, would allow the House speaker to serve as a member of committees that include executive branch officials and have executive functions.

Amendment No. 22 would allow the Legislature to limit the authority of outgoing governors to make appointments to vacancies occurring after the election of their successor.

#### Local Taxes

##### Tax exemptions

Several amendments on the November ballot would exempt certain property from local ad valorem (property) taxation:

Amendment No. 3 would extend an existing constitutional provision, which freezes the school taxes on a person's homestead when that person reaches age 65, to the deceased person's surviving spouse, if the spouse is over 55 when the person dies.

Amendment No. 10 would allow the Legislature to exempt non-income-producing personal property. Local taxing units could override this exemption.

Amendment No. 11 would exempt certain property temporarily in the state to be used in manufacturing or processing. Local taxing units could override this exemption.

Amendment No. 20 would allow the Legislature to exempt off-shore oil and gas drilling equipment while it is held in storage.



### Taxing authorities

Several amendments would either create new local taxing authorities or expand the taxing authority of existing taxing units:

Amendment No. 2 would raise from three cents per \$100 valuation to six cents per \$100 the maximum tax rate that a rural fire-prevention district could levy, with voter approval. The maximum tax rate increase would apply only to districts wholly or partly including a county with more than 400,000 residents.

Amendment No. 5, mentioned earlier, would allow counties with a population over 400,000, any adjoining county or any city or district within such counties to levy a property tax, with voter approval. Revenue from the tax could be used to subsidize turnpike tolls that are inadequate to retire turnpike bonds or to maintain and operate a toll road that is at least partially within the taxing jurisdiction.

Amendment No. 13 would allow the Legislature to authorize creation, with voter approval, of emergency-services districts to provide emergency medical and ambulance services, rural fire prevention and control services and other emergency services. The district property-tax rate could be no more than 10 cents per \$100 valuation.

Amendment No. 18 would allow the Legislature to authorize creation of jail districts, which could, with voter approval, levy taxes and issue bonds to construct jail facilities for one or more counties.

Amendment No. 25 would allow the Legislature to authorize Randall County to levy a property tax, with voter approval, of up to 75 cent per \$100 valuation on those areas of Randall County not currently served by a hospital district. The revenue would pay for the Amarillo Hospital District's assuming the health care responsibilities for residents of those areas of Randall County.

#### Local Government

Since counties and cities are political subdivisions of the state, several proposed constitutional amendments would affect local government concerns:

Amendment No. 15 would abolish the office of county treasurer in Nueces, Gregg and Fayette counties.

Amendment No. 16 would allow counties with a population of more than 150,000 to have more than one justice of the peace position per JP precinct.

Amendment No. 17 would allow the Legislature to decide which municipal functions are immune, or partially immune, from liability for damages.

Amendment No. 24 would allow counties to perform work without compensation for other governmental entities wholly or partially within the county.

A somewhat related proposal, Amendment No. 14, would permit the Legislature to allow district and county prosecutors to appeal court rulings in criminal cases.

#### Provision for Surviving Spouses

Two amendments concern the rights of surviving spouses after the death of their spouse:

Amendment No. 3, mentioned earlier, would extend for surviving spouses who are age 55 or over when their spouse died the freeze on school district property taxes established when their spouse reached age 65.

Amendment No. 12 would allow spouses to agree in writing that upon their death, all or part of their community property would automatically become the property of the surviving spouse.

#### Referendum Propositions

SB 15, enacted by the 69th Legislature during its second special session in August 1986, and SB 86, enacted by the 70th Legislature during its second special session in July 1987, require approval by the voters in a statewide referendum before they can take effect. Neither bill proposes a constitutional amendment; voter approval of the referendum is a condition that



must be satisfied before the provisions of either bill can become operative. The Constitution neither permits or prohibits this procedure.

In SB 15, which would legalize local-option pari-mutuel wagering on horse races and greyhound races, the Legislature provided that the "referendum proposition" would appear on the ballot beneath the proposed constitutional amendments. The Legislature made the same provision for ballot placement of the "referendum proposition" in SB 86, which would fill the positions of the State Board of Education by appointment rather than by election. The governor by proclamation decided that the "referendum proposition" for SB 86 would go first on the ballot, and the one for SB 15 would go second, both beneath the proposed constitutional amendments.

#### 1988 Amendments

Thus far the 70th Legislature has proposed three additional constitutional amendments to be submitted to the voters at the Nov. 8, 1988 general election. Those amendments currently scheduled for 1988 include:

HJR 2 -- establishing an economic stabilization  
(rainy day) fund

SJR 8 -- dedicating federal highway grants  
to pay for state highway expenses

HJR 5 -- creating a Texas Growth Fund for investing  
part of the state permanent funds  
in economic development programs and  
broadening the investment discretion  
of the state permanent funds.

TO: LL Presidents; S.U. Chairs

FROM: Diane Sheridan, LWV-Texas President  
4127 Rolling Green, Seabrook 77586  
713/326-2769

LWV-Texas  
October 1987  
LLP Special Mailing  
I. A. 2.  
Action--State

As you know, we are opposing the process by which Texans have been saddled with 25 proposed amendments and 2 statewide referenda on the November ballot. Enclosed you will find a copy of the guest editorial on our position that we will be sending to the 57 newspapers listed on the reverse side of this sheet.

If your newspaper is on the list, please encourage the editor to run the editorial. If your local newspaper is not on the list, please take the editorial to the newspaper and ask the editor to run it as an opinion piece. Remember, if you spend any money doing this, it must come out of your PAC since you will be working for or against ballot issues.

The October 7 press conference, at which we announced the League's position on the November 3 ballot, was very well attended, and the coverage was extremely good. We would appreciate your sending to the state office newspaper clippings from your area or notes about TV or radio coverage.

The reporters' questions inspired us to compile data on voter turnout and use it to advance our position with key legislative leaders. To collect data, we need your help. Would you compile the following from your newspaper reports after the election:

- Voter turnout for each amendment and the two referenda, as well as local ballot issues.

Please supply voter turnout info that allows us to calculate the percentage of eligible voters who voted for each proposition.

- The total percentage of registered voters who actually voted.

Send your data to the state League office as soon as possible after the election. And since the election will be over, your data collection won't require PAC funds. Thanks!

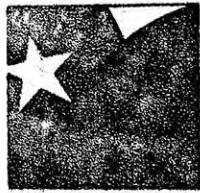
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ABILENE REPORTER-NEWS  
AMARILLO NEWS & GLOBE-TIMES  
ARLINGTON DAILY NEWS  
AUSTIN AMERICAN-STATESMAN  
BAY CITY DAILY TRIBUNE  
BAYTOWN SUN  
BEAUMONT ENTERPRISE  
BIG SPRING HERALD  
BROWNSVILLE HERALD  
BRYAN EAGLE  
CLEAR LAKE CITIZEN  
CORPUS CHRISTI CALLER-TIMES  
DALLAS MORNING NEWS  
DALLAS TIMES HERALD  
DEL RIO NEWS-HERALD  
DENISON HERALD  
DENTON RECORD-CHRONICLE  
EL PASO HERALD-POST  
EL PASO TIMES  
FT. WORTH STAR-TELEGRAM  
GALVESTON DAILY NEWS  
GARLAND DAILY NEWS  
VALLEY MORNING STAR  
HOUSTON CHRONICLE  
HOUSTON POST  
IRVING DAILY NEWS  
KERRVILLE DAILY TIMES

KILLEEN DAILY HERALD  
LAREDO MORNING TIMES  
LONGVIEW NEWS-JOURNAL  
LUBBOCK AVALANCHE-JOURNAL  
LUFKIN DAILY NEWS  
MARSHALL NEWS-MESSENGER  
MC ALLEN MONITOR  
MIDLAND REPORTER-TELEGRAM  
NACOGDOCHES DAILY SENTINEL  
ODESSA AMERICAN  
ORANGE LEADER  
PALESTINE HERALD PRESS  
PARIS NEWS  
PASADENA CITIZEN  
PLAINVIEW DAILY HERALD  
PLANO DAILY STAR-COURIER  
PORT ARTHUR NEWS  
RICHARDSON DAILY NEWS  
SAN ANGELO STANDARD-TIMES  
SAN ANTONIO EXPRESS-NEWS  
SAN ANTONIO LIGHT  
SAN MARCOS DAILY RECORD  
SHERMAN DEMOCRAT  
TEMPLE DAILY TELEGRAM  
TEXARKANA GAZETTE  
TEXAS CITY SUN  
VICTORIA ADVOCATE  
WACO TRIBUNE-HERALD  
WICHITA FALLS TIMES-RECORD-NEWS



## LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF TEXAS

1212 Guadalupe, No. 107 • Austin, Texas 78701 • Tel 512/472-1100

October 15, 1987

Dear Editor:

I am enclosing an op-ed article which I have written as President of the League of Women Voters of Texas concerning the number of constitutional amendments on the November 3, 1987 ballot, and the need to revise the Texas Constitution.

Because of the length of the ballot and the complexity of the issues, the League is concerned that many voters will simply not vote on these proposed amendments or, in areas where candidates appear on the ballot, only vote for candidates and skip these important amendments.

With your help--by printing this op-ed article--I hope the citizens of Texas will recognize the importance of voting on these proposed amendments, and then contacting their legislators to urge revision of the Texas Constitution.

I appreciate your cooperation in bringing this issue to the public.

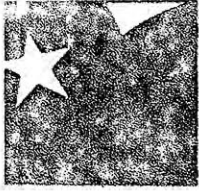
Thank you.

Sincerely,

Diane Sheridan  
President

Enclosure





# LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF TEXAS

1212 Guadalupe, No. 107 • Austin, Texas 78701 • Tel 512/472-1100

## NEW TEXAS CONSTITUTION NEEDED

The November 3 ballot is long. It is the first time since the Texas Constitution was adopted in 1876 that voters have been confronted with so many issues in a single election. It is also the first time Texans will vote on binding referenda.

The League of Women Voters of Texas objects to the process that has burdened voters with decisions on 25 proposed amendments and two statewide referenda on this ballot. In its 111 years of existence, the Texas Constitution has been amended 287 times, changes resulting from more than 400 proposed amendments submitted to voters by legislatures between 1879 and 1986. More than half of the proposed amendments have been placed on ballots in the last thirty years alone.

The League will not support or oppose any or all of the proposed amendments and referenda on the ballot. The Texas Constitution needs revision, not constant amendment. Voters need to send this message to their legislators--after they cast informed votes in this very important election that could significantly change the way we govern and finance our state.

Asking voters to vote on what seems to be an increasing number of amendments makes citizens responsible for matters that are often best handled by their legislators. We are the people. We are not the legislature. Public participation in government is critical to a democracy, but it is not a substitute for representative government.

The issues on the November 3 ballot are complex. Ballot wording is sometimes misleading and does not convey the full implications of a yes or no vote. The League of Women Voters of Texas is concerned that the difficulty of becoming adequately informed about so many issues will discourage voters from going to the polls.

Despite the challenge of becoming informed, voters really need to vote in this election. And then they need to tell their legislators that they are tired of long and complex ballots. Staying home from the polls will not convey that message. Low voter turnout will just be blamed on voter apathy rather than voter disgust with the system that burdens Texans.

To cast an informed vote in November, voters need to consider not only individual amendments but also their overall effects. When the legislature passes joint resolutions to put constitutional amendments on the ballot, they consider them one by one or package by package. With more than 3000 bills having been filed in a legislative session of 140 days, legislators did not have the luxury of examining the overall impact of what they did. Voters, on the other hand, must look at these amendments as a whole because, taken as a whole, they could have a profound impact on the way we govern and finance this state.

For example, nearly two-thirds of the propositions deal in some way with financial issues. Five of them would authorize a total of \$1.925 billion in state general obligation bonds. Supporters believe these bonds could help rejuvenate our sagging state economy and address pressing needs such as prison construction. But voting for all these bond amendments would change forever the "pay as you go" concept embodied in the constitution. Voters may wish to restructure the way we finance the state, but they ought to know that they are doing so. Looking at these amendments one by one will not make that clear.

Also, four of the amendments would provide state support for private enterprise, which is disallowed in the constitution; four would exempt certain property from ad valorem taxes; five would authorize or expand the taxing authority of certain special governmental districts; three amendments would alter the separation of executive and legislative powers in state government, a move that supporters feel would increase coordination while opponents fear abuse of power.

The reason that voters will face such a long and complex ballot November 3 is that Texas has an outdated constitution. Many of the amendments deal with issues that really should not be in a constitution, such as changes in the boundaries of a West Texas hospital district. Others raise issues that should be addressed in a constitution but are not the subject of amendment. For example, constitutional language prohibiting debt should be removed since we have not complied with it for some time.

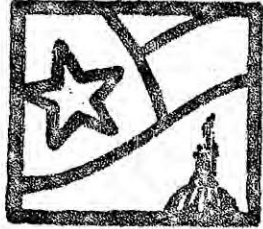
Language providing for referendum should be added since the constitution neither provides for nor prohibits it; yet the legislature has placed on this ballot binding referenda on two politically sensitive issues: pari-mutuel wagering, and election or appointment of the State Board of Education.

The U.S. Constitution, the bicentennial of which we have been celebrating this fall, has survived because it is a framework of basic law. It has been amended only 26 times to address issues as important as the abolition of slavery and women's suffrage.

The Texas Constitution also needs to be a framework of basic law. It is not. If we had a properly revised constitution, Texas voters would not be confronted with so many amendments. It has been 12 years since the last painful effort to revise the constitution. It is time for voters to let their legislators know that we need to take the first steps toward designing a process to revise the constitution.

Diane Sheridan  
President, League of Women Voters of Texas  
October 15, 1987





# legislative newsletter

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF TEXAS

1212 GUADALUPE, NO. 107 • AUSTIN, TEXAS 78701

512 472-1156

bill STATUS 1-800-252-9693

April 29, 1987  
Vol. 9, No. 16

Evelyn Bonavita  
Legislative Director

## Predictions

This is the convention issue of the Legislative Newsletter, which explains its brevity. It is being produced two days early as we will be leaving Thursday, April 30 for Ft. Worth and the Worthington Hotel.

The news this week is that the House will be taking up the appropriations bill at 10:00 a.m. Monday. There promises to be quite a floor fight because, as we reported last week, a group of House members will be trying to cut the committee bill in an effort to make it require less new revenue and be more acceptable to the governor.

For those of you following the abortion bills (see Newsletters #12 and #14), the House version (HB 410) will be voted out of the State Affairs Committee, probably at Chairman Laney's desk sometime this week. We do not know if it has been changed any way, but we suspect that Rep. Millsap has removed the parental consent provision.

At this writing (Wednesday morning, April 29), the Senate version, SB 167, is still pending in the Senate Health and Human Services Committee, but we expect action on Thursday, April 30. We hope the bill will be substituted and then voted out of committee, but at this writing we have no assurances that the substitute we have approved will be the one voted on by the committee. I will have more information at Convention. At that time I will also have suggestions for thank-you letters to Senate committee members who have remained faithful friends throughout this ordeal.

As we enter the final month of this regular session, parliamentary maneuverings become more important. For instance, several senators are threatening to filibuster an effort to weaken the six-weeks "no-pass, no-play" rule of HB 72, on which we have no position. This threat is more serious now as the work load increases, and a filibuster can bring Senate work to a halt. Also, bills that have not yet had a hearing in committee are probably dead, and even bills which have been heard will need extraordinary luck to make it through both houses before June 1. With the House now set to spend hours--and perhaps days--debating the appropriations bill, chances of a special session(s) are close to 100%.

WATER

Groundwater Districts

CSHB 1451, Terral Smith

SUPPORT

On Monday, April 27, the House Natural Resources Committee reported out the committee chairman's newly revised groundwater management bill, which is strongly supported by the League. The bill provides:

- minimum standards for the operation of groundwater districts to be set by the Texas Water Commission;
- simpler procedures for creating a groundwater district and for adding territory to an existing district;
- authority for districts to charge fees based on well size or use of groundwater.

CSHB 1451 could reach the House floor as early as next week.

\*What YOU Can Do\*

Call the bill status number to ask about this bill; then call or write your House member(s) urging a vote FOR CSHB 1451.

The League supports this bill because

- all groundwater districts should be required to exercise the powers and perform the duties given them by state law;
- formation of groundwater districts should be encouraged in all parts of the state where groundwater is an important resource;
- in some parts of the state fees are a more acceptable means of supporting district operations than property taxes.

FINANCING STATE GOVERNMENT  
Appropriations

The House Appropriations Committee has voted out an appropriations bill that would spend \$39.4 billion from all funds. The Senate has approved a bill for \$39.9 billion. Governor Clements has recommended a \$36.9 billion expenditure. On Monday, May 4, the House Appropriations bill will go to the floor of the House for a full debate. Differences between the final Senate and House versions will be settled by a 10-member conference committee. House members must be encouraged immediately to vote for the Appropriations bill as it came out of committee with no changes.

\*What YOU Can Do\*

If you have representatives on the House Appropriations Committee, call or write them immediately and encourage them to vote for the House Appropriations bill on May 4.

ATTENTION, CONVENTION-GOERS!

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\*  
\* Be sure to read your convention rules \*  
\*  
\* about how to draw up Action Motions \*  
\*  
\* and to use the information in this \*  
\* newsletter for ideas on what to pro- \*  
\* pose. Previous newsletters can be \*  
\* helpful as well. \*  
\*  
\*\*\*\*\*



HUMAN RESOURCES

Health Care for the Medically Indigent

HB 81, Kubiak	OPPOSE
HB 145, Robinson	OPPOSE
HB 147, Robinson	OPPOSE

Two bills that would erode the responsibility of public hospitals as set out by the Indigent Health Care and Treatment Act (County Responsibility Act) will soon be voted on in the House. HB 145 and HB 147 would eliminate the responsibility of city public hospitals to care for the indigent and shift that responsibility to the county. HB 81 by Kubiak would remove hospital authorities from the act. One analysis of these bills predicts that the effect would be to decrease the number of public hospitals in the state from 85 to 65.

The League of Women Voters of Texas sent letters to each member of the House of Representatives requesting them to oppose these attempts to weaken the County Responsibility Act. The letter also emphasized that the state should adequately fund the State Assistance Fund, which is used after counties expend their 10% general revenue obligation for health care for the indigent.

SCR 78, Truan

SUPPORT

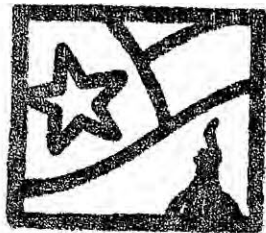
This resolution calls for the formation of an interagency council to coordinate preventive health programs. Texas Department of Health, Commission on Alcohol and Drug Abuse, Cancer Council, Department of Mental Health and Mental Retardation, Department of Human Services, Central Education Agency, Department on Aging, Department of Public Safety, and Department of Highways and Public Transportation would be represented on this council. The council objectives would address issues of smoking, misuse of alcohol and drugs, prevention and control of injuries, and occupational safety and health.

AIR

HB 2041, Watson

SUPPORT

This bill would allow the Texas Air Control Board (TACB) to issue emergency permits to expedite the correction of an emergency situation. For several years LWV-Texas has supported legislation that improves the administration of the Clean Air Act, and we support this bill. However, the bill would allow emergency issuance of a permit to release emissions in order to prevent severe economic loss. We are concerned that a facility could declare a severe economic loss and get an emergency permit when there is no genuine need. Kathy Jacob is working with the sponsor to modify this language so that circumvention of the regular permit system does not take place.



# legislative newsletter

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF TEXAS  
1212 QUADALUPE, NO. 107 • AUSTIN, TEXAS 78701

512 472-1136

241 STATUS 1-800-252-9693

April 16, 1987  
Vol. 9, No. 14

Evelyn Bonavita  
Legislative Director

## Abortion Hearings

Eleven hours after it began, Monday's House State Affairs Committee hearing on HB 410 (SB 167), the abortion bill, dragged to a close. During those hours we heard from doctors, clergy, counselors, teenagers, mothers, attorneys, and a variety of witnesses both for and against the legislation. Rep. Millsap, the House sponsor, laid out a committee substitute that removed the requirement that both parents sign the consent form before a teenager may obtain an abortion; he reduced the requirement to one parent. However, the bill retained both parental consent and the ban on abortions after viability.

When the House went into session on Monday afternoon, we dashed over to the Senate, where the hearings started in the Health and Human Services Committee. We spent the rest of the day scurrying back and forth, testifying in both houses on bills which were substantially different. Sen. Lyon, the Senate sponsor, arrived with a bill that eliminated parental consent altogether, so witnesses had to change their testimony accordingly. As the hearing progressed it became clear that the House would probably remove the parental consent provision, too, as the scuttlebutt was that the bill couldn't pass the Senate with that provision in it if it passed out of committee.

Altogether, the tone of this year's hearings was substantially more subdued than that of last session. The other side presented fewer witnesses, and they were civil and restrained. Occasionally, of course, emotions ran high, but on the whole the level of discourse was civilized.

The hearing in the Senate was continued on Tuesday afternoon, and Sen. Lyon arrived at this hearing with another committee substitute (the third in all if you're counting). This one removed some dubious language contained in the Monday version about administering anesthesia to the fetus before the abortion, but before any testimony could be taken, a dispute broke out between Senators Edwards and Lyon over a remark that Gov. Clements had made at his press conference that morning. It seems the governor thinks parental consent a necessity and speculated it might be added on the Senate floor. Sen. Edwards did not want his colleagues to be forced to vote on unknown numbers of amendments on this highly emotional issue and refused to vote to pass the bill out of committee until the governor backed down. As I write this, we do not know what the outcome will be. Chairman Brooks adjourned the meeting after all the witnesses were heard, but he left the bill pending and called another meeting for Thursday, April 16.



FINANCING STATE GOVERNMENT

HB 1297, A. Luna SUPPORT WITH MODIFICATIONS

This bill incorporates Comptroller Bullock's suggestions for a revised tax system for Texas. The system would take effect on Jan. 1, 1988; until that time the current 5.25% sales tax would be continued. The motor fuels tax rate of \$.15 per gallon would be permanently extended. Other major features of the bill are as follows:

- \* An expanded sales tax base to include most services, unless they are specifically exempt. Luna's bill calls for a sales tax rate of 4.5% which the League would like to see increased to generate adequate revenue.

By including the growing service sector, the plan not only treats businesses in an equitable manner, but also provides some assurance that future state revenues will reflect the emerging economy. Another advantage of the expanded base is that the taxing of professional and personal services is less regressive than raising the current sales tax rate on only the items presently taxed. The plan continues exemptions on food, electricity, natural gas, and prescription drugs. Services that would be exempt include medical and dental care, day care, and tuition and fees for public and private non-profit schools. One notable result of the expanded base would be an increase in revenue for those cities and Metropolitan Transit Authorities levying the sales tax.

- \* A new formula for calculating the franchise tax, which would include a gross receipts factor as well as a firm's capital investment. The formula also incorporates an incentive for new capital investments.

The new formula is appropriate for our changing economy because the trade and service sectors include lightly capitalized companies which nevertheless may have substantial receipts. The formula shifts the tax burden away from our declining oil and gas industry, which is heavily capitalized.

Because the plan includes an incentive for new capital investments and also exempts around 90,000 of the state's smallest corporations, it should encourage economic development.

WATER

Underground Storage Tanks  
CSHB 1546, Millsap SUPPORT

The stated purpose of this bill is "to maintain and protect the quality of groundwater resources in the state from substances in underground tanks that may pollute ground water..."

Other purposes of the bill are the following:

- \* To initiate a state regulatory program before 1988, when federal regulation begins in states lacking such programs.
- \* To receive federal matching grants for clean-up of groundwater contamination from underground tanks.

The bill requires the following:

- \* registration of all new tanks and tanks used at any time since 1974
- \* reporting of leaks and corrective action to protect public health, safety, and the environment
- \* evidence of tank owners' financial responsibility for corrective action and for compensation to those damaged
- \* inspection, monitoring, and testing of tanks
- \* fees of up to \$25 per year per tank to pay state costs

This bill and HB 2230 (Guerrero) were heard by the House Natural Resources Committee on Wed., April 8. The committee substitute incorporates several good provisions of the Guerrero bill (initiated by the Sierra Club) and reduces the maximum fee from \$50 to \$25 (at the request of the Oil Marketers Assoc., whose members own more than 100,000 underground tanks in Texas--mostly at filling stations.) The League submitted written testimony in support of the two bills. Don't bother to write about this one; there's no opposition.

HUMAN RESOURCES

Health Care for the Medically Indigent  
SCR 64 (Brooks)

This bill would make additional near-poor elderly eligible for certain kinds of medical care. The federal Medicaid program pays a portion of the bill for nursing home care for people whose income does not exceed \$1020 if the state contributes its match. Texas now subsidizes nursing home costs only for those elderly with incomes up to \$670.20. SCR 64 would allow those elderly with incomes between \$670.20 and \$1020 to qualify for Medicaid-funded community care, home health care, and nursing home care, thereby serving an additional 3,314 low income, frail elderly in 1988. The estimated state cost of this bill would be \$7.2 million in 1988 and \$12.9 million in 1989. SCR 64 was reported favorably out of the Health and Human Services Committee on April 8. The League is actively supporting this bill because it meets an extreme need for assistance to this near-poor income group. (Income figures are per month)

GOVERNMENT

SB 168, Caperton      SUPPORT-Update

This bill, which strengthens the Open Meetings Act, passed the Senate on Wednesday, April 15. Sen. Caperton had garnered the support of various organizations like the Texas Association of School Boards, the Texas Municipal League and the counties by watering down the requirement that executive sessions of government bodies keep registered minutes of the meeting. The bill now allows for a certified agenda of executive sessions. The League can still support SB 168 as it adds needed amendments to the Act. ( See Newsletter #11).

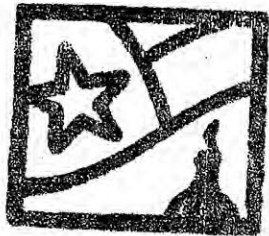
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News Brief  
on Abortion

The abortion bills in both houses (HB 410 and SB 167) are pending in committee. This means they can be voted on any time the committee meets. The House bill is in the State Affairs Committee; the Senate bill is in the Health and Human Services Committee.

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# legislative newsletter

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF TEXAS  
1212 QUADALUPE, NO. 107 • AUSTIN, TEXAS 78701

512 472-1156

MAIL STATUS 1-800-252-9693

April 10, 1987  
Vol. 9, No. 13

Evelyn Bonavita  
Legislative Director.

## HOBBY TALK

"We won't close the schools and we won't open the prisons," reassured Lt. Governor Bill Hobby as he addressed a group of public interest lobbyists this past week. He predicted that the legislature and the governor would eventually come to the realization that they would need to raise revenues in order to meet state needs, although both lawmakers and the governor might be in an embarrassing position for a month or two. When asked, Hobby said he thought the legislature would have to come up with a spending plan by June 1, or face the possibility of bouncing state checks very shortly thereafter. Hobby also blamed the governor for lawmakers' lack of support for merit selection of judges this session. It seems that legislators have become so suspicious of the governor's actions (according to the Lt. Gov.) that they are not about to give him "the power to appoint judges."

The Lt. Governor said that he used to be for annual sessions of the legislature, but he's changed his mind and thinks the system works pretty well as it is. "Besides, we've had annual sessions for the last few years." He does support retaining the length of the session in the constitution although he'd like to see legislative salaries removed from that document and the amount raised. He admitted that this worthy idea had been soundly defeated by the voters every time it was on the ballot.

Hobby said that the older he got the more he appreciated "elegance." This means, he continued, doing what you have to do in a graceful, organized manner instead of fighting, arguing, and sniping at one another. He meant, of course, lawmakers' efforts to avoid the inevitable tax bill.

Meanwhile, the Senate Finance Committee voted out its version of the appropriations bill, which calls for \$28.65 billion in major fund spending over the next two years and requires almost \$3.5 billion in new revenue. Other legislators are considering asking voters to approve a constitutional amendment increasing the general sales tax with the income dedicated to prisons. And the House Appropriations Committee continues to cut needed programs in its effort to reach a spending level Governor Clements won't veto. There are obviously going to be more state financing ideas surfacing in the days to come so the League has decided to support the Bullock plan, which we think will be the most efficient and least regressive tax plan introduced up to now (see page 2).

FINANCING STATE GOVERNMENT

This week it became clear that because the session is drawing to a close and no new revenue proposals to address the fiscal crisis are anticipated, the League of Women Voters of Texas should announce its support of the proposal which most closely meets its criteria for a sound financial system. Although none of the proposals introduced this session are perfect and are not the best solutions to meet the long term needs of the state, at least one proposal is a good interim measure to adopt until political realities change.

There is only one proposal that has been introduced that has the potential for meeting the League's criteria as set up in our advocacy paper (State Fiscal Crisis; State Fiscal Responsibility). That is Comptroller Bullock's proposal that has been introduced by Rep. A. Luna (HB 1297). Beginning on Jan. 1, 1988, it would establish a sales tax rate of 4.5% on an expanded base that would include the service sector. The revised tax plan includes a new franchise tax formula which measures the relationship between a firm's capital and its receipts. The plan also calls for a \$.15 per gallon motor fuel tax rate and a motor vehicle sales and rental tax rate of 4.5%. Taken together, the components of the revised tax plan would generate \$3.3 billion over the 1988-89 biennium. This is less new revenue than the League believes is necessary to fund essential services. However, the rates could be adjusted to raise additional dollars. Increasing only the sales tax rate in Bullock's proposal to 6% would generate approximately \$5.8 billion dollars in new money, which is the amount the Legislative Budget Board (LBB) has said would be required to fund the current level of services in Texas.

On Wednesday, the League joined other organizations and associations comprising the School Finance Symposium in endorsing "the concept of restructuring the Texas tax system, as represented by Comptroller Bullock's plan ...."

We are hopeful that many other groups throughout the state will join in this endorsement in the next several weeks and that efforts to fund the next biennial budget will become more focused.

Now is the time to let legislators know that this proposal is the most equitable, progressive, and responsive proposal for addressing the current fiscal crisis. With modifications it will also generate sufficient revenue for the next biennium. A more complete analysis of HB 1297 will follow in next week's Newsletter.

ELECTION LAW

Absentee voting bills heard in the House Elections Committee on 4/8 were referred to subcommittee. Those heard in the Senate State Affairs Committee on 4/6 are pending.

HB 1371, Aikin  
SB 1167, Edwards FYI

This bill would allow people who are over 65, disabled, or who hold religious beliefs which conflict with election day voting to submit one application for absentee ballot, which will entitle them to be sent ballots for all elections for the remainder of that year. They must submit a new application each calendar year. While the League could support this on the basis of convenience to the voter and encouraging higher voter turnout, the possibilities of voter confusion and of administrative problems do exist. We will watch for results of subcommittee action.

Eliminating Grounds for Voting Absentee

SB 1166 Edwards  
HB 1372 Aikin SUPPORT

HB 1372 allows any qualified voter to vote absentee by personal appearance. SB 1166 allows absentee voting by personal appearance or by mail. The League testified in favor of the House bill at the Elections Committee hearing. We support this bill as a means to increase voter participation by making it legal to vote absentee in all elections rather than having to qualify on the grounds of absence from county of residence, disability, age, religion, confinement in jail, or serving as an election official.



Omnibus Absentee Voting Law  
HB 1777 Aikin SUPPORT

This bill is designed to make the absentee voting statutes easier to understand and to make some changes in procedures. Its provisions: (1) allow applications to be delivered in person or by contract carrier or by designee of voter; (2) allow delivery of ballot by contract carrier; (3) allow someone to witness as many applications as they wish; (4) require the county clerk to check mail late on election day; (5) allow any county clerk to request a signature verification committee; and (6) allow the county clerk to contact the voter if the application does not fully comply with the applicable requirements. This bill's passage would result in more absentee ballot applications and more ballots being accepted by election officials. Reservations on some segments of the bill were voiced by the Secretary of State's office and the Harris County clerk and will be dealt with in subcommittee.

Removing Prohibition Against Written Communication in Polling Place  
SB 804 Edwards  
HB 2047 Danburg SUPPORT

This bill would repeal the section in the Election Code which prohibits the voter from having in his or her possession while marking the ballot certain kinds of written communication. Although the existing prohibition is not as restrictive as it once was, it is still ambiguous. The League supported similar legislation during the 1983 sessions.

This bill was referred to subcommittee of the State Affairs Committee on April 6.

\*\*\*\*\* NOTE \*\*\*\*\*  
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The legislature will recess after business on Wednesday, April 15, until Tuesday, April 21.

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GOVERNMENT

Merit Selection of Judges

HJR 39, Gibson  
CSHB 606, Farabee, Caperton, McFarland  
SUPPORT

For the first time in memory, the House Judicial Affairs Committee held a hearing on this issue. Rep. Bruce Gibson filed a substitute, CSHB 606, which eliminated the local district judges from the fourteen Courts of Appeals districts. Other than these two changes, the information about HB 606 and the constitutional amendment HJR 39 remains the same as outlined on page 4 of Newsletter #5, dated February 13.

League testimony on HJR 39 and CSHB 606 focused mainly on the necessity for both the House and the Senate to pass out these measures so as to let the citizens of Texas decide whether or not they wish to change the method of judicial selection in the state. Reputable polls show that they do.

\*What YOU Can Do\*

Those with representatives on the House Judicial Affairs Committee (Hury, Chair; Rangel, Vice Chair; Perry, S. Hudson, G. Luna, Parker, Schoolcraft, Smithee, S. Thompson) should write their representatives immediately asking that the committee vote out the bill to the full House. For those with members on the Senate State Affairs Committee (Farabee, Chair; Blake, Vice Chair; Barrientos, Caperton, Edwards, Harris, Henderson, Leedom, Lyon, McFarland, Parmer, Sarpalua, Washington) who have not yet contacted their senators (see Newsletter #10, page 2), there is still time to do so. We will not accomplish the miracle of judicial reform unless we let our representatives and senators know we care about the issue and that we are watching for their response.

The League is disappointed that the option to select district judges by a merit election system has been dropped. But if the system can be changed for the appellate levels and is successful in the future, there will be momentum for extending the process to lower levels in the future.

HUMAN RESOURCESChild Care

Hb 2059, Wallace FYI

HB 2059 joins several bills which support child care for state employees in state-owned or leased facilities. This bill allows for child care for state employees in the "capitol complex" in state-owned buildings. Private building space could be leased within a two-mile radius of the Capitol if state building space were not available.

Child CareSB 957, Brooks SUPPORT  
HB 2309, Danburg

These bills will enable commissioners courts in counties of 500,000 or more to establish child care programs for children of county employees and county jurors. Fees may be charged but may not exceed the actual cost of providing new services.

PUBLIC SCHOOL FINANCE

SB 727, Glasgow SUPPORT

The League of Women Voters of Texas testified on April 9 before the Senate Education Committee in favor of SB 727 (Glasgow). The bill extends the rollback release feature of HB 72 and allows districts to raise taxes to offset decreased state aid or to receive additional enrichment equalization aid before the rollback trigger of 8% takes effect. The provision was included in HB 72 to allow districts to maintain or improve educational quality while moving to a more equalized system of school finance. The rollback exemption provision of HB 72 expired Jan. 1, 1987, so that beginning with the 1987-88 school year, districts would be limited in their ability to raise taxes. Currently the state is experiencing large shifts in taxable property value.

For the 1986 preliminary State Property Tax Board Value Study, oil and mineral values declined by 26% while the overall total barely grew at all. Since state aid for public education is based on relative wealth of local districts compared to the state total, problems in the oil and gas industries affect the entire school financial system.

The State Property Tax Board's preliminary 1986 estimates reflect the value of mineral reserves as of Jan. 1, 1986, before oil prices plummeted from \$28 to \$15 per barrel. Some further shifts in taxable property values may occur during the next two years until the state economy stabilizes. While this rollback release provision has been in effect since 1984, many school districts have not raised taxes to the maximum amount for which they are eligible.

The League supports an equitable system of taxation which assures adequate revenue, is easily administered, and is consistent with economic and social goals. In order to implement mandated education programs, to offset shifts in property tax values and for property poor school districts to qualify for maximum equalization aid, an extension of the rollback release provision is advised.

## REMEMBER!

GOVERNOR CLEMENTS NEEDS TO HEAR FROM  
YOU! KEEP UP THE RESPONSE TO THE STATE  
FUNDING ACTION ALERT (NEWSLETTER #12,  
APRIL 3). THANKS TO THOSE WHO HAVE  
ALREADY WRITTEN.

