

July 6, 1984

Ms. Evelyn Bonavita  
Texas League of Women Voters  
1212 Guadalupe  
Austin, Texas 78701

Dear Evelyn:

I am currently seeking employment in an administrative or public relations position and am writing in the event you may know of such a job opportunity through your extensive network of contacts. My educational training in journalism and my experience in the Texas legislature have provided a wide range of knowledge and skills which are easily adapted to other working environments.

I have provided a copy of my resume for your information. I invite any comments you might care to make in this regard.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

*Mary*  
Mary E. Smith



## RESUME

Mary Elizabeth Smith

[REDACTED]

Career Objective: To serve in an administrative position requiring public relations, policy analysis, and project coordination skills.

### Previous Employment

Legislative and Administrative Aide  
Senator Carl A. Parker  
January 83 - February 84

Committee Clerk  
Special Committee on Diabetes  
Services in Texas, Senator  
Carl A. Parker, Chairman  
January 82 - December 82

Press Aide and Secretary  
Senator Carl A. Parker  
January 81 - December 81

Public Relations Assistant  
Austin I.S.D.  
June 80 - August 80

Editor and Writer  
The Daily Texan, UT Austin  
January 79 - December 79

### Job Responsibilities

Oversight of Senate office and inter-office procedures;  
Liason with constituents, state agencies, associations, etc.;  
Issue analysis and summary;  
Coordinator of legislative intern program and reunion for  
senior citizens of Senate District 4;  
Research and drafting of legislative proposals;  
Monitoring of 133 bills and resolutions sponsored by Parker  
during 68th regular session;  
Facilitation in legislative approval of 80 measures;  
Editing and distribution of weekly legislative reports.

Developed meeting agendas and contacted key witnesses  
for testimony in several Texas cities;  
Arranged facilities and media coverage for committee meetings;  
Researched and co-authored final report of Special  
Committee on Diabetes Services in Texas.

Responded to press inquiries;  
Issued regular press releases;  
Designed, wrote, and edited legislative newsletters for  
senatorial district constituents;  
Detailed instructions to Senate and private printers;  
Replied to routine correspondence and handled general office  
duties.

Facilitated work of Desegregation Office during summer prior  
to implementation of district wide busing.

Newspaper layout;  
Selection of UPI and AP news stories and photos;  
Covering assigned stories and tips.



### Educational Background

Bachelor of Journalism  
The University of Texas at Austin (1981)

Broadmoor High School  
Baton Rouge, Louisiana (1971)

### Other Involvement

Laguna Gloria Art Museum Member (1984)  
Wheatsville Food Co-op, Board of Directors (1981-1983)  
WTTP Co-op Education Project (1983-1984)  
Travis County Democratic Precinct Chair (1982-1983)

### Interests

Travel, music, folklore, gardening, softball, swimming, health education

### Personal

Single parent; good health

### References

Senator Carl Parker [REDACTED]

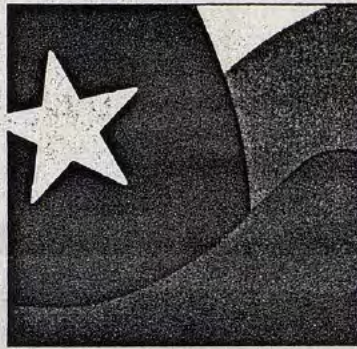
Commissioner Dora McDonald, Texas Health Facilities Commission (512) 475-6940

Hunter Ellinger, Vice President, Scientific Measurement Systems (512) 837-3113

Others upon request.

Available for immediate employment.





League of Women Voters of Texas  
1212 Guadalupe Suite 109 • Austin, Texas 78701 • Tel. 512/472-1100

July 18, 1984

Mr. Mary Smith  
[REDACTED]

Dear Mary:

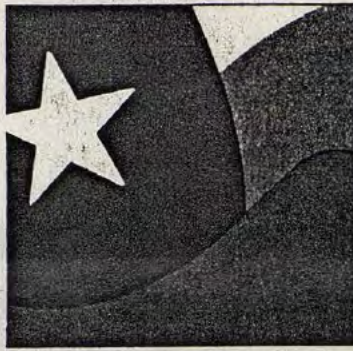
I am afraid that the League of Women Voters of Texas has no openings for someone with your extensive qualifications as our staff runs to one secretary and one half-time secretary. I am also not aware of any openings with other organizations at this time. However I will keep your resume on file and I'll let you know if I run into anything.

Meanwhile, I wish you the best of luck in your efforts.

Sincerely,

Evelyn Bonavita  
Legislative Director





League of Women Voters of Texas  
1212 Guadalupe Suite 109 • Austin, Texas 78701 • Tel. 512/472-1100

June 26, 1984

Mr. Kevin Moomaw, Political Director  
Republican Party of Texas  
1300 Guadalupe, Suite 205  
Austin, Texas 78701

Dear Mr. Moomaw:

Thank you for requesting information on League concerns that will be forthcoming in the next legislative session. We applaud your efforts to help educate your candidates on the issues and hope that what we have included here will be of some assistance to them.

The pamphlet "We Support" lists, in brief, our positions on most of the issues we have studied. Our newest position, which is on legislative and congressional redistricting, is on a separate sheet. Also enclosed are several advocacy papers urging action on specific legislative issues; we will be publishing more of these during the fall. There are also three "Facts and Issues," which are educational publications we have written on new studies that the League is doing this year. We have a paper on domestic violence coming out in a few months and we will send you a copy of it then.

A list of our legislative priorities for the next session must include attention to public school finance if this is not adequately addressed during the special session. We are also interested in the financing of state government and the tax structure, redistricting, the merit selection of judges, recodification of the election laws, water issues, hazardous waste management, increased AFDC benefits, and health care for indigents.

During the last session we supported the water package which originated in the Senate, and we are still very interested in passing comprehensive water legislation. We supported setting up a state human rights commission, which passed, as well as the small increase which took place in AFDC benefits. For years the League of Women Voters has lobbied to increase appropriations for

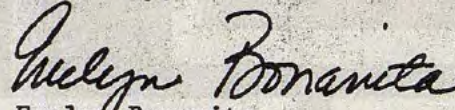


expanded programs for community-based alternatives to prison, as well as adequate funding for the Juvenile Probation Commission and the Commission on Jail Standards. Both these issues were addressed last session.

As an issue-oriented organization, we work with legislators of both parties, but it has not been our practice to produce a rating or evaluation of legislators.

I hope this has been of some help to you. If you have questions or wish to order publications, please call me. We would be able to provide you copies of the advocacy papers at no cost to you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Evelyn Bonavita". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Evelyn" written in a larger, more prominent script than the last name "Bonavita".

Evelyn Bonavita  
Legislative Director



J.A. JUN 11 1984  
a.B. What do you think?  
REPUBLICAN PARTY  
OF TEXAS

Dear Ms. Bonavita:

The Republican Party of Texas has 91 Legislative candidates this year. Some of them are new at being candidates and might not be as knowledgeable as they should be about matters of importance to your association or industry.

It is easy for eager candidates to take premature stands on important issues before they have been sufficiently informed. We want to prevent this from happening.

In an attempt to prevent this, we're going to be sending our candidates packets of issue information to help them become better informed. We need your help and expertise to accomplish this task in order to inform them of issues that are critical to your legislative package. Therefore, we would like you to provide us the following information so that we may distribute it to our candidates.

1. Any short general information pieces that would educate our candidates about your legislative needs: Position papers; White Papers; Studies; Legislative programs; Reprints of important articles.
2. A list of some of your legislative goals for 1985. What are the one or two most important issues facing your industry that the Legislature will deal with?
3. Some legislative history. Important bills of yours in the last two sessions. Any evaluation or rating of how well specific legislators worked with you.

Your help in elevating the level of this year's political discourse in Texas would be deeply appreciated.

Sincerely,

Kevin Moomaw bmt

Kevin Moomaw  
Political Director

KM/bmt

P.S. I realize the special session will be occupying most of your time but your timely reply would be greatly appreciated.



JUN 11 1984

Dear Mr. Congressman:

The Republican Party of Texas has 21 legislative candidates this year. Some of them are new at being candidates and might not be as knowledgeable as they should be about matters of importance to your association or industry.

There are also two F&I, which are objective publications containing background information on two of our current studies. In an attempt to prevent this, we're going to be sending our candidates packets of issue information to help them become better informed. We need your help and expertise to accomplish this task in order to inform them of issues that are critical to your legislative package. Therefore, we would like you to provide us the following information so that we may distribute it to our candidates.

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Your help in elevating the level of this year's political discourse in Texas would be greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

Kevin Johnson  
Political Director

KJM:mt

P.S. I realize the attached section will be occupying most of your time but your timely reply would be greatly appreciated.



Chairman

HON. WILLIAM M. BULGER  
President  
The Senate, Massachusetts

Vice Chairman

HON. MARY McCLURE  
President Pro Tem  
The Senate, South Dakota

President

STEPHEN G. LAKIS

Directors

HON. STANLEY J. ARONOFF  
Assistant Minority Leader  
The Senate, Ohio

HON. WILLIAM A. BABLITCH  
President Pro Tem  
The Senate, Wisconsin

HON. WILLIE LEWIS BROWN, JR.  
Speaker  
The Assembly, California

HON. MICHAEL J. BUSCH  
Minority Leader  
House of Representatives, Michigan

HON. JOHN PAUL DOYLE  
Majority Leader  
House of Representatives, New Jersey

HON. DANIEL D. DRAPER, JR.  
Speaker  
House of Representatives, Oklahoma

HON. STANLEY FINK  
Speaker  
The Assembly, New York

HON. ART H. HAMILTON  
Minority Leader  
House of Representatives, Arizona

HON. TISH KELLY  
Speaker  
House of Representatives, North Dakota

HON. GIBSON D. (GIB) LEWIS  
Speaker  
House of Representatives, Texas

HON. JAMES J. MANDERINO  
Majority Leader  
House of Representatives, Pennsylvania

HON. JOHN L. MARTIN  
Speaker  
House of Representatives, Maine

HON. THOMAS B. MURPHY  
Speaker  
House of Representatives, Georgia

HON. PHILIP J. ROCK  
President  
The Senate, Illinois

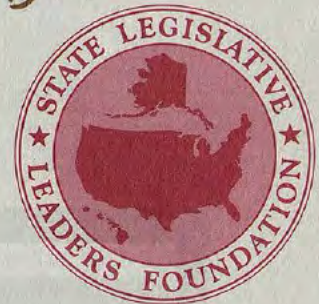
HON. IRVING J. STOLBERG  
Speaker  
House of Representatives, Connecticut

HON. JOHN B. TUCKER  
Speaker  
House of Representatives, New Hampshire

HON. RICHARD S. H. WONG  
President  
The Senate, Hawaii

JUL 22 1983

EB



250 BOYLSTON STREET  
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02116  
(617) 267-8120 TELEX 703363

July 13, 1983

Dear League Official:

In September, 1983, we will be publishing a major new reference book called The Handbook of State Legislative Leaders. It will have more than 300 pages of information on the principal aspects of each state's government and politics. One of the most important features of the Handbook will be a section containing biographical and political information about the key legislative leaders in each state legislature (Senate President, Speaker, majority and minority leaders). Each biography will be accompanied by a photo of the senator or representative.

Complementing these biographies will be information describing each legislature's law making process, committee organization, open meeting laws, lobbying laws, and campaign finance provisions.

We have received a great deal of this information from various offices in each state legislature. Some of the information, notably that dealing with campaign finance laws, lobbying, and open meetings, has been more difficult to obtain. Because the League of Women Voters is so often in the forefront of legislative reform we would greatly appreciate any assistance you might give us in securing this information from your state.

Our publication deadline is rapidly approaching so we would appreciate hearing from you as soon as possible. Thank you for your kind assistance. If you have any questions please feel free to call our Research Staff office at (617) 362-8734, 9 am - 5 pm (EST) Monday through Friday.


Very truly yours,

*Stephen G. Lakis*  
Stephen G. Lakis  
President

SGL/mv

P.S. Enclosed is a list of information we need about your state legislature.



- 
- \_\_\_\_\_ Roster of committee chairmen
  - \_\_\_\_\_ Any descriptive information on your state's law-making process (e.g. citizen's guides, etc.)
  - \_\_\_\_\_ Lobbying Laws
  - \_\_\_\_\_ Campaign Finance Laws
  - \_\_\_\_\_ Open Meeting Laws
  - \_\_\_\_\_ Legislative Directories (names, addresses, phone numbers of key legislative staff, committee chairmen, etc.)
  - \_\_\_\_\_ Rules Manual
  - \_\_\_\_\_ Freedom of Information Act

If you will be so kind as to return this information to us at your earliest convenience, we would be most appreciative. Also, please bill us for any materials for which there is a charge.

Many thanks for your assistance.



August 1, 1983

Mr. Stephen G. Lakis  
President, State Legislative Leaders Foundation  
[REDACTED]

Dear Mr. Lakis:

The information which you need for your handbook is available from state agencies in Austin. I recommend your calling the Legislative Council, [REDACTED], or the Secretary of State's office [REDACTED]. I am afraid the League of Women Voters hasn't the staff or the resources to accede to your request.

Sincerely,

Evelyn Bonavita  
Legislative Director





August 1, 1983

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President, State Legislative Leaders Foundation  
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Evelyn Bonavita  
Legislative Director





SPEAKER of THE HOUSE

**Gibson D. (Gib) Lewis**

May 25, 1983

Evelyn Bonavita  
[REDACTED]

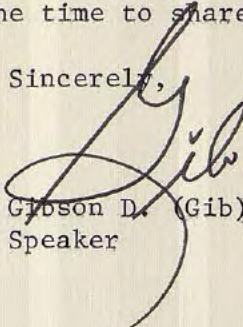
Dear Ms. Bonavita:

I certainly want to thank you for testifying before the Committee on Elections on April 19 regarding House Joint Resolution 17.

Your interest in the legislative process will ensure that Texas' elected officials are provided with your input and ultimately adopt legislation for the best interest of all Texans.

Again, thank you for taking the time to share your views.

Sincerely,

  
Gibson D. (Gib) Lewis  
Speaker

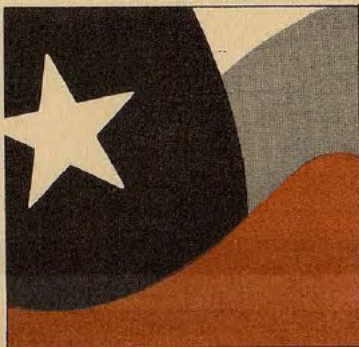
GDL/dcm

THE TEXAS HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

P.O. BOX 2910 • AUSTIN, TEXAS 78769 • 512-475-3311







DC  
LC  
EP  
LO -

League of Women Voters of Texas  
1212 Guadalupe Suite 109 • Austin, Texas 78701 • Tel. 512/472-1100

May 6, 1983

Dear Editorial Board:

The League of Women Voters of Texas is extremely pleased that the Senate this week passed all eight components of the "Water for Texas" package. For many years the League, as well as other public interest groups, has been working for this kind of balanced approach to the state's water problems. We agree with Lubbock Senator John Montford, who calls the package "the most comprehensive water program that's ever been attempted in the state of Texas."

The proposed constitutional amendments and bills comprising this package are expected to be heard in the House Natural Resources Committee on May 10. The League is committed to prompt passage of these proposals, without amendments that would weaken provisions for water conservation or for protection of natural resources.

We would appreciate your editorial support of this important legislation.

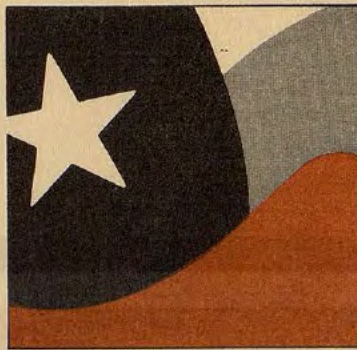
Sincerely,

Diana Clark  
President

Catherine Perrine  
Director for Water

Enclosures





DC  
LC  
EP  
LO -

League of Women Voters of Texas  
1212 Guadalupe Suite 109 • Austin, Texas 78701 • Tel. 512/472-1100

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Sincerely,

Diana Clark  
President

Catherine Perrine  
Director for Water

Enclosures



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Sincerely,

Diana Clark  
President

Catherine Perrine  
Director for Water

Enclosures



May 3, 1983

Mohn A. Littleton, Esq.  
[REDACTED]

Dear Mr. Littleton:

We received your interesting letter today and thought perhaps you hadn't taken into account the condition of the U.S. Mail service when you were awaiting replies from your legislators. Of course, some legislators are new at the job and some have, unfortunately, inexperienced staffs, too. But these are not really excuses for not answering letters from constituents.

May I suggest a follow-up note mentioning the fact that you had not received an answer to your previous communication? If this brings no result, a letter to the newspaper in the legislator's home city might be effective.

Sincerely,

Evelyn Bonavita  
Legislative Director

EB:djm



*Comes to L.O.*

ROBERT A. WEBB

APR 27 1983

LC  
2-✓LO  
BMc

April 20, 1983

Dear Colleague

*SB 244 (Washington)*  
H.B. 419, the Equal Access to Justice Act, will provide a mechanism whereby the system for funding legal services for the poor does not come to a halt with the cutbacks in Federal funds. Passage of this bill is an important step in maintaining the integrity of the justice system in Texas.

I urge you to write your State Representative in support of this all important measure. I have enclosed a copy of a fact sheet describing the program that would be set up and I encourage you to contact me if you have any questions.

Incidentally, this proposed legislation has already passed the Senate, by more than a 2/3 vote. We expect more spirited opposition in the House.

With Best Regards,

*Bob Webb*

Bob Webb, Chairman  
State Bar Committee on  
Legal Services to the  
Indigent in Civil Matters

RAW:127



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## FACT SHEET — EQUAL ACCESS TO JUSTICE ACT

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### What is the Equal Access to Justice Act?

It is a bill which is presently pending before the State Legislature which would require client funds entrusted to attorneys which are nominal in amount or which are to be held for a short period of time to be deposited into a single Negotiable Order of Withdrawal (NOW) or interest-bearing account. In other states, this is called an IOLTA (or "interest on lawyers' trust accounts") program.

### Where would the interest money go?

It would be distributed under regulations prescribed by the Texas Supreme Court to law-related public interest activities, such as civil legal assistance to the poor, through a not-for-profit corporation, whose directors are selected by the Court.

### Why is it necessary?

The immediate need is to develop a plan to fund legal aid for the poor in civil cases in view of the reductions in and possible elimination of federal funding for such services. Commencing in 1981, at a time when legal services entities in Texas had some 45,000 to 50,000 docketed cases in Texas, federal funding available for such services was reduced by 25%. The current Administration's policy is to eliminate all funding for the Legal Services Corporation as of October 1, 1983. Unlike criminal matters, there is no constitutional requirement entitling indigent persons to counsel in civil cases. Therefore, alternative sources of funding must be found if we are to ensure equal access to justice to all regardless of a person's economic status.

### How would the program work?

Monies entrusted to a law firm in trust by its several clients (which are nominal in amount or are to be held for a short period of time) would be placed in a single pooled deposit account as is ordinarily done today. Different from current practice, however, this would be an interest-bearing account, conforming to a special ruling of the Federal Reserve System which specifically allows accrual and payment of interest on the account balance, providing it is distributed for IOLTA purposes. The bank or savings institution would calculate interest on the minimum or average level of total deposit in the trust account. The accumulated interest would then be directly remitted by the financial institution on a regular, periodic basis to the not-for-profit corporation which is authorized under the law to distribute funds to organizations to provide civil legal assistance to the poor, to improve the administration of justice or to provide for other law-related pro-

grams for public purposes approved by the Texas Supreme Court and which benefit the public.

### Who benefits from the program?

Only the individual persons receiving the civil legal assistance and the general public.

### Is it legal?

Yes, while this is a new idea in Texas, a similar program has already been adopted in seven other states, and is in actual operation in Florida, New Hampshire and Maryland. All of these states have already received favorable rulings from the Internal Revenue Service and the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System.

### Does such a plan take "property" from clients?

The Supreme Courts of five states have held that it does not do so in the Constitutional sense ... because "interest" paid upon such pooled accounts is something which clients may not and cannot receive in any event. An IOLTA plan simply permits the capture of interest from a multi-party trust account which neither the lawyer nor any individual client can themselves obtain. The program is not meant to utilize interest money from all client trust deposits — only those nominal in amount or held for short periods of time. If the deposit is of different size or kind so that the interest is in an amount which is meaningful to an individual client then, of course, the sum can and should be set aside in a separate interest-bearing account so that the client may benefit therefrom.

### Will it cost the attorneys anything to participate?

No, the only change in procedure for attorneys would be the execution of two or three forms to establish the NOW account.

### Where can you learn more about the Equal Access to Justice Act?

The January 1983 issue of the Texas Bar Journal has two articles:

"Interest on Lawyers' Trust Accounts Act: A Funding Source for Civil Legal Services" by VaLinda Hathcox on page 54; and

"A Proposed New Revenue Source for Legal Services in Texas" by Randall C. Berg, Jr., and Orrin W. Johnson on page 57.



April 11, 1983

Gay Erwin  
Governor's Office  
[REDACTED]

Dear Gay:

This is the list of members of the League of Women Voters of Texas whom we recommend for the Women's Commission, restricting the list to women living outside Austin. Thank you for asking us for our nominations.

Virginia B. Whitehill  
[REDACTED]

~~Scherel Carver~~

Lois Carpenter  
[REDACTED]

Scherel Carver  
[REDACTED]

Lavora Arizaga  
[REDACTED]

Barbara Materka  
[REDACTED]

Sue Sloos  
[REDACTED]

Nita Sue Kent  
[REDACTED]

Ellen Mendoza  
[REDACTED]

Elma Hennies  
[REDACTED]

Ruth Lauer  
[REDACTED]

Carol Pino  
[REDACTED]

Sincerely,

Evelyn Bonatita  
Legislative Director

EB:djm



TO: Program Directors and Associate Directors

March 25, 1983

FROM: Lois Carpenter and Evelyn Bonavita

RE: Legislative Session and Newsletter

It is rumored there will be some sort of Easter break for the legislature, and the dates are now pretty definite: Thursday, March 31 through Monday, April 4. Be forewarned that many committees may not be meeting regularly next week, and House and Senate will not meet after Wednesday.

We plan to produce a newsletter almost as usual but intend to do so on Thursday as the state office, as well as the legislature, will be taking Good Friday off, and the newsletter staff (Debi and Evelyn) would like to, too. Would you please help with this effort by getting your articles in by Wednesday at noon.

We hope to be able to include the advocacy paper on merit selection of judges in next week's newsletter--which we think might be slim. It has had some printing problems, but should be done early next week in Denton.

As regards clearing testimony with Lois and Diana, you can skip it if it is "recycled" testimony already given to another committee and you are not making any substantive changes.

Be thinking about when you want Action Alerts. We want only one per director if at all possible--actually only about six during the session and on our priority items. However, we can indicate a time for action in any one of the newsletters.

Now that the vast majority of bills have been filed we would like for you to narrow down the list of bills you plan to track and want the Legislative Office to follow, too. Make it not more than 10, please! It would be most helpful if you assign them a priority--1, 2 or 3. Then be sure to send the list to the L.O., Lois, and Diana, preferably by April 4.

One last thought--be sure that all sponsors of bills you are supporting have been informed of our support!

And many thanks for all your hard work.



CITY OF FORT WORTH, TEXAS



HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION  
1000 THROCKMORTON STREET  
FORT WORTH, TEXAS 76102  
870-7525 / AREA CODE 817

March 14, 1983

Ms. Evelyn Bonvita  
League of Women Voters of Texas  
[REDACTED]

Dear Ms. Bonvita:

I wish to express my deep appreciation for your testimony on behalf of Senate Bill 605, establishing a Texas Commission on Human Rights. Based on the Committee vote of eleven "Ayes" and no "Nays", your testimony had a significant impact.

We would anticipate a floor vote in the Senate sometime during the week of March 21st. Your continued support through contact with your respective Senator prior to the floor vote can be extremely valuable.

Sincerely,

Mr. William M. Hale  
Executive Director  
Fort Worth Human Relations Commission

WMH/ya





TO: Program Directors and Associate Directors

March 13, 1983

FROM: Evelyn Bonavita

IN RE: Legislative Newsletter and Legislature

Some reminders and some new decisions:

Deadline for newsletter is Wednesday--at a pinch you can call up on Thursday and expect a cordial reception. But Debi leaves at 2:00 on Thursday and Friday is the day for production. As the newsletter gets longer, it takes us longer to physically produce it, so please let us have your copy before Thursday at noon.

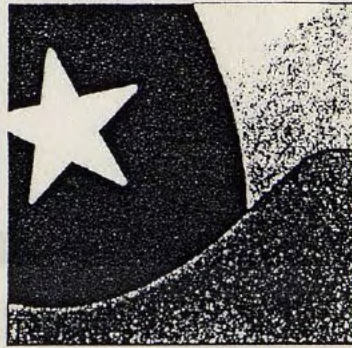
If you are calling with testimony to be given and want Debi to take it down over the phone, this is fine with us (provided it is not in the middle of newsletter days). However, all testimony must be cleared with either Diana or Lois, so please do this before you call us.

We have a list of dozens of bills to track now and would appreciate it if you could call the toll-free number (1-800-252-9693) if you have a particular one or two (eight or ten) you are vitally interested in. We are sent notices of committee meetings with all bills listed, but I am discovering that, especially in the House, these lists are by no means exhaustive. The people at the bill information number won't give out information on more than ten bills at one time so it takes Debi quite a while to inventory her list. Sometimes, the bill sponsor can give more information about exactly what's happening on the bill than you can discover elsewhere.

Something I have noticed now that the House is starting to move is that most bills are assigned to subcommittees. Subcommittees don't seem to have to post their meeting times--at least where anyone is looking. This means that we have to call the subcommittee chair's office and ask. So please be patient if it looks as if your important legislation is being lost between the cracks.

Other than that, everything is running quite well and you are, one and all, great and wonderful and knowledgeable people.





League of Women Voters of Texas  
1212 Guadalupe Suite 109 • Austin, Texas 78701 • Tel. 512 472-1100

March 15, 1983

Phyllis Frye  
[REDACTED]

Dear Phyllis:

Concerning SB 605:

Since we have no position on sexual orientation, we do not feel it is appropriate for us to contact the legislators you mentioned.

However, we probably could lobby for the bill if such language were included.

Sincerely,

Evelyn Bonavita  
Legislative Director

EB:djm

cc: Diana Clark  
Lois Carpenter  
Barbara McCormick





5707 Firenza  
Houston, Tx 77035  
9 March 83

MAR 10 1983

713 / 723-8368

League of Women Voters of Texas  
1212 Guadalupe , # 109  
Austin, Texas 78701

ATTN: ~~Diana Clark~~  
~~Lois Carpenter~~  
~~Evelyn Bonavita~~  
Barbara McCormick

Subject: Lobbying on HB 293 / SB 605 to include "sexual orientation"

After a conversation with Jeanette Vanderwater and Lavora Arizaga on our return trip from yesterday's lobby day, I wanted to inform you of my lobbying for your clarification or verification. I actively lobbied with Olivia Walker of Sen Washington, Senator Doggett personally, Jim Dodds of Sen Farabee, Pat of Rep Danburg and Steve Bresnen of Rep Ragsdale--principle sponsor--on the so-called state EEOC legislation.

I told them that, according to my personal interpretation of my conversation with Barbara McCormick, that LWV-T had a "laundry list" of protected classes in its positions. Although sexual orientation was not in the LWV-T laundry list, such inclusion in a legislative laundry list would pose no problem with LWV-T. I also told them to verify this with LWV-T. On the return bus trip, Lavora informed me that the LWV-T laundry list doesn't include several other of the classifications in the proposed bills. Even so, LWV-T supports HB 293 / SB 605.

Lavora surmized that LWV-T could not actively lobby to include the classification of sexual orientation into the bill. However, once such language was included, LWV-T could support the entire bill. In other words, she and I felt that LWV-T could not lobby for an amendment to specifically include sexual orientation, BUT LWV-T should lobby for the amended bill that included sexual orientation.

Please discuss and notify those folks in the first paragraph and myself.

Thanks for a terrific day in Austin,

  
Phyllis Frye



*Carres. to Leg. office*

FEB 10 1983

Feb 9

Evelyn

Damn I still haven't found that citizenship bill. But it's pouring here and maybe confinement will get me moving this afternoon. The two you sent on are not what I recall, but I may have read thing too quickly on the first go around.

I am terminally confused and have undoubtedly asked this before and don't remember but do we know if the Election Code recodification has been filed? I'm sure it's a monster if it has and what do we do about that. Can't believe that falls in our service's price. I have the prior version and there may not be any changes as between the two if we could confirm that.

Forgotten question - who of us needs to register as lobbyist and do you take care of that? So far, it's not even relevant to what I've been doing but anything could happen of course.

Anxiously awaiting Newsletter to see what if anything in government the Executive Committee got excited about.

Hope you're holding up well. Austin seems quiet from down here but know it can't look that way up there.

Thought I'd do all the makeup I could on legislative day but husband informs he's gone that week and I've not yet figured out how these kids get delivered and picked up. None of my neighbors is standing in line for that 5:30 am run. I'm mulling.

Lynne



*Correc. from L.O.*

February 10, 1983

Mr. Douglas W. White  
[REDACTED]

Dear Mr. White:

The League of Women Voters of Texas is a volunteer organization with one full-time secretary and two part-time secretaries. We do not have any openings for help at this time, and our state office, where my office is, is here in Austin, which would not serve you very well in Houston.

However, one of our volunteer program chairmen, Ms. Barbara McCormick, lives in Houston. Her specialty is human resources, and I think that she might know what organizations would be available to you in your area. I am forwarding your letter to her and I hope she will be able to help you, or perhaps let you know of agencies in Houston which can be of help to you.

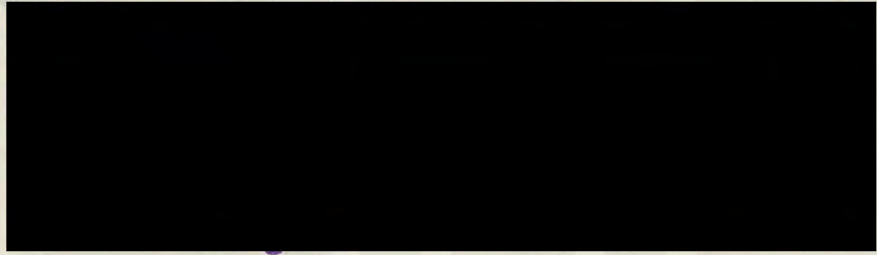
Sincerely,

Evelyn Bonavita  
Legislative Director



C. v. Lynn - pls. send a  
legislative packet to:  
~~Attn: House Study Group~~

House Study Group





## Texas Legal Services Center

500 West 13th  
Austin, Texas 78701  
(512) 477-4562

Clinton Cross  
Director

OCT 28 1982

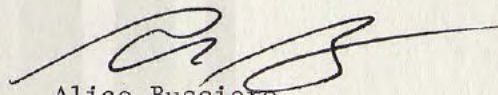
October 27, 1982

Evelyn Bonavita  
Legislative Director  
League of Women Voters  
of Texas  
Suite 109  
1212 Guadalupe  
Austin, Tx. 78701

Dear Ms. Bonavita:

Please keep me informed about your work on legislative priorities in the areas of Human Resources, Energy, Women Under Texas Law and Government. I would also appreciate it if you would send me copies of the Advocacy papers on Block Grants Merit Selection of Judges and Post-Divorce Payments when they are available. Thank you.

Very truly yours,



Alice Bussiere

AB:lm



over.

January 17, 1983

Ms. Becky Sykes  
[REDACTED]

Dear Becky:

Thanks for the interviews. As you will hear, Legislative Day (due to Texas Law Center's not being available) has been moved to Tuesday March 8. Hope this isn't too inconvenient; it was irritatingly unavoidable. There will be a reception, 4:30-6:00, for our legislators, as well as time to have lunch if you'd like to arrange this.

More information on the agenda will be forthcoming soon.

By the way, I couldn't find the background information you said you'd enclosed on making Dallas Municipal Courts into courts of record. Could you look into this and see if you have it there?

Sincerely,

Evelyn Bonavita  
Legislative Director, League of Women Voters of Texas

EB:dm

®



6077

January 17, 1983

Mrs. Ernestine Mullinax  
[REDACTED]

Dear Mrs. Mullinax:

Thank you for your letter on the election of judges. I am sending a copy of it, as well as your husband's comments, to our program Chairman in Houston, Lavora Arizaga, whose portfolio covers our position on the subject.

We will be publishing an advocacy paper on our position which I will be happy to send you as soon as we have it.

Sincerely,

Evelyn Bonavita  
Legislative Director, League of Women Voters of Texas

EB:dm

®



*Correspondence*

JAN 12 1983

January 12, 1983

League of Women Voters  
of Texas  
1212 Guadalupe  
No. 109  
Austin, Texas 78701

Attention: Ms. Evelyn Bonavita,  
Legislative Director

Dear Ms. Bonavita:

I have your newsletter of January 1, 1983 and noticed your comments about bills concerning the election of judges. I heartily agree with the League on the matter of non-partisan election of judges, feeling that there is no merit over the present system in that respect. However, I call your attention to a position that my husband has taken before the Select Committee of the House about the election of district judges. I enclose a copy of his remarks before that Committee.

Before the League sets its position in concrete, I hope that they would give careful consideration to the arguments my husband made as I believe they are merited. This would indeed get rid of the long ballot and make a judge responsible for a single member district voter.

Also, enclosed is my check in the amount of \$10.00 to obtain a copy of your newsletter during the legislative year.

Sincerely yours,

*Mrs. Ernestine Mullinax*

Mrs. Otto B. Mullinax

/klp  
Encl.

*Ernestine Mullinax*

inv. # 3715



January 14, 1983

Senator Lloyd Doggett  
[REDACTED]

Dear Senator Doggett:

Thank you so much for arranging seats for our board members at the opening day ceremony of the Senate. All of us enjoyed the festivity and extend our best wishes to you for a successful session.

Sincerely,

Diana Clark  
President, League of Women Voters of Texas

DC:dm



January 31, 1983

Dear Legislator:

We are enclosing copies of four advocacy papers on subjects we hope will be of interest to you:

- \* Alimony: Help for a Former Spouse
- \* Resource Recovery
- \* Appropriation of State Funds for Supportive Services for Persons in Need
- \* Ratification of the District of Columbia Constitutional Amendment.

We have presented arguments on the merits of legislation on these issues.

In addition, we are also sending you our brochure, Legislative Priorities 1983, which lists the primary issues the League of Women Voters of Texas intends to pursue during this session. We ask for your serious consideration of these priorities.

If there is other information on these issues that you would like to have, please let us know.

Best wishes for success during this session.

Sincerely,

*Diana Clark*

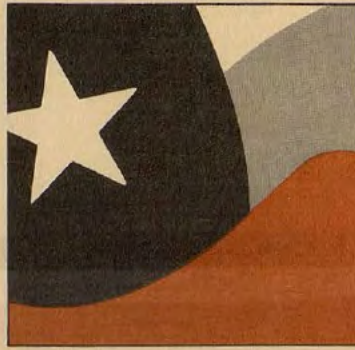
Diana Clark  
President

DC:djm/enc

*Evelyn Bonavita*

Evelyn Bonavita  
Legislative Director





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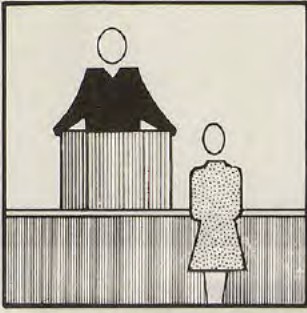
Diana Clark  
President

*Evelyn Bonavita*

Evelyn Bonavita  
Legislative Director

DC:djm/enc





# WOMEN UNDER TEXAS LAW

# ADVOCACY PAPER

## ALIMONY: HELP FOR A FORMER SPOUSE

The League of Women Voters of Texas believes justice demands that Texas laws be changed to enable a court to order post-divorce support payments from one spouse to another in appropriate cases.

The word "alimony" comes from the Latin "alimonia" meaning "sustenance." It usually refers to court-ordered support and maintenance of a former spouse. Alimony "pendente lite" (during the pendency of the suit) is payments ordered by the court after the suit is filed which are to be paid to a spouse until the final hearing.

Texas is the only state in the union that does not allow court-ordered support of a former spouse in any circumstance without the consent of the payer. Although a Texas divorce court can order "alimony pendente lite" described above, called temporary alimony, it cannot order a person to support an ex-spouse after the divorce unless both spouses agree in writing and unless that agreement is incorporated into the divorce decree. Such agreements are extremely rare.

Alimony is never awarded automatically in any state. Some factors that are considered in determining whether or not to award alimony as well as how much and for how long are:

- the economic position, income, and earning capacity of each spouse
- the length of the marriage
- the age and health of each spouse

### PERMANENT ALIMONY

In other states, there are two major types of court-ordered post-divorce spousal support payments—permanent alimony and rehabilitative alimony. "Permanent" in this context does not mean forever. Permanent alimony is usually ordered to be paid until the recipient dies, or remarries, or enters into a relationship that appears to be a marital relationship (declarations to the contrary notwithstanding). Permanent alimony is awarded to a spouse who is shown to be permanently unable to become self-sustaining. Circumstances which would merit permanent alimony are:

- One spouse has
  - few financial resources
  - little or no income-producing property
  - little or no earning power because of lack of skills, education or experience in the work force
  - no reasonable expectation of being able to rectify these deficiencies

and the other spouse has more than sufficient financial resources, income, or earning ability.

Examples of appropriate cases for permanent alimony are:

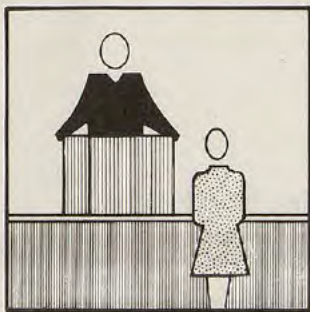
- A 55 year-old wife with a high-school education, 35 years of marriage. She has never worked outside the home, has no separate property, and very little community property to be divided.
- A 40 year-old spouse, married 20 years, is now legally blind, with no employable skills and no other resources.

### REHABILITATIVE ALIMONY

Rehabilitative alimony assumes either a previous potential or actual capacity for self-support which has been underdeveloped or completely lost during the marriage. It is usually (but not always) more appropriate if the couple is young and the marriage has been of relatively short







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duration. The needy spouse must be able to develop or redevelop capability for self-support. Rehabilitative alimony, sometimes called "reimbursement", is awarded in cases (1):

- where one spouse is not now prepared for gainful employment
- or has skills which have deteriorated from disuse on account of the marriage
- or has suffered delay in education or career advancement because of the marriage
- or has suffered some other economic detriment from his or her contribution to the marriage

and (2):

- where post-divorce payments will make it possible for the recipient to prepare for employment
- or will augment the spouse's income until financial loss caused by the postponement of education and career goals has been reimbursed.

Examples of appropriate cases for rehabilitative alimony:

- A 25-year-old wife with a high-school education, no work experience outside the home, and three children, ages six, four and two
- A 30-year-old spouse who deferred his or her education to work as a clerk-typist or warehouseman-truckdriver in order to finance the college and medical-school education of the other spouse
- A spouse with professional training and some experience who interrupted his or her career for ten years to rear the children of the marriage.

The length of time for payment of rehabilitative alimony will vary according to each case, depending on the abilities and goals of the spouses. One or two years might be sufficient for completing a specific training course or getting established in the working world. Payments for up to eight years or more might be necessary for professional accreditation or for allowing a spouse to care for the children until they reach age 18. The length of the marriage always has to be considered. Alimony should never be paid for a longer time than the marriage has lasted. Some people believe that *no* rehabilitative alimony should be awarded for more than five years, regardless of the length of the marriage.

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At present the laws of Texas do not permit court-ordered post-divorce support payments in any case, no matter what the length of the marriage, how dire the need of one of the spouses, or how unequal the resources of the spouses. In these days of no-fault divorce this can mean that an aging ill spouse who has devoted a lifetime to home and family can be cast off like an old shoe, or that a young spouse who has spent several years promoting the education and career of the other will have to start a new life far behind his or her contemporaries. More and more Texans see this as a gross injustice, and together with the League of Women Voters of Texas are calling for a change in Texas laws enabling courts to order post-divorce support payments when it is appropriate.

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# SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT

## NEEDED: COMPREHENSIVE RESOURCE RECOVERY LEGISLATION

Texas needs comprehensive legislation to provide for municipal solid waste management and resource recovery. None now exists, even though an experimental period of some fifteen years has proved that American industry is capable of providing reliable resource recovery systems.

What we do have is extensive legislation to provide management and control of existing solid waste sites; to require and issue permits for such sites; to allow counties to acquire and operate solid waste disposal systems; and to permit a governmental entity to acquire or construct a resource recovery system for lease or sale. But these laws are not comprehensive.

A proposed act entitled "Comprehensive Municipal Solid Waste Management and Resource Recovery and Conservation Act" is different from existing solid waste laws and would provide complete statutes for statewide application.

The concept of resource recovery is not new. Successful municipally controlled mass burning facilities have operated in Europe for many years. What is new, and what should be kept in mind, is that resource recovery technology for America is a proven concept and can be applied in Texas today.

Public preference for the concept of resource recovery was demonstrated in the 1980 statewide public hearings on solid waste. A majority of participants favored requiring resource recovery studies prior to approving landfills. Landfill permit hearings also bear out this preference.

The United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) found that resource recovery efforts rapidly accelerated in states where political support was evident. A distinct, strongly-supported policy on resource recovery by the state legislature and the Governor is necessary for statewide implementation of resource recovery.

### WASTE OUTGROWS POPULATION

The problems faced by state and local governments in controlling and managing waste in Texas grow more complex each year. From 1920 to 1980 our state population doubled, but the solid waste generated increased five times. We dispose of an average of 5.2 pounds of municipal solid waste per person in the state each day, and the total generation rate per year is expected to equal some 17 million tons by 1985.

Over 1800 acres are used each year by landfills. Approximately 23,000 acres are currently under permit, and these acres will be lost to development until well after the turn of the century. While land in Texas is not scarce, acreage suitable for landfill purposes near metropolitan areas is becoming difficult to acquire. Siting battles are often bitter and divisive. We all want proper solid waste disposal but "not in our backyard." Rural residents do not want urban garbage dumped in their area.

Litigation and court challenges by citizens' groups add to the bitter emotional struggles over landfill sites. The state surveillance and enforcement program in 1981 indicated that of 1965 landfill inspections, 75% of the facilities showed significant violations of Health Department regulations.

### RESOURCE RECOVERY: A SOLUTION

Obviously, a better solution to solid waste disposal must be found, and the preferred alternative is

ADVOCACY PAPER





resource recovery. A resource recovery facility can be situated on a small parcel of land in a central location. An ideal spot is in an industrial park, where steam or electricity produced by the facility can be used by a neighboring manufacturing plant. The use of electrostatic precipitators, scrubbers, or after-burners keeps air pollution to a minimum; landfill use is dramatically reduced; and burning reduces the problems of disease carriers, leachate, and visual and odor pollution.

Texas lags far behind in resource-recovery facilities. It is time that we provide incentives to establish better disposal operations. There are more than 87 cities in standard metropolitan statistical areas of the state that are of sufficient size to support a resource-recovery system. **These cities could process over 25,000 tons of waste per day, producing daily an energy equivalent of almost 10,000 tons of coal or about 40,000 barrels of oil.** There are also communities outside these areas with populations of 10,000 or more which could provide opportunities for development of energy recovery systems. For these small rural areas, a system might cost \$1,500,000. The city of Waxahachie has just completed a waste-to-energy system for \$2.2 million. With a resource recovery facility, some of the cost is offset by the sale of energy to industry.

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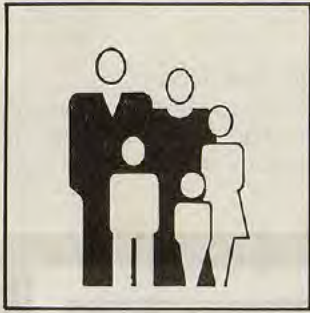
Texas faces many problems which threaten the quality of life, problems which have no ready solution. Municipal solid waste has a solution. The time for resource recovery is now! The 68th Legislature can make resource recovery a reality in Texas by supporting the "Comprehensive Municipal Solid Waste Management and Resource Recovery and Conservation Act."

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# HUMAN RESOURCES

## ACT NOW: INCREASE STATE APPROPRIATIONS FOR HUMAN SERVICES

To compensate for reduced federal funding the League of Women Voters of Texas advocates the appropriation of state funds for supportive services for persons in need.

The Federal Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1981 consolidated 57 specifically defined federal categorical grants for human services into nine broad block grants of federal money to the states. At the same time, severe budget cuts reduced federal spending for almost all social programs. The intent was clear: to reduce federal responsibility for both funding and program requirements. Shifting health and human resource programs to state and local control began in fiscal year (FY) 1981. There are still many policy decisions to be made, but the funding responsibility is obvious: state and local dollars for human services must be increased through the 1980's.

Federal funding for human resource programs has been considerably reduced for Texas since 1981. Included are those programs that have been folded into a block grants: Social Services Block Grant (Title XX), 17% less; Community Services Block Grant, reduced 18%; Preventive Health Block Grant, 14% less; Maternal and Child Health Block Grant, cut 17%; Alcohol, Drug Abuse, and Mental Health, down 30%; and Community Health Centers (Primary Care Block Grant), 25% less.

State human service agencies who rely heavily upon federal funds have lost millions of dollars for FY 1982-83. As a result of these substantial cuts, thousands of impoverished Texans lost benefits and services. At this time, most of the agencies' legislative budget requests for the FY 1984-85 Biennium include a number of areas in which the state funds requested will replace the lessened federal amounts. For example, much of the Texas Department of Human Resources' (TDHR) budget request centers around restoring those Title XX Social Services Block Grant programs in FY 1984-85 to the service and staff levels that were originally assumed in FY 1982-83 and rather than requesting a supplement to maintain services for drug abuse, The Department of Community Affairs (TDCA) is seeking state appropriations to effectively implement the McAllister Act. This act passed by the Texas Legislature in 1979 mandates a comprehensive system of drug abuse services; but no funds were appropriated.

To counteract cuts in the entitlement programs such as Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC), TDHR has proposed an increase in state funds for AFDC caseloads and benefits by updating the Standard of Need from the one established in 1969. The federal cuts reduced the Texas AFDC caseload by 15%; revision of the state's Standard of Need could increase caseloads by at least 5%. TDHR is also proposing to combine the special payment with the individual monthly AFDC grant in 1984-85 because of a change in federal regulations that would count the special payment as gross income. However, only in TDHR's highest level income assistance budget request would the loss of the special payments be offset and all AFDC families be given an increase in total AFDC benefits. The lowest three levels of budget request would reduce total AFDC payments. The highest level would increase the maximum monthly payment to a family of four from the current \$141.00 to \$191.00 which would be equal to 20% of the poverty level income. Adoption of this level of state expenditure would meet 31.75% of the 1982 Standard of Need.

In many instances, agencies have not only asked the legislature for replacement funds because of the New Federalism policies but have also asked for additional state revenues to move beyond the 1981 levels of funding in order to meet the dire need for human services in Texas. The League of Women Voters supports these budget proposals.

Tragically, even with the highest level of proposed agency budgets and with the proposed increase of state funding, the state agencies will meet only a minimum percentage of the needs of children, the disabled, and elderly for supportive and protective services in the 1984-85 Biennium. After a

# ADVOCACY PAPER





needs assessment for each program, state departments determine the number of people that have incomes below 47-55% of the state median income (\$23,416) and that need supportive services. Agencies then submit a four level (four being the highest) budget request. Following is a chart of a few state program areas (using combined federal and state funds) with the 1984 need figures (eligible) determined by the state and the actual number of clients proposed by the state to be served under budget levels 2 and 4 in 1984.

| DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN RESOURCES PROGRAMS  | Eligible | To be served under |         |
|---|----------|--------------------|---------|
|   |          | level 2            | level 4 |
| <b>Protective Services</b>  |          |                    |         |
| Children in need (at risk because of a life endangering situation)  | 505, 626 | 130,383            | 173,183 |
| <b>Day Care</b>   |          |                    |         |
| Children 0-14 years with working parents whose income is below 47% of state median income (SMI)           | 293,246  | 13,235             | 15,496  |
| <b>Family Planning</b>  |          |                    |         |
| Women age 15-44, income below 47% SMI, at risk of unintended pregnancy                                    | 727,771  | 182,047            | 245,748 |
| <b>Community Care</b>   |          |                    |         |
| Functionally impaired Adults (18-64+) below 55% SMI   | 282,646  | 35,841             | 42,796  |
| <b>DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH PROGRAMS</b>  |          |                    |         |
| <b>Crippled Children</b>  |          |                    |         |
| For physical restoration: including neurological, cancer and cystic fibrosis treatment (88% state funded) | 34,124   | 18,956             | 20,000  |

Fewer federal dollars coupled with sharply increasing pressure on state agencies for assistance as a result of high unemployment and a growing population mandates that state appropriations be increased. In recent months, there has been a dramatic increase in applications for Food Stamps and AFDC. The number of children who are victims of child abuse and neglect and who need foster care has soared. Counties are constitutionally charged with providing emergency aid for indigent people, but they are now turning away most applicants who are seeking help with utility bills, food, medical care, and housing. Texas desperately needs an AFDC Emergency Assistance program for two-parent families. This is not a temporary situation due to the economy; poverty levels are growing as the population is growing.

Texas cannot continue to fund only minimal levels of supportive and protective services. A larger portion of the state budget must be allocated for human services. Our state will never break its vicious cycle of growing poverty until effective programs are fully funded, and we move toward the philosophy of decency rather than denial.

If human resource programs are not provided by block grants or other federal funds, the League of Women Voters of Texas believes that the legislature should appropriate funding at the highest level requested by the state agencies for supportive services such as health, child care, income assistance, family planning, employment training, and legal aid. Therefore, the League of Women Voters strongly advocates increased state revenues for the retention and for the expansion of human services provided by the state for persons in need. The League urges you to act now — for increased state appropriations for human services in Texas.



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## D.C. CONGRESSIONAL REPRESENTATION

### LET WASHINGTON SPEAK

Did you know that the United States is the only country in the free world that denies representation in its national legislature to the residents of its national capital?

Our revolutionary war for independence was fought on the principle of "No Taxation without Representation." Since 1820 residents of the District of Columbia have paid federal taxes. (In fact in 1977 only one state — Alaska — had a higher per capita tax burden.) The position of the citizens of the District is a departure from our principle of representative democracy and, in fact, is our last vestige of colonialism.

The District had more armed forces personnel killed in Vietnam than eleven of the states, yet if these citizens had survived to live in the District they would have been denied representation in Congress.

With bipartisan support, the 1978 Congress agreed by two-thirds vote in each house to send to the state legislatures for ratification an amendment to the U.S. Constitution that would provide the District of Columbia full voting representation in Congress. Ten states (Connecticut, Hawaii, New Jersey, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Wisconsin, Ohio, and Oregon) have already ratified it; and now 28 more are necessary before August, 1985 to add the amendment to the Constitution.

The D.C. congressional representation amendment consists of only four brief sections:

**Section 1:** For the purposes of representation in Congress, election of the President and Vice-President, and article V of the Constitution, the District constituting the seat of government of the United States shall be treated as though it were a State.

**Section 2:** The exercise of the rights and powers conferred under this article shall be by the people of the District constituting the seat of government, and as shall be provided by the Congress.

**Section 3:** The twenty-third article of amendment to the Constitution of the United States is hereby repealed.

**Section 4:** This article shall be inoperative, unless it shall have been ratified as an amendment to the Constitution by the legislatures of three-fourths of the several States within seven years from the date of its submission.

The amendment does *not* confer statehood on the District. It is worded carefully: "For the purpose of representation . . . the District . . . shall be treated *as though* it were a state." This or similar wording is used in all other legislation applying to the United States as a whole.

The framers of the Constitution did not intend to deny representation to the residents of the District. James Madison in the Federalist Papers #43 wrote concerning the cession of the District from Maryland and Virginia: "The inhabitants of the District will find sufficient inducements of

ADVOCACY PAPER





interest to become willing parties to the cession as they will have had their voice in the election of the government which is to exercise authority over them. . . ."

The 1980 census shows the District's population to be larger than that of four of our states. Seventy percent of the employed persons in the District are in private business or professions. The thirty percent who are federal employees are only three percent of all federally-employed persons.

Since 1973 when the D.C. Home Rule legislation was passed, the District has had an elected mayor and council. All D.C. legislation, however (except emergency legislation, which has a 90-day life), must be submitted to Congress for a 30-day review; and Congress has a line-item review of the D.C. budget.

Being the nation's capital adds extra burdens to the local government. Thirty-eight percent of D.C.'s land is tax exempt. Nevertheless, the District provides police and fire protection services for the federal government, foreign embassies, and the many public demonstrations. District police back up Secret Service protection during movements of the President and Vice President. The District does receive from Congress a federal payment—18 percent of the D.C. budget in 1979—that attempts without much success to bridge the gap between the costs and benefits of being the nation's capital.

The District of Columbia does have an elected delegate to the House of Representatives who may serve and vote in committee and may speak on the floor of the House, but who has no vote on the floor of the House. The District has no representation of any kind in the Senate.

The D.C. representation amendment, when ratified, will give D.C. two senators and full voting representation in the House according to population. It will also give D.C. the right to ratify constitutional changes and will continue the District's representation in the Electoral College. The D.C. Home Rule Act will remain unchanged.

A frequently mentioned method of giving District citizens the vote is to retrocede the District to Maryland from which it was originally taken. According to the Constitution a state has the right to accept or reject any change in its boundaries; and, as neither Maryland nor the District desires retrocession, this is a highly unlikely solution. A recent letter from the leadership of the Maryland legislature to legislators in Alaska who were suggesting this alternative states, "We are not aware of a single elected official of the state who is on record, or is likely to support a retrocession proposal."

There is currently a movement toward statehood in the District of Columbia. On November 2, 1982, a proposed constitution was approved by the voters, despite widely expressed reservations that will probably mean some changes before it is presented to Congress for approval. The Statehood Party in the District is a relatively small minority party, but support for the concept of statehood has been magnified by the frustrations of District residents denied a voting voice in the Congress which has ultimate control over their destiny. At any rate the statehood process can be a very long one. District residents should not be denied their rightful representation in Congress any longer.

The issue before this session of the Texas legislature is not statehood for the District. It is the much narrower issue of representation in Congress as approved by Congress in 1978. The League of Women Voters of Texas wholeheartedly endorses ratification of this amendment, which in no way weakens congressional oversight of the District. It simply grants residents of the District of Columbia the same rights we Texans and other Americans enjoy—full representation in the U.S. Congress that makes the laws all Americans must obey.

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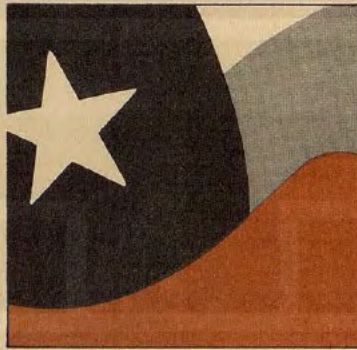
From its beginning the League of Women Voters of Texas has been concerned about the rights and responsibilities of all citizens to participate in their government. We urge that the Texas Legislature ratify the D.C. congressional representation amendment.

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Published by the League of Women Voters of Texas  
1212 Guadalupe #109 Austin, Texas 78701  
(512) 472 1100  
January 1983 10/\$1.00 (5% sales tax)





League of Women Voters of Texas  
1212 Guadalupe Suite 109 • Austin, Texas 78701 • Tel. 512/472-1100

January 31, 1983

Dear Legislator:

We are enclosing copies of four advocacy papers on subjects we hope will be of interest to you:

- \* Alimony: Help for a Former Spouse
- \* Resource Recovery



Debi-

SB 378

Then mail it to

Cleaner Sutherland  
On State Bd.



1. J.E. "Buster" Brown : NO
2. John Leedom : NO
3. Bob MS Farland: NO (Wa. should annex)
4. John Montford: NO
5. Linden Williams: NO
6. Chet Brooks: In favor, but doubts it will pass as it is.
7. Ray Farabee: OPPOSED
8. O.H. "Ike" Harris: OPPOSED
9. Carl Parker: Would vote for it.
10. John Traeger: OPPOSED
11. Carlos Truan: SUPPORTS
12. Bob Vale: Doesn't want to see 2 SENS. from the district, but some way should be found to give DC people right to vote for their reps.
13. ~~Bice Blanton: Against Rep for DC~~  
Ed Howard: Doesn't apply to TX Legislature  
Chose not to respond.
14. John Sharp: AGAINST
15. Lloyd Doggett: SUPPORTS



Vol. 7, No. 10  
March 18, 1983

Evelyn Bonavita  
Legislative Director

The first sixty days have passed, and the House has started doing business and passing bills out. Speaker Gib Lewis refused to ask members to suspend the sixty-day rule in order to consider business before the sixty days was up, and a backlog of bills is waiting the attention of legislators.



---

### FINANCING STATE GOVERNMENT

Relative to other states, Texas would appear to be in excellent financial condition. The state will have a surplus at the end of this biennium and projections of revenue for the next biennium indicate substantial increases.

In recent sessions, when lawmakers put together a budget, they were forced to spend much of the state's increases in revenue to cover higher costs due to inflation.

Although inflation is now moderate, there are great demands on the state to provide more and better services.

This growing demand for services is the result of several factors: a growing population, the shifting of responsibilities from the federal government to state and local government, and the pressing need to address certain issues which, because of political or funding problems, have been deferred for many years. In addition, cities, counties, and school districts which are all heavily dependent on property tax revenues are finding their taxpayers in a rebellious mood and are turning to the state for greater financial assistance in certain areas.

Because of these budgetary pressures on the state, the LWV-Texas will be closely monitoring any legislation which would provide new or increased revenues.



5-24

Mary Jane de Frank  
(DL League member)

Interviews: She  
Questions called  
back  
5-25

House floor on  
Thursday.

---

Find out by 5  
no on

Senators =

Name of people  
who went which  
way.



MAY 2 1983

League of Women Voters of Texas 29 April 83.  
1212 Guadalupe #109  
Austin Texas 78701

Dear "Chief" -

I've always been an active  
writer to my legislators -  
and for the most - I've been  
rewarded for a Reply - even  
though some were 3rd Rate  
assaults to the Assistant. But  
at least my letter was acknowledged.

On 2 April 83 I and  
several of my friends wrote  
letters to the following legislators  
without receiving a Response -  
Interesting?

Senator O. H. Harris

Senator Ted Lyon

Representative Don Lee

John A. Littleton

P.S. I've been a great supporter  
in many states you do an excellent job

John A. Littleton, Esq.  
P. O. Box 5  
Port Mansfield, Texas 78598



MAY 5 1983



Two comments about  
the April 29  
Leg. Newsletter, made  
with understanding  
that it must take  
great effort to get a newsletter  
out at all.

- ① Today's says to write senators  
about the water package "this  
weekend." A date is desirable  
as there is often confusion  
about which weekend / week is in-  
ferred. I realize the newsletter  
is dated April 29 and that the  
weekend is Apr. 30 - May 1. But  
we don't receive the newsletters  
till Monday or Tuesday of each  
week, so it gets confusing.
- ② This is a first-time complaint, one  
I often have about Report from the  
Hill but not the Leg News.  
I read SB 605 under H.R. and I  
have no idea what it refers to.  
I realize you probably know a



hundred bills by number, but  
the rest of us seldom do. Please  
give a bit of little also. Thanks,  
And thanks for sending the Day.  
Waste testimony,

Dean



TO: LL Presidents, 2nd copy to  
VS/CI Chmn. NOT ON DPM

FROM: Georgia Kidwell, LWV-T VS/CI Dir.

LWV-Texas Education Fund  
March 9, 1982  
Special Pres. Mailing  
LL Pres. (2) NOT ON DPM

RE: ORDERS FOR MAY PRIMARY VOTERS GUIDES

We are undertaking this a bit later than originally planned because of the death of Jerry Sadler. The filing deadline for the Land Commissioner's race was extended to March 12.

WE MUST HAVE YOUR ORDER BY MARCH 19. Please do not mail your order on March 19!!  
Phone if you wish: M-F, 9 - 3 P.M. (512) 472-1100.

Shipping date is scheduled for April 5. The printer needs the time after the 19th for printing, collating, folding, and packing. Orders later than the 19th won't work.

The Guides will consist of two sheets of tabloid paper 11 3/8 x 17 1/2, with a quarter fold. Said a different way: eight sides of printed matter.

Cost per 1000 Guides will be \$50.00 plus shipping. Do not prepay - we will bill you. To use Ed. Funds on deposit, check the box on the order blank.

Since photos of the candidates will be included, our printer suggests offering you a choice if you will have the Guides printed in your community. Veloxes (camera-ready pages) will not give the best reproduction of half-tone photos. The clearest copy would be obtained by using negatives (full-page size). CHECK WITH YOUR PRINTER TO SEE WHICH PROCESS IS PREFERRED BY THAT COMPANY and which material you should order.



Send Advocacy Papers on Merit Selection of Judges

1. Alice Bussiere  
Texas Legal Services Center  
500 W. 13th  
Austin, Texas 78701
2. Mrs. Mullinax  
(see corr. file)
3. Karen Greenstone  
American Jewish Congress  
8609 NW Plaza #224  
Dallas, Texas 75225
4. Patsy Watkins  
540 Topeka  
Waco, TX 76710
5. House Study ~~XXXXX~~ Group  
P. O. Box 2910  
Austin, TX 78769

Sent  
X - A



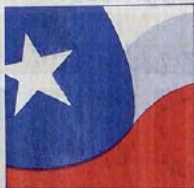
May 4, 1983

MAY 5 1983

Dear Evelyn,

Could you put in the Legislative  
newsletter how the Calendar  
Committee works (or doesn't work, as  
the case may be)? S.B. 632, Santhesteran,  
permitting a court to order a  
~~court order~~ Temporary readjustment allowance  
on divorce or annulment, was reported out  
of the Senate Jurisprudence Committee  
and is now in the Calendar Committee(?)  
My "roster" doesn't say who is on the  
Committee ~~and I don't know~~ how ~~the~~ pressure can be  
brought to get it to the floor of the Senate.  
Loren





**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS**



I have appreciated the newsletters,  
and will appreciate anything you  
can send me by June 28.

Thanks

Elizabeth Krebs

MRS. C. H. KREBS

JUN 13 1983

6/9/83

Dear Evelyn Bonavita,

The Victoria League has planned  
a Legislative Round 2pp for June 22.

We would like a "surag up"  
from your office before then. I  
know it would be incomplete,  
but could you send me the  
information that is available before  
that time.





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Decatur, Illinois  
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BOB HARRINGTON, Representative

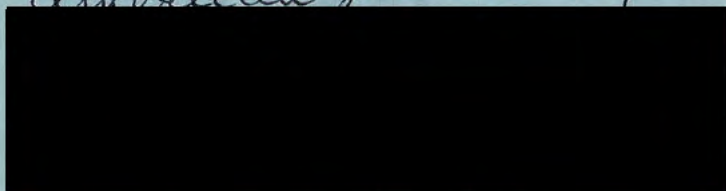


THE STECK DIVISION  
STECK-WARLICK COMPANY

AC 512-454-4761, P. O. Box 968, Austin, Texas 78767



Karen Greenstone  
American Jewish Congress



Send 1 each  
priority flyer  
advocacy papers.

Thanks, Diana



MAY 25 1983

5/23/83

Ladies:

I am new To The state of Texas, and am eager To get involved. I have few acquaintances, so information (as To "where" To start) is extremely limited. Can you help me? Could you send me a list of our legislators— Their position— and, Their "home" base? I would certainly be ever grateful. And.... Thanks!

Doris K. Waitz

[REDACTED]

Phone: [REDACTED]

P.S. Is There any new legislation That I should be interested in? My previous position (in New Jersey) was That of Consumer Protection Educator— a County government position.



Earl & Doris Waltz



MORE  
THE MO-



League of Women Voters of Texas



correspondence  
FEB 1983

Dear Evelyn Bonavita -

I am so proud of our legislative  
Newsletter, and push it on every  
occasion - Because of my interest  
I want you to know how disappointed  
I was in the reproduction of the  
chart on how a bill becomes a  
law - my copy was so tiny and  
so blurred it was barely legible.  
Is a better reproduction  
available - This is important  
information - Thanks - Nancy Rice

sent her another chart  
7/10 (EB)



FEB 14 1983

Dear Evelyn--

Fred Agnich is my rep. Article attached.

Did the Resource Recovery bill get introduced by Sen. John Traeger? Am on a subcommittee of our COG Resource Conservation Council, and the bill will be helpful if we decide to take action from our ctte.

Newsletter looks good, keep up the good work!


Eleanor S.



Daggett

Open meeting revision -

G. Nancy Rice



SB 995, Daggett

✓  
Sent

4-18-83



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FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:  
League of Women Voters of Texas  
1212 Guadalupe, #109  
Austin, Texas 78701  
(512) 472-1100

**1983 LEGISLATIVE**

**PRIORITIES**



**League  
of  
Women Voters  
of Texas**



During the session of the 68th Legislature, beginning January 11, 1983, the League of Women Voters of Texas will work for:



## **Natural Resources**

### **Water**

- More effective management of ground water
- State programs to encourage water conservation

### **Wastes**

- Incentives for resource recovery
- Appropriate standards for the siting of hazardous waste facilities

### **Energy**

- State programs to promote conservation and use of renewable energy sources



## **Human Resources**

- Appropriation of state funds for supportive services for persons in need to compensate for reduced federal funds
- Well-defined procedures for citizen participation in the block grant planning and review process
- Increased AFDC benefits
- Adequate financing for public schools



## **Women Under Texas Law**

- Post-divorce payments in appropriate cases



## **Government**

- Merit selection of judges
- Ratification of the District of Columbia congressional representation amendment
- Fiscal policy which allows state and local governments the flexibility to respond to citizens' needs



## **Administration of Justice**

- Expanded programs for community-based alternatives to prison
- Adequate funding for the Juvenile Probation Commission and the Commission on Jail Standards



- \* Block Grants
- \* Ratification of the Constitutional Amendment

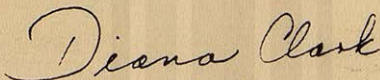
We have presented arguments on the issues.

In addition, we are also sending you 1983, which lists the primary issues we intend to pursue during this session of these priorities.

If there is other information on the issues, please let us know.

Best wishes for success during this session.

Sincerely,



Diana Clark  
President

DC:djm/enc



Copies of all  
Hazardous  
Waste.

=  
for Diane Sent  
Sheridan 4-19

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