

WORKBOOK FOR 2019 ANNUAL MEETING

League of Women Voters of Denton

Established 1961

Saturday, June 1, 2019

9:45 a.m., with salad luncheon to follow

Location to be determined

Location: Denton County

Elections Administration

(701 Kimberly Dr, Denton, TX 76208)

*In the event of a run-off election, the meeting will be held at the
United Way of Denton County.*

(1314 Teasley Lane, Denton, TX 76205)

Courtney Cross, President, presiding

Guest Speaker: Laura Keyes

Topic: Planning for the Future

Members: please bring a salad or dessert to share.

You may print and bring this Workbook for Annual Meeting.

Some copies will be available at the meeting.

AGENDA for 2019 ANNUAL MEETING
League of Women Voters of Denton
June 1, 2019

9:45 am	Congregate with LWV members and guests	
9:50 am	Welcome and introduction of guests	Courtney Cross
10:00 am	Call to order	Courtney Cross
	Appointment of tellers and parliamentarian	
	Determination of quorum present (20% of membership)	
	Adoption of Rules of the Day	
	Only members may address the business meeting.	
	Only members may vote.	
	Speakers are limited to two minutes. No member may speak a second time on an issue until all who wish to speak have spoken.	
10:10 am	Minutes of the 2018 Annual Meeting (file copy at sign-in table)	Katherine Lindsey
	Treasurer's Report for 2017-2018 (file copy at sign-in table)	Christine Marion
10:15 am	President's Report	Courtney Cross
10:20 am	Presentation of Proposed Budget 2019-2020	Jan Johnson
10:30 am	Proposed bylaws changes begin Page 6	Christine Marion
10:35 am	Report of the Nominating Committee 2019-2020 Slate of Nominees	Laurel Crawford
10:40 am	Vote on: Proposed Budget Vote on re-adoption of current Local Program Board Elections	Courtney Cross
10:50 am	Introduction of Board of Directors 2019-2020 Appreciation of Board of Directors 2018-2019	Courtney Cross
10:55 am	Presentation of the LOLITS Award	Courtney Cross
11:00 am	Speaker: Laura Keyes	
12:00 pm	Close of Annual Meeting / Adjourn for lunch	

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF DENTON
Proposed Budget 2018-2019

Expenditures	Budget 2018-2019	Proposed Budget 2019-2020
A1 Operation Costs		
A2 General Supplies	\$50.00	\$100.00
A3 Website	\$200.00	\$200.00
A4 Post Office Box	\$125.00	\$125.00
B Board and Administrative Committees		
B1 President	\$25.00	\$25.00
B3 Board Expenses	\$100.00	\$50.00
B4a Finance Committee	\$150.00	\$100.00
B4b Membership Committee	\$150.00	\$150.00
C Delegates, Travel and Affiliation		
C1 National Meetings (Conv)	\$0.00	\$1,000.00
C2 State Leadership/Convention	\$0.00	\$2,000.00
C4 Annual Meeting	\$100.00	\$50.00
C5 Workshops/Conferences	\$100.00	\$100.00
C6 League Lobby Days	\$1,500.00	\$0.00
D Financial Support for the League		
D4a State per Member Payment	\$1,848.00	\$1,485.00
D4b National per Member Payment	\$2,688.00	\$2,160.00
E Voter	\$50.00	\$50.00
F Educational Activities		
F1 Publications	\$25.00	\$25.00
F2 Program Committee	\$25.00	\$25.00
F3 Voter Service	\$1,000.00	\$1,400.00
F3a Voter Registration Travel	\$150.00	\$50.00
G Position Support		
G1 Publications and Distribution	\$25.00	\$25.00
H Special and Misc.		
H1 Special Projects	\$400.00	\$50.00
H2 Miscellaneous	\$150.00	\$50.00
Total Expenditures	\$8,861.00	\$9,220.00

**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF DENTON
Proposed Budget 2018-2019 (continued)**

Income	2017-2018	2018-2019
Ia Dues ***	\$5,520.00	\$4,315.00
Ib1 Contributions (Members)	\$2,100.00	\$2,000.00
Ib2 Contributions (non-members)	\$641.00	\$2,505.00
If1 TEF Reserves		
If3a Voters Service Project	\$600.00	\$400.00
If3b 50% of LWVUS PMP	\$0.00	\$0.00
If3c 50% of LWVTX PMP	\$0.00	\$0.00
If3d Miscellaneous	\$0.00	\$0.00
Total Income	\$8,8861.00	\$9,220.00

Notes for Proposed Budget 2019 – 2020

D4a and D4b based on 84 members as of 01/31/2018
Ia Dues 2018-2019 based on 92 members at \$60 for an individual

TEF Account Balance: approximately \$1400

Current breakdown of LWV Denton Dues:

CURRENT	LOCAL	NATIONAL	STATE	LOSS/OVERAGE
INDIVIDUAL	\$60	\$32	\$22	\$6.00
ADDITIONAL HH MEMBER	\$30	\$16	\$11	(\$2.00)
STUDENT	\$55	\$0	\$0	(\$3.00)

- We are proposing a \$5 increase for additional members
- We are proposing \$5 dues for students because the state and national waived their dues till 2021.

BYLAWS CHANGES

Proposed bylaws changes begin Page 6

PROPOSED LOCAL PROGRAM

Local Program includes issues for study and consensus, plus issues for support and action. The local support positions are the basis for local action by the League of Women Voters of Denton (Texas). Members vote to retain or drop support positions at each Annual Meeting. See your Member Handbook for the full description of the positions.

PROPOSED RETENTION OF 2018-2019 LOCAL PROGRAM

The Board recommends the re-adoption of 2017-2018 Local Program as described in the Member Handbook:

HOMELESSNESS IN DENTON COUNTY

STUDY CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS

SUPPORT OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN THE CITY OF DENTON

MUNICIPAL SERVICES

PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION

SOCIAL POLICY/HUMAN RESOURCES

ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE LAND

USE

CITY CHARTER

DENTON INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

REPORT OF THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Laurel Crawford, 2019 Nominating Committee Chair

Members **Rosemary Witmer, Bryon Witmer, and Robbie Sittel**

2019-2021 Term Nominations

President: Courtney Cross

Organization Vice President: Jessica Burton

Secretary: Katherine Lindsey

Director: Sue Smith

Director: Kelly McGuyer

Nominating Chair: Laurel Crawford

Nominating Committee Members: TBD

2019-2020 Nominations to fill vacated positions

Community Relations Vice President: Louise Griffith

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF DENTON

MEMBER HANDBOOK

2018-2019

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Mission Statement

The League of Women Voters of Denton (LWV-Denton), a nonpartisan political organization, encourages informed and active participation in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy.

Past Presidents

League of Women Voters of Denton

1961 - 1962	Mrs. W. M. Walters
1963 - 1964	Mrs. Thomas Pierce
1965 - 1966	Mrs. Alton Donsbach
1967 - 1968	Mrs. D. E. Gaupp
1968 - 1969	Elinor Hughes
1969 - 1970	Janette Schkade – Mrs. T. Tinnin
1970 - 1971	Bobette Higgins
1971 - 1972	Sue Smith
1973 - 1975	Isabel Miller
1976 - 1978	Betty Bailey
1979 - 1980	Jo Montague
1980 - 1983	Sondra Ferstl
1983 - 1986	Sue Smith
1987 - 1988	Rahna Welch
1988 - 1990	Elizabeth Disco-Allan
1990 - 1993	Sondra Ferstl
1993 - 1995	Barbara Hettinger
1996 - 1998	Sondra Ferstl
1998 - 2003	Sarah McIntire
2003 - 2009	Sue Smith
2009 - 2012	Sondra Ferstl
2012 - 2017	Sue Smith
2017 -	Courtney Cross

Board of Directors, 2018-19

League of Women Voters of Denton

President	Courtney Cross
Program Vice President	Jan Johnson
Organization Vice President	
Community Relations Vice President	
Treasurer	Christine Marion
Secretary	Katherine Lindsey
Directors	Sue Smith, Linnie McAdams, Jessica Burton
Nominating Committee	Laurel Crawford, Bryon Witmer, Rosemary Witmer
Webmaster	Mark Coomes

Bylaws

League of Women Voters of Denton, 2018-19

(as amended May 2019)

ARTICLE I

Name

Section 1. Name. The name of this organization shall be the League of Women Voters of Denton (LWV-Denton). This local League is an integral part of the League of Women Voters of the United States (LWVUS) and of the League of Women Voters of Texas (LWV-Texas).

ARTICLE II

Purposes and Policy

Section 1.

a. The purposes of the League of Women Voters of Denton are to promote political responsibility through informed and active participation in government and to act on selected governmental issues.

b. The LWV-Denton is organized and operated exclusively for charitable and educational purposes under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, or the corresponding section of any future federal tax code. Notwithstanding any other provision of these bylaws, the LWV-Denton shall not carry on any other activities not permitted to be carried on by an association exempt from federal income tax under such provisions of the Internal Revenue Code. No substantial part of the activities of the association shall be attempting to influence legislation.

Section 2. Political Policy. The League shall not support or oppose any political party or any candidate.

ARTICLE III

Membership

Section 1. Eligibility. Any person who subscribes to the purposes and policy of the LWVUS shall be eligible for membership.

Section 2. Types of Membership.

- a. Voting members. Persons at least 16 years of age who join the League shall be voting members of local Leagues, state Leagues and of the LWVUS; (1) individuals who live within an area of a local League or any other local League, (2) those who reside outside the area of any local League may join a local League or shall be state members-at-large; (3) those who have been members of the League for 50 years or more shall be life members excused from the payment of dues.
- b. Associate members. All others who join the League shall be associate members.

ARTICLE IV

Board of Directors

Section 1. Number, Manner of Selection, and Term of Office. The Board of Directors shall consist of the officers of the League, three elected Directors and not more than three appointed Directors. The elected Directors shall be elected by the general membership at each Annual Meeting and shall serve for a term of two years. Two Directors shall be elected in odd numbered years and one Director shall be elected in even numbered years. The elected members shall appoint such additional Directors, not exceeding three, as they deem necessary to carry on the work of the League. The terms of the appointed Directors shall be one year and shall expire at the conclusion of the fiscal year.

Section 2. Qualifications. No person who is not a voting member of the League of Women Voters of Denton shall be elected or appointed or shall continue to serve as an Officer or Director of this organization.

Section 3. Vacancies. Any vacancy occurring in the Board of Directors by reason of resignation, death or disqualification of an Officer or elected member may be filled, until the next Annual Meeting, with a nomination from the President approved by a majority vote of the remaining members of the Board of Directors. Three consecutive absences from a Board meeting by any member without a valid reason shall be deemed a resignation. The President determines what is an excusable absence.

Section 4. Powers and Duties. The Board of Directors shall have full charge of the property and business of the organization, with full power and authority to manage and conduct same, subject to the instructions of the general membership. It shall plan and direct the work necessary to carry out the program as adopted by the national convention, the state convention, and the Annual Meeting. The Board shall create and designate such special committees as it may deem necessary.

Section 5. Meetings. There shall be a least nine regular meetings of the Board of Directors annually. The President may call special meetings of the Board of Directors.

Section 6. Quorum. A majority of the members of the Board of Directors shall constitute a quorum.

ARTICLE V

Officers

Section 1. Enumeration and Election of Officers. The officers of the League of Women Voters of Denton shall be a President, a First Vice President (Program), a Second Vice President (Organization), a Third Vice President (Community Relations), a Secretary, and a Treasurer, who shall be elected by the general membership at an Annual Meeting and take office at the beginning of the next fiscal year. The President and all other officers shall be elected for terms of two years. The President, the Second Vice President, and the Secretary shall be elected in odd numbered years. The First Vice President, the Third Vice President, and the Treasurer shall be elected in even numbered years.

Section 2. The President. The President shall preside at all meetings of the organization and of the Board of Directors unless the President designates someone else to preside. In the case of absence or disability of the Treasurer, the President may sign or endorse checks, drafts, and notes. The President shall: be an ex officio member of all committees except the nominating committee; have such usual powers of supervision and management as may pertain to the office; perform such other duties as may be designated by the Board ,except the President may not serve as the secretary.

Section 3. The Vice Presidents. The three Vice Presidents, in the order of their rank, shall, in the event of absence, disability, resignation, or death of the President, possess all the powers and perform all the duties of the Presidency, until such time as the Board of Directors shall select one of its members to fill that office. The Vice Presidents shall perform such other duties as the President and Board may designate.

Section 4. The Secretary. The Secretary shall keep minutes of all Annual Meetings of the League and of all meetings of the Board of Directors; shall sign, with the President, all contracts and other instruments when so authorized by the Board; perform such other functions as may be incident to the office.

Section 5. The Treasurer. The Treasurer shall receive and disburse all monies, present statements to the members of the Board at their regular meetings, deposit monies and submit bills to the League of Women Voters of Texas Education Fund, and submit an annual report to the membership at the Annual Meeting.

ARTICLE VI

Financial Administration

Section 1. Fiscal Year. The fiscal year of the League of Women Voters of Denton shall commence on the first day of June each year.

Section 2. Dues. The amount for membership and dues shall be set by the membership in annual session by a vote of three fifths of the membership present. Dues are payable upon joining and renewable in September of each year. Where two or more members reside at the same address, dues shall be paid for the first member, a payment equal to one half the amount of the dues shall be paid for each additional member. The Board may reduce the membership dues for full-time students who join LWV-Denton. Prorated dues may be established by the Board in January for new members, student members, or returning members.

Section 3. Budget. A budget for the ensuing year shall be submitted by the Board of Directors to the Annual Meeting for adoption. The budget shall include support for the work of the League as a whole.

Section 4. Budget Committee. A budget committee shall be appointed by the Board of Directors at least two months prior to the Annual Meeting to prepare a budget for the ensuing year. The proposed budget shall be sent to all members one month before the Annual Meeting. The Treasurer shall not be eligible to serve as chairman of the budget committee.

Section 5. When a new treasurer is elected, the board shall arrange a financial review of the books.

Section 6 **Section 3 Distribution of Funds on Dissolution** In the event of the dissolution of the LWV Denton after paying or making provision for the payment of all liabilities of the LWV Denton, all assets of the LWV Denton shall be distributed to the LWV of Texas or its successor that is recognized as exempt under Internal Revenue Code Section 501(c)(3), or the corresponding section of any future federal tax code. Should the state League no longer be in existence, then all assets should be distributed to an equivalent organization that is part of the League of Women Voters national organization. If no such organization is then in existence, then the LWV Denton assets, after paying or making provision for the payment of all the liabilities, shall be distributed for one or more of the LWV Denton exempt purposes within the meaning of Internal Revenue Code Section 501(c)(3), or shall be distributed to the federal government , or to a state or local government, for a public purpose. The manner of distribution and recipient(s) of the LWV Denton assets shall be determined by the board or such other persons as shall be charged by law with the liquidation or winding up of the LWV Denton and its affairs.

Section 7. Conflict of Interest. The Board of Directors shall adopt a conflict-of-interest policy and an annual disclosure policy that applies to all officers and directors of LWV Denton. The form shall be retained for five years.

ARTICLE VII

Meetings

Section 1. Membership Meetings. There shall be at least four meetings of the membership each year. Time and place shall be determined by the Board of Directors.

Section 2. Annual Meeting. An Annual Meeting shall be held at a time and place determined by the Board. The Annual Meeting shall:

- a. adopt a local program for the ensuing year;
- b. elect Officers and Directors, members of the nominating committee;
- c. adopt an adequate budget; and
- d. adopt amended bylaws, if applicable.

Section 3. Quorum. Twenty percent of the membership shall constitute a quorum at all business meetings of the League of Women Voters of Denton.

ARTICLE VIII

Nominations and Elections

Section 1. Nominating Committee. The nominating committee shall consist of five members, two of whom shall be members of the Board of Directors. The chairman and two members, who shall not be members of the Board, shall be elected at the Annual Meeting. Any vacancies on the nominating committee shall be filled

by the Board of Directors. Suggestions for nominations for Officers and Directors may be sent to this committee by any voting member.

Section 2. Report of Nominating Committee and Nominations from the Floor. The report of the nominating committee of its nominations for Officers, Directors, and the members of the succeeding nominating committee shall be sent to all members one month before the date of the Annual Meeting. Immediately following the presentation of this report at Annual Meeting, nominations may be made from the floor by any voting member provided the consent of the nominee shall have been secured.

Section 3. Elections. The election shall be by ballot, provided that when there is but one nominee for each office, the Secretary may be instructed to cast the ballot for every nominee. A majority vote of those present and qualified to vote shall constitute an election. Absentee or proxy voting shall not be permitted.

ARTICLE IX

Program

Section 1. Authorization. The governmental principles adopted by the National Convention, and supported by the League as a whole, authorizes the adoption of Program.

Section 2. Program. The Program of the League of Women Voters of Denton shall consist of:

- a. action to protect the right to vote of every citizen, and
- b. those local governmental issues chosen for concerted study and action.

Section 3. Action by the Annual Meeting. The Annual Meeting shall act upon the Program by using the following procedures:

- a. The Board of Directors shall consider the recommendations suggested by the voting members two months prior to the Annual Meeting and shall formulate a proposed Program.
- b. The proposed Program shall be sent to all members one month before the Annual Meeting.
- c. A majority of voting members present and voting at the Annual Meeting shall be required for adoption of subjects in the proposed Program, as presented to the Annual Meeting by the Board of Directors.
- d. Recommendations for Program submitted by voting members two months prior to Annual Meeting but not recommended by the Board of Directors may be considered by the Annual Meeting provided that: (1) the Annual Meeting shall order consideration by a majority vote and (2) the Annual Meeting shall adopt the item by a two thirds vote.
- e. Changes in the Program, in the case of altered conditions, may be made provided that: (1) information concerning the proposed changes has been sent to all members at least two weeks prior to a general membership meeting at which the changes are to be discussed, and (2) final action by the membership is taken at a succeeding meeting.

Section 4. Member action. Members may act in the name of the League of Women Voters only when authorized to do so by the appropriate Board of Directors, local, state, or national.

ARTICLE X

National Convention, State Convention, State Conference

Section 1. National Convention. The Board of Directors at a meeting before the date on which names of delegates must be sent to the national office shall select delegates to that convention in the number allotted the League of Women Voters of Denton under the provisions of the Bylaws of the League of Women Voters of the United States.

Section 2. State Convention. The Board of Directors at a meeting before the date on which the names of delegates must be sent to the state office shall select delegates to that convention in the number allotted the LWV Denton under the provision of the Bylaws of the League of Women Voters of Texas.

Section 3. State Conference. The Board of Directors at a meeting before the date on which the names of the delegates must be sent to the state office, shall select delegates to the conference in the number allotted LWV-Denton under the provision of the LWV-TX bylaws.

ARTICLE XI

Parliamentary Authority

Section 1. Parliamentary Authority. The rules contained in Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised shall govern the organization in all cases to which they are applicable and in which they are not inconsistent with these Bylaws.

ARTICLE XII

Amendments

Section 1. Amendments. The Bylaws may be amended by a two thirds vote of the voting members present and voting at the Annual Meeting, provided that amendments were submitted to the membership in writing at least one month in advance of the meeting.

ARTICLE XIII

The bylaws shall be amended as follows:

- a. Amendments shall be approved by the Board of Directors at least three months prior to submission to the LWV-TX Governance Committee chair.
- b. Proposed revision of local League bylaws shall be submitted to the state Governance committee chair for review and comment at least two months prior to the local League annual meeting.

c. Amendments must be submitted too members in writing and delivered electronically or mailed at least one month in advance of the annual meeting.

d. The bylaws must be amended by a two-thirds vote of the voting members present and voting at the annual meeting, provided the amendments were submitted to the membership in writing.

Policy Statement

League of Women Voters of Denton, 2018-19

Nonpartisanship

The LWV-Denton shall not support or oppose any political party or any candidate. This policy of nonpartisanship is the foundation for the effectiveness and prestige of the League throughout the country. The LWV-Denton studies selected governmental issues and policies in the public interest, and may take action after reaching consensus.

Board

The following policies apply only to members of the Board, since they plan League activities, conduct the business of, and act for the League.

It is the duty of the Board to support and maintain the nonpartisanship policy of the League.

In order to ensure the nonpartisan method of operation and in order that the public may be convinced that the League's nonpartisanship is bona fide, the President, those who chair Voters Service activities, and the Finance Chair shall not take an active role in any political activity that is not associated with League positions.

After filing deadline for elections, Board members shall be asked to state their current and upcoming political activities. The Board shall determine whether such activities may jeopardize the nonpartisan policy of the League and determine the appropriate action.

The Board shall have full authority to join with nonpartisan coalitions whose goals mesh with League positions and whose action priorities are similar to those of the League.

Conflict of Interest

Members of the LWV Denton board shall not receive compensation, such as salaries or stipends, for services rendered, nor shall they sell professional services or products to the League deemed necessary to carry out the mission of the organization.

Members of the LWV Denton board may accept modest honoraria or gifts for speeches or other activities rendered to others on behalf of the LWV Denton.

In any matter in which a LWV Denton board member or the members family has a substantial financial interest, the board member shall refrain from participating in the discussion prior to a vote, refrain from attempting to influence the outcome of a vote, and abstain from voting.

In the interest of openness and transparency, all board members shall sign an annual disclosure form.

Membership

All League members, other than Board members, are encouraged to take an active part in partisan politics as individuals but not as spokespersons for the League.

Who Speaks For the League

Only the President or a person named by the President may speak for the League. Letters, press releases, speeches, etc., in the name of the League shall be approved by the President before release. When a League member goes to any meeting as an official League observer, that person may speak only to ask questions for clarification. Delegated representatives of the League may not make binding commitments on major matters without approval of the Board.

Speaking At Regularly Scheduled League Meetings

It is recommended that invitations to persons to speak at League meetings include the amount of time proposed for a presentation and a question-and-answer session with the audience. In the event that League members or guests wish to use some of the meeting time for making announcements or giving information to the group, the following procedure is suggested. Prior to the meeting, those wishing to speak should notify the President or the person in charge of the meeting, stating the nature of the announcement. In most situations these requests will be accommodated at the end of the scheduled session, after the presentation has been made by the person(s) invited to do the program and the subsequent question-and-answer session. The President or person in charge of the meeting shall determine how much time to allow for such announcements or presentations. Information should be of general interest to Denton League members and not of a partisan political nature.

Financial Administration

Persons making purchases for the LWV-Denton should submit a request for reimbursement on a voucher form available from the Treasurer. The voucher must indicate the line item of the budget to which the items should be charged. A receipt from the vendor should be attached to the voucher.

The Treasurer shall present a report of income and expenditures since the previous meeting, including a report on actual expenditures to date for the budget year.

Expenditures exceeding amounts budgeted will be explained monthly to the Board, and to the members at the Annual Meeting.

Board members or those traveling on business for the LWV-Denton may request full or partial reimbursement from operating funds for expenses incurred in performance of their League duties, within the constraints imposed by the budget at the following rates:

- a. Telephone, postage, photocopying, and essential supplies at actual cost.
- b. Travel by means of public transportation (usually airfare for distant sites) at actual cost. The least expensive feasible means of transportation shall be used.
- c. Travel by personal automobile at 55 cents per mile. Parking and fees at actual cost.

- d. Lodging at actual cost.
- e. Meals at scheduled League functions at Convention, Women’s Legislative Days, or National Convention at actual cost, as budget permits.
- f. Registration fees for conferences/workshops at actual cost.
- g. Other types of actual expenses (e.g., child care) may be reimbursed if the Board permits.

Those eligible to seek reimbursement shall submit vouchers and supporting documentation to the League Treasurer.

It is desirable that approval for reimbursement be sought prior to the expenditure. When time does not permit Board consultation, the President or Treasurer may authorize expenditures and report the action to the Board at its next regular meeting.

The Board encourages the President to recognize (in an announcement at meetings, a mention in the Denton VOTER, a thank-you note to the donor, or in another appropriate manner) donors who make in-kind or non-cash contributions to the League of Women Voters of Denton.

Historical Documents

Periodically the President shall place historical documents (such as copies of the minutes and Denton VOTERs) of LWV-Denton on file in the Special Collections Section for the League in the Mary Evelyn Blagg-Huey Library at Texas Woman’s University.

Roster

The following wording shall appear at the top of the membership list: “This membership list is for the use and convenience of League members. It is not to be given to or used by those who are not League members, nor is it to be used for non-League projects without the consent of the Board of Directors of the League of Women Voters of Denton.”

Board Transition

At the expiration of a term of office, Board members and off-Board chairs shall pass to their successor or appropriate vice president the pertinent materials pertaining to that office. This does not include local, state, or national VOTERs or minutes of meetings.

Minutes

The agenda and minutes of Board meetings shall be sent to all Board members and the chair of the Nominating Committee. The minutes shall note those members present and those absent at each Board meeting.

Nominating Committee

It shall be the duty of the nominating committee to make known to each prospective Board member the responsibilities of the position for which that person is being considered. The description of the position shall be realistic and shall include total Board responsibility.

Policy Statement Revision

The Board shall review this policy statement annually. Any revised policy statement shall be made available to all members of the local League.

LWV-Denton Local Program 2017 - 2018

(as adopted at Annual Meeting, May 20, 2017)

The local program includes issues for study and consensus, plus issues for support and action. The local support positions are the basis for local action by the League of Women Voters of Denton (Texas). Members vote to retain or drop support positions at each Annual Meeting. For each item, “study” indicates the League will analyze the issue and come to a consensus in the future; “support” indicates the LWV-Denton has already studied and reached consensus and outlines the position supported.

HOMELESSNESS IN DENTON COUNTY

Support of:

- The provision of affordable, permanent housing as one of the solutions to the growing problem of homelessness and housing insecurity.
- Strategic efforts to increase a diverse stock of housing that is affordable and accessible.
- Zoning that allows for the development of housing solutions that meet the needs of the community.
- Efforts to eliminate barriers to housing.
- The provision of Housing First:
 - Housing First is an approach to quickly and successfully connect individuals and families experiencing homelessness to permanent housing without preconditions and barriers to entry, such as sobriety, treatment or service participation requirements. Supportive services are offered to maximize housing stability and prevent returns to homelessness as opposed to addressing predetermined treatment goals prior to permanent housing entry.
- The provision of wraparound services to promote stability of people experiencing homelessness including but not limited to: educational and vocational training, child care, medical, dental, mental and behavioral health care services, and transportation.
- A coordinated, aligned effort by private and public entities to increase and efficiently use funding to prevent duplication of efforts.
- The continued focus on data and coordinated data collection to determine the needs of people experiencing homelessness and to ensure adequate funding.
- Regional solutions and seek collaboration, funding and housing from all jurisdictions including Denton County

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN THE CITY OF DENTON

Support of:

Business and industry provide job opportunities, consumer goods, and services for the residents of the community, and, by reason of their contributions through real and personal property taxes, they reduce the tax burden on individual property owners. The League of Women Voters of Denton, therefore, supports economic development in general, which is defined as “activities that attract new business, assist expanding

enterprises, and create new job opportunities,” and supports the expenditure of tax dollars on economic development activities as a proper function of government for the City of Denton.

In particular, we support:

- A. Marketing and promotional activities, such as collaborative efforts with the Chamber of Commerce and the local universities and college; administrative services; technical support; and specific promotional efforts such as the Vision Project and the Main Street Project.
- B. Development and maintenance of a city owned infrastructure suitable for the effective conduct of business, such as good city streets, and adequate water supply, plentiful energy sources, water/sewer/electric lines, police and fire protection, and drainage.
- C. A balanced program of municipal services provided by city government that make Denton a community with an attractive quality of life, plus indirect support for services provided by other community entities. These include public safety, cultural and recreational opportunities, public schools, libraries, airports and public transportation, public health and health care, beautification, available housing, and environmental concerns.

MUNICIPAL SERVICES

Support of:

Denton municipal government should provide for the health and welfare of its residents through a broad array of services. These services should include, but not be limited to, police and fire protection; power, water and sewer services; streets and drainage; solid waste management; libraries; parks and recreational programs; and animal control. Funding for these essential services should be through taxes and usage charges and limited use of tax incentives which are already in place for business and industry, such as tax abatements, enterprise zones, Freeport exemptions, and the sales tax designated to reduce property taxes.

(Modification approved by the Board of Directors following the study of Funding of the Denton Public Libraries):

- A. Services of the Denton Public Libraries (DPL) should be available to all who wish to use them on site, access them electronically, or check out materials, subject only to the number and kinds of materials that can be checked out of the library at any one time.
Adequate funding for the DPL should be provided by governmental bodies representing the library patrons who utilize these services, i.e., the City of Denton and the Denton County Commissioners Court. Funds from these resources are preferable to levying fees on individual families who wish to check out library materials. The amount that each governmental entity provides should be negotiated by the city and the county based on the number of library patrons from each entity’s jurisdiction.
Eligibility for funding should not be tied to imposing filters on library computers. Software filters that prevent full access to the Internet are censorship and unacceptable according to the American

Library Association's 'Library Bill of Rights,' which has been adopted by the DPL and its Board of Trustees.

- B. For direct services that are desirable but not essential, and that directly benefit a recipient, it is appropriate to charge fees to co-fund the municipal programs. In establishing fees and taxes for such services, ability to pay should be the major criterion.
- C. Denton municipal government should provide funding for certain social programs within the city budget. Examples of such programs are recreational programs for children and seniors; low cost after school daycare; community food programs; health related programs; and transportation for individuals with special needs.

When municipal government charges fees to co fund services, the government should subsidize certain kinds of services for low income residents. Examples include recreational services, senior citizen services, social services, and health services.

Municipal government in Denton should subsidize public transportation.

PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION

Support of:

- A. City, county, and regional government participation in the planning and management of transport networks, with emphasis on public transportation for Denton.
- B. Public transportation for the elderly and handicapped, to be financed by a combination of sources including user donations, charitable donations, and government funds.

SOCIAL POLICY/HUMAN RESOURCES

Support of:

- A. A child welfare unit and the appointment of an advisory board for the unit.
- B. The development of a professionally drawn master plan for community services.
- C. Denton County Health Department
 - 1. Equitable and adequate funding for the Denton County Health Department, including exploration of external sources of funding;
 - 2. A Health Department Advisory Board that
 - a. would solicit information (e.g., such as requesting a needs assessment on community health in Denton County), make recommendations on services and evaluate the effectiveness and comprehensiveness of such services;
 - b. would reflect the diversity of the county, including among its membership health care professionals, consumers of its services, representatives reflecting the ethnic, socioeconomic, and geographic makeup of the county.
 - 3. The promotion by the Denton County Health Department of the services available to the community (through such means as health fairs, brochures, poster, newspaper or television publicity).
- D. A mental health program that meets the needs of all residents of Denton County through:

1. professionally trained and properly utilized personnel
 2. adequate funding
 3. adequate facilities and services; all meeting at least minimum standards.
- E. Health Care for the Medically Indigent: Support of:
1. The provision of health care services, including emergency care, prenatal/delivery/postnatal care, public health care, family planning care, preventive care, and illness care to the men, women and children of Denton who cannot afford the full cost of care and whose health insurance is inadequate or non-existent.
 2. The costs of providing such care should be shared by the taxpayers at all levels, and charitable donations should be sought. Only if necessary should no indigent patients pay more, or stockholders of for profit hospitals earn less, in order to cover costs of care for the medically indigent. Those receiving services should pay, according to their ability, a portion of the costs.
 3. The care being provided where it can be done most effectively and efficiently, including any of the following: non profit hospital, county health department, non profit private health care agency, for profit private health care agency, physician's office, health maintenance organization (HMO).
 4. Help for the medically indigent in obtaining health care services should be provided by an effective, well publicized referral service, which works in cooperation with all agencies and institutions in the community which come in contact with people needing care.
- F. Reducing Domestic Violence
- The League of Women Voters of Denton supports adequately funded programs in Denton to reduce the incidence of domestic violence and to alleviate its effects.

ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE

Support of:

- A. A juvenile probation officer for Denton County.
- B. The court system in Denton County:
 1. more immediate court appointment of lawyers for indigent prisoners.
 2. speedy consultation of the court appointed lawyer with the client.
- C. The following measures that would contribute to a more effective correctional system in Denton County:
 1. adherence to the legal standards for county jails as set forth in Taylor vs. Sterrett and the Texas Jail Commission.
 2. increased emphasis on rehabilitation.
 3. use of alternatives to incarceration wherever possible, such as personal bond, personal recognizance, pretrial release, pretrial intervention, pretrial diversion, work release, drug and alcoholic centers, and mental health centers.
 4. completely separate facilities for women inmates of the county jail.

5. employment of adequate female staff to care for women inmates of the county jail on a 24 hour basis.
6. adequate funding of probation and parole departments.
7. more adequate juvenile detention facilities with juvenile offenders separated from adult offenders.
8. continued funding for successful local programs for juvenile offenders.
9. adequate salaries and fringe benefits for probation office employees.

LAND USE

Support of:

- A. City, county, and regional government participation in regulating the planning and management of:
 1. parks and open spaces, using a community-supported long-range comprehensive plan, encompassing Denton and the Extra Territorial Jurisdiction, which identifies potential open space and establishes a variety of methods for its conservation and preservation. Open Space is commonly defined as undeveloped land with one or more of these attributes:
 - a. Ecological value: unique ecosystems (such as Cross-Timbers), wildlife habitat, native plant communities, water retention and recharge, water quality, trees which abate the effects of an urban heat island or buffer sound;
 - b. Aesthetic value: scenic or a relatively natural landscape;
 - c. Educational value: potential outdoor classroom, nature center, or research site;
 - d. Historic value: characteristic of an important time or place in the community's history;
 - e. Recreational value: potential trails, aquatic activities, wildlife observation or parks.

We encourage the City to use any and all of the wide variety of methods available to implement the plan in a timely fashion, including zoning and conservation subdivisions; purchase of property, conservation easements and development rights using tax revenues, bonds and grants; helping property owners implement deed restrictions and private donations of land; agreements for rights-of-way; tax abatements for conservation; other instruments that facilitate preservation of open space.
 2. water resources
 3. drainage
 4. flood control
 5. industrial and power plant sites, solid and liquid waste disposal sites
 6. mineral extraction
 7. agricultural and forest lands, and unique historical, geological or ecological sites.
- B. Requirement of environmental impact statements for all public projects, housing and industrial development.
- C. Parks and recreation programs, facilities and expansion plans.

CITY CHARTER

Support of the council manager form of government and periodic review of the city charter.

A council member may serve a maximum of three consecutive two-year terms in a single position. A council member who has served the maximum of three consecutive two-year terms may then serve a maximum of three consecutive two-year terms in another position. The mayor shall be elected for two-year terms and shall not be eligible for election to more than three consecutive two-year terms. Prior service as a council member shall not count toward the term limits of the mayor. Denton should retain two-year terms, single-member districts and at-large positions (February 9, 2009).

DENTON INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

Support of:

- A. Equal access to quality education for all students in the Denton Independent School District (DISD) and continued study of the Denton Independent School District.
- B. Measures to promote:
 1. an educational program which attempts to develop each student's capabilities to the fullest extent.
 2. increased use of para professional clerical, and volunteer personnel as a means of improving counseling and health services and for follow up on truancy and absenteeism.
 3. continuing efforts to:
 - a. maintain full racial integration of staff and of students in all aspects of the school program.
 - b. Attract and hold good teachers and provide them with salaries commensurate with professional standing and high quality working conditions.
 - c. Strengthen instruction in basic skills.
 - d. Improve library service.
 - e. Provide instruction for students whose first language is not English.
 - f. Reduce inequities in supplies and equipment in elementary schools.
 - g. Construct new buildings to meet an expanding school population and replace antiquated facilities.
 - h. Provide more esthetic school premises.
 1. further efforts to improve communication between school and community and stimulate community interest and response.
 2. one fair, clear, definitive statement on discipline, to be communicated to administrators, teachers, parents, and students; such policy to be consistently applied in all schools and by all teachers.
- C. The development by the DISD of specific policies and programs designed to encourage prevention of pregnancy among students, and to encourage students who are already pregnant, fathers-to- be or teen parents to remain in school until graduation.

Among the measures the League supports that would contribute to these goals are:

1. comprehensive human sexuality education program including information on decision making and communication skills, reproductive anatomy and physiology, abstinence and contraception, and risks of teen pregnancy;
 2. peer counselor programs and student discussion group sessions on sexuality issues;
 3. low cost childcare services sponsored by DISD, ideally located on site;
 4. a teen student health directory provided to students each year offering referral to community agencies and services;
 5. direct liaison between DISD and community agencies and experts who can deliver specialized information services at the school during non-class hours.
 6. The League supports an increase in school taxes if it becomes necessary to reach these goals.
- D. The League supports a tax increase to maintain the present program if state support is insufficient.
- E. The League opposes the voucher system approach, as well as choice options that do not promote racial integration and/or equal access to quality education.
- F. The League supports universal preschool for 4 year olds within the Denton Independent School District (DISD).
1. Universal means free and accessible for all 4-year olds.
 2. DISD should provide preschool facilities which include:
 - a. several comprehensive early childhood education centers, and
 - b. several classrooms or wings at various elementary campuses.
 3. DISD should provide transportation within the limits furnished for all other DISD students.
- G. The League of Women Voters of Denton supports the adoption of policies by the Board of Education of the Denton Independent School District (DISD) for fundraising and marketing. The League supports activities that promote the mission of the DISD; however, sacrificing control of curriculum, providing specific training for outside entities to the exclusion of others, and using students to raise funds should be avoided or at least minimized.
- H. The League supports universal preschool for 4 year olds within the Denton Independent School District (DISD).
- I. Universal means free and accessible for all 4-year-olds.
- J. DISD should provide preschool facilities which include:
- K. several comprehensive early childhood education centers, and
- L. several classrooms or wings at various elementary campuses.
- M. DISD should provide transportation within the limits furnished for all other DISD students.
- N. The League of Women Voters of Denton supports the adoption of policies by the Board of Education of the Denton Independent School District (DISD) for fundraising and marketing. The League supports activities that promote the mission of the DISD; however, sacrificing control of curriculum, providing specific training for outside entities to the exclusion of others, and using students to raise funds should be avoided or at least minimized.

Awards given by LWV-Denton

Little Old Lady in Tennis Shoes (LOLITS) Awards

1973	Elinor Hughes, Linnie McAdams, Lillian Miller, Helen Terry
1974	Elinor Hughes, Moses Simmons, Eugene Wright
1975	Johnie Christian, Kathy McIntyre, Pat Johnson, Deborah Shelton, Bea Simmons
1976	Al Barstis, Peggy Hendricks, Jim Riddlesperger Sr., Jim Riddlesperger Jr., Father Joseph Schumacher
1977	Sibyl Evans, Betty Kreps, Frances Pender
1978	Rev. Alton Donsbach, Roberta Donsbach, Doris Dundas
1979	Carolyn Downing, Bobette Higgins, Turner Kobler, Pat Mosely,
1980	Yvonne Jenkins
1981	Joe H. Bailey, Gladys Barstis, Luther Brock
1982	Betty Thetford
1984	Randy Boyd, Charlie Cole, Sondra Ferstl, Genoveva Noddin, John Travelle, Cindy Venables
1985	Linda Brock, Carol Church, Paul Voertman
1986	Dr. Daniel Bailey, Donna Fielder, Cheryl Gainer
1987	Jerry Cobb, Rev. Bill Crouch
1988	Sara Carey, Dorothy Damico, Sue Smith
1989	Pat Brewer, Dr. Albert Wyss
1991	Lyle Long, Mindy Mashburn, Jo Montague, Sue Smith
1993	Donna Trammell
1996	Bill Giese
1998	Euline Brock
1999	Dorothy Adkins, H.S. Osborne
2000	Byron Witmer
2001	Gladys Maynard
2002	Mike Cochran
2003	Marilyn Smith
2004	Mike Trimble
2005	Don Alexander
2006	Kevin Carr
2007	Tracy Lindsay
2008	Virginia Gallian, Tom La Point
2009	Jim Alexander
2010	Jennifer Walters
2011	Lowell Brown
2012	Maggie Dodd
2013	Mark Burroughs
2014	Linnie McAdams
2015	Mark Coomes, Mayor Chris Watts
2016	Peggy Heinkle-Wolfe
2017	Dani Shaw

Shoelace or Shoestring Awards

In 1978, 1979, 1987, and 1988 several members of the Board of Directors were honored with a Shoestring or Shoelace award.

1978	Linda Brock
1979	Gladys Barstis, Claire Gates, Linda Haddox, Cindy Smith
1987	Johnnie Christian, Carol Church, Sondra Ferstl, Hazel Fredrick, Lauream Robertson
1988	Lynne Pewterbaugh

Gladys Barstis Award

This award was first given by President Sue Smith in 2006 to honor persons that personified the work on behalf of the League shown by Gladys Barstis.

2006	Sondra Ferstl
2007	Peg La Point
2008	Ken Ferstl, Linnie McAdams
2010	Byron Witmer
2011	Barbara Burns

Local Leaders Sustainers Plaque

For a contribution of \$200 or more to the League of Women Voters of Texas or the LWV-TX Education Fund, names of local leaders of the League can be added to a plaque that hangs in the State Office in Austin. The Plaque is displayed in the Publications and Wares Room at each State Convention. We have two Denton leaders so recognized.

2004	Sondra Ferstl
2009	Sue Smith

Other Awards

1973	BIG CHEESE: Gladys Barstis, Bobette Higgins
1976	Special Award: Isabel Miller
1981	Rookie of the Year: Carol Alexander
1981	Special Appreciation: The Denton Record-Chronicle
1987	Recognition Award: Citizens for Sound Growth
1995	Eagle Award: Barbara Hettinger

Contact Information

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Washington, DC 20036-4508

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Appendices

Board Position Descriptions

President

Serves a two-year term, elected in odd numbered years. The Local League President is the presiding officer of the organization; provides leadership in carrying out the mission and the work of the League of Women Voters; presides over all business meetings of the board of directors; is the official spokesman for the League; coordinates interaction among officers, committees and members; disseminates materials from state and national; coordinates interaction among officers, committees, and members so that organizational activities achieve maximum impact.

Secretary

Serves a two-year term, elected in odd numbered years. The Secretary takes minutes at all decision-making meetings of the board and at the annual meeting; maintains the record of attendance at all board meetings; types and distributes minutes in a timely fashion; maintains a file of all written reports and minutes with corrections. The minutes of meetings become the legal records of history of the organization.

Treasurer

Serves a two-year term, elected in even numbered years. Manages money and keeps records in compliance with all applicable laws and regulations and in keeping with generally accepted accounting procedures; is aware of the League's liability and assures that fiscal management procedures can pass the "prudent person" test; collects and disburses all League funds as directed by the board, allocating funds to budget categories; oversees financial records; makes periodic reports to the board and membership on the League's financial at monthly board meetings; keeps books that provide a systematic record of all income and expenditures; prepares a report for the annual meeting; prepares required reports for state LWV and state and federal government; sends out dues notices; other duties as assigned.

Program First Vice President

Serves a two-year term, elected in even numbered years. The Program Vice President plans and organizes League programs, including arranging guest speakers and booking venues; organizes studies with the help of committee members. In League, program is comprised of the selected governmental issues chosen by the membership at local, state, and national levels for League study and action.

Organization Vice President

Serves a two-year term, elected in odd numbered years. The Organization Vice President oversees communications, publications, social media, calendar, membership, and archives. Ensures activities are well-organized and documented, core documents are updated, activities are well-promoted using appropriate means. Ensures current lists are maintained of members, donors, and interested persons. Ensures documentation is deposited with the official LWV-Denton archive at TWU Library.

Community Relations Vice President

Serves a two-year term, elected in even numbered years. The Community Relations Vice President visualizes and communicates the potential public relations value of all local League activities. The community relations vice president coordinates and oversees the work of committees under the community relations umbrella; creates the local voters' guide; and organizes local candidate forums.

Directors

Three elected Directors and no more than three appointed Directors. Elected Directors serve two-year terms. Two Directors shall be elected in odd numbered years and one Director shall be elected in even numbered years. The term of appointed Directors are one-year expiring at the end of the fiscal year. Directors support the activities of the League and carry out specific duties as assigned.

Webmaster

Serves an appointed two-year term. The Webmaster works with the Organization VP and maintains the chapter website; maintains the mailing system and mailing lists; and edits and distributes the monthly *Voter* newsletter.

Board and League Resources

Board Resources and Handbooks from the League of Women Voters of Texas:

<https://my.lwv.org/texas/publications/LWV-TX83rdWYGTA2013.pdf>

LWV Nikki Harris Training Library: <http://forum.lwv.org/category/member-resources/membership-and-leadership-development/webinar-training-library>

League Basics: <http://forum.lwv.org/member-resources/article/league-basics-download>