

**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS of WICHITA FALLS, TEXAS**

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*Sent to Members, and Others, via bcc:*

# Voter *for May 2016*

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**ITEMS INCLUDED IN THIS MONTH'S VOTER:**

The *Annual Meeting Agenda* for May 4th Meeting

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**A LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT..... Penny Miller**

As we fast approach the end of this League year (June 30th), May 4th is our annual business meeting. Please review all of the agenda items (below) before the meeting, if possible. We will not have a speaker, so we have plenty of time. The annual meeting tends to be shorter than a regular meeting, but try to be in your seats and ready to go by noon, as usual.

**Although I will try to explain everything**, if a member doesn't understand all the terms being used, please ask.

There are a number of conflicts with our meeting this time. I hope you will try your best to attend as this is your opportunity to have input into next year's agenda.

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**THE ANNUAL MEETING will be held at Luby's Cafeteria  
at noon on Wednesday, May 4, 2016.**

*Go thru lunch line prior to the 12 noon call to order.*

**Annual Meeting Agenda**

12:00 Call to order.

Prior minutes (Copies will be available at the meeting).

Treasurer's report.

Items for Approval (for 2016-17)

Election of Officers

Program of Action & Study

Annual Budget

Discussion of tax status

Miscellaneous Items & Discussion

Report from Convention

Vote 411

1:00 Adjourn.

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## NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT

The Bylaws provide that officers & up to four directors are elected at the Annual Meeting for one-year terms. The new president and board may later select up to four additional directors.

The three nominating committee members elected at the Annual Meeting must be non-board members. The president may appoint two additional members (from the board) to complete a five-member nominating committee. Nominations may be made from the floor, with prior approval of the nominee. The nominees for next year are as follows:

Kaye Holland	President
Tad Gose	1st Vice-president [program]
Rosemary Capps	2nd Vice-president [organization]* *(Nell Lister, meeting assistant)
Vacant	3rd Vice-president [community relations]
Terry Gilleland	Secretary
Jane McGough	Treasurer
Ruby Ditto	Board
Eldon Sund	Board
Liz Vernon	Board
tbd	Board

And the New Nominating Committee: Three non-board members to be nominated and elected at the meeting.

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## PROGRAM COMMITTEE REPORT

The Bylaws require action at the Annual Meeting on our Program of Action & Study for next year. Here are our current positions (in brief), with the Board recommendations on each of them.

### **REVIEW OF CURRENT PROGRAM POSITIONS**

#### **1. Financing City Government.**

[1979] The League supports a budget process which takes into account long-range planning, budget evaluation, and encourages public input.

**(2016)** Recommended retention of this position, with continued restudy of this issue.

#### **2. Mental Health//Mental Retardation Center.**

[1979 & 2002] The League supports the work of the Helen Farabee Regional Mental Health//Mental Retardation Center, with the following goals: **(a) More & better education** for the public, in order to understand & be more supportive of the mentally ill. **(b) Increased funding** from the City, County and State, as well as developing grant opportunities from Federal & public sources. **(c) Expanded services**, such as supportive housing, day care facilities & opportunity workshops for job training & employment.

**(2016)** Recommended retention of this position.

#### **3. Wichita Falls Public Library.**

[1990 & 1996] The League supports significant improvement and upgrading of the library, including branch outlets, and a wide array of modern services.

(2016) Recommended retention of this position.

#### **4. Recycling in Wichita Falls.**

[1998] The League strongly supports feasible and practical methods of recycling that the city, county, and other entities have or may begin, including curbside recycling. We support educating the public on the Three R's - - Reduce, Reuse, Recycle.

(2016) Recommended retention of this position.

#### **5. Boards & Commissions of the City of Wichita Falls.**

[2004] The League supports: **(a) Greater Awareness:** The League encourages the Times Record News to publish a series of articles on the Boards & Commissions, their history, membership, scope and need for participation, and encourages other community media to cover this subject, also. **(b) Member Recruitment:** The League asks the City to prepare brochures for citywide distribution about the Boards & Commissions; conduct periodic publicity campaigns; and focus on those areas where membership on Boards & Commissions is low, especially in minority areas. **(c) League Participation:** The League is ready to assist in the preparation or distribution of such brochures on how to get involved in the work of these bodies, listing what they are, what they do, and how to become a member. The League also encourages its members to become participants in the Boards & Commissions process.

(2016) Recommended retention of this position.

#### **6. Water Resources for the City of Wichita Falls & Region B.**

(2006) The League supports: **(a) Water Access:** Access to water for basic needs as a right of every citizen. **(b) Water Planning:** The League encourages Region B to consider water conservation as the primary water planning strategy for Region B; to include consideration of environmental flows in Region B water planning; to use agricultural and industrial water conservation best management practices in the Region B water plan. **(c) Government Responsibilities:** The League asks governing entities to consider water use//availability when planning for business//municipal development; and to support public awareness//education on the issue of water conservation and the use of various incentives to encourage wise water resource use. **(d) League Participation:** The League will attend Region B Water Planning Group meetings and public hearings, and will actively lobby in support of this position; the League will actively support water conservation awareness among its members and the public at large; and the League will support consolidation of water management agencies to improve focus on this critical issue.

(2016) Recommended retention of this position.

#### **7. Ethics in the City of Wichita Falls Local Government.**

(2008) The League supports the development and implementation of a City of Wichita Falls ethics ordinance (or Ethics Code), which contains the following elements: **(a)** A description of ethics rules enforceable by the City of Wichita Falls; **(b)** The creation of an independent Ethics Review Board; **(c)** A complaint mechanism; and **(d)** An enforcement process which is appropriate.

(2016) Recommended retention of this position.

#### **8. Parks & Recreation Facilities in the Wichita Falls area.**

(2010) The League recognizes that parks, open spaces, and a variety of recreational activities provide enhanced quality of life for citizens of the community. In the Wichita Falls area there are many opportunities for a variety of enjoyable activities through the many public

and private organizations. Therefore, the League **(a)** Encourages the city to continue to plan for increased parks and open spaces for future requirements; **(b)** Encourages the city to continue to provide a variety of activities geared to different interests, ages, demographics, and abilities; **(c)** Encourages the city to assure the maximum public access to public lands, lakes, and facilities; **(d)** Encourages the city and the media to continue to publicize local events and activities so citizens will know the many activities available for their participation.  
**(2016)** Recommended retention of this position.

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**BUDGET COMMITTEE REPORT.**

The Bylaws provide that an Annual Budget shall be adopted at the Annual Meeting to support the work of the League as a whole. The proposed Budget as approved by the board is as follows:

**REVENUE.**

\$ 540.00 Dual Household Member Dues (6)  
\$1,200.00 Individual Member Dues (20)  
\$ 800.00 Contributions from members & friends (estimated)  
\$ 1,677.00 Needed additional Fund Raising

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\$4,217.00 TOTAL REVENUE

**EXPENSE**

\$ 477.00 Per-Member-Payment to State & National (6 Dual Household memberships)  
\$ 1,060.00 Per-Member-Payment to State & National (20 Individual members)  
\$ 2,500.00 Voters Guide printing expense  
\$ 0.00 State Convention/Conference Expense  
\$ 80.00 Speaker meals  
\$ 100.00 Misc. Expense (P.O.Box, etc.)

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\$4,217.00 TOTAL EXPENSE

**NOTES:**

1. The per-member-payment (PMP) to State & National is calculated on our January 31st membership, and is paid quarterly through the year.
2. Donations and contributions for 2015-2016 have totaled almost \$800.00. Donations to the Education Fund have totaled \$1,130, including almost \$400 in recent memorials.
3. Member revenue and expenses is based upon current membership numbers.

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**DISCUSSION OF TAX STATUS**

At the LWV-TX State Convention, there was a discussion of the tax status of local Leagues. We are currently a 501(c)4, with the Education Fund set up separately as a 501(c)3. Some Local

Leagues are organized as a 501(c)3. It is the opinion of the State League that Local Leagues should carefully consider changing their tax status to a 501(c)3 if they are not currently in that status now.

We organized as a 501(c)4 due to our lobbying efforts. Charitable contributions for voter education (most notably the Voters Guide) have been deposited into the Education Fund. The State League's research indicates that we may indeed undertake lobbying activities as a 501(c)3 within certain limits, which we do not exceed.

The primary reason for recommending a 501(c)3 status is to ease fundraising. Some organizations and individuals only contribute to a 501(c)3.

We will discuss this at our annual meeting, as there would be some expense to this action. Our budget relies heavily on contributions, primarily from our members. As this is a Presidential election year and local elections will be conducted in November as well, our budget will be strapped.

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**REPORT FROM CONVENTION**

Jane McGough was our delegate to the State Convention. She will give a short highlight of the convention.

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**VOTE 411**

At Convention we discovered that the Local Leagues are responsible for updating the Vote 411 website for candidates in our area. At our meeting, we will discuss Vote 411 and solicit volunteers to assist in updating local information.