

2021 Impact Report

Fighting for Voting Rights During a Pandemic

President's Message:

What happens at the Texas Capitol impacts and influences actions across the United States. For the first time in over 100 years, the 87th Texas legislative session convened during a worldwide pandemic. We overcame this barrier to democracy with determination, ensuring the League's voice was heard during the Regular Session and the three following Special Sessions.

LWV Texas provided 114 testimonies during the 87th Legislative session and three Special Sessions! Our advocacy centered on our priority issues: voting rights and redistricting, and urgent issues: health care, women's health, public education, and climate change. We also fought extreme legislation and advocated for equal opportunity in schools for vulnerable transgender youth. We fought unregulated carry of handguns.

In 2022, the League will focus our energy on overcoming the barriers to voting created by the new Texas election laws that put our democracy at risk. By supporting the work of the League, you can fight for communities hardest hit by these bills: Black, Latinx, Asian American, Pacific Islander voters, voters with disabilities, young and rural voters.

I am proud to stand with the almost 3,500 League members and 13,000 League supporters across Texas who work so hard to Empower Voters and Defend Democracy in Texas!

Grace Chimene,
President, League of Women Voters of Texas



*The League makes taking action easy!
We created 46 Action Alerts with our Take Action tool!*

The Fight for Voting Rights Starts With Partnerships Let My People Vote Rally

We partnered with Texas NAACP, Texas LULAC, and Texas Impact for the "Let My People Vote Rally for Voting Rights" at the Texas Capitol. LWVUS CEO Virginia Kase Solomón rallied protestors with her speech "The State of the Voting Rights Crisis in America."



Empowering Voters. Defending Democracy.

Texas Leagues

Amarillo
Austin Area
Bay Area
BayTown
Beaumont
Brazoria
Cy-Fair
Collin County
Comal Area
Cooke County
Corpus Christi
Dallas
Denton
El Paso
Fort Bend County
Hays County
Hill Country
Houston
Irving
Lubbock County
Midland
Montgomery County
Richardson
Rio Grande Valley
San Antonio Area
South Central Texas
Tarrant County
Tyler/Smith County
Victoria
Waco Area
Wichita Falls
Williamson County

1212 Guadalupe Street,
Suite 107
Austin, TX 78701
512-472-100
lwvtexas@lwvtexas.org
www.lwvtexas.org

THE LEAGUE IN ACTION 2021 IMPACT REPORT

Fighting for a free and fair democracy!



Fighting Voter Suppression

Without the protection of the Voting Rights Act and with one-party control of the Texas Legislature, the League stands up to increased government efforts to suppress the vote.

WINS!

- We stopped the most extreme suppressive elements of the 87th Legislature's voting and elections omnibus bill.
- We activated the voices of members and supporters to send 242,000 emails to Senators, Representatives, and state leadership.
- We won incremental voting process improvements, such as ballot tracking and online mail ballot curing.

LWV LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF TEXAS



PRIORITY ISSUE
Voting Rights & Election Law

Cinde Weatherby
Voting Rights & Election Law
Issue Chair

lwvtexas.org

Defending Democracy in the Courts

At the federal level, we litigate to support Texas voters:

- Filed an amicus brief against the proposal to exclude undocumented immigrants from the Census count.
- Filed a lawsuit against the State of Texas about the Anti-Voter Bill, SB1.
- Filed redistricting litigation supporting Black, Latinx, and Asian American & Pacific Islander coalition districts.
- LWVUS filed an amicus brief opposing the SB8 anti-abortion law.

At the state level, we continued to fight:

- Filed a lawsuit about the mail-in ballot signature process (Richardson v. Hughs)
- Filed an amicus brief at the Texas Court of Criminal Appeals in support of Ms. Crystal Mason's petition for review of her conviction for voting "illegally."

Fair Maps Texas

Strengthening the voices of voters of color in Texas.

Despite the pandemic, Leagues all across Texas took action both at the Capitol and locally in support of fair maps.

League members took action in Corpus Christi, El Paso, Hays County, Tarrant County, and Tyler/Smith County.



All communities, no matter their race, deserve fair representation, yet our legislators have drawn electoral maps that silence the voices of communities of color in Texas."

Grace Chimene, president League of Women Voters of Texas.

Women's Health & Reproductive Choice

The League of Women Voters of Texas advocated strongly against attempts by the Texas legislature to roll back reproductive rights. Bodily autonomy is a personal right. We hope for a victory from the US Supreme Court for Texans who may become pregnant.

Equal opportunity/LGBTQ Rights

We fought for transgender children who deserve equal opportunities to participate in sports, regardless of gender identity.

Gun Safety

Despite opposition from the League, law enforcement, and the general public, unregulated carry of handguns is signed into law.



League members and supporters from across Texas valiantly contacted Legislators 240,000 times.

EMPOWERING VOTERS. DEFENDING DEMOCRACY.

The Power of Collaboration

Texas Legislature, Don't Suppress Our Votes!

RevUp Texas and Leagues create advocacy videos to support voters with disabilities.



Democracy is Good for Business



Democracy is Good For Business

Texas LULAC, Texas NAACP, and the League called on Texas businesses, to support democracy. More than 40 businesses signed up!

Creating Voter Education Videos

League members from across Texas helped create videos on the eight Constitutional Amendments in English and Spanish

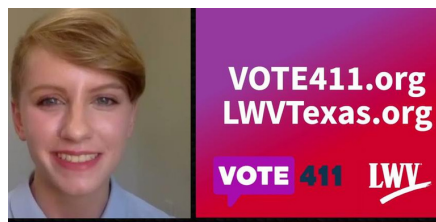
Andi Di - Texas	Tina Majdinasab- Wichita Falls
Teresa Carbajal Ravet - Hays	Brenda Moctezuma - Latinitas
Susana Carranza - Austin Area	Alex Rarick - Bay Area
Cali Franks - Tarrant County	Ian Seamans - Collin County
Bennet Leff - Austin Area	Ruju Shah - Fort Bend
Brianna Poe - Dallas	



Empowering local Leagues

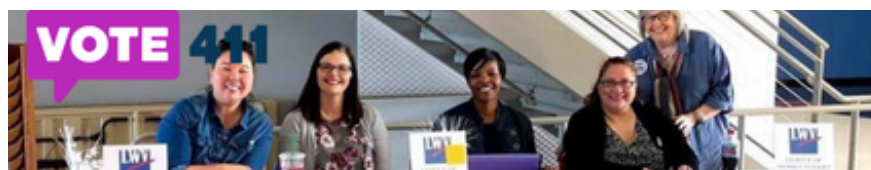
Unleashing the power of local Leagues:

- LWVTX provided VOTE411 coverage to all local Leagues. VOTE411 use in a Constitutional Amendment Election year skyrocketed! 141,462 voters or three times as many users accessed VOTE411 in 2021 compared to 2017!
- With a grant from the Democracy Fund, LWVTX offered local Leagues *Club Express*, an online platform that includes a website League template, communications, and data management.
- LWVTX granted \$18,000 to 21 Leagues to "Get Out The Vote!"
- LWVTX facilitates monthly Zoom calls for League Presidents, Treasurer, Voter Services, and Membership leaders to share best practices, strategize, and build community.
- LWVTX organized workshops: *The Welcoming League*, *Civic Learning & Civil Dialogue*, and *Being League in this Political Climate*.
- Leagues celebrated voting & civil rights history on social media throughout the year.



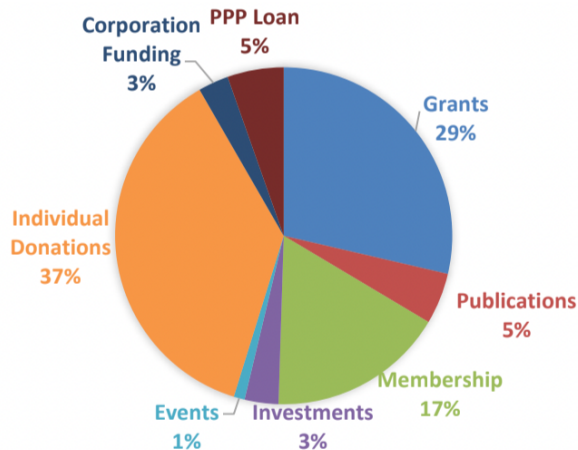
Growth Through Media

YouTube - 892 subscribers
Facebook - 13,619 followers
Twitter - 5,026 followers
Instagram - 3,341 followers
Texting - 6000 Texans received action alerts & voting reminders

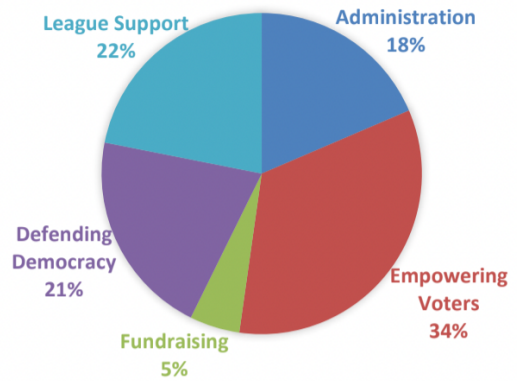


"Thank you for putting together such a terrific website that succinctly and objectively summarizes everything a voter needs to know." James Webb, voter

Funding the Mission



LWVTX Income \$320,308



LWVTX Expenditures \$207,864

LWVTX is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit non-partisan citizen education and research organization that promotes participation in government and seeks to influence public policy through education and advocacy. The League neither supports nor opposes political parties or candidates..

Local Leagues in Action!



Leave a Legacy!



Become a member of the Minnie Fisher Cunningham Society! By including a gift in your will to sustain the League, you will help Make Democracy Work in Texas forever!

Minnie Fisher Cunningham was the first Executive Secretary of the League of Women Voters. The Texas native was also the first female pharmacy student at the University of Texas and the first woman to run for the Texas Senate. Members of the Minnie Fisher Cunningham Society continue empowering voters and defending democracy into the future by naming the League in their wills for a bequest.

What will be your legacy? For more information visit <https://lwwtexas.org/planned-giving> or call the LWV Texas office at 512-472-1100.

Grace Chimene, President (Austin Area), Janet Imhoff, Vice President (Collin County), Dorothy Marchand, Vice President (Austin Area), Janis Richardson, Vice President (South Central Texas), Marguerite Scott-Johnson, Vice President (Hill Country), Elaine Wiant, Treasurer (Dallas), Susan Bergen Schultz, Secretary (Austin Area), Joyce LeBombard (Austin Area), Susan Majors (Richardson), Stephanie Swanson (Austin Area), Deb Treece, (Hays County), Yvonne Wade Sanchez (Fort Bend County) Linda Vaughn (Amarillo).
Aileen Jacinta McMurrer, Executive Director