

## LWVTX Convention elects officers

Four delegates represented the LWVSAA at the 36<sup>th</sup> LWVTX State Convention March 10 -13 at the Westin Houston Memorial City. The Texas League meets biennially to adopt a program of study and action for the next two years, celebrate accomplishments, elect new leaders and adopt a budget. In all, 96 delegates from throughout the state participated.

Newly elected and renewed officers and directors/trustees for the 2016-2018 term are:

### Officers

Eliane Wiant (Dallas), LWV-TX President  
Grace Chimene (Austin Area), Vice President  
Nancy Parra (Houston Area), Vice President  
Elizabeth Erkel (Collin County), Vice President  
Peggy Hill (Bay Area), Vice President  
Miriam Foshay (Dallas), Treasurer  
Marguerite "Meg" Scott-Johnson, (Hill Country), Secretary

### Directors/Trustees

Connie Born (Comal County Area)  
Amber Briggie (Denton)  
Marlene Lobberecht (Houston Area)  
Sarah McIntire (Denton)  
Barbara Montoya (El Paso)  
Susan Morrison (Austin Area)  
Carol Olewin (Austin Area)



**LWVSAA delegates (l-r) Sybil Morgan, Kathy Hill, Elaine Talarski and Diann Andy.**

### 2016-2018 Nominating Committee

Chair: Ruthann Geer (Tarrant County)

Members: Laura Blackburn (Houston Area) and Chris Davis Garcia (Corpus Christi Area)

In other business, delegates adopted a LWVTX budget of \$106,116 and reviewed the proposed Texas Education Fund (TEF) budget of \$220,920, which is expected to be adopted by the new board of directors/trustees at their first meeting.

On the program side, delegates adopted a Get-Out-the-Vote Action. With the goal of encouraging informed and active participation in government by facilitating voter engagement, the measurable objective is to increase voter turnout by 5 percent from 2012 to 2020. Our local league will share more about how we plan to

address the objective in future Voters, so stay tuned!

Delegates also adopted a review and update of redistricting. Specifically, we will update our position to provide more guidance on methods for achieving goals of compactness, coincidence with boundaries of local jurisdictions, non-dilution of minority population voting strength, and impartiality with regard to incumbents and political parties.

Directions from the delegates to the newly elected board when they attend the National Conference in June include advocating for the expansion of Vote411.org to include a mobile phone app.

Delegates from San Antonio were Diann Andy, secretary; Kathy Hill, vice president of Community Engagement; Sybil Morgan, Director; and Elaine Talarski, Treasurer.

# League may offer input to ethics panel

If District 1 Councilman Roberto Treviño's proposal for an independent Ethics Review Board is approved, the League of Women Voters could be involved in forming San Antonio's first ethics panel that is not tied in any way to city staff or elected officials.

As outlined in a proposal to the City Council, Treviño's plan would replace the ethics board appointed by council members with one appointed by institutions in the community such as the League, chambers of commerce, universities and bar associations. The ERB would, in turn, appoint the compliance auditor, who guides issues and answers questions about ethics from council members. The person who holds that job is now nominated by the board and appointed by the city auditor.

"We want someone independent,

who is not beholden to anyone in the city, to ask about conflicts," Treviño said, referring to the compliance auditor.

Treviño's council consideration request was supported by Mayor Ivy Taylor as well as fellow council members Rey Saldaña, Mike Gallagher and Ron Nirenberg.

But don't expect anything to happen soon. Because it requires a charter amendment, the plan needs to be approved by voters, and the soonest that can happen is May 2017. If it passes, then the organizations that will be involved need to be chosen. So far, Treviño said, the League is the only group that has spoken up.

"We want to empower as many people as possible," he said.

"We want people who want to be involved. People need to step up."

The ERB reviews ethics complaints and can bring complaints itself. If the charter amendment passes, it will also be responsible for appointing the compliance auditor.



**Roberto Treviño**

Treviño's idea is based on similar arrangements in Atlanta, Ga., and Tallahassee, Fla. The Atlanta board has been operating since 2002 and includes the League of Women Voters of Atlanta-Fulton County among the

institutions involved in selecting members. The Tallahassee board just began in 2014.

## Volunteer voter registrars needed

Voices for Children, a nonprofit organization that trains child-care providers and caregivers, has asked the League to offer voter registration opportunities to the attendees at several early childhood trainings over the coming months.

Two league members attended a session in January to register voters, and the group has asked us to return on April 16 at St. Philip's College and May 7 at Northeast Lakeview College. Both are on Saturdays from 7:30-9 a.m. More sessions are scheduled for later in the year, but the immediate need is for these two.

If you are a volunteer deputy registrar and would like to participate, call Sybil Morgan, 210-775-8600.



**Voter Services Director Phyllis Ingram, left, and board member Sue Robertson-Dodd volunteered to register voters and answer questions at the March 23 Use Your Voice Tour at the Tobin Center for Performing Arts. Featuring singer-songwriters Patty Griffin, Sara Watkins and Anais Mitchell, the 39-city tour was designed as musical event to empower voters nationwide. In addition to an opportunity for the LWVSAA to speak to the entire audience about the League onstage at the opening of the concert, Griffin and her tour mates echoed the importance of voting throughout the night and dedicated the last song to the LWVSAA, which will receive a \$500 grant from Columbia Artists for the Ed Fund, to be used this year.**

# Voters can help speed voting process

*This article is reprinted with permission from the San Antonio Express-News.*

by Glenda Wolin

Many people were disappointed and angry after waiting far too long in line to vote on Super Tuesday. Then, some discovered they couldn't vote at the place where they had waited.

I know – I am an election judge, one of the people who had to tell them the bad news.

For some, the problem was not theirs. The voter turnout was underestimated. Polling sites have an uneven distribution of voters. With only one laptop per site for checking voters in, a problem with a voter creates a bottleneck.

But for others, knowledge of the system can go a long way toward making voting a smoother process. The way things happen is not always clear, so I hope this will help.

## **Early voting**

People can vote at any polling site

in the county during early voting. Crowds are generally smaller and hours are longer, so taking advantage of it is smart. Note that sites used for early voting are generally different from the ones used on election day.

## **Election-day voting**

People must go to their assigned polling place, based on their precinct number, which in turn is based on their address. The precinct number is on the voter registration card. The address of the polling site can be found in the Express-News and on [www.mysa.com](http://www.mysa.com) the day before or day of the election, and on the Bexar County Elections Department website: <http://home.bexar.org/elections/>.

A person at the wrong polling site will be directed to the correct one. If he insists on voting, he will be informed that he may fill out a provisional ballot, but that for a provisional ballot to be accepted, the voter must be voting in his assigned precinct.

Your precinct number won't change from year to year (unless you move) but the location of the polling site might, so it's a good idea to look up the location before each election.

## **Voter registration card**

You don't need to bring it to the polls, but it is still important. Not only does it tell you your precinct and the races for which you can vote, but the fact that you get a new one early in each even-numbered year is a sign that you are still registered to vote.

If you don't vote in a couple of elections you are dropped from the rolls, but you don't know that unless you realize that you did not receive a new card – a blue one in 2016. I had to tell several people on Super Tuesday that they weren't registered,

and all were holding orange cards, which were issued in 2014.

(Also, election officials love people who bring their cards because we can scan them instead of typing in information, speeding up the process.)

## **Change of address**

If you move, be sure you change your address with the elections office and receive a new voter registration card. In any case, you must vote in the precinct in which you are registered. If you don't file a change of address, you must vote in your old precinct and ask there for a form to change your address. If you do have a new card, vote in your new precinct.

## **Your name**

Texas Voter ID law requires that the name on your official identification – drivers license, military ID, gun license, etc. – match your voter registration. If your voter registration has, say, a middle name where your Texas ID has a middle initial, you will be asked to fill out a form to change your voter registration to match your Texas ID. As long as it's substantially similar, it's not mandatory, but if you don't do it we are required to ask every time you vote.

If you find this information helpful, please share it with friends and family. Maybe it can help speed up the voting process just a little so more people will vote with less frustration.

*Glenda Wolin is a former Express-News assistant city editor who is now a volunteer deputy registrar and election judge for the Bexar County Elections Department.*

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Glenda Wolin

# TurboVote offers reminders, helps registration process

Voters throughout the state can sign up to receive voting reminders and even get help registering to vote with a handy new tool called TurboVote. The League of Women Voters of Texas has joined forces with TurboVote's developer, Democracy Works, a nonpartisan, 501(c)(3) nonprofit dedicated to the idea that voting should fit the way we live.

"After missing several elections as a graduate student living away from home, I set out to build a reminder system for voters so I

would never miss another," said Seth Flaxman, co-founder and executive director of Democracy Works. From that idea, he and his colleagues formed Democracy Works to bring the awesomeness of the Internet to the process of democracy. TurboVote, its first project, launched in September 2010.

The tool is targeted to young voters, for whom the Internet is part of their DNA, but anyone will find it useful. Visit [lwvtexas.turbovote.org](http://lwvtexas.turbovote.org) to sign up and learn more.

## League aids high school voter registration

At the invitation of the principal, volunteer deputy registrars from the League of Women Voters recently went to Karen Wagner High School and registered 169 students in collaboration with Educators Voter Registration Initiative volunteers.

Quite a few other Bexar County high schools are planning voter registration drives before the end of the school year. Any League VDRs who would like to help register students should get in touch with Sybil Morgan at 210-775-8600 or [sybilmorgan349@gmail.com](mailto:sybilmorgan349@gmail.com).

## Upcoming Events

**Election Day**, May 7, 7 a.m.-7 p.m., elections for many municipalities and school boards, special election for Texas House District 120. Early voting April 25-May 3. <http://home.bexar.org/elections/> (Information coming soon)

**Annual Meeting**, May 21, 11:30 a.m., Omni San Antonio Hotel at the Colonnade. Guest speaker Justice Catherine Stone, recently retired chief justice of the 4th Court of Appeals.

**Election Day**, May 24, 7 a.m.-7 p.m., Democratic and Republican primary runoffs. Early voting May 16-20. <http://home.bexar.org/elections/> (Information coming soon)

**LWV National Convention**, June 16-19, Washington D.C. Early Bird registration through May 31, \$395 plus \$80 fee for Lobby Day activities. <http://forum.lwv.org/page/frequently-asked-questions-convention-2016>

How many Democrats does it take...?

March 19, at the George Gervin Youth Center, it took 180 to make a convention. And that was no joke – that’s how many people came to the party’s Senate District 26 convention to choose delegates to and vote on resolutions to propose at the state convention in June.

Frequent outbreaks of applause and cheers greeted guest politicians and veteran office holders who gave pep talks to the audience before the serious work got underway. They also visited the other two district conventions held in San Antonio the same day, drawing similar crowds.

The Bexar County Republicans were doing similar things at their own Senate district conventions after the polls closed on election night.

Larry Romo, the director of the Selective Service System and a native San Antonian, reminded the Democrats at the Gervin Center that after the primaries, “we have to get 100 percent behind our candidates. It’s important that we unify. We can invite disenchanted Republicans and independents to join us.”

He spoke from a lectern that sported a large sign reading “Democrats who don’t vote elect Republicans.” The sign was a clear reminder of what is at stake as nationally, some Sanders supporters have been heard saying they will not vote for Clinton, and some Clinton supporters have said they will not vote for Sanders.

The audience seemed to agree with both Romo and the sign.

Bexar County Democratic Party chairman Manuel Medina urged everyone to get involved by becoming volunteer deputy registrars, precinct chairs and election judges; and he announced that in the coming year the party would be highlight-

## **Bexar County Republicans, Democrats hold conventions**



***Diann Andy speaks at the Senate District 26 Democratic Convention***

ing income inequality and veterans’ rights.

“I was proud of the people in Chicago who stood up to Donald Trump,” he said to applause, whistles and cheers.

Rep. Lloyd Doggett, whose U.S. congressional district stretches from southeastern San Antonio to Austin, referred to the two leading Republican presidential candidates as “Tweedle-dumb and “Tweedle-dumber” and gave this picturesque vision of the future:

“I’m working for a time when Texas will be as blue as the bluebonnets out there on the highway.”

After the speeches, the crowd broke up into precinct conventions to pick delegates to the state convention, being held June 16-18 here in San Antonio

at the Alamodome. It’s the first time in 20 years the state convention has been held here, and the first time in 40 years the city has hosted the convention in a presidential election year.

When the convention reassembled as a whole, it passed almost 40 resolutions to be presented to the state convention for consideration in June here in San Antonio. Among them were ones in support of increasing minimum wages to a living wage, debt-free college tuition and reducing existing student loan debt, fair standards to updating of identity documentation in the gender change process, repeal of the death penalty, Medicare for all, and public financing of all campaigns. Other resolutions were in opposition to all anti-union legislation, transportation and storage of radioactive waste, and regressive taxes on poor and middle-income families.

Because there were more at-large slots available than people present, anyone else who wanted to attend the state convention was able to fill out an application and be accepted as an at-large delegate.

**League of Women Voters'**

# **Spring Luncheon and Annual Meeting**

**Saturday, May 21, 11:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.  
Omni Hotel on IH 10 at the Colonnade**

**Guest Speaker:**

**Justice Catherine Stone**

*Retired Chief Justice of the 4th Court of Appeals*

**\$35 if you pay by check or online before Tuesday, May 10; \$40 after that  
Cut-off date for all reservations is Tuesday, May 17, 10:00 a.m.**

***Send your checks made out to LWVSAA to:***

***Martha Lankford, 9219 Standing Creek, San Antonio, TX 78230  
210-340-5366; mblankford1@gmail.com***

***Tickets can be purchased securely by using PayPal on our website:  
LWVSanAntonio.org.***

***Your receipt will serve as your ticket to the luncheon at the door.***

**The public is welcome.**