



January 2016

League of Women Voters of the San Antonio Area

Upcoming Events

State Convention

2016 LWV-TX Convention
March 11 - 13, 2016
The Westin Houston,
Memorial City
Convention room rate is
\$129 plus tax per night
available through Feb. 12
To reserve a room, call 1-800-
937-8461 and reference LWV-
TX Convention

Annual Meeting

Saturday, May 21, 2016.
Omni Hotel, 9821 Colonade
Blvd

Program planning

Comments at LWVSAA's program planning meeting concentrated on the question of income inequality in the state. At the board meeting in December the board, considering income inequality might be a little broad as a study issue, narrowed the recommendation to the state board to study the minimum wage in Texas. The focus would be on whether or not the current figure (\$7.25 an hour) is a living wage, how the wage is applied in various regions, and the pros and cons of raising the minimum. Many other local Leagues will also be submitting their proposals for study to LWV-Texas.

Community Engagement

As part of our effort to be more involved in the community, and encourage the community to be more involved with us, we are now an official partner organization of SA2020. Beginning in 2010 thousands of San Antonians, and you may be one of them, gathered together to discuss and decide what the future of our community should look like by year 2020. Eleven cause areas would rise to the top as key concerns: arts and culture, civic engagement, com-

munity safety, downtown development, economic competitiveness, education, environmental sustainability, family well-being, health and fitness, neighborhoods and transportation. According to SA2020 "Our residents are amongst the healthiest in the nation with access to quality education and economic opportunity. San Antonio is the safest big city in the U.S. and our neighborhoods are connected with residents that are engaged civically. The city is growing, but is sustaining its natural resources as a respectful steward. San Antonio has public transportation that is recognized as a model of efficiency, a vibrant downtown, a diverse and thriving creative community, and a local government that's responsive and accountable."

The League has been involved with SA2020, specifically in the civic engagement goal, but we have not been an official partner until now. It means we will work with others to measurably move the civic engagement needle by getting more voters to the polls. We're very excited about the possibilities that can open up as a result, and encourage you to learn more. Visit www.SA2020.org for more information.

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

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Sisters Across the Straits November 2015 Delegation

Sisters Across the Straits visit Cuba

Want to travel to Cuba? The League of Women Voters of Florida offers several trips a year. Sisters Across the Straits is a fascinating cultural exchange that lets travelers meet and learn from community leaders, entrepreneurs, university faculty, and artists, among others. The project is the brainchild of League Director and former state representative Annie Betancourt, who has led over 21 delegations since 2011.

LWVSAA board member Kathy Hill traveled in November, and says the experience was, in a word, fascinating. The chance to travel to an incredibly beautiful country with a complicated history and a resilient and proud people, in the company of league members from across the country, says Hill, was a once-in-a-lifetime experience. The trip provided an honest dialogue about the changes Cuba has gone through since the revolution, and most especially about the changes it faces now - full of challenges and possibilities. The trip itinerary changes according to the availability of people and groups to meet with, and each day is busy from 9 to 5, with roundtable discussions and tours. Evening provided opportunities to relax and enjoy free time, dinner and the company of fellow leaguers.

Individuals interested in traveling should visit the Florida League's website: <http://thefloridavoter.org/>