

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Barbara Murray

The March 6th Primary election with state and local races is just around the corner. It may still be winter, but the election season is heating things up!

Primary Election – March 6th

While the election itself is Tuesday, March 6th, **early voting** starts in just a couple of weeks: **February 20 – March 2**. Your League of Women Voters *Voters Guide*, covering all the statewide races, will be arriving via the US Postal Service very soon. We will also send you the *Voters Guide* as a PDF document in a follow up email. *Please feel free to share this nonpartisan voting information with others!*

League Election Information Website

www.Vote411.org

Vote411 is an **online, interactive Voters Guide**.

You can see the races on your ballot, compare candidates' positions side-by-side, and print out a "ballot" indicating your preferences as a reminder and take it with you to the polls on Election Day. For more information on early voting or other election questions, you may also visit either the **Harris County or Galveston County websites:**

www.harrisvotes.com

http://www.galvestonvotes.org/2018_Elections/Primaries/index.html



LWV-BA Board met Feb. 3

Voters Service Activities

Voter Registration

The League conducted a voter registration drive at the **College of the Mainland** on **January 24** thanks to League volunteers Judith Blanchard, Aggie Bourgeois, Ethel Patten, and Judith Oppenheim. Judith O., our voter registration chair, plans to schedule **voter registration drives monthly**. Next up: A drive at UHCL on February 27.

Voters Guides

Almost **2000 LWV- Texas Voters Guides** have been ordered and will be **distributed to area libraries and city halls** before the March 6 Primary in time for early voting. Louise Peck will be organizing the distribution and will be calling on some of you to help.

LWV-BA Annual Meeting

It is never too early to start thinking about the Bay Area League's **Annual Meeting** where we take care of League business (elect officers, approve a budget and program) set priorities, enjoy an interesting speaker, and celebrate the past year. It will be held the morning of **Saturday, June 2**. Details to follow in upcoming Voters.

GOTV Get Out the Vote

for the March 6 Primary Election!

A primary election often decides who wins the general election.

Whether you vote by mail-in ballot or vote in person, be sure to make your voice heard in all elections! Visit VOTE411.org for Voters Guides and all your voting information needs.

Be sure to read the rules if you wish to vote absentee by mail, as those 65 older and some others may do. The rules have changed!

<https://www.sos.state.tx.us/elections/forms/pol-sub/5-15f.pdf>

LWV-BA APRIL 7 DISCUSSION MEETING: REDISTRICTING AND GERRYMANDERING

9:30 – 11:30 a.m.
at the home of Diane Sheridan
Details in the March VOTER

Congratulations! - Beaumont League at Large

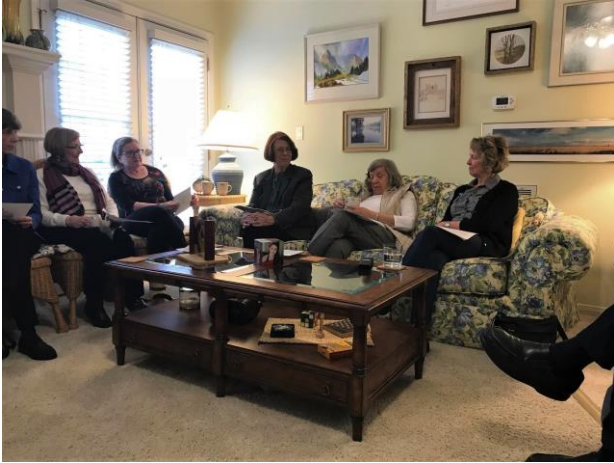
Congratulations to Nicole Barnett-Dunbar and a small group of dedicated community members who have **achieved the status of League at Large** or LAL (formerly called MAL – member at large). This recognition is the first step in forming a local League of Women Voters group in Beaumont. Diane Sheridan and I have been mentoring Nicole for this past year. If you know of anyone in the Beaumont area who would be interested in joining, contact Nicole at lwvbeaumont@gmail.com or through Facebook at https://www.facebook.com/pg/LWVBEAUMONT/about/?ref=page_internal

VOTER REGISTRATION DRIVE HELPERS NEEDED

J. P. Oppenheim, Voter Registration Chair

This month's Voter Registration Drive will take place on Tuesday, February 27th from 10 to 2 in UHCL's Bayou Building Lobby. As usual, there will be two shifts, one before noon and one after. I will be calling members looking for volunteers. If you want to participate, please contact me at judopp@aol.com.

Last month, Judith Blanchard, Aggie Bourgeois, and Ethel Patten helped at our drive at the College of the Mainland on January 24 and distributed about 10 Voter Registration applications. Most of these were filled out at our table in the Student Center in the study area looking out on the lake. We spoke with students about the importance of getting their applications in before February 5 and explained Voter ID requirements. We also checked their entries to make sure that the application was complete. We are hoping to build on this number at UHCL and at other voter registration drives this year.



LWV-BA members discuss the US Census and more.

APPORTIONMENT, THE CENSUS, AND GERRYMANDERING CASES

On January 27, a dozen LWV-BA members gathered for the first of two meetings on topics of interest to all of us: apportionment, the US Census, redistricting, and gerrymandering. The first meeting provided a foundation on these related topics with an explanation of how the process begins with the Constitutional requirement to apportion the seats in the US House of Representatives every 10 years, based on population numbers derived from the decennial census. LWV-BA Program Chair Diane Sheridan used language from several resources to pull together an explanation of both. Her presentation is attached. Responding to member interest in an update on the gerrymandering cases in the courts—and the news—Diane recommended the Brennan Center at NYU as a resource with brief, readable descriptions of the cases and their status. Her handout is attached. Many cases have been files by Leagues of Women Voters in various states.

At its April 7 discussion meeting, LWV-BA will focus on the redistricting process and gerrymandering. The board hopes that updating members’ understanding of these

issues will make it easier for individuals to respond to LWV-Texas and LWVUS calls for action on these topics in the next few years.

LWV-Texas State Convention in Kerrville: April 27 – April 29, 2018: Our First 100th Anniversary Celebration

It’s never too early to plan ahead! Every two years, in the spring of even-numbered years, LWV-Texas convenes a state convention. Each League is allotted a certain number of delegates, but all League members may attend as observers. The 2018 Convention will be held April 27-29, 2018, at the Inn of the Hills, in Kerrville, Texas. The Bay Area League has budgeted some money for some of our members to attend. Let me know if you might be interested. You can get more information at the LWV-Texas website <http://www.lwvtexas.org/Convention.html> .

LWV-Texas will turn 100 in 2019, so the anniversary will be celebrated at the 2018 and 2020 state League conventions



Happy Birthday to the League! February 14, 1920

98 years old and still
“Making Democracy Work!”

“SPEED DATING” WITH STATE AND LOCAL CANDIDATES FOR OFFICES ON THE MARCH 6 PRIMARY BALLOTS

Sponsored by Clear Creek Community Council of PTAs

Two items: 1) Area residents may want to attend one of these nonpartisan events to meet candidates; 2) The PTA group needs area residents willing and able to serve as nonpartisan facilitators at tables where the “speed dating” will occur. If you would like to help the PTA by doing so at one or both events, contact Lea S. Bodie at lbodie@cccptas.org

Tuesday, February 20 at 6 PM

Clear Lake High School
Cafeteria Commons
2929 Bay Area Blvd, Houston, TX 77058
AND

Wednesday, February 21 at 6 PM

Clear Creek High School
Auxiliary Cafeteria
2305 E Main St, League City, TX 77573

Agenda

Introduction, opening statements 6:00 – 6:20
Roundtable discussions 6:20 – 7:00
Candidate closing remarks, adjourn 7:00 – 7:30
Meet & Greet 7:30 – 8:00

Description of Candidate Roundtable Discussion Forum

- Opening statement. Prior to the roundtable discussions, individual candidates introduce themselves and state why they are running for office in a 1-minute timed segment. Candidates then go to their first assigned table with the assistance of volunteers.
- Discussion. A series of 10-minute dialogues between one candidate and a small group of voters seated at a round table with a nonpartisan facilitator. At the end of each 10-minute segment, the candidate rotates to the next highest numbered table. Questions will be asked by citizens at each table. Candidate answers to each of the questions should be limited to 1 minute to accommodate as many questions as possible. Candidates should focus only on their own positions and opinions and refrain from referring to their opponents. Citizens will be asked to maintain civil discourse.



SATURDAY, MARCH 24
25TH ANNUAL TRASH BASH

Details and registration at www.trashbash.org

LWV-BAY AREA MEMBERS

As of 1-31-18

Thanks to all for joining or rejoining the League of Women Voters of the Bay Area this membership year! January 31 is the day we send our official count to LWVUS. We are delighted to say that **51 members is the most we have had since at least 2009!** We count among the 51 two who have belonged to the League for more than 50 years--Harriett Engelke and Elizabeth Glenn—and two who joined last week--mother and daughter Lea and Madisen Bodie. Invite your friends and family to join. Contact Membership Chair Clara Hockstedler for dues info and a sign-up form. All of us have a role to play in Making Democracy Work. Being counted among the membership of LWV-BA, LWV-TX, and LWVUS is one way we help.

Christine Baker

Nadine Bartsch

Judith & Doug Blanchard

Agnes & Jerome Bourgeois

Lea & Madisen Bodie

Peter Bowman

Susan Braymer

Susan Quinn Bryan

Julie Bullock

Ann Davidson

Verva Densmore & Mike

Wehrman

Harriett Engelke

Cynthia Evans & Jon Powell

Fran Gentry

Elizabeth Glenn

Suzanne Gossett

Carol Sagan Greene

Melba Heselmeyer

Peggy Hill

Clara Hockstedler

Angela Howard

Virginia Kennedy

Jeannie Kunzinger

Barbara & Ivar Larsen

Rene Maher

Sherrie Matula

Joyce Maxwell

Nicole Kenley Miller & Andy

Miller

Leslye Mize

Mary Moorehead

LeeAnn Morris

Barbara Murray

Connie Nyquist

Natalie Ong

Judith Oppenheim

Ethel Patten

Louise Peck

Elizabeth Rodriguez

Diane & Mark Sheridan

Elizabeth Sheridan

Nancy Wallace

Jane Webb

Letitia Whittington



ELECTION AND LEAGUE CALENDAR

Detailed election information may be found at <https://www.sos.state.tx.us/elections/>

February 2018

- 5 Last day to register to vote for March 6 Primary Election
- 20 First day of early voting for March 6 Primary Election
- 23 Last day for application for ballot to vote by mail to be *received* for March 6 Primary

March 2018

- 2 Last day of early voting for March 6 Primary
- 6 March Primary Election
- 6 Last day to receive ballots by mail (7:00 p.m.) unless overseas or military voter deadlines apply

April 2018

- 7 LWV-BA Discussion Meeting – 9:30 – 11:30a – Redistricting & Gerrymandering– at home of Diane Sheridan
- 5 Last day to register to vote for May 5 Election
- 23 First day of early voting by personal appearance for May 5 Election
- 23 Last day to register to vote for May 22 Primary Run-Off Election
- 24 Last day for application for ballot to vote by mail to be *received* for May 5 Election
- 27-29 LWV-Texas Convention, Inn of the Hills, Kerrville – celebrating turning 100 in 1919

May 2018

- 1 Last day of early voting by personal appearance for May 5 Election
- 5 Election Day (uniform election date for many local elections)
- 5 Last day to receive ballots by mail (7:00 p.m.) unless overseas or military voter deadlines apply
- 11 Last day for application for ballot to vote by mail to be *received* for May 22 Primary Run-Off
- 14 First day of early voting for May 22 Primary Run-Off
- 18 Last day of early voting for May 22 Primary Run-Off
- 22 Primary Run-Off Election
- 22 Last day to receive ballots by mail (7:00 p.m.) unless overseas or military voter deadlines apply



Our Mission Statement

Empowering Voters. Defending Democracy.

Our Vision Statement

We envision a democracy where every person has the desire, the right, the knowledge, and the confidence to participate.

Our Value Statement

The League believes in the power of women to create a more perfect democracy.

VISIT THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF THE BAY AREA WEBSITE

www.lwv-bayarea.org

Want to contact your election officials?
You'll find them in our *Bay Area Guide to Elected Officials* at
<http://www.lwv-bayarea.org/CitizensGuide.pdf>



LWV-BAY AREA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

2017 - 2018

Barbara Murray, President
LeeAnn Morris, Secretary
Verva Densmore, Treasurer
Louise Peck, Publications

Clara Hockstedler, Membership
Diane Sheridan, VOTER & Program
Melba Heselmeyer, Board Assistant
Judith Oppenheim, Voter Registration

WHERE TO FIND THE LEAGUE

www.lwv.org - www.lwvtexas.org - www.lwv-bayarea.org

LWV-Texas may be found at:

www.facebook.com/LWVTX/

@LWVTexas

<https://www.youtube.com>

