



# THE VOTER

February 2017

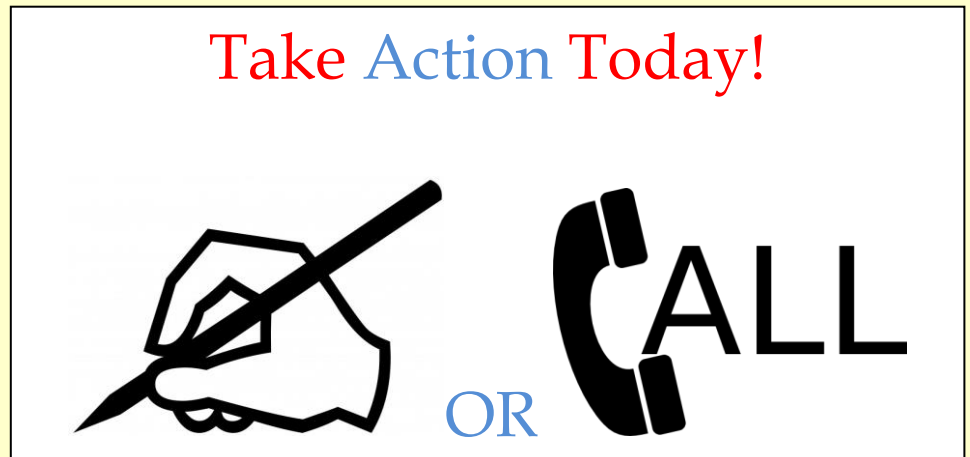
News from the League of Women Voters – Hill Country

[LWVHillCountryTexas.org](http://LWVHillCountryTexas.org)

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

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

League Members and Friends,



## Capitol Action

League of Women Voters, Texas, priorities for this state legislative session include the following issues:

- Voting Rights and Election Laws
- Health care with emphasis on Woman's Health and Reproductive Choice
- Public Education

Additionally, the League takes positions on a variety of topics after study is undertaken at three levels: national, state, and local. Once a position is reached, the League uses its grassroots strength to influence the shape of public policy. The League of Women Voters only acts on an issue when we have a local, state, or national position or are acting under League principles. LWV never lobbies in opposition to a League position. Members, if you are not receiving emails with updated information on "Capitol Action", please contact someone on the local Leadership Team so we can check on your email address. You can always check in on the [lwvtexas.org](http://lwvtexas.org) website to get the latest updates.

Seven local members attended LWV Lobby Days in Austin on January 30 and 31. The group consisted of Meg Scott-Johnson, Maggie Marsh-Nation, Karen Persely, Bonnie Powers, Joyce Schlechte, Mary Ellen Summerlin, and Janice Zitelman. Speakers enlightened us on current and upcoming legislation regarding the League's priority issues including voter registration of high school students, teacher preparedness, and the fact that for every \$1 spent on family planning there is a \$7 return. Visits were made to the offices of Senator Dawn Buckingham, Representative Andrew Murr, and Representative Kyle Biedermann to ask for their support on the League's priority issues and to educate some of the new office staff on who the League of Women Voters are and what they do. Memorable quotes from the event, "*Non-profit and non-partisan does not mean non-participatory*" and "*We forget we are the leaders we have been looking for*".

## Volunteer Deputy Voter Registrar Training

.LWV Hill Country is hosting a training this **Thursday, February 23, 12:00-1:00 P.M.** at Riverside Nature Center, 150 Francisco Lemos St., Kerrville. If you would like to attend please RSVP to the Eva Washburn, Voter Registration/Election Assistant at 792-2242 or email, [evaw@co.kerr.tx.us](mailto:evaw@co.kerr.tx.us). If you have been a Volunteer Deputy Voter Registrar your certification expired on 12/31/16 so you would need to attend another training to continue in this important volunteer role. If you are unable to attend this training the Kerr County voting staff will conduct training on February 28<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 a.m. and on March 2 at 3:00 p.m. at the Juvenile Detention Center at 3499 Legion Dr., Kerrville. You should also RSVP to Eva Washburn for these trainings.

## Acting on League Studies

Human Trafficking - The League of Women Voters of Texas is opposed to all forms of domestic and international human trafficking of adults and children, including sex trafficking and labor trafficking. The Hill Country Alliance Against Trafficking is a coalition of nonpartisan organizations, non-profit agencies, and public agencies working together to educate the public about and to eliminate the existence of human trafficking in the Hill Country of Texas. To those ends the HCAAT will offer educational trainings about the factors in and behind human trafficking, facts and signs of human trafficking, and steps individuals and organizations can take to eliminate human trafficking. On Thursday, March 30, from 4:00-5:30 a seminar will be offered in Kerrville, place to be announced. Please put the event on your calendar now.

You can also see the latest updates on proposed legislation on Trafficking on the [lwvtexas.org](http://lwvtexas.org) website.

Payday and Auto Title Loans in Texas – Pastor Jeff Anderson will be speaking at the March 17 LWV-Hill Country Membership Meeting (12 noon at Fuddruckers, Kerrville) to provide information about the Freedom Loans program in our own community. Freedom Loans is designed for individuals caught in a payday loan trap of escalating debt. Their mission is to guide motivated borrowers to build a bridge from debt to financial freedom. Once again, you can find the latest updates on proposed legislation on Trafficking on the [lwv.texas.org](http://lwv.texas.org) website.

## Welcome New Members

As we begin our new membership year which began on February 1 we welcomed several new members. We look forward to getting to know Carlton Burton, Judy Ferguson, Susan Junker, Carol Parks, Karen Persely, and Sally Sheehy. If you know of others interested in joining, please bring them to a meeting, ask them to volunteer, and direct them to our membership chair, Bunny Bond.

## Leadership Team Changes

LWV- Hill Country says “thank you and best wishes” to Jenni Pinson (Schreiner student) and Sue Colley who have had a change in priorities and have not rejoined. We appreciate all of the hard work and enthusiasm that they brought to our league. New Leadership Team members are Debby Berry and Karen Persely. We appreciate their willingness to help further the mission of LWV.

## Mark Your Calendars

**February 23, 2017**, Volunteer Deputy Voter Registrar training at Riverside Nature Center 12:00-1:00 p.m.

**March 17, 2017**, LWV Hill Country membership meeting on “Payday and Title Loans”, 12 noon, Fuddruckers, Kerrville

**March 30, 2017**, Human Trafficking Seminar, 4:00 p.m., place to be announced

**May 12, 2016**, LWV Hill Country Annual membership meeting, 12 noon, location to be announced

**April 26-30, 2018**, LWV Texas convention in Kerrville

Respectfully,

*Janice Zitelman*

President LWV – Hill Country

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### **JOIN US - League Membership**

Be a member of the League; we invite you to join us! A membership application is on our website or you may contact Bunny Bond, Membership Chair at 830-377-9940. Our League annual dues are \$60 for an individual or \$85 for two in a household, and \$30 for student membership. Our dues are prorated from January. Include your name(s), address, email address, and phone number. Make your check to LWV-Hill Country; mail to LWV-HC, PO Box 290303, Kerrville, TX 78029-0303. Join the League and help make democracy work.

### **STAY CONNECTED**

Visit our website: [LWVHillCountryTexas.org](http://LWVHillCountryTexas.org)

Like our Facebook Page: <https://www.facebook.com/pages/League-of-Women-Voters-Hill-Country-Texas/339618902798405>. The LWV-Hill Country welcomes your questions! Post to this Facebook page or submit questions via e-mail to [PresidentLWVHC@gmail.com](mailto:PresidentLWVHC@gmail.com).

### **LEAGUE of WOMEN VOTERS is a local, state, and national nonpartisan organization.**

The LWV-Texas position on the issue of human trafficking in Texas: The League of Women Voters of Texas is opposed to all forms of domestic and international human trafficking of adults and children, including sex trafficking and labor trafficking. We consider human trafficking to be a form of modern-day slavery and support measures to prevent the use of force, fraud or coercion to exploit a person for sexual or labor purposes, to prosecute traffickers and to protect victims. **Go to <http://lwtxedu.org> for the free, four-hour TEA continuing credit course on issues of human trafficking. Teachers, take note of this!** This is the online course for which we received the state award.

**Our latest League State Study in Texas is Payday and Title Loans.** Focus: Explore the current regulations on payday and auto-title lenders in Texas and the accessibility and impact of these loans in the community. Scope: Define a payday loan, an auto-title loan, and the typical borrower. Research the history of the payday/auto-title industry in Texas over the past decade and describe the impact of regulations on the industry. Determine the current demand for loans in Texas and the economic impact of these loans on communities. Determine the typical interest rate charged and the usual length of time that it takes to pay loans. LWV-Texas now has a position on payday and title loans from which to advocate for legislative reforms.

**Our national League, LWVUS, [www.lwvus.org](http://www.lwvus.org),** is actively working to influence public policy through education and advocacy. Go to this website and see the range of issues from voter rights, voter turnout, reforming money in politics, and defending the environment.

### **OUR LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS-HILL COUNTRY LEADERSHIP TEAM**

**President/Spokesperson:** Janice Zitelman, [presidentlwvhc@gmail.com](mailto:presidentlwvhc@gmail.com)

**Treasurer:** Bonnie Powers

**Membership:** Bunny Bond

**Voters Service:** Maggie Marsh-Nation

**Webmaster:** Debby Berry

**Member-at-large:** Marie Miller, Keren Persely, Leahanna Young

**PLEASE CONSIDER:**

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On your Amazon account:

Search out Amazon Smile; select League of Women Voters of Texas Education Fund as your charity

Thereafter, for your purchase to count for the donation, log into <http://smile.amazon.com>

The program will send you an email to install buttons into your browser to make this step easier.

Questions? Email [lwvtexas@lwvtexas.org](mailto:lwvtexas@lwvtexas.org). Thank you for your donation!



***How important that we continue the work that they began;  
do not forget that we are the leaders we are looking for.***