



# THE VOTER

October 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,



### TEXAS VOTER DATA SAFE FOR NOW!

Lone Star State law prevents voter information from being used by third parties except for limited purposes, in order to shield voter privacy. Giving the data to the Presidential Advisory Commission on Election Integrity exposes Texas voters unnecessarily and illegally to unacceptable privacy risks, including the possibility that the data falls into the hands of cybercriminals, foreign governments, or is exploited by commercial interests. LWV-TX with the Texas NAACP and individual voter and League member, Ruthann Geer, filed as plaintiffs in a suit in conjunction with the Brennan Center for Justice against the Texas Secretary of State to not release voter information without meeting certain conditions to the U.S. President's Election Integrity Commission. The suit was filed on July 20, 2017. September 22 is the final day for the Secretary of State to reply to the commission. As a child I often accompanied my parents to the local polling site. When I would ask my mother who she cast her vote for she would tell me it was a secret. Hopefully, her statement will remain true. LWV-TX, were "chosen" as were LWV-Indiana and LWV-Utah to file suits in their states to halt this voter suppression effort.

## VOTER FORUMS SCHEDULED THIS WEEK

### Bandera City Council

Five candidates have filed for three places on the Bandera City Council. LWV-Hill Country has invited the candidates to participate in a forum on Tuesday, October 10, 2017, 6:00 p.m., at the Silver Sage Center.

### Texas Constitutional Amendments

LWV- Hill Country will host a forum on the Proposed Constitutional Amendments Election which takes place November 7. The event will be held at the Dietert Center in Kerrville beginning at 10:00 a.m. The seven proposals address several areas of life including taxes, gambling, housing, banking and state executive official measures. Four well known citizens have accepted the League's invitation to speak on the pros and cons of the proposed amendments. David Wampler, former mayor and a financial advisor, will speak on Numbers 1 and 6. Kenneth Early, a local banker, will speak on Numbers 2 and 7. County Court at Law Judge, Susan Harris, will speak on Numbers 3 and 4. Barry Shaw, professor of sports management at Schreiner University, will speak on Number 5.

Members of the League of Women Voters don't take the right to vote for granted. We all have a stake in the success of our communities. Our vote gives us a voice in the conversation about which public policies will help our community succeed. Because the right to vote is so important, our goal is to give citizens nonpartisan election information and forums are a method to provide information.

### **LWV-HILL COUNTRY ROCKS VOTER REGISTRATION!**

Voters Service Chair, Mary Ellen Summerlin, reports that LWV-Hill Country registered 78 voters and gave out 57+ voter registration applications in the past month. Our League provided the opportunity for voters to register at 14 separate locations with the help of at least 16 volunteers. Not only did the volunteers register voters they provided information on time and locations to vote in the upcoming election. Most of all voters were encouraged to take the time to visit [Vote411.org](http://Vote411.org) or read a VOTERS GUIDE to make an educated choice before casting a vote. Thank you, volunteers!

**VOTE411.ORG** has information on the November Election which will contain 7 proposed Constitutional Amendments. The site is for every voter's use and contains non-partisan information. Encourage your family and friends to visit the site in order to make an educated vote.



**BELK CHARITY DAY SALE** will be Saturday, November 4, 6-10 a.m. Our local League raises money by selling tickets for \$5 each. Each ticket is a coupon for \$5 off a purchase on Charity Day. This is an easy fund raiser and hope you will buy several tickets to give or sell to your friends and family. If you can't be in town the morning of the sale you can pre-shop the week before. Tickets will be available at the meeting or contact Bonnie Powers ([powersbonnie@yahoo.com](mailto:powersbonnie@yahoo.com)).

### **GET READY FOR 2018 ELECTIONS!**

The Voters Service Committee will be meeting on November 8, 9:00 a.m., @ Kerrville Chamber of Commerce Board Room to develop a plan for 2018 elections. Already, a number of citizens have filed to run for office in a number of local elections. Determining the roles which LWV – Hill Country might play to educate voters in these important elections will require preparation, scheduling, and attention to details. All are invited to this meeting.

## **Mark Your Calendars**

- **October 10, 2017**, Bandera City Council Voter Forum, 6:00 p.m., Silver Sage Center
- **October 14, 2017**, Forum on Constitutional Amendments which will be on November ballot, 10 a.m. @ Dietert Center
- **November 4, 2017**, Belk Charity Day, 6-10 a.m. @ Belk Department Store, River Hill Mall, 200 Sidney Baker, Kerrville
- **November 8, 2017**, Voters Service Planning Meeting, 1:30p.m. @ Kerrville Chamber of Commerce Board Room
- **November 16, 2017** General Membership Meeting, Program on Re-Districting, 5:30 p.m., (venue TBA)
- **December 2, 2017** Holiday Social Gathering, 5:30 p.m., @ Meg and Richard Johnson's Home
- **January 18, 2018** General Membership Meeting, Program Honoring Local School Boards 6:00 p.m. (venue TBA)
- **April 26-30, 2018**, LWV Texas convention in Kerrville

Respectfully,  
Janice Zitelman, President

League of Women Voters – Hill Country

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**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
- Facebook Administrator:** Twanda Brown
- Voters Service:** Mary Ellen Summerlin
- Webmaster:** Debby Berry
- Member-at-large:** Marie Miller, Julie Sentell

**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 830-377-9940, Membership. Our League annual dues month 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.



Consider giving a membership as a  to a student, as they need only be 16 years of age to join.

**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 [President@LWVHillCountryTexas.org](mailto:President@LWVHillCountryTexas.org). Questions need to be about the issues you think are important. All questions are to be free from bias, as they will be asked of each candidate.

**LEAGUE of WOMEN VOTERS**

**The League of Women Voters is a local, state, and national nonpartisan organization.**

**Please go to our LWV-Texas, state website, [www.lwvtexas.org](http://www.lwvtexas.org).** There you will find more voter information and the League positions. The League develops our positions after study and consensus.

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://lwvedu.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 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.

**PLEASE CONSIDER:**

Helping fund our State League, LWV-TX.

Do you purchase from Amazon? Please donate 0.5% of your purchase to LWV-Texas.

Instructions can be found on our web site, [www.lwvtexas.org](http://www.lwvtexas.org). Scroll down - it's way down there.

Or - just save these instructions:

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.