

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Barbara Murray

Spring is finally here! The primary elections – except for runoffs – are behind us. We can now turn our sights to new League activities.

Voters Service

Before we turn the page on the election, I want to [thank everyone who has worked very hard to “Make Democracy Work”](#) for our community. Judith Oppenheim organized a late February [voter registration drive](#) at University of Houston-Clear Lake with Ethel Patten, Peggy Hill, and Barbara Murray participating. A second drive is planned at UHCL for April 5 in response to a student-organized event. Plans are also underway to register high school students in April. Louise Peck heroically [distributed Voters Guides](#) on short notice due to a mix-up in our order. Several of our members volunteered at a PTA sponsored [candidates forum](#) for candidates running in the March 6 primary. New member Lea Bodie, on behalf of the PTA, organized the “speed dating” forum based on League resources. Peggy Hill, Susan Braymer, and Barbara Murray served as facilitators. Our League is in the early planning stages for hosting a candidates forum on April 16 for the upcoming CCISD school board election. Stay tuned for more information.

LWV-TEXAS Celebrates 100 Years of “Making Democracy Work”

One hundred years ago, seven organizations were registering and educating women to vote for the first time in Texas! On [March 26, 1918](#) the bill giving women the right to vote in the Texas primaries was signed by Governor William Hobby. Together, [our predecessors registered an estimated 360,000 women to vote](#) in the 15 days allotted for registration for that historic election!



The seven groups were:

- [Texas Equal Suffrage Association – now the League of Women Voters of Texas](#)
- Mothers’ Congress – predecessor of Texas PTA
- State Federation of Labor – merged into Texas AFL-CIO
- State Federation of Women’s Clubs
- Texas Press Women – now called Press Women of Texas
- State Farmers’ Congress – predecessor of the 4-H Clubs
- Texas Graduate Nurses’ Association – now Texas Nurses Association

LWV-Texas Convention – April 27-29 Kerrville, Texas

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. Several LWV-Bay Area members are planning to attend. We have budgeted some money to help underwrite the cost. **Let me know if you might be interested**. We need to register **by MARCH 30** to take advantage of discounted fees. The hotel-discounted rate is good through March 26. You can get more information at the LWV-Texas website <http://www.lwvtexas.org/Convention.html>



LWV-Bay Area Annual Meeting

Our Annual Meeting will be held on **Saturday, June 2** in the home of League member Susan Braymer. (Susan also hosted last year's annual meeting.) Members attending the Annual Meeting will enjoy a delicious catered brunch; take care of business (elect officers, approve a budget and program) and set priorities; and celebrate the past year. You will be receiving an **invitation to the Annual Meeting and the Annual Meeting Workbook via email by early**

May with more details. Please mark June 2 on your calendars and make plans to attend!

Nominations are Open!

If you would like to become more involved in the League, **Nancy Wallace, Nominations Chair**, would like to hear from you. The LWV-Bay Area Board of Directors is always looking for fresh faces with new ideas to serve on the board. We meet 4 times a year, usually on Saturdays for breakfast, with emails in between to plan, direct, and prioritize the goals and activities of the League. It is a wonderful way to foster friendships while challenging yourself and serving the community. If this sounds like something you would like to do, or if you would like more information, please contact Nancy at 281-532-3633 or at nancyhwallace@aol.com. A slate of candidates will be listed in the Annual Meeting Workbook a month before the meeting and presented for a vote at the Annual Meeting in June.

As you can see we have a very busy next few months culminating in our Annual Meeting, our final event of the year. I hope to see you at our April 7 discussion meeting on redistricting and gerrymandering. Check out its VOTER article for details!

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.

In Loving Memory of Elizabeth Glenn



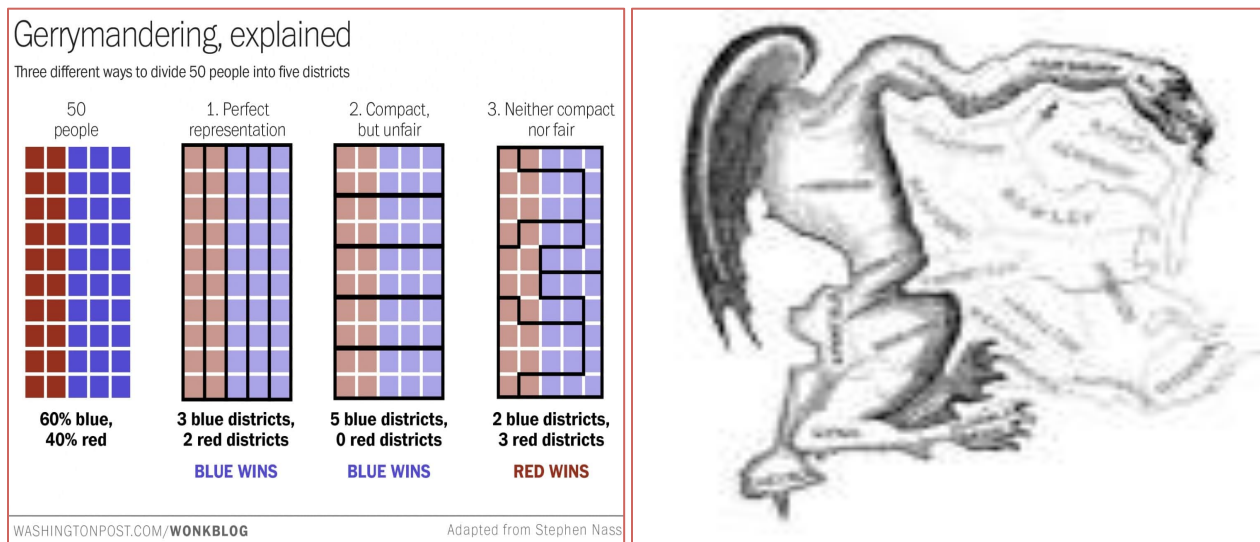
Elizabeth Glenn, longtime League of Women Voters member, a [past president of the LWV-Bay Area](#) and former VOTER editor, passed away February 5, 2018 in Friendswood. Elizabeth was a good friend and mentor to many of us in the League. She was the epitome of a gracious gentlewoman who was a [dedicated feminist, volunteer, and community leader](#). In addition to being a lifetime member of the League, she was a co-founder of the Houston Area Women's Center and a member of the Assistance League of the Bay Area and the Houston Symphony League Bay Area. A memorial service is planned for April.

LWV-BA APRIL 7 DISCUSSION MEETING: REDISTRICTING AND GERRYMANDERING

9:30 – 11:30 a.m.

at the home of Diane Sheridan*

On April 7, LWV-BA will gather for the second of two meetings this spring covering timely issues critical to fair and representative government: the decennial census, its use to apportion the population by state among the 435 seats in the US House of Representatives, the redistricting process for drawing election district boundaries at all levels of government, and gerrymandering. The April meeting will focus on how redistricting works in Texas and the changes the League supports to prevent gerrymandered districts.



Graphic from article we'll use to explain gerrymandering --- Gov. Gerry's salamander-shaped district

***Directions:** KirbyWoods is off Kirby Drive between NASA One and Red Bluff Road. Turn at the subdivision sign onto KirbyWoods Drive. When it ends, turn left onto Live Oak. 1107 will be on your left, $\frac{3}{4}$ of the way down the street, with a street lamp and fire hydrant next to the driveway. Call Diane Sheridan at 281-326-5253 if you need more info.



ELECTION AND LEAGUE CALENDAR

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

March 2018

- 24 Trash Bash. To help with this annual cleanup program, go to www.trashbash.org
- 26 Gov. Hobby signs bill giving women in Texas the right to vote.

April 2018

- 7 LWV-BA Discussion Meeting – 9:30 – 11:30a – Redistricting and Gerrymandering– at home of Diane Sheridan (see pg. 3)
- 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

June 2018

- 2 LWV-BA Annual Meeting, Brunch, and Speaker. 9:30 – noon at home of Susan Braymer. Details to follow.

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>