



August 2018



2018 - 2019

LWV-TC

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Directors

Carol Cordell

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Doris Sawey

Office Hours: MWF

8:30 AM – 12:30 PM

Mailing Address

P. O. Box 100175

Fort Worth, TX 76185

Telephone

817-348-VOTE (8683)

E-mail Address

lwvtarrantcounty@sbcglobal.net

Web site

www.lwvtarrantcounty.org

Facebook

www.facebook.com/LWVofTarrantCo

www.facebook.com/LWVArlingtonAreaTX

LWV Arlington Area TX

The mission of the League of Women Voters is to encourage informed and active participation in government and to influence public policy through education and advocacy.

### President's Message

President Message for the Voter

What a summer!

This may have been my busiest summer yet, and there's no sign of slowing down anytime soon. The Board met several times this summer for longer periods of time than usual. What were the items on the agenda?

- Gearing up for the mid-term elections
- Training new members
- Organizing for upcoming unit meetings
- Fundraising – North Texas Giving Day
- Voter services
- Action on JPS services



I was already thinking that this upcoming election would be different than most mid-term elections, and the month of July confirmed that belief. I am getting more and more requests for voter registration drives. Private organizers, companies and organizations are reaching out to the League to help eligible voters get registered.

The League has always been an organization where people can get unbiased information in our Vote411 before going to the polls. We have been an organization that moderates candidate forums so that people can come and get their questions answered by candidates. What I think has been the most interesting thing about the voter registration drive requests is the way people ask for this help. It is becoming apparent that the public believes we are an organization that can assist people in becoming registered voters. It makes sense that the League of Women Voters is not only interested in helping people become informed voters but can actually perform the duties of helping people get registered, which is the first step of the voting process. They see the word 'voting' in our organization's name and assume that we are able to help.

At this time, I don't have a formal list of League members who are able to fill this need. I have a few names that I think might be deputized. I have a list of people who are signed up to go through the training this coming Saturday, I myself, am on that list.

I say all of this, not to guilt you into becoming a volunteer registrar, but to think about how many people you could register to vote if you were a certified registrar. A month ago, I was telling a coworker that I am involved in the League. She said, "Oh, that reminds me. I need to update my address so I can vote." I wish I could have said, "Here, I can help you take care of that right now." But I'm not a certified registrar. This is happening to me more and more these days. Missed opportunities.

In the upcoming days, you will begin to see links to the site called "Sign Up." I will be posting opportunities to assist with voter registration drives. If you are a Volunteer Deputy Registrar or will be before the date of the event, I urge you to sign up. After about 10 days, if no one has volunteered for a drive, I am going to kick the request to other groups in the area who have amassed a large poll of registrars so that the job can be fulfilled. I would rather the public see the LWVTC out there doing the work.

If you are a deputy registrar already or are about to become one, please let us know. Click here and add your name: <https://goo.gl/forms/5bzj8qQNtSAze43F3> or you can email me at [lesleejbarnes@gmail.com](mailto:lesleejbarnes@gmail.com) and I will add you. If you wanted to sign up for the August 18<sup>th</sup> training but prior commitments are keeping you from attending, please know that you can go to the Election Administration's website and complete the training online. <http://access.tarrantcounty.com/en/elections/education-and-training/Volunteer-Deputy-Registrar.html>

However you decide to serve during this election season, know that you are an important part of the team. Whether that is registering voters, helping with forums, delivering Vote411 materials to libraries, or simply reminding the people around you what an important part of the democratic process they are, it is all part of what makes democracy work.

Encourage your friends, family and colleagues to visit us at ~

[WWW.LWVTARRANTCOUNTY.ORG](http://WWW.LWVTARRANTCOUNTY.ORG)

Remind your friends, family and colleagues to LIKE us at ~

[WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/LWVofTARRANTCO](http://WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/LWVofTARRANTCO)

[LWVofTARRANTCO](http://LWVofTARRANTCO)

Talk of Texas' dismal voter turnout is a staple of every election cycle. Here's a look at the makeup of the Texas electorate and some of the context for those turnout numbers.

Source: Texas Tribune Article by Alexa Ura and Ryan Murphy, Feb. 23, 2018

It's indisputable that Texas has a depressing voter turnout history. Year after year, the state ranks near the bottom nationally in electoral participation, with turnout dipping even lower during non-presidential elections. Each time, the state's dismal voter turnout is catalogued as a consequence of voter suppression efforts, uncompetitive races, an unmotivated electorate or some combination of those factors.

WHY IS TEXAS VOTER TURNOUT SO LOW? DEMOGRAPHICS PLAY A BIG ROLE

**Texas' history of low voter turnout**

Just a small portion of the state's voting-eligible population votes in statewide elections, with turnout dropping even lower during non-presidential elections.

Many make the case that state lawmakers can do more to make it easier to vote, and the turnout figures leave little room for doubt that voter apathy seems to play a role in low turnout rates, particularly in primary elections.

But before the blame game begins this election cycle, here's something to keep in mind: Low turnout in Texas is also tied to demographics. With early voting underway, here's a closer look at the makeup of the Texas electorate and some context for those turnout numbers.

**A third of the state's Hispanic population isn't of voting age**

Texas is a young state overall, but the Hispanic population trends much younger than the state's white and black populations.

Hopes for a swell in voter turnout often hinge on the state's burgeoning Hispanic population. But a breakdown of the population by age shows a third of Texas Hispanics aren't even of voting age. In fact, those under 18 make up the state's largest Hispanic age group. Meanwhile, those aged 45 to 64 make up the biggest age group of white Texans.

To be clear, Hispanic adults participate in elections at lower rates than their white and black counterparts overall, which makes them an easy target for voter mobilization efforts. But when it comes to convincing Hispanic voters to play a bigger role in elections, it doesn't help that they're already starting from behind.

**Texas' immigrant population cuts into voter pool**

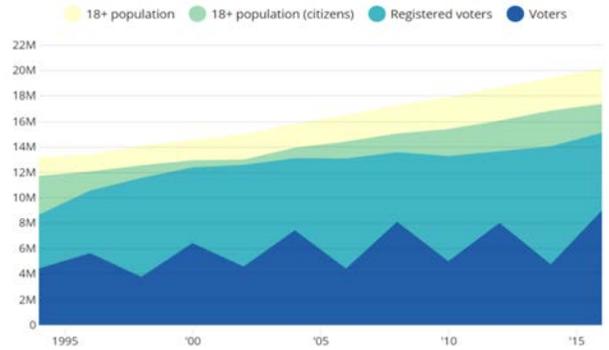
Immigrants make up a much larger share of the state's Hispanic and Asian adult populations compared to their white and black counterparts.

Hispanics make up an even smaller share of the Texas electorate when you account for the state's sizable immigrant population.

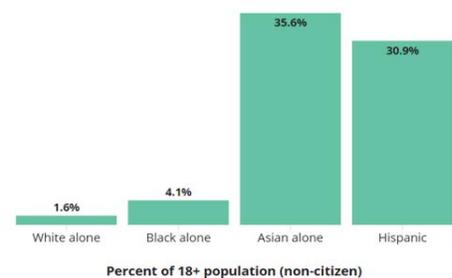
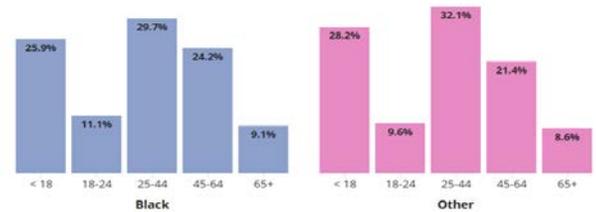
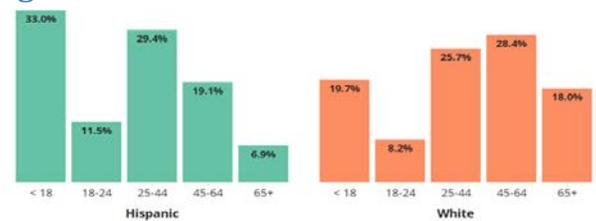
Home to 4.7 million immigrants, Texas ranks seventh among states with the biggest shares of residents who were born in other countries. It's estimated that more than a third of those individuals are naturalized citizens who are eligible to vote.

The rest are non-citizens — legal permanent residents, undocumented immigrants or immigrants with another form of legal status — who can't participate in elections.

While a majority of immigrants living in Texas come from Latin American countries, the Asian population also sees a sizable drop in the count of eligible voters when you consider immigration status.



Source: Texas Secretary of State, U.S. Census Bureau



Note: "White" includes individuals only categorized by the U.S. Census as non-Hispanic. "Hispanic" includes individuals of any race. Source: U.S. Census Bureau

## Texas voter turnout varies by age

Older Texans are much more likely to participate in Texas elections, with the 65+ population claiming the highest turnout rate.

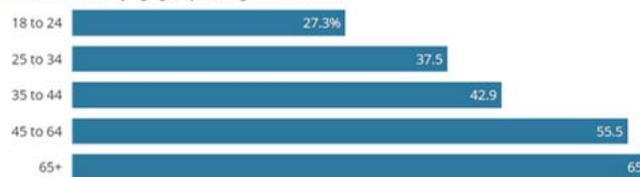
Electoral speaking, age is more than a number. It's an indicator of how likely someone is to cast a ballot.

Texas as a whole is a young state, claiming the third-lowest median age in the country. But older Texans are more likely to turn out for both presidential and gubernatorial elections. Voters who are 65 or older boast the highest turnout rates in the state, followed by voters aged 45 to 64. It's fairly easy to grasp why their turnout rates are so high.

Those voters, demographers and political scientists say, are more likely to have stable housing, be married and have children. And they probably pay closer attention to issues that may draw voters to the polls — the quality of schools, property taxes or the conditions of the roads on which they drive. They are also more likely to have a voting history that will help them show up on voter lists that campaigns target.

Those factors go a long way in perpetuating the gap in turnout based on race because those individuals are also much more likely to be white. Almost two out of every three adults older than 65 are white, and half of voters aged 45 to 64 are white.

Turnout in Texas by age group, 2016 general election



Source: [U.S. Census Bureau](#)

Put another way: White Texans outnumber voters of other races in the age groups that most consistently turn out to vote.

Perhaps it goes without saying — but producing quality journalism isn't cheap. At a time when newsroom resources and revenue across the country are declining, The Texas Tribune remains committed to sustaining our **mission**: creating a more engaged and informed Texas with every story we cover, every event we convene and every newsletter we send. As a nonprofit newsroom, we rely on members to help keep our stories free and our events open to the public. Do you value our journalism? Show us with your support.

## WHAT THE LEAGUE IS DOING:

### Preventing Election Day Barriers

In the lead-up to Election Day 2016, League volunteers worked around the clock to protect the rights of voters. They staffed English and Spanish language hotlines answering voters' questions and troubleshooting for them. They set up poll observing programs, worked as poll workers and reported challenges to the national Election Protection Coalition. All of this was carried out with the goal of ensuring votes were successfully cast and counted. In states where restrictive photo ID laws had passed and were implemented, the League actively sought out individuals who could have difficulty getting the required ID for voting purposes to provide assistance. Assistance included education about the requirements, transportation to DMVs, and help in obtaining, and in some instances paying for underlying documentation (e.g. birth certificates). As part of this effort LWV printed tens of thousands of state-specific voter education materials in the lead-up to Election Day 2014. In 2016 alone, the League's work to protect and mobilize voters was featured in more than 35,000 news stories.

Leagues also regularly met with elections officials to encourage Election Day preparedness, poll worker training (especially in states where changes had been made), and fair distribution of resources so that all polling places are staffed and prepared for voters. Across the country hundreds of League volunteers staffed hotlines and worked as election observers to ensure voters' rights were protected on Election Day itself. When possible, Leagues also worked to improve voter registration database matching criteria, students' right to vote using their campus address, increasing the effectiveness of public assistance office voter registration, and fair and equitable implementation of early voting and vote cent.

Since 2013, LWVUS has promoted five key proactive election reform priorities:

- Secure online voter registration
- Permanent and portable statewide voter registration
- Expansion of early voting
- Improvement of polling place management
- Electronic streamlining of election processes.

### Other Resources

**U.S. trails most developed countries in voter turnout** by Drew Desilver, Pew Research Center <http://www.pewresearch.org/fact-tank/2018/05/21/u-s-voter-turnout-trails-most-developed-countries/>

**Why is Voter Turnout So Low In Texas?** By Travis Bubenik Marfa Public Radio, October 28, 2016 <http://www.keranews.org/post/why-voter-turnout-so-low-texas>

**Big as Texas? Lone Star election turnout is minuscule** <https://www.houstonchronicle.com/opinion/editorials/article/Big-as-Texas-Lone-Star-election-turnout-is-12474905.php>

Please review the material that the LWVTX has put together on the “Get Out The Vote” page of their website:

<https://my.lwv.org/texas/get-out-vote-0>

## QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION REGARDING THE INFORMATION PRESENTED ON THE LWVTX WEBPAGE:

- 1) Does the information on the state league’s webpage cover promotion of voting adequately and effectively?
- 2) If yes, how? If not, what else is needed or could be better presented?
- 3) How can local LWV members, as individuals, best use this information to promote voting locally?
- 4) What should LWV Tarrant do as an organization to promote voting locally? The Board is taking suggestions so please give as many as you can think of.  
With each suggestion, list who / group(s) of people the suggestion would target.



### Unit Topics for this year

- September 2018** - Promoting Voting
- October 2018** - Botanic Gardens
- November 2018** - Homeless in Tarrant County
- December 2018**- No Unit meetings – enjoy the holidays
- January 2019** - Immigration
- February 2019** - Gun Control/Public Safety
- March 2019** - ERA / Women’s Services
- April 2019** - Environment – (Hazardous materials in and traveling through Tarrant County)
- May 2019**- No Unit meetings – Plan to attend the Annual Meeting

A photograph of a clipboard with a silver clip at the top, holding a document. The document is titled "General Meeting League of Women Voters of Tarrant County" and contains details about a meeting on Monday, September 10, 2018, at 6:30-7:30pm at the Southeast Branch - Arlington Public Library. It also lists "In the works" items like Ride Sharing and Video conferencing, and "Topics to be discussed" such as the North Texas Giving Day Committee Report and Unit Topics for Unit Meetings.

**General Meeting**  
**League of Women Voters of Tarrant County**

**When:** Monday, September 10, 2018  
**Time:** 6:30-7:30pm  
**Where:** Southeast Branch - Arlington Public Library, 900 SE Green Oaks Blvd, Arlington, TX 76018

**In the works:**

- Ride Sharing for those who would like a ride to the meeting
- Video conferencing

**Topics to be discussed:**

- North Texas Giving Day Committee Report
- Update on action in advocating for non-emergency services to undocumented residents at JPS.
- Get out the vote
- Unit Topics for Unit Meetings
  - Preview of the September Unit Study on Promoting Voting



Once again we are going to participate in the North Texas Giving Day to be held this year on September 20! Thanks to you, last year we raised \$1985.47!

This year we're going to blow that out of the water. With your help we can do just that!

**Remind all your friends and family and post on your personal and work Facebook accounts:**

- ◆ Go to <https://northtexasgivingday.org/npo/league-of-women-voters-of-tarrant-county> between 6am and midnight and make a donation to enable us to continue our work of educating voters in Tarrant County.

**Find a Matching Donor:**

If you know of any person or business that could make a large donation or a matching donation that we need to be contacting, please email Linda Hanratty [lswenard47@gmail.com](mailto:lswenard47@gmail.com) and/or Lon Burnam [lonburnam@gmail.com](mailto:lonburnam@gmail.com). For more information on North Texas Giving Day visit [NorthTexasGiving-Day.org](http://NorthTexasGiving-Day.org) the online website for North Texas Giving Day!

- ◆ Use the following as a sample request for a Matching Donor:  
 “We’re currently looking for sponsors who would be willing to help us reach this goal. Can we count on your help by sponsoring a 1 to 1 matching fund? Your sponsorship of a matching fund will help encourage donors to donate to our organization on September 20<sup>th</sup>. Last year 373 nonprofits raised over \$3.4 million in their own dedicated matching funds”

**Schedule your gift:**

To mark our 10th anniversary, donors have 10 days to schedule their North Texas Giving Day gifts starting September 10.

- ◆ To schedule your gift between September 10 and September 19 go to: <https://northtexasgivingday.org/npo/league-of-women-voters-of-tarrant-county!>

**Send a check:**

This year you can send a check directly to our office and have it count toward your North Texas Giving Day Donation. Just date it between September 14 through September 20 and mark it for LWVTC North Texas Giving Day.



**In Memorium**

Please consider making a donation to LWVTC in honor of someone special..



Have you moved or changed your phone number? Please contact the League office at 817-348-8683 or email us at [lwvtarrantcounty@sbcglobal.net](mailto:lwvtarrantcounty@sbcglobal.net) so we can update our Local and National Roster. Thanks!

Do you know that we have the following social media accounts for the League?

Our Facebook Page is <https://www.facebook.com/LWVofTarrantCo/>

Our Twitter page is @LWVTarrant or you can access us by clicking on <https://twitter.com/LWVTarrant>

# Voter Registration Drive Opportunities

## Voter Registration Drive Opportunities for those of you who are Volunteer Deputy Registrars:

We're using SignUp.com to organize our upcoming voter registration drives.  
Here's how it works in 3 easy steps:

- 1) Click this link to see our SignUp on SignUp.com: <http://signup.com/go/VWVQDBr>
- 2) Review the options listed and choose the spot(s) you like.
- 3) Sign up! It's Easy - you will NOT need to register an account or keep a password on SignUp.com.

Note: SignUp.com does not share your email address with anyone. If you prefer not to use your email address, please contact me and I can sign you up manually.

[See League of Women Voters Page on SignUp.com](#)

### #1: Bell Helicopter

Thursday, September 13 from 11am-1:00pm  
At 3255 Bell Flight Boulevard  
Fort Worth, TX 76118  
Pick a shift and sign up at: <http://signup.com/go/gnEGhok>

### #2: Power of the Vote

Sunday, September 9 from 11am-3pm  
Shifts:  
11:00am-1:00pm  
1:00am-3:00pm  
At ArtSpace 111  
111 Hampton St,  
Fort Worth, TX 76102  
Pick a shift and sign up at: <http://signup.com/go/SzayCuH>

### #3 Coppell Public Library (4 opportunities)

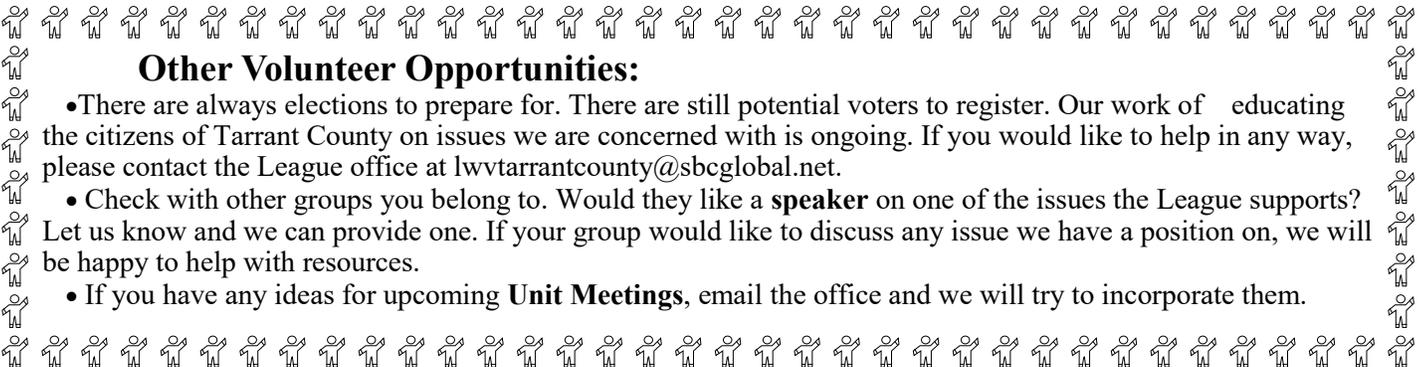
Sept 5, 4:00-6:00PM  
Sept 15, 2:00-4:00PM  
Sept 30, 2:00-4:00PM  
Oct 6, 2:00-4:00PM  
177 N Hertz Rd, Coppell, TX 75019  
Pick a shift and sign up at: <http://signup.com/go/UKVoAVt>

### #4 Fall Festival @ Grace Lutheran Church on McCart

September 29, 2018 from 10am-3pm.  
Shifts:  
10:00am-12:30pm  
12:30am-3:00pm  
7900 McCart Ave, Fort Worth, TX 76123  
Sign Up: <http://signup.com/go/HzgHdGZ>

### Other Volunteer Opportunities:

- There are always elections to prepare for. There are still potential voters to register. Our work of educating the citizens of Tarrant County on issues we are concerned with is ongoing. If you would like to help in any way, please contact the League office at [lwvtarrantcounty@sbcglobal.net](mailto:lwvtarrantcounty@sbcglobal.net).
- Check with other groups you belong to. Would they like a **speaker** on one of the issues the League supports? Let us know and we can provide one. If your group would like to discuss any issue we have a position on, we will be happy to help with resources.
- If you have any ideas for upcoming **Unit Meetings**, email the office and we will try to incorporate them.



# APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

We are the League of Women Voters of Tarrant County (LWVTC), one of the hundreds of local Leagues across the nation whose members — men and women — are committed to Making Democracy Work.

Our nonpartisan political organization encourages informed and active participation in government and influences public policy through education and advocacy. LWV does NOT support or oppose any political party or any candidate. Your membership automatically enrolls you in LWV-Texas and LWVUS at no additional cost and provides publications from all three.

Mail your membership application, dues, and contributions to:

LWVTC, P. O. Box 100175, Fort Worth, TX 76185 or enroll online at <http://lwwtarrantcounty.org/join.html>.

## MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES

### Basic Membership:

- \$75/yr      **Regular** full voting member
- \$115/yr     **Family** (two members in one household)
- \$5/yr        **Student**

Or consider one of the following:

### Supporting Membership:

- \$100/yr     **Sustaining** Membership: Elizabeth Cady Stanton
- \$150/yr     **Advocate** Membership: Carrie Chapman Catt
- \$200/yr     **Patron** Membership: Mary McLeod Bethune
- \$300/yr     **Benefactor** Membership: Eleanor Roosevelt

### ***THE VOTER NEWSLETTER BY U.S. MAIL***

- \$10/yr      (*online VOTER is no additional cost*)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: (Home) \_\_\_\_\_ (Work) \_\_\_\_\_ (Mobile) \_\_\_\_\_

Would you like to attend one of our Unit meetings? If so, please indicate which Unit would best suit your needs.

- Arlington Area     Downtown Fort Worth Area     Northeast Tarrant County
- South/Southwest Tarrant County

# AUGUST - SEPTEMBER 2018 CALENDAR

## August ~ Membership Workshop

**August 18 ~ Membership Training Workshop**, 12:30-3:30pm at the Downtown Arlington Library

## September 2018 ~ Units Resume - Promoting Voting

See pages 2 - 4 for resources and questions

**September 3 ~ Labor Day**, office closed

**September 10 ~ General Meeting, 6:30 - 7:30 PM** Southeast Branch Arlington Public Library, 900 SE Green Oaks Blvd, Arlington, TX 76018 - Kick-off for North Texas Giving Day - Schedule your donation.. See page 4 for more information

**September 17 ~ Arlington Area Unit; 7 PM**, Fielder Museum, 1616 W Abram, Arlington.

**September 18 ~ NE/Mid-Cities Unit Meeting; 7 PM**, Barnes & Noble in the Shops at NE Mall; Melbourne Rd. next to Best Buy; Reservations suggested. Call Georgia Kidwell, 817-282-0721, for information

**September 20 ~ North Texas Giving Day, 2018** - please remind your Friends & Family and Post to social media

**September 20 ~ Fort Worth Downtown Lunch Unit; NOON**, Trinity Terrace, 1600 Texas Street; Blue Spire Room, Reservations suggested but not required. Lunch is optional, cost is \$16.payable by cash or check made out to Marjorie Montgomery only. Call Marjorie Montgomery, 817-885-8372 for reservation.

**September 20 ~ South/Southwest Dinner Unit; 6 PM**, Olive Garden at I-20 and Hulen in the shopping center; Reservations suggested. Call Mike Baldwin, 817-249-2193, for information

**September 24 ~ Monday Matinee; 11AM**, Arlington Police West Service Center, 2060 W Green Oaks Blvd, Arlington. Bring a sack lunch and a friend.

**September 25 ~ National Voter Registration Day**

## October 2018 ~ Units Topic - Botanic Gardens

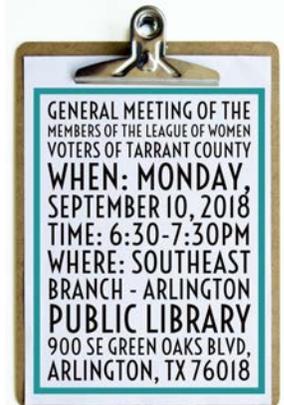
**October 15 ~ Arlington Area Unit; 7 PM**

**October 16 ~ NE/Mid-Cities Unit Meeting; 7 PM**

**October 18 ~ Fort Worth Downtown Lunch Unit; NOON**

**October 18 ~ South/Southwest Dinner Unit; 6 PM**

**October 22 ~ Monday Matinee; 11 AM**



### Welcome New LWV-TC members:

*Janet Brown, Angelia & JaiAnna Megahan and Leeann Rosenthal*

### Thanks to renewing LWV-TC members:

Emma Allen, Karen Cooper, Jeanne Culver, Jean Dodds, Paula Edens, Jeri Edmonds, Dawn Ellison, Steve Epstein, Karen Kologe, Janine Lund, Jaci & Giles McCrary, Marilyn McNertney, Lu Ann Portugal and Mary Strom, Bob Tess, Ed Vela, Susan West, Jody Westbrook-Bergman and George & Sydney Wirsdorfer

All Members and Guests are welcome and encouraged to attend any League event.

**League Office Hours: M, W, F / 8:30am—12:30pm**

~ we are on the web! ~

[www.lwvtarrantcounty.org](http://www.lwvtarrantcounty.org)