Guest speaker will be UT Tyler political science professor Dr. Mark Owens, who will discuss gerrymandering—unanswered questions and the challenges after Texas seats are reapportioned. Read more about redistricting issues on page 6.

**Business Meeting:**
There will be a short business meeting to include a discussion and vote on this League becoming a 501 (c) (3) organization. The pros and cons of this were discussed at the annual meeting, researched by a committee composed of Scherel Carver, Karen Wilkerson, Marjorie Walle, Toni Ferrell and Marilyn Wills, and brought forward to the board the following motion, approved by the board on June 19th:

“The Committee moves for the LWV Tyler/Smith County to become a 501 (c) (3) by: (1) accepting language changes to our bylaws, as presented in the LWV-TSC 2018 Annual Meeting Work Book based on language recommended by the LWV-TX attorney as required by the US IRS, and (2) subsequently, upon approval of the new bylaws, join the LWV-TX group exemption.”

**Hon. Barbara Bass Guest Speaker for Women’s Equality Day**
Former Tyler Mayor Barbara Bass—speaking on woman’s suffrage in the United States and the people who made it happen—will be the guest speaker for the Women’s Equality Day Celebration August 26. This promises to be an exciting presentation that you won’t want to miss. In fact, the entire celebration will be enriching, enlightening, and entertaining with food, games, a silent auction, and a City of Tyler proclamation.

**MEMBERS ONLY Ticket Discounts, until July 21**
Purchase Women’s Equality Day tickets for $25.00 per person when you make your check payable to LWV Texas Education Fund. Mail your check to PO Box 6271, Tyler, TX, 75701. Write WED Tickets in the memo section of your check and be sure the amount and number of tickets are correct. Envelopes must be postmarked no later than July 21, 2018, to get this price. Online the price is $30.00 per person. At the door, the price is $35.00 per person. Act now!

Volunteer to help at WED, get in free. Limited opportunities—contact Marjorie Walle.

The Women’s Equality Day Celebration is the key League fundraiser for the year and helps support many League business expenses (that the $13 per member local dues simply do not cover) as well as free public election forums, VOTE411 online voters guide, and free Voter Guides to the public.

**More About Women’s Equality Day** Read more about the WED Celebration on page 3 and page 4, including the Silent Auction, an historical exhibit, and a showing at Liberty Hall on Sept. 8.

**Women’s Equality Day Event**
Sunday, August 26
2—4:30 pm
Tyler Public Library Auditorium
201 South College
Tickets at lwvtyler.org or checks to LWV-TEF

**Redistricting and Gerrymandering Focus of Member Meeting**

Attend the July 23rd Membership Meeting and vote to transition to a 501 (c)(3) Charitable Organization. When status is reached, funding opportunities currently closed to us will open. VOTE! Our Future Depends On It.

Copy and paste this link also to read proposed LWV-TSC bylaws amendments:
http://www.lwvtyler.org/redistricting-and-gerrymandering

We hope to see members there!
Greetings Leaguers,

Welcome to new board members! We hope at some future event you will meet Katy Cline, Rubye Kendrick, Morgan Leever, Debbie Taylor, Kala Morrow, and Patricia Stillwell. Their fresh insights and new ideas will compliment the already energized group of Scherel Carver, Brenda McWilliams, Marjorie Walle, Mary Lu French, Yolanda Prince, and Dee Brock. Welcome everyone!

With membership at the highest level since 2002, the board is excited to enter a three-year series of celebrations to acknowledge the following 100-year anniversaries:
- 1918 - Texas women were given the right to vote in primaries only
- 1919 - The League of Women Voters of Texas was formed
- 1920 - Ratification of the 19th Amendment giving U. S. women the right to vote

In addition to these commemorations, the League has much additional work in progress. As usual, we will participate in Regional Naturalization Ceremonies, accomplish voter registration at numerous events, provide information and insight at our League forums and lectures, provide voter information on candidates and issues, and continue to monitor City Council, County Commissioner Court, and School Board through volunteers in the Observer Corps.

And, as always, we seek collaborations and partnerships to broaden our reach within the community. Our efforts to make LWV-Tyler/Smith County a 501 (c) (3) will allow more opportunity for individuals and companies to respond to funding needs that support our mission by making the League a fully tax-deductible organization, even membership dues.

Join in! We have much work ahead but we also have much to celebrate!

Marilyn Wills

2018—2019 LWV-Tyler/Smith County Board of Directors

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<tr>
<th>Officers</th>
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<tr>
<td>Marilyn Wills</td>
<td>Katy Cline</td>
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<td>President</td>
<td>Your Elected Officials</td>
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<td>Dee Brock</td>
<td>Mary Lu French</td>
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<td>Program Vice President</td>
<td>VOTE411</td>
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<td>Marjorie Wallé</td>
<td>Rubye Kendrick</td>
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<td>Community Relations Vice President</td>
<td>Voter Registration</td>
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<td>Yolanda Prince</td>
<td>Morgan Leever</td>
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<td>Organization Vice President</td>
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<td>Patricia Stillwell</td>
<td>Brenda McWilliams</td>
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<td>Program/Public Policy</td>
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<td>Scherel Carver</td>
<td>Kala Morrow</td>
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Social Event to Welcome New Members July 23, 4:30

Twelve new members and several prospective members are invited to a brief social get-together on Mon.July 23, 4:30—5:30 p.m. in the library. The LWV-Tyler Board of Directors 2018-19 hope to get to know our newest members and discover their talents and interests. This is the first step in urging new members to become involved in those activities planned to carry out the League’s mission. See contact info for the new members on page 3. All LWV-TSC members are invited to the event. Just be sure to RSVP to lwv_president@lwvytler.org or 903-630-1033.

July 23
4:30—5:30 pm
Tyler Public Library Makers Space, 3rd Floor, 201 S. College
RSVP to lwv_president@lwvytler.org

Say Good-Bye to a Board Member

Mary Vernau has retired as Tyler City Librarian and will relocate to Austin. Vernau was a member from 2014-2018, secretary in 2014-15. Her tenure as City Librarian oversaw a significant library renovation and many innovative services. You can find her new address on her Facebook page.

LWV-Tyler Diversity Policy

The League of Women Voters of Tyler/Smith County, in both its values and practices, affirms its belief and commitment to diversity and pluralism, which means that there shall be no barriers to participation in any activity of the LWV-Tyler on the basis of gender, race, creed, age, sexual orientation, national origin, or disability.

The LWV-Tyler/Smith County recognizes that diverse perspectives are important and necessary for responsible and representative decision making. LWV-Tyler/Smith County subscribes to the belief that diversity and pluralism are fundamental to the values it upholds and that this inclusiveness enhances the organization’s ability to respond more effectively to changing conditions and needs.

LWV-Tyler/Smith County affirms its commitment to reflecting the diversity of Americans in its board and programs.
Celebrating Women’s Right To Vote

Women’s Equality Day Celebration 2018

2 - 4:30 PM
Sunday, August 26, 2018
Tyler Public Library,
Taylor Auditorium
Food, Silent Auction & more
tickets online at www.lwvtyler.org

Guest Speaker
Barbara Bass,
Former Tyler Mayor

A Film by Ken Burns & Paul Barnes
NOT FOR OURSELVES ALONE
* * *
THE STORY OF ELIZABETH CADY STANTON
AND SUSAN B. ANTHONY

Saturday, September 8, 2018
LIBERTY HALL THEATER
Free Admission

The League of Women Voters of
TYLER/SMITH COUNTY

presents
WOMEN’S SUFFRAGE IN AMERICA: 1840 - 1906
AUGUST 26 - SEPTEMBER 15, 2018
GALLERY MAIN STREET
Free Admission

Events funded in part by the League of Women Voters of Texas Education Fund
Ken Burns Film on Suffrage Leaders
Featured at Liberty Hall September 8

Not for Ourselves Alone is the story of two women who made an immensely important mark in American history—Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Susan B. Anthony. Their fight for equality in a male-dominated society more than 100 years ago gets the exhaustive and respectful treatment it deserves in this film directed by documentarian Kea Burns.

View it Saturday, September 8 in Liberty Hall. Free Admission

Historical Exhibit at Gallery Main Street
August 26—September 15

The League of Women Voters will have space in Gallery Main Street, 110 West Erwin, to display photographs and historical documents relative to our Women’s Equality Day Celebration and the first phase of US woman’s suffrage. This exhibit will run from August 26—September 15, 2018.

Are you a history buff? Anyone who would like to volunteer to work on these projects is welcome. Email lwv_president@lwvtyler.org

Silent Auction Planned for Women’s Equality Day

Contribute items you may no longer want to our WED silent auction. Items such as decorative vases, used books relative to the theme, pre-paid trips, meals, gift cards, etc. Email Marjorie Wallé to contribute.

Volunteer to help at Women’s Equality Day, get in free! Limited opportunities—contact Marilyn Wills.

lwv_president@lwvtyler.org

July Annual Fund Solicitation

It's JULY ANNUAL FUND Time! This is an important annual request that supports VOTE411, the purchase of the Voter’s Guide to elections, and the Women's Equality Day Celebration (a public fundraiser). Our donations provide powerful, beneficial, community differences! Don’t delay. Use the self-addressed envelope or donate online at http://www.lwvtyler.org/support-the-league-s-work
**Spotlight on New Member Ashley Taylor**

Ashley Taylor moved to Tyler after graduating high school in Hopkins County. She has continued to live and work in Smith County for the past 16 years. She has worked for Tyler Public Library for the past 12 years and currently serves as interim City Librarian at the Tyler Public Library. She set to complete her Master’s degree in Library and Information Sciences this summer.

**In Memoriam**

Longtime League member Vernice Melontree passed away June 2 at age 86. A Tyler resident for 68 years, she was a member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Top Ladies of Distinction, and a charter member of Jack and Jill of America, Inc., along with other local organizations.

Survivors include spouse Andrew R. Melontree, Sr., sons Andrew Melontree, Jr. and Lester A. Melontree, Sr. and daughters Cynthia Johnson and Beverly D. Melontree.

Vernice was a League member from 1970—1990 and served on the LWV-Tyler Board of Directors for about a decade. She chaired Voters Service activities such as voter registration and forums and served on the nominating committee and telephone tree. She also served as advocate on Community Development Block Grants.

**Member Dues Reminder—Summer 2018**

- **July**
  - Dee Brock
  - Linda Resnik
  - Brenda McWilliams/
    Lou Anne Smoot
  - Margie Victor
  - Polly & Gerry Kuklewicz
  - Yolanda Prince
  - Carol Reynolds
  - Kristi & Bruce Roberts
  - John Sims

- **Overdue June**
  - Barbara Bass
  - Karena Love

- **Inactivated**
  - Kara Camp, Mary Decker, Diana McBurnett, Chester Vaughn

**Voting 101 Presentation Given to Literacy Council ESL Students**

Mary Lu French and Marjorie Wallé visited with ESL students of the Literacy Council of Tyler in June and came away with eight new LWV members. The funds from the Public Advocacy for Voter Protection (PAVP) grant funded the presentation and created membership stipends to pay the dues for the eight new members. At right, Mary Lu French provides LWV membership information to Mary Araujo, coordinator of the ESL program at LCOT.

**To Join the League:**

The League of Women Voters is where hands-on work to safeguard democracy leads to civic improvement. Join LWV, where leaders are actively engaged in effecting change at the local, state, and national levels.

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<th>Send Check To</th>
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<td><strong>HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT</strong></td>
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The earliest suffragists reached out to assure that all were registered to vote.
Partisan Redistricting and the 2020 Census
Supreme Court Hands Down Decision on Texas Redistricting

On June 25, a Supreme Court ruling on redistricting gave advocates of voting rights hope for future fairer voting patterns. Protests Texas Democrats already had scheduled for that day gained more meaning as the Court delivered a complex ruling mostly upholding Texas redistricting in Abbot v. Perez. [https://www.scribd.com/document/382529759/Abbot-Et-Al-v-Perez-Et-Al-Opinion](https://www.scribd.com/document/382529759/Abbot-Et-Al-v-Perez-Et-Al-Opinion)

The Supreme Court upheld maps for Texas’ congressional and state house districts, ruling that most of them were not “tainted” by racial discrimination. It did, however, rule that House District 90 was gerrymandered against Latinos.

Texas advocates say they already were planning to launch a "RestoreTheVote" campaign, attacking the Supreme Court ruling in Shelby County v. Holder, which they argue "gutted" the Voting Rights Act of 1965 (VRA).

Partisan political and racial gerrymandering distorts and undermines representative democracy by allowing officials to select their voters rather than voters to elect their officials. When done for purposes of racial discrimination or to ensure the dominance of one political party, gerrymandering runs counter to equal voting rights for all eligible voters. [lwv.org]

Given the Supreme Court’s apparent indifference, across the country independent maps will not be drawn until popular sentiment forces a change. There is a growing cry across Texas for fair maps and candidates for November’s election will be asked to take a clear side, and advocates hope voters hold them to their commitments.

But no maps from any process will be accurate if the underlying numbers aren’t right. That’s why the next fight is the 2020 Census. It is critical that 2020 US Census results reflect the actual demographics, and given the trends of shifting populations, Texas in particular may fail to show who actually resides here.

In March, the US Commerce Department announced the decision to put a citizenship question on the Census, laying the groundwork for an inaccurate and costly 2020 Census. Since 1950, the Census Department has been able to conduct a scientifically accurate census count without this question, and presidential administrations have refrained from making the census a political target. An accurate count of our population is important not only for determining how many representatives our state will have but also for allocating billions of dollars in federal funds and grants annually.

Voters Service News—Director Mary Lu French

Coming Events: Please Join Us

**July 23, 4:30-5:30**
New Member Social

**July 23, 5:30-6:45 pm**
Gerrymandering: Questions & Challenges
Tyler Public Library 3rd Floor

**Thurs, August 2—4:30-7 pm**
School is Cool—Voter Registration
Harvey Convention Center

**Sunday August 26—2-4:30 pm**
Women’s Equality Day Event
Tyler Public Library Auditorium

August 26—September 10
Historical Exhibit
Gallery Main Street

TBA—US Naturalization Ceremony, US Federal Building

**Save the Dates:**
Saturday, September 1
Smith Co Public Libraries
Author Event—Rose Center

Saturday, September 8
Not For Ourselves Alone
Liberty Hall Theater

Monday, September 10
Rock the Vote—Registration
UT Tyler

Tuesday, September 25
National Voter Registration Day
County-Wide

MEMBERS: Members always are welcome to attend meetings of the LWV Board of Directors. During 2018-19 meetings are the 3rd Tuesdays at 5:30 pm, Lighthouse for the Blind, Front St.

To participate in Voter Registration at the School is Cool event, please contact Mary Lu French at lwv_vote@lwvtyler.org