

Linda Pilcher Wassenich

Linda's lifetime of service to the League of Women Voters was inspired in 1963 when the League in her hometown of Tyler, Texas, helped her attend an International Student United Nations Conference in Switzerland. She joined the League in Dallas in 1970 and its board in 1973. Linda's second son attended his first League board meeting when he was three weeks old. President of the Dallas League from 1995 to 1999, she was then asked to join the board of directors of the League of Women Voters of Texas. From 1999 to 2012, Linda served as vice president of public relations for LWV- TX. One of her proudest accomplishments is expansion of distribution of the non-partisan League of Women Voters Guides, available to libraries in all Texas counties with at least 15,000 residents. Named Social Worker of the Year in 1988 and the recipient of the Lifetime Achievement Award in Social Work in 2002, Linda has achieved scores of awards for her professional and volunteer service in other endeavors. In addition to taking time out to care for her two young sons, Linda served as a family court counselor, Associate Executive Director of the Lone Star Council of Camp Fire, in several executive positions with the Visiting Nurse Association of Dallas, and as the first executive director of the Incest Recovery Association. Her advocacy efforts were instrumental in establishing HIV education and AIDS prevention programs at UT- Southwestern Medical School, in starting a phone line for latchkey children, and in starting VNA programs for pediatric home care for teenage mothers and their babies, as well as for elderly people remaining in their homes. She was on the board of the Human Rights Initiative and the Community Council of Greater Dallas, where she chaired the Advisory Council of the Dallas Area Agency on Aging. Though diagnosed with multiple sclerosis in 1998, Linda has never flagged in her devotion to her family and community. After her retirement in 1999 and her service on the national board of the League of Women Voters from 2012-2016, she resumed serving on the local board of the League in 2016 until 2021. She is still sought out unofficially for advice and history of the League. In 2019, Linda and her husband, Mark, were both honored with Doctor of Letters honorary degrees from their Alma Mater, Texas Christian University.