

The League has our very own resident federal budget nerd, **Jeff Harper**, of Ft. Worth. Jeff is the author of Uncle Sam's Checkbook. It is a reference booklet on federal spending the size of a checkbook. Harper does speaking engagements that allow citizens to quickly see what is actually spent where and to propose their own budget and revenue plan.

In 1998, Jeff served as team leader of the Budget Committee in Ross Perot's Reform Party. Harper was also the State Issues Director in the Reform Party of Texas, until its demise in 2000.

In 2001, Jeff was a founder of [Independent Texans](#), a citizens PAC. On behalf of Independent Texans, Jeff personally contacted editors of all 88 Texas daily newspapers, during the 2003 Texas legislative special session on redistricting. He asked editors if they would support an independent non-partisan redistricting system similar to those used in Arizona and Iowa. Not surprisingly, the response was overwhelmingly positive. All major newspapers wrote editorials or stated their clear support for a citizens redistricting commission.

Harper drafted the 36 non-gerrymandered districts for the League's board. Harper lives in Bastrop County and is active with national organizations working on the federal budget.