



The Corpus Christi Area

VOTER

November 2012

League of Women Voters
PO Box 8276
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<http://www.lwv-cc.org>

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November 15 luncheon to highlight topic of Environmental Sustainability

This month's luncheon meeting is scheduled for Thursday, November 15, 11:30 a.m. – 1 p.m. at Jin's Asian Buffet. The meeting will be a presentation regarding the city's efforts in sustainability to date and what's on the horizon. Our presenter is Jeffrey Pollack, Environmental Scientist and Project Manager with HDR Engineering, Inc. Mr. Pollack developed the city's first sustainability plan, the Integrated Community Sustainability Plan which can be found at www.cctexas.com/sustainability. Cost for the lunch is \$10. Come join us.

SAVE THE DATE! Holiday event scheduled for December 13

The LWV-CC's December 13 meeting will be an evening holiday event. Location and further information will be announced in December. Please be sure to mark your calendars!

Remember: No Voter in December. Check Facebook!

Plan to attend Statewide Conference, Lobby Days & Gala Dinner, in Austin, Feb. 25-26

Details are taking shape and will be available in December for a terrific LWV-TX event in Austin, Monday and Tuesday, February 25-26, 2013.

You can make your room reservation for Monday evening, Feb. 25, by contacting the La Quinta Inn at the Capitol, just three blocks from the state Capitol.

See Lobby Days, page 5

The League of Women Voters, a non-partisan, political organization, encourages informed and active participation in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy.

President's Message



By Judy Telge

Did we do our best?

By the time you read your November Voter, the elections will be over, the races and propositions decided and another chapter in the presidency of the United States and other important leadership positions ready to unfold.

As I write this column pre-election, I wonder how many of us will be shaking our heads in dismay, frustration or disbelief because the candidate(s) we believed in didn't win or the voter turnout was so poor. I wonder how many of us will be lamenting that as a League member we didn't encourage one more person to exercise their right to vote or counter that individual who said "my vote doesn't matter."

I can only trust that each of us as members of LWV-CC did our best to encourage family, friends, colleagues and our communities to vote. If we didn't, then shame on us!

As a trusted nonpartisan organization, we staunchly stood in opposition to attempts at voter suppression. Unfortunately, there continue to be situations where individual citizens are intimidated into not going to the polls. This is not only unacceptable, it's an affront to a participatory democratic government! We know that the more citizens who are engaged and exercise their right

LWV-Texas accounts available on Facebook, Twitter

LWV-Texas is pleased to announce our new Facebook and Twitter accounts are up and running.

These social media sites are intended to engage the community in our work. You are invited to "like" us on Facebook and "follow" us on Twitter and invite your friends and followers to do the same.

Three ways to find us are:

- From the website icons: - Go to www.lwv-texas.org and click on one of the two FB and TW

to vote, the more representative our nation's governance is and as a result, the more control we have on our destiny ...as individuals and as a nation.

And, just because the elections are over doesn't mean we take a back seat to what goes on across the country in the White House and the Courthouse going forward. Many issues of importance to League members hang in the balance with this election and will be addressed in the months and years to come. That provides opportunities for League members in the community and our role of monitoring public meetings to ensure that government is indeed open and transparent to all Americans.

Next on the LWV-CC list to tackle:

1. LWV-CC Observer Corps
2. Post-election and pre-session interviews with members of the area's local delegation to the Texas Legislature
3. Local goals of education and environment set by membership this past year, with committees forming.

As always, this means members have opportunities to volunteer their time and expertise to address important issue areas facing our community. Take your pick and become an involved member. Then we'll really be doing our best!

icons at the top of the home page to link to the new accounts. Click on "Like" or "Follow."

- From <http://www.facebook.com> (where you've set up your own account), search for League of Women Voters of Texas. Click on "Like" or "Follow."

- From <http://www.Twitter.com>, search for LWVTX.

State Website Committee members and state staff will be posting items and monitoring these sites. We look forward to "staying connected."

League emphasizes importance of voting

Sandra Heatherley, with editing by Chris Garcia, Judy Telge, and Ricky Walraven, wrote the following article for the November issue of the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce magazine.

Elections are not decided by polls. Elections are decided by people. It may be tempting to think “It’s too much trouble,” or “My vote doesn’t really count,” or “According to all the polls, my candidate is going to (win, lose) anyway, so why bother?” But, we know that polls can be manipulated. Voters can change their minds. Upsets can happen.

People who decide elections—voters—are citizens of the United States age 18 and older. All such citizens have the responsibility to exercise the right to choose those who will govern. The League of Women Voters actively promotes every eligible citizen to register and vote on Election Day or before. Texas law allows for early voting and voting by mail for those unable to go to the polls on Election Day.

Women seem to take this responsibility the most seriously, probably because they were not allowed to exercise the right to vote until 1920. In every election since then, women have cast more votes than men in the majority of local, state and national elections. The League was born out of the suffragettes who protested, picketed the White House and other venues, and were imprisoned for doing so for years before 1920.

Since its inception, the LWV has maintained its mission of “a nonpartisan, political organization that encourages informed and active participation in government, works to increase the public understanding of major political policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy.”

In 1964, the League of Women Voters of Texas was influential in repealing the Texas poll tax, which was a barrier that prevented minority citizens from voting. In recent years at the national, state and local levels, the League of Women Voters has opposed Voter ID laws that would result in disenfranchisement of potential voters. This year, LWV-Corpus Christi, organized



Marilyn Bartlett and Sandra Heatherley register voters at TAMU-CC.

in the mid-1940s, undertook a nonpartisan VOTE 18 Project with community partners to educate and register new voters not only in high schools located in precincts with low voter turnout, but also at Del Mar College and TAMU-CC. Over 800 new voters were added to the list of registered voters in Nueces County.

Before the election LWV-CC distributed its latest Voters Guide throughout the city to government buildings, libraries and frequently visited public places. An important educational activity of the League, the Voters Guide provides information on candidates and their positions—furnished by the candidates themselves—to assist registered voters in making informed choices about the candidates.

In addition to the local Voters Guide, LWV-Texas produced a Voters Guide that featured state races. Electronic versions of both Voters Guides are available at the local League website www.lwv-cc.org and on its Facebook page, at “Corpus Christi League of Women Voters.”

Throughout the United States, League members are working to create a culture that values voting by sharing information, providing education and encouraging others to exercise this precious and fundamental right of citizenship. LWV-CC members are a diverse group of women and men who believe strongly that the foundation of our government at all levels is “of the people, by the people and for the people.”



League Notes

•The League wishes to thank the following for assistance with the Voters Guides:

Solicitation and compilation of candidate responses; editing/formatting; deliveries: Pat G. Parr, Chris Davis Garcia, Ginger Flewelling-Leeds, and Matilda Saenz.

Voters Guide Deliveries: Lois Huff, Maria Jimenez, Nancy Devlin, Margaret Di Clemente.

Financial Support of Voters Guide (orders for quantities): AEP-Texas, Port of Corpus Christi, Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, Port Industries, Sue Williams, Nueces County Republican Party, and Leadership Corpus Christi Alumni.

• Your League appreciates being remembered at the holiday season! Please consider a special one-time financial gift...in any amount... to help underwrite the cost of League activities. Your gift can be made payable to the League's general budget or to the tax-deductible LWV Texas Education Fund.



Above left) President Judy Telge shows off the Voters guide at the Oct. 17 Forum II. (Above) Member Sally Farris (left) and Vice President Pam Maupin assisted at the Forum.

• LWV-CC is including District Clerk Diana Barrera in a survey from LWV-Texas with questions concerning voter registration, problems encountered, and similar subjects.

Thanks for renewing

**Constance Fanning
Carol and Mark Scott**

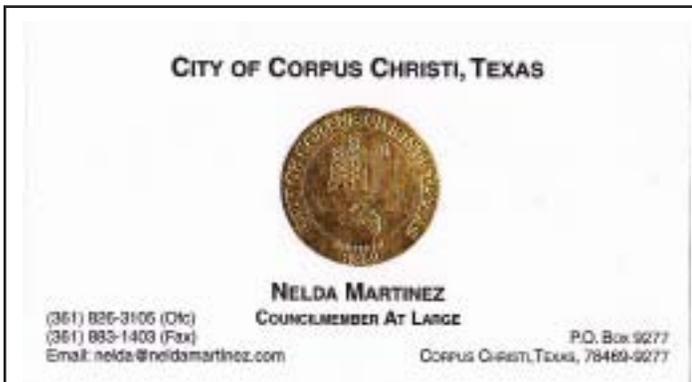
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Generally, state program changes are made during our convention in even-numbered years. However, the bylaws provide for changes to be made at a statewide conference with at least half of the local Leagues represented. The state board has voted to call a statewide conference in conjunction with Lobby Days to consider a recommended change to our redistricting policy.

The change would remove the reference to communities of interest in the redistricting position. The current position states, "Criteria for drawing district boundaries include the following ... consideration should not be given to retention of incumbents, political party strength, or to communities of interest." (See the complete position statement in Program Perspectives 2012-2014 on the LWV-TX website.) The change is recommended to conform to the LWVUS position. Additional information will be provided prior to the conference

Lobby Days. We will have outstanding speakers on Monday afternoon and leave Tuesday morning for lobbying. On both occasions we will be in the capitol, very similar to the last Lobby Days.

**LWV Corpus Christi
Renewal / New Membership Application**

Join now and help in the effort to promote political responsibility through informed, active participation in government.

Type of membership: New____ Renewal____
Individual \$60____ Student \$30____ Household \$90____
Name_____
Household Member's Name _____
Address_____
Work Address (optional)_____
I prefer to receive my mail at: home or work.
(Please circle your preference above.)
Home phone_____
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Fax number_____
E-mail Address_____

*Please return this form to: League of Women Voters
P. O. Box 8276, Corpus Christi, Texas 78468.
Membership is from June 1 through May 31.*



CHRIS N. ADLER
COUNCILMEMBER, DISTRICT 4

(361) 884-7781
Email: cadler106@gmail.com

P.O. Box 9277
Corpus Christi, Texas 78469-9277

Volunteer to Teach an Adult to Read!
Corpus Christi Literacy Council
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4044 Greenwood Dr.
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Bay Area Smart Growth Initiative : BASGI

Promoting quality growth & community livability through policy reforms. Diverse community-based group meets 1st and 3rd Fridays each month.

*Join the basgi yahoo group at www.groups.yahoo.com
or contact Jeff Pollack at intranslation321@gmail.com.*



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THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS
CORPUS CHRISTI, TEXAS
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Let your elected officials know your thoughts on important issues

Representative Democracy is NOT a spectator sport!

Leagues around the state, including LWV-Corpus Christi, have been active this year registering voters, educating voters on candidates and issues, hosting forums, publishing Voters Guides, and participating in "Get Out the Vote" campaigns. And the election is finally over!

New leaders have been elected at the local, state, and national levels. A new challenge and opportunity is now in our hands—letting our legislators know our thoughts on the major issues of the day. What is your opinion on education, health care, water, the environment, voting rights, immigration, and the myriad other issues that face us?

Our legislators want and need to hear from us. Pick up the phone, send an email, write a letter, and go to meetings to let your elected officials know how you want them to represent you. Remember, we elected them to represent us, and they do that best by knowing what we think.

"We, the people" are essential participants. Let your legislators hear from you!



CORPUS CHRISTI SOUTHSIDE FARMERS'

When: Every Saturday (year around)
 Time: 9:00 AM Till Sell Out
 Where: 5800 Everhart Rd.
www.farmersmarketcc.org

*Be a "Localvore."
 Support you local growers/gardeners.*



Corpus Christi
 League of Women Voters

Advertising space in the VOTER is available! The cost is \$ 100 for 10 issues during a calendar year.

Send check and your business card or advertising copy to Treasurer Maria Jimenez at the League address.



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