



# The Voter

October 2012

THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS - CORPUS CHRISTI

League of Women Voters  
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Mayoral candidates (from left) Chris Adler, Ray Madrigal, Nelda Martinez, and Jo-sey Wales at the Sept. 24 Forum I at City Hall. (Please see story, pages 4-5.)



State Senate candidates Raul Torres (left) and Juan 'Chuy' Hinojosa

## Forum 11 slated Oct. 17 at City Hall

The League of Women Voters of the Corpus Christi (LWV-CC) area and Leadership Corpus Christi Alumni (LCCA) are sponsoring a second Candidates Forum Wednesday, October 17, for the November 6 Joint General Election. Like the September event, Forum II will be held from 6 p.m. until 9 p.m. in the City Council Chambers in City Hall at 1201 Leopard. The nonpartisan League holds forums that include candidates in contested races only. Pat Parr as Chair of the Voter Service Committee has spearheaded this event, which is also being coordinated by Dr. Matilda Saenz. The general public is welcome.

All candidates are invited but the Forum will feature only contested races. Candidates in the various groups 1) will be presented to the public, 2) will be given an opportunity to give a brief (2 minute) opening statement, and 3) will answer prepared questions from the community and the audience and 4) will have time for a one (1) minute closing statement.

The featured candidate races and the tentative group order are as follows:

- U.S. Representative District 27
- City Council Districts 2, 3, 4, and 5
- State Board of Education
- Del Mar Regents At-large and District 1

Please see Forum II, page 5

# Guest Column



By Chris Davis Garcia  
LWV-TX Director

If you read newspapers from other cities, you may have seen the story out of Dallas on Sept. 25 that reported that some Dallas County commissioners of one political party had accused the county's top election official of playing partisan politics by helping groups set up voter registration drives

at high schools for National Voter Registration Day. Seems that the county elections department had put the League of Women Voters of Dallas in contact with about 60 Dallas-area high schools where the group held registration drives...and the county publicized the locations.

One commissioner was reported to have said, "The elections office undermined its non-partisan reputation by promoting an event whose national partners include several liberal-leaning groups."

Commissioners representing another political party said the county's low voter registration rates showed the need for programs aimed at getting more people to the polls, adding "registering people to vote is not the same as advocating for a party or official."

Dallas County's elections administrator denied that her office's involvement had a partisan agenda. "National Voter Registration Day bills

## LWVUS president explains League stance on policy initiatives

Before the General Election, it is worth remembering LWVUS President Elisabeth MacNamara's remarks at our state convention last April. She reminded us that LWV remains where we have always been. We encourage active, informed participation in government. We do not support or oppose any political party or candidate.

A League may decide to support or oppose a ballot initiative based on a League position. For the public, taking a stance on a ballot initia-

itself as a nonpartisan organization whose sole goal is to increase the number of people who vote," she said.

For the record, voter registration drives... many focused on young voters attending high school and college...are being held throughout the state, including Corpus Christi. And in many cases, county officials and school administrators, as well as Leagues, helped promote the registration activities.

And just for the record.... the Texas Election Code, Section 13.046, states the following:

- Each principal of a public or private high school, or the principal's designee, shall serve as a deputy registrar for the county in which the school is located.
- A high school deputy registrar may distribute registration application forms to and receive registration applications submitted to the deputy in person from students and employees of the school only.
- At least twice each school year, a high school deputy registrar shall distribute an officially prescribed registration application form to each student who is or will be 18 years of age or older during that year, subject to rules prescribed by the Secretary of State.

Let's celebrate voter registration drives anywhere...any time. Let's engage young people and encourage them to vote in every election throughout their lifetimes.

tive may be confusing because it appears to be inconsistent with the neutrality of other election work.

Local Leagues considering taking a stance on a ballot initiative should take great care in separating advocacy for or against a ballot initiative from Voters Guides and other Education Fund activities and be prepared to explain how LWV takes positions on issues but not on political parties or candidates.

# Deadline to register to vote in Nov. 6 Election is Oct. 9

October 9 is the last day for voters to register for the November 6 General Election.

If you're already registered to vote, make sure you're registered at the correct address. If you've moved since the last election, you need to change your voter registration to your current address, especially if you have moved to a different county in Texas.

This will help you avoid any problems at the polls. To check your registration, you can use the Texas Secretary of State's online look-up system, (<https://team1.sos.state.tx.us/voterws/viw/faces/SearchName.jsp>). Once you're properly registered, make sure your friends and family are

as well. (While the information in this paragraph came from a Democratic Party site, it applies equally to voters of all political persuasions.)

Our local League publicized National Voter Registration Day activities on September 25 and provided a last chance for students at Texas A&M University Corpus Christi to register October 2-5 in the University Center on campus between 11 a.m. and 3 p.m.

Volunteers assisting in this effort included Peggy Banales, Marilyn Bartlett, Nancy Devlin, Margie DiClemente, Sandra Heatherley, Lois Huff, and Sue Williams. Kudos to all these dedicated members!

## League members invited to participate in Civil Engineers' forums

The Corpus Christi Branch of the American Society of Civil Engineers will hold a panel discussion forum on transportation facilities Thursday, Oct. 18, from 6:30-8:30 p.m. in the Water Garden Room at the Corpus Christi Museum of Science and History.

Two later forums are planned to also deal with such issues as other issues with utilities, treatment, and water supply.

League members are invited to ask questions of the panel and otherwise participate in this important public discussion.

### Welcome, New Members

#### Stacey Barerra

Stacey is a student at Texas A&M University Corpus Christi pursuing a graduate degree in Public Administration. She is a native of Corpus Christi and is employed by the Democratic Party of Nueces County.

#### Nikol Markert

Nikol Markert, our newest member, moved to Corpus Christi with her husband, Mike from San Diego, CA, 4 1/2 years ago. Nikol works as a commercial real estate agent for Joe Adame & Associates. She also owns a web site design business, [www.escapadedesign.com](http://www.escapadedesign.com). Nikol and Mike volunteer in the community whenever they have the opportunity. Nikol has been in the Junior League of Corpus Christi for the last 3 years.

She has also worked on local political campaigns.

### Thanks for renewing

Jane and Frank Bachman

Evy Coppola

Patricia Eisenhower

Elia and Albert Gutierrez

Rene Haas

Kathy Juneau

Mary Ann Kelly

Pat Parr

David Perry

## Candidates Forum I sparks voter interest

The League of Women Voters of Corpus Christi (LWV-CC) and Leadership Corpus Christi Alumni (LCCA) sponsored Forum I for the November 6 Joint General Election. This event generated great voter interest perhaps sparked through unprecedented coverage by the Corpus Christi Caller Times. Forum I was held at City Hall in the City Council Chambers on Monday, September 24, from 6 p.m. until 9 p.m. As a non-partisan organization, the League holds forums for candidates in contested races only. Pat Parr Chair of the Voter Service Committee spearheaded this event, which was coordinated by Dr. Matilda Saenz. About 200 interested community members attended.

Forum I presented candidates in featured groups. Each was given an opportunity for an opening statement and answered questions from the community and the live audience. The Forum opened with the candidates for **State Senator Race, District 20** with Senator Juan “Chuy” Hinojosa-D and State Representative Raul Torres-R taking questions from the evening’s moderators: Bryan Bode, LWV vice president of Community Relations; Paulette Kluge, chair of the Leadership Corpus Christi Alumni Association; and Nancy Harwell, general chair of the Leadership Corpus Christi, Class XLI. Both candidates addressed questions on their plans for the Corpus Christi area and shared information on ways to improve educational attainment in South Texas.

Next **State Representative District 34** race was featured with candidate and former State Representative Abel Herrero. State Representative Connie Scott-R was not present. Due to League rules, Mr. Herrero was allowed a five-minute “stump” speech.



LWV-CC Secretary Matilda Saenz proudly shows the Caller-Times' front page coverage of Forum I.

Candidates for the **13th Court of Appeals, Place 5** Doug Norman-R was in attendance; his opponent Gina Benavides-D sent a representative. Both candidates for **13th Court of Appeals, Place 2**, Tom Greenwell-R and Nora Longoria-D., attended and answered questions.

Also present was candidate for the **28th District Court** Nanette Hasette-D; her opponent Doug Mann-R was unable to attend. Candidates for the **214th District Court**, Jose Longoria-D and Jack W. Pulcher-R, were present: as were the candidates for the **347th District Court**: Rene C. Flores-D and Missy Medary-R.

**Commissioners Court Precinct 1** race featured candidate David Torres-D; his opponent Mike Pusley-R sent his regrets. The **Commissioners Court Precinct 3**, candidates were

present: Oscar O. Ortiz-D and Richard C. Mitchell-R.

The League of Women Voters for the first time in recent history included nonpartisan contested races with the featured partisan races in Forum I.

All candidates for the **Corpus Christi City Council At-Large** attended: Alicia G. Benavidez, John Garcia, David Loeb, Lillian Riojas, Mark Scott, and John A. Sendejar.

**Mayoral Candidates for the City of Corpus Christi** also attended: Chris N. Aldler, Ray Madrigal, Nelda Martinez, and Josey Wales. These candidates fielded questions about Destination Bayfront and each gave his/her perspective on the proposed project.

During the Forum, the League also recognized officials/candidates in attendance: Commissioner Jose A. Gonzalez; Judge Amanda Torres Candidate for Justice of the Peace, Precinct 1; Judge Lisa Benavides of County Court at Law #2; Candidate for Tax Assessor-Collector Alex Garcia; Candidate for Justice of the Peace, Precinct 2 Joel Mumphord; and Candidate for Nueces County Sheriff Isaac Valencia.



Candidates listen to a question as audience members look on.

League volunteers contributed greatly and included Nancy Devlin, Margaret DiClemente, Sandra Heatherley, vice president of Membership, Peggy Banales and LCCA members Pam Arredondo and Cecil Johnson.

Others present included Elena Buentello, LWV vice president for Programs, and Andrew Dimas. LCCA volunteers included timekeepers Lance Russell and Shannon Davis.

Leadership Class, XLI volunteers gathered questions and included Andi Baker, Marjorie Boudreaux, Desiree Castro, Mindy Jimenez, Mark Woerner, and Rod Wolthoff. The League

sincerely appreciates these volunteers who made Forum I successful. League President Judy Telge was unable to attend due to a family emergency.

The League would also like to thank the City of Corpus Christi for the use of City Council Chambers and thanks their Public Information Director Kim Womack and Videographer Rick DeLeon. Replays are scheduled for Saturday, October 6 at 6 p.m. via Channel 20 (Grande) and Channel 41.2 (Time Warner). Also the League thanks the assistance from City Secretary Armando Chapa and staff Mary Ann Pena and Tamera Riley.

## Forum II to be televised live in Nueces County – From page 1

- County Court at Law #3
- District Attorney
- Nueces County Tax Assessor-Collector
- Nueces County Sheriff

Official welcome from the League President Judy Telge and the LCCAA Chair Paulette Kluge will begin at 6 p.m. in City Hall

Chambers. Both Judy Telge and Paulette Kluge will moderate the event.

The Forum will be televised LIVE on cable channel 20 and channel 41.2 via Time Warner and Grande in Nueces County. Forum II will also be broadcast for a week or two following the event.

Exact dates and times for these broadcasts will be distributed at the forum.

Any questions regarding this Candidates Forum can be sent to Pat Parr at [patgparr@aol.com](mailto:patgparr@aol.com) or to Matilda Saenz at [dr.mdsaenz@gmail.com](mailto:dr.mdsaenz@gmail.com)

## Legislative interviews

Volunteers sought to meet with state officials

For the past several years, LWV-Texas has invited all Local Leagues to conduct face-to-face legislative interviews with state representatives and senators who serve their communities. The interviews this year will be conducted between mid-November and early January, prior to the start of the 83rd Legislative Session.

The questions will be formulated by LWV-Texas and are expected to focus on such topics as legislative priorities; funding education in Texas; Medicaid funding; and water resources.

LWV-CC would interview State Rep. Todd Hunter (unopposed in the Nov. 6 General Election); the winner of the District 34 House race (Connie Scott/Abel Herrero); and the winner of the District 20 Senate race (Juan "Chuy" Hinojosa/Raul Torres).

The personal interview at the legislator's office requires about 45 minutes and does not include casual conversation but rather the legislator's specific responses to the four questions. Two League members would be assigned and paired for each of the three interviews. A summary of the legislator's responses will be written and sent directly to the LWV-Texas state office to share with the League's advocacy team and issue chairs.

If you would like to volunteer to be an interviewer, please contact LWV-CC President Judy Telge so that she and the board can keep a list of interested volunteers. Further information about the interview process, procedures in setting up the interviews, and preparing the final written report will be shared later this month.

## Distribution near for Voters Guide

The League of Women Voters – Corpus Christi Area - Voters Guide for the Nov. 6 General Election will be printed next week and distributed throughout the community to provide information about candidates in local contested races and to encourage all registered voters to vote.

Almost 50 candidates in more than 20 races are included in the 32-page publication, most with their photograph and answers to questions posed by the League's Voters Service Committee. Collecting the photos and questionnaires, formatting the pages, writing additional text blocks, and serving as proofreaders were League members Pat G. Parr, Matilda Saenz, and Chris Davis Garcia.

Special thanks to individuals and organizations who responded to the League's invitation to purchase Voters Guides in bulk to share with their employees and membership: AEP-Texas, Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, Port Industries, Port of Corpus Christi Authority, Sue Williams, LCCA, and the Nueces County Republican Party.

**Hunter&Handel** P.C.

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# Hotel identified for Feb. 25-26 Lobby Days

A block of rooms is being held by LWV-Texas at La Quinta Inn-Austin Capitol located at 300 E. 11th Street for the 2013 Lobby Days scheduled Monday and Tuesday, Feb. 25-26, 2013.

Registration information for Lobby Days and specific room rate and contact information for the La Quinta Inn will be furnished soon to all Leagues across the state.

League members are cordially invited to attend Lobby Days, arriving at 12 noon Monday, Feb. 25, at the Capitol to participate in a League business meeting, hear presentations on Legislative issues and receive advocacy papers, and prepare for their visits with legislators on Tuesday morning.

Before arriving at the Capitol for Monday's schedule, League members will be invited to stop at the LWV-TX state office for conversation and light refreshments. LWV-TX is planning a special Monday evening event and keynote speaker, with details to be announced later this fall.

## 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 \_\_\_\_\_

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**Please return this form to: League of Women Voters  
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Membership is from June 1 through May 31.**



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**THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS**  
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## Important Oct. 18 Luncheon Notice



This month's luncheon meeting is set for Oct. 18, 11:30 a.m.–1 p.m. at Jin's Asian Buffet. The meeting will be a Q&A regarding the eight city propositions on the Nov. 6 ballot. Our presenter is Mr. Dan Biles, P.E. Director of Engineering Services for the city. Cost for lunch is \$10.

## TEA commissioner to keynote Hunter's Education Summit

Michael Williams, Texas Education Commissioner, will be the keynote speaker at a "Higher Education & Public Education Summit - How the Two Worlds Meet," scheduled for Friday Oct 26, at Texas A&M University Corpus Christi Univer-

sity Center Lone Star Ballroom, 142. Three panels will address "What's Working", "What are the Barriers still yet to be Overcome" and Work Force Legislation. The event is hosted by Representative Todd Hunter.

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.



**When:** Every Saturday  
 (year around)  
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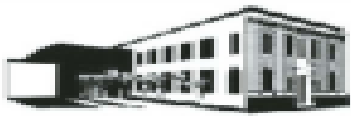
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Corpus Christi  
 League of Women Voters

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