



# The Voter

September 2012

THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS - CORPUS CHRISTI

League of Women Voters  
PO Box 8276  
Corpus Christi, TX 78468-8276  
<http://www.lwv-cc.org>

### LWV-CC Officers, 2012-2013

**President - Judy Telge**  
[jtelge@mygrande.net](mailto:jtelge@mygrande.net)  
813-6397 (cell)

**Secretary - Matilda Saenz**  
214-240-5655.  
[dr.mdsaenz@gmail.com](mailto:dr.mdsaenz@gmail.com)

**Treasurer - Maria Jimenez, 888-7560**  
[nick.maria.jimenez@sbcglobal.net](mailto:nick.maria.jimenez@sbcglobal.net)

**VP, Program**  
Elena Buentello, 438-2481  
[elenajbuentello@yahoo.com](mailto:elenajbuentello@yahoo.com)

**VP, Community Relations**  
Bryan Bode, 877-3791  
[slowbode@usa.com](mailto:slowbode@usa.com)

**VP, Member Services**  
Sandra Heatherley, 814-9120  
[SHeatherle@cs.com](mailto:SHeatherle@cs.com)

**Directors:**  
Pam Maupin  
949-8708  
[pammaupin@sbcglobal.net](mailto:pammaupin@sbcglobal.net)

Frank Pimentel  
[economic.forum@hotmail.com](mailto:economic.forum@hotmail.com)

Gloria Scott, 994-7318  
[scottgloria73@gmail.com](mailto:scottgloria73@gmail.com)

### Off-Board Chairs

**Nominating Committee**  
Peggy Banales

**Website Editor - Lois Huff**  
774-1500; [huffs@the-i.net](mailto:huffs@the-i.net)

**The VOTER Editors**  
Ricky Walraven, 992-8031  
[wilraven26@yahoo.com](mailto:wilraven26@yahoo.com)  
Chris Davis Garcia, 991-2784  
[cgrg@att.net](mailto:cgrg@att.net)

**Immediate Past President**  
Evy Coppola

## September LWV-CC Meeting

Forum on voting issues in the November General Election

The September monthly meeting will provide members and guests the opportunity to engage with a panel of experts discussing voting issues and answers such as Voter ID, redistricting, voter fatigue and voter participation. Panelists will include League members and local officials: Dr. Gloria Scott, G. Randle Services, President, LWV-CC Board Member; Community Activist/Redistricting La Lisa Hernandez, Bryan Bode, LWV-CC Board Member; and Diana Barrera, Nueces County Clerk.

**When:** Thursday, September 20

**Where:** Jin's Asian Buffet, 4938 S. Staples St.

**Time:** 11:30 a.m. -1 p.m.

Lunch costs \$10 and includes buffet and a drink. RSVP not required.

## Women's Equality Day Celebration



Photo by Sandra Heatherley

LWV-CC President Judy Telge (center) introduces League members and mayoral candidates Chris Adler (from left) and Nelda Martinez before their presentations at the August Women's Equality Day Event. See story, page 7.

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.



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# President's Message



President Judy Telge

As the president of the local League of Women Voters, I am pledged to exercise leadership and uphold the mission of this truly great nonpartisan political organization, including not supporting candidates nor one political party over another.

It can be a challenge when the majority of attacks on equal

protection of citizen rights come most frequently from one side of the aisle. The citizens affected are those most easily disenfranchised and they include:

- women – and the right to control their own bodies, their healthcare and lives
- elderly – those on fixed incomes who voted all their lives without the voter identification that was cited as necessary to curtail the voter fraud that could not be verified
- Hispanics - whose right to vote may be curtailed in gerrymandered districts designed to keep one party in power
- Individuals with low income – who, like many older adults on fixed incomes would face economic barriers with the costs of obtaining photo IDs, a disproportionate effect on poor citizens.

These identified groups have had a tendency to vote for candidates of one party in large numbers so it is not unreasonable to conclude that laws like the Texas

Voter ID and legislated redistricting maps have an intent to decrease those numbers at the polls. Voter suppression is not new, the likes of which have been attempted throughout U.S. history with poll taxes, Jim Crow laws, literacy requirements, and so forth.

Fortunately, the Voting Rights Act of 1965 requires pre-clearance of any proposed electoral changes in Texas that may affect or abridge citizens' rights to participate in voting. The federal judge's panel denial for pre-clearance of the Texas Voter ID law and redistricting maps has curtailed that process, at least for now.

The League of Women Voters has gone on record opposing these legislative enactments because of our nonpartisan mission to encourage informed and active participation in our democracy, promoting the rights and duty of every citizen to vote. Laws and regulations that would keep people from exercising their right to vote should not be tolerated by any political party or candidate and require ongoing vigilance.

LWV-CC plays an active and important role in our community to provide information and education about the races, candidates and issues. In the days ahead up to and including the November General Election, members will promote voter registration, conduct public forums, publish and distribute a Voters Guide, and hold informational meetings. There are several opportunities to take up the League call to action to educate and advocate for an informed and voting citizenry!

## Federal court decision on ID is victory for voters

From LWVUS Update

The D. C. District Court's August 29 decision not to preclear the restrictive Texas voter photo ID requirement was a day for celebration for LWV and all who intervened in support of DOJ's decision not to preclear the requirement. More importantly, the decision was a victory for eligible Texas voters. Texas Secretary of State Hope Andrade has confirmed that current ID requirements will be in effect for the November election and photo ID will not be required.

Those without one of the required photo IDs don't

face the costs and challenges of obtaining a new ID in a limited period of time or be denied a fundamental right of citizenship. Voting should be easier for all who go to the polls in November without the cumbersome procedures for accepting voters that would have been required had photo ID been pre-cleared for implementation.

There is still, of course, work ahead. The State of Texas has begun the appeal process and is challenging the preclearance provisions of the Voting Rights Act. LWV-TX will continue to be involved.

# Panel members sought to devise local water quality plan

By Sally Farris

If, indeed, the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the State of Texas are skirmishing over which of them controls water quality in Corpus Christi Bay, and they seem to be engaged in perpetual conflict over which “sovereign” governs other environmental matters in the Lone Star State, you’d never know relations were strained if you judged the CARP at work.

No, CARP are not altruistic Asian agents dedicated to soothing the North American federal system. Rather, CARP are local folks now serving on a special steering committee. This committee flies in the face of some notions we Texans have about how we govern ourselves. The CARP (acronym for Cole and Ropes Parks) are now seeking fellow travelers who value self-determination. This message is an invitation for you to serve in a CARP Homeowners Work Group, or to protest, depending on your sympathies. This is your opportunity to voice your opinion for an improved environment, regardless of your expertise or lack of it. Members of the LWV are especially solicited.

Here’s the scoop:

First, both the State of Texas

and the Federal government, via the US-EPA, have tasked the local CARP with devising a water quality plan intended to reduce bacteria levels off shore of two high profile city parks. These elevated bacteria levels are judged to threaten recreational users.

Among the many bacteria sources are domestic pet wastes, illegally dumped domestic garbage, wildlife, and sewer malfunctions.

On a formal level, the State of Texas via the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) is overseeing the CARP’s work, employing the Coastal Bend Bays Foundation as a facilitator to keep the CARP on task.

Second, the CARP are a response to a federal challenge, issued by the United States Environmental Protection Agency. To the CARP’s credit, the folks who have come forward to help steer are technically competent in areas of medicine, public health, engineering, public works infrastructure, environmental science, business and industry.

Homeowners enjoy a special work group in the CARP and you are invited to join the Homeowners Work Group if you are interested. If you join, you will not be limited to a single issue, may work on several topics, each to be researched

## CARP Public Meeting

This is a notice that the Coastal Bend Bays Foundation will host the next public meeting of the Cole and Ropes Parks Bacteria Reduction Implementation Plan Coordination Committee (CARP) on Tuesday, September 11, from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. at Texas A&M Corpus Christi, Carlos F. Truan Natural Resources Center, Room 1003. The public is invited to attend.

and perhaps incorporated into a tentative solution, called an Implementation Plan. Work Groups will begin in earnest during October 2012, with results completed for a final document to TCEQ in August 2013.

Simply put, state and federal environmental agencies threw out the bait to get local citizens involved in solving a health and water quality problem, and some very good people have taken the bait. In this regard, both the State of Texas and US-EPA, if not collaborators, are at least co-operatives in this effort, to their mutual credit. Again, you are invited to join.

## August Membership update:

### Welcome, new members

**Marilyn Bartlett-** Marilyn is a retired nurse anesthetist who grew up in Midland, Texas. In 2000 she became the voting judge for her precinct in Houston, Texas. She is ready to go in our initiatives to register voters.

**Rene Flores-** Rene is a local attorney who has practiced civil and criminal law and is the current candidate challenging the 347th judicial district Judge incumbent.

Rene and Marilyn joined us at our August celebration of Women’s Equality Day.

### Welcome back, renewing members

**John and Myriam Bell**

**Todd Hunter**

**Sylvia Perez**

**Helen Wilk**

# Candidate Forums Scheduled

**Location:** Corpus Christi City Council Chambers  
**Time:** 6:00-9:00 p.m.  
**Sponsors:** League of Women Voters of Corpus Christi (LWV-CC) and Leadership Corpus Christi Alumni Group (LCCA)

**Candidate Forum One**  
Monday, September 24

**Candidate Race**

State Senator District 20  
State Representative District 34  
13<sup>th</sup> Court of Appeals Floor 2, 4, 5  
28<sup>th</sup> District Court  
214<sup>th</sup> District Court  
347<sup>th</sup> District Court  
County Commissioner Precinct 1  
County Commissioner Precinct 2  
City Council At Large  
Mayor of Corpus Christi

**Candidate Forum Two**  
Wednesday, October 17

**Candidate Race**

US Representative District 27  
City Council District Candidates  
State Board of Education  
Del Mar Regents  
County Court at Law 83  
District Attorney  
Nueces County Tax Assessor-Collector  
Nueces County Sheriff

The League of Women Voters of the Corpus Christi (LWV-CC) area and Leadership Corpus Christi Alumni (LCCA) are sponsoring two Candidates Forums for the November 6 General Election.

Both Forums will be held at City Hall in the City Council Chambers: Forum one is scheduled for Monday, September 24, 2012, from 6 p.m. until 9 p.m. and Forum two is scheduled for Wednesday, October 17, 2012 also from 6 p.m. until 9 p.m. City Hall is located at 1201 Leopard in Corpus Christi.

The League is a nonpartisan organization and holds forums which include candidates in contested races only.

Matilda Saenz, League Secretary, has invited all the candidates to participate and will coordinate the forums. Pat Parr, Voters Service chair, is focusing on the Voters Guide to be produced, but both Pat and Matilda have collaborated on the Voters Guide questions and suggested questions for the forums.

All candidates are invited to attend but the Forums 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.

Due to candidate foot-dragging, we have cancelled co-sponsorship of a debate between U.S. Senate candidates at the October AgXchange Farm and Ranch Show

## League Lingo

There are certain terms that are unique to the League of Women Voters-“League Lingo.” Some are listed here to help new members and remind all of us. More will be printed at a later date.

**ACTION:** Promoting the League’s positions on local, state and national public policy issues to government officials, the media and the public.

**Action Alert:** Request from the LWVUS or state League to take action in support of a League position.

**Annual Meeting:** Local year-end business meeting to elect officers and directors, vote on bylaw changes and adopt a budget and program of work for the next year.

**Associate Member:** A nonvoting member of the League, such as a person under 18 years of age or a non-citizen.

**Consensus:** Collective opinion of a substantial number of League members, representative of the membership as a whole, after objective study of an issue.

**Concurrence:** Agreement by League members with a position on an issue reached by a small group of members or by another League.

**Convention:** A state or national League meeting held every other year at which delegates elect officers and directors for the biennium, adopt program, make bylaw changes and adopt a budget, usually for one year. Local Leagues send delegates to state convention, local and state Leagues send delegates to national convention.

## Voters Guides offered for sale

In an effort to get Voters Guides distributed communitywide through business and organizational locations, LWV-CC has mailed correspondence to several dozen Port industries, community organizations, and educational offices inviting them to purchase one or more bundles of 50 *Voters Guides* for distribution to their employees and students.

The cost of each bundle of 50 guides is \$12.50 (25 cents per), and LWV-CC members will deliver the orders directly to the purchasers in early to mid-October, prior to early voting for the Nov. 6 General Election. The deadline to order the guides is Monday, Sept. 24, 2012.

As always, copies of the *Voters Guide* will be distributed free to the public at venues including Corpus Christi City Hall, Robstown City Hall, Public Libraries, and the Nueces County Courthouse.

The *Voters Guide* will be published on newsprint on the *Corpus Christi Caller-Times* webbed press. The publication will be sized like the Friday *Weekend* publication with approximately 32 pages devoted to candidates who are opposed in the following races: U.S. Representative-District 27, Texas Senate District 20, Texas House District 32, State Board of Education-District 2, 13th Court of Appeals, 28th/324th//347th District courts, District Attorney, Sheriff, Constable, Justice of the Peace, County Court at Law, County Commissioner, Tax Assessor-Collector, Corpus Christi City Council (Mayor, At-Large, and Districts), and Del Mar College Board of Regents.

“We hope organizations and businesses will join with the League to not only promote voting by all registered voters in this important election but to provide information provided by the candidates in this non-partisan publication,” LWV-CC President Judy Telge said.

League members who want to also purchase a bundle of 50 Voters Guides to make available to organizations they belong to are invited to do so.

Please contact Chris Davis Garcia, a member of the Voters Service committee, at 991-2784 to place your order.

**LWV VOTERS GUIDE**  
Published by the League of Women Voters-Corpus Christi

**November 6, 2012  
General Election**

**Early Voting Schedule: Oct. 22-Nov. 2**

**Early Voting Sub-Stations & Hours of Operation**

Monday-Friday Oct. 22-26	8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Saturday, Oct. 27	7:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
Sunday, Oct. 28	12 Noon - 5:00 p.m.
Monday-Friday Oct. 29-Nov. 2	7:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m.

**Other Sources for Election Information**

The League of Women Voters of Texas (LWV-Texas) has produced Voters Guides in both English and Spanish for the Nov. 6 General Election that focus on statewide contests races. Visit the League of Women Voters website ([www.lwvusa.org](http://www.lwvusa.org)) to download appropriate information on the upcoming election. Other sources of information include voting precincts, sample ballots and more. Inside the Nueces County website at [www.countytx.us](http://www.countytx.us) and the Texas Secretary of State's website at [VoteTexas.gov](http://VoteTexas.gov).

The League of Women Voters-Corpus Christi is a nonpartisan, political organization that encourages informed and active participation in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy. The League does not support or oppose any political party or candidate.

F 4910-CC 10/2012 (REV. 06-2011) - GENERAL ELECTION 2012

# Volunteers wanted

## September 25 is Voter Registration Day

In 2008, 6 million Americans didn't vote because they missed a registration deadline or didn't know how to register. In 2012 we want to make sure no one is left out.

On September 25 LWV Corpus Christi volunteers and partner organizations from all over the country will "hit the streets" for National Voter Registration Day. This single day of coordinated field, technology and media efforts will create pervasive awareness of voter registration opportunities--allowing us to reach citizens who have not yet registered to vote for whatever reason..

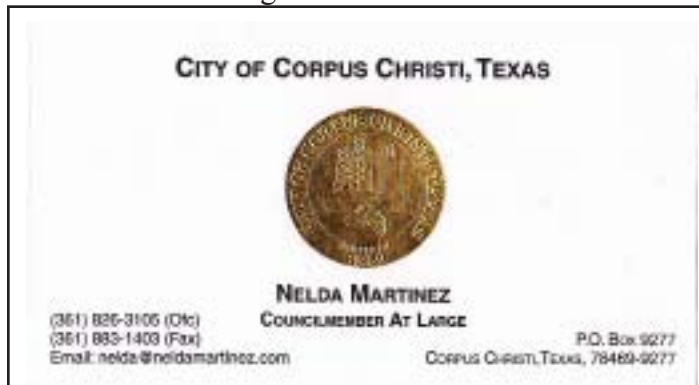
### What It Means

- Volunteers at transportation hubs, retail stores, sporting events, and concerts.
- Technology to help eligible voters find registration drives nearby.
- A network of grassroots, local organizations engaged in this community.
- Voters registering to vote online and offline in a single day.

### What It Will Accomplish

- Register Voters
- Mobilize Volunteers:
- Educate Eligible Voters:
- Change the Conversation: National Voter Registration Day will be an opportunity to put our differences aside and celebrate the rights that unite us as Americans.

If you are interested in volunteering yourself or one of the other organizations to which you belong to assist with National Voter Registration Day, you will need to become deputized by your county election official. In Nueces County that can be accomplished by a short visit to the County Court House, suite 102, at 901 Leopard Street. Those of you living outside Nueces County can become deputized at your county courthouses. Once deputized, call Sandra Heatherley at 361-814-9120 and volunteer for an assignment.



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

Work or Cell phone \_\_\_\_\_

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.**

**Hunter & Handel P.C.**

*Todd A. Hunter, Attorney at Law*

555 N. Carancahua, Suite 1600, Tower H  
Corpus Christi, Texas, 78478  
todd@hunterhandel.com

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## Event commemorates Women's Equality Day

In recognition of the 92nd anniversary of the ratification of the 19th Amendment to the Constitution, LWV-CC held an evening mixer at the Havana Club in downtown Corpus Christi.

Chris Adler and Nelda Martinez, League members vying to be the next mayor of Corpus Christi, each gave brief and heart-felt comments regarding the progress of women in the political arena over the past century. Several local candidates in attendance added to the significance of the celebration and the enlightenment of the other attendees.

Thirty-five members, friends and candidates were in attendance to enjoy the tasty tapas and finger-food prepared by Chef Nicole. She even invented a special red-white and blue "Constitution Cocktail" in honor of the event!

## LWV-CC adopts Diversity Statement

The League of Women Voters of Corpus Christi (LWV-CC), in both its values and practices, affirms its belief in, and commitment to, diversity and pluralism.

LWV-CC welcomes any person to participate in any activity of LWV-CC, regardless of gender, race, religion, sexual orientation, national origin, disability, or political persuasion.

LWV-CC recognizes that diverse perspectives are important and necessary for responsible and

representative decision-making.

LWV-CC subscribes to the belief that diversity and pluralism are fundamental to the values it upholds and that inclusiveness enhances its capability to respond more effectively to changing conditions and needs.

LWV-CC affirms its commitment to reflecting diversity in its membership, board, staff, and programs.

**Adopted by Board Action August 6, 2012**

### Special Thanks

Two financial gifts were received recently from members John Bell and Chris Davis Garcia to underwrite upcoming voters service activities. The League appreciates being remembered with funds... in any amount... that can help support the League's work. Your gift can also be given in memory of someone special in your life. Don't forget that gifts made payable to the LWV-CC Ed Fund are tax-deductible and covered under 501c3.



**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*

**Mary V. Gleason**  
Executive Director

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Corpus Christi, Texas  
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E-mail: gleason@ccliteracy.org  
www.ccliteracy.org



### 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](http://www.groups.yahoo.com)*

*or contact Jeff Pollack at [intranslation321@gmail.com](mailto:intranslation321@gmail.com).*



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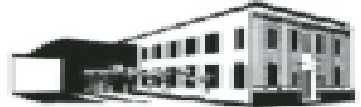
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