



The Corpus Christi Area

# Voter

November 2013

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

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## November 21 luncheon will feature Consensus Meeting on Human Trafficking

The November meeting for LWV-CC is scheduled from 11:30 am to 1 p.m. on Thursday, Nov. 21, at the Hibachi Grill located at the corner of Staples and Williams Street. The program will feature a facilitated discussion session designed to achieve consensus around the human trafficking questions developed by LWV-TX.

The cost for lunch is \$12 per person and includes selections from the entire buffet. It's a great opportunity to see our local league at work; bring a friend.

As you recall, a statewide committee named after the 2012 state convention studied the human trafficking issue and published a "Facts and Issues" document to inform League members across the state of the depth and breadth of human trafficking in Texas and the broader world. The consensus questions are featured on pages 6-7 of this publication. Please bring the pages with you to the Nov. 21 meeting.

(See related story below)

## Public Summit on Human Trafficking set November 15 by State Rep. Hunter

State Representative Todd Hunter is sponsoring his second Human Trafficking Summit on Friday, Nov. 15. The event is free and open to the public; reservations are required by calling 949-4603. The summit will be held from 8:30 a.m.-2 p.m. at the Del Mar Center for Economic Development, 3209 South Staples (across from Ray High

(See Trafficking, page 3)

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 Sandra Heatherley



Sandra Heatherley

Too many of you missed the lively discussion of the pros and cons for Destination Bayfront at our October luncheon meeting. By the time you are reading this, the election results will be known and the Corpus Christi League can move forward based on those results. Too late to be effective in the discussions was the realization that our league adopted a position related to the Bayfront in 1983. That position, along with all the previous positions taken on topics of local import, is printed in this issue of the VOTER. In November we will be having a consensus session related to the state study of Human Trafficking, and based on the feedback from us and all the local leagues in Texas, a position will be established. Once a position is established, then local leagues and the state can advocate, agitate, and educate using the agreed upon position statement.

This process of selecting topics to research and study for the production of a "Facts and Issues" document related to the topic is the basic work of the League of Women Voters. Our Corpus Christi Chapter has been neglectful of this work for a few years now and it's time to renew our efforts.

A good beginning is for all members to read the positions published in this issue and be ready to discuss them at our January meeting. We need to vote on whether we want to continue to support the statements as written or revisit and re-study any that have been adopted in past years.

New topics in the areas of Government, Administration of Justice, Natural Resources,

and Social Policy are also encouraged. In April of 2014 Texas will hold a state convention of all local leagues and the state Board of Directors is seeking input from local leagues for topics to undertake as state studies similar to the Human Trafficking topic.

So what can you do? For starters you need to read the "Facts and Issues" document sent to all members electronically on August 1, 2013. If you didn't print and save it back then, you will certainly want to before the November meeting. You can also find the document on-line at [www.lwvtx.org](http://www.lwvtx.org). The consensus questions derived from the "Facts and Issues" were printed in our October VOTER and in this issue. So, you will need to review those and come prepared to discuss and vote on each question or statement during the November luncheon. Following that session our responses will be sent to the state offices for compilation and review.

The next step is to read and be ready in January (December will be devoted to membership recruitment) to verify our current local positions and suggest new topics for study and action here in Corpus Christi or in the state of Texas.

Since there will not be a December issue of the VOTER, I want to encourage all of you to bring at least one friend to our membership recruitment event in December. We will send out the exact date and time for the event via e-mail. Most of all I want to wish you a Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays with a Harmonious New Year to follow!!

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A supporter of Neighborhoods First! questions City Councilman David Loeb during his presentation regarding

the Destination Bayfront bond election at the League's October membership meeting.



Thanks to Pam Maupin for hosting a Nov. 7 social at her home— 'Wisdom, Wine & Women.' (Far left) Maria Jimenez, Pam and daughter Laurie, Sandra Heatherley; (center) Nick Jimenez; (Below) Sandra, Ricky Walraven, Chris Garcia, Pam.



## Trafficking

From page 1


School).

The program is designed to inform and educate attendees regarding the recent incidents of arresting and detaining human traffickers in South Texas. The presenters will also explain the signs that the public can look for in detect-

ing possible victims of human trafficking and the social support systems being developed for those victims.

LWV-CC President Sandra Heatherley said, "This is a great segue to our LWV-CC consensus meeting on Nov. 21 focused on human trafficking."

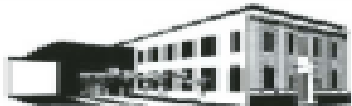
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# Summary of Local Programs

The following positions are the result of studies and consensus developed by LWV-CC members over the years:

League believes it is the responsibility of government at all levels to take the necessary steps for the stabilization and preservation of the sand dunes.

## I. Natural Resources

### A. Tourism and Conventions

Recognizing the value of tourism and conventions as major industries of the area; the League supports measures to promote the development of good quality facilities for tourists and for conventions, while preserving our unique natural assets.

### B. Adequate Park and Recreation Facilities

The League supports the National Recreation and Parks Association standard of one acre of park land per 100 people as an ultimate goal for Corpus Christi. Recognizing that this goal is not immediately obtainable, the League supports programs which work toward the standard.

### C. Protection of Sand Dunes on the Barrier Islands and Open Beaches

Because the barrier islands sand dunes provide a vital natural system of protection for the inland areas along the Gulf Coast, and since these areas contain a significant portion of our state's human, natural, and recreational resources, the

### D. Development of Corpus Christi Beach

The League of Women Voters of Corpus Christi supports a Master Plan for the development of Corpus Christi Beach.

### E. Bayfront Master Development Plan

The League of Women Voters of Corpus Christi recognizes the value of tourism and conventions as major industries necessary for diversification of the economy of our area. We further consider the bayfront area to be our most unique asset and, therefore, feel it should be developed in a manner that will provide quality facilities for the benefit of the total community. Because this asset—the Bayfront—is non-renewable, we feel there is a vital need for procedures to assure a balance between development and protection of this valuable resource.

Creation of any Bayfront Master Development Plan must include provisions for public facilities such as beaches, parks, and marina areas, provide consideration of environmental protection and exhibit fiscal responsibility.



# of LWV–Corpus Christi

## II. Local Government

### A. Council/Manager Form of Government

The League of Women Voters of Corpus Christi supports the Council-Manager form of government because it provides the city with continuity, responsibility, accountability, and expertise.

### B. Public Transportation System

The League of Women Voters believes a public transportation system is vitally necessary to promote economic growth and development, provide access to employment opportunities, and enhance the quality of life for all citizens.

### C. Method of Electing Corpus Christi I.S.D. Trustees

The League of Women Voters of Corpus Christi supports a modified single-member electoral system. The school district would be divided into four single-member districts. Four trustees would reside in and be elected by voters from each of these four single-member districts. The other three trustees would be elected at large by all qualified voters in the district. [*This is the system in current use.*]

## D. Method of Electing City Council

The League of Women Voters believes that no electoral system automatically guarantees a more representative or responsive governing body. In November of 1981, the membership reached consensus supporting the expansion of the council to nine members with a modified single-member electoral system. The plan adopted was the plan supported by the League.

### E. Charter Revision – Annexation/ Industrial Districts

The League of Women Voters of Corpus Christi believes in the authority of the City of Corpus Christi to annex additional geographic territory to protect its economic base. Specifically, the League supports authority to annex, without voter approval, additional territory adjacent to the city limits; annexation of all developed areas adjacent to the city limits, including commercial and industrial development; and creation of an industrial district on a limited basis in the immediate port area only.

### F. Emergency Ambulance Services

The League of Women Voters of Corpus Christi supports a public lifesaving emergency ambulance service.

# Consensus Questions for Human Trafficking Study

This Fall, the 28 Leagues across Texas, including LWV-CC, will focus on the “Facts and Issues” publication produced by the Human Trafficking Study Committee of LWV-Texas. The study was approved in April 2012 at the state convention, and committee members did intensive study and information gathering on the problem of human trafficking in the United States and how the issue is currently being addressed. Local League members now will review the informational materials and consider the Consensus Questions posed below.

The LWV-CC consensus meeting will be held on Thursday, Nov. 21.

What is consensus? Consensus is agreement of a substantial number of members reached through group discussion. It is not a vote, but a sense of what the group supports. Consensus discussions produce group opinion, whereas a vote is a tabulation of individual opinions. Consensus is not a simple majority, nor is it necessarily unanimity. It is a decision with which participants are comfortable overall. While voting might polarize people unless the vote is unanimous, consensus is a unifying process.

## Consensus

### 1. LWV Texas should be opposed to all forms of human trafficking: international and domestic, sex and labor, adults and children.

- Agree
- Disagree

Comments:

*The 2000 United Nations Palermo Protocol elaborates the “3P Paradigm” for government efforts to stop human trafficking: prevention, prosecution and protection. Questions 2-6 follow the 3P Paradigm.*

### 2. Prevention: There are several human conditions that underlie trafficking, such as poverty, attitudes about women, cultural traditions about slavery, and dysfunctional families. What methods of prevention would you support to specifically address trafficking? Choose all that you support.

- Public outreach and awareness programs
- Public-private partnerships to combat human trafficking
- Training for medical professionals and school personnel
- Services for homeless, throwaway youth and other at-risk populations
- Internet safety education for youth, parents and teachers
- Other. Please specify.

Comments:

### 3. Prosecution: How should human trafficking be prosecuted? Choose all the statements that you support.

- Promote strong laws against trafficking and prosecute traffickers to the fullest extent of the law.
- Require human trafficking training for law enforcement officers and prosecutors.
- Put convicted sex traffickers of children on the sex offender registry.
- Put convicted sex traffickers of adults on the sex offender registry.
- Foster and support coordination among national, state, local and nongovernmental agencies, including the maintenance and sharing of reliable trafficking data.
- Strengthen civil laws to close down properties that allow human trafficking.
- Other. Please specify.

Comments:

### 4. Prosecution: How should victims of sex trafficking be treated by prosecutors? Choose all the statements that you support.

- Persons who are identified as victims of sex trafficking should be diverted into justice and rescue programs that provide access to services such as counseling and job training.
- Assume all minors are victims, no proof of coercion required.
- Minor victims of sex trafficking should receive legal aid and other court-related services.

• Adult victims of sex trafficking should receive legal aid and other court-related services.

• Other. Please specify.

Comments:

• Other. Please specify.

Comments:

**5. Prosecution: How should buyers of sexual services (“johns”) be treated? Choose all the statements that you support.**

- Prosecute buyers of sexual services from minors.
- Prosecute buyers of sexual services from adults.
- Put buyers of sexual services from minors on the sex offender registry.
- Put buyers of sexual services from adults on the sex offender registry.
- Require buyers of sexual services to participate in awareness education about human trafficking.
- Other. Please specify.

Comments:

**7. Which of the following organizations should have primary and secondary responsibility to fund the prevention and prosecution of human trafficking and protection of victims: federal government, state government, local government, nongovernmental organizations (NGOs)? Put 1 for primary, 2 for secondary.**

• Prevention  
 \_\_\_ Federal govt. \_\_\_ State govt. \_\_\_ Local govt. \_\_\_ NGOs

• Prosecution  
 \_\_\_ Federal govt. \_\_\_ State govt. \_\_\_ Local govt. \_\_\_ NGOs

• Protection  
 \_\_\_ Federal govt. \_\_\_ State govt. \_\_\_ Local govt. \_\_\_ NGOs

Comments:

**6. Protection: What type of protection should be provided to victims? Choose all that you support.**

- Services such as housing, medical, counseling, job training, legal aid and translations
- Guidelines for professionals to identify and assist victims
- Enhanced ability to sue the trafficker for civil damages
- Protection of victims from traffickers during prosecution
- Defined roles for child welfare system and juvenile justice system in assisting trafficked minors
- Guardianship and protective custody for trafficked minors when home situation would put the minor at risk

**8. Human trafficking is modern slavery, but many people are not aware that it exists even in their own communities. Texas, in particular, is a transportation hub for sex trafficking. What issues need to be addressed in education and public awareness of this “problem hidden in plain sight”?**

Comments



**THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS**  
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**Renewals, thanks**  
 Peggy Duran  
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Type of membership: New\_\_\_\_ Renewal\_\_\_\_

Individual \$60\_\_\_\_ Student \$30\_\_\_\_ Household \$90\_\_\_\_

Name\_\_\_\_\_

Household Member's Name \_\_\_\_\_

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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.**

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