



The Corpus Christi Area

# Voter

August 2015

League of Women Voters  
PO Box 8276  
Corpus Christi, TX 78468-8276  
<http://www.lwv-cc.org>  
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## August 28, 2015, Historic Celebration



Leaguer Sandra Heatherley visits with CC Country Club catering director

Planning a fundraiser is no easy task, but thanks to our members and volunteers, LWV-CC is planning a memorable and very important celebration on Friday, August 28--a celebration that will mark the 95<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the passage of the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment and the 70<sup>th</sup> Birthday of the local League.

This celebration will honor six women Trailblazers and three organizations that exemplify making democracy work. Their actions and words are aligned to the LWV-CC mission.

Join this historic celebration as we honor: *Nelda Martinez, Mayor of Corpus Christi; Diana Barrera, Former Nueces County Clerk; Suzie Canales, Environmental Activist; Judy Hawley, Chairwoman, Port Commission; Jessica Davila-Burnett, Public Relations Director, Stripes; and the late Linda Bridges, President of the Texas American Federation of Teachers.*

Three organizations in our community also will be recognized: *Corpus Christi YWCA, Delta Sigma Theta Sorority Inc.-Corpus Christi Alumnae Chapter, and The Corpus Christi Caller-Times.*

Join us at the Corpus Christi Country Club on August 28 from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. Ten food and dessert stations, special music, silent auction, and a cash bar will make the evening memorable.

Cost is \$40 for LWV-CC members and \$80 for non-members. Invite a friend to join you! **For ticket reservations, call the League at 445-4436 or go online to: <http://www.lwv-cc.org/Purchase.html>.**

(Continued on Page 8 --see other ways you can help!)

# President's Message

## WonderWoman and WonderWoman Organizations--Leadership in Action

**Women's Equality Day, August 26, 2015**, celebrates when votes to women officially became part of the US Constitution.

This day marks a turning point in the history for equal treatment of women and women's rights.

Today, women's equality has grown to mean more than the right to the vote. Organizations, such as the League of Women Voters, work to provide women across the globe with equal opportunities to education and employment, pushing against suppression and violence towards women and against the discrimination and stereotyping which still occur in every society.

In five short years, we will celebrate 100 years of women's suffrage. Yet women today have not reached equity in many arenas.

According to a CNN reporter Jessica Ravitz, almost 52 years after the passage of the Equal Pay Act, women still earn 78 cents to the man's dollar. A woman with a college degree can expect to make \$1.2 million less over her lifetime than her male counterparts.

The World Policy Center reveals that the US ranks 98th for women's national political representation -- just behind Kenya and Indonesia, and



barely ahead of the United Arab Emirates. These are only three examples of the inequalities that exist today.

We must remember that the doors opened for women are due to the suffragettes and the feminists during the course of many, many years. As we approach the 100th year anniversary of women's right to vote, we know that there is still much work to be done. Let this anniversary be a call to renew the momentum -- to revive Wonder Woman Leadership.

Etched into the history of our nation are the stories of Wonder Women who fought for the America they knew was possible — a country where all are truly treated equally and have access to the ballot box, regardless of gender.

It took generations of fearless women who organized and advocated to secure women's right to vote.

On Women's Equality Day, we should pay homage to the trailblazers and remember every-



Dr. Mary Jane Garza  
LWV-CC President

day heroes who inspire us--women and organizations that seek equality and demonstrate Wonder Woman Leadership.

On Friday, August 28, 2015, LWV-CC celebrates two significant milestones, the 95<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the passage of the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment and the 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the League of Women Voters-Corpus Christi.

Our historic celebration will honor six women and three organizations that demonstrate Wonder Woman Leadership through their words and actions.

I hope you will make plans to join us and show your support.

Our historic celebration will take place at the Corpus Christi Country Club from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

Remember the following quote from Martha Plimpton, "The word Equality shows up too much in our founding document for anyone to pretend it is not the American way."

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### LWV MISSION STATEMENT

**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. The League does not support or oppose candidates or political parties.**



# LWV-CC voter registration volunteers sign up 49 additional registered voters

The 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Health Fair, presented by the Nueces County Medical Society, was held on Saturday, August 1, from 9 a.m. – 2 p.m., at American Bank Center.

The League of Women Voters–Corpus Christi was present from 9:00 a.m. to 2:15 p.m. registering interested citizens who had not previously registered to vote.

Forty-nine citizens completed the registration form, several took a form to mail once completed, and most importantly an abundance of citizens reaffirmed why they were registered voters and the importance of voting.

Thank you to the following LWV-CC members who set up the booth and worked to ensure that our citizens had the opportunity to register to vote: Chris Garcia, Sally Farris, Coretta Graham, Bobbie Wood-Hughes, Judy Landress, Lois Huff, Peggy Duran, Carol Loeb, Judy Telge, and Dr. Mary Jane Garza.

A very special thank you to Ruth Falck who was part of this important team from start to finish! She set up the booth and packed up the booth. Teamwork in action!



Pictured above are Carol Loeb, Ruth Falck, Sally Farris, and Coretta Graham who manned the table from 9-11 a.m.; below, League members Rep. Abel Herrero and Matilda Saenz are greeted; at left, Leaguers provide attentive ears to a man who wanted to share his views.



# Enhancing the 18-Year-Old Voter Registration Process in the Corpus Christi Area

On July 17 at the Citrus Bistro at the Art Center, Ruth Falck and Dr. Mary Jane Garza met with Dr. Rick Alvarado, Executive Director of the Education Service Center, to discuss how to increase the number of 18-year-olds that are being registered to vote in the public schools.

Just over 1,000 students were registered during this past academic year – approximately one-eighth of the potential 18-year-olds that could have been registered. State education code requires that high school principals provide 18-year-old students an opportunity to register twice a year, once in the fall and once in the spring.

Ruth Falck, LWV-CC member, has done an outstanding job in registering the majority of the students who were registered during the 2014-2015 academic year. The challenge is, “Can you imagine how many more could be registered?”

The League of Women Voters-Corpus Christi is willing to assist local high schools in the voter registration effort. Dr. Alvarado has agreed to visit with school superintendents and high school principals about the current education code and invite them to utilize the services of the LWV-CC in the registration process.

## ARTWALK venue is great place to register voters

LWV-CC has manned a table at the First Friday ARTWALK downtown for more than a year and plans to continue registering voters during that event.

The table is manned from 5-9 p.m., said Ruth Falck who enjoys participating. Casual, cool attire and walking shoes are recommended.

Upcoming dates are Friday, September 4, October 2, and November 5. Call the League at 445-4436 if you can help with this voter registration activity.

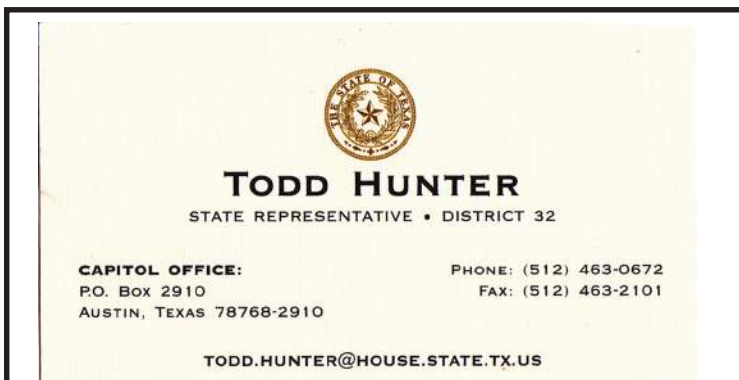
## Partnerships in Action

LWV-CC is fortunate to have partnerships that enhance the league’s mission by providing office space to conduct business.

A heartfelt thank you is given to the late Leon Loeb and Landlord Resources for having donated office space for the past several years--first at the LandLord offices, then at Doddridge Plaza.

Our new office space is now situated at the YWCA, again a partner who reaches out in support of the League.

Our appreciation goes to both organizations for supporting the League of Women Voters–Corpus Christi. If you see David Loeb of Landlord Resources or Nancy Wesson-Dodd, YWCA, please take time as a League member to express your personal appreciation.



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# Tuesday, Sept. 22 Is National Voter Registration Day

Across the nation in hundreds of cities and communities, Tuesday, Sept. 22, will be celebrated as National Voter Registration Day. LWV-CC is one of the committed organizations planning to participate! Can you help for a few hours that day?

LWV-CC will man three tables--one at Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi, one at Del Mar College East campus at Baldwin/Ayers; and one at Del Mar College West campus. We'll need both voter registrars who can help students complete the voter registration form and helpers who can visit with students who might have questions about the voting process, need to know upcoming election dates, and more.

Call Sandra Heatherley at 445-4436 for more details about the table locations and the volunteer shifts. Signing up new voters is fun!

## IN MEMORIAM

Three individuals close to LWV-CC's heart have passed away in recent months. The League fondly remembers:

- Twila Mouttet, who served on the League Board from 2008-2011 and helped with the first Waffle Breakfast fundraiser, died in Houston in May.
- Mr. Bill Geer of Arlington, spouse of our MLD coach Ruthann Geer, who died in late June, and
- Barbara Guidry Blanton, a retired teacher and an active League member for many years, who died July 11, 2015.

## Looking Ahead: Upcoming Membership Luncheons & More

Monthly Membership luncheons and other special events and activities are on the League's calendar this Fall. League members are encouraged to participate whenever they can.

While there is no Membership Luncheon in August (because of the August 28 evening celebration), there are two special activities which League members will want to support.

Proclamations honoring Women's Equality Day and the anniversary of the passage of the 19th Amendment will be read later this month at both the City Council meeting and the Nueces County Commissioners' Court meeting. Dates are being confirmed, and League members will be notified via email.

Membership Luncheons are usually held at the Del Mar College Center for Economic Development, located at the intersection of S. Staples and Kostoryz (across from W. B. Ray High School). League members gather at 11:30 a.m. to enjoy a box lunch (\$10 each) and fellowship, with the program beginning about noon and concluding promptly at 1 p.m. Programs to be announced:

- Thursday, Sept. 17--Membership Luncheon Meeting
- Thursday, Oct. 15--Membership Luncheon Meeting
- Thursday, Nov. 19--Membership Luncheon Meeting

## DID YOU KNOW?

- The 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment to the Constitution granting women the vote was passed by one vote.
- Tennessee was the 38<sup>th</sup> state to ratify the Amendment and it passed the legislature when Harry Burn, a young legislator, changed his vote to "YES" after receiving a letter from his mother telling him "to do the right thing."



# July 16 meeting features state legislators



The three guest legislators at the July 16 League luncheon --(l-r) Rep. Abel Herrero, Senator Juan "Chuy" Hinojosa, and Rep. Todd Hunter--received an engraved STAR Trophy from LWV-CC President Mary Jane Garza.

The League's July 16<sup>th</sup> Membership Meeting was so well attended that we almost had to move into a larger room! All came to hear our South Texas legislators--Senator Juan "Chuy" Hinojosa (D), Representative Todd Hunter (R), and Representative Abel Herrero (D). Each spoke about 15 minutes to update us on the 84<sup>th</sup> Legislative Session and what successes were recorded. They all agreed that working together as a team helped them better represent our area and get legislation passed. Topics addressed included windstorm insurance, educational issues, public school funding, and the need for disclosure and transparency in political donations. The meeting was most enlightening, said moderator Judy Landress, VP-Program. Thank you to all who attended.



Rep. Herrero talks about the legislative session.



League members Ruben Saenz and Dr. Jim Klein



Elena Buentello, former VP-Program, receives a farewell gift from Sandra Heatherley.



Judy Landress, VP-Program, introduces the presenters.



League officers pose with the July 16 speakers. Pictured are (l-r) Alex Garcia, treasurer; Judy Landress, VP-Program; Matilda Saenz, Director; Rep. Abel Herrero; Senator Juan “Chuy” Hinojosa; Rep. Todd Hunter; Maria Jimenez, Nominating Committee chair; Dr. Mary Jane Garza, president; and Sandra Heatherley, immediate past president.



League members respond to legislators’ remarks; legislative staff members who accompanied the speakers confer.

**Special thanks to new member Debbie Noble of Noblest Photography for taking many of these photos while attending her first League meeting.**





## THANKS to our new and renewing members in July/early August

### NEW MEMBERS

Debbie Noble, Individual  
Misaki Berrios, Friend of the League  
Helen Amador, Individual  
Kristian Thompson, Student

### RENEWING MEMBERS

Colleen Johnson, Individual  
State Rep. Todd Hunter, Individual  
Brent Chesney, Individual  
Barbara Vollmer, Sustaining  
State Rep. Abel Herrero, Individual  
Sylvia Ramirez, Individual  
Genie and Brooks Lemley, Household  
Colleen McIntyre, Individual  
Carolyn Moon, Friend of the League

## Other Ways League Members Can Help with the Celebration!

(Continued from Page 1)

League members who will be unable to attend the August 28 celebration can help make the event successful in one of the following ways:

- Purchase a \$25 ad (business card-size) in the program booklet with a special message to the League; or
- Furnish a gift certificate or special item for the Silent Auction table (favorite restaurant, retail store, salon, massage, jewelry, florist); or
- Make a special financial donation to the League. Your gift, whether large or small, will be sincerely appreciated. You can mail it directly to the League at PO Box 8276, Corpus Christi, TX 78468.

“Your support will help the League underwrite Voters Guides and voter registration activities over the coming months,” said Event Chair Coretta Graham.

Call Chris Garcia at 991-2784 for details!

## “Facts & Issues” Available for LWV-TX Study on Payday and Auto Title Loans

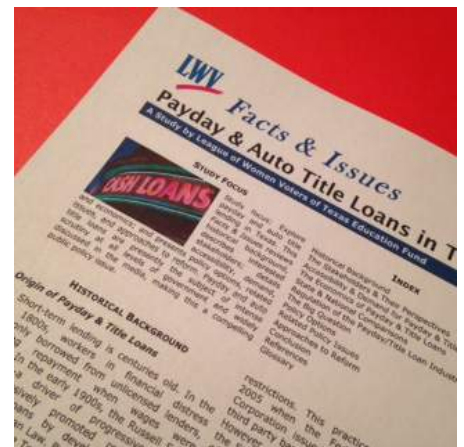
At the LWV-TX convention in 2014, a study on “Payday and Auto Title Loans” was approved by delegates attending. Elizabeth Erkel, state board member and a member of the Collin County League, volunteered to chair the study committee. Other members from across the state were invited to serve. Over the past 15 months, the committee has studied this “compelling public policy issue,” researching the topic and gathering information.

The study committee’s materials, including the “Facts & Issues” publication, are available on the state website so that Leagues can schedule their review and hold a consensus meeting this Fall.

The 10-page “Facts & Issues” reviews historical background, describes interested stakeholders; details accessibility, demand, and economics; and presents policy options, related issues, and approaches to reform. Leagues are invited to participate and to send the results of the consensus discussion to the state board by December.

The state board will then present the results to the delegates at the March 2016 state convention in Houston.

LWV-CC members are encouraged to download the materials, read them, and be ready to participate in the consensus meeting which will be scheduled this Fall.



Payday and auto title loans are the subject of intense scrutiny at all levels of government and are widely discussed in the media, making this topic a compelling public policy issue. ----LWV-TX Study Committee



# League began as “mighty political experiment”

By Stephanie Drahan, LWVUS

Ninety-six years ago today, Congress passed the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment, which granted women the right to vote, and was sent to the states for ratification. It would take over a year for enough states to ratify the amendment, and it was not until August 1920 when women nationwide finally gained the right to vote.

In between June 4, 1919, and August 18, 1920, the League of Women Voters was founded with the expressed intent to help 20 million women carry out their new responsibilities as voters.

The League of Women Voters was founded 95 years ago by Carrie Chapman Catt during the convention of the National American Women Suffrage Association on February 14, 1920.

The League began as a “mighty political experiment” to encourage women to use their new right to participate in the democratic process and shape public policy.

From the beginning, the League has been an activist, grassroots organization whose leaders believed that citizens play a critical role in our government and determining the issues our government addresses.

Today, the League maintains its commitment to Making Democracy Work® and to keep the power of our democracy in the hands of the people.



As a powerful national network that includes 800 state and local chapters across the country, the League empowers people every day to tackle the most important issues facing our communities and to improve local, state and federal government.

Join us as we reflect back on the long and storied history of the suffrage movement that secured women the right to vote, and pay respect to the women who paved the way for the founding of our organization. The League of Women Voters is celebrating 95 years of Making Democracy Work® at every level of government.

In 1920, the League was founded as an outgrowth of the movement that secured women the right to vote to help new voters engage with their government.

Today, the League empowers all voters to improve their local, state and national government. Learn more about the League of Women Voters and join our celebration!

**THIS ADVERTISING SPACE AVAILABLE!**  
Business-card 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 LWV-CC at PO BOX 8276, Corpus Christi, TX 78468.

**Your support is sincerely appreciated!**

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# Seven Constitutional Amendments Will Be on Nov. 3 Ballot

Texas voters will be asked to consider seven Constitutional Amendments that Texas legislators have approved for placement on the Tuesday, Nov. 3, 2015, ballot. Newly appointed Texas Secretary of State Carlos Cascos drew the order of the amendments in mid-June.

In the coming weeks, the LWV-TX Board of Directors will research each amendment and prepare a Constitutional Amendments Voters Guide (published in both English and Spanish) with pro and con information. Copies of the Voters Guide will be available for purchase by local Leagues by October 1, and a PDF version will be placed on both state and local League websites.

Here are the seven constitutional amendments on which Texas voters will vote:

## Proposition 1 (SJR 1)

“The constitutional amendment increasing the amount of the residence homestead exemption from ad valorem taxation for public school purposes from \$15,000 to \$25,000, providing for a reduction of the limitation on the total amount of ad valorem taxes that may be imposed for those purposes on the homestead of an elderly or disabled person to reflect the increased exemption amount, authorizing the

legislature to prohibit a political subdivision that has adopted an optional residence homestead exemption from ad valorem taxation from reducing the amount of or repealing the exemption, and prohibiting the enactment of a law that imposes a transfer tax on a transaction that conveys fee simple title to real property.”

## Proposition 2 (HJR 75)

“The constitutional amendment authorizing the legislature to provide for an exemption from ad valorem taxation of all or part of the market value of the residence homestead of the surviving spouse of a 100 percent or totally disabled veteran who died before the law authorizing a residence homestead exemption for such a veteran took effect.”

## Proposition 3 (SJR 52)

“The constitutional amendment repealing the requirement that state officers elected by voters statewide reside in the state capital.”

## Proposition 4 (HJR 73)

“The constitutional amendment authorizing the legislature to permit professional sports team charitable foundations to conduct charitable raffles.”

## MEMORIAL GIFT

A memorial gift of \$100 was received from Carol Ward of San Antonio, TX, in honor of her friend Barbara Guidry Blanton, who passed away on July 11, 2015. Barbara was an active member of the League for several years. The gift will be acknowledged with notes to Mrs. Ward and also to Barbara’s family.

## Proposition 5 (SJR 17)

“The constitutional amendment to authorize counties with a population of 7,500 or less to perform private road construction and maintenance.”

## Proposition 6 (SJR 22)

“The constitutional amendment recognizing the right of the people to hunt, fish, and harvest wildlife subject to laws that promote wildlife conservation.”

## Proposition 7 (SJR 5)

“The constitutional amendment dedicating certain sales and use tax revenue and motor vehicle sales, use, and rental tax revenue to the state highway fund to provide funding for nontolled roads and the reduction of certain transportation-related debt.”

CITY OF CORPUS CHRISTI, TEXAS



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Mayor

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Email: nelda@neldamartinez.com


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*Corpus Christi Literacy Council*

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Executive Director

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Corpus Christi, Texas  
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Fax: 361-857-5898  
E-mail: gleason@ccliteracy.org  
www.ccliteracy.org



# Calendar for 2016 Primary Election Tuesday, March 1

Here are some key dates to remember...six months out from the March 1, 2016, primaries:

First day to file for a place on the primary ballot for precinct chair candidates.

**Tuesday, September 15, 2015**

First day to file for all other candidates for offices that are regularly scheduled to be on the Primary ballot.

**Saturday, November 14, 2015**

Filing deadline for candidates; filing deadline for independent candidates' intent declaration.

**Monday, December 14, 2015,  
at 6:00 PM**

First Day of Early Voting

**Tuesday, February 16, 2016\***

*\*First business day after Presidents' Day*

Last Day to Apply for Ballot by Mail  
(**Received**, not Postmarked)

**Friday, February 19, 2016** (NEW LAW: 11th day before election day; regular ABBM and FPCA)

Last Day of Early Voting

**Friday, February 26, 2016**

Election Day

**Tuesday, March 1, 2016**

**NOTE: The League will plan to sponsor a candidate forum before the Primary and will publish a Voters Guide to distribute free at various community locations.**

**It's time to renew your  
League membership!**

*Have you renewed your League membership for 2015-2016? If you haven't, please take time this month--August-- to send your dues payment to the League. Your continued support will enable the League to publish Voters Guides for both the March 2016 Primary and the November 2016 Election; underwrite voter registration activities throughout our city, including our local high schools; and continue to advocate for good public policy.*

## LWV-Corpus Christi Area New Member/Renewal Application

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

Type of membership: New \_\_\_\_\_ Renewal \_\_\_\_\_

- ( ) Individual \$60
- ( ) Household \$90 (2 individuals residing at same address)
- ( ) Sustaining Member \$100 (includes \$60 membership, plus gift to the League)
- ( ) Student \$30 \_\_\_\_\_
- ( ) Friend of the League \$30 (non-voting)

Name \_\_\_\_\_

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

Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_

Work Address (Optional) \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail Address \_\_\_\_\_

I prefer to receive League correspondence ( ) by email ( ) by mail

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

Please return this form with your payment (check or money order) to:  
League of Women Voters-CC (Attn: Treasurer)  
PO Box 8276 \* Corpus Christi, TX 78468  
**Membership is from June 1 through May 31.**





**League of Women Voters**  
**--Corpus Christi Area**  
**PO Box 8276**  
**Corpus Christi, TX 78468**

# A message from LWVUS...

By Elisabeth MacNamara, President

In July, LWVUS celebrated the 167th anniversary of the Seneca Falls Convention. The gathering of 300 women and men on July 19-20, 1848, produced the Declaration of Sentiments, one of the nation's most important historical documents advocating for women's rights, including the first official call for the right to vote for women.

With the passage of the Declaration of Sentiments and its support for the right to vote for women among them, the Convention laid the initial framework for the

women's suffrage movement. The men and women of the Seneca Falls Convention understood that access to the vote is not about politics, but about justice and equality. The document made a powerful call for equal voting rights, declaring voting both a "duty" and a "sacred right."

Today, the League honors the women and men who gathered at the Seneca Falls Convention and their tireless work to end barriers denying American women equality and the right to vote.

Ninety-five years after our founding, League members continue their work by Making Democracy Work® and continuing to fight to protect the right to vote and make sure access to our elections are free and fair.

We are advocating for restoration of the Voting Rights Act, which the U.S. Supreme Court partially gutted just over two years ago and helping to lead the challenge of North Carolina's election law, the most restrictive anti-voter law in the country, in federal court.

The North Carolina League is actively participating in the federal trial and we look forward to hearing more about the arguments over the next several weeks. The decision in this case could have a major impact on voting rights across the country.




**CORPUS CHRISTI SOUTHSIDE FARMERS' Market**

**When: Every Saturday (year round)**  
**Time: 9:00 AM til Sell Out**  
**Where: 5800 Everhart Rd.**

[www.farmersmarketcc.org](http://www.farmersmarketcc.org)

**Be a "Localvore."  
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"Elections belong to the people. It's their decision. If they decide to turn their back on the fire and burn their behinds, then they will just have to sit on their blisters."

A quote by  
 Abraham Lincoln  
 1860



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**Alex Garcia Jr.**  
 Realtor