



The Corpus Christi Area

# Voter

OCTOBER 2015

League of Women Voters  
PO Box 8276  
Corpus Christi, TX 78468-8276  
<http://www.lwv-cc.org>  
361-445-4436

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## LWV-CC OCTOBER MEETING Thursday, October 15, 2015

**COMPLIMENTARY LUNCH  
FOR CURRENT LWV-CC MEMBERS**

Let's learn more about the seven Constitutional Amendments that will be on the Nov. 3 ballot! Please plan to attend the League's lunch meeting on Thursday, October 15, 2015, at the Del Mar College Center for Economic Development. The meeting is from 11:30 am-1 pm in Room 108.

The Center is located at 3216 S. Staples at the intersection of S. Staples and Kostoryz (across from W. B. Ray High School).

A panel discussion on the seven amendments being proposed will help us understand what voters are being asked to approve or reject. Alex Garcia, Coretta Graham, and Sandra Heatherley are contacting the participating panel members. (See page 6 for the ballot wording of the amendments.)

If you are a current LWV-CC member or if you join by Friday, Oct. 9, your lunch is complimentary, thanks to an anonymous underwriter! The sandwich box lunch will also be available for guests at \$10 each.

Lunch reservations can be made by calling 361-445-4436 by Tuesday, Oct. 13, and leaving your name.

If not a LWV-CC member, join now at the League's website (Pay Pal feature) at [www.lwv-cc.org/join.html](http://www.lwv-cc.org/join.html) or contact Chris Garcia, Vice President, Member Services, at 991-2784 or [garciachris1714@gmail.com](mailto:garciachris1714@gmail.com).

Knowledge is power and voting on November 3 will require us to know how each of the seven constitutional amendments impacts our lives and Texas.

## LOOK INSIDE!

More election information can be found on Pages 6-7, including the Early Voting locations.

### 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.

# President's Message

## Making Democracy Work Requires Your Involvement

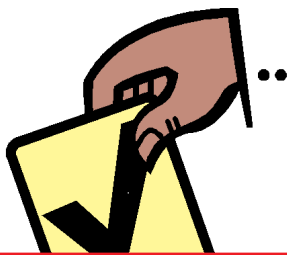
Voting isn't just important to Democracy. Voting is a Democracy. One cannot have a successful run democratic system without the support and the votes of the citizens.

A democracy is a government in which the supreme power is vested in the people and exercised by them.

Voting rights at one point were only given to the rich landowners, and then it was amended and given to men even if they didn't own property. Women gained the right to vote in 1920 and the voting age is now 18.

These important happenings remind us that voting is important. Voting gives the people the right to express their opinions. The power lies in our hands when we vote. Every vote reassures our democracy and makes it stronger. Your vote is "Democracy in Action."

Your vote demonstrates, "Democracy in Action," and the



**ELECTION DAY**



Tuesday, November 3, 2015

next time you think, "Does my vote make a difference, remember the following:

- In 1645, one vote gave Oliver Cromwell control of England.
- In 1649, one vote caused Charles I of England to be executed
- In 1776, one vote gave America the English language instead of German.
- In 1845, one vote brought Texas into the Union.
- In 1868, one vote saved President Andrew Johnson from impeachment.
- In 1876, one vote gave Rutherford B. Hayes the presidency of the US.
- In 1923, one vote gave Adolf Hitler leadership of the Nazi Party.
- In 1941, one vote saved Selective Service, just weeks before Pearl Harbor was attacked.
- In 1960, John F. Kennedy was elected by one vote per precinct.
- In 2000, the difference in the total vote in the state of Florida in the Presidential race between George W. Bush and Al Gore was less than one-half of one percent. A recount was mandated by the Secretary of State. George W. Bush received the electoral votes from Florida. He won the election by 1 electoral vote;



Dr. Mary Jane Garza  
LWV-CC President

270 were needed and he received 271. (SOURCE: <http://www.classical-homeschooling.org/onevote.html>)

On Tuesday, November 3, 2015 we as voters will have a chance to consider seven constitutional amendments proposed by the 84th Legislature.

The proposed amendments cover a wide range of topics, including property taxes, transportation, state official residency requirements, and more.

The Texas Constitution is one of the longest in the nation and it's still growing. The Constitution is changed through amendments proposed by the Texas Legislature and accepted or rejected by the voters.

Since the current Texas Constitution was adopted in 1876, over 480 amendments have been accepted. Your vote will make a difference if you exercise the right to vote.

Remember every election is important. It is your voice that will make the difference.

The LWV-CC will review the seven amendments at our monthly luncheon meeting Thursday, Oct. 15, at Del Mar College Center for Economic Development. We will meet in Room 108 at 11:30 a.m.

Join us and be ready to exercise your right to vote on November 3, 2015 as an informed voter.

## NEW MEMBERS, WELCOME!

Rebecca Huerta, Individual  
Jennifer Vasey, Individual

## RENEWING, THANKS!

Michele Villarreal Kuchta, Individual  
Sylvia Whitworth, Individual  
Jane R. Bachman, Sustaining

## IN THE SPOTLIGHT!

Applause for Ruth Falck, LWV-CC member, who continues to go the extra mile. She is a key LWV-CC member who is instrumental in the voter registration effort. Ruth is scheduled to visit with school superintendents to discuss efforts to enhance the registration of 18 year olds in November. She also assists in the coordination of efforts to ensure that LWV-CC members are at events to register voters.  
**THANK YOU, RUTH!**



Ruth Falck



## League To Begin Work Soon on Primary's Voters Guide, Candidate Forum Planning

Calling all League members interested in Voter Services and helping produce the Voters Guide for the March 1 Primary Election and helping coordinate Candidate Forums after the first of the year!

Your help will be sincerely appreciated. Please call Sandra Heatherley at 814-9120 and let her know how you can help.

Tasks range from gathering candidate names by office, securing email addresses and mailing addresses, and entering the information into a data base; helping develop questions to be posed to the candidates; hands-on work with proofreading what could be a 16 to 32 page Voters Guide, depending on the number of announced candidates;

Also helping coordinate the candidate forum(s) at the City Council Chambers at City Hall greeting candidates; inputting data into the VOTE 411 electronic voters guide; and more!

### 2016 PRIMARY ELECTION CALENDAR:

Saturday, Nov. 14: First day to file for elected office.

Monday, Dec. 14, at 6 p.m.: Filing deadline for candidates; filing deadline for independent candidates' intent declaration.

Tuesday, Feb. 16-Friday, Feb. 26: Early Voting

Friday, Feb. 19: Last day to apply for ballot by mail (**received**, not postmarked)

Tuesday, March 1, 2016: Election Day


For details on voting precincts for the 2016 Primaries and other election day information, visit the Nueces County website at [www.nuecescountytx.gov](http://www.nuecescountytx.gov).

  
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Lois Huff and Brenda Hamby manned a shift at TAMU-CC. The table got really crowded as college students and faculty filled out their applications. As deputized registrars, League members then hand-carried all the applications to the courthouse where Voter Registration staff reviewed and accepted the applications.

# 274 New Voters Are Registered in September!

The League did itself proud in the voter registration arena in September by registering voters at six separate locations--ArtWalk, held Sept. 4 downtown; "Best of the Best Showcase" at the American Bank Center; Del Mar College East Campus; Del Mar College West Campus; Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi; and xxxxxx, celebrating Constitution Day.

By the numbers:

- ArtWalk, 29 registered voters
- Constitution Day, 16
- Best of Best, 30
- National Voter Registration Day, 199

TOTAL of newly registered voters: 274

Thanks to these volunteers:

ArtWalk: Ruth Falck, Sandra Heatherley

Best of the Best: Mary Jane Garza, Coretta Graham, Ricky Walraven, Ruth Falck, Dr. Beatrice Alvarado (Ruth's friend), Lois Huff, Sandra Heatherley.

National Voter Registration Day (Sept. 22): Del Mar College East, Ruth Falck and Judy Landress; Del Mar College West, Chris Davis Garcia and Pat Parr; and TAMU-CC: Debbie Noble, Lois Huff, Brenda Hamby, and Sandra Heatherley.

## Sign up for ARTWALK!

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 coordinates the volunteers. Casual attire and comfortable walking shoes are recommended. Upcoming dates are Friday, Nov. 6 and Friday, Dec. 4.

Call the League at 445-4436 to confirm ArtWalk dates and/or volunteer to help.



League members manned a table at the Best of the Best Showcase, sponsored by The Caller-Times, which gave free booth space to LWV-CC. Thank you, Caller-Times!

# Getting Ready To Vote on November 3

The Constitutional Amendment Election is quickly approaching. Texans will vote on seven proposed amendments to the state constitution on Tuesday, November 3, 2015.

There are no other issues on the Nueces County ballot, although in other Texas cities, there may be municipal elections and city charter amendments (Houston has more than 90 charter amendments to vote on!)

LWV-CC urges all members and the community to make their voices heard. Early voting begins Monday, Oct. 19, and ends Friday, Oct. 30

Featured on this page is the list of Early Voting Substation Locations and the hours when polls are open.

There are some important dates and requirements to remember. If you are not registered, the first step is to complete an application and mail to the Voter Registrar at least 30 days ahead of the election date. The deadline is Monday, October 5.

You must be 17 years and 10 months of age on the date you are applying. You must mail it or deliver it to the Voter Registration office at the courthouse and provide a driver's license number, or an identification number issued by the Texas Department of Public Safety.

To vote, you must be a U.S. citizen, resident of the county you submit the application, at least 18 years of age on Election Day and not a convicted felon.

At a polling location, voters are required to present an approved form of photo identification in order to vote in any Texas election.

There are seven acceptable forms of Identification:

Texas driver license issued by the Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS), Texas Election Identification Certificate issued by the DPS, Texas personal identification card issued by the DPS, Texas concealed handgun license issued by the DPS, U.S. military identification card with person's photograph, U.S. citizen certificate with person's photograph, or a U.S. passport.

## EARLY VOTING SUBSTATION HOURS & LOCATIONS

<b>Oct. 19-Oct. 23</b>	<b>8:00 am - 5:00 pm</b>
<b>Oct. 26-Oct. 28</b>	<b>8:00 am- 5:00 pm</b>
<b>Oct 29-Oct. 30</b>	<b>7:00 am- 7:00 pm</b>

### **NUECES COUNTY COURTHOUSE**

1<sup>st</sup> Floor Atrium

901 Leopard Street, Corpus Christi, TX

### **JOHNNY S. CALDERON COUNTY BLDG.**

710 E. Main Street, Robstown, TX

### **CORPUS CHRISTI AREA COUNCIL FOR THE DEAF**

5151 McArdele Road, Corpus Christi, TX

### **BISHOP COMMUNITY CENTER**

102 W. Joyce Street, Bishop TX

### **ETHEL EYERLY SENIOR CENTER**

654 Graham Road, Corpus Christi, TX

### **ELLIS MEMORIAL LIBRARY (Conference Room)**

700 W. Ave A., Port Aransas, TX

### **GREENWOOD SENIOR CITIZEN CENTER**

4040 Greenwood Drive, Corpus Christi, TX

### **SCHOOL OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY**

Room 128

4737 Saratoga Blvd, Corpus Christi, TX

### **HILLTOP COMMUNITY CENTER**

11425 Leopard Street, Corpus Christi, TX

### **SEASHORE LEARNING CENTER**

(Marlin Bldg)

15801 S. Padre Island Drive, Corpus Christi, TX

### **LONESTAR COUNTRY STORE**

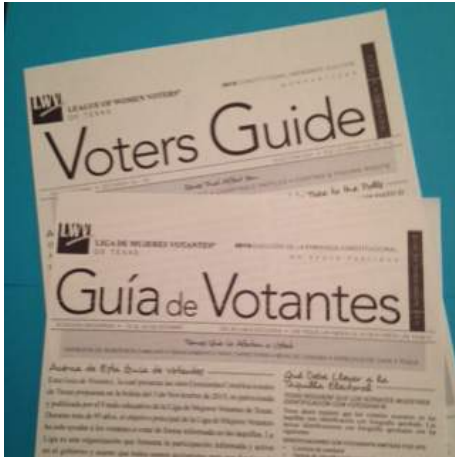
14342 Northwest Blvd., Corpus Christi, TX



## AMENDMENTS to the Constitution

# 7 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. LWV-Texas has researched the pros and cons of the Constitutional Amendments and has prepared a Voters Guide in both English and Spanish.



## VOTERS GUIDES

Soon to be posted on both the state and local League websites are the English and Spanish-language versions of the Constitutional Amendments Voters Guide. The League also has purchased paper copies to place at two or three public buildings (to be determined.)

## INSPIRATIONAL VIDEO FEATURES LEAGUE MEMBERS

Hear LWV-CC members talk about their experiences as League members. The success of Democracy doesn't depend on a few who do great things, but on many persons who do small things faithfully. Check out this inspirational video at:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Yq6B5BXMHW8#action=share>

A limited number of copies of the Voters Guide will be available soon and a PDF version will be placed on both state and local League websites.

Here are the seven constitutional amendments on the ballot:

### 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.”

### 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.”



**LWV-CC SEPTEMBER 24, 2015  
MONTHLY MEETING  
Presenters: Tyner W. Little, III, Kara  
Sands, Nuri Rodriguez**



Sept. 24 presenters posing with LWV-CC President Mary Jane Garza are (l-r) Kara Sands, Nueces County Clerk; Tyner W. Little, III, Governmental Relations/ADA coordinator for Nueces County; and Nuri Rodriguez, Sand's chief deputy.



Nuri Rodriguez distributed packets to those interested in becoming deputized to register voters, provided important information, and answered questions.

Tyner W. Little, III, Nueces County Governmental Relations/ADA Coordinator, and Kara Sands, Nueces County Clerk spoke to 37 attendees, the majority of whom were LWV-CC members, on Thursday, September 24, 2015 at Del Mar College Center for Economic Development, Room 108.

Tyner provided an overview of the challenges that the ADA non-compliance findings by the federal government has generated for the Nueces County Commissioners.

Tyner gave several examples of how the Nueces County Commissioners have begun to invest dollars to the tune of \$3 million dollars to address communications issues, webpage accessibility, notices, door handles replacements as well as many other issues that will need be considered as part of the corrective plan submitted to the Department of Justice.

Kara Sands, Nueces County Clerk, explained the consolidated precincts for the November 3, 2015 election. Kara provided handouts that showed the precincts that would be considered in the consolidation plan.

Factors considered in the consolidation: (a) distance, (2) traffic flow, (3) traffic obstructions, (4) prior voting data numbers assisted in determining which districts could be consolidated.

The findings from the ADA government revealed that only two of the 127 precincts were ADA compliant, thus the consolidation plan that will be used for the November 3, 2015 election.

The Nueces County Commissioners Court approved the consolidation plan on September 25 at a special called meeting.

The Corpus Christi Caller Times article (found at <http://www.caller.com/news/politics/elections>) explains the consolidation of 31 precincts and provides a list of the precincts. Approximately 45,000 voters will be affected.

Immediately following the meeting, Nuri Rodriguez of the Voter Registration Office trained approximately 20 LWV-CC attendees who desired to be deputized to register voters.



**MORE PHOTOS FROM  
THE SEPT. 24 MEETING**

(Contributed by Debbie Noble)



# Consensus meeting set Nov. 19 for Payday/Title Loan Study

League members are invited to attend the monthly League lunch meeting on Thursday, Nov. 19, at which the “Payday and Car Title Loans” study information will be reviewed and consensus questions discussed.

League members are asked to download all materials from the LWV-Texas website and be ready to participate.

**BACKGROUND:**

At the LWV-TX convention in 2014, a study on “Payday and Auto Title Loans” was approved by League delegates. 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 12-page “Facts & Issues” with research resources identified, reviews historical background, describes interested stakeholders; details accessibility, demand, and economics; and presents policy options, related issues, and approaches to reform.

LWV-Texas has asked the 25 Leagues around the state to discuss the study information, vote on the consensus questions, and submit their results to the state board.

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

## Make plans now to attend LWV-TX convention, March 11-13, 2016

The LWV-TX biennial convention will be held Friday-Sunday, March 11-13, 2016, in Houston, TX. The host hotel is the Westin at Memorial City, and more than 125 delegates from across the state are expected to attend.

Our own Chris Davis Garcia, VP Member Services, is the 2016 convention chair and is working closely with the LWV-TX Board as well as LWV-Houston in coordinating the workshops, special events, keynote speakers, and overall schedule. Registration will be \$140 per person. Be watching for more information on the 2016 convention, and plan to be one of Corpus Christi’s delegates. Our membership entitles us to about seven delegates. Call Chris for details at 991-2784.

**JOSE MIGUEL DURAN, M.D.  
Gastroenterology**

**Colonoscopy Screening**

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Corpus Christi, Texas 78406

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**Mary V. Gleason**  
Executive Director

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Corpus Christi, Texas  
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Fax: 361-857-5898  
E-mail: [gleason@ccliteracy.org](mailto:gleason@ccliteracy.org)  
[www.ccliteracy.org](http://www.ccliteracy.org)





# League Membership Growing!

By Chris Davis Garcia  
VP, Member Services

If you look at the "WELCOME" lists in each monthly VOTER, you'll notice that since June, we've added 14 new members to the League's membership roll! Welcome!

Current members are reaching out to friends and colleagues and inviting them to join. Notes of invitation are mailed to prospects whose names are suggested, and League members are taking the initiative to invite others to join.

Thanks to each of you for helping grow the League. On many occasions, all it takes is an INVITATION. If you want the League to reach out to prospective members, send those names and mailing addresses to Chris. Or if you want to recruit the member yourself and need a letter of invitation that captures League activities and mission plus a membership application, please request the materials. It takes all of us to grow our League!

## REMINDER:

### Oct. 13 Public Hearing Set on 2035 CC PLAN

**WHAT:** City Council Public Hearing on 2nd Draft of 2035 CC Plan

**WHEN:** Tuesday, Oct. 13, 2015

**TIME:** 11:30 a.m.

**WHERE:** Council Chambers at City Hall, 1201 Leopard Street

**The second draft of the plan can be found at:**

[www.plancc2035.com](http://www.plancc2035.com)

and at all public libraries

*If you haven't renewed your membership yet, please do! 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

**(The League's financial year is from June 1 through May 31  
but membership is year-round.)**



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

## LWV-Texas Advocacy Papers

During each Legislative Session, LWV-TX develops Advocacy Papers to explain the League's positions on its priority issues. Priorities for the 84th legislative session that concluded in May were:

- Online Voter Registration    [http://www.lwvtexas.org/PDFs/63892600\\_1426559613.pdf](http://www.lwvtexas.org/PDFs/63892600_1426559613.pdf)
- Voting Rights for All        [http://www.lwvtexas.org/PDFs/37777400\\_1426559845.pdf](http://www.lwvtexas.org/PDFs/37777400_1426559845.pdf)
- Public Education            [http://www.lwvtexas.org/PDFs/03912300\\_1426559999.pdf](http://www.lwvtexas.org/PDFs/03912300_1426559999.pdf)
- Water Resources            [http://www.lwvtexas.org/PDFs/46132100\\_1426560083.pdf](http://www.lwvtexas.org/PDFs/46132100_1426560083.pdf)
- Women's Health            [http://www.lwvtexas.org/PDFs/80893700\\_1426560140.pdf](http://www.lwvtexas.org/PDFs/80893700_1426560140.pdf)

Both the League of Women Voters of Texas (LWV-TX) and the League of Women Voters of the US (LWVUS) maintain websites that have valuable information to League members. Take time to visit the websites:  
 Texas: [www.lwvtx.org](http://www.lwvtx.org)  
 US: [www.lwvus.org](http://www.lwvus.org)



**When: Every Saturday  
 (year round)**  
**Time: 9:00 AM til Sell Out**  
**Where: 5800 Everhart Rd.**  
  
[www.farmersmarketcc.org](http://www.farmersmarketcc.org)

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 growers/gardeners.*






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 Website: [www.kmrealestate.com](http://www.kmrealestate.com)  
 Office: 361-991-5263 / Fax: 361-991-5511  
 Address: 7009 S. Staples Suite 102B Corpus Christi, TX 78413

**Alex Garcia Jr.**  
 Realtor

**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!