



April 2017

# The VOTER

## League of Women Voters-Corpus Christi

League of Women Voters  
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## League To Host Candidates Forum On Thursday Evening, April 20

You are invited to LWV-CC's Candidates' Forum on Thursday, April 20, 2017, in the Council Chambers at Corpus Christi City Hall, 1201 Leopard.

The forum, scheduled from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. and open to the public, will be moderated by League members. League members also will help greet, hand out index cards for questions from the audience, and serve as timekeepers. If you can help, please call League President Mary Jane Garza or V-P Voter Services Sandra Heatherley at Eight candidates are seeking election as Mayor of Corpus Christi, and all have been invited to participate.

The Forum schedule allows each candidate a two-minute opening statement; the opportunity to answer five questions with a one-minute response per question; and a one-minute closing statement.

The following candidates have been invited to participate in the LWV-CC Candidates' Forum:

- [Mark A. Di Carlo](#)
- [Margareta Fratila](#)
- [Jonathan Garison](#)
- [James M. Hernandez](#)
- [Ray Madrigal](#)
- [Nelda Martinez](#)
- [Joe McComb](#)
- [Larry White](#)



Mark A. Di Carlo



Margareta Fratila



Jonathan Garison



James M. Hernandez



Ray Madrigal



Nelda Martinez



Joe McComb



Larry White

The League of Women Voters, a nonpartisan, 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 any political party or candidate.

# President's Message

By Dr. Mary Jane Garza



Dr. Mary Jane Garza

## LWV-CC--We are Action Oriented

**Educate, Inform and Advocate!**

**Attend and Assist--LWV-CC City of Corpus Christi Mayoral Candidates' Forum**

**Thursday, April 20, 2017**

**Corpus Christi City Hall Chambers**

**6:30 p.m.**

**Making Democracy Work Takes Work**

**Join the LWV-CC Action Driven Group Force**

## National League's *Impact on Issues* Identifies League's Policy Positions

The National League's *Impact on Issues* publication is designed to help League leaders use LWVUS public policy positions effectively at the state and local levels. A copy of the publication can be downloaded from the LWVUS website at [www.lwv.org](http://www.lwv.org).

The four program areas and numerous individual positions include:

### **Representative Government**

(Voting Rights, The Election Process, Citizen Rights, Congress and the Presidency, Privatization)

### **International Relations**

(United Nations, Trade, US Relationships with Developing Countries, Arms Control, Military Policy and Defense Spending)

### **Natural Resources**

(Resource Management, Environmental Protection and Pollution Control, Public Participation, Agriculture Policies)

### **Social Policy**

(Equality of Opportunity, Federal Role in Public Education, Fiscal Policy, Health Care, Immigration, Meeting Basic Human Needs, Child Care, Early Intervention for Children at Risk, Violence

Prevention, Gun Control, Urban Policy, Death Penalty, Sentencing Policy, Human Trafficking)

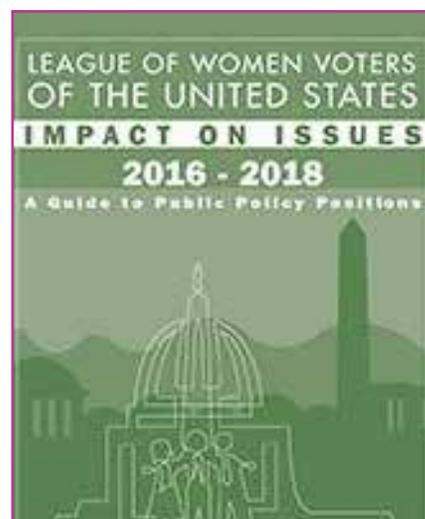
In addition to the official statements of position for each program area, the guide briefly traces significant past actions and achievements and indicates links among positions.

The LWVUS public policy positions "in brief" reflect the program adopted by the 2016 Convention of the League of Women Voters of the United States.

The listing summarizes the official full statements of position, which are presented in bold type in the relevant sections of this guide. *Impact on Issues* is considered an indispensable resource for League leaders.

A clear understanding of LWVUS positions, how they interrelate, and how they can complement and reinforce state, local, and Inter-League Organization (ILO) positions will strengthen the League's "Impact on Issues" at all levels of government.

In applying LWVUS positions to state, local and regional issues, it is the responsibility of



the appropriate League board, depending on the level of action, to determine whether member understanding and agreement exists and whether the action makes sense in terms of timing, need, and effectiveness.

## Welcome

### **New Members**

Sue Byrne

Tami Longino

### **Renewals**

Jeanne Adams

Dr. Gloria Scott



## Equal Pay Day Observance Spotlights Four Speakers

By Debbie Noble

April 4th was Equal Pay Day and LWV-CC rang it in wearing red with sister organizations--the YWCA, AAUW, and the EWI. April 4, 2017, marks the day women finally make as much as men did in 2016. And we wear red because we are in the red!

We got to check out the beautiful new RTA building and listen to some passionate and knowledgeable speakers. Dr. John Cicala, a professor at A&M Kingsville, talked about negotiating better pay during job interviews. He urged us to remember that the company already wants you if they are negotiating salary, so be confident about expressing your value and less worried about being liked.

There is always a salary range that they are willing to pay and that you are willing to accept. Your job is to get the most, and HR's job is to pay the least. You need to negotiate with each other, not against each other, to find the middle ground so both sides end up happy.

Judge Lisa Gonzalez pointed out that "How to Succeed in a Male Dominated Industry" is really just "How To Succeed." The same way you train hard to win races or study hard for good grades, you work hard to succeed in business. Ultimately, most bosses notice results. Be dependable, consistent, hard-working, and cooperative. Prioritize and don't get overwhelmed. (Eat that elephant one bite at a time!)

Don't get discouraged by other peoples' attitudes towards you. We can't control other's behavior, we can only control how we react. Be kind to yourselves always. Don't beat yourself up over your weaknesses. Identify them and work on them. Take chances and never regret not trying something.

The judge closed by noting that she hoped that

next time she had to talk about all this, it would be in a historical context and not as a current problem.

Larry Elizondo from CITGO was up next. Larry talked about how talent, experience, education, and ability to execute work, not gender, should be the deciding factors when hiring and negotiating pay. CITGO does annual audits to stay current with industry averages for salary ranges. He cautioned women to stay strong and not to let dominant personalities take over interview and work conversations. He added that everyone in interviews should be prepared and know and be comfortable with themselves.

Finally, the audience heard from Barbara Canales, local lawyer and port commissioner, by Skype from Washington, DC. She said she supports equal pay because it represents the fundamental American value of equality. Knowledge without action is useless: it is important to educate both men and women about this issue and encourage them to do something. We can make equal pay a reality for women by succeeding together.

She talked about specific historic legislation that has made a difference - from the 1974 Equal Credit Opportunity Act to allow divorced, single or widowed women to get a loan to the 2007 Paycheck Fairness Act which did not pass because female GOP senators thought it was already covered by the 1963 Equal Pay Act.

According to Barbara, without better legislation, the wage gap will continue to shrink at its current glacial rate of 1 cent per decade. We need to stay informed and vote for legislators who share our values and who will pass the right laws.

More than 15 LWV-CC members participated in this special activity.

# Meeting Features Remarks by LWV-TX President

About 62 LWV-CC members and guests listened as LWV-Texas President Elaine Wiant shared the League's findings from the 2016 election and helped the audience focus on strategies to increase voter turnout for the upcoming May 6 mayoral election.

The March 23 "Call To Action" meeting was held at the Del Mar College Center for Economic Development, and lunch was complimentary for members.

"Elections that matter the most to people," Wiant said, "are local--city council, mayor, school board--elections that affect your everyday life. What would be next would be midterm elections."

Wiant suggested several strategies for increasing voter turnout at all levels. She recommended increased education for voters about the candidates, issues, and the voting process, including clarifying the use of Vote Centers, photo identification laws, and early voting.

She noted that registering new voters is one of the best ways to increase voter turnout, highlighting the importance of reaching new 18-year-olds in high schools and other young people in community colleges, universities, and community centers.

She said studies show that organizations that go into schools to teach students about the importance and process of voting leads to higher turnout. LWV-TX has advocated that state legislators allow online voter registration and/or same-day registration and voting on Election Day.

Although the bill did not get out of the Elections Committee, there was a sufficient amount of support, Wiant said. Non-partisan redistricting to allow competitive elections without gerrymandering would increase voter turnout, as would



less restrictive photo ID laws, including more ID choices.

Wiant also said more people would vote if the popular vote to elect the U.S. president were allowed rather than the Electoral College process.

"People are interested in civic engagement now, whereas before they may have been lackadaisical and thought 'Oh, it will be OK,'" Wiant said.

Her closing statement to LWV-CC was "Keep doing what you are doing, but do more of it!"

*[Both Dr. Mary Jane Garza and Debbie Noble contributed to this story.]*



Thursday, April 6, Last Day to Register to Vote in May 6 election.

Monday, April 24, Early Voting Starts.

Monday, May 2 Early Voting Ends.

Saturday, May 6 General and Special Election (Local ).

Thursday, May 18, 11:30 to 1 p.m., Annual Meeting, Del Mar College-Center for Economic Development, Room 117



# Proposed Budget for 2017-2019

Proposed budget for 2017-2018 from Budget Committee (Mary K. Fant, chair, Anne Stewart, Maria Jimenez, Cris Garcia, Dr. Mary Jane Garza).

At the Annual Meeting each line item will be fully explained, and questions and discussion will be welcomed. Adoption of a 2017-2018 proposed budget will be an action item at the Annual Meeting.

Fifteen locations have been announced for the May 6, 2017, Special Election for Corpus Christi Mayor.

Early voting will be held Monday-Friday, April 24-28 (hours 8 a.m.-6 p.m.); Saturday, April 29 (hours 8 a.m.-5 p.m.); and Monday-Tuesday, May 1-2 (hours 7 a.m.-7 p.m.)

Election Day will be Saturday, May 6, and Vote Centers will be announced soon. If a runoff election is required, it will be held June 24. Early voting for the runoff election will be held June 12-June 17 and June 19-20.

The 15 Early Voting polling locations for the May 6 Special Election (all in Corpus Christi unless otherwise noted) include the following:

1. Nueces County Courthouse, 901 Leopard
2. Calallen ISD Administration Building, 4205 Wildcat
3. Corpus Christi City Hall, 1201 Leopard St.
4. Corpus Christi Fellowship, 6602 S. Staples St.
5. Deaf and Hard of Hearing Center, 5151 McArdle
6. Ethel Eyerly Senior Center, 654 Graham Rd.
7. Greenwood Senior Center, 4040 Greenwood Dr
8. Veterans Memorial High School, 3750 Cimarron
9. Valencia Hall, 6110 Ayers St.
10. West Oso ISD, 5050 Rockford Dr.
11. Hilltop Community Center, 11425 Leopard St.
12. Schlitterbahn, 14353 Commodore Dr.
13. Bishop City Hall, 203 E. Main Street, Bishop
14. Driscoll ISD (old cafeteria), 425 Dragon St., Driscoll
15. Petronila Elementary School, 2391 County Road 67, Robstown

INCOME	Amount
Per Member Membership	\$7410
Sustainer's gifts	520
Friends of the League	150
Monthly luncheons	2400
2018 Annual Meeting	675
Special Events/Fundraising (event not yet determined) luncheon or evening event with sponsors/quests; auction	6050
Silent Auction proceeds	1000
Advertising in The Voter	600
Community Support	500
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>\$19,305</b>

EXPENSES	Amount
Per Member Dues to State	\$2721
Per Member Dues to National	3952
PO Box Rental	102
Admin/Supplies	300
Voter Services publications	2000
Voter Registration Events	500
Printing	600
2017-2018 Fundraising Event(s)	4025
Annual Meeting	675
Monthly luncheons	2040
Leadership Training	1000
Holiday Social	400
Transfer to Savings	990
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$19,305</b>



# 2017-2019 Officers Slate Almost Complete

The League has a proud and established history of voter empowerment, and there is no better time to spotlight that message than now.

Voter empowerment encompasses more than the basic right to vote. It includes the universe of issues that make voting possible and meaningful, such as gerrymandering, voter disenfranchisement, voter registration, and poll logistics, as well as education on voter fraud and the philosophy of one person, one vote.

Voter empowerment is at the root of nearly every political issue this country faces, local and national, and it is the foundation of our democracy. And, importantly, it is the founding principle of the League of Women Voters. Now more than ever, the League's message should always track back to voter empowerment.

There are dozens of other groups that advocate on current topical issues, but the League supports the voter. Successful organizations focus their message with laser accuracy and reinforce it. This works for corporate advertising (think Nike) as well as political movements.

Narrowly focusing our message on voter empowerment can engender radical, fundamental change and help hone our advocacy.

For every action we advocate we should ask: **Does this activity empower the voter? If the answer is a resounding "Yes!" we know we are true to ourselves and our mission.**

The Nominating Committee is nearing the end of its work begun about two months ago and is pleased to announce the "almost complete slate" of League members who have accepted leadership nominations for 2017-2019.

"Several members stepped forward to volunteer to serve, while others were suggested by fellow League members and graciously accepted an invitation to serve," said Dr. Matilda Saenz, chair of this year's Nominating Committee.

Members who have agreed to serve two-year or one-year terms include the following:

- ☐ Chris Davis Garcia, President (Chris has been active in all phases of League work for more than 13 years and served as President in 2007-2009). Two-year term, to succeed Dr. Mary Jane Garza, 2015-2017 President, who chose not to serve another term.
- ☐ Can Alemdar, Secretary (Can is one of a handful of male members in the League and joined in February 2014 as a student while working on his degree at TAMU-CC; he attends meetings regularly). One-year term to complete term of Irene Longoria who is unable to continue because of family reasons.
- ☐ Brenda Hamby, Treasurer (Brenda joined the League in June 2015 and jumped right in to help with Voter Services, voter registration, and the 2015 celebration auction). Two-year term, to succeed Mary K. Fant, who did not want to serve on the Board this coming year but will remain active in League work.
- ☐ Sandra Heatherley, Vice President/Member Services (Sandra has served in several positions over the years, including 2013-2015 President; VP Member Services; and this year's VP-Voters Service). One-year term to fill vacancy.
- ☐ Dr. Tammy Donaldson, At-Large Director (Tammy joined the League in July 2015 and has been active). Two-year term, succeeding Sally Farris, who has moved to San Antonio after serving four years on the Board.

Please See Nominating, page 7

## League Statement on Texas Voter ID Law

02/27/2017 | by Sarah Courtney

Chris Carson



Washington, DC – The League of Women Voters president, Chris Carson, issued the following statement in response to the announcement by the Trump administration that the federal government will drop opposition to Texas' strict voter ID law:

"The League of Women Voters is deeply disappointed that the Trump administration is changing policy to support voter discrimination measures. Contrary to the Trump administration, the Texas voter ID law intentionally discriminates, and discrimination in voting is wrong."



Rebecca Huerta, Tammie Riley speak at LWV meeting.

## City Board Members Sought

Rebecca Huerta, Corpus Christi City Secretary, and Tammie Riley, City of Corpus Christi Management Assistant, discussed appointments to city boards, commissions and committees at the LWV-CC March 23, 2017 Monthly Meeting. Board appointments are made by the City Council. Nominations are made by individual council members and voted on by the entire council. To be appointed, an individual must receive a majority vote of the council. You are encouraged to contact your City Council representative(s) and advise them of the board(s) in which you are interested.

All individuals considered for appointment by the City Council to a board, commission or committee must have an application on file in the Office of the City Secretary not later than 5:00 p.m. on the seventh calendar day before the date appointments are considered by City Council.

Below is the website for board vacancies and applications:

<http://www.cctexas.com/government/city-secretary/boards-commissions/index> or call Tammie Riley at (361) 826-3105

## Nominating

- Debbie Noble, Director, Website (Debbie joined in July 2015 and served this past year as Website and Facebook director; never without her camera, she takes photos of all League events for use in The Voter and other social media). Two-year term.

The Nominating Committee continues to complete the slate of officers before the 2017 Annual Meeting and welcomes phone calls from League members who want to know more about the vacancies still to be filled or who want to volunteer to serve. There can be discussion about co-chairs as well. Suggested job descriptions are available.

The four positions still to be filled as

## Voter Registration Updates

By Sandra Heatherley, VP Voters Service

Thanks to those who assisted with “last chance” Voter Registration on Thursday, April 6, at City Hall. Eva Brown, Sue and Frank Byrne, Sandra Heatherley, and Brenda Hamby registered 16 voters that day!

Ruth Falck and Sandra Heatherley participated in the ribbon-cutting celebration at the Lighthouse for the Blind on Friday, April 7, and then trekked downtown to the Art Walk where 12 voters were registered and upcoming election information was distributed. Kathryn Oler and Theresa Klein also assisted during Art Walk.

Sandra and Ruth rounded out the week on Saturday, April 8, at the Earth Day Bay Day celebration at Heritage Park. With the assistance of Eva Brown, 21 more voters were registered to vote.

The total of voters registered since January 1, 2017, is 189, Sandra reported.

## Invite Your Facebook Friends

We now have over 579 friends on Facebook, but our page can only do so much by itself. Let’s all help to boost followers and increase membership!

- 1) Log into your Facebook account if you have one.
- 2) Use the search bar to locate Corpus Christi League of Women Voters (make sure that you “like” this page)
- 3) Press the Invite (envelope) icon
- 4) Select Choose Friends and then select all the friends you think might be interested in being members
- 5) Press the Invite option at the top right to invite them all

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of this week are: Director, Media/Communications (one-year term to complete unfinished term of Elaine Krift); Vice President-Program (one-year term to complete unfinished term of Elena Buentello); VP Voter Services (two-year term); and Nominating Committee chair for 2017-2018 (one-year term).

In addition, the committee needs to present the names of two active League members to serve with the new chair and two newly elected Board members who will be named this summer after the new Board meets.

Are you interested in serving on the Board in one of the still-to-be-filled positions? If you have the interest and time to serve, on-the-job training is available! Please call Dr. Matilda Saenz immediately at 214-240-5655.



**THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS**  
**CORPUS CHRISTI, TEXAS**  
 PO Box 8276  
 Corpus Christi, TX 78468



Visit Our  
 Facebook Page

*League membership for the 2017-2018 fiscal year is from June 1, 2017, through May 31, 2018. Many members join throughout the year, however, and the League Treasurer will remind you when your dues are due. If your current membership ends in May, please consider remitting your dues soon to the address noted below.*

**LWV Corpus Christi  
 Renewal / New Membership  
 Application**

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

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Type of membership:

New _____	Renewal _____
Individual \$60 _____	Student \$30 _____
Household \$90 _____	Sustaining \$100 _____
Friend of the League \$30 _____	

Name \_\_\_\_\_

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

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Work Address (optional) \_\_\_\_\_

I prefer to receive 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.**

**OR you can pay your dues online at the  
 League's website: [www.lwv-cc.org](http://www.lwv-cc.org)**

**Membership is from June 1 through May 31.**