

**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS-CORPUS CHRISTI AREA
PO BOX 8276, Corpus Christi, TX 78468**



**Project: PAVP Grant
“To mitigate the impact of the Texas voter photo ID laws”
March 31, 2018**

LWV-Corpus Christi
Co-Directors: Chris Davis Garcia, LWV President (361-991-2784); Sandra Heatherley, VP Membership Services (361-814-9120)
Address: PO Box 8276, Corpus Christi, TX 78468

1. Overview and Timeline of the Project; Outcome

Upon receiving notification of the grant award on September 30, 2017, LWV-CC Board members identified more than 25 organizations and agencies that they felt would participate as community partners in the PAVP grant project. The goal of having at least 10 partners assisting and identifying a minimum of 40 local or area residents in securing state-approved identification photo IDs seemed doable. We were very optimistic that we would achieve both goals, particularly since the Corpus Christi SMSA w/Nueces County population is 350,000.

Volunteer League members began researching the Secretary of State, Department of Public Safety (DPS), and other appropriate websites to secure and print information on the documents required for the application process. They also became familiar with the process of helping prospective voters navigate the DPS website.

The League issued its first news release in early October to announce receipt of the grant and issued three others over a period of 14 weeks. The League also followed up on a suggestion from a fellow League member about initiating contact with the Prospera Living Communities organization which had 11 local apartment complexes with approximately 1,000 tenant families and was engaged in encouraging community engagement and voter registration. Prospera generally serves a lower-income diverse population. LWV-CC found a receptive and excited staff ready and willing to help. The first order of information flyers, in English and Spanish, and featuring two League names and their contact phone numbers were ordered for late October-November distribution.

Sandra Heatherley, a member of the Corpus Christi chapter of American Association of University Women (AAUW), made a personal presentation to that organization and secured AAUW’s support through its community outreach committee. Three AAUW individuals (Diana Cardenas, Catherine Cox, Jane Siegel) made significant contributions to our planning process and volunteered to assist. They attended the League’s November meeting for training and discussion of specific assignments.

LWV-CC mailed correspondence, prepared and sent emails, and made personal phone calls as it planned an orientation meeting on Tuesday, October 24, 2018, at the Ben F. McDonald Library. All 25 organizations received invitations but only four sent representatives (City of Corpus Christi, Agency on Aging/Council of Governments, National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, AAUW, and Corpus Christi Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta. Two other organizations responded that they would participate but were unable to attend (Coastal Bend Center for Independent Living and Prospera Living Communities).

Following the October meeting, the League reached out to get a commitment from two key organizations that had previously expressed interest in personal conversations—League of United Latin American Citizens and the LEAD Foundation—but was unable to get responses.

News releases and public service announcements were prepared and either mailed or sent via on-line to all local news media, including the Corpus Christi Caller-Times daily newspaper; five television stations (KIII, KRIS, KZTV, KEDT, and Spanish language KORO); and two radio stations (KEDT public radio and KLUX, owned by the Diocese of Corpus Christi).

The League also reached out by phone and by email to both the Nueces County Democratic and Republican party chairs to ask their support in posting the League's initiative on their website or Facebook pages and in helping identify individuals with no voter photo ID. Positive response was received only from the Democratic Party chair.

Between November 3 and December 1, flyers were personally distributed to tenants at the 11 Prospera complexes; contacts and presentation dates were confirmed at four of the 8 senior community centers; and flyers were distributed to the eight local libraries. In addition, three AAUW volunteers were invited to the League's monthly November meeting for training and discussion of specific assignments. About seven League members also were trained. A second news advisory was sent to all news media, and League members followed up with personal phone calls but received little indication of interest.

During this same time period, informational flyers were also distributed to three agencies that provide services to special needs individuals. The League's webmaster and social media director also posted and kept social media announcements updated on the League's website and Facebook page.

The only television interview secured was with the ABC affiliate (KIII-TV) to have a League member appear on the Sunday, December 16, *Domingo Live!* Show to talk about the project and encourage local viewers to respond. It was through this venue that one resident contacted the League by phone on December 17 and spoke with Sandra Heatherley, who initiated the process that resulted in the caller's receiving the League's hands-on assistance to secure a photo ID.

A new League member, who had attended the orientation session, was responsible for convincing a second individual (a personal acquaintance) to allow the League to assist him, and actually brought his friend to the January 2018 League meeting where League member serving as deputized voter registrars registered him to vote and provided information on how the League could help him secure an Identification Card.

At the senior centers visited (where lunch-time meals are served), two League members found most regular participants had a Driver License or Identification Card. But at one center, the League president had a conversation with a woman (a naturalized citizen new to Corpus Christi with no Driver License) which resulted in the League's hands-on assistance to her to secure a photo ID.

The League followed through with a request from the Coastal Bend Center for Independent Living (CBCIL) to be present at a CBCIL advocacy team meeting on January 26 at its office. Kathryn Oler, VP for Voter Services, was the presenter and realized through that meeting that those with disabilities must always be included in voter engagement and registration activities.

Through the League's involvement at the advocacy meeting, CBCIL staff invited the League to attend a meeting and be a co-sponsor of the "REV UP! (Register, Educate, Vote) public awareness week in mid-July 2018. The League is committed to this project and to sharing additional information with others about state and local agencies dedicated to promoting the rights of those with disabilities.

List of Community Partners w/copy of invitation letter is attached at end of this report.

2. Number of Voters Assisted

Three individuals received hands-on assistance from LWV-CC:
(Ms. Sylvia Trevino, Mr. Anthony Martinez, and Mrs. Beryl A. Scott)

Pages from THE VOTER publication, highlighting each of the three residents who received their photo IDs through the League's hands-on help, are included in the folder to be mailed to LWV-TX.

3. Receipts for Expenses/Financial Report

Copies of invoices are attached at the end of this packet.

ITEM	Vendor/Person Responsible	Cost
1400 copies of flyers for Prospera distribution & Senior Community Centers	Artcraft Printing	\$98
300 copies of flyers for City Libraries	Artcraft Printing	\$30
Expenses for Sylvia Trevino: (Birth Certificate)	Sandra Heatherley	\$25
Expenses for Anthony Martinez: (Birth Certificate, ID Card)	Jesus "Jaime" Bustos	\$41
Expenses for Beryl Scott: (ID Card)	Chris Garcia	\$6
TOTAL EXPENSES		\$200
<i>Inkind expenses donated: Spanish translations, refreshments, PC Copies, mileage to/from DPS</i>		

4. Project Materials/Educational Materials

- List of Prospera Living Communities & Contacts
- Flyer for City of Corpus Christi Senior Centers and Libraries
- Information Sheet for Phone Caller/Contact
- Copy of various SOS and DPS documents utilized in the PAVP grant project.

These documents are included in the folder to be mailed to LWV-TX.

5. Lessons Learned

- a. As the project began, League board members realized it would be most helpful to assist folks in acquiring a Personal Identification Card rather than an Election Identification Certificate (EIC) since the EIC would serve only voting purposes whereas a personal ID would meet other needs encountered by the individual (i.e., cashing a check, etc.)
- b. By early January 2018, the League had received no telephone calls from any Prospera Living Communities tenants and was extremely disappointed. We had expected to receive those calls from both English and Spanish-speaking residents but surmised that perhaps residents are hesitant and fearful to place phone calls to individuals they don't know (given current climate regarding immigration issues.) The personal distribution of flyers publicized the League, however.
- c. During this same time, the League's Voter Registration Chair and the VP for Voter Services were continuing their efforts to register adults at venues like the First Friday ArtWalk downtown, various Corpus Christi and Coastal Bend high schools, Corpus Christi City Hall, Del Mar College East and West campuses, Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi, and community gatherings (Health fair, Wellness event) that specifically requested League assistance for voter registration.

Because of LWV-CC involvement in the grant, League members realized they must be diligent and consistent in asking those registering to vote if they indeed have a state-approved ID for voting.

- d. Efforts also were in full swing to contact 16 local and area high school principals to urge participation in the mandated High School Voter Registration legislative requirement and to utilize the League if they needed assistance. The League did receive several positive responses and it was through this activity that League members realized that during voter registration, it was incumbent to ask if they had a state-approved voter photo ID or driver license. Personal conversations revealed that many students approaching age 18 were eager to register to vote but many of them had no driver license nor state-approved photo ID. In fact, many thought that their school-generated student photo ID would be accepted at the polls.
- e. Lack of editorial and news desk response from the daily newspaper, The Corpus Christi Caller-Times, was disheartening. The newspaper has a new owner with no ties to the community, and inclusion of community announcements is lacking.
- f. In hindsight, the League should have used additional venues to identify individuals in need of a voter photo ID (Meals on Wheels program, local churches).
- g. Through LWV-CC's involvement with the Coastal Bend Center for Independent Living (CBCIL), advocates stressed that individuals with disabilities are negatively impacted in the voting process (i.e., lack of inclusion, physically accessible polling places, accessible voting machines, lack of transportation to polling places, etc.) The League was made aware of organizations with whom CBCIL collaborates, including Disability Rights Texas and the American Association of People With Disabilities.

6. Decision To Continue Using Grant Monies Through October 1, 2018

The League's Voter Services team at the LWV-CC February 22, 2018 planning meeting made a decision to develop strategies to support a High School Voter Registration and Mobilization Initiative, to begin this Spring and continue into the Fall prior to the deadline to register to vote for the November election. Funds remaining in the original \$500 grant (approximately \$300) will be utilized as needed.

7. Sign-in Sheets

- October 25 Community Partners Orientation
- October and November Monthly Membership Meetings for LWV-CC

8. Photographs

(copies of photos taken during the grant timeline October-March will be included on a thumb drive and included in the folder to be mailed to LWV-TX.

9. Copies of News Releases and Public Service Announcements

News media clippings—none
Social media screen snapshots
Media advisories mailed to local news media
(These are included in this electronic file.)

Updated December 2017

GRANT PARTNERS & COLLABORATORS: Oct. 2017-March 2018

Coastal Bend Center for Independent Living

Judy Telge, Director; Linda Stover Fallwell

1537 Seventh St., 78404; 361-813-6397; Jtelge@grandecom.net;

American Association of University Women

President: Carla Boisvenue, 249-8741; aauwcorpuschristi@gmail.com

(League member Sandra Heatherley, contact)

PROSPERA Housing Community Services/Corpus Christi

Contact: Sara Eichelberger, Asst. Director of Operations, sarae@prosperahcs.org

(JoAnne Estrada, Regional Services Director)

5201 Kostoryz Rd., Suite 1401, CC TX 78415; 361-852-1962

Properties:

American GI Forum Village, 1801 Bosquez St #81, Robstown 78380

The Palms at Leopard Apartments, 2725 Leopard, 78408

Lantana Square Apartments, 5807 Academy Dr., 78407

Woodland Creek Apartments, 11641 Leopard St., 78410

Elliott Grant Homes, 901 N. Alameda, 78401

Jefferine Lytle Estates, 509 Old Robstown Rd, 78408

Hacienda Senior Apartments, 2625 Greenwood Dr., 78405

Casa de Manana Apts, 4702 Old Brownsville Rd, 78405

Samuel Place Apartments, 4315 Carroll Lane, 78411

Lexington Manor Apts, 5201 Kostoryz Rd., 78415

City of Corpus Christi Senior Community Centers

Ms. Lisa Oliver, Director, City of Corpus Christi, lisao@cctexas.com; 826-3000

[Maggie Medrano-Lindale Center supervisor](#), PO Box 9277, CC TX 78469

Centers: Broadmoor, Ethel Eyerly, Garden Center, Greenwood; Lindale; Northwest; Oveal Williams, Zavala

Aging Disability Resource Center/Council of Governments

Ms. Viola Monrreal, director (David Ramos, contact)—Mr. Ramos attended October meeting but no further contact)

2910 Leopard St., CC TX 78408; 883-5743, ext. 5155; viola@cbcogaaa.org

NAACP/Boyd Hall Chapter, Corpus Christi

President Terry Mills (came to October meeting but no involvement)

PO Box 2921, CC TX 78403; 548-9489; Email: NAACP1909@icloud.com

Corpus Christi Alumnae of Delta Sigma Theta, Inc.

Sorority email: corpuschristidst@gmail.com; (One unofficial representative attended October meeting)

Corpus Christi Public Libraries—Bill Neyland, Janet Harte, Owen Hopkins, La Retama, Ben McDonald,

Clotilde Garcia, Keach (Robstown) received flyers and displayed them

Trinity Towers (Brookdale facility downtown)—AAUW member made contact but no further involvement

Elected Officials/Contacts: Nueces County Clerk Kara Sands, 888-0611; Elections: 888-0865; Courthouse,

901 Leopard St., CC TX 78401

Nueces County DEM chairman, Jennifer Ellis, 361-585-3777; Jennifer gave positive response-mid-Nov and

placed news release on DEM website



October 12, 2017

Ms. Judy Telge, Director
Coastal Bend Center for Independent Living (CBCIL)
1437 Seventh St.
Corpus Christi, TX 78404

Dear Judy:

Please consider this invitation from the League of Women Voters-Corpus Christi (LWV-CC) to partner with us for the next three months in a special project. With your organization's help, LWV-CC wants to identify from 40 to 60 individuals (or more) in the Corpus Christi community who do not have a state-approved photo ID. As you are aware, civic-minded individuals without a voter photo ID are denied the right to cast their ballot

If your organization shares the League's concern about voter suppression and would like to participate in this project, please plan to attend and/or send one or more individuals to a planning meeting scheduled:

Time and Date: 5:30 -7 p.m., Tuesday, October 24, 2017

Location: Community Room at the Ben F. McDonald Library, 4044 Greenwood at Horne Rd. (adjacent to the City County Health Department).

Please let me know by email or a phone call if you are interested in participating and who the individual(s) are (and their contact information) who will attend the planning meeting. My email is garciachris1714@gmail.com. My phone number is (361) 991-2784 (can record message)

In a recent ruling by Federal Judge Nelva Gonzales-Ramos, the judge cited a study by Stephen Ansolabehere of Harvard University that about 600,000 Texans are excluded from the voting process because they do not have a required photo ID to vote. Many may have a voter registration card issued by their county, but because they have no photo ID, they cannot vote. We have no idea how many Texans may reside in our area or county. Your participation will not require any financial support from your organization.

The League has received a \$500 pass-through *Public Advocacy for Voter Protection* grant whose purpose is "to mitigate the impact of the Texas voter photo ID laws." We anticipate that the grant monies will cover expenses incurred (primarily printing of materials).

What would your organization's participation and support require?

- Your time and commitment to help identify individuals (particularly those in communities of color, the elderly, underserved, and students over 18 years of age) who want to be able to cast a vote in upcoming election cycles but do not have a photo ID;
- Your hands-on participation and presence (involving one or more volunteers in your organization) to help facilitate a successful process to provide information to and help individuals pursue an acceptable photo ID or to understand and utilize available options to the photo ID requirement (such as the "Reasonable Impediment Declaration" as described on the Texas Secretary of State's website);
- Your willingness to help the League document the activities in a written report due by March 31, 2018, to the League of Women Voters of Texas.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Chris Garcia, LWV-CC President

October 13, 2017

From: Chris Davis Garcia, LWV-CC President (361-991-2784)

League of Women Voters-Corpus Christi Receives *Public Advocacy for Voter Protection Grant*

The League of Women Voters-Corpus Christi (LWV-CC) has been notified by the League of Women Voters of Texas that it is one of six Leagues in Texas to be awarded a *Public Advocacy for Voter Protection* pass-through grant. LWV-CC has received a \$500 grant to plan and implement a program “to mitigate the impact of Texas voter photo ID laws.” This project is supported by the League of Women Voters Education Fund.

LWV-CC, with support from coalition partners in the Corpus Christi community, hopes to identify and assist from 40 to 60 individuals in the Corpus Christi community who possess a Nueces County voter registration card but do not have a photo ID that is required to cast a vote in Texas.

Through an informational/educational campaign utilizing community meetings between late October 2017 and late January 2018, the League and its community partners hope to accomplish the following:

- Facilitate a successful process to help individuals receive an acceptable photo ID as required by SB14 through the Texas Department of Public Safety, and
- Help voters without a photo ID understand and utilize a viable option to the photo ID requirement, described on the Texas Secretary of State’s website as the “Reasonable Impediment Declaration.”

A recent ruling by US District Judge Nelva Gonzales-Ramos cited a study by Stephen Ansolabehere of Harvard University that about 600,000 Texans are at risk of being excluded from the voting process because they lack a required photo ID to vote.

“This grant,” said LWV-CC President Chris Davis Garcia, “provides an important spotlight for the League and its partners to focus on assisting communities of color, the elderly, and students—three specific groups that often are disenfranchised in the voting process.”

Organizations who share the local, state, and national League’s concern about voter suppression and who may want to assist with the campaign are invited to contact Garcia at garciachris1714@gmail.com or the League at lwvcorpuschristi@gmail.com.

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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 parties.

Public Service Announcement/Community Calendar Announcement

from the League of Women Voters of Corpus Christi

Mrs. Chris Garcia, LWW-CC President (991-2784)

(PSA Directors/Calendar Editors—please use between December 7, 2017, and January 15, 2018; if you can record and air the PSA also in Spanish, that would be sincerely appreciated.)

A message from the Corpus Christi League of Women Voters:

Voting is one of our fundamental rights. Casting a ballot in a local, state, or national election represents our voices as citizens and truly makes democracy work.

If you have been unable to vote because you DO NOT HAVE a state-approved photo ID, the League of Women Voters may be able to assist you.

The State of Texas identifies the following seven as the only acceptable voter photo IDs to cast a ballot: Texas Driver license issued by the Texas Dept. of Public Safety (DPS), Texas Concealed Handgun License issued by DPS; Texas Personal Identification Card issued by DPS; US Military Identification Card containing the person's photograph; US Citizenship Certificate containing the person's photograph; Election Identification Certificate (EIC) issued by DPS; or United States Passport.

Please contact the League at 361-445-4436 and leave your name and telephone number. You also can send an email with your contact information to lwvcorpuschristi@gmail.com.

PAVP PROJECT PHOTOS



League member Linda Snider at Linda Senior Center



Sunday Morning TV Interview



Beryl Scott successful after two visits to DPS



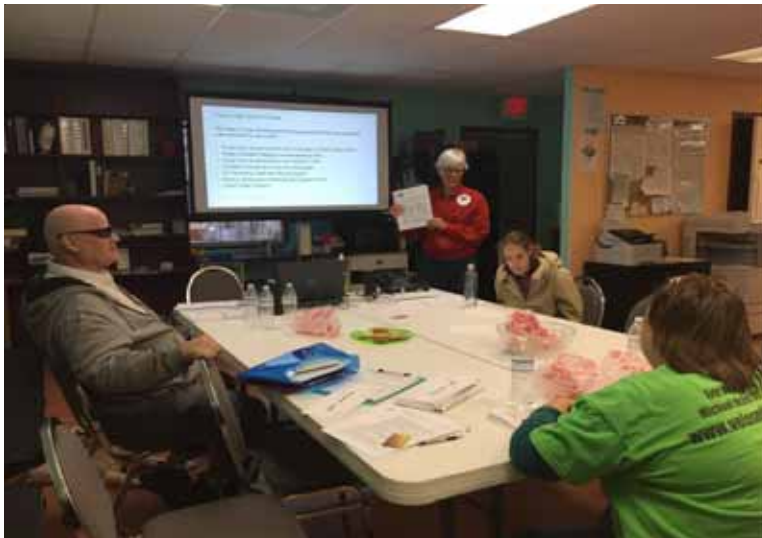
Prospera Property with flyer distribution



Sylvia Trevino poses at DPS office-Corpus Christi



LWVCC web screen shot



Kathryn Oler presents to advocacy committee at Coastal Bend Center for Independent Living (CBCIL)-January 2018

March 31, 2018

Additional documentation will be included in a three-hole folder mailed April 2, 2018.

Respectfully submitted by Mrs. Chris Davis Garcia, LWV-CC President
(361-991-2784)

2017-2018 Board of Directors--LWV-Corpus Christi

Chris Davis Garcia, President

Sandra Heatherley, VP Member Services

Kathryn Oler, VP Voter Services

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Tammy Donaldson, At-Large Director

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--Rebecca Huerta & Linda Snider, Members

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