



The VOTER

AUGUST 2018

League of Women Voters-Corpus Christi

August 16 League Meeting To Spotlight City's Budget

Sylvia Carrillo, Assistant City Manager, Is Keynote Speaker



Sylvia Carrillo

Sylvia Carrillo, Assistant City Manager for the City of Corpus Christi who oversees several departments, will speak at the Thursday, August 16, LWV membership meeting.

Carrillo will focus on the City's 2018-2019 proposed budget, scheduled to be adopted later this month by the City Council, and what the budget's longterm effects will be on the tax rate and city operations.

Carrillo has 19 years of experience in the public sector, having served as assistant director of development services for the City of Corpus Christi and as City Manager for the City of Aransas Pass (2013-2017). She joined the City of Corpus Christi staff in March 2017.

A graduate of TAMU-Corpus Christi, she received her Certified Public Manager designation in 2007. She is the recipient of several community and regional awards and has served on local boards and commissions, including the Westside Business Association and the San Patricio Economic Development Corp.

LUNCH ORDERS: A croissant sandwich (tuna, ham, turkey, chicken salad) with chips, cookie, fruit, and water/soft drink (prepared by the Del Mar College Culinary Arts program) can be reserved by sending an email to the League at lwvcorpuschristi@gmail.com. The cost of \$10 can be paid at the door. Deadline to reserve: Tuesday noon, August 14.

League members and guests are cordially invited to attend without ordering a meal.

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 par



"The Power of the Disability Vote"--(l-r) Christina Buttler and Toni Padilla, CBCIL; Britton Clement and Stephanie Garcia, La Mariposa-BHCNC; Chris Garcia, LWV-CC; Jaime Lugo, TD&HoHC.

Disability Voter Registration Week Helps Forge New Partnerships, Conversations

More than 55 League members and guests attended the July 19 LWV-CC luncheon meeting to recognize the importance of National Disability Voter Registration Week and to hear keynote remarks by Molly Broadway, voting rights training specialist with Disability Rights Texas.

The event brought together the Coastal Bend Center for Independent Living (CBCIL), La Mariposa (Behavioral Health Centers of Nueces County), The Deaf and Hard of Hearing Center, and the League. It was part of the 2018 **RevUp!** campaign, July 16-20, which included not only voter registration activities but also proclamations of support by the Nueces County Commissioners Court and the Corpus Christi City Council. (Story continues on Pages 5 and 6)

Women's Equality Day Proclamation To Be Issued Tuesday, August 28

The City of Corpus Christi will issue a proclamation on Tuesday, August 28, at 11:15 a.m. at City Hall, 1201 Leopard, recognizing the national celebration of Women's Equality Day.

All League members and community supporters are cordially invited to be present to receive the proclamation from Mayor Joe McComb, and pose for a group photograph.

President's Message



Chris Davis Garcia
LWV-CC President

Dear League Members:

This August issue of The VOTER features lots of topics and information about League activities in progress. Please read all the stories and let the Board know where you can plug in.

Rather than additional comments here, I want to highlight the following:

STUDENT MEMBERSHIP NOW \$5.00

All three levels of the League (National, Texas, and Corpus Christi) are focused on actively recruiting and encouraging students (ages 16 through college) to join the League and learn what the League is all about. To that end, LWV-CC is offering a \$5 annual membership to students. Our goals? Help familiarize students with what the League does and stands for. Encourage grassroots participation in "engaging voters and defending democracy." Help them learn how to advocate for issues and actions important to them. Get them active in local League activities whenever they can.

Board member Rebecca Huerta's daughter, Isabela, is the first student member to join! Welcome, Isabela! Members, what students do YOU know who would be interested in being a member? Let's get them signed up! A membership form is on Page 10.

**\$5.00
Student
Membership!**

FROM THE NATIONAL LEAGUE Priorities Include Advocating for National Popular Vote

Delegates at the LWVUS June Convention voted on the priorities for 2018 – 2020, agreeing that advocacy for the National Popular Vote (NPV) should be a priority.

As such, the LWVUS has added NPV as one of only five priorities under *The Campaign for Making Democracy Work®*. The campaign, which is designed to ensure a free, fair, and accessible electoral system for all eligible voters, focuses on **Voting Rights, Improving Elections, Campaign Finance/Money in Politics, Redistricting** and now, "Advocacy for the National Popular Vote."

With this mandate, the LWVUS is now positioned to assist state and local Leagues as they work with their state representatives to pass National Popular Vote legislation. To ensure that the states have the support they need, LWVUS staff is developing strategies and plans for the coming two years to provide useful and meaningful support. This includes consistent messaging, materials, and possibly a conference/workshop on "best practices" based on the successful experience of states that have already passed NPVC.

In the interim, Leagues can find the following free materials, NPV Facts; map of the states with status of NP; Frequently Asked Questions; and NPV Core Message on the national website.



THE VOTER is published monthly except June and December. Its purpose is to keep League members and interested supporters informed about activities and programs in which the League is involved. Questions or comments can be directed to any LWV-CC Board member (listing at right) or to lwvcorpuschristi@gmail.com.

Would you like to advertise your company? Let us know.

Business-card space is available at \$100 for 10 issues.

THE VOTER 2 AUGUST 2018

League of Women Voters

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The VOTER Newsletter

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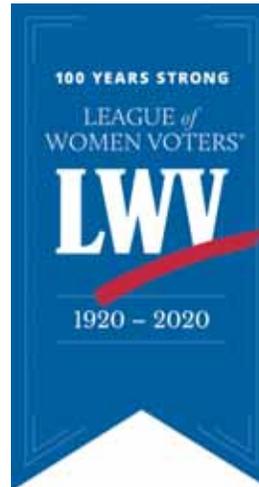
wilraven26@yahoo.com

Welcome, New Members!

Ann Bolton-Brownlee, Individual
Isabela Huerta, Student
Toni Padilla, Individual
Richard Torres, II, Individual

Thanks to These Renewing Members for 2018-2019:

Manuel and Peggy Banales, Household
Teresa Carrillo, Individual
Brent & Ashley Chesney, Household
Lisa Cuevas, Individual
Nancy Devlin & Margie Di Clemente, Sustaining
Rebecca & Carlos Huerta, Sustaining
Lois Huff, Sustaining
Todd Hunter, Individual
Colleen Johnson, Individual
Debbie Noble, Sustaining
Sylvia Ramirez, Individual
Amber Rinard, Individual
Matilda & Ruben Saenz, Household
Kimberly Seger, Sustaining
Linda Snider, Individual
Anne Stewart, Sustaining
Christi Stockman & Wes Burkett, Household
Judy Telge, Sustaining
Kim Wilson, Individual



Thursday, August 30
Meeting Scheduled

Planning for 2020 Celebration of the 19th Amendment

The second meeting of the Steering Committee which is creating the plans for the Corpus Christi community's celebration of the 100th anniversary of women's right to vote in the USA will be held at 6 p.m. on Thursday evening, August 30, 2018, at the Del Mar College Center for Economic Development at xxxx S. Staples @ Kostoryz. The meeting room has not been designated.

Sandra Heatherley, VP for Member Services, is chairing the committee.

The first meeting was a fruitful discussion of the dates and events that can occur during the entire year of 2020 to celebrate and educate young people on the history of their voting rights.

Several other women's organizations were represented in attendance at the first planning meeting in April and will be returning to report on the commitment of their organization and its willingness to take the lead on one or more of the planned activities.

The August 30 meeting will focus on those reports and in developing a structure of communication and fund raising.

All members of LWV-CC are welcome to attend and contribute to our planning strategies, Heatherley said.

For additional information, contact Heatherley at 361-876-4321 or 361-814-9120 or by email at sheatherle@cs.com.

League Calendar at a Glance

Thursday, August 16: League Luncheon Meeting
(see story, Page 1)

Tuesday, August 28: Proclamation at City Hall (see story,
Page 1)

Thursday, August 30: Planning Meeting for 100th Year
Celebration of the Vote (see story on this page)

Thursday, Sept. 20: League Luncheon Meeting with
speaker Valerie Gray, City of Corpus Christi; "Details
about the City's 2018 Bond Proposition(s)"

Tuesday, Sept. 25: National Voter Registration Day
(Voter registration at several sites, TBA)

Thursday, Oct. 11: First of two Candidate Forums at City
Hall; second forum on Oct. 18. (see story, Page 4)



Carla Gardiner
Financial Advisor

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Edward Jones
MAKING SENSE OF INVESTING

WHERE CAN YOU HELP?

Busy Two Months Ahead for League Members

The League's Voter Services team has its work cut out for it for the next 10 weeks or so, and your help is crucial.

The timeline is tight, and volunteers are needed to help the League reach its goals.

In addition to coordinating two Candidate Forums scheduled on Thursday, October 11, and Thursday, October 18, the League will focus on VOTE411 and the printed Voters Guides.

Races to be featured in the VOTE411.org and printed Voters Guides include U.S. House, District 27; State Representative, District 34; District Judges, 105th and 148th Judicial Districts; Nueces County Judge; Courts at Law 1 and 2; District Clerk; County Clerk; Justice of the Peace, Precinct 1, Place 2;

Also City of Corpus Christi City Council Mayor and all Council Members Districts 1-5 and 3 at-large seats; Del Mar College regents; and CCISD plus other school districts in the county.

In addition, Bond propositions will be included in VOTE411 and the printed Voters Guide.



Candidate Forums are typically held at Corpus Christi City Hall's Council Chambers which features a dais with nine seats, microphone system, audience seating, and capability to tape the forum live.

Timeline

The filing deadline for candidates running for municipal, school district, and Del Mar College positions is August 20, 2018. Once the filings are announced, the League will have the candidate listing for the voters guides and will gather contact information.

Unopposed candidates in a race will not be included in the League's voters guides.

The Voter Services team has already begun verifying names and contact information for those races featured on the March 2018 Primary Election ballot.

The League's goal will be to have the VOTE411.org pages submitted and "live" as well as the paper copy of the Voters Guides printed and distributed before the two sessions of the Candidates Forum on Oct. 11 and Oct. 18.

LWVTX, the League's state office, will be responsible for developing questions for all state races and for publishing those questions and candidate responses on VOTE411.

Developing Questions for Candidates

The Voter Services team will soon convene a series of work sessions to develop questions for use in the voters guides. If you are interested in participating in this process and if you have an interest in a set of races, such as Federal, State, County, City, or ISD, please contact Kathryn Oler at kathryn.oler@gmail.com to volunteer.

Volunteers Needed

If you are interested in helping with the Candidate Forums (timekeeper, greeter, reviewing audience questions, etc.), please let the League know.

If you can help proofread the 28-32 page Voters Guide (plus possibly a second guide focused on school board elections) once they are ready (by late September), please let League President Chris Garcia know at 244-4193.

IT'S TIME TO RENEW YOUR 2018-2019 MEMBERSHIP; Consider **SUSTAINING!**

Approximately 68 League members have renewed their membership for 2018-2019. If you haven't responded yet, please do so as soon as possible! Questions about membership renewal can be directed to VP Member Services Sandra Heatherley.

Every summer, LWV-CC reminds and encourages its members to renew. The fiscal year begins on June 1 and membership will be current until May 31, 2019. You can renew on-line at www.lwv-cc.org, or use the membership application included on the last page of each VOTER newsletter.

Active membership categories are highlighted on the application, but the League is especially thankful when members choose the **Sustaining** category of \$100. Since a sizable portion of League dues is designated for National and Texas league operations, the extra \$40 paid by LWV-CC's Sustaining members remains in our local treasury and truly sustains voter services projects like printing the Voters Guides and making available other resources that help educate and recognize new voters.

National Disability Voter Registration Week



(Continued from Page 1)

County Clerk Kara Sands provided one of the county's ADA voting machines at The Deaf and Hard of Hearing Center to facilitate a training session for clients in its use via a mock election ballot.

Staff members at all three agencies assisted the League's voter registrars in working with their clients during the registration process and in the use of the voting machine.

"The interagency conversations that took place during the week were profound in their exchange of information and collaborative spirit," said Kathryn Oler, VP of the League's Voter Services Committee. "Because of these conversations, several issues arose that the League can address in furthering this week's work."

Included are the creation of a voting center map to help users of public transportation determine bus schedules during early voting and Election Day. The ongoing street construction projects, while much needed, disrupt regular routes and schedules. Support of free RTA transportation to voting centers by showing voter registration certificates is another easy means of removing another barrier to voting.

LWV-CC voter registrars participating in the five-day campaign include Peggy Bañales, Lisa Cuevas, Ruth Falck, Chris Garcia, and Pat Parr.

Several times throughout the week, Toni Padilla of CBCIL said that people should have the right to independently and confidentially

County Commissioners Issue Proclamation



Coalition partners gather at the Nueces County Commissioners Court for the presentation and official photograph.

register to vote and to independently and confidentially vote.

The League in collaboration with CBCIL, La Mariposa, and The Deaf and Hard of Hearing Center helped new voters move toward that goal, Padilla added.

(Continued on Page 6)

(At right: Linda Fallwell-Stover, CBCIL executive director, poses with a client and Sandra Heatherley of LWV-CC.)



La Mariposa



Center for Deaf and Hard of Hearing





More about Disability Rights Texas

As stated by the agency, “Disability Rights Texas is the federally designated legal protection and advocacy agency (P&A) for people with disabilities in Texas. Its mission is to help people with disabilities understand and exercise their rights under the law, ensuring their full and equal participation in society.”

If you would like a copy of Molly Broadway’s Power Point presentation that highlights the power of the disability vote, why care about the disability vote, voting rights and accommodations, and available resources, contact League President Chris Davis Garcia at lwvcopuschristi@gmail.com.

Photo cutlines (top and clockwise):

League members and partners in the community working to increase the disability vote pose in City Council chambers following the proclamation; Chris Garcia, Molly Broadway, Linda Fallwell-Stover, and Joseph Huerta; July 19 audience members enjoy a light moment; Toni Padilla of CBCIL serves as interpreter; Tyner Little of Nueces County reads the proclamation before introducing Fallwell-Stover; Marshall Burns, Board chair of CBCIL addresses the audience; Molly Broadway fields questions during her presentation.



Voter Mobilization & Get Out the Vote (GOTV)

By Kathryn Oler, Vice President/Voter Services

The Texas Two-Step, when it comes to voting, can be the hardest step to learn.

The League's Voter Services team knows that getting out the vote is difficult. To tackle this significant issue, the team is working collaboratively with other non-partisan groups to get out the vote in Nueces County.

At the invitation of Corpus Christi's Civic Engagement Coalition, composed of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, and Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, the Voter Services Team met with and began planning to support and coordinate voter registration efforts, candidate forums, and other GOTV strategies by these groups.

As result of the first meeting, the Coalition now has a FaceBook page, GOTV Nueces, where like-minded, nonpartisan organizations may upload announcements about their activities.

The League has also been asked to participate in the YWCA GOTV initiative scheduled Sept. 3-7.

Be sure to check the LWV-CC social media efforts to find out up-to-date information that League members need in order to engage in these important League activities.

League Takes Aim to Register High School 18-Year-Olds



The new school year is already under way for several local school districts, with Corpus Christi ISD students returning to school on Monday, August 27.

With the calendar in mind, the LWV-CC Voter Services team is beginning to schedule visits to high schools to help principals register 18-year-olds so they can vote in the November 6 General Election. League member Raul Ramirez will assist Kathryn Oler.

This voter registration push began with League voter registrars attending senior orientation at Collegiate High School and Harold T. Branch High School recently. Voter registration efforts at other high schools will be scheduled in the coming weeks.

Voter Registration Deadline--October 9

The final day to register voters to vote on the November 6 ballot is Tuesday, October 9. LWV-CC will respond to as many opportunities as possible between now and then to help voters register.

If you are a deputized Voter Registrar, please respond whenever an email message is sent asking for volunteers; however, the Voter Services team also encourages you to arrange for and conduct voter registration whenever you can.

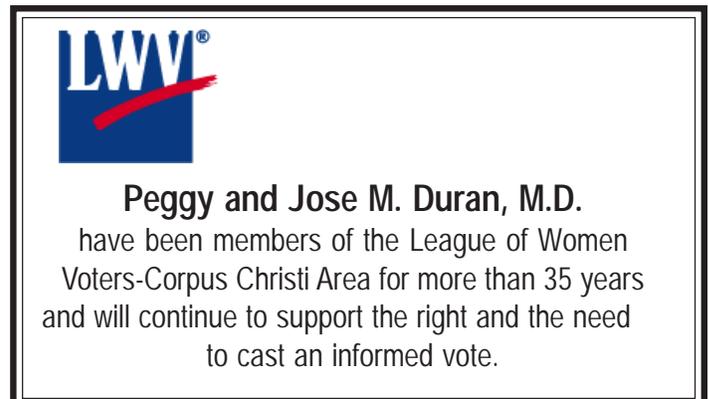
Keep count of the number of individuals you register, and let Ruth Falck know.

Heartfelt thanks to more than 18 League members and LWV-CC supporters who spent a busy July 1 through August 5 at various venues. Some volunteered multiple times during a couple of the busiest weeks!

Because of you, the League signed up **293** new voters.

SAVE THE DATE:

The September membership luncheon will be held on Thursday, Sept. 20, from 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m. at DMC Center for Economic Development. A presentation on the City's Bond Proposition(s) will be given by Valerie Gray, City staff member.



Be Informed...Don't Slip on the Slope!

By Debbie Noble
Director/Social Media/Website

With more local and national elections coming up and our local league preparing to publish Voter Guides and produce Forums, it is time to arm ourselves as informed voters.

The "Slippery Slope" logical fallacy is commonly used by candidates to discredit their opponents' stances on issues and policies.

There is a great line from the movie "The American President" where the president (played by Michael Douglas) says of his opponent, "He is interested in two things, and two things only: Making you afraid of it, and telling you who's to blame for it."

Playing on fear is a powerful method of winning elections, not just in movies, but in history. The slippery slope is a fallacy that definitely takes advantage of fear. The slippery slope starts with a specific decision or step that is under debate, usually a relatively harmless one.

It then proposes a series or chain of events or steps that are caused by that decision and that culminate in an exaggerated and scary event. The point



Debbie Noble

is to make you afraid of the proposed outcome, to make you afraid of it becoming an acceptable outcome, and to exaggerate its chances of occurring.

According to softschools.com, the Slippery Slope "is an argument that suggests taking a minor action will lead to major and sometimes ludicrous consequences."

For example: If we allow same sex marriage, next people will want to marry their cousins, two or three people, or their beloved pet horse. (In other words,

gay marriage leads to incest, polygamy, and bestiality.)

If we allow discussion on how to deal with Dreamers, roving gangs of pillaging gang members will stream, unchecked, across our borders and steal our jobs, our money, our daughters, and our lives.

If we cut taxes, all social safety nets will disappear, and people will die.

If we allow universal background checks on gun purchases, the government will then come to our doors and physically take away our guns.

These arguments want you to believe that after the first decision, there are no choices, chances, or control that would allow access to any other path.

Be an informed news consumer. Don't let fear of exaggerated chances of a ludicrous consequence overcome common sense. Don't slip on the slope!



SAVE THE DATE: Tuesday, September 25, Is National Voter Registration Day

National Voter Registration Day is scheduled Tuesday, September 25...and hundreds of organizations and groups around the United States will participate...including the League. Be watching for information on the venues selected and set aside a couple of hours that day to help register voters.

One of the venues will be the Keach Library in the Robstown Area which has requested to partner with the League that day.

The History of the Women's Equality Day Proclamation

On August 26, 1920, after three generations of an unrelenting, brilliant, courageous, political campaign, women in the United States won the right to vote. In 1971, following the 1970 nationwide Women's Strike for Equality, and again in 1973, as the battles over the Equal Rights Amendment continued, US Congresswoman Bella Abzug of New York introduced a Congressional Resolution to designate August 26 as Women's Equality Day.

On August 16, 1973, Congress approved H.J. Res. 52, and on that same day, President Richard Nixon issued Proclamation 4236 for Woman's Equality Day. As of 2017, every president since Nixon has issued a proclamation.

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La Palmera Mall-Bound ...or Heading to Robstown....League Is There!



Raul Ramirez joined Kathryn Oler at the three-hour Back to School Event held in Robstown last week, sponsored by State Rep. Abel Herrero. Voter Registration Chair Ruth Falck also participated in registering voters.



Manning the table at Destination Education, sponsored by Coastal Compass, were Peggy Banales, Annell Neal, and Ruth Falck.

League Needs Specific Help; Interested?

It's time to gather together folks of like-minded interests and skills to help lessen the load of work! Please review tasks and upcoming activities identified by the LWV-CC Board and choose one or more so we can spread the workload!



Membership Committee (VP Sandra Heatherley)

1. Select a specific meeting date and help Treasurer Brenda Hamby at the registration table. In addition to attendees and guests paying for their lunch, some are also paying their dues. It's hectic...and an extra person or two would be valuable. (Meeting dates coming up: August 16, September 20)
2. Stand at the door and greet members and guests prior to the start of the meeting.
3. Help with other membership development tasks as identified by Sandra.

Bylaws and Policies Review Committee (Treasurer Brenda Hamby)

1. The League will begin reviewing its Bylaws and Policies in the coming weeks, with possible revisions advancing to the Board for approval. Treasurer Brenda Hamby will chair the committee. If you enjoy reading documents closely and engaging in conversation with a handful of other volunteers, you are needed!

Program Committee (Carla Gardiner, VP Program)

1. If you are interested in developing meeting topics or helping introduce speakers at a designated meeting, let Carla know.

Voter Services Committee (see story on Page 4 for upcoming opportunities for volunteers)

Other tasks: Help pick up the 7,000-plus voters guides (bundles of 100) at the Caller-Times loading dock on a specific day in October and deliver the guides as directed.

IT'S TIME TO RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP FOR 2018-2019

Your continuing support of the League of Women Voters-Corpus Christi, through your individual, sustaining, student, or household membership dues, is sincerely appreciated. When you send in your payment, please complete the form below so the League can capture your specific interests.



MEMBERSHIP FORM 2018-2019

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS - CORPUS CHRISTI AREA

PO Box 8276 • Corpus Christi, TX 78468-8276

LWV-CC membership runs June 1, 2018, through May 31, 2019, and supports local, state and national LWV actions to Empower Voters and Defend Democracy. We encourage your membership activation **before the August 29, 2018, deadline**. Simply complete this form and include current contact details so we can inform you about important happenings in the area. We have engaging plans for 2018-2019 that include monthly membership luncheons, happy hour meetings, and downtown events, plus preparations for a remarkable 2020 celebration and fundraiser to commemorate the 100th Anniversary of the passage of the 19th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution!

Date: _____

Select Member type and remit payment or visit: <http://www.lwv-cc-org/JoinRenewOnline.html>

- Individual \$60 Household (2 people, same address) \$90 Sustaining Member \$100
 Student \$5 Friend of the League \$30 (without voting privileges)

Name(s): _____

Address: _____ Zip Code: _____

E-Mail Address: _____

Home Phone: _____ Cell: _____ Work: _____

I prefer to attend: Luncheon Meetings _____ Dinner Meetings _____

I'm interested in volunteering my help with one or more of the following activities:

- Register Voters Prepare/Distribute Voters Guides Organize Candidate/Issue Forums
 Advocate for Issues Investigate Issues/Conduct Studies Network/Facilitate Community Dialogues
 Budget/Fundraising Committee Media/Communications Committee Membership Committee
 Governance/Bylaws Committee Observer Corps (monitor local government meetings)
 Special/Community Projects Attend Austin "Lobby Days" during legislative session
 Train/Serve as Nueces County Volunteer Deputy Registrar Advertise in Monthly VOTER Newsletter *

* **Note: Business card ads in the monthly VOTER newsletter are affordably priced at \$100 for 10 issues.**