



# The VOTER

APRIL 2019

League of Women Voters-Corpus Christi

## My House Is Appraised at WHAT??

Come to the Thursday, April 25, Meeting

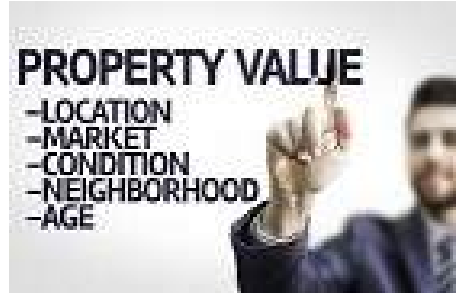
**Topic:** "Residential Home Appraisal 101"

**Date/Time:** Thursday, April 25, 2019; Room 141 at the Del Mar College Center for Economic Development, 3205 S. Staples @ Kostoryz.

Each Texas county generally sends out its annual NOTICE OF APPRAISED VALUE for residential properties in early April. LWV-Corpus Christi's very own Sue Williams has volunteered to explain the process and help us wade through the volumes of data/evidence available to property owners to help us decide whether we agree/disagree with the Chief Appraiser's proposed value.

Why does Sue have the unique credentials to offer this presentation? She has been a licensed Texas Real Estate Broker for over 23 years; instructor and later Executive Director of the Real Estate Institute of Corpus Christi from 1994-2010; and a member of the Nueces County Appraisal Review Board from 2013-2018.

Join us! If you want to order a salad or croissant sandwich box lunch, please place your order no later than Monday noon, April 22. See details at right.



### Need To Order a Meal?

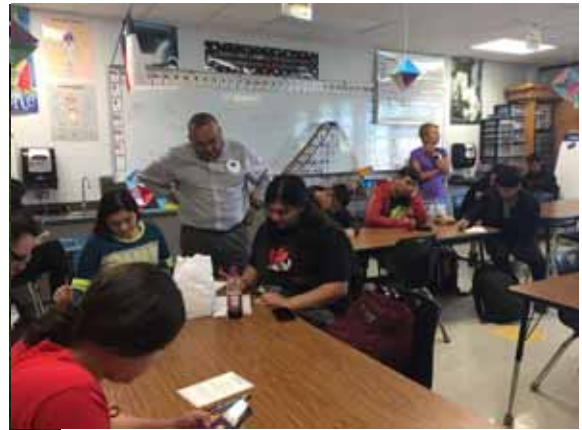
Sandwich or Salad box lunches can be ordered at \$10 each by emailing your meal order to the League at [lwvcampuschristi@gmail.com](mailto:lwvcampuschristi@gmail.com) or by calling the League phone at 445-4436. Deadline to order is Monday noon, April 22. Payment can be made when you arrive at the meeting.

**Save the Date!**

The League's 74th Annual Meeting is being planned for Tuesday, May 21. More details on Page 3.



**PRESENCE AT ARTWALK**--League members Paula Brighton and Annell Neale manned the voter registration table at the April 5 ArtWalk at Artesian Park downtown. (See more Voter Registration news on Page 2.)



**REGISTERING HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS**--LWV-CC had two successful voter registration drives at W. B. Ray High School and Roy Miller High School earlier this month. (See details on Page 4.) Above: League members Raul Ramirez and Paula Brighton provide assistance at Miller.

### 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 parties.

# President's Message



Chris Davis Garcia  
LWV-CC President

Dear League Members and Friends:

I don't have much space here but there's enough room to welcome a new member to the LWV-CC Board of Directors and put an important date on the calendar:

- Annell Neale has been appointed as Vice President of Program by the LWV-CC Board. Welcome, Annell! She will complete the two months remaining on the term of Carla Gardiner who stepped down in January for personal reasons. We will miss Carla and we thank her for lining up some wonderful speakers for monthly meetings. Annell has agreed to serve the second year of Carla's term, if elected at the Annual Meeting.

- You are invited to save the date of Saturday, March 7, 2020, and participate in the "Women's March" from the Nueces County Courthouse to the Federal Courthouse. The event will be one of the signature events in 2020 as the League celebrates the 100th anniversary of the passage of the 19th Amendment. More details will be announced in the coming weeks.

## THANKS TO OUR VOTER REGISTRARS!

**Total of 155 added to Nueces County roll**

Sincere thanks to Annell Neale, Christy Stockman, Paula Breighton, Sylvia Whitworth, and Peggy Duran for helping register 73 new voters at W. B. Ray High School and to Raul Ramirez, Ruth Falck, Gloria Montalvo, Paula Breighton, and Chris Garcia for adding 53 students at Roy Miller High School to the county's voter roll.

Paula Breighton had this reflection: "What a great experience! The Ray teachers were very welcoming, and the students politely listened to our message. I'm glad I had the opportunity to participate, and I look forward to doing so again." Sylvia Whitworth concurred. "This was exciting and fun," she said. "I was surprised at the substantial number who said they were already registered. After the first forms were passed out, there were other students who decided to sign up because their friends were signing up. It took longer, but it was worth it. Teachers were very supportive."

LWV-CC also thanks Ray HS College Center Counselor Lyn Hartman and Miller HS administrator Marci Fischer for their help coordinating these drives.



Ruth Falck helps two Miller seniors complete their voter registration applications.

Two other voter registration events earlier this month signed up 2 new voters at ArtWalk and 27 at Earth Day-Bay Day.

League of Women Voters

PO Box 8276

Corpus Christi, TX

78468-8276

<http://www.lwv-cc.org>

[lwvcopuschristi@gmail.com](mailto:lwvcopuschristi@gmail.com)

361-445-4436

**LWV-CC Board, 2018-2019**

### President

Chris Davis Garcia

361-991-2784 (hm); 361-244-4193

[garciachr1714@gmail.com](mailto:garciachr1714@gmail.com)

### Secretary

Rebecca Huerta, 361-826-3105;

[rebeccah@cctexas.cm](mailto:rebeccah@cctexas.cm)

### Treasurer

Brenda Hamby, 361-991-1733

[bhamby@stx.rr.com](mailto:bhamby@stx.rr.com)

### Vice President, Member Services

Sandra Heatherley, 361-876-4321;

361-814-9120; [sheatherle@cs.com](mailto:sheatherle@cs.com)

### Vice President, Program

Annell Neale, 361-771-3026

[annell@ebns.us](mailto:annell@ebns.us)

### Vice President, Voter Services

Kathryn Oler

[kathryn.oler@gmail.com](mailto:kathryn.oler@gmail.com)

Raul Ramirez, 774-0937

### Director, Website/Social Media

Debbie Noble, 410-271-1167

[debleenoble@gmail.com](mailto:debleenoble@gmail.com)

### Director, Media/Communications

Melody Cooper, 361-774-4170

[melody@melodycooperlaw.com](mailto:melody@melodycooperlaw.com)

### At-Large Director

Dr. Tammy Donaldson, 361-739-0462

[tcfdonaldson@gmail.com](mailto:tcfdonaldson@gmail.com)

### Director/Archivist: Sylvia Whitworth

[jimcwhit@hotmail.com](mailto:jimcwhit@hotmail.com); 853-9990

### OFF-BOARD CHAIRS

#### Voter Registration

Ruth Falck, 361-548-2615

[falckruth@yahoo.com](mailto:falckruth@yahoo.com)

#### Nominating Committee

Anne Stewart, 361-850-0663

[emlean@gmail.com](mailto:emlean@gmail.com)

#### Elected Members:

Alex Garcia, Jr., 361-510-2001

Linda Snider, 802-777-2269

#### The VOTER Newsletter

Chris Davis Garcia, 361-244-4193

# LOOKING AHEAD TO THE 74th ANNUAL MEETING

## 2019-2020 Proposed Budget

(Teresa Carrillo, Budget Committee chair; Anne Stewart, Maria Jimenez, members; Brenda Hamby, treasurer)

### INCOME

Per Member Dues	\$4,920
Sustainers' Gifts	\$720
Friends of the League	\$120
Monthly Luncheons	\$1,600
2019 Annual Meeting	\$960
2019-2020 Fundraising	\$3,380
Community Support/Contributions	\$400
Advertising in the VOTER	\$400
Silent Auction Proceeds	\$500
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$13,000</b>

### EXPENSES

Per Member Dues to National	\$2,608
Per Member Dues to State	\$1,793
Monthly Luncheons	\$1,320
2019 Annual Meeting	\$704
2019-2020 Fundraising Events(s)	\$1,820
Community Support/Participation/Outreach	\$400
Voter Services Publications	\$1,840
Voter Registration Events	\$600
Printing	\$405
Website Maintenance	\$300
Admin/Postage/Supplies	\$300
PO Box Rental	\$120
Leadership/Training	\$150
Centennial Celebration Event	\$400
Transfer to Savings	\$240
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$13,000</b>

### \* Notes about PMP = Per Member Payment

LWV-CC current membership dues structure is: \$60 for individuals; \$90 for two members in same household; and \$5 for students.

PMP LWV-Texas Assessment: Individual, \$22; second household member, \$11; Student, \$0  
PMP LWVUS Assessment: Individual, \$32; second household member, \$16; Student, \$0

**ENGAGING VOTERS.  
DEFENDING DEMOCRACY.**

League members are invited to “save the date” of Tuesday, May 21, and attend the 74th Annual Meeting at Ara’s Euro Fusion Restaurant, located at 6917 S. Staples between Lipes and Yorktown. Gathering time will be 5:45 pm, with the meal served about 6:15 p.m. Two plated meal options will be available, and a cash bar will be available.

The business meeting will begin about 7 p.m. Included in the agenda will be discussion and adoption of a proposed budget for 2019-2020; reports from Member Services, Voter Services, and Program; report of the Nominating Committee; and election of officers. More details about reservations for the Annual Meeting will be sent to LWV-CC members soon.

## Nominating Committee Report

### 2-YEAR TERM

Co-Presidents: Peggy Banales and Anne Stewart

Treasurer: Teresa Carrillo

Vice President, Voters Services: Paula Brighton

Director, Website/Social Media: Debbie Noble

Director, At-Large: Brenda Hamby

### 1-YEAR TERM

Vice President, Program: Annell Neale

(to complete the unexpired term of Carla Gardiner)

Chairman, 2019-2020 Nominating Committee:

Peggy Duran

Elected members of Nominating Committee:

Lois Huff and Maria Jimenez

The following officers were elected to two-year terms in May 2018 and will continue to serve on the Board through May 2020:

Sandra Heatherley, Vice President Member Services

Rebecca Huerta, Secretary

Melody Cooper, Director, Media Communications



Peggy and Jose M. Duran, M.D.  
support the League of Women  
Voters' mission of encouraging  
informed and active participation in  
government by all citizens.

# Port Industries, Desal Project Highlighted at Meeting

Thanks to Robert “Bob” Paulison, who serves as Executive Director of Port Industries of Corpus Christi (PICC), League members and guests at the March 21 membership meeting learned not only about the role and goals of PICC but about desalination plants and how they operate. PICC continues to work with the City, the San Patricio Municipal Water District, the regional Economic Development Corp., and the Port of Corpus Christi to research and promote the construction of a desal plant in the Coastal Bend.



\*\*\* League members, please note that no membership luncheon meeting is planned in May. The Annual Meeting highlighted elsewhere in this publication will serve as the final membership meeting of the 2018-2019 year.



## LEAGUE CHATTER

- LWV-CC plans to hold a Community Presentation on Monday evening, May 20, at the Del Mar College Center for Economic Development on the League study titled “Potential for Lead Contamination in Our Communities’ Drinking Water.” Please watch for more details.
- As the League’s year winds down, several Board members are completing their elected 2017-2019 terms of service: Chris Garcia, President; Kathryn Oler, VP/Voter Services; Brenda Hamby, Treasurer; and Dr. Tammy Donaldson, At-Large Director. In addition, Sylvia Whitworth is completing a one-year Board appointment as Director/Archivist. Thanks to these Board members for their outstanding service.

## MEMBERSHIP MATTERS!

**WELCOME, NEW MEMBER, AND THANK YOU, RENEWING MEMBER!**

**Ron George joined the League at the March 21 meeting, and his spouse Mary Sherwood, already an individual member, upgraded their membership to Household for 2019-2020.**

**Welcome, Ron! And thank you, Mary, for your early renewal for the upcoming year. Also thanks for their additional \$10 gift in support of the League.**

**[H] TODDHUNTER**

**Todd A. Hunter  
ATTORNEY AT LAW**

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**Law Office of Todd A. Hunter, P.L.L.C.**



**Carla Gardiner**  
Financial Advisor

802 N Carancahua Suite 1650  
Corpus Christi, TX 78401  
361-885-0622

**Edward Jones**  
MAKING SENSE OF INVESTING

# YWCA, Community Partners Gather at City Hall for Proclamation



Representatives from the YWCA, League of Women Voters-Corpus Christi, Executive Women International, and the American Association of University Women gathered at City Hall on March 19 for the “National Equal Pay Day” proclamation. Several League members also attended the April 7 luncheon program.

## Planning Continues for 100th Celebration of 19th Amendment

Beginning in September 2019 and continuing through 2020, several activities and events will be held in Corpus Christi to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the passage of the 19th Amendment giving women the right to vote.

The following events have been recently confirmed: September 25 and September 28, two Institutes for Public Leadership will be sponsored by the YWCA (one geared toward college students, the other toward women more established in their careers) to encourage attendees to become engaged by running for office, working for a campaign, or volunteering for a campaign. If you have suggestions for speakers or presenters for one or both institutes, let Sandra Heatherley, planning committee chair, know so she can share that information with the YWCA.

## Fewer Runoffs - More Positive Campaigns

By Debbie Noble  
Director/Website-Social Media

### Consider “Ranked Choice Voting”

We voted in 6 elections in Nueces County in 2018. Six.

As League of Women Voter members, we know how much work it is to get out the vote for one election, much less 6. We had a primary, then a primary runoff, a special for our Congressional Representative, special runoff, a general, and a general runoff.

Texas law says that an election winner must earn over 50% of the votes. When there are more than two candidates in a race, the chances are good that votes will be split such that no one gets 50% and we will be forced into a runoff election with the top two. This is what happened in three elections in 2018.

Elections are a necessary and important part of a strong democracy, but they are also expensive in terms of taxpayer money, manpower, and time.

One solution is **Ranked Choice Voting**, also known as Instant Runoff.

Maine was the first state to constitutionally change the way they run elections to make sure that the winner is supported by a majority of the electorate without getting bogged down by extra runoff elections.

With a very strong independent party, and no majority or runoff election law, they ended up with a right wing governor winning several terms with only 35% of the vote. In 2016, Maine voted to institute Ranked Choice Voting.

Under Ranked Choice, your ballot lists all the candidates for each applicable race, and instead of just picking one, you rank them in your order of preference.

After all the first choices are counted and someone receives over 50%, they are the winner. If no one receives over 50% of the vote, then the person who

came in last is removed from consideration and all the second place choices from those ballots are redistributed. This process continues until someone receives over 50% and wins. It is literally an instant runoff election.

Besides saving money and time on elections and campaigning, this method also encourages candidates to use positive and inclusive messaging, since it is in their best interest to be a second choice if they cannot be a first.

People who run negative campaigns or only speak to their own supporters run the risk of alienating voters and losing to a candidate with broader appeal.

Ranked Choice Voting ensures that the candidates with the most support wins, which is also a win for the voting public.

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**REMINDER: *Your Membership Matters!***

The League's membership year is June 1 through May 31.

\*\* May is the month to renew your annual membership in the League of Women Voters-Corpus Christi. Plan now to continue supporting the League in 2019-2020.

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**MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION & RENEWAL FORM**

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS - CORPUS CHRISTI AREA

PO Box 8276 • Corpus Christi, TX 78468-8276

**LWV-CC membership runs June 1 to May 31** and supports local, state and national LWV actions to Empower Voters and Defend Democracy. We welcome your membership. Please complete this form and return it to the League at the address noted above.

**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.**