



The Corpus Christi Area

Voter

March 2016

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

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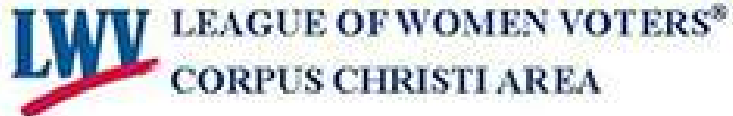
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You are invited to attend
LWV-CC MARCH MONTHLY MEETING

featuring

**Texas Secretary of State
Honorable Carlos H. Cascos**



The Honorable Carlos H. Cascos will discuss the following **topics**: *Responsibilities of the Office of the Secretary of State, Voter Rights, Motor Voter Law, and the Texas and Mexican Affairs Division.* Texas Secretary of State Carlos H. Cascos will speak for approximately 30 minutes followed by a question and answer period.



Wednesday, March 30, 2016

11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Del Mar College

**Center for Economic Development—Room 106
3209 South Staples St., Corpus Christi, TX 78411**

Barbecue Lunch—\$10 Members, \$20 Nonmembers

***** LIMITED SEATING *****

MUST RSVP—CALL NOW!!—361-445-4436

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

The political campaigns of 2016 are here! It seems as though I have seen enough debates for an entire campaign season yet we are just beginning. However, LWV-CC League is ready. May 24, 2016, is the Primary Runoff.

Locally we have the following races in the runoff: Nueces County Commissioner, Precinct 3, Democrats Joe A. Gonzalez and John Marez; and Justice of the Peace, Precinct 2, Place 1, Republicans Jo Woolsey and Wendy Herman.

There are runoffs for statewide offices in both parties: Railroad Commission, Democrats Cody Garrett and Grady Yarborough & Republicans Gary Gates and Wayne Christian and Judge, Court of Criminal Appeals, Place 2, Republicans Mary Lou Keel and Ray Wheless and Judge, Court of Appeals, Place 5, Republicans Scott Walker and Brent Webster.

LWV-CC Forums have been scheduled for October 2016 prior to the General Election, VOTE411 will be operational and Voters Guides will be ready for distribution.

A special thank you goes to Sandra Heatherley and Chris Garcia, who are instrumental in preparing for the forums, VOTE411 and Voters Guides.

The League was founded 96 years ago because leaders like our founder, Carrie Chapman Catt, understood that more than 20 million new women voters were going to need reliable information in order to carry out their new responsibilities as voters.

What those new women voters needed in 1920, every voter needs in every election. If people stay home because they are intimidated by the process or don't register because they don't think they can make a difference, our democracy is not working.

Leading into the last federal election, LWV hosted more than 650 forums around the country so voters could hear directly from the candidates and have access to unfiltered information.

LWV provided nearly 1.5 million people with up-to-date election information through VOTE411, taking some of the mystery out of the voting process and

making sure that voters felt confident when they arrived at their polling places.

If 2014 was busy, 2016 will be more so. In 2016, LWV-CC plans to:

Continue Growing the vote – by registering voters, educating them about voting procedures, and preparing them to arrive at the polls with everything they need to cast their ballots;

Continue Protecting the vote – by working with local elections officials, organizing poll watching programs, and continuing to fight voter suppression efforts at the state and local level; and

Continue Empowering voters – by providing information through our nonpartisan voters guides and candidate forums and through our online tools, especially VOTE411.org.

I wonder what Carrie Chapman Catt would say if she could see the state of our democracy today.

We can register people to grow the vote, but unless we empower them with information and ask them to vote, we are going to have trouble getting them to the polls on Election Day.

And if we get them to the polls on Election Day and they have a bad experience—because their polling place has moved or their identity is questioned or the machines are broken so they have to vote provisionally, we are going to have a harder time getting that voter to return the next time.

There is not a single city, state or county in America where we can't make the voting Better. Nueces County is no exception.

I wonder what Carrie Chapman Catt would say if she could see the state of our democracy today. Her actions would speak as well as her words. She would roll up her sleeves, size up the situation and get to work.

That is what we will do in 2016. That is the LWV collective mission. The League of Women Voters continues to ensure every eligible voter has free and fair access to the polls because we all are equal on Election Day. That is how, together, we continue in Making Democracy Work.

LWV-CC phone line helps voters on Primary Day

At 6:01 a.m. LWV-CC received the first call asking for assistance in locating the precinct where they were to vote.

“My precinct is XXXX and they moved my voting site, where do I vote?”

LWV-CC members responded to the calls and answered as many questions as possible and referred several to the Nueces County Clerk Kara Sands office.

Example of some of the questions that came to LWV-CC telephone number:

“What time do the polls open, I cannot find the hours on the Nueces County website?”

“I am in a nursing home; how do I get to my polling site?”

“What if I cannot find my voter registration card, can I vote?”

At 4:47 p.m. the last call from a prospective voter was received. LWV-CC members smiled knowing that Nueces county residents were interested in voting and LWV-CC could be of help.

Later that evening, LWV-CC Board members visited with Kara Sands about the questions received and volunteered to work with the Nueces County Clerk’s office to eliminate some of the challenges voters faced during the primary.



Photo by Debbie Noble

LWV member and precinct judge Ruth Falck arrives at the Nueces County Courthouse with her election materials to turn in to the county judge on March 1.

City seeks applicants for boards, committees, commissions

The City Secretary’s Office is currently seeking biographical information forms for numerous City Boards. Among those available are the following:

Airport Board – Three (3) vacancies with terms to 4-4-19. The Airport Board advises the City Council concerning matters relating to the aviation interests of the City of Corpus Christi and the operation of the Corpus Christi International Airport facilities for the promotion of those interests.

Board of Adjustment – Seven (7) vacancies with terms to 4-4-18. The Board of Adjustment hears appeals for interpretations of the zoning ordinance; for special exceptions authorized by the zoning ordinance, subject to safeguards to protect the public interest; and for variances where, owing to special conditions, the literal

enforcement of the provisions of the zoning ordinance results in unnecessary hardship, so that the spirit of the ordinance shall be observed and substantial justice done.

Community Youth Development (78415) Program Steering Committee– Nine (9) vacancies with terms to 8-31-16 and 8-31-17 representing the following categories: 5 – Residents of the 78415 Zip Code and 4 – At-Large. The committee advises the City Council on a periodic basis of the progress regarding the Community Youth Development Program

For more information or to apply, go to the City of Corpus Christi’s website at serve.cctexas.com. For assistance please call Tamera Franklin at (361) 826-3893 or via e-mail at tamerar@cctexas.com



League discusses 'Power of the Vote' for students

In February LWV-CC was invited to speak to 178 students who are enrolled in Dr. Jorgenson's Texas State and Local Government Class (POL2306.007) at Texas A&M-CC. The discussion presentation was titled "The Power of the Vote."

LWV-CC discussed national, state and local voter participation.

The fact that Texas ranked 50th in voter participation in 2014 caused students to question

Primary runoffs due May 24 in state, local races

For some primary races, it will not be over until May 24, the date of the primary runoff election. Any March 1 race that didn't end with one candidate getting a majority will go to a runoff. The top two candidates will face off, for Round 2.

Who can vote in a runoff?

That gets a little complicated. Texas has open primaries, meaning that anyone can choose to vote in either the Republican or Democratic primary. And that's still true of the primary runoff, but voters have to be consistent.

Voters in the March 1 GOP primary can participate only in the GOP runoff. Voters in the Democratic primary can participate only in the Democratic runoff—they can't switch. Voters who didn't participate in either primary election can participate in either primary runoff.

For those who wish to vote but aren't yet registered, the last day to register to participate in the runoff is Monday, April 25. Early voting for the primary runoff starts on Monday, May 16, and ends on Friday, May 20.

For more information on registering and/or voting, visit the state's elections website, votetexas.gov, or Nueces County's website, <http://www.co.nueces.tx.us/>.

why Texas voters demonstrated apathy and what strategies could be used to motivate citizens to vote.

LWV-CC took time to review the importance and power of the vote as well as how one vote can make a difference.

LWV-CC was invited to return and discuss the forthcoming November 2016 General Election.

LWV-CC is scheduled to speak to Dr. Urbano's "Women in Politics" class during March.

State Runoff Candidates

Railroad Commissioner

Democrats

Cody Garrett
Grady Yarborough

Republicans

Gary Gates
Wayne Christian

Judge, Court of Criminal Appeals, Place 2

Republicans

Mary Lou Keel
Ray Wheless

Judge, Court of Criminal Appeals, Place 5

Republicans

Scott Walker
Brent Webster

Nueces County Runoff Candidates

County Commissioner, Precinct 3

Democrats

Joe A. Gonzalez
John Marez

Justice of the Peace, Precinct 2, Place 1

Republicans

Jo Woolsey.
Wendy Herman

LWV-CC Shines



Sandra Heatherley, immediate LWV Past President, was a major contributor to the success of the February Forums as well as contacting the candidates to complete the VOTE411 questions. She entered the information into VOTE 411 and once the VOTER Guides were printed delivered them to several key sites. Sandra Heatherley goes the extra mile on every occasion

**LWV-CC Reaches 100-plus Members
JOIN LWV-CC**

New Members, Welcome

Annie Galvan, Individual
Melissa Hofstetter, Individual
Elaine Krift, Individual
Greg Perkes, Individual
Dorine Schwartz, Individual

JOSE MIGUEL DURAN, M.D.
Gastroenterology
Screening Colonoscopy

Doctors Square
2222 Morgan Ave., Suite 111
Corpus Christi, Texas 78405

Ph (361) 883-6623
Fax (361) 883-0748

Citizenship proof rule brings League lawsuit

A News Release from the National League

Late last month, the executive director of the U.S. Election Assistance Commission (EAC), Brian Newby, acting unilaterally, approved requests from Alabama, Georgia and Kansas to require documentary proof-of-citizenship when a registrant uses the federal mail voter registration form created by the National Voter Registration Act of 1993. Within weeks, the League, alongside its Alabama, Georgia and Kansas affiliates, filed a federal lawsuit to prevent these states from requiring documentary proof-of-citizenship when registering voters using this form.

Our suit is based around the requirement that the full Election Assistance Commission must vote on any changes to the federal form as the Help America Vote Act of 2002 requires. On Tuesday, a federal judge rejected our request for a temporary restraining order to immediately prevent this requirement. While we are disappointed by this decision, it was only the first step: protecting the rights of voters – all voters – can be a long process and the League is not going to stop now.

The EAC has now been asked to weigh in on similar documentary proof-of-citizenship requirements five times. Previously the EAC had rejected such requests. Additionally, the U.S. Supreme Court turned down a petition last June to hear a case that would have challenged the EAC's decision that Arizona and Kansas could not require registrants using the federal voter registration form to show documentary proof-of-citizenship. In fact, just three years ago, the U.S. Supreme Court held in Arizona v. Inter Tribal Council of Arizona, Inc., that Arizona's then-requirement that voter registrants provide documentary proof-of-citizenship was preempted by the National Voter Registration Act when using the federal voter registration form.



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Looking ahead to the Annual Meeting in May

Springtime is a busy time for LWV-CC as attention turns to preparations for the Annual Meeting. This year's meeting, scheduled in May, will be the 71st Annual Meeting, and all members will be invited to attend.

Preparing for the meeting includes appointing a Budget Committee to propose a budget for 2016-

2017; meetings by the Nominating Committee to identify individuals who might fill officer/director vacancies; review of the League's Program; and possible Bylaws review and amendments.

All of these activities will be under way soon. Be watching for information so that you can respond, especially if you might be interested in serving in a leadership role on the Board.

League Speakers are available

If your organization needs a speaker to discuss the importance of the vote, VOTE411, the history of LWV-US, LWV-TX and/or LWV-CC, call LWV-CC telephone number 361-445-4436. Several of our LWV-CC members are prepared to address your organization.

Please let us know the topic, time duration, date, place and time of the organization's meeting.

Daylight Savings Time starts March 13
 Set your clocks back one hour on Saturday,
 March 12



Space is available for advertising in the VOTER—\$100 for 10 issues. Call the League at 445-4436 for details.



LWV Corpus Christi
Renewal / New Membership Application
Join now and help in the effort to promote political responsibility through informed, active participation in government.

Type of membership: New Renewal

Individual \$60 Student \$30 Household \$90

Friend of the League \$30 Sustaining \$100

Name _____

Household Member's Name _____

Address _____

Work Address (optional) _____

I prefer to receive my 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.
Membership is from June 1 through May 31.