



# The VOTER

November 2017

## League of Women Voters-Corpus Christi

### November 16 League Program To Focus on Education



Dr. Nancy Vera

You are cordially invited to attend the LWV-CC's monthly membership luncheon on Thursday, November 16, to hear remarks by Dr. Nancy Vera, a 35-year veteran educator and president of the Corpus Christi American Federation of Teachers in Texas.

Dr. Vera's remarks will focus on the Every Student Succeeds Act and the District of Innovation, the union's role in education, and public school funding. She holds an associate degree from Del Mar College; bachelor and master's degrees from TAMU-CC; and a doctorate of Education in Educational Leadership from TAMU-CC.

The meeting will be held from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. in Room 117 at the Del Mar College Center for Economic Development, located at 3209 S. Staples. A sandwich box lunch (croissant with turkey, ham, tuna, or chicken salad), chips, fruit, and water or soft drink will be available at \$10 per member/\$12 per guest. Please RSVP to the League's email at [lwvcorpuschristi@gmail.com](mailto:lwvcorpuschristi@gmail.com) or call 445-4436 no later than Monday night, November 13, to order your box lunch. Please know you are cordially invited to attend without purchasing a box lunch!

**UPDATE ON GRANT:** If you are interested in learning more about the Public Advocacy for Voter Protection grant that the League received this fall and how volunteers can be utilized in carrying out the League's plan, we need you! Plan to stay for about 30 minutes, from 1 to 1:30 p.m. after Thursday's meeting to receive an update on how the League plans to help residents get a state-approved photo ID. (See related story on Page 2.)

### Voter Services Help Needed

Voter Services is the heart of the League's mission statement—educating voters and getting them ready to be informed and to participate in the election.

Please let us know where you want to be involved!

Overview: The upcoming election cycle from early December through start of Early Voting on February 20 for the March 2018 Primary Election

See Voter Services, Page 3

### Calling All Prospective Deputized Voter Registrars

If you have let your Deputized Voter Registrar (DVR) certification lapse and want to renew...or if you want to be a DVR for the first time...call Nuri Rodriguez at the Nueces County Courthouse at 888-0404 to get your name on her list for training. When Nuri gets a dozen or so names on the list, she will schedule a date for training at the courthouse. The training is about one hour in length, and voter registrars leave there with a packet of materials and their ID number, which is good for two years.

### LWV Mission Statement

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 Chris Davis Garcia



**Chris Davis Garcia**  
LWV-CC President

Dear League Members and Friends:

Several times a month, I receive e-blasts from LWVUS and LWV-Texas with information about issues and calls for actions. I welcome those communications because they remind me of the myriad of issues on the League's radar, and they challenge me to stay informed and to voice my opinions, not only to elected officials but also to individuals seeking election to public office.

On Nov. 6 the subject was "Texas Needs Gun Safety Laws Now!" It was from LWV-Texas and captured the distress of the mass shooting at a church in our state. The letter noted that in 2014, according to the Texas Department of State Health Service, there was a total of 3,492 trauma hospitalizations with an injury due to firearm. Only 770 (22%) of those injuries were unintentional.

Also on Nov. 6 LWVUS sent an email reminding League members to "head to the polls and stand up for what matters most to our communities and our lives." Of course, I always cast my ballot in every election and had already participated in Early Voting, but I appreciated the

reminder. The author of the email was Jeanette Senecal, Senior Director of Elections of LWVUS, who captured my own sentiment... "My first vote was the milestone that marked my passage into adulthood—and the freedom, independence, and responsibility that came with it... and I still get that same thrill every time I cast my ballot."

And also on Nov. 6 a call for action from Jessica Jones Capparell, Interim Senior Director of Advocacy for LWVUS, who urged League members to let the Federal Election Commission know that the League wants modernization of the regulations that govern online campaign ads. Capparell's reminder piggy-backed on LWVUS President Chris Carson's earlier email that reminded us that "Americans have a right to know who is paying for political advertisements—whether it be organizations with ties to foreign governments or wealthy special interests here at home."

Three distinct topics...all intended to keep me focused on issues of importance to the League and to move me to take action in whatever way I can.

I know there are days when you may want to delete various messages before reading...but don't do it! Take just a few minutes to read! It's all about "making democracy work" in our state and our nation.

## Community Meeting on PAVP Grant

At a meeting on October 24, LWV-CC met with prospective community partners who had expressed interest in learning more and/or participating in the PAVP grant to "mitigate the impact of the Texas photo voter ID laws." The League's goal is to assist residents who cannot cast a ballot because they do not have one of the seven state-approved photo IDs.

LWV-CC President Chris Garcia and Member Services VP Sandra Heatherley presided. Other League members present were Mary K. Fant, Linda Snider, Pat G. Parr, Can Alemdar, and Eva Brown. Community representatives included David Ramos of the Area Agency on Aging/Coastal Bend Council on Governments; Terry Mills, NAACP; Maggie Medrano, City of Corpus Christi Senior Community Services; Jaime Bustos, local entrepreneur and precinct worker; and Leona Nacole Pedom, a member of the Rockport Church of God and Delta Sigma Theta Sorority.

Representatives from PROSPERA Living Communities were unable to attend but previously had contacted the League about their interest in involving the residents at all their facilities. LWV-CC is encouraging other organizations to help identify from 40-60 individuals who could use assistance in obtaining a state-approved photo ID.



Pictured above are (seated) Maggie Medrano, Can Alemdar, and Pat G. Parr; (standing, l-r) Leona Pedom, Linda Snider, Eva Brown, Sandra Heatherley, Jaime Bustos, David Ramos, and Chris Garcia.



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**Edward Jones**  
MAKING SENSE OF INVESTING

## Voter Registration At Miller High

Sixty-two seniors at Roy Miller High School (about ¼ of this year's graduating class) were registered to vote on October 25. School officials scheduled the event with LWV-CC, and League members Ruth Falck, Gloria Montalvo, and Chris Garcia served as voter registrars. Information about a new program through the County Clerk's Office, which allows students ages 16-18 to serve at polling places for pay and an excused absence from school, also was shared with the students. County Clerk Kara Sands had planned to join the League volunteers at Miller and show the students the new touch-screen voting machine but had to cancel because of a death in her family.



## Voter Services From Page 1

will involve a full cadre of volunteers. Please review the information below and contact Chris Garcia to sign up and identify where you can help.

### SPECIFIC TASKS:

- Formulating questions for use in the VOTE 411/Voters Guide for each candidate group (i.e., County Judge, District Court Judges, State Representatives, US Congressman, GOP/DEM County Chairmen, County Commissioner, District Attorney, Justice of the Peace, Constable)
- Helping compile spreadsheet of all candidates who have filed, with name, position sought, mailing address, email address, and telephone number.
- Helping prepare email messages and mailed correspondence to all candidates describing VOTE 411 and how to input data; download candidate information into printed Voters Guide.
- Helping distribute the printed Voters Guide once it is printed.
- Serving on the Candidate Forum planning team to secure volunteers for one or more designated dates in February 2018.

### Thanks to These New and Renewing Members

**WELCOME TO THESE NEW MEMBERS:**  
**Jesus (Jaime) Bustos, Individual**  
**Jody Hughes, Individual**  
**Gloria Montalvo, Sustaining**

**THANKS TO THESE RENEWING MEMBERS:**  
**Ellissa Cuevas, Individual**

**Nancy J. Devlin, Household**  
**Annie Galvan, Individual**  
**Melissa Hofstetter, Individual**  
**Michael Hunter, Individual**  
**Tami Longino, Individual**  
**Chad Magill, Sustaining**  
**Tiffany Montemayor, Individual**  
**Greg Perkes, Individual**  
**Donnie Schwartz, Individual**

**League of Women Voters**  
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**The VOTER Newsletter**  
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# To Believe Or Not To Believe

By **Debbie Noble**  
Director/Website & Social Media

The term “fake news” exploded this year. As previously defined, fake news is the publication of false stories deliberately meant to mislead consumers for political or financial gain. (Notably, it not merely differing opinions on ideological issues).

The constant barrage of the combination of actual fake news and accusations of fake news results in two serious and sinister outcomes. Firstly, we believe what we are told, we believe that which is NOT true. We believe lies and propaganda and then vote for people and concepts that are NOT in our best interests because we think they are.

Secondly, and far more nefarious, is that while you should certainly not believe everything you hear, the flip side of all sides constantly crying “fake news” is the erosion of our faith in journalistic integrity in general.

Questioning what is true and what is fake can cause us to give up and not believe ANYTHING we read or hear. And that systemic distrust

of journalism can only lead to less freedom, less transparency, and actual erosion of our American values.

Monitoring or regulating our journalistic sources is problematic (who decides what is true and false, trustworthy and dishonest, worthy or worthless). As with most issues, education is the better answer. Educating consumers to find reliable sources and make good choices and decisions is an important sidekick to the first amendment.

Politifact.com created a 10-question test to use when evaluating any news story. For more detailed information, please read their story at <http://www.politifact.com/punditfact/article/2017/jun/19/real-or-fake-tour-fake-news-quiz-find-out/>, but in the meantime, here is a summary:

1. Is the story published on an established, familiar, or known site or a new, unknown, and unfamiliar site?
2. Is the identity of the site or people responsible clearly listed with contact information?
3. Does the story quote any official sources?
4. Is this the only site breaking

this news or are there others (not just quoting this one word for word?)

5. Does the site and story generally use correct and professional grammar and spelling?
  6. Does the story have a date (and possibly even a time) listed?
  7. Is the URL made to look like a real news outlet (like abcnews.com.co instead of abcnews.com)
  8. Do any images or photographs list the photographer or agency’s name?
  9. Is there a full author’s name and contact information?
  10. Are there any checkable facts (medical studies, regulations, dates, agencies) that you can google and verify?
- In any society that values free speech as much as we do in America, we must live the motto of “caveat emptor” or “let the buyer beware.” If anyone can say anything, then it is our individual responsibility to educate ourselves before purchasing a car, hiring an employee, believing a news story, or casting a vote.
- Believing nothing is no better than believing everything.

## Important Calendar Dates for March 2018 Primary Election

**Tuesday, September 12, 2017**—First day to file for a place on the Primary ballot for precinct chair candidates.

**Saturday, November 11, 2017**--First day to file for all other candidates for offices that are regularly scheduled to be on the Primary ballot.

**Monday, December 11, 2017**--Filing deadline for candidates; filing deadline for independent candidates to file declaration of intent.

**Monday, January 1, 2018,\* at 6 PM** -- First day to apply for a ballot by mail using Application for a Ballot by Mail (ABBM) or Federal Postcard Application (FPCA). \*First day to file does not move because of New Year’s Day holiday. An “Annual ABBM” or FPCA for a January or February 2018 election may be filed earlier, but not earlier than the 60th day before the

date of the January or February election.

**Monday, February 5, 2018\***--Last Day to Register to Vote. \*Actual deadline falls on Sunday but moves to the next business day.

**Tuesday, February 20, 2018\***--First Day of Early Voting \*First business day after Presidents’ Day.

**Friday, February 23, 2018**--Last Day to Apply for Ballot by Mail (Received, not Postmarked)

**Friday, March 2, 2018**-- Last Day of Early Voting

**Tuesday, March 6, 2018 (Election Day)**--Last day to Receive Ballot by Mail at 7:00 p.m. if carrier envelope is not postmarked, OR Wednesday, March 7, 2018 (next business day after Election Day) at 5 p.m. if carrier envelope is postmarked by 7:00 p.m. at the location of the election on Election Day (unless overseas or military voter deadlines apply)

## Havana Venue Draws Lively Crowd

The October 19 evening meeting of LWV-CC was titled “The Lowdown on Downtown,” and almost 60 gathered at the Havana Club (including about 25 League members) to hear remarks by Casey Lain, owner of House of Rock; Alyssa Barrera, Business Liaison for the City of Corpus Christi; and Colette Rye with the Downtown Management District (DMD).

The trio outlined plans, projects, and opportunities for downtown growth and how the DMD and the City work to help entrepreneurs and businesses whose livelihoods are grounded in downtown Corpus Christi.

Thanks to everyone who made the evening event successful, especially Havana owner Barbara Canales and her staff whose hospitality and appetizers were enjoyed by all.

## ‘Get Out the Vote’ Needs Your Help

Voter Registration Chair Ruth Falck reminds all deputized Voter Registrars (whether they are League members or volunteers with other organizations) to look for and identify opportunities (local festival or event, church setting, community meeting, etc.) where they can register new voters between now and February 5, 2018. Then, please handle the arrangements and schedule that voter registration event yourself. Once completed, send the number of voters you registered to the League at [lwvcorpuschristi@gmail.com](mailto:lwvcorpuschristi@gmail.com) so that Ruth can keep track of the number of voters registered for the League’s annual report. Thanks to everyone for helping!



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The League of Women Voters  
 Corpus Christi, Texas  
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## Notice about First Friday ArtWalk

*The League learned earlier this month that the Downtown Management District (DMD) did not receive a permit from the City and would be unable to hold the scheduled November 3 ArtWalk at Retama Park. Streets in that area are included in downtown repair and construction. The DMD hopes to identify another area for ArtWalk for the coming months. League members who have participated as voter registrars and volunteers at ArtWalk in the past will be notified when a new location is identified.*



## LWV-Corpus Christi Area New Member/Renewal Application

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

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Type of membership: New \_\_\_\_\_ Renewal \_\_\_\_\_

- Sustaining Member, \$100
- Individual Member, \$60
- Household Member, \$90 (2 individuals at same address)
- Student Member (age 16 and older), \$30
- Friend of the League, \$30 (non-voting)

Name \_\_\_\_\_

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

Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_

City and Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail Address \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Cell Phone \_\_\_\_\_

LWV-CC depends on member interest and participation to help meet the League's mission. Please mark one or more areas of interest:

- Voter Services/Voter Registration
- Investigating Issues
- Organizing Candidate/Issue Forums
- Membership Development
- Communicating with Media
- Observing Meetings of Governmental Entities (Observer Corps)
- Advocating for Issues
- Advertising in The VOTER
- Facilitating Community Dialogues
- Participating in "Lobby Days" in Austin during legislative session
- Networking

Please return this form with your payment (check or money order) to:  
 League of Women Voters-CC  
 PO Box 8276  
 Corpus Christi, TX 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 - May 31.