



The VOTER

OCTOBER 2018

League of Women Voters-Corpus Christi

Join Us at the Candidate Forum Thursday, October 18

LWV-CC will sponsor the second of its two Candidate Forums this Thursday, October 18, 2018, from 6-9 p.m. at Corpus Christi City Hall Council Chambers 1201 Leopard. All League members are cordially invited to attend...and to volunteer to help if possible.

The forum is open to the public and will be televised live on Cable channels identified by the City.

“More than 30 candidates are expected to attend,” said League President Chris Davis Garcia. “The forum will provide an opportunity to candidates facing opposition in their respective races to share their views with the public.” Each candidate will give an opening statement, respond to at least three questions, and offer a closing statement.

Invited to participate in the **Thursday, October 18**, Candidates Forum are candidates in the following races: US House of Representatives, Congressional District 27; Corpus Christi Mayor; Corpus Christi City Council, At-Large; and Corpus Christi City Council, Districts 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5.

(See photos and story on Page 4 about October 11 Candidates Forum.)



Voters can find a cache of information about the November 6 General Election on VOTE411.org, plus responses of candidates seeking election in Nueces County and in Texas. Please use this online voters guide, made possible to all Texas Leagues through the state organization.

Launched by the League of Women Voters Education Fund (LWVEF) more than 10 years ago, VOTE411.org is a “one-stop-shop” for election-related information. LWV-CC has populated the VOTE411.org site for Nueces County with candidates’ responses and photographs and other information that will be valuable to voters. Information on Mail-in Ballots? Yes! VOTE CENTER locations? Early Voting Locations? Yes!

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENT. . .

The YWCA has shared information with the League about a Webinar Series for “Social Workers as Social & Political Activists.” A webinar entitled “Voter Participation and Voter Engagement--Millenials” will air at 3 p.m. (EDT) on Wednesday, October 31. Featured will be Shaneice Simmons, associate director of civic engagement, Rock the Vote.

Historically, young people, especially those of color, tend to vote at a lower percentage than their older counterparts. The webinar will provide guidance and information about current barriers that impede and limit voter participation of young eligible voters. Call the YWCA for details.

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 Members:

No special message this month, but I did want to say thanks again to the League's Voter Services team and all the volunteers who worked so hard to cover every single voter registration venue on our calendar these past 14 weeks. Outstanding work! And a big cheer for Kathryn Oler and Raul Ramirez for making sure we stayed on track.

Voter Security Message from LWV-TX:

Voting Security concerns are on everyone's mind. LWV-TX says, "No evidence Texas elections have been hacked — it's safe/secure to vote in Texas. Also "Texas is on top of it! Hackers may have tried but were not successful at getting into our voter registration rolls. Be confident your vote will count — and it does MATTER."

Legislative Interviews:

A Legislative Interview packet will be sent to each League after the Nov. 6 election. The purpose of the interview is not to lobby but to get to know our elected representatives and find out their views and interests. LWV-CC will participate in the interviews of our three elected members to the Texas House & Senate. If you want to be involved in this project, let me know. It will involve setting appointments with our two state representatives and our Senator; interviewing them face-to-face, and taking notes for the report due to LWV-TX.

WELCOME, New Members!

Dr. Cynthia Faulkner, Individual
Adriana Rodriguez, Student
Omar Jasso, Student
Elizabeth Riggle, Individual
Agnes Hamilton, Friend of the League

THANKS to Our Renewing Members!

Diana Barrera, Individual
Aislynn Campbell, Individual
Melody Cooper, Individual
Kim Hohle, Individual
Nick and Maria Jimenez, Household
Tami Longino, Individual
Carol and Mark Scott, Household
Joan Veith, Individual
Marjorie K. Walraven, Individual
Sylvia and James Whitworth, Household



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 lwvcampuschristi@gmail.com.

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Elected Members:

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Linda Snider, 802-777-2269

The VOTER Newsletter

Marjorie Walraven, 361-992-8031
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September Program Focused on Upcoming Bond Programs

Information about two Bond Programs included on the Nov. 6 General Election ballot was presented at the Sept. 20 meeting by CCISD Superintendent Dr. Roland Hernandez and Ms. Valerie Gray, Executive Director for Public Works for the City of Corpus Christi.



The CCISD Bond Program is a single proposition seeking \$210,770,000 million to replace Mary Carroll High School, build additional gymnasiums at Grant and Kaffie Middle Schools, improve locker rooms and make renovations at several schools, and improve and provide safety and security and technology at all schools.



The City of Corpus Christi Bond Program totals \$96 million and will include six specific proposals on which voters will vote--Streets, Additional Streets, Parks & Recreation, Libraries & Cultural, Public Safety, and Public Health.



(Above and counter-clockwise): Pat Parr signs in at desk manned by Sylvia Trevino and Brenda Hamby; Iris Williams and other members in the audience; Sylvia Whitworth and Paula Breighton look over information about the Bond Programs; Valerie Gray and Dr. Roland Hernandez answer questions; and Annell and John Neale hold up the City's English and Spanish Bond Program booklet.

[Special thanks to photographer Debbie Noble, League member, for documenting League activities and meetings; see also Debbie's photos on Pg. 4]

Additional information, with specific details and how/if the Bond Proposals will impact property taxes, is available on the CCISD and City websites. Be informed before you vote!



Carla Gardiner
Financial Advisor
802 N Carancahua Suite 1650
Corpus Christi, TX 78401
361-885-0622

Edward Jones
MAKING SENSE OF INVESTING

THE LEAGUE.....

**EMPOWERING VOTERS.
DEFENDING DEMOCRACY.**

Thanks to Everyone for a Successful Forum on October 11

All but three candidates invited to participate in the **Thursday, October 11**, forum were present.

The following races and the candidates seeking election were highlighted: State Representative, District 34; District Judges, 105th and 148th Courts; Nueces County Judge; Nueces County Clerk; Nueces County District Clerk; Nueces County Commissioners Court, Precinct 1; Nueces County Court at Law #1; Nueces County Justice of the Peace, Precinct 1, Place 2; and Del Mar College Board of Regents, At-Large.

Moderators were Carla Gardiner, Program VP of LWV-CC; Dottie Ewing, president of the American Association of University Women; and Iris Williams, immediate past president of Corpus Christi Alumnae of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.

Timekeepers included Sandra Heatherley, Sue Williams, and Paula Brighton. Special thanks to Linda Stover-Falwell and her colleague Karyn from CBCIL for handling the Facebook Live for us.

Pat Parr vetted questions from the audience, and Sylvia Whitworth, Ruth Falck, and several League, AAUW, and DST volunteers were on hand to greet, register, and distribute index cards to the audience.



COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENT. . .

The YWCA cordially invites everyone to attend its 28th Annual Yuletide Luncheon & Market on Friday, November 2, at the Solomon P. Ortiz International Center. Individual tickets are \$75 per person. For tickets, sponsorships, and tables, call the Y at 857-5661, ext. 102.

Keynote speaker is Sheila Robinson-Kiss, "Embracing the Power of Resilience."

The program includes a silent auction, the luncheon (11:30 a.m.-1 p.m.), and the Market (10 a.m.-3 p.m.) featuring unique merchants (\$5 admission).



(Above and clockwise) Seated at the Moderators' table were (l-r) Carla Gardiner, Iris Williams, Chris Davis Garcia, Dottie Ewing, and Pat Parr; timekeepers Sandra Heatherley and Sue Williams; ; Linda Fallwell-Stover of the Coastal Bend Center for Independent Living displayed a steady hand for the Facebook Live post; and (l-r) Margaret Ndeti, Iris Williams, Alexis Oliver Williams (chapter president), and Stephenie Rhodes Smallwood represented the Corpus Christi Alumnae of the Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.



THANKS TO LEAGUE MEMBERS AND COMMUNITY PARTNERS FOR THEIR VOLUNTEER SPIRIT!

League Calendar at a Glance

- October: No League meeting planned because of Candidate Forum (see page 1 story)
- Thursday, Oct. 18: Candidate Forum
- November 2018 Program: "Looking Ahead to the 2019 Legislative Session," date, time, and location to be announced; previously announced date of Nov. 15 will be changed. Watch for information.
- December--No League meeting planned
- Thursday, Jan. 17, 2019: League Luncheon Meeting followed by Voter Registration training by Brenda Nunez, Nueces County Voter Registration supervisor. (All DVRs who have a December 2018 expiration will need to be trained again for the 2019 and 2020 cycle.

September 2018 Voter Registrations Exceed 700

Ruth Falck, Voter Registration Chair, reports that the League registered **700** new voters in September.

In addition to the 700, Ruth said an additional 150 were registered at TAMU-CC through efforts spearheaded by a candidate but with League assistance.

(See related story on Page 4 about National Voter Registration Day.)

OCTOBER 1-8: Number of registrations for October 1-8 before the final day of registration on Oct. 9 was 500, which included 65 students at Veterans Memorial High School and 36 at W. B. Ray High School.

Special thanks to more than 30 League members, deputized Voter Registrars, and other community members who devoted so much energy and time getting to, setting up tables, and helping people register to vote.



**RAUL
RAMIREZ**



Raul Ramirez is a native born Corpus Christian, former businessman, and family man (wife Angie, 3 grown children & 1 grandson). He served in the Army for 30 years and is a Retired Colonel, USAR. He thoroughly enjoys his day-job as the Recruiting and Scholarship Officer for TAMUCC Army ROTC.

Raul's interests are generally social issues. As such, he serves on the Board of Directors for KEDT, the CCPD Citizens Police Academy, is an Alumni of Leadership Corpus Christi and enjoys helping the LWV-CC. His drive is to impact the quality of life in Corpus Christi in whatever small way he can.

Raul joined LWV-CC a couple of years ago. He started attending meetings after military retirement in order to integrate into the issues of his hometown. He was drawn to the legitimate & informative presentations - and especially to the non-partisan nature of LWV.

His League activity has focused on Voter Services. THANK YOU, RAUL, FOR YOUR OUTSTANDING WORK WITH THE LEAGUE!

MILLER HIGH SCHOOL: Classroom Presentations



Miller High School Government teacher Jeffrey Bray poses with LWV-CC member Lisa Cuevas following presentations in eight classrooms on October 1. At right, Ruth Falck explains the voter registration process and guides students to complete voter registration forms. Also assisting at Miller High were League members Sue Williams and Chris Garcia.



IMPORTANT DATES IN THIS ELECTION CYCLE

October 22-November 2: Early Voting

Addresses for voting sites for Early Voting, plus Election Day's 84 VOTE CENTERS can be found on the Nueces County website and in the League's printed 36-page Voters Guide available at various locations.

Friday, October 26: Vote by Mail

Last day to apply for a Vote By Mail Ballot is Oct. 26.

You may request a ballot by emailing the county at VoteByMail@nuecesco.com or by calling 361-888-0865 to request an application.

Tuesday, November 6: Election Day! A 7 p.m. deadline is in place for for Mail-In Ballot; ballots must be received on or before Election Day.

Local, Statewide Voters Guides Available on Websites

Both the LWV-Corpus Christi and the LWVTX Voters Guides are accessible to the public and can be accessed at the www.lwv-cc.org and the www.lwvtx.org websites. Both are non-partisan.

The local guide (10,000 printed) features both the Nueces County, US House/Congressional District 27, and City of Corpus Christi City Council candidates.

The statewide English and Spanish guide features candidates who are seeking election to U.S. Senate, Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Attorney General, Comptroller of Public Accounts, Commissioner of the General Land Office, Commissioner of Agriculture, Railroad Commissioner, Justices of the Texas Supreme Court (Places 2, 4, and 6); Presiding Judge, Texas Court of Criminal Appeals; Judge, Court of Criminal Appeals (Places 6 and 7); and State Board of Education.

The League purchased a small quantity of the state guides and placed them in the local public libraries.



PRESENTATION AT TAMU-KINGSVILLE

Alicia Benn (l) social justice chair for the Corpus Christi Alumnae of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., and (r) Chris Davis Garcia, LWV-CC president, pose with Dr. So'Nia Gilkey, Social Work Program Director and Assistant Professor, following a presentation to about 30 students at Texas A&M University-Kingsville in early October about the importance of voting.

NATIONAL VOTER REGISTRATION DAY RECAP Tuesday, Sept. 25, 2018

The national organizers for the annual National Voter Registration Day, held September 25, announced earlier this month that 800,000 new voters had been registered across the nation on that day. In Corpus Christi, LWV-CC registered voters at five sites--Keach Family Library in Robstoyown, TAMU-CC, Corpus Christi City Hall, Miller High School, and King High School--and recorded 62 total. The September total of registered voters, including these five sites, was 700. The League had a steady presence at TAMU-CC throughout the month.

[H] TODDHUNTER

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League Study on Lead Contamination Nears Completion

There's not been a major study by the League in several years, so LWV-CC is extremely proud of the document being finalized titled "LWV-CC Study 2018 Potential for Lead Contamination in Our Drinking Water." The study committee was chaired by former Board member Sally Farris and included several League members.

The study was initiated in summer 2016 during Dr. Mary Jane Garza's tenure as League president.

The Board will receive the committee's final recommendations soon and will determine the best way to share the recommendations with City and County leaders, the public, and others in the health community.

A copy of the study, including the Executive Summary with recommendations, will be made available to League members in the near future.

Special thanks to Sally Farris, Ron Schiller, Teresa Carrillo, Dr. Jim Klein, Teresa Klein, Dr. Tammy Donaldson, Sandra Heatherley, Lois Huff, Ruth Falck, and Dr. Mary Jane Garza for participating in the study.



A meeting held in early August helped move the Lead Contamination study forward and toward its completion. In addition to several League members being present, Study Chair Sally Ferris and Ron Schiller, who reviewed the draft study, were on hand to answer questions

Planning for 2020 Celebration

Be watching for information on the next Planning Committee meeting for the 2020 Celebration, said Sandra Heatherley, committee chair and Vice President of Member Services.

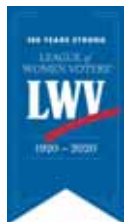
Several community organizations have been recruited to help celebrate the 100th anniversary of the 19th Amendment during 2020.

If you have specific ideas about how to secure funding for the activities that are being planned, let Sandra know.

All members of LWV-CC are welcome to participate and contribute to the planning strategies, Heatherley said. She can be reached at **876-4321** or **361-814-9120** or by email at **sheatherle@cs.com**.



Sandra Heatherley, chair



Don't Let Your Membership Lapse!


YOUR MEMBERSHIP IN THE LEAGUE MATTERS! If you haven't renewed your membership in the League for 2018-2019, please do so!

Don't let your League membership lapse!

Send the renewal application on Page 8, along with your payment, to the League right now so that you will continue to remain on the League mailing list and not miss a single notice, invitation, or newsletter.

YOUR MEMBERSHIP MATTERS!

ADVERTISING SPACE IN THE VOTER IS AVAILABLE! CALL THE LEAGUE TREASURER!


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.

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.**