



The VOTER

SEPTEMBER 2018

League of Women Voters-Corpus Christi

City, CCISD Bond Propositions on November Ballot Will Be Focus of Thursday, Sept. 20, League Program

Presenters Include Valerie Gray, Dr. Roland Hernandez

The September membership luncheon for LWV-CC members and guests will be held on Thursday, September 20, from 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m. at Del Mar College Center for Economic Development, located at 3405 S. Staples at Kostoryz.

Two presenters have been confirmed--Valerie Gray, Executive Director of Public Works for the City of Corpus Christi, who will provide details on the City's proposed \$96 million bond program, and Dr. Roland Hernandez, Corpus Christi ISD Superintendent of Schools, who will present information on the school district's proposed \$208 million bond program which includes replacement of Carroll High School. Written materials will be provided and questions will be fielded as time allows.



Gray



Hernandez

A sandwich box lunch, including a croissant sandwich, chips, fruit, cookie, and beverage, is available for \$10 (member) or \$12 (guest). The meal can be ordered in advance by emailing the League at lwvcorpuschristi@gmail.com. The deadline to order is Tuesday noon, Sept. 18. Payment can be made at the door. League members who want to attend but do not want to order food are cordially invited.

Read About the October Candidate Forums, Page 4



Voter registration table at the YWCA for its "Get Out the Vote" campaign in early September; pictured are Kristin Diaz, Sandra Heatherley, and a Y volunteer.



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

National Voter Registration Day is scheduled Tuesday, September 25, and LWV-CC will be among hundreds of organizations and groups around the United States helping register voters for the November 6 election.

The League has designated the following three venues:

- Keach Family Library in Robstown (Highway 44 at Richard Borchard FairgroundsU) 10 a.m.-2 p.m. and 4:00-6:30 p.m.
- Corpus Christi City Hall, 1201 Leopard, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.
- Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi, University Center Bookstore, 6300 Ocean Drive, 10 a.m.-1 p.m.

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 & Friends:

Over the coming weeks before Early Voting begins on Oct. 22, please help the League drive Nueces County voters of all ages to the **VOTE411.org** website. The online Voters Guide, which will be populated with voting information, will include the responses of more than 50 candidates seeking election in specific races to questions posed by the League.

The candidates' responses will then be captured in the printed Voters Guide, expected to be 36 pages, which will be distributed at designated city and county locations for voters to pick up and read.

The League's statement of non-partisanship--"The League does not support or oppose candidates or parties." -- is what makes the League a respected organization. Remind friends and co-workers to check out **VOTE411.org**.



Let's Get High School and College Students Signed Up for League Membership!

LWV-CC doesn't want to miss the opportunity to sign up high school and college students in our community for membership in the League. For \$5 per student (must be at least 16 years old) for the 2018-2019 and 2019-2020 fiscal years, we can acquaint them with the League's mission.

But more than that, we can involve them in what the League does at local, state, and national levels; introduce them to League positions on important policy issues; and encourage them to participate in grassroots advocacy.

LWVUS, Texas, and all local Leagues across the nation are focused on actively recruiting and encouraging students (ages 16 through college) to join the League. These new members will receive all our email communications and be invited to be engaged in voter registration and community activities. Their schedules may not always make them available to participate, but we can share our knowledge about the League and our values about "

Members, what high school and college students are in your spheres of influence...and are you willing to get them signed up as League members? Visit with them and talk about the League and why their membership is important. You can use the membership form on Page 10, underwrite that \$5 annual fee this year and next year, and get them signed up!



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.

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League of Women Voters
PO Box 8276
Corpus Christi, TX
78468-8276

<http://www.lwv-cc.org>
lwvcorpuschristi@gmail.com

LWV-CC Board, 2018-2019

President

Chris Davis Garcia
361-991-2784 (hm); 361-244-4193
garciachris1714@gmail.com

Secretary

Rebecca Huerta, 361-826-3105;
rebeccah@cctexas.com

Treasurer

Brenda Hamby, 361-991-1733
bhamby@stx.rr.com

Vice President, Member Services

Sandra Heatherley, 361-876-4321;
361-814-9120; sheatherle@cs.com

Vice President, Program

Carla Gardiner, 361-813-9128
carlaguee.me@gmail.com

Vice President, Voter Services

Kathryn Oler
kathryn.oler@gmail.com

Director, Website/Social Media

Debbie Noble, 410-271-1167
debleenoble@gmail.com

Director, Media/Communications

Melody Cooper, 361-774-4170
melody@melodycooperlaw.com

At-Large Director

Dr. Tammy Donaldson, 361-739-0462
tcfdonaldson@gmail.com

Director/Archivist: Sylvia Whitworth
jimcwhit@hotmail.com; 853-9990

OFF-BOARD CHAIRS

Voter Registration

Ruth Falck, 361-548-2615
falckruth@yahoo.com

Nominating Committee

Anne Stewart, 361-850-0663
emlean@gmail.com

Elected Members:

Alex Garcia, Jr., 361-510-2001
Linda Snider, 802-777-2269

The VOTER Newsletter

Marjorie Walraven, 361-992-8031
wilraven26@yahoo.com



Women's Equality Day 2018 Proclamation

LWV-CC members pose with Mayor Joe McComb and Council members on August 28 following presentation of the Women's Equality Day 2018 Proclamation. Pictured are (l-r) Rebecca Huerta, Peggy Duran, Gaye White, Sylvia Trevino, Chris Davis Garcia, Sandra Heatherley, Diana Barrera, and Aislynn Campbell.

Welcome, New Members!

Mara Rachael Barbosa, Individual
 Jan Hilton, Sustaining
 Sharron Hines, Individual
 Nancy Marshall, Individual
 Debbie Lindsey-Opel, Sustaining
 Alyssa Nicole Martinez, Student
 Joy Miller, Individual

Thanks to These Renewing Members for 2018-2019:

Margaret Di Clemente & Nancy Devlin, Household
 Margareta Fratila, Individual
 Gloria Montalvo, Individual
 Gaye White, Individual
 Charles and Bobby Wood-Hughes, Household



Carla Gardiner
 Financial Advisor

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

Edward Jones
 MAKING SENSE OF INVESTING

League Calendar at a Glance

Thursday, Sept. 20: League Luncheon Meeting with presenters Valerie Gray, City of Corpus Christi, and Dr. Roland Hernandez, Corpus Christi ISD (See story, Page 1)

Tuesday, Sept. 25: National Voter Registration Day (See story, Page 1)

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

Thursday, Nov. 15: "Looking Ahead to the 2018 Legislative Session," with presenters State Senator Juan "Chuy" Hinojosa and State Representatives Abel Herrero and Todd Hunter.

December--No League meeting planned

Thursday, Jan. 17, 2019: League Luncheon Meeting (location to be announced), followed by Voter Registration training by Brenda Nunez, Nueces County Voter Registration supervisor.

**EMPOWERING VOTERS!
 DEFENDING DEMOCRACY!**

Candidates Scheduled at Oct. 11 and Oct. 18 Forums

Two Candidate Forums, each featuring a different set of candidates seeking election on the November 6 Ballot, will be conducted by the League of Women Voters-Corpus Christi.

The forums (**scheduled Thursday, October 11, and Thursday, October 18**) will be held from 6-9 p.m. at City Council Chambers at Corpus Christi City Hall, 1201 Leopard Street, and are open to the public. Both forums will be televised live and may be rebroadcast.

The forums will provide an opportunity to candidates facing opposition in their respective races to share information with the public with an opening statement, responses to questions posed by the League and those seated in the audience, and a closing statement.

Invited to participate in the **Thursday, October 11**, forum are candidates in the following races: State Representative, District 34; State Board of Education, District 2; District Judges, 105th and 148th Courts; Nueces County Clerk; Nueces County District Clerk; Nueces County Judge; 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, District 1 and At-Large. This listing includes 25 candidates.

Invited to participate in the **Thursday, October 18**, 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. This listing includes 34 candidates.



Prior to the two Candidate Forums, LWV-CC will publish its 2018 General Election Voters Guide in two formats—one online at VOTE411.org and the other a printed version distributed at several locations throughout the city and county.

Both publications will contain questions posed by the League to the candidates in opposed races and their responses.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

If you are interested in helping with one or both of the Candidate Forums (timekeeper, greeter, registration desk, distributing materials to the audience, reviewing questions to be asked, placing name cards on the dais, etc.), please let the Voter Services team know how you can help. Send your name and what you would like to do at lwvcorpuschristi@gmail.com.

Invitations have also been extended to AAUW, Leadership Corpus Christi Alumni, and Delta Sigma Theta to participate with the League in staging the forums.

Renew Your 2018-2019 Membership Before End of September To Stay Connected

YOUR
MEMBERSHIP
MATTERS!

Don't let your League membership lapse! Send the renewal application on Page 10, along with your payment, to the League before September 30...or you can renew online at www.lwv-cc.org. That way, you'll continue to remain on the League mailing list and won't miss a single notice, invitation, or newsletter.

The Corpus Christi League is pleased to 128 members to date...and we are the fourth largest League in Texas. Special thanks to the newest members and renewals highlighted on Page 3.

Questions about membership renewal can be directed to VP Member Services Sandra Heatherley. 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 ensures that local projects can be funded.

Record Number of Voter Registration Events Held

It's difficult to remember a more busy season for Voter Registrars than these past 10 weeks. The League's Voter Services team maintained a calendar and updated it daily to show where volunteer voter registrars would be and what times they would work.

In July, the League had presence and participation at Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi and Del Mar College (multiple times), Coastal Bend Center for Independent Living, Nueces County Behavioral Health Center, Deaf & Hard of Hearing Center, and Operation Safe Return at the American Bank Center, sponsored by the CC Police Department.

Total voters registered during July ...293

In August, Del Mar College and TAMU-CC again as students got registered and attended orientation, plus speaking engagements at a meeting of the local Women's Hispanic Network and at Trinity Towers.

Total voters registered during August...387

In September, Arts Alive! at the Art Center, the YWCA Get Out the Vote campaign, TAMU-CC, Bishop Back to School Fair, West Oso ISD Back to School Fair, NAACP & LULAC Citywide Health Fair (cosponsored by Del Mar College West Campus), and high school presentations. Events planned as The VOTER went to press--El Buen Taco Festival downtown this weekend (if not rained out) and Mission of Mercy Dental Clinic at Del Mar College West campus on Sept. 28-29.

Many League members who are Voter Registrars have committed significant amounts of time and energy to guarantee a presence at voter registration sites throughout the community. Sincere thanks to all League members (and community partners) who have responded and continue to respond to the appeals of the Voter Services team.

THANK YOU!



ARTS ALIVE!--The Arts Alive celebration at the Corpus Christi Art Center over the Labor Day weekend captured smiling faces of voter registrars; (above, Kathryn Oler and Peggy Duran; (below, left, Annell Neale; (below, right) local muralist and artist Mayra Zamora proudly shows off her sticker showing she registered to vote!



A Message from the National League (LWVUS)

We envision a democracy where every person has the desire, the right, the knowledge and the confidence to participate. We believe in the power of women to create a more perfect democracy.

The League is proud to be nonpartisan, neither supporting nor opposing candidates or political parties at any level of government, but always working on vital issues of concern to members and the public.

Voters Guide for State Races Will Be Available from LWVTX

The League of Women Voters of Texas will publish a Voters Guide in English and in Spanish featuring candidates who are seeking election to state-wide races. Candidates' responses to questions posed by LWVTX will be included.

The guides can be accessed free of charge at www.lwvtexas.org and downloaded in a readable format.

The candidate information also will be entered into the online voters guide on VOTE411.org and can be accessed by anyone in Texas or elsewhere.

The races include: United States 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.

SEPT. 8 NAACP/LULAC HEALTH FAIR-- Terry Mills, president of the local chapter of NAACP, greets the Del Mar College West Campus dean; a student representing DMC's Early Childhood program takes time to register to vote.



Where To Get Information on LWVTX Issues and Positions

Did you know that the League of Women Voters of Texas has more than three dozen written positions on various public policy issues? All were developed over the years following study and discussion, and many of them are revised from time to time to reflect changes made by the Texas Legislature and/or to capture editing changes by the League. Local Leagues are invited every two years to suggest changes to the League's positions, and approval is received during the biennial convention held during even-numbered years.

Information on the following positions can be accessed by visiting the state website at www.lwvtx.org:

Voting Rights; Women's Health; Public Education; Air Quality/Climate Change; Behavioral Health; Campaign Finance; Capital Punishment; Child Abuse; Child Care/Early Childhood; Child Health; Child Support; Criminal Justice; Domestic Violence; Drug Laws; Energy; Equal Opportunity; Financing State Government; Gun Safety; Hazardous Waste; Health Care - Low Income Texans; Health Care for the Elderly; Homeowners Association Reform; Human Trafficking; Intestacy; Immigration; Judicial Selection; Juvenile Justice; Land Use; Open Government; Payday Loans; Redistricting/Census; State-Local Government; Transportation; and Water Resources.



Planning for 2020 Celebration

The second meeting of the Steering Committee, scheduled on August 30, was cancelled but will be rescheduled, said Sandra Heatherley, committee chair and Vice President of Member Services

Several community organizations met in April to begin discussing how the 100th anniversary of the 19th Amendment could be celebrated.

If you have specific ideas about how to secure funding for the activities that will be planned, the League needs you!

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.

IMPORTANT DATES IN ELECTION CYCLE

**October 9--Deadline for Voter
Registration**

**October 22-Nov. 2--Early Voting
(sites to be announced
by Nueces County for both
Early Voting and Vote Centers)**

**Friday, October 26--Last Day To
Apply to Vote By Mail
(received, not postmarked)**

**Tuesday, Nov. 6--Election Day
(Mail-In ballots must be received
on or before Election Day)**

Getting Young Voters To the Polls Is Top Priority GOTV Videos, Websites, YouTube Feature Excellent Messages, Materials

The League of Women Voters of Texas has excellent GET OUT THE VOTE resources that both League members and community groups can use to encourage people--young voters and first-time voters especially-- to cast their ballot in the November 6 election.

The nonpartisan materials are available on the LWVTX website at www.lwv-texas.org.

One of the resources is BE A TEXAS VOTER, with 3-4 minute video clips, reading assignments, and student handouts.

Developed by LWVTX in partnership with the Dallas County Community College District, the promotional materials include six video modules (each from 3-4 minutes in length) titled: Why Should I Vote, Does My Vote Matter, How Do I Register To Vote, What Am I Voting For, Where Do I Find Information, and When and Where Do I Vote.

“This voter education series is designed to help young people better understand their role as citizens of our state,” said LWVTX President Grace Chimene of Austin. “The six modules are prepared in compliance with the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS) social studies requirements and the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB) Texas Core Curriculum.”

She added that the materials are designed to teach high school, dual credit, and college-level students about the importance of voting and to provide tools for becoming informed voters.

On the website also are resources about Voting by Mail; Get in the Game: College Students Vote; Voter Turnout Among Woman Voters; and Best Practices for GOTV and Engaging Target Populations.



League member Sue Williams visits with two TAMU-CC students during a recent voter registration drive.



Own Our Vote and When You Vote are two additional resources with excellent video clips. Check them out!

[H] TODDHUNTER

Todd A. Hunter
ATTORNEY AT LAW

todd@toddhunterlaw.com • www.toddhunterlaw.com
555 N. Carancahua, Ste. 250, Corpus Christi, TX 78401-0812
Office: 361.881.8555 | Cell: 361.533.0505

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



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.



Debbie Noble

Cherry Picking and Sharp Shooting

By Debbie Noble, LWV-CC Director/Social Media
(Facebook, Website)

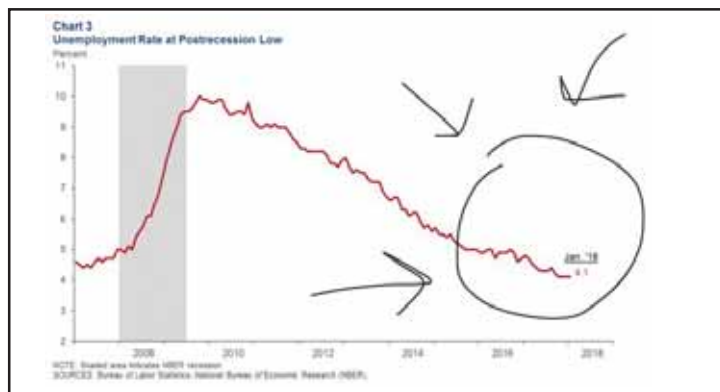
“Always check original sources and don’t celebrate the marksmanship until you step back and look at the whole barn.”

As individuals, we like to think that we are logical, fact-based decision makers (even though studies show that most people are easily swayed by emotion). We like to think that our brains process data to compute the “correct” opinion.

The Texas Sharpshooter logical fallacy is used precisely to sway those of us who like to see data-driven charts and graphs before we make decisions. Named for a stereotypical gun-toting Texan who randomly shoots at a barn wall and then paints a bull’s-eye around the area with the most bullet holes to show off his prowess, this fallacy is also known as “Cherry Picking.”

Cherry Picking is a way of finding data to fit your argument instead of analyzing information to prove a point.

For example, only showing data from 2016-2018 on this graph and claiming responsibility for record low unemployment rates, completely disregards the downward trend started in 2009 after the great recession.



Cherry picking words can have the same misleading effect. In October 2016, Wikileaks released emails hacked from Hillary Clinton’s campaign chairman, John Podesta. Soon after, many Clinton detractors, including our own Texas Governor, picked out a few choice words to highlight and comment on:

Greg Abbott twitter account 13 Oct 2016:

Hillary Hates YOU. Her campaign chairman wrote: “I know she has begun to hate everyday Americans.”

The actual context and content of the email in question shows clearly that Podesta and other staff were discussing which specific words to use in a speech. It turns out the candidate hated the WORDS “everyday Americans” in a speech, not actual Americans.

Apr 19, 2015, at 4:20 PM, John Podesta <john.podesta@gmail.com>:

I know she has begun to hate everyday Americans, but I think we should use it once the first time she says I’m running for president because you and everyday Americans need a champion.

Pulling those words out of context clearly distorts the intended meaning which makes it a perfect example of cherry picking quotes.

Humorously seen on Twitter: *Scientists: our findings are useless when taken out of context*

Media: scientists say findings are useless

Remember that if a quote or a data set seems too good to be true (or too perfectly reinforces your opinion), it probably is. Always check original sources and don’t celebrate the marksmanship until you step back and look at the whole barn.



August 16 Meeting

Thank you, Sylvia Carrillo, for presenting information on the City of Corpus Christi Budget to more than 45 members and community guests who attended the Thursday, August 16, meeting of LWV-CC.



Bumper Stickers (sized about 4x15 inches) promoting VOTE411.org are available for purchase at \$2 each. Let the League know if you would like one. They will be available for sale at the Sept 20 League meeting.



Activities for Volunteers! Can You Help?

It's time to gather together folks of like-minded interests and skills to help lessen the workload! 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: Sept. 20 and Nov. 15)
2. Stand at the door and greet members and guests prior to the start of the meeting.
3. Help welcome new members with a short email greeting.

Bylaws and Policies Review Committee (Treasurer Brenda Hamby)

1. The League will review its Bylaws and Policies in the coming

weeks, with possible revisions generated by LWVTX. 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! Call Brenda!

Voter Services Committee (Kathryn Oler, Raul Ramirez, Ruth Falck)

1. If you can serve as a Voter Registrar at a community event, let the Voter Services team know.
2. Sign up for Voter Registrar training scheduled in January 2019, to be conducted by Brenda Nunez of Nueces County. The free training session will be held immediately following the January luncheon meeting. Watch for details.
3. Help deliver some of the 7,000-plus voters guides (bundles of 100) prior to early voting (Oct. 22) to designated locations like City Hall, local libraries, etc.

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.**