



# The VOTER

SEPTEMBER 2019

League of Women Voters-Corpus Christi

## Let's Meet at the BUS ...downtown...for Thursday, Sept. 19, League Gathering

The League's September membership event will be held Thursday, Sept. 19, from 5:30-7 p.m. at the BUS (Bar Under the Sun), located at 702 Chaparral in downtown Corpus Christi.

The presenter will be Dr. Shane Gleason, assistant professor of political science at Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi. His remarks are titled "Rising to the Occasion: Women's Success on the Campaign Trail & in Elected Office."

The BUS, which is located on a full city block that once was the Greyhound and Trailways bus station, features an indoor bar and a covered outdoor space with seating. Wear cool, casual attire! Parking on nearby streets is available.

A selection of beverages and cocktails can be purchased, and food can be ordered from food trucks located on site. Members can place their individual food orders (including vegetarian).

Plan to attend...and bring a family member, friend, or prospective member with you!

You can confirm your attendance by emailing your name and "plan to attend" to: [lwvcorpuschristi@gmail.com](mailto:lwvcorpuschristi@gmail.com).



LWV-CC Members Receive Women's Equality Day Proclamation at City Hall on August 20, 2019, from Corpus Christi Mayor Joe McComb and Council Members

## Thanks to Everyone for Successful Women's Equality Day Celebration



On August 22, 2019, LWV-CC celebrated the 99th Anniversary of the Women's Right to Vote and the 103rd birthday of life-member Joyce Jarmon.

More than 70 guests joined the fun and participated in the silent auction, heard Dr. Jim Klein, Del Mar College history professor give a historic overview of women's rights, and sang Happy Birthday to Joyce while enjoying cake.

Thank you to all who joined us for lunch, to those who purchased auction items, and to those who donated to the silent auction. Special kudos to Peggy and Jose Miguel Duran who coordinated the silent auction. More than \$1,200 in auction proceeds were realized which will help underwrite upcoming League activities and voters guides.

Event Chair Lois Huff says work has already begun on the **BIG** August 2020 celebration. If you want to be part of the 2020 celebration planning committee, please contact Lois Huff, 774-1500, or Annell Neale, 512-771-3026.

(See event photos on Pages 2 and 3)

### 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 political parties.

# President's Message

By Anne Stewart, LWV-CC President

Hello, Everyone!

What a great beginning to our year we've had. Dr. Carlos Huerta kept the rapt attention of attendees at our July meeting through his careful analysis of apparent purplization of Texas. His colleague at TAMUCC, Dr. Shane Gleason, will address us this month on another topic dear to our hearts. Reserve the early evening hours of Thursday, Sept. 19, to meet at the BUS downtown. You can find all the details elsewhere in this VOTER.

The study on lead contamination in our water is gaining steam. I hope you will read the second article in the series on pages 6-8). Other topics are being added to our agenda--diversity, voting by individuals not recognized earlier as eligible to vote, increasing census accuracy--and more.

If you want to help with any of these projects, let me know which ones and give me your preferred contact information. I'll make contacts happen for you.

Keep up the great work! You're making a difference!

## More August 22 Celebration Photos

(Continued from Page 1)



(Above and clockwise)

Sandra Heatherley and Sue Williams sell sashes that can be worn to events celebrating the upcoming 100th anniversary of the passage of the 19th Amendment; CCISD trustee Alice Upshaw Hawkins (c) visits with Nick and Maria Jimenez; Paula Brighton and Sylvia Trevino and Annell and John Neale man registration tables at the Aug. 22 event.

**THANKS TO EVERYONE FOR  
MAKING THE AUGUST 22  
CELEBRATION SUCCESSFUL!**



**League of  
Women Voters--  
Corpus Christi**

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78468-8276**

**<http://www.lwv-cc.org>  
Telephone Recorder 445-4436  
[lwvcorpuschristi@gmail.com](mailto:lwvcorpuschristi@gmail.com)**

### **LWV-CC Board, 2019-2020**

#### **President**

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#### **Secretary**

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#### **Director, Media/Communications**

Melody Cooper, 361-994-4952

#### **At-Large Director--Lois Huff, 361-774-1500**

#### **Appointed Director/Archivist**

Sylvia Whitworth, 361-853-9990

#### **OFF-BOARD CHAIRS**

##### **Voter Registration Committee**

Raul Ramirez, 774-0937;  
[raul.ramirez.05.rr@gmail.com](mailto:raul.ramirez.05.rr@gmail.com)  
Ruth Falck, 548-2615

##### **2019 Women's Equality Day Committee**

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##### **100th Celebration Committee (Historical Display):**

Sue Williams, 779-8593; [aswilliams17@gmail.com](mailto:aswilliams17@gmail.com)

##### **Nominating Committee**

Peggy Duran, Chair, 361-696-9366

**Non-Board Member:** Brenda Hamby

**Board Members:** Lois Huff, Maria Jimenez

##### **The VOTER Editor**

Chris Davis Garcia, 361-244-4193  
[garciachr1714@gmail.com](mailto:garciachr1714@gmail.com)

# August 22 Celebration

(Continued from Page 1)

Thanks to Debbie Stevens for taking dozens of photos during the August 22 celebration held in Del Mar College's Retama Room. Pictured are (at right) honoree Joyce Jarmon, her children, grandchildren and friends; (l-r by rows) Diana Barrera, Linda Gibeaut, Margo Schmidt, Colleen Johnson, Anne Stewart and Dr. Jim Klein; County Commissioner John Marez, Sandra Heatherley, Lois Huff, Jane Bachman, Ron George and Mary Sherwood; Peggy Banales, Nelda Martinez and Sandra Heatherley; Sylvia Whitworth, table guests.



# Voter Services Team Is Busy!

Paula Brighton, VP for Voter Services, will be ordering bookmarks with important election cycle dates and other information helpful to voters. The bookmarks will be handed out at various League events.

The Voter Services team, which is responsible for coordinating voter registration events and recruiting deputized voter registrars, continues to recruit volunteers. (See related story on Page 8.)

Raul Ramirez, Voter Registration chair, keeps the calendar and handles volunteer recruitment. Ruth Falck also is involved in voter registration.

Upcoming events on the League calendar include:

Tuesday, Sept. 24: National Voter Registration Day (TAMU-CC, City Hall, and one CCISD High School (TBA))

Saturday, Sept. 28: NAACP and LULAC Citywide Health Fair at Del Mar College West Campus

Wednesday, October 16: Roy Miller High School

## Looking at the numbers

At events held in the past seven weeks: 21 voters were registered during National Disability Voter Registration Week in mid-July; 36 at the CCPD Operation Safe Return in late July; 1 at the Banquete ISD Health Fair; 6 at the August 2 ArtWalk;

Also 2 at the August 7 Flour Bluff ISD Health Fair; 20 at the August 17 LEAD FIRST back to school health fair; 4 at the Bishop ISD Health and Wellness Fair on Sept. 4; and 2 at the West Oso ISD Health & Wellness Fair.

## Special thanks!

Thank you, League member Sue Williams, for purchasing two tablecloths for League use at voter registration and other special events.



Planning Continues for the 2020 Centennial Celebration--Among those attending the August 26 meeting were Dottie Ewing, Amy Aldridge-Sanford, Chris Garcia, Vicki Natale, Annell Neale, Sandra Heatherley, and Dr. Mary Jane Garza. (Not pictured are Sylvia Whitworth who left the meeting a few minutes ahead of the photo, and Anne Stewart, who volunteered to take this photo.)

# Centennial Planning Committee Update

Planning continues for the 2019-2020 activities that will celebrate the 100th anniversary of the passage of the 19th Amendment giving women the right to vote.

The League's theme for the communitywide observances is "The Year of Women Winning the Vote."

More volunteers are needed. If you are interested in helping with one or more of the events being planned between now and late Fall 2020, please give Sandra a call at 876-4321.

LWV-CC member Alex Garcia Jr. has agreed to coordinate the League's presence at the Martin Luther King Day March on January 20; the Barefoot Mardi Gras Parade on February 22; the Buc Days Parade in May 2020; and the Big Bang Parade on July 4.

On Saturday, March 7, 2020, a "Women's March" starting at 10 am from the Nueces County Courthouse to the historic Artesian Park located across from the Caller-Times building is planned. (The Federal Courthouse destination announced earlier has been changed.)

The March 7 event will be a com-

## Are YOU Interested in Seeking Public Office or Helping a Candidate?

If you are, make plans to participate in one or both of the two Institutes for Public Leadership scheduled in late September. See story on Page 5!

munity march and open to organizations and individuals who want to participate; gathering time will be 10 a.m. at the County Courthouse.)

From March 7-31, an historical exhibit will be displayed on the first floor of the Nueces County Courthouse. League member Sue Williams is coordinating the exhibit and would appreciate having additional helpers.



Be sure to LIKE and SHARE the posts on the League's Facebook Page.

# REAL WOMEN RUN!

## Institutes for Public Leadership

The agendas are finalized for the two Institutes for Public Leadership to be offered later this September by the Corpus Christi YWCA.

The first institute will be sponsored by the YWCA and Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi and is scheduled from 4-7 p.m. on **Wednesday, Sept. 25**. The institute will be held at TAMU-Corpus Christi, 6300 Ocean Drive.

Open to female-identifying college students from throughout the Coastal Bend, the institute is nonpartisan and will address the topics of civil and political involvement, engagement, and personal branding. The event is free and will include food. Presentations by MOVETexas and Jolt Texas are on the agenda. The League will have a voter registration table at the event.

The second institute, sponsored by the YWCA and the League of Women Voters-Corpus Christi, is scheduled from 9 a.m.-noon on **Saturday, Sept. 28**, at the YWCA, 4601 Corona. It is designed for women of all ages who might be considering running for public office or becoming involved in a political campaign.

The registration fee is \$15, and light refreshments will be available. Presentation topics include First Things First (Paulette Guajardo), Nuts & Bolts (Debbie Lindsey-Opel), and I'm Elected.. Now What? (Carol Scott). A panel discussion will feature women who ran for public office (Nelda Martinez, Alice Upshaw Hawkins, Aislynn Campbell, and Sylvia Tryon Oliver) and will share their experiences and advice. Serving as moderator for the panel will be Michele Kuchta, local attorney who also sought elective office.

League members Sandra Heatherley and Chris Davis Garcia have been serving on the YWCA planning committee for the Sept. 28 event. All League members are urged to share information about this event with their friends and organizational contacts to reach prospective institute participants. Registration is available through the YWCA website.

### Redistricting Hearing Planned November 4 in Corpus Christi

The Texas House Committee on Redistricting is scheduling hearings throughout the state over the next several months to receive public comment on the topic of redistricting for the state of Texas. The tentative calendar shows meetings on Nov. 4 in Corpus Christi and Nov. 5 in Rockport. More details to come.



### Voter Registration at Arts Alive!



Ben Munoz, a local artist & print maker who moved to our city from Dallas, turned in his new address; (Left) Ruth Falck and Michele King registered voters.

## MEMBERSHIP UPDATE



### WELCOME, NEW MEMBERS:

Larisa Ford, Individual

### THANKS TO THESE RENEWING MEMBERS:

Ruth Falck, Individual

Anne Stewart, Sustaining

Elizabeth Riggle, Individual

Diana Barrera, Individual

Patricia Mathews, Individual

(NOTE: This is a continuing list of membership renewals and new members received during August 2019. Approximately 54 names of renewing and new members have already been listed in the May, July, and August issues of The Voter.

If you have not renewed your League membership for 2019-2020, please do so as soon as possible. If questions, please contact Member Services VP Sandra Heatherley or Treasurer Annell Neale.

**Second in a Series: LWV-CC Lead Poison Study “Potential for Lead Contamination in Our Communities’ Drinking Water”**

**Test Analyses for the City of Corpus Christi and NAS-Corpus Christi**

Last month, your committee studying lead levels in local drinking water, and lead poison cases in Nueces County, disclosed to the VOTER the zip code areas in which children have suffered lead poisoning.

This month, we provide an abbreviated report for the VOTER about water test results. A detailed report will be made available during LWV-CC’s Sept. 19 membership meeting.

Some of the results and implications are discussed below and deal with 12 years of samples from the City of Corpus Christi and 14 years from Naval Air Station-Corpus Christi (NAS-CC).

One of the Study’s threshold questions is: “Do we have a drinking water system that could contribute to responsibility for such reports?” [Lead poison cases]

The Answer: Yes.

Test results support the answer in the discussion below.

**Difficult subject. Expert Advice.** Even when reduced to simple explanations, water test protocols and evaluations are complex. Transposing chemical terms into useful, understandable language requires patience and insight. Our Study has the guidance and analytical input of a professional with experience in water quality interpretation.

Col. Ronald L. Schiller, USAF, retired, is a former Air Force bio-environmental engineer, with a

chemical engineering degree and over 40 years of experience in water quality, occupational health and radiation management for both military and civilian employers.

As a national certified industrial hygienist, Col. Schiller’s professional code of conduct binds him to make reasonable efforts to communicate health risk in an understandable and verifiably correct manner.

**EPA Drinking Water Standards For Lead Do Not Protect Health.**

The first principal in understanding regulatory standards, applied to water quality for lead, is that the EPA standard has nothing to do with health or toxicity tolerance. EPA’s action threshold, requiring a system to make corrections, is based on what statistics say a utility system ought to be able to achieve from a technical standpoint. Currently, that threshold for action is 15 micrograms of lead per liter of water (15 µg/l).

You will often see this measure expressed in the literature and in the news as 15 ppb (15 parts per billion). EPA devised the standard with the warning that 15 µg/l is not, and never was, intended to protect health. This is the standard to which the City of Corpus Christi and other public systems hold themselves.

The State of Michigan, however, now imposes a more stringent standard upon its public water systems at 10 µg/l. That means the State of Michigan has a standard that is 33% stricter than what is allowed in Texas

*This article, prepared by Study Chair Sally Farris, is the second in a series of articles regarding the LWV-CC Lead Poison Study titled “Potential for Lead Contamination in Our Communities’ Drinking Water.” The first article was titled “Poison Cases by Zip Code” and appeared in the August 2019 issue of The VOTER. Questions or comments can be directed to the chair at 210-313-7028 or s.farris@att.net.*

and observed in Corpus Christi. This standard is not fixed by “state pre-emption.” A local system can voluntarily observe a *more protective* threshold for action, if its policy makers think it is in the community’s best interest to do so.

Up to 10% of any system’s consumers may experience elevated levels of lead at the tap without corrective action required by the system. This is one of the reasons current standards and corrective actions have been criticized by researchers and the Governor of Michigan. The Governor called the unreformed federal rules for lead, “dumb and dangerous.” The City of Corpus Christi operates under those protocols.

Test results for City of Corpus Christi tap water are “in compliance,” and do not require remediation. Yet, the reported values, from volunteer homes, demonstrate that tap water in Corpus Christi homes built before

(Continued from Page 6)

## Test Analyses for the City of Corpus Christi and NAS-Corpus Christi

1988 and maybe later, possibly including schools, daycare and other institutional settings, likely contain lead that we ought to avoid, particularly those among us who are vulnerable. Those most vulnerable are infants, children, and women who may be pregnant or nursing.

The science is certain. **No amount of lead is safe for human consumption.**

### **American Academy of Pediatrics.**

Faced with the only limitation in public drinking water to be a utility standard, 15 µg/l, the **American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP)** urges that school drinking fountains limit lead in children's campus water to **no more than 1 µg/l** (one microgram of lead per liter of water). [Food and Drug Administration standards impose a 5 µg/l limit on bottled water.]

**City of Corpus Christi Water Test Analysis, 2005-2017.** During this twelve (12) year period, the City of Corpus Christi sampled 153 different locations with 101 locations (66%) having measured results. 'Measured results' means that lead was both detected and quantified.

From the 153 locations, 393 water samples were submitted for testing with 229 results recorded above the "laboratory method reporting level," i.e., the level the instruments could quantify the amount of lead in water.

Thus, using EPA's sampling strategy, one could conclude that 66% of all locations within Corpus Christi built prior to 1988 could have lead coming from taps. The strategy chooses structures constructed before 1988 as a first testing priority.

The **average** reading for the 229 samples, over **12 years**, was **2.22 µg/l**.

In the Corpus Christi system, the **highest single sample** had 23.8 µg/l [taken at location LCR006 on 7/16/2012]; the **highest sample location average**, 8.2 µg/l [location LCR 085]; **second highest sample location average**, 7.38 µg/l [location LCR 038]; **third highest average** 6.85 µg/l [location LCR 047].

Keep in mind that these are averages at particular homes, over 12 years. If children, infants, or women of child bearing age lived there continually, drinking tap water, it is conceivable those vulnerable individuals would have been lead poisoned. They would have received water above the Food and Drug Administration (**FDA**) bottled water limit of **5 µg/l**.

The City's obligation to respond with corrosion controls does not begin until 11% or more of test samples reach or exceed 15 µg/l.

That is why the relatively high lead levels recited above are regarded by the City as "compliant" under the regulations. That tolerance is permissible under the Texas scheme delegated by EPA based on the federal action level, 15 µg/l, [ 15 parts per billion (15 ppb)].

Why can we say the readings for Corpus Christi are "relatively high?" High, perhaps according to the **1 µg/l** recommendation from the **American Academy of Pediatrics** for school drinking fountains?

It has to do with the very minute amounts of lead that can damage a vulnerable individual; and how,

over time, the body responds to sustained intakes of lead from contaminated water in increments as low as 2.22 µg/l, the City's 12-year average.

The result is what clinicians call "total body burden" because lead in the body is cumulative no matter what the source. Vulnerable individuals are often subjected to additional sources of lead that push the body beyond the poison threshold.

This process is accelerated in infants whose neural exposures may be multiple from toys, paint, contaminated dust and environmental degradation of play spaces.

The compliant numbers for the City of Corpus Christi square with conventional wisdom within the scientific community that 80% of a child's lead exposure comes from combined sources, and 20% from drinking water.

**NAS-CC Lead Exceedance Events.** NAS-CC purchases its water from the City of Corpus Christi. In 2013, and again in 2018, the station exceeded the 15 µg/l action level, requiring it to comply with specific sections under the Lead and Copper Rule [40 CFR Sec. 141.80].

In public announcements, the station pointed out that no statute or law had been broken. A regulatory threshold for lead, however, had been violated; therefore, the rules required investigation, corrosion controls, and education for users of the water system, as well as additional monitoring and advisements to parents to have their children's blood tested if they suspected poisoning.

(Continued from Page 7)

## Test Analyses for the City of Corpus Christi and NAS-Corpus Christi

This information did not reach the public at large in such a way as to call attention to the lead issues at NAS-CC or to stimulate discussion through the media.

**NAS-CC Water Test Analysis, 2004-2018.** During this fourteen (14) year period, NAS-CC sampled 41 different locations with 34 locations (82.9%) having measured results. 'Measured results' means that lead was both detected and quantified.

From the 41 locations, 200 water samples were submitted for testing with 130 results recorded above the "laboratory method reporting level," i.e., the level the instruments could quantify the amount of lead in water.

Thus, using EPA's sampling strategy, one could conclude that 82.9% of all locations within NAS-CC built prior to 1988 could have lead coming from taps. The strategy chooses structures constructed before 1988 as a first testing priority.

The **average** reading for the **130** samples, over **14 years**, was **8.32 µg/l**.

In short, one of the area's prime employers and community partners flew under the radar during two lead remediation efforts in 2013 and 2018. These events took place during 7 cycle testing periods over 14 years.

No City of Corpus Christi test result approached the highest level for NAS-CC, which in 2013 achieved a whopping 395 µg/l at one test location. The second highest reading, 210 µg/l, occurred last summer, August 8, 2018 [location LCR015,8/22/18]. The abnormally high "hits" for years 2013 and 2018, caused the averages for those years to be unusually high as well: 37.94 µg/l (2013) and 27.07 µg/l (2018).

Here is an even greater regulatory anomaly to be considered: neither the 395 µg/l nor 210 µg/l readings would have triggered a response action from NAS-CC had those been the only 2 locations to reach or exceed 15 µg/l. The military had to take action in 2013 and 2018 because at least 11% of the total test locations had lead in the water at levels above 15 µg/l.

Another interesting prospect can be found in two extraordinary averages. This illustrates how permissible action levels actually are in real life.

For two locations, over 10 years and 14 years respectively, one site yielded a huge *average* of 104.085 µg/l; another, 31.08 µg/l. These averages occurred during years and test cycles that NAS-CC was "in compliance."

**Conclusion:** Lead poison cases in Nueces County have added 60 or more children per year to the burdens borne by families, schools, and individual children whose health is compromised, the bitter fruits of preventable tragedy. These are damage cases from which there is no recovery.

The City of Corpus Christi water system, over 12 years of cyclical test averages, yielded an average reading above the American Academy of Pediatric recommendations for school water fountains.

Several volunteer locations reported such high average readings that those domestic dwellings would likely have produced lead poison cases in the infants and children, nursing or pregnant women living there, assuming the occupants consistently drank tap water.

*Respectfully submitted by the Study Committee: Dr. Mary Jane Garza, Sandra Heatherley, Dr. Teresa Klein, Dr. Jim Klein, Ruth Falck, Teresa Carrillo, Ron Schiller, technical advisor, and Sally Farris, Study Chair.*

## Become a Deputized Voter Registrar!

LWV-CC has more than 30 deputized voter registrars but many are not able to help with specific scheduled events. Becoming a DVR is easy! You can walk into the Voter Registration office at the Nueces County Courthouse any weekday between 8:30 and 10:30 a.m. or 2 and 4 p.m. and greet Voter Registration Supervisor Brenda Nunez. You'll watch a set of instructional/informational slides covering how to register new voters and then receive your assigned DVR number (good through December 31, 2020). You'll also receive a supply of voter registration applications. It will take about half an hour of your time. The League and other community organizations expect to have dozens of voter registration drives and events between now and mid-February as the March Primaries approach.



# U.S. Census Bureau Announces Start of First Major Field Operation for 2020 Census



The U.S. Census Bureau launched “Address Canvassing,” the first major field operation of the 2020 Census. Address canvassing improves and refines the Census Bureau’s address list of households nationwide, which is necessary to deliver invitations to respond to the census. The address list plays a vital role in ensuring a complete and accurate count of everyone living in the United States.

The Census Bureau created new software called the Block Assessment, Research and Classification Application (BARCA). It compares satellite images of the United States over time, allowing Census Bureau employees to spot new housing developments, changes in existing homes and other housing units that did not previously exist.

Reviewers also use BARCA to compare the number of housing units in current imagery with the number of addresses on file for each block.

65% of addresses were verified using satellite imagery. In 2010 Census Bureau hired 150,000 people to verify 100% of the addresses in the field, this decade will hire about 40,000 employees around the nation to verify the remaining 35% of addresses.

Census Bureau employees (listers) have started walking through neighborhoods across the country checking addresses not verified using BARCA software. In-field address canvassing will continue through mid-October.

Employees will have badges and briefcases indicating their affiliation with the Census Bureau. They will knock on doors and ask a few simple questions to verify the address and any additional living quarters on the property for inclusion in the census.

Employees will introduce themselves as a Census Bureau employee, show their official government ID badge, and explain the purpose of the visit. People may also ask them for a picture ID from another source to confirm their identity.

This operation is one of several activities the Census Bureau conducts for an accurate and complete count. The Census Bureau also partners with the U.S. Postal Service and tribal, state and local officials to update the address list.

The 2020 Census officially starts counting people in January 2020 in remote Toksook Bay, Alaska. Following the count of people in remote Alaska, most households in the country will start receiving invitations to respond online, by phone, or by mail in March 2020.

The U.S. Constitution mandates that a census of the population be conducted once every 10 years. Census data is used to determine the number of seats each state holds in Congress and how more than \$675 billion in federal funds are distributed back to states and local communities every year for services and infrastructure, including health care, jobs, schools, roads, and businesses.

--This information was furnished by Dr. Mary Jane Garza, Partnership Specialist, US Census Bureau. Dr. Garza also is a past president (2015-2017) of LWV-CC.



## Important Dates To Remember

### **FOR NOVEMBER 5, 2019, GENERAL ELECTION:**

October 7--Last day to register to vote  
October 21 to November 1--Early Voting

### **FOR MARCH 3, 2020, PRIMARIES**

Tuesday, Sept. 10--First day to file for a place on the Primary ballot for precinct chair candidates.  
Saturday, Nov. 9--First day to file for all other candidates for offices that are regularly scheduled to be on the Primary ballot; first day for independent candidates to file declaration of intent.  
Monday, Dec. 9, 6 p.m.--Filing deadline for candidates; filing deadline for independent candidates to file declaration of intent.  
Wednesday, Jan. 1, 2020-- First day to apply for a ballot by mail using Application for a Ballot by Mail (ABBM) or Federal Postcard Application (FPCA).

Monday, Feb. 3, 2020--Last Day to Register to Vote

Tuesday, Feb. 18, 2020--First Day of Early Voting

Friday, Feb. 21, 2020--Last Day to Apply for Ballot by Mail

Friday, Feb. 28, 2020--Last Day of Early Voting

Tuesday, March 3--Last day to Receive Ballot by Mail

Tuesday, March 3, 2020--Election Day

*(This calendar can be found on the Texas Secretary of State's website)*



**SAVE THE DATE:**  
 Tuesday, September 24, 2019  
 National Voter Registration Day. Three locations will be manned by League members--

- Corpus Christi City Hall
- Texas A&M University-CC
- CCISD high school (tentative)

# LEAGUE CALENDAR

## SEPTEMBER

Thursday, Sept. 19--League Membership Meeting, 5:30 p.m. at the BUS (Bar Under the Sun), 702 Chaparral. (See story on Page 1.)

Tuesday, Sept. 24--National Voter Registration Day; sign up and serve as a DVR. (Story on Page 8)

Wednesday, Sept. 25--Institute for Public Leadership for college students, 4-7 p.m., sponsored by the YWCA and TAMU-CC

Saturday, Sept. 28--Institute for Public Leadership, sponsored by the YWCA and LWV-CC. League members invited to attend but must register. (See story on Page 5)

## OCTOBER

Thursday, Oct. 17--State Rep. Abel Herrero will provide a "Legislative Update" and answer questions about last spring's Legislative session.

Saturday, Oct. 19--LWVTX will celebrate its 100th anniversary with a program in downtown San Antonio. (See story at left)

## NOVEMBER

Thursday, Nov. 21--League membership luncheon program with presenter to be announced.

## LOOKING AHEAD

2020 State League Convention in Austin, TX (held every two years). Dates: Friday-Sunday, April 17-19, 2020.

## LEAGUE CHATTER

- The League will order about 1,000 Voters Guides (800 in English and 200 in Spanish) from LWVTX to distribute free in the community prior to Early Voting for the 10 Constitutional Amendments (see related story on page 11). The guides are nonpartisan and provide both pro and con statements on each amendment.
- League representatives have been invited to present a short program on Sept. 10 to the Nueces County Historical Commission at its meeting at the Courthouse (third floor). LWV-CC also recently attended the State Historical Society's meeting held at First Presbyterian Church.
- President Anne Stewart wants League members to be able to recognize one another and hopes to have a photo display set up at meetings soon with members' photos and names. So..if one of the League's photographers says "smile for the camera," please cheerfully say yes!



**"Wait! Before we leave the Courthouse, I need to change my address!"**

A just-married unidentified couple stopped at the League's voter registration table at the Nueces County Courthouse in July so that the bride could request a replacement card with her new name and address!

## LWVTX News

# Reservations for Oct. 19 State League Celebration Due

There's still time to make your luncheon reservation for the League of Women Voters of Texas' 100th anniversary celebration on Saturday, October 19, 2019, in San Antonio.

League members and supporters from throughout the state will gather at 11:30 a.m. at the historic St. Anthony Hotel where the first meeting of the League took place in 1919. The program will conclude about 1:30 p.m.

Tickets are \$128.27 per person, which includes a \$9.27 processing fee, and can be ordered on the LWVTX website at [www.lwv-tx.org](http://www.lwv-tx.org). If you are thinking about attending and want to discuss travel, contact Chris Garcia at 244-4193.

LWVTX Prersident Grace Chimene will preside at the event, and keynote speakers at the luncheon will be Patricia (Trish) Cunningham Nicholson, the great grandniece of Minnie Fisher Cunningham, who will speak on the "Power of Women" and Dr. Jessica Brannon-Wranosky, Ph.D., a well-recognized state and national suffrage historian who will speak on "the Power of Women" in Texas history and their heroic ongoing struggle to achieve full voting rights for all women in Texas.

# Constitutional Amendments at a Glance

The ballot order for 10 proposed amendments to the Texas Constitution that will appear on the November 5 General Election ballot was announced in August by the Secretary of State's office.

Texas voters will have the opportunity to approve the amendments with a majority vote. LWV-TX has produced a series of videos addressing each amendment, and the public can access those videos by visiting the LWV-TX website at [www.lwvtx.org](http://www.lwvtx.org). The state League also is producing a "Pro and Con" nonpartisan Voters Guide that also will be available on its website.

LWV-CC plans to purchase a quantity of the guide for placement at [xmxmxmxmxmx](http://xmxmxmxmxmx).

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## Explaining Proposition 4

By Debbie Noble, LWV-CC Director  
for Social Media and Website

Texas has no income tax. And we are proud of that fact. Only six other states share this claim to fame: Alaska, Florida, South Dakota, Nevada, Washington, and Wyoming. The pros and cons of different state government income streams and how they affect the people and business of the state is a discussion for another day, but we will see a proposition on our ballot in November about this lack of income tax.

According to our current state constitution, the only way to enact a state income tax is for both legislative houses to have a majority vote to place it on a state ballot so that the people could decide.

Proposition 4 will be on the ballot in November. A vote for Proposition 4 is a vote to BAN income tax in the state of Texas. This would replace the aforementioned referendum requirement with an actual ban. Then, the only way to enact an income tax would be to have a 2/3's vote in both houses (not just a majority) to agree to then have the people vote to remove the ban and add a tax.

A vote FOR Prop 4 is a vote for an constitutional amendment to BAN individual state income taxes.

A vote AGAINST Prop 4 is a vote to keep the constitution as it is where there is currently no income tax anyway.

In either case, the decision would have to be voted on by the public; the only difference is that Prop 4 will require a 2/3s majority to make that happen, and currently it only requires a simple (greater than 50%) majority.

Proposition 1 (HJR 72): "The constitutional amendment permitting a person to hold more than one office as a municipal judge at the same time."

Proposition 2 (SJR 79): "The constitutional amendment providing for the issuance of additional general obligation bonds by the Texas Water Development Board in an amount not to exceed \$200 million to provide financial assistance for the development of certain projects in economically distressed areas."

Proposition 3 (HJR 34): "The constitutional amendment authorizing the legislature to provide for a temporary exemption from ad valorem taxation of a portion of the appraised value of certain property damaged by a disaster."

Proposition 4 (HJR 38): "The constitutional amendment prohibiting the imposition of an individual income tax, including a tax on an individual's share of partnership and unincorporated association income."

Proposition 5 (SJR 24): "The constitutional amendment dedicating the revenue received from the existing state sales and use taxes that are imposed on sporting goods to the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department and the Texas Historical Commission to protect Texas' natural areas, water quality, and history by acquiring, managing, and improving state and local parks and historic sites while not increasing the rate of the state sales and use taxes."

Proposition 6 (HJR 12): "The constitutional amendment authorizing the legislature to increase by \$3 billion the maximum bond amount authorized for the Cancer Prevention and Research Institute of Texas."

Proposition 7 (HJR 151): "The constitutional amendment allowing increased distributions to the available school fund."

Proposition 8 (HJR 4): "The constitutional amendment providing for the creation of the flood infrastructure fund to assist in the financing of drainage, flood mitigation, and flood control projects."

Proposition 9 (HJR 95): "The constitutional amendment authorizing the legislature to exempt from ad valorem taxation precious metal held in a precious metal depository located in this state."

Proposition 10 (SJR 32): "The constitutional amendment to allow the transfer of a law enforcement animal to a qualified caretaker in certain circumstances."

For more information and resources for voting in Texas, visit [VoteTexas.gov](http://VoteTexas.gov)

## REMINDER: *Your Membership Renewal Matters!*

LWV-Corpus Christi was established in 1946 and has been the “go to” organization for nonpartisan Voter Guides and candidate forums for the past 74 years. Your continued support of LWV-CC, through your annual membership dues, ensures that we continue addressing our mission and serving the community. Your local League membership makes you also a member of the League of Women Voters-Texas (LWVTX) and the the League of Women Voters-US (LWVUS)



The League’s membership year is June 1 through May 31. Send your membership dues payment with the membership renewal form below to:

LWV-CC (Attn: Treasurer)  
PO Box 8276  
Corpus Christi, TX 78468



## 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       Individual Sustaining \$100  
 Student \$5       Friend of the League \$30 (without voting privileges)

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing 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       Media/Communications       Membership Services  
 Governance/Bylaws       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 priced at \$100 for 10 issues.