



The Corpus Christi Area

Voter

FEBRUARY 2016

League of Women Voters
PO Box 8276
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<http://www.lwv-cc.org>
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Secretary of State To Speak at March 30 League Meeting

The LWV-CC has invited Texas Secretary of State Carlos H. Cascos as its monthly luncheon speaker on Wednesday, March 30. The meeting date is scheduled later in the month than usual, due to Spring Break holidays and Easter observances

Secretary of State Cascos will discuss the following topics: Responsibilities of the Office of the Secretary of State, Voter Rights, Motor Voter law, and the Texas and Mexican Affairs Division.

He will speak for approximately 30 minutes followed by a question and answer period, said LWV-CC President Mary Jane Garza.

The LWV-CC Meeting on March 30 is a luncheon meeting from 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at the Del Mar College Center for Economic Development Center, Room 106. More details will follow, but save the date and plan to attend!



Secretary of State
Carlos H. Cascos

January Voter Registration--763 --A Great 2016 Beginning

A big THANK YOU to the League members who volunteered to assist in voter registration activities throughout the month of January. Our efforts yielded **763** new or renewing voter registrations due to our presence in several high schools, Del Mar College, the Greenwood Library, Martin Luther King Day celebration, and the Corpus Christi Trade Center. Members who donated 2-4 hours of their time to assist their neighbors in registering to vote in the primary election are truly "Making Democracy Work" and acting as a positive force for the democratic process.

MEMBERS...Please Note the Following

- There will be **NO** membership luncheon in February. (See story on Page 3.)
- The second of two Candidate Forums will be held Thursday evening, Feb. 11, at City Hall. (See story on Page 3)

President's Message

Your VOTE Makes a Difference

The LWV keeps and will keep repeating, "Voting is the most powerful way to have your voice heard, and it is the core of our democracy."

The LWV will remind you and keep reminding, "It is our chance to stand up for what matters and have an impact on the issues that affect you, your community and your future." The LWV believes and advocates, "Every VOTE makes a difference, it is that VOTE that is not cast that hinders/obstructs/denies—"Democracy at Work."

The League continually works to empower all eligible voters to participate in our country's political system. Volunteer teams work year-round to register, inform and mobilize voters.

LWV-CC February Issue of THE VOTER is devoted to the forthcoming March 1, 2016 Primary Election. The LWV-CC knows that every election is an important election. It is every registered voter's right and privilege to express his/her voice and "Make Democracy Work."

The March 1 Primary Election allows us the opportunity to participate in voting for national, state, and local candidates.

LWV-CC volunteers registered voters up to the Feb. 1 deadline so

could cast their ballots. Sandra Heatherley and Ruth Falck coordinated and orchestrated these efforts.

Educated and informed voters are the key to our democracy. LWV-CC works to educate voters about candidates in federal, state, and local races each year.

As in years past, LWV-CC used the on-line VOTE411.org as was intended. VOTE411.org, our one-stop elections information hub, is ready for viewing. Check it out!

Populating the electronic VOTE411 for our area candidates was a challenging process. LWV-CC volunteers worked as a team to draft the questions, populate the site, call candidates, send email reminders, and publish the candidates' submissions.

Opposed candidates from both parties rose to the challenge and responded to the questions and uploaded a picture.

But there was more to do! Our printed Voters Guide for the Primary is being formatted this week and 10,000 copies will be printed and distributed at various public sites.



Dr. Mary Jane Garza
LWV-CC President

Another way to educate voters is providing candidate forums where citizens can meet the candidates and hear them respond to questions.

As we went to press this week with the VOTER, the first of two forums had been held (Feb. 2) and the second one was scheduled for Thursday, Feb. 11, at 6 p.m. at Corpus Christi City Hall in the Council Chambers. Plan to attend!

One of the goals of LWV-CC is to provide accurate and timely information to eligible voters.

In this VOTER, you will find information on the early voting sites, key dates to remember, VOTE411 information, and other website resources to help you learn about the candidates.

Remember, the only vote that does not make a difference is the one that is not cast and that silences "Democracy at Work!"

MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

WELCOME, NEW MEMBERS!

Leah Pagan Olivarri
Dorothy Ewing
Rolando Barrera

THANKS TO THESE RENEWING MEMBERS!

Teresa Carrillo
Joan Veith

Second Candidate Forum on Feb. 11

Two Candidate Forums were scheduled in February, and one has been completed. The Feb. 2 forum included candidates for US Representative, District 27; 13th Court of Appeals, Place 3; 214th District Judge; District Attorney; and Nueces County Sheriff.

The second forum is scheduled **this Thursday, February 11, from 6-9:30 p.m. in City Hall Council Chambers, 1201 Leopard**. The forum is open to the public. Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., Corpus Christi Alumnae and the YWCA Corpus Christi will partner with the League. League members are invited to help greet candidates and distribute index cards for questions.

Candidates in the following contested races have been invited to the February 11 forum: County Commissioner, Precinct 3; Justice of Peace, Precinct 2, Place 1; Constables, Precincts 1, 3; and 5; and County Chair of Nueces County Democratic Party.

At the Feb. 2 forum, LWV-CC partnered with Hispanic Women's Network of Corpus Christi and Leadership Corpus Christi Alumni. Leslie Smith HWNT-CC chair; Michelle Unda, Chair of Leadership Corpus Christi Alumni; and Dr. Mary Jane Garza, LWV-CC President, served as moderators.

LWV-CC Candidate Forum February 2, 2016	
Televised Rebroadcast Dates	
February 6, 2016	5:30 p.m.
February 8, 2016	1:30 p.m.
Channel Cable Box—Time Warner, Grande, AT&T Uverse—Channel 20. Cable only/digital television ready, Tune to 41.2.	



ATTENTION, LEAGUE MEMBERS:
 Because of the two Candidate Forums in February and other League efforts to publish the Voters Guide, there will be no February membership luncheon held this month. We'll see you in March. (See story on Page 1.)

Nueces County Announces Early Voting Main/Mobile Sites

Early Voting Dates and Times for the Main Voting Locations for the March 1 Primary
Tuesday-Friday: February 16-19: 8 a.m. – 5 p.m.
Saturday, February 20: 7 a.m. -7:00 p.m.
Sunday, February 21: 12 noon -5:00 p.m.
Monday-Friday, February 22-26: 7 a.m.-7 p.m.

MAIN EARLY VOTING LOCATIONS *(in Corpus Christi unless otherwise noted)*

1. **Nueces County Courthouse (1st floor), 901 Leopard**
2. **Bishop Community Center, 102 W. Joyce Street, Bishop**
3. **Corpus Christi Area Council for the Deaf, 5151 McArdle**
4. **Ellis Memorial Library, 700 W. Avenue A, Port Aransas**
5. **Ethel Eyerly Senior Center, 654 Graham Rd.**
6. **Greenwood Senior Citizens Center, 4040 Greenwood Dr.**
7. **Hilltop Community Center, 11425 Leopard Street**
8. **Johnny S. Calderon County Building, 710 E. Main Street, Robstown**
9. **Kaffie Middle School (main office), 5922 Brockhampton**
10. **Magee Elementary School (Star Annex), 4201 Calallen Dr.**
11. **Peerless Cleaners, 2802 Santa Fe**
12. **Petronila Elementary School (cafeteria), 2391 CR 67, Robstown**
13. **Schlitterbahn, 14353 Commodores Drive**

MOBILE EARLY VOTING LOCATIONS *(please note specific voting days/times)*

CCAD (Building 8)-NAS, 308 Crecy

Feb. 18-19, 8 a.m.-5 p.m.; Feb. 25-26, 7 a.m.-7 p.m.

David Berlanga Community Center, 1513 2nd St., Agua Dulce

Feb. 19, 8 a.m.-5 p.m.; Feb. 22-24, 7 a.m.-7 p.m.

Driscoll ISD (Cafetorium), 410 W. Avenue D, Driscoll

Feb. 19, 8 a.m.-5 p.m.; Feb. 22-23, 7 a.m.-7 p.m.

TAMU-CC (University Center), 6300 Ocean Drive

Feb. 16-17, 8 a.m. -5 p.m.; Feb. 22-24, 7 a.m.-7 p.m.



League To Publish Voters Guide

LWV-CC will publish a 20-page Voters Guide which features candidates on the March 1 ballot who are opposed in their respective races. Their responses to questions and their photographs, if furnished, have also been entered into VOTE 411 and can be accessed online.

The League will print 10,000 copies which will be distributed free of charge to local and area public libraries and other public buildings.

If you can help distribute copies of the guide on Feb. 12, please contact Voters Service chair Sandra Heatherley.

LWV-Texas Voters Guide Is Available OnLine

The League of Women Voters of Texas has published the 2016 Primary Election Voters Guide in both English and Spanish. The guide features about 99 opposed candidates who are seeking statewide office, their photos, and answers to questions posed by the League. The state Voters Guide can be accessed at:
www.lwvtexas.com.

The guides also will be placed on the Corpus Christi website: <http://www.lwv-cc.org>.

Standing-Room-Only Attends Jan. 19 Program on Streets



It was standing-room-only on Thursday, Jan. 19, as more than 60 folks, both League members and community members, attended the League's monthly membership luncheon to hear a presentation about the role of the newly named citizen committee addressing the issue of city street repair.



(Photos contributed by Debbie Noble)

Speakers included (top to bottom) Citizen Committee Chair Andy Taubman; City Council member Rudy Garza; and City Council member Chad Magill.

Democratic and Republican Precinct Conventions

Nueces County Democratic Pct. & County Convention
March 19, 2016 -West Oso Jr. High—11:00 a.m.

Nueces County Republican Pct. Convention
March 12--Annapolis Christian Academy-10:00 a.m.
March 19--Annapolis Christian Academy-10:00 a.m.

LEAGUE CALENDAR AT A GLANCE

FEBRUARY 2016

Tuesday, Feb. 9: LWV-CC Executive Meeting, 5:30 p.m., Emerald Beach Hotel
Feb. 11: LWV-CC Candidate Forum #2 (see story, Page 3)

MARCH 2016

Tuesday, March 1: Texas Primary
Wednesday, March 30, Monthly Luncheon Meeting featuring Texas Secretary of State Carlos H. Cascos (see story, Page 1)



VOTE IN THE MARCH 1 PRIMARY

The Primary Election will take place on Tuesday, March 1. Polls will be open 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.

**Tuesday, February 16
FIRST DAY OF EARLY VOTING**

**Friday, February 26
LAST DAY OF EARLY VOTING**

JOSE MIGUEL DURAN, M.D. Gastroenterology

Colonoscopy Screening

Doctors Square
2222 Morgan Ave., Suite 111
Corpus Christi, Texas 78406

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

**LEAGUE
REGISTERS
VOTERS
AT THE
CC TRADE
CENTER**



VOTER REGISTRATION--LWV-CC members Lois Huff and Ruth Falck man the voter registration table at the CC Trade Center. (At right) Prospective voters gather around the League’s voter registration table as Sandra Heatherley explains how to register. Thanks to all the volunteers who manned the table over a two-day period. (See related story on Page 1.)

**COMMUNITY
ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.

On Saturday, Feb. 20, Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., Corpus Christi Alumnae, will hold its “Women of Wonder: 1st annual Dreamcatcher Awards Brunch” at the Holiday Inn-Airport.

The event starts at 9:30 a.m. and features a panel discussion with experts in mental health, honoring women working in the special needs community. Cost is \$35 per person.

For more information, 361-356-6349 or corpuschristidst@gmail.com.

State of the City Luncheon

The annual State of the City 2016 luncheon, featuring remarks by Mayor Nelda Martinez, will be held Thursday, Feb.18, at the American Bank Center from 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m. Call 881-1800 to order tickets or tables.

VOTER ID REQUIRED AT THE POLLS:

A Texas voter is now required to show one of the forms of photo identification at the polling location before the voter will be permitted to cast a vote. If a voter does not present proper identification, the voter will still be permitted to vote provisionally. The voter will have (six) 6 days to present proper identification to the county voter registrar for the voter’s ballot to be accepted.

Forms of Photo Identification

- Texas Driver License, unexpired or expired less than 60 days; issued by the Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS)
- Texas Concealed Handgun License issued by DPS, unexpired or expired less than 60 days
- Texas Personal Identification Card issued by DPS, unexpired or expired less than 60 days
- Texas Election Identification Certificate (EIC) issued by DPS
- EIC Application Process United States Military Identification Card containing the person’s photograph
- United States Citizenship Certificate containing the person’s photograph
- United States Passport (unexpired or expired less than 60 days)

If you have questions, don’t hesitate to contact the Voter Registrar’s office at the Nueces County Courthouse.



TODD HUNTER
STATE REPRESENTATIVE • DISTRICT 32

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LWV TEXAS STATE CONVENTION FRIDAY-SUNDAY, MARCH 11-13, 2016

The League of Women Voters of Texas will hold its biennial convention Friday–Sunday, March 11-13, at The Westin Houston, Memorial City. League members and local League delegates from across the state are invited to attend and enjoy a 48-hour informative gathering that includes:

- o Attending the opening Convocation on Friday at 12:30 p.m. and being inspired by a special Readers' Theatre presentation, "We Hold These Truths..." by LWV-Collin County;
- o Workshops to grow, learn, and share accomplishments and concerns;
- o Hearing two excellent speakers: Jennifer Ross-Nazzal, NASA historian and author of *MXMXM* and Lisa Falkenberg, Pulitzer Prize-winning columnist for *The Houston Chronicle*;
- o Electing LWV-TX state officers for 2016-2018;
- o Bidding on one or more of the Silent Auction items provided by league members.

Registration for the 2016 Convention is \$140 per person prior to March 8, 2016 or \$150 at the door. The luncheon and banquet meals are priced separately. Visit the LWV-Texas website at: www.lwvtexas.org for registration form and convention overview. LWV-Corpus Christi will be entitled to about eight voting delegates. If interested in attending the state convention as a delegate, contact LWV-CC President at 361-537-1313 or drmaryjanegarza@gmail.com.

TEXAS RANKS 50TH IN VOTER PARTICIPATION

The League of Women Voters of Texas knows that it is very important that Texans vote to elect their representatives, yet Texas is **50th in voter participation**. Texans can foster the tradition of voting for their community and set an example for informed voting. Vote in the March 1 Primary if you want a say in who is elected! Several legislative districts in Texas have been drawn to be majority Democratic or Republican. Thus many local races are contested (have opponents) only in the Primary Election, and the winner of the Primary Election has no opponent in the General Election. **The Primary Election Winner thus becomes the Winner.**

Make your voice heard! Vote in the March 1 Primary Election!



To see your own personalized Voters Guide and get a personalized ballot showing all the races in which you will be able to vote, go to Vote411.org. The Vote411 Voters Guide for Corpus Christi and Nueces County has been published, thanks to Sandra Heatherley. Local candidates were invited to answer the League questions on-line and submit a photo, which most of the candidates did.

Vote411 is a national program by LWVUS that provides candidates with the opportunity to enter their answers to the local League's questions, and have the public access the site to read their responses.

www.VOTE411.org.

CITY OF CORPUS CHRISTI, TEXAS



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League of Women Voters
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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.

THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING LWV-CC

The League of Women Voters, formed in 1920 with the passage of the 19th Amendment, is a respected, nonpartisan organization which determines its policy positions only after studying issues. LWV-CC values your membership! If you need to renew your membership or have questions about LWV-CC, please call President Mary Jane Garza. Your support is sincerely appreciated.



When: Every Saturday
 (year round)
Time: 9:00 AM til Sell Out
Where: 5800 Everhart Rd.

www.farmersmarketcc.org

***Be a "Localvore."
 Support your local
 growers/gardeners.***

LWV-Corpus Christi Area New Member/Renewal Application

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

Type of membership: New _____ Renewal _____

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

Name _____

Household Member's Name _____

Mailing Address _____

Work Address (Optional) _____

E-Mail Address _____

I prefer to receive League correspondence () by email () by mail

Home phone _____ Work or Cell phone _____

Please return this form with your payment
 (check or money order) to:
 League of Women Voters-CC (Attn: Treasurer)
 PO Box 8276 * Corpus Christi, TX 78468

(The League's financial year is from June 1 through May 31 but membership is year-round.)