



The Corpus Christi Area

Voter

JANUARY 2016

League of Women Voters
PO Box 8276
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<http://www.lwv-cc.org>
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Jan. 21 Meeting To Focus on "Corpus Christi Streets"

You are invited to attend LWV-CC's January Monthly Meeting

Date : Thursday, Jan. 21, 2016

Time: 11:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Place: Del Mar College Center for Economic Development
Room 141

3209 S. Staples Street (*corner of Kostoryz & South Staples
across from Ray High School*)

TOPIC: "Corpus Christi Streets—The Resolution Challenges"

Speakers include: Chad Magill, Corpus Christi City Council Member;
Rudy Garza, Jr., Corpus Christi City Council Member; and Andy
Taubman, Chair, Ad-Hoc Residential Infrastructure Advisory Committee

A box lunch for those who want to eat (sandwich, chips, fruit, cookie,
beverage) is available at \$10. Please order your box lunch by Tuesday,
January 19, by calling 445-4436.

Two Candidate Forums Set

LWV-CC has scheduled two Candidate Forums in February that will
feature contested races in the March 1 Primary Election. The forums are
set on Tuesday, Feb. 2, and Thursday, Feb. 11, in the Council Chambers
(first floor) at City Hall, 1201 Leopard.

A story on Page 3 of this VOTER details the races to be featured at
each of the forums.

League members can help in several ways and are invited to
volunteer by calling Voter Services Chair Sandra Heatherly at 814-9120.

The forums will be open to the public, and the audience has the
opportunity to submit written questions and listen to candidates' positions.
Both forums will be televised live. (See story on Page 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

Celebrating 2015 Accomplishments and Planning for 2016

Happy New Year! Hope each of you had a wonderful Holiday season with family and friends.

To say that the LWV-CC has been busy this past year would be an understatement. The League of Women Voters' mission — Making Democracy Work® — means that we advocate for a democracy in which every citizen has a say and every vote is counted.

In 2015, this has meant providing voter education information to voters,

League volunteers registered voters, held candidate forums and issue forums, and provided nonpartisan candidate and ballot information through printed and online voters' guides.

The League's award-winning online election resource,

VOTE411.org, provides voters with accurate, up-to-date information on what they needed to vote.

People used VOTE411.org to find accurate information on voting rules, polling place locations, and candidate positions.

LWV-CC members will continue to do everything in their power to see that we are Making Democracy Work.

We accomplished a great deal this past year, but we have even more to do in 2016.

In 2016 and beyond, we will continue our work to ensure that every voter has equal access to the ballot box.

We ask that you think of the



Dr. Mary Jane Garza
LWV-CC President

League as you reflect on the need to strengthen our great democracy through increased political participation.

We ask that you assist us during our voter registration drives, attend our LWV-CC monthly meetings and Candidates Forums, and most important vote in the March 1, 2016 Primary.

Making Democracy Work is an on-going process. Voter Apathy is not acceptable for any reason. Every election is important and it is our responsibility to exercise our voice by casting our ballot.

WELCOME, NEW MEMBERS!

Barbara Baker, Individual
Dimitri Guerra, Individual
Cynthia Rubio, Individual

THANKS TO THESE RENEWING MEMBERS!

Augie and Juliana Rivera,
Household
Charles E. Hughes, Household
with Bobbie Wood-Hughes



Our software for VOTE411.org will be updated with information regarding the March 1 Primary Election. We plan to make the information on the site available before the start of early voting on February 16. At that time, members of the public may log in, enter their address, and view candidate information.



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Plan To Volunteer for One or Both Candidate Forums!

League volunteers are needed to make the upcoming Candidate Forums successful.

You can assist at the registration table, greet and welcome candidates and visitors, help distribute and collect index cards from the audience who have questions for the candidates, and create a positive League presence.

If you prefer to be “in the background,” come and be a part of the audience! Making democracy work is what the League is all about.

LWV-CC Candidate Forums

LWV-CC has scheduled two Candidate Forums in February that will feature contested races for the March 1 Primary Election. The audience has the opportunity to submit written questions and listen to candidates' positions.

Tuesday, February 2, 2016

6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.

Corpus Christi City Hall Council Chambers (first floor)
1201 Leopard Street, Corpus Christi

Candidates in the following contested races have been invited to the February 2 forum: US Representative, District 27; 13th Court of Appeals, Place 3; 214th District Judge; District Attorney; and Nueces County Sheriff.

Thursday, February 11, 2016

6:00 p.m. - 9:30 p.m.

Corpus Christi City Hall Council Chambers (first floor)
1201 Leopard Street, Corpus Christi

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; Constable, Precinct 1, Constable, Precinct 3; Constable, Precinct 5; and County Chair of Nueces County Democratic Party.

MARCH 1, 2016

PRIMARY ELECTION

The Primary Election will take place on Tuesday, March 1, 2016. The last day one can register to vote for this election is February 1. Early Voting takes place from February 16 – February 26. Photo ID is currently required for voting in person.



February 1, 2016—LAST DAY TO REGISTER

TO VOTE MARCH 1, 2016



February 16, 2016,—FIRST DAY OF EARLY

VOTING



February 26, 2016—LAST DAY OF EARLY

VOTING





LWV-CC December Holiday Meeting

The LWV-CC Executive Board sponsored an evening to remember LWV-CC Accomplishments for the 2015-2016 year. The December 10, 2015, Holiday Meeting was hosted at the Emerald Beach Hotel. Board members had the opportunity to share with the attending membership their roles and responsibilities and a highlight for the past 2015-2016 year. Past President Sandra Heatherley highlighted the first half of the year and Dr. Mary Jane Garza highlighted the last half of the year. Among the items celebrated was the success of the monthly meetings and the speakers that provide information at the state and local level. Special recognition was extended to Ruth Fault for the work she has accomplished in the Voter Registration campaign during the past year. The December Holiday meeting included delicious appetizers, door prizes, and the opportunity to visit and talk about the upcoming year.



Pictured above left and clockwise: State Rep. Todd Hunter, Colleen Johnson, Alex Garcia, Kim Wilson; Karol Stewart; President Mary Jane Garza with Rep. Hunter and Past President Sandra Heatherley; Interim Secretary Mary Kay Fant Oliveria; Debbie Vickery; Coretta Graham; Genie Kruse, Debi Tomberlin and Margaret Fratila; Mary Jane Garza.



Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

All Invited to Monday, Jan. 18, Celebration

The Annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Commemorative March scheduled at noon this Monday, Jan. 18, 2016, will include a march from the Courthouse to the Church of the Good Shepherd Episcopal as well as special music, remarks and activities for the public. LWV-CC will participate in the annual celebration by manning a voter registration table at the church, said Ruth Falck and Sandra Heatherley, Voter Services. Call Sandra for details if you would like to participate.

LWV-CC



Sally Farris

LWV-CC Director

Sally Farris, LWV-CC director, serves on the LWV-TX state committee that explored the following question, “SHOULD LWV-TEXAS AND ITS LOCAL LEAGUES CONVERT TO ALL-501(C)(3) STATUS?” The committee met over video conferences and extensive emails. A comprehensive report has been prepared to forward to the LWV-TX Executive Committee for consideration and for membership consideration at the LWV-CC state conference scheduled in March in Houston.

Sally has spent hours reviewing and commenting on prepared preliminary report titled—“*Report on the Status of the Tax Exempt Review Committee.*” Sally has provided updates to the LWV-CC Executive Board during their monthly meetings.

Sally also is active in local environmental efforts.

Thank you, Sally.

LEAGUE CALENDAR AT A GLANCE

JANUARY 2016

Jan 5: LWV-CC Executive Board Meeting, 5:30 pm - 7:00 pm—Bay Room, Emerald Beach Hotel

Jan 21: LWV-CC Monthly Meeting—11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.—Del Mar College Center for Economic Development. Program: “Corpus Christi Streets—The Resolution Challenges” (see story, Page 1)

FEBRUARY 2016

Feb. 1: Deadline to register to vote in the Primary Election

Feb. 2: LWV-CC Candidates Forum #1—Corpus Christi City Council Chambers (see story, Page 3)

Feb. 9: LWV-CC Executive Meeting—5:30 pm—7:00 pm—Bay Room, Emerald Beach Hotel

Feb. 11: LWV-CC Candidates Forum #2—Corpus Christi City Council Chambers (see story, Page 3)

Feb. 18: League Monthly Luncheon Meeting (details TBA)

MARCH 2016

March 1--VOTE in the Primary Elections!

March 17--League Monthly Luncheon Meeting (details TBA)

ANNOUNCEMENTS



League Will Publish Primary Voters Guide

Work is under way to publish a 20-page Voters Guide which gives opposed candidates in races on the March 1 Primary ballot an opportunity to answer questions posed by the League and thus inform voters before they vote. The League plans to print 10,000 copies which would be distributed in local and area public libraries and other public buildings. There are 11 contested races (see page 3 story) which have drawn more than 20 candidates.

Observer Corps Invitation

In the November VOTER, an invitation was extended to League members to participate in the Observer Corps, which encourages regular attendance by League members at scheduled meetings of policy-setting entities such as the Corpus Christi City Council, Nueces County Commissioners Court, Health District, Port Authority, CCISD, and Del Mar College Regents. If you have an interest in participating, please let President Mary Jane Garza know.

Making the Most of the Internet To Promote Our Mission

By Debbie Noble, Webmaster

As a local chapter of the League of Women Voters, our mission is to encourage voting and provide voter education. In order to fulfill that mission, we need to be able to inform current members of activities and opportunities, attract new members, and provide general information to a wide audience.

In short, we need to be able to communicate well. And in the Internet age, that means we have to have more than just an email address list. We need an up-to-date and easy to use website and an active social media presence.

Why use social media at all? In 2014, there were over 150 million Facebook users in the United States who each spent an average of 39 minutes a day on the social media site. Over 100 million of those users are over the age of 25. The fastest growing group using social media is people over 45. One in 4 people over age 65 are now part of a social networking site.

Why use social media? That is where our audience is.

Websites provide one-way communication to the general public. Although information remains on website long-term, a user must go to the website to get it. Our local chapter website is <http://www.lwv-cc.org>.

Facebook, the world's most widely used social media platform, encourages discussion by allowing people to easily comment on what they read or ask questions. Fans automatically get new information as soon as it's posted, but information can be ephemeral.

Once it is pushed off the first page, fans rarely go back to see it.

The Facebook page is also available to the general public at any time, not just people who have liked the page.

Although email communication is still a very effective and important method of communication, especially to existing members, studies have shown that younger people don't use email much, maybe because it takes less commitment to become a Facebook fan than it does to give an organization your email address.

Once you pull people into Facebook by getting them to become a "friend" or "fan" of your page (easily done with one keyboard click), they become a constant audience and you can quickly push timely information to them.

Updating a website is much more time consuming and you have no guarantee that anyone will decide to look at it when you want them to.

Although our goal is to have over 100 paid members in our local chapter, we actually have over 300 friends on Facebook currently. We are reaching people and you can help us reach out even more.

If you have a Facebook account already, please "like" our page, Corpus Christi League of Women Voters. Then, invite any of your friends to "like" it by pressing the "Invite Friends to Like this Page" option on the left side of the page.

We try to keep the page updated with events, important voter information, interesting issues in local news, links, and photos. If you see something interesting or important on our page, you can "like" it, comment on it, or use the "share" option to post it to your own page to increase visibility.



We will try to keep both the website and the Facebook page current so that we can all stay informed and we can all help fulfill our League mission!

References:

<http://www.statista.com/statistics/398136/us-facebook-user-age-groups/>
http://help.lwvnet.org/files/LWVMI_StateConventionWorkshop2011.pdf

CALL TO CONVENTION!

The League of Women Voters of Texas biennial convention will be held Friday-Sunday, March 11-13, 2016, in Houston, TX. The host hotel is The Westin Houston, Memorial City, and about 125 delegates from across the state are expected to attend.

By virtue of our membership, LWV-CC is entitled to have about 8 voting delegates. Please let President Mary Jane Garza know if you are interested in attending the convention and being a delegate.

Registration is \$140 per person and includes excellent workshops on Friday afternoon, March 11. A special feature for the 2016 convention is a one-day only rate for Friday, March 11, of \$50 for League members to attend just the workshops.

Attending the League convention provides networking and learning opportunities, plus offers a better understanding of what the League is all about.

For more details, contact Chris Garcia, 2016 state convention chair, at 991-2784 for more information.

RIGHTS OF TEXAS REGISTERED VOTERS

As a registered voter in Texas, you have certain rights. The Secretary of State reminds you that registered voters have the right to:

- A ballot with written instructions on how to cast a ballot.
- Cast your vote in secret, free from intimidation.
- Receive up to two more ballots if a mistake is made while marking the ballot.
- Ask for instruction on how to cast the ballot, but not suggestions on how to vote.
- Bring an interpreter to assist.
- Assistance if you cannot write, see the ballot, or understand the language in which it is written.
- Bring written materials into the voting booth to assist in casting a ballot.
- Report a possible voting rights abuse to your local election official.
- Cast a provisional ballot if your name does not appear on the list of registered voters or you do not have proper identification.
- Vote once at any early voting location within the territory conducting the election.
- File an administrative complaint with the Secretary of State concerning violations of federal and state voting procedures.

LWV-CC Submits Consensus Report to State Committee

Twenty-four LWV-CC members responded to the seven Consensus questions posed for the statewide "Payday and Auto Title Loans" study this Fall. All but two of the responses were completed on Survey Monkey, and the League downloaded the responses and calculated which responses had local consensus.

The report was emailed to Elizabeth Erkel of LWV-Collin County, who served as study chair. She will compile all responses submitted by Leagues across the state and will give a report at the state convention in March. Consensus will determine whether LWV-Texas proposes a new position for the League on the topic of payday and title loans.

Thanks to all League members who responded to the survey.

THIS ADVERTISING SPACE AVAILABLE!
Business-card advertising space in The VOTER is available. The cost is \$100 for 10 issues during a calendar year. Send check and your business card or advertising copy to LWV-CC at PO Box 8276, Corpus Christi, TX 78468.

Your support is sincerely appreciated!

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Alex Garcia Jr.
 Realtor



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

THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING THE LEAGUE

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 (includes \$60 membership, plus gift to the League)
- 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.)