

LWV[®] *The* Galveston E-Voter

Volume 1 – Issue 4 – the League of Women Voters of the Galveston Area – November 2007

The League of Women Voters is a non-partisan political organization that encourages the informed and active participation of citizens in government and influences public policy through education and advocacy.

Dear League Members:

Here's a recap of the LWV events during the past few months.

General Meeting – On September 18th, the League hosted a General Meeting at the Rosenberg Library. The meeting featured **County Judge Jim Yarbrough** and was open to the public. Although the turnout was modest, those in attendance were pleased to hear from our county's chief executive officer. The Judge was well prepared, extremely informative, and a most gracious county official who answered questions from the audience for almost an hour following his address.



*County Judge Jim Yarbrough spoke at the September 18th General Meeting of the LWV.
Photo courtesy of Juan Pena*

Our next General Meeting will be on January 15, 2008 and will feature Cheryl E. Johnson, Galveston County Tax Assessor-Collector. Please mark your calendar for this date and plan to attend this important event. It will be your chance to hear from one of our county's busiest elected official.

Election Results – Local board members distributed 1,000 copies of the LWV-TX Voter Guide throughout the city and parts of the county prior to early voting, which began Oct 22. All sixteen constitutional amendments on the statewide November 6, 2007 ballot passed but none of the three Galveston 4B Sales Tax propositions passed. For a complete list of the state and local results, see the next page.

Consensus Studies – We are still looking for volunteers to participate in the League's consensus studies:

1. Education Testing Study (LWV-TX) - the *Facts and Issues* are printed and posted in the members section of the lwvtexas.org website. It was mailed to every member with the *Texas Voter* on August 28 and is FULL of important information on every facet of Texas' mandated testing program. The Consensus Report is due Dec. 3, 2007 so if you are interested in participating in this study, please let us know right away – for more info see the last page.

2. Immigration Study (LWV-US) - the immigration consensus questions are now available on the LWV-US website for discussion purposes. While excellent articles outlining immigration issues are available on the public section of the LWV-US website, access to the consensus questions requires logging into the members' section of the website. The Consensus Report is due Feb. 1, 2008 so if you are interested in participating in this study, please let us know.

As we have stated before, these studies are the best way to reason through and resolve controversial public policy issues. We hope that many of our members will find the time to participate. Please contact Mary Ross at 409-741-0593 if you are interested.

Elected Officials Reception - the League's Elected Officials Reception will be held Tuesday, Nov. 27, 2007. Invitations are being mailed to all elected officials and League members and friends. Please be sure to save the date on your calendar.

AMENDMENTS TO THE TEXAS CONSTITUTION
all 16 propositions passed

Proposition 1 - Angelo State University
For 675,485 (66%) Against 343,741 (34%)

Proposition 2 - Fund Education Loans
For 698,353 (66%) Against 360,521 (34%)

Proposition 3 - Homestead Appraisal
For 763,177 (71%) Against 304,380 (29%)

Proposition 4 - State Maintenance Bonds
For 622,904 (58%) Against 447,452 (42%)

Proposition 5 - Ad Valorem Tax Freeze
For 684,656 (66%) Against 352,682 (34%)

Proposition 6 - One Vehicle Exemption
For 793,019 (74%) Against 283,088 (26%)

Proposition 7 - Undoing Eminent Domain
For 860,381 (80%) Against 211,003 (20%)

Proposition 8 - Home Equity Provisions
For 816,050 (78%) Against 236,184 (22%)

Proposition 9 - Disabled Vets Home Exemption
For 1,474,365 (91%) Against 148,079 (9%)

Proposition 10 - Hides/Animals Inspector
For 799,742 (77%) Against 244,937 (23%)

Proposition 11 - Legislature Record Votes
For 885,964 (85%) Against 162,260 (15%)

Proposition 12 - Transportation Bonds
For 664,756 (63%) Against 396,790 (37%)

Proposition 13 - Bail Denial to Violators
For 907,904 (84%) Against 174,839 (16%)

Proposition 14 - Extension of Service
For 807,177 (75%) Against 269,089 (25%)

Proposition 15 - Establish Cancer Institute
For 667,940 (61%) Against 419,253 (39%)

Proposition 16 - Distressed Area Assistance
For 645,093 (61%) Against 416,402 (39%)

LOCAL RESULTS

Bolivar Peninsula Special Utility District

Three At-Large Positions

George Strong (I) 318 Winner

David Fortenberry (I) 262 Winner

Jack Haigh 200

Alan "J.J." Verret 139

Shawn Pachlhofer 86

Jackson Cowart 274 Winner

Dickinson Independent School District

Bond Issue (Expansion & Renovations) - Passed

For 951 Against 619

Friendswood Independent School District

Proposition 1 (New Junior High) - Passed

For 2,231 Against 586

Proposition 2 (Natatorium) - Passed

For 1,973 Against 845

Proposition 3 (Stadium) - Passed

For 1,997 Against 820

Galveston 4B Sales Tax

Proposition 1 (Drainage/Streets) - Failed

For 1,022 **Against 1,242**

Proposition 2 (Beach Renourishment) - Failed

For 972 **Against 1,276**

Proposition 3 (Sewer System) - Failed

For 1,051 **Against 1,194**

Galveston County

Proposition (Dissolving County Bch Prk Brd) - Passed

For 8,430 Against 3,309

Galveston Independent School District

Trustee District 7G

Sandra Simmons (I) 339 Winner

Ken Jencks 279

High Island Independent School District

Tax Rate Proposal - Passed

For 82 Against 25

Seabrook

Proposition - Passed

For 564 Against 369

Texas City Independent School District

Proposition 1 (New Schools/Renovation) - Passed

For 1,708 Against 396

Proposition 2 (Tech Improvements) - Passed

For 1,688 Against 383

Proposition 3 (Athletic Facilities) - Passed

For 1,549 Against 521

Proposition 4 (Ed Support Center) - Passed

For 1,638 Against 432

League City 4B Sales Tax

Proposition (Municipal Dev Center) - Failed

For 1,370 **Against 1,862**

League of Women Voters – Galveston Area
2007-2008 Membership

The Board says “welcome” to five new members to our local League: Mrs. F. Gardner, LeeAnn & Mark Gorman and Donna & Eric Nevelow. We hope to see you at future League events. These fine people are now part of our membership list which includes:

Abdul-H Amin
Dr. Marinel M. Ammenheuser
Paul Boor
Vicky Jo Casals
Mary Ann Daigle
Patrick Doyle
Jennifer Dunne
Betty H. Dunquez
Terrie Farmer
Deborah Ford
Mrs. Frank Gardner
Leslie Goolishian
LeeAnn Gorman
Mark Gorman
Carol Greaney-Wurst
Marte Hersey
Cheryl Johnson
Mary Kanz
Jeri Kinnear
Jaclyn Low
Janis Lowe

Robert Lyle
Sherry Mallia
Wayne Mallia
Mary Manger
Donna Nevelow
Eric Nevelow
Kayoko Nishimura
Mary Ross
Mike Ross
Kurt Sistrunk
Elise Hopkins Stephens
Katsuko Suzuki
Katherine Thatcher
Lynn Thompson
Norma Villarreal
Jimmie Ward
W. D. Willis
Dr. William D. Willis, Jr.
Janis L. Yarbrough
Jim Yarbrough

Ask your friends to join the League!

2007-2008 LWV-GA Membership Dues

Regular Membership: \$50.00
Household Membership: \$75.00 (for 2)
Student Membership: \$25.00

Make checks payable to LWV-GA and mail to P. O. Box 3744, Galveston, TX 77552-3744.

Mark Your Calendar!



11/27/07
Elected Officials Reception
(more info on the last page)



01/15/08
General Meeting
featuring Cheryl E.
Johnson, Galveston County
Tax Assessor-Collector

From the LWV-TX

Mandated Educational Testing Study – by Anne Roussos and Nan Clayton (Austin Area), Study Co-chairs

Our new Facts and Issues, "Mandated Achievement Testing in the Public Schools of Texas" has been distributed, but is still being requested. To meet the demand, the LWV-TX board has authorized a second printing.

Of the 4,000 copies originally printed, 2,800 were distributed to League members in late August in anticipation of consensus meetings that are being held throughout the state in September, October, and November. Also receiving copies were 180 legislators, as well as content contributors, and donors. Local Leagues and education organizations have accounted for most of the remaining orders.

As more copies of the Facts and Issues become available, local Leagues are encouraged to consider ways to distribute the report to new audiences and to raise awareness of our high-stakes testing and accountability system. Some

ideas are school boards, school district administrators and principals, and college education departments.

As of September, we had word that 19 of our 32 Local Leagues were planning to do the consensus. Your participation in the LWV-TX study on testing will help give the League a stronger voice on public education, the foundation of our democratic values. Don't forget the due date for the consensus is December 3rd.

From the LWV-US

Great Books Mentioning the League - several recent books highlight the contributions of League members around the country! If you're looking for a special holiday gift—or just a good read—be sure to ask about these titles at your local bookstore or library:

Soul of a Citizen by Paul Rogat Loeb
Getting a Grip by Frances Moore Lappe
The Next Form of Democracy by Matt Leighninger

The LWVUS Web site (www.lwv.org) is continuously updated - so be sure to visit it regularly.

The League of Women Voters-Galveston Area will be hosting its annual reception for elected officials on November 27, 2007.

The reception is an excellent opportunity to visit with our elected officials and those planning to run for office.

So mark your calendar for the . . .

LWV-GA Reception
November 27, 2007
5:30 – 7:30 PM
Wortham Auditorium
Rosenberg Library
Galveston

