



VOTER

THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF IRVING **MINI-VOTER 2008** VOL 16 ISSUE 1
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MARK YOUR CALENDAR TO ATTEND A VERY IMPORTANT MEETING

State-mandated testing, or Texas Assessment of Knowledge and Skills (TAKS)

Monday, Feb 25th at 7:00 pm
Irving ISD Administration
Bldg board room
2621 West Airport Freeway in
Irving.

An important topic getting even more attention in this election year is state-mandated testing, or Texas Assessment of Knowledge and Skills (TAKS). Accountability standards have been raised in order to meet the challenges of educating a more diverse population. Issues such as the effectiveness and cost of testing, impact on curriculum and on teacher time will be addressed in a special program of the League of Women Voters.

The panel will consist of Janet Imhoff, LWV State Program VP; Robin Baucom, President of Educational Alignment Systems and Instruction; and Dr. James Rambo, Business Manager of the Irving ISD staff. After the presentation, questions will be taken from the audience. The meeting is open to the public.

For additional information you can see "Facts & Issues: Mandated Achievement Testing in the Public Schools of Texas" see website www.lwvtexas.org go to the home page, across form "Donate". Lower on the home page is a link to the latest copy of Texas VOTER. On page 5 you will find "New Position of Public School Testing and Accountability" which you can print out. It's by Janet Imhoff, State program VP who will be on our panel.

Up-Coming Meetins and Events

Monday, Mar 31 – GATEWAYS – Central Library 11:30 am

Friday & Saturday, April 4-5 State Convention – Ft. Worth

Wednesday, April 16 – Candidates' Forum City Hall 7 pm

Saturday, May 17 –Annual Meeting Place TBA Time TBA

A Meeting in Review

January 28, 2008

Topic: "City Department Reorganization: Health Department Activities now under the Fire Department." Fire Chief Mario Molina gave a very thorough presentation about the pending changes taking place in the Fire Department. He began with

pointing out that there are 11 stations throughout Irving. He explained general reasons for changes in organization, which now places the health department under the Fire Department. EMT (emergency medical services) accounts for 70% of their calls. Other calls have to do with fire suppression, technical rescue, fire prevention, and the department's community involvement.

EMS had 7 ambulances: Mobile Intensive Care Units (MICU), 11 paramedic engines, 4 trucks, and 175 paramedics. The medical director is Dr Paul Pepe and Dr. Dorothy Lemecha is his assistant. The staff goes to UT South Western Medical Center in Dallas for training. Current EMS initiatives are described as moving more to a pro-active, rather than reactive response, which means more prevention. They are currently participating in an immediate trial for cardiac patients. Stakeholders include IISD, especially since 40% students are considered obese, which points out a need to have a healthier population.

The Health Board has 9 members, who are appointed by the City Council, and Dr. Starnes is the Public Health Authority for the board. When a few League members expressed concern about difficulty in inter-departmental communications, Chief Molina stated every service of the Health Department is still being done, but now the coordination will be better. This is because there will be coordination between 12 different city departments.

He encouraged people to contact Mike Harris, Public Education Coordinator, at 972-721-3697 about taking part in the Irving Fire Dept Citizens Fire Academy, a 11 week (one night per week) course.

Attending the meeting were: League members, Genie Mitchell, Eileen Kensinger, Tom Burhoe, Norma Stanton, Judy Smith, Jan Killen, Carol Bell, Irene Jackson, Carol Little, Lely White, Mona Wyatt, and Alicia Fernandex-Mott. Guests: Phil Smith, Teddy Story, and Kay Schecht.



**Don't Forget to
VOTE!**
Early Voting
has begun for Primaries
Election Day March 4, 2008