

Voter

FEBRUARY/MARCH 2010



VOL 40 • No 1 ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF THE SAN ANTONIO AREA



Spotlight

The League of Women Voters, a nonpartisan political organization, encourages the informed and active participation of citizens in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy.

JOINT PRIMARY ELECTION MARCH 2, 2010

Voting is important to live in a democracy. Remember, elected officials make decisions about things that affect you directly such as your education, that of your children, access to work, variations in salary, minimum wage, as well as other important issues. Remember your vote is your voice!

The League of Women Voters Guide will be published and, hopefully, distributed prior to early voting. It should be available on the web at: www.lwvtexas.org/sanantonio.htm and at your local library. Contact: arlisolson@att.net if you have any questions.

Important Primary Election Dates

First day to apply for a ballot by mail: January 1, 2010
 Last day to register to vote: February 1, 2010 • First day of early voting: February 16
 Last day to apply for ballot by mail: February 23, 2010 (Received not postmarked)
Early voting runs from February 16 – February 26

EARLY VOTING WILL BE CONDUCTED AT THE FOLLOWING LOCATIONS

Bexar County Justice Ctr300 Dolorosa
 Brookhollow Library530 Heimer Rd

PRIMARY ELECTIONR *continued on page 2*

League Meetings



February Meeting

The LWV will participate in the **Water Symposium** at Trinity University. We will sponsor a panel on, "Who Controls Your Water" made up of representatives from elected boards, San Antonio River Authority, Edwards Aquifer Authority, Bexar Met Water District, Trinity Glenrose Ground Water District, and any others that are pertinent. More information will be emailed as soon as it is available.

March Meeting (Save the Date!)

March 6, Saturday 9-12 pm. We will have a Forum on, "Future Energy Sources". For more information, contact Jean Aratingi, (999-5068). More information will be emailed to you when it becomes available.

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PRIMARY ELECTION *continued from page 1*

Cisneros Community Center..... 517 SW Military
Claude Black Center2805 East Commerce
Cody Library11441 Vance Jackson
Collins Garden Library200 North Park
Crossroads Mall 4522 Fredericksburg
E Central Admin Bldg..... 6634 New Sulphur Spgs Rd
Fair Oaks Ranch City Hall7286 Dietz Elkhorn
Great Northwest Library9050 Wellwood
Henry A Guerra, Jr. Library..... 7978 W. Military Dr
John Igo Library.....13330 Kyle Seale Parkway
Johnston Library6307 Sun Valley Dr
Julia Yates Semmes Library.....15060 Judson Rd
Las Palmas Library515 Castroville Rd
Lion's Field2809 Broadway
Maury Maverick, Jr. Library.....8700 Mystic Pk
McCreless Library1023 Ada St
Northside Activity Center 7001 Culebra
Olmos Basin Golf Club 7022 McCullough
Shavano Park City Hall900 Saddletree Ct
Somerset High School7650 South 1604 W
South Park Mall 2310 SW Military Dr
St. Benedict's Church 4535 Lord Rd
Stone Oak Presbyterian Church 20024 Cresc Oaks
Tobin Library @Oakwell 4134 Harry Wurzbach
Universal City-City Hall 2150 Universal City Blvd
Windcrest Takas Pk Civic Center.....9310 Jim Seal Dr

HOURS OF EARLY VOTING

Tuesday, February 16 – Friday, February 19

8:00 am – 6:00 pm

Saturday, February 20 8:00 am to 8:00 pm

Sunday, February 21 12:00 noon to 6:00 pm

Monday, February 22 – Friday, February 26

8:00 am – 8:00 pm

For more Information, Contact...

League of Women Voters, San Antonio 657-2206

Web site: www.lwvtexas.org/sanantonio.htm

Secretary of State: Web site: www.sos.state.tx.us

Bexar County Elections Department 335-8683

Web site: www.bexar.org/elections/

Bexar County Voter Registration 335-6625

City of San Antonio 311

Web site: www.ci.sat.tx.us

Democratic Party of Bexar County 785-0962

Web site: www.bexardemocrats.org

Republican Party of Bexar County 824-9445

Web site: www.bexargop.org

Libertarian Party of Bexar County 222-9489

Web site: www.tx.lp.org/bexar

National League News



A Letter from LWVUS President, Mary Wilson.

We are getting off to a busy League start for 2010! This evening (January 28), the LWVUS will launch its yearlong 90th anniversary celebration with a special event at the National Press Club in Washington, D.C. We are taping the event for later posting on our website—so you will all be able to share the information and imagine the fun we had.

I started this week with a meeting of the advisory committee for an effort led by Michael McDonald at George Mason University in Virginia to create redistricting software that the public can use to develop alternative plans as their legislatures or redistricting commissions commence their work next year. I don't need to tell you how important redistricting is to our mission of ensuring that our elected officials are representative of their constituents. The League's goal this year is to work toward assuring more transparency and public input into the redistricting process. Start the work, if you haven't already, by making sure League members know and understand the process by which redistricting is accomplished in your state and local communities. Please share with me what your League is doing on redistricting by sending an email to MWilson@lww.org.

The next subject this week was judicial selection.

The Georgetown University Law School sponsored a great day-long meeting to discuss judicial independence and merit selection of judges. It was an especially interesting discussion because the Supreme Court's decision in the Citizens United case was fresh on everyone's minds. Obviously, the effect that decision will have on corporate spending in judicial races is a grave concern to all of us who know that big money means influence.

And health care reform is never far from my mind.

Yesterday was no exception. The League joined some of our coalition partners at a press conference at the American College of Cardiology building to send a loud message to Congress and the President that they must move forward NOW on health care reform. I reiterated our message that all of our local and state Leagues across the country have been working hard on this issue at the national and state levels for too long to give in to a handful of opponents, who have spread lies and misled the public about the reform before us now. Our message was: "Congress has a workable bill before it and for the sake of the American public they need to move it forward now."

Water Resources (National League Policy from *Impact on Issues, 2008-2010, A Guide to Public Policy Positions*, p. 53)

The League supports...water resource programs and policies that reflect the interrelationships of water quality, water quantity, ground-water and surface water and that address the potential depletion or pollution of water supplies; measures to reduce water pollution from direct point-source discharges and from indirect nonpoint sources; policies to achieve water quality essential for maintaining species populations and diversity, including measures to protect lakes, estuaries, wetlands and in-stream flows; stringent controls to protect the quality of current and potential drinking-water supplies, including protection of watersheds for surface supplies and of recharge areas for groundwater.

Proposed Interbasin Water Transfers

Interstate and interbasin transfers are not new or unusual. Water transfers have served municipal supplies, industry, energy development and agriculture. Construction costs of large-scale water transfers are high, and economic losses in the basin or origin also may be high. Environmental costs of water transfers may include quantitative and qualitative changes in wetlands and related fisheries and wildlife, diminished aquifer recharge and reduced stream flows. Lowered water tables also may affect groundwater quality and cause land subsidence. As we look to the future, water transfer decisions will need to incorporate the high costs of moving water, the limited availability of unallocated water and our still limited knowledge of impacts on the affected ecosystems. In order to develop member understanding and agreement on proposals for large-scale water transfer projects, state and local Leagues need to work together.

The following guidelines are designed to help Leagues jointly evaluate new proposals for large-scale water transfers.

The process for evaluating the suitability of new proposed interbasin water transfers should include: ample and effective opportunities for informed public participation in the formulation and analysis of proposed projects; evaluation of economic, social and environmental impacts in the basin or origin, the receiving area and any area through which the diversion must pass, so that decision makers and the public have adequate information on which to base a decision; examination of all short- and long-term economic costs including, but not limited to, construction, delivery, operation, maintenance and market interest rate; examination of alternative supply options, such as water conservation, water pricing and reclamation; participation and review by all affected governments; procedures for resolution of inter-governmental conflicts; accord with international treaties; provisions to ensure that responsibility for funding is borne primarily by the user with no federal subsidy, loan guarantees or use of the borrowing authority of the federal government, unless the proposal is determined by all affected levels of the League to be in the national interest.



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Local League News

Can We Talk? Tuesday, March 9

The next **Can We Talk** event will be on Tuesday, March 9 at the Bright Shawl at 5:30 p.m. The Women's Global Connection will be the host organization for the March program. For more information, contact Pat Jasso, 210-422 2245, or pjasso@swbell.net.

National Convention, June 11-15

The LWVUS invites all members to join fellow Leaguers from 50 states, the Virgin Islands, Puerto Rico and Hong Kong to celebrate 90 remarkable years of League achievements.

We Need Your Help!

If any of you have some extra time, Voter Service is always in need of help. The following are some of the tasks: labeling and stuffing the newsletter once a month; labeling Voters Guide; proofreading Voters Guide and other literature; calling candidates for follow-up; organizing candidates

for PBS forums; timers, monitors and hand out distributors for candidate forums; voter registration people; make labels for mailing, etc. Many of these tasks can be done from home if you are computer efficient. My special thanks to Nancy Craig and Leslye Altemeier who have been a big help this month.

Education Fund

Thanks to the following individuals for their contributions to the Education Fund.

Leslie Altemeier, Gloria Barrerra, Esther Curnutt
Deanna Frisk, Ruth Lofgren

We need funds in our Education account for our activities, such as Voters Guide and Candidate Forums. *Contributions are tax deductible.* The check must be made to the **LWV Education Fund** and mailed to the League address, as usual. Unlike most organizations, we have sufficient operating funds but are woefully short of education funds.

