

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS of WICHITA FALLS

P. O. Box 4034, Wichita Falls, Texas 76308

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Web page: www.lwvtexas.org/local/wichitafalls/

VOTER *for December 2010*

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Speaker: Wichita County Judge Woody Gossom
Subject: Our County Government, Now & in the Near Future
Wednesday, December 1st - - - at Luby's Cafeteria
Go thru lunch line prior to 12 noon call to order

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New Meeting Room at Luby's: The Monarch (Glass) Room

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Woody Gossom has been our County Judge for over ten years. He received his bachelor's degree at Midwestern State University, master's degree at the University of Denver, and pursued doctoral studies at the University of North Texas. After serving as Associate Dean of Students at MSU, he left for business, and was later elected a County Commissioner and our current County Judge. He has served several roles in the West Texas & State County Judge's Associations.

Judge Gossom will focus on redistricting, jail issues, budgeting, and the upcoming Legislature. These are all intertwined, as the State has a projected \$25 billion budget shortfall, has announced it will raise no new taxes, and plans to severely cut State services. Many of these cuts will transfer additional financial burdens to local Counties and Cities, who are already reeling from the effects of the Great Recession.

Judge Gossom is the father of four children, four grandchildren, is married to Kris, who is a career and college counselor for the WFISD. He is actively involved in Kiwanis, the Red Cross, United Way, Boy Scouts, YMCA and many other civic interests. He is also a long-time member of our Local League.

Bring your questions for Judge Gossom, as he has indicated that he will allow plenty of time for member questions.

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DUES & CONTRIBUTIONS to the LEAGUE

League Dues are \$55 annually (or \$75 for a couple), and extend thru June 2011. Renewing members must pay their dues before January 10th, because our report to LWVUS is due shortly after that. New members may join and pay dues at any time.

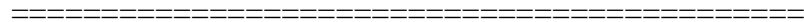
Contributions of at least \$15 (or more) makes one a Friend of the League, and are used primarily for Voters Guides & other voter service items. Send Dues or Contributions to the treasurer at P.O. Box 4034, Wichita Falls TX 76308, or bring to a meeting. **This has been a big election year,** so your help now will be really appreciated.

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ARE YOUR DUES PAID??

Here is a list of current paid members. If your name is not on this list, and [1] you think you have paid, or [2] you want to join, or [3] you have any other questions, contact treasurer Lou Lechman by phone at 692-0480, by email at louellen@wf.quik.com, or by mail at P.O.Box 4034, Zip 76308.

- Emerson Capps, Rosemary Capps, Blanche Donnell, Craig Estes, David Farabee.
- Roland Glean, Patti Gose, Tad Gose, Woody Gossom, Jimmie Griffith.
- Betsy Harper, Charles Harper, Don Hamlin, Karen Hamlin, John Hirschi.
- Kaye Holland, Irene Lambert, Larry Lambert, Lou Lechman, Nell Lister.
- Diana Lockridge, Jane McGough, Tom Merritt, John Meux, Liz Meux.
- Penny Miller, Althea Milton, Pat Norriss, Cleve Pratt, Dolores Pratt.
- Mike Preda, Kim Robinson, Eldon Sund, Roberta Sund, Diane Thueson.
- Arthur Bea Williams, Betty Wagner.

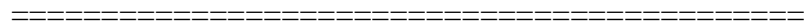


RECENT DEATHS IN THE LEAGUE "FAMILY"

Pat Haywood has been a long-time member of the League. Her obituary is in the *Times Record News*, and reflects that she passed away on November 9th. She was the widow of Tom Haywood, former Vice-president at MSU, and Texas State Senator. Pat was involved in not only the League, but a wide array of civic and social activities, that were aimed at the betterment of our community.

Gloria Taylor was a member of our local League during the 1990s & early 2000s. Her obituary is in the *Times Record News*, and reflects that she passed away also on November 9th. She was the widow of former City Councilor Harrison Taylor, and was also involved in extensive social & civic activities.

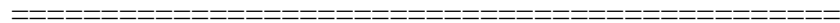
Both of these ladies were pillars in our community, and wonderful people to know and work with.



NATIONAL & STATE STUDIES ARE NOW UNDERWAY

At the LWV-US Convention 2010, members voted to undertake a study of "***Privatization: the policy agenda to transfer government functions, services, and assets to the private sector.***" The study will focus on the impact of privatizing gov't services on local communities, and the committee will develop study materials and consensus questions for local Leagues to use in deciding what position, if any, the National League will take in this area.

At the LWV-Texas Convention 2010, members voted to undertake a two-year study of the ramifications of treating "***Texas Water as a Commodity.***" In 1997 the Legislature created 16 Regional Planning Groups, across the State, and in September they each sent their regional plans to Austin, which will now be developing a Water Plan for Texas. This study will be intertwined with the State Water Board's effort, and our League committee will be providing information to help guide local League members in preparing for the providing of input to be used in finally deciding what position, if any, the State League will take in this area.



IS THERE A LOCAL ISSUE OUR LWV-WF MIGHT STUDY??

LWV-Wichita Falls often studies local government issues, and will develop a position to urge for improvement of how our local governmental entities might remain open & responsive to the needs of our fellow citizens. Any such study must be authorized by the members, at the Annual Meeting held each May.

If any member has an issue they think we might study, and develop a position on, please notify one of the officers or directors, so that we might "start the process rolling," leading up to our next May 2011 Annual Meeting.

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THE TEXAS LEGISLATURE CONVENES IN JANUARY

LWV-Texas will focus, during the upcoming Legislative session, on "*Transparency & Open Government*," as the following three priorities seem to mandate: [1] Campaign Finance, [2] Redistricting, & [3] Balancing the State Budget. Redistricting will be a significant political battle. It is widely reported that the State will face a \$25 billion budget shortfall, requiring significant cuts in State services, so it will also be a big battleground. Lastly, the U.S. Supreme Court has opened up the way political contributions may be made, causing Campaign Finance Disclosure to become a big issue nationally and in each State around the country.

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"JUST THE FACTS MA'AM." WHAT NOV. 2nd EXIT POLLS REVEAL

Since the Exit Poll debacle of November 2000, the Associated Press has taken charge of the process. All such polling, therefore, has become uniform across the country, and much more accurate. Here are some interesting statistics from the recent Exit Polls following voting on November 2nd, this year. The AP Report begins with: "Exit poll results collected from voters as they left their voting stations Tuesday underscore the economic distress defining the 2010 election."

The Economy:

- 88% said the U.S. economy is in bad shape.
- 29% say someone in their household had lost their job, during the last two years.
- 65% said the economy was the single most important issue in their vote,
- And 53% vs. 44% of them voted Republican.

Voter Anger:

73% described themselves as dissatisfied, or angry, and of those Angry Voters, 84% voted Republican.

Various Voter Groupings:

- Independents: The swing votes in most national elections, voted 55% vs. 40% for House Republicans.
- Women: Usually vote Democratic, but voted 49% vs. 49% this time.
- Seniors: Accounted for 24% of the voters, and went Republican by a 19% point margin.

The (Un)popularity of our Current Government (under 50% in all areas):

45% approve of President Obama's performance.

37% approve of Congress's performance.

43% approve of the Democratic Party performance in government.

41% approve of the Republican Party performance in government.

The Tea Party:

41% supported the Movement.

31% said they oppose the Movement

24% (the remainder) said they were neutral.

Feel free to forward this VOTER to your friends & associates. Feedback to LaryLambert@prodigy.net or 767-0129.