

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS of WICHITA FALLS

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Web Page: www.LwvTexas.org/WichitaFalls.htm

LWV-Texas: www.LwvTexas.org

VOTER for October 2009

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**Dr. MIKE PREDA to brief us on the Election, November 3rd
on the ELEVEN CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS**

*Wednesday, October 7th - - - at Luby's Cafeteria
Go thru lunch line prior to 12 noon, call to order*

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The Election November 3rd will face us all with eleven Proposed Amendments to the Texas Constitution, that were authorized by the Legislature. **Dr. Preda**, is not only our Vice-President for Legislative Affairs, but he is a long-time political science professor at Midwestern State University. As League VP he oversees our Voter Services. So, he will be in a position to help us understand, what might otherwise seem relatively complex.

Mike Preda, Ph.D, has taught at MSU since 1976, coming from McMurry University, in Abilene. He earned his Ph.D, at the University of Oklahoma, his M.A. at East Texas State University, and his B.A. at Wayne State University (Michigan). He has taught 22 different university level courses. He is married to Chriss, and they have two sons

Mike points out that constitutional amendments are placed on the ballot by a 2/3rds vote of the Legislature, and that since it was adopted in 1876, voters have approved 456 amendments, and defeated 176. There was a major article in Sunday's Fort Worth Star-Telegram, which indicated that these proposals will affect local Cities, state Colleges, and citizens' pocketbooks. Usually they seem so distant from most people, that voter turnout is slim. So, your vote will have a greater impact, and should be based on as much understanding, as possible. And Mike will try to provide that understanding.

If Voters Guides have been received from the LWV-Texas state office by the time of our meeting, next week, Mike will bring some to the meeting. Those in attendance would, under such circumstance, be the first folks in Wichita Falls with an opportunity to get one.

To vote with knowledge, be sure to attend at noon on October 7th, and bring a friend or associate.

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WE STILL HAVE A DOOR PRIZE - For Bringing a Guest

If as many as three guests are brought by members to our October 7th meeting, your names will be put in a hat for drawing. The one drawn will receive a \$50 gift card from Luby's Cafeteria. It has already been purchased by the treasurer, and ready to be given away. This is a perfect meeting to bring guests, so do so, and maybe you will be the lucky one!!

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DUES & CONTRIBUTIONS to the LEAGUE

League dues are \$55 annually (or \$75 for a couple), and extend through June 2010. The treasurer, Lou Lechman, is still collecting 2009-10 dues, so, don't forget. Our P.O. Box is 4034, Zip 76308.

Contributions of at least \$15 (or more) makes one a Friend off the League, and are used almost exclusively for our Voters Guides and other related service to voters. Send to our P.O. Box, or bring to a meeting.

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DEATH OF FORMER PRESIDENT, BECKY LANMON

Rebecca Lanmon was president of our Local League for two terms in the mid-1990s. According to an obituary in the *Times Record News* on September 10th, she recently passed away, in Lexington, Virginia. Becky was General Manager of Sikes Senter Mall from 1985 until she retired in 1999, and was a stellar member of our League, until she retired and moved from Wichita Falls. She was well liked, an effective worker, and very dedicated to the success of our LWV efforts. All of us who worked with Becky held her in high esteem.

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QUARTERLY MEMBERSHIP CONSENSUS MEETING

SUBJECT: Changing Voting Procedures in Texas

LWV-Texas Study Committee, has reported on the statewide study on voting procedures in Texas, and several significant changes that are under consideration. For LWV-Texas to take a "*position*" on possible voting changes, it needs input from each Local League, such as ours.

So, on Saturday, October 10th, 10 a.m., at the Kemp Center (1300 Lamar Street), we will gather to discuss, arrive at a consensus, and report to the state office on our recommendations. Several *Facts & Issues Briefing Papers*, have been prepared by the State Study Committee to help us. They have also crafted a series of questions to help us provide our input. Every Leaguer should try to be there. There will be refreshments, and the meeting should last only about 1-1/2 hours.

President Penny Miller will lead us in our discussion, and will have summary copies of the five *Facts & Issues* papers. She also has other data supplied by the state office, to assist in the meeting.

If you want to do advanced work, everything you need is on the LWV-Texas web site. Go to www.lwvtexas.org. On the home page scroll down to "Study: Voting procedures to Increase Voter Participation," and click on "study material." Of all the items listed, foremost to access are the *Brief Summaries* of the five study papers, the *Leader's Guide*, and the *Concurrence Form*. The Brief Summaries are mostly one-page each. *So, be prepared, and be present, on Saturday morning, October 10th.*

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NEXT STUDY COMMITTEE MEETING, October 12th

Our next committee meeting will be on Monday afternoon, October 12th, at 4:30 p.m., at the Public Library. We will meet in the board room, just before the 5:15 p.m. LWV Board meeting. We plan to have a member of the City Parks Board present, to discuss future park plans within the City.

Our meetings are open to any League member.

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See you on Wednesday, October 7th, at Luby's. Feel Free to forward this VOTER to your friends & associates.

Feedback to LaryLambert@prodigy.net, or by phone or fax to the League at 767-0129.