

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS of WICHITA FALLS

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Web Page: www.LwvTexas.org/local/wichitafalls/

VOTER for January 2010

WHAT DOES THE LEAGUE STAND FOR ON POLITICAL ISSUES?

Four members are prepared to answer this question at our January Mtg.

Wednesday, January 6th - - at Luby's Cafeteria

Go thru lunch line prior to 12 noon, call to order

What does LWV-Texas stand for on political issues? We know it is non-partisan during elections, never endorses candidates, and prepares *VOTERS GUIDES* to be completely impartial. BUT during a Legislative Session in Austin, we know it "takes stands" on pending issues. And between Legislative Sessions, how does the League address issues to public officials? So, how does the League decide it is time to assert itself?

If you want to know the answers to such questions, be sure to come to our General Membership meeting, at noon on Wednesday, January 6th. Because **Dr. Mike Preda, Roberta Sund, Pan McKay, & Cleve Pratt**, will provide the answers to these questions.

LWV-Texas publishes its positions, in a 79 page booklet called *PROGRAM PERSPECTIVES: A Guide to League Issues 2008-2010*. Our speakers have divided the Guide into its four main areas, so Mike will take I. Government; Roberta will take II. Administration of Justice; Pan will take III. Social Policy/Human Resources; and Cleve will take IV. Natural Resources.

You may have read the LWV-Texas pamphlet titled *WE SUPPORT*, which briefly summarizes the issues for which the League supports. But the main booklet gives explanations, history, and what the League has done through the years to focus on our "position" on those issues.

Remember...one does not have to agree with everything the League does, in order to be a supportive member. But knowing what the League does, will make us each a more effective member concerning the part we agree with. And we recognize that these issues have only been arrived at by a consensus of Local Leagues, a review by the State Board, and then by an affirmative vote of the membership at a State Convention.

So, come on the 6th, ready to learn more about the League.

DUES & CONTRIBUTIONS to the LEAGUE

League dues are \$55 annually (or \$75 for a couple), and extend thru June 2010. Renewing members must pay their dues before mid-January, because our report to LWVUS is due shortly after that. New members may join and pay dues at any time.

Contributions of \$15 (or more) makes one a *Friend of the League*, and are used primarily for *VOTER 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. *A big election year* is coming up, and we really need your help.

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ELECTION SEASON BEGINS in JANUARY.

Texas Republicans & Democrats will hold their Primary Elections on Tuesday, March 2nd. January 4th is the last day for a candidate to file for a place on either Party ballot. So, on January 5th, we will start getting filing information on local races from the County Clerk, and from state & district races from the Secretary of State. Our Voter Service Committee will prepare questions for the local candidates. The LWV-Texas will get information from statewide candidates. Then it will all be put together in a VOTERS GUIDE to be published.

Early voting begins on February 16th, and we will start our distribution during the prior week.

The Home & Garden Festival (at MPEC) will be the weekend prior to the Primaries (on Feb. 27-28), and we will have a table at the Show for further distribution of VOTER GUIDES. Since we will need Leaguers to "man" the table that weekend, [1] put the date on your calendars, and [2] be ready to volunteer for a time to be there, when contacted by our Booth Chair.

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WE HAVE A NEW WEB PAGE ADDRESS

LWV-Texas provides us with a separate page on their state web site. Recently, the State League did a make-over of their site, and this has caused our web page address to change. Please note the new address:

www.lwvtexas.org/local/wichitafalls/

You can find our recent newsletters (i.e. monthly Voters), our current Membership Brochure, our Recycling Brochure, and our Local Program of Action & Study. There is also a convenient link to the Wichita County web site. And, when our VOTERS GUIDE is published in February, we will have it also included among the items accessible from our web page.

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OUR LOCAL LEAGUE BOARD meets on the second Monday, each month, at the Wichita Falls Public Library. So the Board's next meeting will be on Monday, January 11th, 5:15 p.m. in the board room. Board meetings are open to any League member, so feel free to put this date on your calendars.

OUR STUDY COMMITTEE on Wichita Falls Area Parks & Recreation, meets on the same day, just prior to the Board Meeting (at 4:30 p.m.). It is also open to any League member. The meeting on January 11th, at 4:30 p.m., will focus on assessing what has been learned, so far, and determining the next available resources for further study. It is hoped that the committee will be ready to submit its report prior to our Annual Membership Meeting on May 5th.

OUR NOMINATING COMMITTEE will be recommending new officers (for the year beginning July 1st), for election at the May 5th Annual Meeting. The three elected members of the Committee are Dolores Pratt, Nell Lister, and Marilyn Vaughn. Two additional members will be appointed from the Board, by the President, and the five members will begin their work in late January, or early February.

If you want to volunteer for one of the officer positions, or membership on the board, contact President Penny Miller, or a member of the nominating committee.

THE LWV-TEXAS STATE CONVENTION will be in San Marcos, on April 23-25. Our Local League will be authorized several delegates. The exact number will not be available until in February, but should be about 4 or 5. If you feel you would like to be a delegate, notify Preident Penny Miller. The State Convention is held every two years.

IN THE MEANTIME, be sure to mark your calendar for noon on Wednesday, January 6th, for our upcoming regular monthly meeting.

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