



The Voter

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The President's Column

Dear League Members: I was reading the LWVUS newsletter and was reminded that next Friday, August 26 will mark the 91st anniversary of the ratification of the 19th Amendment that gave full voting rights to women. Wow! It really struck me that my grandmother was 13 years old when this occurred. Most of us have never had to question if we could vote. Our question instead is, will we take the time to actively participate in our government and make informed decisions. Now more than ever we (you and I) must speak up and let our voices be heard. We may not always agree but we have the right to speak, and speak we must. It is time to bring back common decency, respect, and honor to our government. We must hold our elected officials accountable. If we don't speak out, who will? Get involved, participate, and encourage your friends and neighbors to do the same. I hope you will join me this year in reaching out to engage our younger generation; helping them understand that our mothers and grandmothers fought hard to give us all the right to participate in democracy. All my best, Carole Belver

The Year Ahead

Our local League is gearing up for another active year. Under the continued leadership of President Carole Belver, the officers, board members and committee chairs for the 2011-2012 year are: Peggy Townes, first vice president and executive administrator; second vice president Bobbi Carmichael; third vice president and membership chair Margaret Lindsey; secretary JoEllen Korthals; treasurer Mary Borm; Voter Services chair Grace Melcher Neal; Voters Guide editor Dianne Wassenich; candidates debate chair Jeannie Lewis, who is also leading the League's current study; Voter editor Jan Rudnicki, Advisory Council co-chairs Jane Hughson and T. Cay Rowe; wine tasting chair Dorothy Evans; public relations chair Pat Murdock; and board member-at-large Doug Holcomb.

The local League will begin actively working to encourage voter turnout for the November general election. The local League's fall candidates' debate is scheduled for Monday evening, Oct. 17th at the San Marcos Activity Center. Two San Marcos City Council positions (Places 3 and 4) will be on the Nov. 8th ballot. A League Advisory Council meeting, scheduled for Oct. 5th, will give leaders of local civic and service organizations the opportunity to provide input for the development of debate questions for both the Nov. 8th and March 6th elections.

Voter Services Report

Voter Services chair, Grace Neal, sees a particularly busy 2011-2012 year. On July 9th, she and Jeannie Lewis attended a LWV Texas Summer Seminar in Austin entitled "Engaging Young Voters", where the topic of involving "Millennials" (young voters under the age of 30) in the voting process was discussed. In keeping with the state League's goal to increase the number of registered voters and to increase voter turnout for the fall and spring elections, she is developing plans to work with San Marcos High School to give students reaching the age of 18 an opportunity to register to vote during a drive tentatively scheduled for January, 2012.

Other important Voter Services events and dates to remember are:

November 8, 2011: 10 Constitutional Amendment on Ballot Plus

Estimated City Council: Place 3 (Terry Nichols, Toby Hooper and Nicholas Cubides) Place 4 (Chris Jones)

Aug 8 first day to apply

Sept 7 Last day to file

Oct 24 – Nov 4 Early Voting

Nov 8 – Election Day

March 6, 2012 Primary

November 12, 2011 first day to file

December 12, 2011 last day to file

Feb 6, 2012 last day to register to vote

Feb 21, 2012 first day for early voting

March 2, 2012 last day of early voting

March 6 Primary election

Upcoming LWV working Dates:

August 29 Monday 6-8 San Marcos Library

Voter Guide Questions – Debate Questions later

September 5 Approved VG guide questions

September 8 Voter Guide questions sent to candidates

September 22 Return Voter guide questions to DW

October 3 Voter Guide to printing

October 5 Advisory Council Noon luncheon

Debate for city council and primary election

October 14 – Pick up Voters Guide from printers

October 17 Debate

October 23 Voters Guide in San Marcos Record

Water Consensus

Study and consensus is the process that the League of Women Voters uses to adopt new positions. Later this fall, the state League will be asking local leagues to study questions surrounding water-use in Texas, and to come together to form a consensus on these issues. At the end of the study, "Texas Water Resources as a Commodity," the state League may have new position-statements about water, depending on what members decide.

Some of the questions that our League will be considering when we meet are:

- How can Texas best manage our limited water resources?
- How can the state prepare for increasing demands on water resources because of population growth and climate change?
- What problems are associated with transferring water from one area to another?
- How do other states deal with these issues?
- What are some of the processes being used in our region to protect water resources?
- How can the rights to groundwater be balanced between landowners and the whole community?

In order to help our members prepare for the consensus meeting, our League has been part of a planning group of six LWVs in our region to bring together an expert group of speakers. This regional meeting will give our members a chance to hear from experts across the region, and to interact with other LWV members in our watershed. With this current drought, water is a concern for all of us. Come to San Antonio to learn about the water challenges we face in Texas and the possibilities for solutions.

“Water in Texas: Challenges and Possibilities”

Sat, Sept 24, 2011

9:30 am – 4:15 pm

San Antonio Water System Headquarters, 2800 Highway 281 North, San Antonio

The LWV planning committee for the forum is LWV-San Antonio Area (Annalisa Peace and Evelyn Bonavita), LWV-Victoria (Kathy Hunt), LWV-San Marcos (Dianne Wassenich), LWV-Wimberley Valley MAL (Dorothy Knight), LWV-Kerrville Area (Diane McMahon and Frances Lovett), and LWV-Comal Area (Jensie Madden).

Lunch will be available at a nominal cost. An agenda with registration details will be sent soon. The forum will be open to the public, so tell your friends, and **make a plan now to carpool with other LWV members and friends to San Antonio on Saturday, Sept. 24th**.

Treasurer’s Reminder

Just a reminder that annual League dues for our 2011-2012 fiscal year is now due. The dues have not increased. It is still \$45.00 for individuals and \$67.50 for households. Most members attending our annual meeting in May paid their dues at the meeting. Few members have paid since then. If you haven’t paid your dues, please mail your check to the League’s P. O. Box 1034, San Marcos 78667. If you have any questions, contact Margaret Lindsey, Membership Chair or Mary Borm, Treasurer.

If you are interested in making a tax deductible charitable gift to your local League, make your check payable to the League of Women Voters of Texas Education Fund and mail it to our P. O. Box. I will forward the money to the State office. The money is held for our San Marcos League at the State office and can be used for only education activities, which include our Voters Guide and Candidates Debates. These are our most expensive activities. A gift to our Education Fund is a great way to support your local League and get a tax deduction for doing it. Remember that our annual membership dues is not tax deductible.

LWV Related Information

Texas LWV

<http://lwtexas.org>

Texas LWV Legislative Newsletter

<http://www.lwtexas.org/LNL/2009/LNL%2020.6.pdf>

National LWV

<http://www.lwv.org>