



THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF IRVING

Fall 2012

1101 S. Delaware, Irving TX 75060 | 972-785-8683 | 1(972) 785 – VOTE
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The League of Women Voters, a nonpartisan political organization, encourages informed and active participation in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy. The League neither supports nor opposes candidates for public office at any level of government nor does it support any political party.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Welcome to the exciting 2012-2013 year of the League of Women Voters of Irving!



Mona Wyatt

A resounding thank you for:

- renewing your membership or becoming a new member. You will have many opportunities to make a difference.
- making the National Voter Registration Day a success.
- supporting the Women's Equality Day Celebration meeting. Didn't you enjoy the equality video and the words of Judge Tina Yoo?
- attending the meeting we co-

sponsored with Dallas, Richardson, Plano-Collin County Leagues on the subject of Fracking. Interesting and informative.

Here's my challenge to you for the year! Actually I have three:

1. Read the letters and mailings from our state and national League presidents.
2. We are a grassroots organization and are members at all three levels. The letters and mailings they provide have useful help and advice so we don't have to start from scratch every time. You'll learn about activities that might interest you and what activities our dues support. They are making a difference for us on the state and national levels.
3. Attend your local meetings.

We need YOU to make this our best year ever!

In the upcoming months we will begin our programs about human trafficking (the state study for the next two years), continue our discussions about water, and review our current local studies in preparation for more in-depth study. I want to know where you think we should concentrate our focus on city and school issues.

More thanks:

- to Anne Pfaff for updating our local Your Elected Officials brochure. As soon as the election is over, she will update the federal, state and county Your Elected Officials brochures.
- to Paulette Austin and Phil Smith for continuing to organize and provide voter registration for new citizens.
- to Phil Smith for maintaining our Web site (lwvirving.org).
- to the 2012-13 local board for dedication, enthusiasm, and direction.



Thanks and congratulations to our three 50-year members: Eileen Kensinger, Mary Oberlin, and Anne Pfaff. They are great examples of dedication to and love of the League.

General Election

The upcoming General Election is your chance to choose our leaders. Please vote; vote informed; encourage others to vote.

Apply for Ballot by Mail: September 11 – October 30

To vote early by mail, you must be either out of the county during the early voting period and on Election Day, age 65 or older, sick, disabled, or confined to jail. An application may be requested from an early voting



clerk in the county where you are registered, or from the Secretary of state's office.

Last Day to Register to Vote:

October 9, 2012

Early Voting:

October 22 – November 2, 2012

Election Day:

November 6, 2012

Dallas County Elections Department Launches New Web Site

The Dallas County Elections Department launched a new Web site with a new address, www.DallasCountyVOTES.org. Currently, the familiar www.dalcoelections.org provides a link that takes the user to the new site that, like the old, contains information on voter information, registering, election dates, locations, etc. as well as a list of elected officials, campaign finance reporting, election results, maps, and information about training for registrars and poll workers.

VOTER REGISTRATION

National Voter Registration Day

On September 25, 2012, the Irving League of Women Voters undertook a voter education drive in support of the national effort, designated National Voter Registration Day, intended to provide an opportunity to put differences aside and celebrate the rights that unite us as Americans.

This single day of coordinated volunteer, technology and media efforts was expected to create widespread awareness of voter registration opportunities. The National Voter Registration Day was coordinated and supported by a working group of organizations including the Asian Pacific American Labor Alliance Education Fund, Bus Federation Civic Fund, Fair Elections Legal Network, League of Women Voters, Nonprofit Vote, and Voto Latino.

The Irving Voter Registration team—Phil Smith, Paulette Austin and Carol Bell—together with volunteers from the Mid-Cities Links manned an operation in the lobby of the Human Resources Building at 440 S. Nursery Road in Irving (Irving Cares Building), from 10:00AM to 2:00PM intended to:

- educate voters on “What to Expect on Election Day”

- provide easy access to citizens for updating their voter registration information
- register eligible citizens

Information distributed included a single card with a listing of ID requirements to vote on November 6, and tips on “How to Make Voting a Breeze.”

Ongoing Efforts

The League continues to be actively involved in the monthly naturalization ceremonies, sponsored by the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services, that swear in thousands of new citizens.

At the conclusion of each event, league members distribute voter registration applications. Completed applications are then turned over to county employees at the Dallas County Elections Office. The gatherings celebrate the constant renewal of our American democracy.

New Registrar Restrictions

Several new restrictions have been placed on volunteer deputy registrars, including requirements that they be eligible Texas voters and that they register only within the county that appointed them. In ruling on a suit filed by Vote for America which uses paid employees sometimes from out of state for their voter registration efforts, a federal court has enjoined Texas from enforcing several provisions. The Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals is considering the State of Texas request to stay the injunction. The Volunteer Deputy Registrar Guide on the Secretary of State website is the best source for information on requirements for volunteer deputy registrars.

The Voter Registration Team wishes to remind members that all races will be published in VOTE411.org, the “one-stop-shop” for election related information. It provides nonpartisan information to the public with both general and state-specific information, including the location of polling places.



Voter Registration at USCIS

The schedule for swearing-in ceremonies at the USCIS (U.S. Customs and Immigration Service) in Irving was very intense during the summer months. The Voter Registration



REDISTRICTING

After the census, Texas gained four congressional seats, for a total of 36, following explosive population growth. While nearly 90 percent of the state's 4.3 million new residents are Hispanic, black or Asian American, none of the new seats crafted by the legislature allowed minorities to elect their chosen candidate. Accordingly, on August 28, a federal court in Washington refused the state of Texas' request to "pre-clear" district lines. The November general election will be held under an "interim" map drawn by another federal court.



VOTER ID

ID Unchanged for the Nov. 6 General Election— Photo ID *Not* Required

On August 30, the D.C. District Court denied the State of Texas' request to preclear the requirement that all voters show one of a limited number of photo IDs at the polls. **The ID requirements that have been in effect for several years will continue to be in effect at the polls for the Nov. 6 General Election.**

Voters should bring their voter registration certificate or other identification to the polls.

Bring your voter registration certificate to the polls. If you do not have your voter registration certificate, other forms of acceptable identification include:

- Driver's license

- Personal identification card issued by the Dept. of Public Safety
- Another form of identification containing your photograph
- Birth certificate
- United States passport or United States citizenship papers
- Official mail addressed to you from a governmental entity, government check, or other government document that shows your name and address
- Pay check that shows your name and address, current utility bill or bank statement

Source: lwvtexas.org

CALENDAR

October Meeting:

Plan to attend our October meeting that will feature Liz Wally who will speak on the topic of Clean Elections

Tuesday, October 30
7:00 p.m.
West Irving Library
4444 Rochelle

November Meeting:

The November meeting will discuss Irving's Water Supply

Monday, November 26
11:30 a.m.
Location TBD**

** Check the Web site or our Facebook page for details.

2012-13 BOARD

*Meet your 2012-2013 LWV
Irving Board members:*

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MEMBER'S BIRTHDAYS

Paulette Austin.....	Sept. 9	Jane Schwartzman	July 25
Gabriel Bach.....	Feb. 2	Carole Shlipak.....	Nov. 6
Suzanne Beeman.....	Feb. 9	Judy Smith	June 2
Carol Bell	Nov. 10	Phil Smith.....	Oct. 17
Janice Carroll.....	Nov. 8	Norma Stanton.....	Feb. 19
Helen Chaplin	May 22	Sandra Stewart	Oct. 5
Julie Esstman.....	May 19	Anita Tipping-Wheeler .	Sept. 14
Cynthia Faust	Nov. 7	Lloyd Wheeler.....	Dec. 15
Alicia Fernandez-Mott...	Oct. 21	Lely White	Jan. 2
Debbie Fleck.....	Oct. 10	Mona Wyatt.....	July 25
Christina Gears.....	Aug. 18	Virginia Yates	Sept. 30
Irene Jackson.....	Aug. 16		
Sarah Kammerer.....	Dec. 26		
Eileen Kensinger.....	Sept. 21		
Jan Killen	Mar. 23		
Dorothy Leibensberg	Aug. 6		
Carol Huntley Little	Aug. 22		
Jill Martinez.....	Sept. 14		
Michael McPhail.....	Aug. 7		
Dagmar Metzler.....	Jan. 17		
Betty Miller.....	Oct. 18		
Mary Oberlin	Oct. 13		
Estelle O'Dell.....	Sept. 24		
Kathrine Pennington.....	Dec. 21		
Anne Pfaff.....	Dec. 13		

