



THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF IRVING

Fall 2013

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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

To Our Members and Supporters,

It is my great pleasure to serve as the president of the LWV Irving for this next year. We have an ambitious year ahead that will culminate with the LWV National Convention to be held in Dallas in June 2014. (See article on page 3.)



Carole Shlipak
President
LWV Irving

Our first meeting of the year—our annual commemoration of Women's Suffrage—was a huge success with more than sixty in attendance.

Looking forward to our fall meetings, our September meeting, "Governing the City," will feature guests Roy Santoscoy and Lewis Patrick, former City Councilmen. We hope this meeting will lead to better understanding of how our elected city council members function, their interaction with one

another and with staff. How better to gain insight than to have two former city council members share their views on Irving City Government?

Our October meeting will focus on Human Trafficking. Globally, there may be as many as 27 million people trafficked for both labor and sex, according to a U.S. State Department report. We have excellent information on this ominous industry and will discuss steps that can be taken.

November 5 is Election Day for the statewide consideration of amendments to the Texas Constitution. Our League has ordered Voters Guides in both English and Spanish, and will be distributing them throughout the city.

The Irving LWV welcomes guests at all our meetings and is delighted to have new members. See our calendar on page 7.

Members and guests, we look forward to seeing you at upcoming meetings.

VOTER REGISTRATION

Irving Voter Registration Team Soldiers On

Over the past months, the battle over voting rights has continued unabated with the U.S. Supreme Court overturning, in June 2013, Section 4 of the Voting Rights Act, which had established a formula determining which states would be required by Section 5 to "pre-clear" election changes before implementing them. Voting rights oversight today is less about overt racism and more about subtle disenfranchisement. State laws that require voter IDs, that purge voter rolls and reduce voting hours and days offer ample proof.

Texas voter ID law dictates that voters could present forms of identification that include driver's licenses, military identification cards, passports and concealed handgun licenses, but not identification cards issued by colleges or employers. Texas has some of the country's lowest voter-participation rates. The state has 13.6 million registered voters. In Texas, only 43.6 percent of the state's voting age population turned out for the general election in November 2012.

In line with the belief in the right to vote as a core goal of the civil rights movement and the foundation of any functioning democracy, the Irving Voter Registration Team has been actively providing voter registration services at the U.S. Citizenship & Immigration Services (USCIS) in Irving and ensuring that newly sworn-in citizens can take advantage of their newly-acquired voting rights.

The statistics on the next page attest to the dedication and commitment of our regular team members Phil Smith, Julie Esstman and Paulette Austin.

**The ignorance of one voter
in a democracy impairs the
security of all. ~ John F. Kennedy**



LWV VOTER REGISTRATION ACTIVITIES

United States Citizenship and Immigration Services

New Citizen Ceremony

Potential Candidates Served: **26205** (91%)

Estimated Potential Candidates Registered: **13103** (50%)

		CEREMONIES				
Year	Month	Scheduled	Candidates	Cancelled	Unsupported	
					Ceremonies	Candidates
Overall statistics (2011/12/13)		354	29230	2	37	3025
2011	Nov	14	1000	0	0	
	Dec	14	925	0	0	
2011 Total		28	1925	0	0	
2012	Jan	17	1405	1	2	140
	Feb	13	1175	0	0	
	Mar	11	1020	0	0	
	Apr	16	1340	0	0	0
	May	16	1380	0	1	70
	Jun	18	1595	0	4	365
	Jul	22	1950	0	0	0
	Aug	22	1710	0	3	240
	Sep	18	1540	0	0	0
	Oct	17	1410	1	6	490
	Nov	13	1090	0	2	220
	Dec	13	1150	0	5	430
2012 Total		196	16765	2	23	1955
2013	Jan	18	1480	0	2	190
	Feb	14	1090	0	0	0
	Mar	15	1280	0	0	0
	Apr	19	1540	0	3	230
	May	15	1200	0	0	0
	Jun	17	1380	0	3	200
	Jul	13	1050	0	2	200
	Aug	19	1520	0	4	250
	Sep					
	Oct					
	Nov					
	Dec					
2013 Total		130	10540	0	14	1070



PHOTO ID REQUIRED TO VOTE IN PERSON IN TEXAS ELECTIONS

Texas now requires voters to show photo identification at the polls. Voters must present one of the following seven types of identification.

Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS) issued:

- Driver's license
- Personal identification card
- Concealed handgun license
- Election identification certificate (EIC)

U.S. government issued:

- Military identification card with photograph
- Citizenship certificate or naturalization with photograph
- Passport

Other notes:

- Photo ID needs to be current or have expired no more than 60 days before voting (citizenship and naturalization certificates have no expiration date).
- The name on the ID should match the voter registration card. If names don't match, a voter may be accepted if names are "substantially similar." Addresses need not match.
- Voters with a documented disability can apply for a voter registration certificate exempting them from the photo ID requirement.
- Voters without acceptable ID can obtain an Election Identification Certificate (EIC) from Texas DPS at no cost by providing proof of citizenship and identity and registering to vote at DPS or showing a voter registration card.
- Voters who do not show an acceptable ID at the polls can vote a provisional ballot and have six days to show the required photo ID.
- Photo ID is not required to vote by mail. Voters may apply for a mail ballot if 65 or older, ill or disabled, or absent from their county during early voting and on election day.

Only the seven photo IDs listed above can be accepted at the polls. Other photo IDs including student IDs and employer IDs cannot be accepted.

LWV NATIONAL CONVENTION

Dallas, TX
June 6 – 10, 2014

Irving League members have an exciting opportunity to participate as volunteers at the League of Women Voters National Convention in Dallas June 6 through June 10. *You* can be an important part in making the Convention fun, relevant, and successful.

Here are the perks if you volunteer to be a CHAIR:

- No charge for convention attendance, special chair ID badges
- Hotel rooms will be provided as needed (this is \$169 per night perk)
- Reduced parking fee
- \$10-15 stipend for transportation
- Snacks in the volunteer room
- A free non-transferable ticket to the Saturday Fund-raiser

Or, you can be an important member on one of these committees:

- Welcome - be the first face that registrants get to know, be the information source, provide assistance
- Local Information Desk - distributing convention and Dallas information
- "Dine Around" - seek local restaurant participants and help organize a chance for visitors to experience Dallas cuisine
- Registration Desk - distributing name badges and registration packets
- Credentials - certifying delegate eligibility, distributing vote cards, preparing the daily credentials report for presentation to convention and assisting the Election Committee in ballot elections as appropriate
- Floor - keeping the process orderly and correct
- Election/Teller - recording information during voting events (adopting program, bylaws, election of officers, etc.)

It's more fun when you participate in the organization, the details, and the hands-on activities. Be the first to pick your spot.

Mona Wyatt
Irving representative, Convention Committee

LEAGUE CELEBRATES WOMEN'S EQUALITY DAY

On August 26, the League hosted an event for Women's Equality Day which annually commemorates the victory of Women's Suffrage in 1919.

An overflow crowd attended the meeting at North Lake College to hear Dr. Elba Garcia, Dallas County Commissioner, talk about the victories and challenges facing women and voters today.



**Want to learn more about the
League of Women Voters of Irving?
visit lwvirving.org**



ORGANIZATION INFORMATION

As we begin our new program year, our members and League contacts are receiving the following in an effort to “keep us connected”:

- Members and League friends, VIP’s and prospects received notices regarding the opportunity to sign up to register at the State Fair of Texas, special meetings such as Women’s Equality Day, and to support the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce Power Coffee. League members who attended were: Norma Stanton, Jan Killen, Barbara Doyle and Phil and Judy Smith.
- Notices have been sent to attend our upcoming meeting about Governing our City. Members have received the League’s calendar of events and rosters of their board of directors and officers.
- The following is the attendance break-out for Women’s Equality Day; total attendance 63. 19 were members and 44 guests and 22 walk-in’s indicating our speaker Elba Garcia was an exciting guest speaker. Those attending the Woman’s Equality Day Meeting received an opportunity to evaluate the meeting. All comments reflected pleasure with the event.



STATE PRESIDENT’S UPDATE

New developments on photo ID...

On August 27 the DC Court dismissed the Texas suit for preclearance of photo ID as requested by the State of Texas and without objection from DOJ or any of the intervenors.

With dismissal of the DC Court preclearance case, the only action on photo ID is now in Corpus Christi federal court where Congressman Marc Veasey and others filed a Voting Rights Act Section 2 challenge in late June. Attorney General Holder has also filed a Section 2 challenge to the Texas photo ID requirement and request that Texas be bailed into preclearance requirements under Section 3 in Corpus Christi.

On August 30 DOJ asked that the two cases be joined and that the initial scheduling hearing be delayed from late September until late October. So far neither DOJ or the Veasey plaintiffs have asked for an injunction that would prevent enforcement of photo ID for the November elections. Others have indicated they will join these suits including Dallas County Commissioners, Austin, and Texas League of Young Voters represented by NAACP Legal Defense and Education Fund.

Photo ID remains in effect and, as long as it remains in effect, LWV efforts to help voters understand and meet the requirement should continue. Photo ID documents have been updated to include naturalization certificates along with citizenship certificates as acceptable ID and links to updated documents are below.

There is a new Smart TX Voter app for Android and iPhone or iPod touch that will help keep track of elections, send reminders to contacts, find polling locations, view the state ballot, and find answers to voting questions. SOS has also made available PowerPoint presentations from the Annual Election Law Seminar for County Officials, and several are useful resources on photo ID. Links to the pdfs of these PowerPoints are below and the link to the PowerPoints is also provided.

Thanks for all you doing in making democracy work for all Texans!

Linda Krefting

President, LWV TX



THE AFFORDABLE HEALTH CARE ACT

Laura Blackburn, Advocacy VP, LWV-TX

Below is a link to an excellent LWV-TX Advocacy paper written by Grace Chimene, who was so active in our fight against all of the anti-abortion laws that were introduced in the 83rd Regular Legislative Session as well as the first and second Special Sessions.

Here she writes about the Affordable Health Care Act (ACA), what it covers and what it does not cover. This is an excellent paper to send to your members and others in your community. It explains how to access the Health Insurance Marketplace which is accessible from October 1, 2013 through March 31, 2014, thanks to the federal government. Have public meetings, send this to your local media, etc.

Since the Health Insurance Marketplace is going into effect October 1, what is important now is to see that this information gets to your members and the public. Your help is crucial in order that everyone is informed about the plan.

Subsequently, we can try to get Texas law changed so that we can expand Medicaid. Thank you for helping us get the word out!

Click here for the ACA Advocacy paper: library.constantcontact.com/download/get/file/1102401434182-219/Update+on+ACA-7.pdf

VOTE FOR H2O!

Laura Blackburn, Advocacy VP

Yes, LWV-TX is supporting Proposition 6, the water amendment! Several of you have asked me about it, which I am assuming means that you want us to support it. Thank you for your inquiries.

We are sending background materials to Local Leagues on September 9-look for it! We will also have an explanatory article to all members in the October Voter.

Meanwhile, if you have further questions, please contact me at: laura2blackburn@gmail.com or (281) 923-5326.

YOUR ELECTED OFFICIALS

The Your Elected Officials brochures have been updated.



Both the Federal and state version as well as the Irving version which includes City Council and local schools have been updated and are currently being distributed at City Hall, the Irving libraries, and the Heritage Senior Citizens Center, among other locations.

If you wish to have copies mailed to you, contact Anne Pfaff via e-mail at anne@plastronics.com.

CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS

On November 5, Texas voters will have the chance to weigh in on nine constitutional amendments. LWV-TX has prepared voters guides in both English and Spanish at www.lwvtexas.org/votersintro.php. The English electronic version became available Sept. 23 and the Spanish electronic version, Oct. 1. The Voters Guide will also be available in VOTE411.org in English and Spanish.

In addition, the state website has a new Constitutional Amendments page that provides basic information so that users can do their own research. Visit the webpage at www.lwvtexas.org/ConstitutionalAmendments.php to learn about the constitutional amendment process, the joint resolutions that were filed during the regular and special sessions in 2013, and the nine proposed amendments on the Nov. 5, 2013, ballot, including links to the actual text, fiscal notes, witness lists, analyses, and other documents.

AMENDMENTS

Amendment No. 1 (H.J.R. 62) Authorizing the legislature to provide for an exemption from ad valorem taxation on of all or part of the market value of the residence homestead of the surviving spouse of a member of the armed services of the United States who is killed in action.

Amendment No. 2 (H.J.R. 79) Eliminating an obsolete requirement for a State Medical Education Board and a State Medical Education Fund, neither of which is operational.

Amendment No. 3 (H.J.R. 133) Authorizing a political subdivision of this state to extend the number of days that aircraft parts that are exempt from ad valorem taxation due to their location in



this state for a temporary period may be located in this state for purposes of qualifying for the tax exemption.

Amendment No. 4 (H.J.R. 24) Authorizing the legislature to provide for an exemption from ad valorem taxation of part of the market value of the residence homestead of a partially disabled veteran or the surviving spouse of a partially disabled veteran if the residence homestead was donated to the disabled veteran by a charitable organization.

Amendment No. 5 (S.J.R. 18) Authorizing the making of a reverse mortgage loan for the purchase of homestead property and amending lender disclosures and other requirements in connection with a reverse mortgage loan.

Amendment No. 6 (S.J.R. 1) Providing for the creation of the State Water Implementation Fund for Texas and the State Water Implementation Revenue Fund for Texas to assist in the financing of priority projects in the state water plan to ensure the availability of adequate water resources.

Amendment No. 7 (H.J.R. 87) Authorizing a home-rule municipality to provide in its charter the procedure to fill a vacancy on its governing body for which the unexpired term is 12 months or less.

Amendment No. 8 (H.J.R. 147 and S.J.R. 54) Repealing Section 7, Article IX, Texas Constitution, which relates to the creation of a hospital district in Hidalgo County.

Amendment No. 9 (S.J.R. 42) Relating to expanding the types of sanctions that may be assessed against a judge or justice following a formal proceeding instituted by the State Commission on Judicial Conduct.

MEET THE BOARD

Welcome the LWV Irving board members for 2013-14.

OFFICERS

PRESIDENT: Carole Shlipak

VICE PRESIDENTS:

ORGANIZATION: Judy Smith

COMMUNITY RELATIONS: Carol Little

PROGRAM: Dagmar Meltzer

ASST PGM VP Rosemary Robbins

SECRETARY: Carol Bell

TREASURER: Phil Smith

DIRECTORS

VOTER SERVICE

VOTER REGISTRATION: Paulette Austin

VOTERS GUIDES: Cynthia Jenkins

CANDIDATES FORUM: Mona Wyatt

ARRANGEMENTS: Estelle Odell

Your Elected Officials (YEO): ... Anne Pfaff

MEMBERSHIP: Barbara Doyle

VOTER EDITOR: Jill Martinez

PROGRAM COMMITTEE: Rosemary Robbins

LWV-IRVING CALENDAR

Regular meetings of LWV Irving are held on the 4th Monday of the month unless otherwise noted.
Board meetings are held at 5:30 on the 2nd Monday of the month,

OCTOBER 2013

Monday, October 7

Last day to register to vote for the Constitutional Amendment / Joint Election Election

Monday, October 14

Board Meeting, 5:30 p.m.. Offices of the Las Colinas Association, 122 West John Carpenter Frwy., Suite 550, Irving, Texas 75039

Monday, October 21

Early Voting begins. for times and locations, go to www.dallascountyvotes.org/wp-content/uploads/EV-Locations1.pdf

Monday, October 28

Human Trafficking, 11:30 - 1:00, Northlake College, Central, 5001 N. MacArthur Blvd

NOVEMBER 2013

Friday, November 1

Early Voting ends

Tuesday, November 5

Election Day. Polls are open 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Monday, November 11

Board Meeting, 5:30 p.m.. Offices of the Las Colinas Association, 122 West John Carpenter Frwy., Suite 550, Irving, Texas 75039

Monday 18

LWV Meeting, (3rd Monday), Consensus Meeting on Human Trafficking, time and location TBA

