



IRVING VOTER

THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF IRVING

Spring 2011

vol. 18 Issue 2  Voter Editor Judy Smith 1802 Puritan Dr. IrvingTX 75061

(972) 251-316 (972) 785 - VOTE

The League of Women Voters, a nonpartisan political organization, encourages the informed and active participation of citizens in government and influences public policy through education and advocacy.



A Few Words from Your President

The Voter Service arm of the League of Women Voters is our most visible presence in the community, and we take it seriously as we encourage citizens' participation in the process. Please do your part.

Get to know your city and school candidates. Read the Voters Guide – share with

family and friends. The Guide will be published in the Dallas Morning News (Neighborsgo section) on Friday, **April 22**. Copies will also be available at libraries, City Hall, and other places throughout the city.

Please plan to attend the Candidates Forum, featuring city and school candidates, which will be held on Wednesday, **April 27** at 7:00 p.m. at Irving City Hall, 825 W. Irving Blvd. Attend, bring your family and friends, listen to your candidates.

May 14 is the day when YOU can make a difference. VOTE and VOTE informed!

The next event in which you can participate is the LWV **Local Convention May 21**. Specific information will be provided later on, but for now, please make a date with League on **May 21 for brunch**. In the meantime, when someone from the Nominating Committee calls to invite you to take an active role on the Board, please say, "Of course, I am happy to!" We need you.

Did you know: A portion of our dues to the Irving LWV goes to the State and the National Leagues, who provide insightful and helpful information. Read the information they send us and think!

Mona
Mona Wyatt



Keeping us Connected!

Up Coming Events...

LOCAL ELECTIONS

Candidates Forum

Wednesday, April 27, 2011

7 pm

Irving City Hall – 825 W. Irving Blvd.

Submitted by Irene Jackson – Voter Service

The League of Women Voters of Irving will hold a Candidates Forum for all candidates for Irving Mayor and City Council and for the School Boards of Irving ISD, Carrollton-Farmers Branch ISD, and Coppell ISD.

All candidates have been invited to attend. The Forum will begin with all of the school board candidates from all 3 school districts. At the conclusion of the school board portion of the Forum, the school board candidates will be asked to promptly step down so that the City Council and Mayoral candidates can step into place for their portion of the Forum.

The Nuts and Bolt of the Forum

All candidate questioning will be done by the League. Each candidate will be allowed a 1 minute opening statement. Each will be the same 3 questions by a League moderator (one question at a time, in turn). Each candidate will have 1 minute to answer each question (in turn). Each candidate will be allowed to make a 1 minute closing statement (in turn). Candidates may choose to use closing time to elaborate further on his/her answer to the 3 questions or talk about themselves or about any area she or he thinks is important to the election. If you have any questions please contact **Irene Jackson at 214.529-0969**.

MAY 2011 ELECTION

Submitted by Irene Jackson – Voter Service

Irving Voters will have many choices in the up-coming elections on May 14th, so it is important to mark your

calendar and get out and vote!

The following four candidates are running for Mayor of Irving (listed in ballot order): Joe Putnam, Tom Spink, Herbert Gears (I) who was a councilman before becoming mayor, Beth Van Duynes. Spink and Van Duynes were previously Council members, while Putnam has been both a Council member and a Mayor before. Irving City

Council Candidates include the following (in ballot order): Dennis Webb, Kensley Stewart, and David Gutierrez, who are all competing for Place 3 - a Single Member district with no incumbent in the race. In the race for Place 5, also a Single Member district, incumbent Rose Cannaday is running against challenger Julie D. Grant.

In the race for Irving Independent School District Board of Trustees, Candidate Nancy L. Jones (I) is being challenged by Steven Jones for the Place 1 seat. In the Place 2 race, incumbent A. D. Jenkins is in a race with challengers Gail Conder Wells and Dinesh Mali.

Irving voters will also choose trustees for the school boards of Carrollton-Farmers Branch and Coppell.

In C-FB ISD, James Goode (I) is being challenged by Randy Schackmann for Place 1, and David Yarbrough is challenging Nancy Cline (I) for Place 2. In Coppell ISD, Thom Hulme is unopposed in his race for Place 1, while Amy Dungan and Tracy Fisher are competing for Place 5 with no incumbent in the race.

The last day to register to vote in the May 14 election is April 14, 2011. Early voting will be held from **May 2 through May 10**, 2011, in the following **locations**: City Hall, 825 W. Irving Blvd., Irving Arts Center, 3333 N. MacArthur Blvd., and Valley Ranch Public Library, 401 Cimarron Trail.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR



Plans are in the works for **LOCAL CONVENTION May 21, 2011** This important meeting will feature speakers addressing Human Trafficking and reports from the nominating, budget, and bylaws committee. Nominations will be accepted from the floor or if you

wish to join our working board please let the nominating committee know of your interests. Members of the committees are as follows: Nominating – Chair, Carol Huntley Little, Kathrine Pennington and Judy Smith. Budget – Chair, Janice Carroll, Vickie Bumpass, and Phil Smith. Bylaws – Chair -Carol Bell, Suzie Beeman, and Ann Ouzts.



DATES TO REMEMBER

April 22 – Guides appear in Dallas Morning News (in the Neighborsgo section) and throughout the city
April 27 – Candidates Forum
May 2 - May 10 – Early Voting
May 14 – Be sure to vote in the Local Election
May 21 – Local Convention
June 25 – LWV Texas Summer Seminars

Taking nominations for directors to serve on the Irving LWV Board of Directors – contact Judy Smith at philudy@tx.rr.com



News from National

LEGISLATIVE WATCH LIST

There is a wide range of issues that the League is watching. The League will take action on several of these items when opportunities present themselves. For example:

Global Climate Change

Global climate change is one of the most serious threats to the environment, health and economy of our nation. Recent scientific studies show that global warming is already causing environmental changes that will have significant global economic and social impacts.

» [Learn more about what the League has done to address climate change.](#)

Ethics and Lobbying Reform

The last Congress passed new ethics and lobbying laws. Now is the time to ensure that the ethics process works to fight corruption and to limit the undue influence of special interest lobbyists.

» [Learn more about what the League has done to support ethics and lobbying reform.](#)



NEWS FROM THE TEXAS LEAGUE

Committees Holding Hearings on Priority Bills:

- Reproductive Rights – The League testified in opposition to SB15, the Sonogram Bill and add
 - Opposition to the 24 hour waiting period.
- 2011 SPRING VOTER

- Budget – Action alert distributed, results pending
- Redistricting – League are asked to have meetings with the local media and hold a redistricting education session with other non-partisan groups in their communities.

The State League lobbies and keeps a watch on many bills that are introduced to the Texas Legislature. At the top of the list is **Education/Public School Finance**. Bills that would jeopardize school district funding and flexibility are many.

This session, many bills have been proposed to lower property taxes and to grant additional exemptions (for more details refer to the Feb. 18 Legislative Newsletter. These bills would severely impact school districts, which are already expected to see a \$9-to-10 billion reduction in funding.

In this environment, school districts cannot afford to give additional exemptions and to raise the homestead exemption above the standard \$15,000 currently allowed. The burden of finding money to bring school districts up to the desired levels falls on the state. Other bills and constitutional amendments would reduce the flexibility of the school districts to provide a quality education for the growing population of Texas students. These are reasons why the League opposes such proposals. See March 4th issue of the Legislative Newsletter for details of many bills being proposed.

Other bills that are being followed by your Texas League include: **Elections Laws, Financing State Government, Campaign Finance Reform, Judicial Selection, Open Government, Administration of Justice, Social Policy/Human Resources, and Natural Resources,**

MEETINGS, BOARD HIGHLIGHTS AND ACTIVITIES IN REVIEW...

Irving League members continue to register new voters: League Members (Front



to back) Genevieve Ramos, Paulette Austin, Katherine Homan, with the Dallas LWV and Irene Jackson. Standing is a new citizen that has been registered to vote.

FEBRUARY 28, 2011 – During the **Meet Your Irving School Board Trustees**, members and guest got the opportunity to get better acquainted with our IISD school board. Here are a few things we learned:

Nancy Jones – She has lived in Irving 28 years and has two sons. She is a long time volunteer and has a great love for kids and their education. She strives to “be a voice for Kids” She was active in her children’s PTA and her children’s involvement in athletics.

A.D. Jenkins – He has been a resident of the district for 24 years. He has a BS in Information Systems and has been employed by IBM. He is the father of 3 boys, and was involved with IISD through coaching which was an added component to education. He serves as President of Big Dog which is a mentoring program through sports. His hobby is sports, and he would like to do mission work in 3rd world countries.

Heather Ashley – She sees the board as a team and brings own personal experiences and ideas to that team. She is a lifelong resident, and education is important to her, so she decided to run for school board to make a difference. She has served on campus and district improvement committees, is a church pianist, making everything in her life evolve around kids and education.

Valerie Jones – She moved to Irving in 1972, graduated from MacArthur in 1981, married her high school sweetheart, had 4 kids, one is married, one is a junior at UNT and one is a senior and the other is a junior at MacArthur. She got involved in PTA and she ran for school board in 2006. She said the best thing about the district is the diversity. The kids are exposed to many differences which hopefully increases tolerance for other cultures.

Gwen Craig – She is enjoying the experience on the board and learned from other members. She has 3 children that graduated from Irving high schools. She has worked at 2 high schools and was also a counselor and organized TAKS tests. She has a great love for kids. She recognizes that the board is facing hard times regarding the budget and wants the community’s input. The IISD website has a place for community input.

Jerry Christian – He describes himself as the “old man” on the board. His first involvement in the Irving school system was teaching math, then he moved into administration in the junior high, then in senior high school. After that he became the Personnel Director of IISD and in 2000 he retired as an assistant superintendent. He is currently serving his last term on the board. He is a lifetime Dallas County resident and has worked as a music minister for many years, and has been involved in singing groups. He has been married for 45 years and has 2 grown daughters. He was a polio victim from the 50’s.

Rhonda Huffstetler – Rhonda moved from Iowa in 1967 and lived in a mobile home near the Texas Stadium location. She was educated in the Irving Independent School District and graduated in 1977. She was a parent volunteer and has two boy ages, 21 and 24.

She has worked as a hair dresser and her career allows her to be involved as she connects with the public on a daily basis. She feels that IISD is always striving for success. She has served 2 terms, took a break, and is now serving 2 more terms.

Attending the meeting were **League members** Julie Esstman, Paulette Austin, Anne Pfaff, Carol Bell, Jan Killen, Lely White, Judy and Phil Smith, Mona Wyatt, Kathrine Pennington, Carol Huntley Little, Carole Shlipak, Tom Burhoe, Estelle O'dell. **Guests** included Jo Dunn, Jorge Chase, Roland Medina, Fred Odell, Katherine Gnich, and Daisy Staples, Michael McPhail, Dr. Jung Noh, Kirk England and Al Zapanta.

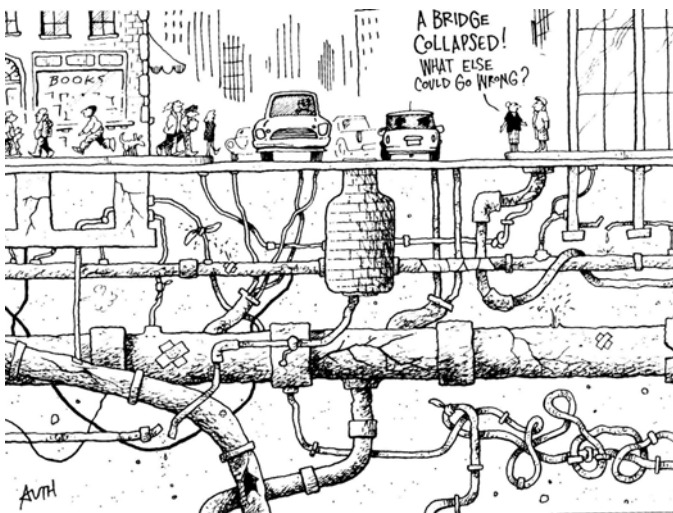
March 28 2011 Water, Water Everywhere? Water a Commodity? Director of Water Utilities Todd Reck presented a very interesting up-date on Irving's water supply and infrastructure. His power point told the story that stressed the importance of water, aging infrastructure, rising cost of water and future water supply. Councilman Rick Stopfer added his own experiences as he represents Irving on these Issue.

The importance of water:

- Daily Access to Clean, Safe Water is Critical to Our Health
- 884 million people are without access to a safe drinking water source
- Water is implicated in 80% of all sickness and disease worldwide
- 4,000 children die each day as a result of water-related illnesses

National issue

- American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE)
 - Water Distribution Systems **Graded D-**
 - Wastewater Collection Systems **Graded D-**
- Some Irving infrastructure is 60 -70 yrs old
- Funding must come from rates



Existing Irving Infrastructure

- 700 Miles of Water Pipe
- 700 Miles of Sewer Pipe

- 75 Miles of Raw Water Pipe
- 6 Pump Stations
- 11 Sewer Lift Stations
- 20 Tanks and Reservoirs
- 43,000 Customer Meters
- 6,000 Fire Hydrants
- 16,000 Valves

Quality water require quality pipes
 Failing Infrastructure disrupts service
 Failing Infrastructure impacts environment

Irving Water Sources

Current Water Sources

- Lake Chapman (Cooper)
- City of Dallas
- Water Conservation

Future Water Sources

- Water Reuse
- Oklahoma (Lake Hugo)
- East Texas



Is Water a Commodity?

- Historically No
 - Water for the public good
 - Water Suppliers: Lake Construction and state Permitting
 - Minimal profiting -cost of service billing
- But....reduced supplies and higher costs are changing the dynamics
 - Private investment -Boone Pickens
 - Bottled water industry

Water Conservation- what is being done

- Leak detection program
- Water audits
- Community education
- Irrigation System Ordinance
- Drought Management Plan
- Promote
 - drought tolerant plants
 - rainwater harvesting

Maximize the Use of What We Have: Water Reuse

- Treated wastewater used for irrigation
- Pilot project:
 - 1.Twin Wells Golf Course
 - 2.Trinity View Park
- Utilizing existing DCURD/TRA pipeline
- Average annual demand ~ 1 MGD
- Costs per 1,000 gal. comparable to Lake Chapman water and Dallas Wholesale Contract water

To Summarize

- Water is essential and it's cheap
- Cost will need to increase in the future
 - Deteriorating infrastructure
 - Increased treatment and state fees (pass-through)

- New water supplies more expensive
- New water supplies needed
- Water supply needs creating private interest
- Increased pressure to conserve and reuse water

**Information provided by Todd Reck
Director of Water Utilities**

For additional information on the following subjects, go to the Texas League Website www.lwvtexas.org

- State Water Plan and Regional Water Planning, Con Mims
- Regional Groundwater Issues-Hill Country to Gulf Coastal Plain, Feather Wilson
- Surface Water Law as administered by San Antonio River Authority, Suzanne Scott
- Groundwater Management in Texas, Greg Ellis
- Legislative Outlook on Water Issues, Mark Taylor

2010-2011 FINANCE DRIVE

The finance drive is winding down and over \$4,500 has been raised. Our many thanks to all of the League members and friends who have continued to support the educational efforts of the League. The contributions make it possible for us to continue to publish the *Voters Guide* and the *Your Elected Officials* brochure and to host a candidates rally for all candidates. . If you have not yet made a donation, it is not too late. **Just send in your contribution** to our treasurer Phil Smith at **1802 Puritan Dr. Irving, Texas, 75061**

The following league members have given their time and expertise to making this campaign successful!

Anne Pfaff, Director of Finance Development
Julie Esstman, Corporate Giving
Carole Shlipak, Member and Friends
Kathrine Pennington, Printing
Judy Smith, Artistic Design and Data Base
Mona Wyatt, Resource

THANKS

A special thanks to our current contributors

\$500 +

Greater Irving-Las Colinas Chamber of Commerce
Las Colinas Association

\$250 +

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Christina Gears
Anne Pfaff
Robert and Rebecca Power

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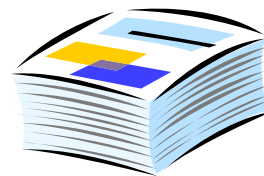
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Virginia Yates
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AND MORE THANKS!

YOUR ELECTED OFFICIALS BROCHURES

We are happy to announce additional YEO's (Your Elected Officials Brochures) are now available at popular public locations such as the Irving Library and branches, Irving City Hall and Irving Art Center. More information contact Anne Pfaff at anne@locknest.com



Spring Birthdays

May 29 – Julie Esstman
May 22 – Helen Chaplin



Summer Birthdays

June 2- Judy Smith
August 16 – Irene Jackson
August 6 – Dorothy Leibensberger
August 18 – Christina Gears
August 11 – Ann Ouzts
August 22 – Carol Little