



THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS
CORPUS CHRISTI, TEXAS

The VOTER

The Newsletter of the Corpus Christi League

September 2006

League of Women Voters

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Nominating Committee, 2006-07

Peggy Duran, Chair, 852-7229 (h)
or 883-6623 (w)

Membership Meeting--Thursday, September 21, 2006

Seamen's Center, 1501 N. Mesquite St.

Lunch: 11:30 a.m. to noon; program starts at noon

RSVP to Lois Nickerson, 853-9642 by 9 p.m. Monday, September 18 for meal reservation; cost: \$12 per person (please note price increase)

**Program: CANDIDATES FOR NUECES COUNTY SHERIFF
Jim Kaelin (R) and Jimmy Rodriguez (D); Roger Flores**

The League enjoyed a lively question-and-answer session in August with Loyd Neal and Larry Olivarez, candidates for Nueces County Judge, and we look forward to welcoming Jim Kaelin (R) and Jimmy Rodriguez (D), candidates for Nueces County Sheriff, at our Sept. 21 meeting. A third candidate (Roger Flores) will also be invited to the meeting. He has been certified by the state but his name will not appear on the ballot.

The sheriff of Nueces County is a constitutionally-created position prescribed by the Texas Legislature. Serving as chief law enforcement officer, operating the county jail, investigating crimes, and maintaining communication with other law enforcement organizations are primary responsibilities of this office. In practice, the sheriff concentrates most of his activities outside the city limits. The elected term is four years, but the November election fills two years of Olivarez's unexpired term.

The candidates will review their reasons for seeking the sheriff's office, then answer questions. League questions will include: What do you think is the most pressing problem in the sheriff's office? How has your education and experience in law enforcement prepared you to deal with the problems facing the jail? What role do you think the sheriff's office should take in cooperating with city, state, and federal law enforcement systems?

We look forward to seeing you on Thursday, Sept. 21.

--Elizabeth Stewart, Program Chair

IMPORTANT DATES AHEAD:

Wednesday, Oct. 11 - Candidates Forum (see page 5 for story)

**Thursday, Oct. 19 - League's monthly membership meeting,
with program on Beach Access issue**

Tuesday, Nov. 7 - Election Day

The LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS, a non-partisan, political organization, encourages the informed and active participation of citizens in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy.

President's Message

Dear Members & Supporters,

Much of this information is taken from The Voter, November 2005. Then, as now, LWV-CC was busy.

In November 2005, we were looking at two state studies, a finance drive, a constitutional amendment election, preparing for the 2006 LWV state convention, and receiving a proclamation from the Mayor--all the while working to influence public policy through education and advocacy. The state convention was a success and we are still working on the finance drive, along with the beach access topic.

The local issue of closing the beach seaward of the seawall on Padre Island to vehicular traffic has resulted in two proposed amendments to the City Charter, which will be discussed at our October 2006 meeting.

LWV-CC position statements from 1965 and in 1973 have not changed. These position statements do not address closing beaches to vehicular traffic. They do include:

- Development of park sites should be determined by the type of land; natural beauty should be conserved wherever possible.
- Beaches are to remain accessible to all people as a park and recreation facility.
- Continuing public access to the beaches.
- Enforcing speed limits and all public safety regulations.

Please try to research this topic before the October meeting. LWV "*acts after study and member agreement to achieve solutions in the public interest on key community issues at all governmental levels; builds citizen participation in the democratic process; and engages communities in promoting positive solutions to public policy issues through education and advocacy.*"

Lois Huff, President, LWV-CC

THE VOTER is published 10 times during the calendar year (excluding June and December) and mailed to all members, League supporters, and elected officials.

Editor: Chris Davis Garcia, 991-2784; cgrg@earthlink.net

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Beach Access Charter Amendments

At the League's luncheon meeting on Thursday, Oct. 19, members Lois Nickerson and Joyce Jarmon will present the results of their study about the debate and upcoming Corpus Christi charter amendment election in November to decide the question of beach access.

They plan to have speakers for both sides of this question. This issue is current, and the League will benefit from the research and work Lois and Joyce have invested in this study.

Here is the wording of the two Charter amendments that will appear on the ballot:

Charter Amendment No. 1

FOR ____
AGAINST ____

Providing for a public pedestrian safe beach limited to the approximately 7,200-foot area between Packery Channel and the north boundary of Padre Balli Park.

Charter Amendment No. 2

FOR ____
AGAINST ____

Prohibiting any restriction of vehicular access in order to create vehicle-free beaches unless approved by a majority of qualified voters of the City who vote at an election held for that purpose.

Beach Access Contact Names:


According to the City Secretary's office, the two organizations which have been formed in response to the Beach Access issue (and their campaign treasurers) are:

Beach Access Coalition

-- (Camest L. West, 949-1917)

It's About Time Corpus Christi

--(Gladys Choyke, 816-1243)

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Voters' Guides Will Be Published

Funding needed to offset printing costs

The League's **Voters' Guides** should be packed with all the races throughout the area. Not only do we have the local races for the General Election, there is the CCISD school board election with six candidates seeking three places, Del Mar College Board of Regents elections with 12 candidates, and a special election to fill State Rep. Vilma Luna's place until January.

When we add the charter amendments about beach access to the mix, we will be providing plenty of good information for the voters.

We will need many of you to help with the distribution of the Voters' Guides again. Our members are able to blanket the city with Voters' Guides, which are in demand everywhere. We anticipate printing more than 5,000 copies, and we continue to seek funding to assist us in offsetting the printing cost.

If you can provide some leads for funding sources, please call me or President Lois Huff. Tax-deductible donations can be made to the League's Ed-Fund.

-- Pat Parr, Voter Service

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THANKS TO THESE RENEWING MEMBERS!

**WELCOME,
NEW MEMBER!**
Sylvia Samaniego

**SPECIAL DONATIONS
RECEIVED FROM:**
Nelda Martinez
Barbara R. McDowell

**If you haven't renewed
your League membership
yet, please do so soon!
The League welcomes
and appreciates
your support!**

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Clarice and Philip M. Wallock
Marjorie "Ricky" Walraven
Cheryl A. Whited
Jack Widder
Charles Palm (national member)

Membership dues were increased, effective May 2006, to keep up with state and national dues' increases.
Individual membership: \$50; Household: \$75; Student: \$30

Attach your check, payable to LWV-CC, to the membership form on the back page of this publication and mail to: LWV-CC. Attn: Velma Luna-Budd, Treasurer, PO Box 8276, Corpus Christi, TX 78468-8276

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Committees Being Formed; Your Help Is Needed!

The following committees and/or leadership positions need to be filled immediately to begin League work and complete it during 2006-2007. Call any Board member for details. Your help is needed!

Fundraising--The League has regular expenses which just are not covered through membership dues. We need to raise funds through a letter-writing campaign or perhaps a special event fundraiser.

Nominating--We need two non-Board members to serve on Nominating, which will complete its report one month prior to the annual May meeting. Call Peggy Duran, chair, at 852-7229 (h) or 883-6623 (w).

Budget--This committee prepares the budget for the coming year, and after Board approval, submits it to all members prior to the annual May meeting.

Bylaws--A few minor bylaws revisions are needed to the League's bylaws. Proposed changes to the bylaws must be submitted to the membership one month before the annual May meeting.

Website Helper--The League needs a "tech" person who loves working with computers and who would keep our website current. Our current webmaster has moved out of town and must be replaced.

Candidates' Forum Set Oct. 11 at Council Chambers

The League of Women Voters and Leadership Corpus Christi Alumni will again partner to hold a Candidates Forum on Wednesday, October 11. The Forum will begin at 6:30 p.m. at City Hall Council Chambers at 1201 Leopard Street. The forum will include the November 7th General Election contested races for:

U.S. Representative;
County Judge;
County Sheriff;
District Courts;
State Representatives; and
13th Court of Appeals.

Please call Nelda Martinez at 779-7938 or email her at adlen007@aol.com if you would like to help or would like to submit questions for the Forum.

Discussion is continuing on sponsoring an additional Forum so that the beach access issue/charter amendments as well as the candidates for CCISD school board and Del Mar College Regents can be spotlighted. Be watching for additional information.

Invite your friends, colleagues, neighbors, and family to attend the Candidates' Forum to become better informed before Election Day. Talk "voter registration" with everyone you meet!



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An Important Reminder:

Evy Coppola, VP of Community Relations and Membership, reminds all members to contact her if they have a direct contact for promoting the League and/or suggestions on events in which the League should consider participation.

Be sure and invite a guest to the League's monthly luncheon meetings and absolutely call Lois Nickerson at 853-9642 with the reservation(s) by the deadline noted (Monday before the Thursday meeting).

Do you know someone who wants to join the League? Give Evy a call at 880-6555 or 949-4790 or send her an e-mail at solaryoga@earthlink.net and she will be happy to send them a welcoming letter and application.



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STUDENT SPECIAL!

For the next five students to join LWV-CC, the League will offer memberships for \$10. This membership will be good until May 31, 2007, and includes subscriptions to three publications--The VOTER (CC League), Texas VOTER, and National VOTER.

See the membership application below. If you know students who are interested in being members, please share this special membership information with them.

The LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS - Corpus Christi Membership Application -

Join now and help in the effort to promote political responsibility through informed, active participation of citizens in government.

Type of membership New Renewal
 Individual (\$50) Student (\$30) Household (\$75) -- Member's Name _____

Name _____

Address _____

Work Address (optional) _____
(I prefer to receive my mail at my home work address.)

Home Phone _____ Work/Cell Phone _____

Fax _____ Email Address _____

Membership is from June 1 through May 31. if you join or renew after the first of the year, your membership is paid through May 31 of the following year. Please direct any questions to the League office at 993-7851.

RETURN COMPLETED FORM AND CHECK TO:
LWV-CC, Attn: VELMA LUNA-BUDD - TREASURER
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CORPUS CHRISTI, TX 78468-8276