



A nonpartisan organization that encourages informed participation in government and influences public policy through education and advocacy.

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF DALLAS

VOTER

May
2007

Office 214-688-4125

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www.lwvdallas.org

Unit Meetings

"Do Your Own Thing"

Members are getting quite creative this month, giving you an opportunity to sample some interesting offerings. Contact any leader and sign up for the fun.

Tuesday, May 1

Mayoral Candidate Forum
Jewish Community Center at 7 PM
7900 Northaven Rd, 75230
Dinner at La Madelaine at 5:30 PM
NE Corner Preston-Forest Ln
North Dallas Unit
Leader **Gayle Hurst** - 214-348-7112

May 9

"Brainstorming for Unit Building"

Oak Cliff Unit - Wed. 10AM

Mildred Pope 214-374-8067
Kristin DeLoach 972-213-8637
Primrose Oaks Community Room
2999 S. Hampton Rd at Perryton Rd

Green Tour at New

Grauwlyer Park Branch Library
2146 Gifford St, 75223
Lunch at Eden Restaurant to follow
East Dallas Unit - Wed. at Noon
Suzanne Wills - 214-324-1594
suzwills@swbell.net

May 10

"A Conversation with Ruth Morgan"
Current election topics

Mockingbird Unit - Thurs. 9:30AM

Eleanor Sutherland 214-368-8215
Pat Vaughan 214-350-2623
St. Thomas the Apostle Episcopal Church
6525 Inwood at Mockingbird

Annual Meeting May 5, 2007

Celebrating Past, Present, and Future

Honoring Past Accomplishments

Linda Wassenich, for the Awards Committee

Marsha Fogarty has been selected to receive the **Virginia Macdonald Award** at the 2007 Annual Meeting of LWVD on May 5. Marsha has served the League as a Vice President, Membership Chair, and Chair of the Speakers Bureau. (Continued on p. 4)

Pat Vaughan will receive the **Myrtle Bales Bulkley Award** at the Annual Meeting on May 5. Pat has served the League as Program Vice President, Organization Vice President, chair of the local study on Resources for Children and Youth, Speakers Bureau Director, and Chair of the Health Care Forum Steering Committee. (Continued on p. 4)

Honoring 50-Year Members

Betsy Beesley, Jeanette Early, Joyce Forney, Genie Fritz, Jo Fay Godbey, Helene Greenwald, Sue Lichten, Anita Marcus, Carmen Michael, Louise Raggio, Geraldine Sobel, and Ellen Solender.

Recognizing Present Accomplishments

Katherine Homan, President

What a colossal second year this has been, as we solidified our 3M goals of **Mission, Members and Money**. This year's **Board of Directors** took us to historic heights in the achievement of those goals.

Voter Outreach VPs Brenda Marks and Mildred Pope stayed focused on mission and reestablished us as the premier presence in the community for voter services and information. Thanks to outreach efforts of heroic proportions, we served over 5,000 new citizens, spearheaded a **League of Women Voters Community Coalition** that registered and educated 7,000 voters at ten DART rail and bus stations, and between our **print and online Voters Guide** versions, reached over a quarter of a million people. In addition we hosted a record breaking number of **"Meet the Candidates" forums** that were taped and broadcast on DCTV and presented a timely forum for November voters on **"Financing City Government with Bonds."** (Continued on p. 2)

2006-2007

Board of Directors

Officers

President

Katherine Homan

Vice Presidents

Organization *Joanne Early*

Program *Judi Stewart*

Advocacy *Lynda Ender*

Voter Outreach *Brenda Marks*
Mildred Pope

Secretary *Fran McElvaney*

Treasurer *Jane MacAdams*

Directors

Ann Adams

Nancy Caveness

Barbara Downey

Michelle Manners

Alix Mason

Diane McQuarie

John Sheehan

Nancy Todes

Adrienne Williams

Suzanne Wills

Recognizing Present Accomplishments (Continued from p.1)

Our mission was valiantly broadened by **Program VP Judi Stewart**. She not only kept a steady hand on the reins and steered the long-awaited **Municipal Bond Study** to a successful conclusion, she also triumphantly launched our **Immigration Study**, which recently received standing room only attention at our "Immigration in Dallas County: Perception vs. Reality " forum.

Our effectiveness was greatly enhanced by the behind-the-scenes efforts of Leaguers like **Ann Jones, Brenda Marks, and Linda Sharp** whose contributions will be documented by **Meritorius Service Awards**. Ann is always a willing volunteer when there's telephoning to be done or registering to be recorded. The logistics and resource provisioning of the DART drive were driven--literally and figuratively-- by Brenda, while Linda Sharp's intellectual and technical skills contributed immensely to the completion of the Bond Study.

Under the auspices of **Advocacy VP Lynda Ender, Organization VP Joanne Early** and **Treasurer Jane Mac Adams**, we engaged and diversified our membership and solidified our financial footing. The **City Government Observer Corps** crafted our position on the City's comprehensive plan, Dallas Forward! Volunteers from our New Citizens and **DART** voter registration drives became the source pools for new members, while a **Story Bank** project began recognizing League Legends. Our only fundraising event, the **Susan B. Anthony Award Luncheon** honoring Laura Estrada, generated new members, in addition to significantly increasing proceeds into the Ed Fund.

Thanks to the past generosity of Dallas Leaguers, we have an Endowment Fund. Yet, assets in that Fund sat unattended in their original gift form. With the development and adoption of an **Investment Policy**, we finally had investment goals and guidelines for our investment counselor to follow. Now, when items other than cash are donated, they are converted to cash and invested according to this policy. In addition, our **Gift Acceptance Policy** outlines rules for accepting gifts and assists in structuring them to provide maximum benefits to both the donor and the League.

As usual, gifts to LWV-Dallas are not tax deductible, but **gifts to the LWV-Dallas Education Fund or to the Endowment Fund of LWV-Dallas Education Fund are**. These two policies provide us the financial security and opportunity to pursue our mission, as well as the goal of helping us to exist in perpetuity. Please, please remember the League when you are making your legacy plans!

Committing to Future Achievements

At our upcoming Annual Meeting, history of momentous magnitude will be made as we vote on the Nominating Committee's slate, which includes our **first African-American President, Libbie Terrell Lee**, and our **first fella** to be elected to a **Directorship, Karlton Remington**.

As in past years, you will have a chance to write down exactly what you **wish the League would do** in the coming year. Do come and be part of this historic Dallas League event!

2007 Joint Election (Elección Conjunta de 2007)
May 12, 2007 (12 de mayo, 2007)
OFFICIAL BALLOT (BOLETA OFICIAL)

REMEMBER

Early Voting
begins
Monday, April 30

for the

LOCAL ELECTION
May 12, 2007

**STUDY YOUR
SAMPLE BALLOT BEFORE
VOTING**

by logging onto
Dalcoelections.org

Scroll all the way down and click onto
***Search for your voter registration**

Enter your name and click on
Show voter information

This will bring up your voter profile and allow
you to **"View the ballot for your precinct."**

Log onto **lvvdallas.org** for
Voters Guide and candidate positions on issues.

A **Dallas County, Texas**

B **(Condado de Dallas, Texas)**

C

INSTRUCTION NOTE:

Vote for the candidates/statements of your choice in each race by darkening in the oval provided to the left of the name of that candidate/statement.

USE ONLY A PEN OR PENCIL TO MARK YOUR BALLOT

NOTA DE INSTRUCCION:

Vote por el candidato/declaración de su preferencia en cada carrera llenando completamente al espacio ovalado a la izquierda del nombre de ese candidato/declaración.

UTILICE SOLAMENTE UNA PLUMA O UN LAPIZ PARA MARCAR SU BOLETA

CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT ELECTION
ELECCIÓN SOBRE ENMIENDAS A LA CONSTITUCIÓN

PROPOSITION 1

"The constitutional amendment authorizing the legislature to provide for a reduction of the limitation on the total amount of ad valorem taxes that may be imposed for public school purposes on the residence homesteads of the elderly or disabled to reflect any reduction in the rate of those taxes for the 2006 and 2007 tax years."

PROPUESTA 1

"Enmienda constitucional que autoriza a la legislatura para disponer la reducción del monto total de impuestos al valor que, siendo para fines de las escuelas públicas, puedan establecerse sobre los hogares residenciales de ancianos o discapacitados, de modo que se refleje cualquier reducción de la tasa tributaria correspondiente a los ejercicios fiscales de 2006 y 2007."

FOR (A FAVOR)

AGAINST (EN CONTRA)

CITY OF DALLAS GENERAL ELECTION
ELECCIÓN GENERAL CIUDAD DE DALLAS

For Member of Council, Place 15-Mayor
(Para Miembro del Concejo, Lugar Num. 15-Alcalde)

John Cappello

Roger Herrera

Gary Griffith

E. Edward Okpa

Ed Oakley

Darrell Jordan

Jennifer Gale

Tom Leppert

Max Wells

Don Hill

Sam Coats

write-in (voto escrito)

For Member of Council, Place 3
(Para Miembro del Concejo, Lugar Num. 3)

Angela G. Phillips

Dave Neumann

Joseph Hernandez

Linda F. Wise

Rena Renfroe

Joe Tave

Charletta Rogers Compton

Victoria D. Walton

Kawana Lynn

DALLAS ISD TRUSTEE ELECTION
ELECCIÓN DEL CONSEJO DE ADMINISTRACIÓN DE DALLAS ISD

For Member of Board of Trustees, District No. 7
(Para Miembro de la Junta Escolar, Distrito Num. 7)

Jerome Garza

Louis Tranquillino Trujillo

DALLAS COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD TRUSTEE ELECTION
ELECCIÓN DE ADMINISTRACIÓN DEL TABLERO DE ESCUELA DEL CONDADO DE DALLAS

For Member of Board of Trustee At-Large
(Para Miembro del Consejo Directivo En Grande)

Kim Leah Burkley

Dale D. Kaiser

Darrell Castillo

Shunda Renee Walker

Irby Foster

Pauline K. Dixon

The League of Women Voters Community Coalition
MAYORAL RUNOFF DEBATE

May 22, 2007 7:00 PM

St. Luke's Community United Methodist Church
5710 East R.L. Thornton Freeway

Co-sponsor Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. (Alpha Xi Omega Chapter)

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Reform in New Mexico

Suzanne Wills, Drug Policy Observer

As this is being written no drug policy reform bill has been heard in the 2007 Texas Legislature. However, in our neighboring state two very significant bills have been signed into law.

New Mexico has become the 12th state to legalize the use of marijuana as a medicinal herb. New Mexico's health department will set up and administer the program. Patients with a recommendation from their doctor will apply to the health department for identification cards. They will then be able to obtain marijuana grown in production facilities in the state "housed on secure grounds and operated by licensed producers." Patients will not be allowed to grow their own.

In a signing statement Gov. Bill Richardson said, "This law will provide much-needed relief for New Mexicans suffering from debilitating diseases. It is the right thing to do. I'm proud to sign legislation that makes patient care an important priority in this state. It is time for Congress and the federal government to follow our lead and help those forced to endure painful, chronic diseases."

Gov. Richardson also signed the "911 Good Samaritan" bill, the first of its kind in the nation. The law will prevent authorities from prosecuting overdose victims, friends and family members on drug possession charges on the basis of evidence "gained as a result of the seeking of medical assistance." Gov. Richardson said, "This bill will encourage families and friends of addicts to seek medical care and prevent their loved one from dying."

Many, if not most, overdose victims die because their friends are afraid to call for help. It typically takes 2 to 4 hours to die from a heroin reaction. The opiate reversal agent, naloxone, can reverse the process in 2 to 3 minutes.

The effects of these laws will be closely watched by people on both sides of the drug policy debate.

Honoring Past Accomplishments Continued from p. 1)



In addition, she has contributed board service to the Gladney Center, the YWCA, St. Philips School, the Women's Council, DISD's Booker T. Washington High School for the Visual & Performing Arts, the City

of Dallas Library Board and the Friends of the Library Board, and Big Thought.

Marsha holds a B.A. from SMU and a Masters of Social Work from the University of Iowa. After working for the Department of Social Services, State of Iowa, Iowa City, and Southwest Community Mental Health Services in Las Cruces, NM, Marsha and her family moved to Dallas where she has been primarily working in the field of adoptions. Since 1995 she has worked as an adoptions social worker in independent practice, specializing in independent adoptions.

Marsha is well known for her commitment to a cause and willingness to take risks. She has utilized her League-honed skills and connections in the community in the public interest.



She has been Chair of the Nominating Committee twice and also a member of the committee. She has been a unit leader, chair of the Policy Review Committee, an office volunteer, and the sage voice of how things are done in the League.

Pat has also been a Dallas delegate to both LWV-TX and LWVUS conventions.

In addition to her involvement with the League, Pat has also served on the boards of the Dallas Women's Foundation and the Women's Council of Dallas

Pat graduated from SMU and also has a Master of Science degree in Recreation and Park Administration from Indiana University. Before embarking on her career with Camp Fire, she taught school. In 1966 she began a long association with Camp Fire, working for the council in Fort Worth as a district director and camp director, in Port Arthur as Executive Director, and in Dallas as Assistant Executive Director and Director of Camping Services.

Pat has been a strong supporter of the League for many years and was one of the prime movers in starting the Dallas League's endowment fund.

Doug Taylor,
*League Member &
Contributing Columnist*



Voting Matters

The Texas Legislature is considering **several pieces of legislation** that will affect both **voter registration** and **how we conduct elections**. I will give you the highlights of some of the proposals.

On the voter registration side, we have **several proposals** in committee both in the House in the Senate that are seeking **additional proof of ID to register**.

SB694, HB265, and HB245 propose to **allow election day voter registration**. States that allow election day voter registration generally show a **higher turnout at elections**. **Bruce Sherbet** has pointed out that a deputy voter registrar will be required at each polling place. Currently the county scrambles during every election to provide judges and clerks at all polling places, so the **extra personnel are not readily available**.

HB101, HB218, HB626, HB979, HB1726, and HB2319 require **proof of citizenship to register** to vote and **show proof of identification** when voting.

Similar laws in other southern states have been invalidated by the courts and others are under judicial review. This could have an **adverse affect on our voter registration project** as well as make voting more **difficult for poor and elderly voters**. Similar laws in other states have reduced turnout among the poor and elderly.

On March 28, 2007, **two of these bills**, HB 218 (authored by Linda Harper Brown, R-Irving) and HCR 626 (authored by Phil King, R-Weatherford), were **reported favorably out of the House Elections Committee** and sent to the House Calendars Committee where they will be considered and passed directly to the House Floor for debate and a final vote. **HB 218** is a Voter ID bill establishing the requirement that all voters must show at least **two forms of identification** to cast a regular ballot. **HCR 626** requires that every person registering to vote must show **proof of U.S. citizenship** that would be admissible in court proceedings. This means that the form of proof of citizenship must be a certified original document. **HCR 626 would effectively shut down LWVD voter registration activities.**

When it comes to voting, several bills have been filed to **make voting easier** and electronic **voting machines more auditable**.

SB946 and HB942 propose early **voting by mail for any qualified voter**. Western states such as Washington, California, and Oregon have similar laws in force which have increased voter participation in elections. Current Texas law is fairly restrictive on who can vote by mail, so these proposals would expand the franchise for those who can't or won't vote in person. **Another proposal is for small jurisdictions to hold entire elections by mail**. Jurisdictions that allow anyone to vote by mail have seen participation increase over in person voting.

SB1006, SB1247, SB1647, HB65, HB123, HB384, HB527, HB1364, HB3891, and HB3894 are bills related to the use of direct recording electronic voting machines, conduct of elections, and recounts. The most significant impact would be the **requirement of a voter verified paper audit trail**. Some of the legislation would make the paper trail the official ballot for recounts. Given problems with printers and supplies, this would inevitably cause difficulties. **Bruce Sherbet** has pointed out that recounting using rolls of paper takes much longer than paper ballot recounts. **I suspect none of this legislation will make it out of committee this session** as most legislatures are waiting to see what Congress passes first.

This legislative session has seen many election related bills filed, but with only a few weeks left in the session **most will not reach the floor for a vote, much less pass in a final form**. Legislators do not seem to be under pressure to pass reform legislation either by the courts or constituents. **Learn more about pending legislation status:** Texas Legislature Online Bill Lookup at <http://www.capitol.state.tx.us/BillLookup/BillNumber.aspx>



Meeting with Congressman Pete Sessions

Katherine Homan, President

Our League has been keeping **Congressman Sessions** and **District Outreach Coordinator Lee Padilla** working overtime with information requests! First, Study Committee member **Lou Ann Ligon** called to inquire about congressional efforts to address immigration reform and border security. Then, Immigration Study Committee Co-Chair **Maureen Jones** and I called for an appointment to speak about how immigration is impacting Dallas County.

In response to Lou Ann, a four page document was prepared that included the following:

- **Curbing illegal immigration will address corollary problems** such as drug trafficking, crime and terrorism. Session's constituents overwhelmingly demand that he address border security and an "enforcement-first approach," ahead of any other aspect of immigration.
- **San Diego's 14 mile long border fence**, constructed 10 years ago, has yielded 95% reductions in illegal border crossings. Bureau of Customs and Border Protection officials credit San Diego's fence with **dramatic decreases in the crime rate and drug smuggling**.
- Environmental groups such as the **Sierra Club and the National Parks Conservation Association** are acknowledging the harm being caused to delicate ecosystems by the influx of illegal immigration. Marsh grasses that are the habitat of birds are being trampled, water supplies and equipment are being damaged and stolen, grazing and irrigation schedules disrupted, fires started, and drug smugglers' ATV and truck traffic across volcanic terrain destroy land that is home to endangered species and delicate habitats.
- **Human trafficking for purposes of illegal sex trade perpetuates organized crime** here.
- **The Secure Fence Act** of 2006 (H.R. 6061) would erect fence segments along Texas "hot spots" such as El Paso, Laredo and Brownsville. In addition to decreasing illegal immigration, a fence may deter families who try crossing with small children and infants.

Regarding Maureen and my appointment, a scheduled 45 minutes with **Congressman Sessions** and Outreach Coordinator **Lee Padilla** was stretched to 90 minutes! Below are Notes from that meeting:

- A considerable number of documented **immigrants come to Dallas with visas** but decide, once the term of their visa expires, that they want to stay here and not return to their home country. 138,000 people nation-wide **overstay their visas** each year.
- Immigrants coming here on a student visa or one granted on a scientific basis frequently remain here beyond their allotted time; such **immigrants are essentially draining their needy home countries of their newly-acquired talents and skills** by not contributing to the progress and development of their home country.
- The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) is the largest governmental agency after the Department of Defense; Citizenship and Immigration Services (CIS) is now within the DHS. It was given **\$300 million to set up a tracking system** for the documented immigrants whose visas had expired, but CIS is not doing a good job.
- **9-11** has produced a tidal wave of immigration into our country. It has also **added the step of a local background check to the State Department's screening process**, thus slowing down the system for issuing visas and such paperwork. For example, the country of origin may take a long time to respond to our inquiries about one of their citizens, resulting in a cascading effect on our ability to issue entry visas.

- When immigrants commit crimes while here without authorization, they are subject to criminal justice prosecution. As Sessions explained, **"illegal immigration status alone does not denote criminality, committing criminal acts does.** Just being here without permission, however, causes people to engage in illegal activities – such as obtaining forged documents in order to gain employment."
- The Irving Police Department is working with DHS to round up immigrants who have committed crimes. So far this year, of the 60 people stopped, 33 have been held for criminal offenses. Last year the **Irving Police Department** arrested for criminal offenses approximately 700 immigrants, who originated exclusively from Mexico and El Salvador.
- **Children here** by parents entering without documentation are eligible to apply for Non-Legal Permanent Resident Cancellation of Removal and Adjustment of Status. If they do not have criminal convictions, and if they can meet the good moral character and hardship requirements, then they **can be cleared for legal permanent residency status.**
- Congressman **Sessions supports temporary or guest worker legislation** that would: (1) "hold harmless any illegal immigrant who self-identified and got right with the law," (2) provide tamper-proof IDs, (3) permit workers the freedom to travel here to work and then go back to their families, and (4) not tie a guest worker card with a track to citizenship.

The more we study this topic of immigration, the more I realize how much we all need each other. Here's hoping inspiration will descend upon this Congress to pass federal legislation that will adequately address and correct the many fallout issues burdening natives and immigrants alike.

April Forum

Immigration in Dallas County Perception vs. Reality

Our "provocative, but civil panel"
exploring immigration issues...

Diana Solis, Dallas Morning News, 4/13/07

Clockwise from the top: Dr. Jose Angel Gutierrez,
Anne Marie Weiss-Armush, Dr. Beverly Mitchell-Brooks,
and Dr. Jennifer Cutrer.

Photos by Stacey Rocha, Lifetime Videos

