



The VOTER

SEPTEMBER 2020

League of Women Voters-Corpus Christi

Virtual League Meeting Set Thursday, Sept. 17

We will zoom again for our Monthly Luncheon on Thursday, September 17, from 11:30 a.m.-1:00 pm. Our first update with a Q&A is from Nueces County Clerk Kara Sands.

Our featured speakers are from the South Texas Military Task Force, a committee of the United CC Chamber of Commerce that advocates at the local, state and federal level for the military bases in our community.

Chairman Alan Wilson and Executive Director Kreston Cook will update us on the importance and economic impact of our military bases in our region. (Continued on Page 10.)



Applause for Virtual Celebration of Women's Equality Day!

It was applause all around for the August 26 virtual celebration of the annual Women's Equality Day, made possible through a terrific partnership including the League of Women Voters-Corpus Christi, American Association of University Women, Corpus Christi Alumnae of Delta Sigma Theta, Inc., Girl Scouts of Greater South Texas, and Corpus Christi YWCA.

Dr. Amy Aldridge Sanford, Evon English, and Liza Wisner served as main planners for the event. Others assisting on the Planning Committee were Susan Birchfield, Chris Garcia, Sandra Heatherley, Lois Huff, Caroline Ibarra-Pena, Sharon Murphy, Vickie

Natale, Annell Neale, Debbie Noble, Nikki Riojas, Victoria Rogers, Shirley Selz, Anne Stewart, Dana Thakkar, Nancy Wesson-Dodd, Sylvia Whitworth, Sue Williams, and Megan Ysassi.

The celebration began with grand fanfare and videos from the 1920s and an historical display of the timeline of the League and the journey to the passage of the 19th Amendment. Liza Wizner, founder of power.org served as emcee.

With more than 1,500 views between Facebook Live and YouTube, those participating heard great messages from five outstanding and motivating speakers. All agreed their messages were powerful.

The speakers included Ruth Hughs, Texas Secretary of State; Kaitlynn

Thakkar, Girl Scout from Harlingen High School; Janet Blanke, community volunteer and IBM retiree; Coretta Graham, local activist and attorney; and Alejandra Castillo, CEO of YWCA USA.

Reactions to the celebration were positive.

"The August 26 Zoom meeting turned out to be fabulous. The five speakers were diverse and uplifting. Looking forward to next year in person." Sylvia Whitworth

"I thought it was interesting that the winner of the doorprize provided by LWV-CC lives in Moorehead, MN, highlighting the universality of Zoom!" Sandra Heatherley

LWV MISSION STATEMENT

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 does not support or oppose candidates or political parties.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Anne Stewart, LWV-CC President

Hello, Everyone!

“PEACE IS ACTION” - isn't that a great thought! It was shared with me this week and I knew immediately I wanted to share it with you. We are all activists choosing how, when, and about what we will take action. We are all articulate and don't need to resort to slang, or less in language, to communicate what is worthwhile.

We respect each other and understand that our organization benefits from that old adage, “When the tide rises all boats float.”

With all that in mind, let's look at four groups bringing PEACE to our area of South Texas through their ACTIONS, raising the tide for all of us. The first three are included in other areas in this Voter. The fourth is explored more extensively in this column.

1. 100 Years of Women Winning the Vote Celebration --planning committee and participants.
2. Summit on Human Trafficking --community members with Texas Representative and League Member Todd Hunter.
3. September 16 report on oyster shell recycling and benefits -- community members and Rep. Hunter.
4. LWV-CC Study, “Potential for Lead Contamination in Our Communities’ Drinking Water.”

Last month's Voter recognized the Lead Study Group, but overlooked some members who have contributed over four years of volunteer service to finding lead poisoned children in our community and devising recommendations for our action this fall.

Members of the Committee are Teresa Carrillo, Ruth Falck, Sally Farris*, Dr. Mary Jane Garza, Dr. Jim Klein, Dr. Teresa Klein, Linda Snider, Judy Telge, and Technical Advisor: Ronald L. Schiller*, Certified Industrial Hygienist, retired USAF Bio-Environmental Engineer.

*Sally was misidentified earlier as a retired Assistant District Attorney; she is a former municipal lawyer whose practice area was environmental compliance; Ron is a retired USAF Bio-Environmental Engineer, rather than an epidemiologist.

The table at the top of the next column shows Lead poisoned children in our neighborhoods by zip code. It is one of the findings that guides the Recommendations the Committee will make to you this fall.

Right now, we don't know exactly how children in Nueces County are being Lead poisoned because source data from investigations is not organized at the State level. Further,

Rank	Zip Code	Child- ren	Notes on Location
1	78415	50-53	Near Del Mar College (Arcadia Village/Port-Ayres Y to far south Chapman Ranch). Much of this area holds old housing stock finished circa 1942
2	78380	30-33	Robstown
3	78408	28-34	Saxet Heights/Oak Park
4	78405	25-34	Near up/downtown South of Agnes/West of S. Staples
5	78410	24-33	Calallen/Tuloso
6	78412	20-29	Southside Bayfront Ocean Drive west to below SPID beyond Blanche Moore Plaza to Oso Area
7	78404	18-27	Six Points/Del Mar/Spohn area
8	78418	15-27	Flour Bluff/Mustang/Padre Island
9	78414	12-24	Abuts the west side of Oso Creek running south below Holly Rd
10	78401	10-25	Downtown/North Beach
11	78413	6-24	Densely populated, from Holly Rd at Weber, south beyond Yorktown Blvd and part of S. Oso Parkway to far S. Staples near entry to King Estates *
12	78407	5-20	Greenwood at S. Port Avenue

addresses for Lead poisoned children are held confidential by the State.

Case information is not shared with our local Public Health District. Meanwhile, Nueces County is adding upwards of 55-60 children per year to disease rolls.

We know EPA regards 20% of Lead exposure to come from water. So that means the remaining sources are likely to be found within any number of places our City and County governments have regulatory and enforcement authority, like substandard housing, contaminated playground soils, and markets that deal with imported foods and spices. Our city and county also have a public health education arm.

Soon, the Study Committee will suggest to you, and perhaps to the LWVTX, that there is more we can do to prevent Lead poison locally and across the state. Prevention can be aided with resources at hand, reforms to recordkeeping and reporting. We can find out what the sources are. We can take action against those sources. This is a matter of conscience.

And we can suggest Texas regulators create Lead's "further evaluation action level" (FEAL) to have our tap water accommodate the Federal Food and Drug Administration limit of 5 mcg/l (five micrograms of Lead per liter of water). At this time, the action level (AL) prompting Texas water systems to take steps to reduce Lead at the tap is 15 mcg/l. That is three times the amount of Lead the FDA allows in bottled water. Texas can do better, or at least we can do as well for our tap water as FDA requires for shelf water.

ACTION is Peace. ACTION brings Peace of Mind when we are doing what we can to make the world a better place. Resting on our laurels makes a restless mind, a conscience that yearns for ACTION.

--by Anne Stewart, with Sally Farris

THANKS TO THESE CENTENNIAL CLUB MEMBERS!

Amy Aldridge Sanford
Sandra Heatherley
Nancy Wesson-Dodd
Liza Wisner
Evon English
Libby Averyt (plus extra gift)
Valerie Pompa (plus extra gift)
Sylvia and Jim Whitworth
Nelda Martinez
Dolores Guerrero
Peggy and Jose Miguel Duran
Anne Stewart
Lois Huff
Graham Legal Services
Diane LaRue
Kellie Smith
Mary K. Sherwood
Suraida Nanez-James

(Donations of a minimum of \$101 will continue to be accepted. Please consider joining the Centennial Club.)



MERCHANDISE PURCHASES WILL SUPPORT 2021 EVENT

We are proud to partner with Made in Corpus Christi and local nonprofit organizations to celebrate 100 years of women's right to vote with an empowering collection of merchandise--all locally produced by makers and small businesses in our community! Fifty percent of the profits from all sales will be utilized to put on a local celebration of the 101st anniversary of the 19th Amendment in August 2021.

Products, including t-shirts, mugs, masks, tote bags, yard signs, and more can be found online:

<https://madeincorpuschristi.com/collections/centennial-womens-right-to-vote-collection>

Welcome, New Members!

Coleen M. Madigan, MD, Individual
April Ames, Individual
Samantha Treadway, Individual
Nicole M. Reustle, Individual
Emily Shafter Northrup (Ingleside), Individual

Thanks to These Renewing Members!

Mary Sherwood, Sustaining
Nelda Martinez, Individual
Sylvia Campos, Individual
Patricia Mathews, Individual
Victoria J. McGuire, Sustaining
Sylvia Trevino, Friend of the League
Sandra Heatherley, Sustaining
Jim Jalufka Hohle, Individual
John and Myriam Bell, Household
Elisa Gonzalez, Friend of the League
Sylvia Ramirez, Individual
Bobbie Wood-Hughes, Individual

Rebecca Brackett, Individual
Kimberley Seger, Sustaining
Julie Rogers, Sustaining
Lisa Cuevas, Individual
Gloria and Juan Montalvo, Household

SPECIAL THANKS:

...to Elizabeth Riggle for a generous donation to support League activities.

... to Bobbie Wood-Hughes for a generous donation to support League activities.

MEMBERSHIP MATTERS!



Voter Support Step 3: Getting Out the Vote

(Submitted by Kathryn Oler, Voter Mobilization)

As a nonpartisan political organization, the League of Women Voters of Corpus Christi works diligently to expand the number of eligible, registered voters and to increase awareness of issues important to Nueces County voters so that they can have a greater voice in the governance of the town, city and county where they live. However, there is one more crucial step that validates these first two efforts—**VOTING**.

Engaged, inclusive and robust voter turnout is the goal that issue studies and voter registration efforts strive to make happen. The small teams of LWV-CC work hard at both of these activities, devoting hours of research and people-to-people efforts. When it comes to getting out the vote, though, there is needed work to be done by all members.

In the 2020 Primary Election, only 40,116 out of 203,982 registered voters actually voted. Just 20 percent of the Nueces County registered electorate chose the candidates for the upcoming 2020 General Election. This means that 163,866 (80%) Nueces County registered voters **DID NOT VOTE!**

It is important to continue promoting voter registration for the upcoming election. It is more important to encourage registered voters to exercise their hard-won right to vote.

What can LWV-CC do to address this disconnect in the process? First, check out the excellent GOTV toolkits available on the LWVTX website (<https://my.lwv.org/texas/best-practices-gotv>) and the LWVUS website (<https://www.lwv.org/GOVToolkit>).

Second, use these tools to reach out to family and friends, encouraging them to vote. Personal contact is one of the most effective means of getting people to vote. This step may seem the hardest but the excellent material from LWVTX and LWVUS charts a doable course.

Remember, you are not calling, texting, emailing or mailing a note or postcard in support of a party or candidate. You are calling, texting, emailing or mailing a note or postcard in support of the right, privilege and responsibility of voting.

Now, do the math. There are 120 members of LWV-CC. If every member contacts just 5 individuals, 600 individuals will be encouraged to vote. If those 600 each contact 5 individuals, that's 3,000 voters. If these 3,000 contact 5 each, that's 15,000 voters encouraged within 3 degrees of separation (without having to know Kevin Bacon)!!!

Third, share your GOTV stories with Chris Garcia for The VOTER and Debbie Noble for the LWV-CC website.

Let's tell our voting stories are how we got the right to vote and how we protect it.



VOTER PROTECTION HOTLINES

ENGLISH
866-OUR-VOTE
866-687-8683

SPANISH
888-VE-Y-VOTA
888-839-8682

ASIAN LANGUAGES
888-API-VOTE
888-274-8683

ARABIC
844-YALLA-US
844-925-5287

ASL (Video)
301-818-VOTE 301-818-8683

DISABILITY RIGHTS TX
888-796-VOTE
888-796-8683

A logo for Sally Farris featuring a blue and white wavy design.

SALLY FARRIS

**Black
Livelihoods
Matter**

**Buy From Local
African American
Businesses**

LWVCC Diversity Proud

A logo for Peggy and Jose Miguel Duran featuring a stylized star with red, white, and blue stripes.

***Peggy and Jose Miguel Duran, MD
salute the League of Women Voters
for its work to inform
and encourage citizen participation
in our government.***

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF CORPUS CHRISTI

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LEAGUE NEWS

BOARD ACTION

Kathryn Oler, off-Board chair of VOTE411 and a member of the Voter Services team for several years, has been appointed by the LWV-CC Board to succeed At-Large Director Pat Anderson, who has resigned. The action was taken following the Sept. 3 Board meeting.

Pat was elected last May to complete the unexpired term of Lois Huff and was a member of the 2020-2021 Nominating Committee and this year's Budget Committee. Replacing Pat as a Board-appointed Nominating Committee member will be Annell Neale, treasurer.

Thank you, Pat, for serving on the Board.

SPECIAL THANKS

Many thanks to long-time League member and previous Board member Maria Jimenez and League friend Lorena Parada-Valdes for helping LWV-CC to create a Voter registration flyer in Spanish! Find it (and all the other flyers) on our website.

One of a Kind LWV-CC Calendar Available

LWV-CC has an opportunity to purchase a 2021 calendar with our chapter name and special photo on the cover for \$7 each plus \$3 shipping and handling.

We need to know right away if you are interested.

If you want to order a calendar or if you have questions, email or text League member Linda Snider at:

l.sniderok@gmail.com Or 802-777-2269



SIERRA CLUB COASTAL BEND GROUP

The Sierra Club is the most enduring and influential grassroots environmental organization in the United States.

www.sierraclub.org/texas/coastal-bend
CoastalBendSierraClub@gmail.com

Tuesday, September 22

National Voter Registration Day



The League of Women Voters is a national partner with NVRD

By Raul Ramirez, Voter Registration Chair

The Voter Registration Subcommittee has committed to a few voter registration events in September. Although deliberately cautious, we feel comfortable in doing these events in light of decreasing Nueces County COVID-19 numbers and the precautions we will implement.

We will be supporting requests from Grace United Methodist Church on Saturday, September 12, and from the Texas A&M-Corpus Christi Student Government Association on September 16. The League's annual participation in National Voter Registration Day will be Tuesday, September 22.

Deputized Voter Registrars are needed and can contact Raul about their assistance. All health-related security protocols will be in place.

The League hopes to support up to three locations on National Voter Registration Day, including Corpus Christi City Hall, a news media outlet, and another venue yet to be determined.

Although our face-to-face efforts have been at a standstill, LWV-CC has had some success with its digital campaign. We have distributed our flyers and have been able to make video presentations to a few small groups. We have received especially good feedback from TAMU-CC Political Science Department and the Corpus Christi Independent School District.

Members, please continue to share the flyers in your circles and on your social media platforms. If you need help, let me or Debbie Noble know.

Update from Voter Services Team

By Paula Breighton, VP/Voter Services

League members Sue Williams, Mary Sherwood, Raul Ramirez, Kathryn Oler, Elisa Gonzalez, Chris Garcia, Peggy Duran, and Paula Breighton met via Zoom to discuss and word questions to be posed to candidates in the Voters Guides for the November election. They also identified additional questions to be posed at the virtual Candidate Forums (see story on Pages 10-11).

Candidates' responses to the questions will be posted to Vote411.org and in the print version of the LWV-CC Voter Guides. Given the number of candidates entered in local races, the local guide could be up to 48 pages, the largest in 20 years! 10,000 copies will be printed by The Corpus Christi Caller-Times.

In addition, 500 English and 500 Spanish Voter Guides covering state level races will be purchased from LWV-TX. Guides will be distributed to Nueces County Libraries, select city buildings, Del Mar College, and TAMU-CC.

Visit the League website (lww-cc.org) and FaceBook page (Corpus Christi League of Women Voters) for updates on Voter Guide distribution location and dates. State guides will arrive by October 5. Also, please watch for an email requesting distribution volunteers. A list is in progress, but more volunteers will be appreciated. After the election, volunteers will be asked to revisit their sites to collect any remaining Voter Guides. This will help with budgeting for future elections.

United States
**Census
2020**

FIELD DATA COLLECTION
TO END SEPTEMBER 30

SHAPE YOUR FUTURE

The 2020 Census will provide a snapshot of our nation—who we are, where we live, and so much more. To date, 93 million households, nearly 63 percent of all households in the nation, have responded to the 2020 Census. But to reach 100 percent, there's more work to be done.

There are three ways to respond: online, by phone, or by mail.

WHY WE ALL SHOULD CARE

- The Census data will determine congressional representation when electoral districts are adjusted or redrawn.

- Federal funding for many State and local programs is allocated according to population.

- Census results show lawmakers and business owners where communities need new schools, new clinics, new roads and highway construction, hospitals, fire departments, housing, mental health services, rural water and waste disposal improvements, disaster planning, school lunch programs, and many more services for families, children, and older adults.

The Census mandate is to count every individual residing in the United States.

Encourage all your family members, neighbors, work colleagues, employees, and others to respond to CENSUS 2020.

What's a QR Code? And How Is It Used?



QR (Quick Response) Codes were developed in the late 90's for use in the automobile manufacturing industry, but are now used all over the world to help connect consumers and customers to brands and services. They are bar-code like optical labels encoded with information for websites, emails, wifi, event tickets and much more.

Instead of using the error-prone method of manually typing long URLs, people can use the QR code to instantly and accurately go to a website. Younger people may be more likely to recognize and use them, but QR codes can make digital information easier to access for people of all ages. Most smart phone cameras have QR code readers built in, but if yours doesn't, you may need to download a separate app.

Simply open the camera app on your smart phone and point it towards the QR code. Let it focus and read the code. Depending on the type of phone, you may or may not have to press a button to get to the site. It really is that easy.

Our local league has been using these codes on our social media posts and flyers to help people verify their voter registration, fill out vote by mail and poll worker applications, and access Vote411 and our own website. Look for them in our upcoming Voter Guides!

Important Dates

September 17-October 5: League-sponsored candidate forums will be recorded and posted (see story on Page 10 and candidates' names on Pages 10-11)

Monday, October 5--Deadline to register to vote in the November 3 General Election

October 13-Oct. 30: Early Voting period (Nueces County Elections website will have list of Early Voting locations and Election Day Vote Centers posted in about a week, according to the County Clerk's office.)

October 23---Deadline for eligible Nueces County residents to request a mail-in ballot (**must be received by the county by this date**)

Tuesday, November 3--Election Day



VOTE411.com is the online Voters Guide that contains information about the Nov. 3 election and responses to questions posed to the candidates. VOTE411.com



Congratulations to the League of Women Voters of Corpus Christi for 75 years of service to our community. I am proud to be a member!

--Chris Davis Garcia
Past President (2005-2007; 2017-2019)

ENGAGING VOTERS. DEFENDING DEMOCRACY.



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ISSUES INTO ACTION

Oyster Mariculture Program Launches in Texas; Online Symposium Set Sept. 16

The State of Texas this month launched the oyster mariculture industry as directed by legislation authored by State Rep. Todd Hunter of Corpus Christi, providing an opportunity for significant economic activity along the Coastal Bend and across the state.

Rep. Hunter, who authored House Bill 1300 last year to bring the industry to Texas, will host an online symposium on this new industry from 2 to 3 p.m. on Wednesday, September 16.

The summit, also sponsored by Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi, will be available for the public to view at <http://bit.ly/oystersummit>.

The new industry along the Texas coast allows people to lease public waters to grow and harvest oysters commercially. Texas had been the only coastal state in the country that did not engage in cultivated oyster mariculture, forcing Texas restaurants to import farm-grown half-shell oysters from other states.

“The time has come for these Texas-grown oysters to be served in restaurants across this country,” Rep. Hunter said. “We have worked for years to bring oyster mariculture to Texas because the economic and cultural benefits for our region are limitless. This will allow us to share more of the Coastal Bend with the rest of the state and country.”

“A&M-Corpus Christi is proud to continue working with our community partners across South Texas to build a successful oyster mariculture industry,” said Texas A&M-Corpus Christi President and CEO Kelly M. Miller. “We are excited to host this symposium as a next step in this process and look forward to a productive exchange of ideas.”

The Texas Parks and Wildlife Department recently launched a website allowing the public to apply to open an oyster farm. The Department has also posted an FAQ page to provide more information about this new Texas industry.

(See related story on Page 9 by League Member Debbie Noble who attended a World Affairs Council of South Texas virtual meeting and learned information about the topic from local restaurateur and presenter Brad Lomax.)

HUMAN TRAFFICKING CONFERENCE SUMMARY

(This summary was emailed to the League by State Rep. Todd Hunter)

A CALL TO ACTION

Hello everyone,

We had a productive, informative online conference about combatting human trafficking in our community and across Texas on Tuesday (August 25). I want to thank the 120 people who joined us for the hourlong conference, which was also hosted by Del Mar College. It was inspiring to see so many people and organizations committed to eradicating this evil industry.

We heard from Texas Secretary of State Ruth R. Hughs, who is from Corpus Christi, about efforts among the business community to fight trafficking. We heard from Detective Mike Ilse of the Corpus Christi Police Department, who discussed the work involved with investigating these crimes and helping victims. And we also heard from groups including the Purple Door and New Life Refuge about the services they provide to victims.

Much of the focus was on how human trafficking — which involves the use of force, fraud or coercion to obtain labor or a commercial sex act — has become an even greater concern during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Young people are spending more time online, which gives traffickers a way to find them and prey on their detachment from the rest of the world.

Tuesday’s conference was a call to action. We all have a role to play in learning more about human trafficking so we can recognize it, and there are many ways we can support victims and the groups that provide them refuge.

As I look toward the upcoming legislative session, I will continue to prioritize this issue by ensuring state laws provide the clarity needed to fully prosecute traffickers and specifically target online stalkers. I will also push for an interim study to put more focus on the issue.

We will have at least two more conferences on this topic soon. I will share details about those as they become available. In the meantime, thank you again to all who joined us and who are working to end human trafficking among us. If we continue working together, we will save more lives.

--- State Rep. Todd Hunter

Importance of the Oyster Mariculture Symposium

By Debbie Noble, Director/
Website & Social Media

“Oysters are important and disappearing. Shells need to go back into the water. Politics are crazy.”

Anyone who tuned into the August World Affairs Council of South Texas virtual meeting with Brad Lomax left with a firm understanding of these three points.

Lomax, owner of the Water Street Oyster Bar downtown, used to lament the dumpster and removal costs of so many heavy oyster shells. In chatting with his neighbor (who works at the Harte Research Institute) he began to change his framing from oyster shells as trash to oyster shells as a resource.

They worked with Texas A&M and the General Land Office (GLO) to start the *Sink your Shucks* program. This program ushers oyster shells from restaurant trash to ocean reef. In the middle, they spend 3 to 6 months baking in the sun on a strip of land along the ship channel donated by the Port of Corpus Christi in order to kill anything biological.

The shells act as natural reefs, nurseries for more baby oysters, and help stabilize the bay bottom and control erosion. The oysters themselves help

filter water and provide homes for other ocean species.

In 2010, the BP oil spill changed everything about wild oyster harvesting. It wiped out oysters in the gulf.

Normally, November-April was the legal Texas oyster harvesting season and then supply moved to the Louisiana area.

In order to find oysters to sell at his renowned oyster bar, Lomax had to head to the northeast and mid Atlantic because apparently it was not legal to purchase west coast oysters and sell them in Texas.

It turns out that Texas was the only state with a coastline that did NOT permit oyster farming.

So, in 2018, Lomax worked on getting the science into Todd Hunter’s office to help solve the oyster problem.

Hunter agreed to author a bill, get some co-sponsors, and help shepherd it into the next legislative session.

According to Lomax, there are at least a million ways to kill a bill, so a lobbyist was hired who reached out to statewide associations, environmental groups, restaurants, suppliers, and hoteliers to help.

Finally, in May 2019, Governor Abbot signed the bill.



Texas Parks and Wildlife had one year to produce some rules and regulations for the industry and open up the coastline for Oyster Mariculture permits.

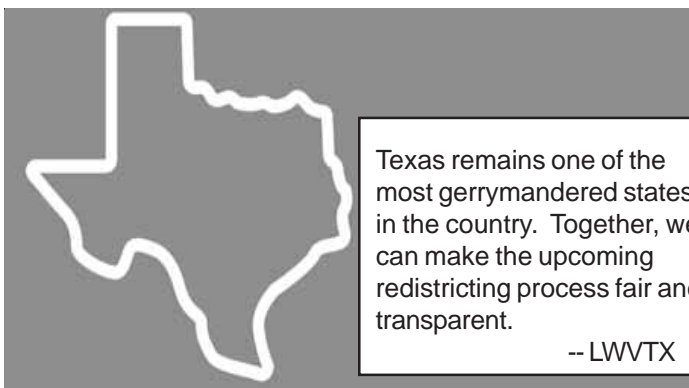
Oyster farming is now legal as of Sept 1. This should take some of the pressure off the wild reefs and give them time to grow and recover. It may not provide huge numbers of jobs, but it will provide another opportunity for those who want to make a living on the water.

This bill was a great collaboration between legislators, academia, science, tourism, industry, and involved citizens.

For more information, check out harteresearchinstitute.org or tpwd.texas.gov.

Rep. Hunter is hosting an on-line Oyster Mariculture symposium on September 16. (See related news release on Page 8.)

Redistricting Is LWVTX Priority



LWVTX recently learned that Texas Republicans quietly ended public hearings for redistricting. Advocacy groups are demanding change.

In the shadow of the COVID-19 pandemic, Texas Republicans have halted plans to hold a series of public input hearings across more than 20 cities, slated to occur earlier this year, to collect public testimonials from Texans about redistricting. (Testimony was received in Corpus Christi last November 2019.)

These testimonials would be a critical tool to help group communities which share common social and economic interests, voting patterns, and local preferences as new district maps are being drawn.

A coalition of 42 advocacy groups have taken notice of this indefinite stoppage and are requesting resumption of public hearings on redistricting in a safe and accessible format.

A NEW TWIST TO CANDIDATE FORUMS!

Six Will Be Recorded, Posted on Facebook and YouTube

By Paula Breighton, VP/Voter Services

Voter education is a vital part of the LWV mission.

Candidate forums allow voters the opportunity to hear how candidates respond to questions.

Since COVID 19 continues to pose a risk for many in Nueces County, the LWV-CC will record candidate forums and post them on Facebook (Corpus Christi League of Women Voters) and on YouTube (League of Women Voters in Corpus Christi).

Community members will have an opportunity to submit questions for candidates. The League will ensure that questions will be issues-oriented and nonpartisan in language.

A tentative recording schedule is as follows:

9/17/20: Federal & District; 7 races, 15 candidates

9/22/20: Countywide & County; 10 races, 18 candidates

9/24/20: Mayoral; 9 candidates

9/28/20: City Council, At-Large; 13 candidates

9/29/20: City Council Districts 1-5; 14 candidates

10/05/20: Del Mar College Board of Regents & CCISD Board of Education; 11 candidates

The Voter Services team will confirm the recording schedule and send information to all League members.

See the races and candidate names on this page and also Page 11.

LIST OF CANDIDATES FOR CANDIDATE FORUMS (See related stories on Pages 6 & 11)

Corpus Christi Mayoral and City Council Races (7 races, 36 candidates)

- Mayor (9 candidates)
 - o Pancho Villa
 - o Eric Rodriguez
 - o Carolyn Vaughn
 - o Priscilla Gonzalez
 - o Joe Michael Perez
 - o Roberto Seidner
 - o Joe McComb
 - o John Medina
 - o Paulette Guajardo
- City Council, At-Large-3 places (13 candidates)
 - o Liz Perez
 - o Mike Pusley
 - o Michael Hunter
 - o Myron Grossman
 - o Larry White
 - o John Martinez
 - o Ricardo Hankerson
 - o Efrain "Frank" Arriaga, Jr.
 - o Richard Diaz
 - o Patricia Pena-Noyola
 - o Brian Rosas
 - o Deanna Michelle King
 - o John Garcia
- City Council, District 1 (4 candidates)
 - o Rachel Ann Caballero
 - o Eli McKay
 - o Neely Balko
 - o Billy Lerma
- City Council, District 2 (2 candidates)
 - o Ben Molina
 - o Sylvia Campos
- City Council, District 3 (2 candidates)
 - o Herbert Rubio
 - o Roland Barrera
- City Council, District 4 (4 candidates)
 - o Kaylynn Paxson
 - o Jim Klein
 - o Greg Smith
 - o Dan Grimsbo
- City Council, District 5 (2 candidates)
 - o John R. Luis
 - o Gil Hernandez



League Meeting Set Thursday, Sept. 17

(Continued from Page 1)

“We provide education monthly to enrich and establish programming,” said Julie Rogers, Vice President for Program. “I learned from the LWV-TX publication “Programming Perspectives A Guide to League Issues 2018-2020” that the word Program has a very special meaning in the League. It is not a meeting or a series of speakers. League Program consists of the government issues selected by League members for study – and after consensus is reached – action. I recommend you take the time to look over the guide as we prepare for programming 2020-2022.”

Another good resource to learn about League programming is from the National Website and Convention <https://www.lwv.org/Program>. You can learn about the proposed program planning for 2020-2022 including a recommendation from the LWVUS Board to have League-wide Campaign for Making Democracy Work: Voting Rights, Improving Elections, Campaign Finance/Money in Elections and Redistricting . They also recommended to continue work on urgent issues like climate change, Equal Rights Amendment, health care, gun safety, and immigration.

While you are buffing up on League positions and programming, do not forget to follow us on Facebook and use our local website <https://my.lwv.org/texas/corpus-christi> to join and for more information.

LIST OF CANDIDATES FOR CANDIDATE FORUMS

(See related stories on Pages 6 & 10 about Candidate Forum Groupings)

Federal & District Races (7 races, 15 candidates)

- US Representative, District 27 (3 candidates)
 - Michael Cloud (R)
 - Ricardo "Rick" de la Fuente (D)
 - Phil Gray (L)
- State Senator, District 20 (2 candidates)
 - Judy Cutright (R)
 - Juan "Chuy" Hinojosa (D)
- State Representative, District 32 (2 candidates)
 - Todd Hunter (R)
 - Eric Holguin (D)
- State Representative, District 34 (2 candidates)
 - James Hernandez (R)
 - Abel Herrero (D)
- District Judge, 105th District (2 candidates)
 - Greg Perkes (R)
 - Nanette Hasette (D)
- District Judge, 347th District (2 candidates)
 - Missy Medary (R)
 - Deborah Rios (D)
- District Attorney (2 candidates)
 - Jon West (R)
 - Mark A. Gonzalez (D)

Countywide & County Races (10 races, 18 candidates)

- County Attorney (2 candidates)
 - Jenny P. Dorsey (R)
 - Rene C. Flores (D)
- Sheriff (2 candidates)
 - J. C. Hooper (R)
 - David Torres (D)
- County Commissioner, Precinct 1 (2 candidates)
 - Bill Kelly (R)
 - Robert Hernandez (D)

- County Commissioner, Precinct 3 (2 candidates)
 - Richard H. Mitchell (R)
 - John Marez (D)
- Justice of the Peace, Precinct 1, Place 1 (2 candidates)
 - Manuel (Manny) Rangel (R)
 - Joe Benavides (D)
- Justice of the Peace, Precinct 2, Place 1 (2 candidates)
 - Jo Woolsey (R)
 - David "Matt" Farias (D)
- Constable, Precinct 1 (2 candidates)
 - James Robertson (R)
 - Robert Cisneros (D)
- Constable, Precinct 2 (2 candidates)
 - Jason McCahan (R)
 - Dwayne Sada (D)
- Constable, Precinct 5 (2 candidates)
 - Oscar Mendoza (R)
 - Frank Flores III (D)

Del Mar College Regents

- Board of Regents, At-Large-3 seats (4 candidates)
 - Nick Adame
 - John F. Wilson
 - Shawn Flanagan
 - Carol Scott
- Board of Regents, District 4 (3 candidates)
 - Richard Pittman
 - Guy Watts
 - Laurie J. Turner

CCISD Board of Trustees

- Corpus Christi ISD, At-Large -3 places (4 candidates)
 - Alice Upshaw-Hawkins
 - Marty Bell
 - Janie Bell
 - Don Clark



Time To Renew Your Annual Membership

LWV-Corpus Christi was established in 1945-46 and is celebrating its 75th anniversary. Your continued support of LWV-CC, through your annual membership dues, ensures that the League will continue to address its mission.

Did you know that local League membership makes you also a member of the League of Women Voters-Texas (LWVTX) and the the League of Women Voters-US (LWVUS)? Both “agitate, advocate, and educate” when it comes to state and national policies, including voter suppression.

The League’s membership year is June 1 through May 31. Membership categories are \$100 Sustaining; \$90 Household (two persons residing in the same household); \$60 Individual; \$5 Student; and \$30 Friend of the League (non-voting). Please utilize the membership application & renewal form below and also on the League’s website.

The Board reminds you that paying your membership dues by check or money order allows the League to keep the entire amount rather than incur electronic fees!



Please visit the League’s website at www.lwv-cc.org to pay online.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION & RENEWAL FORM

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS - CORPUS CHRISTI AREA

PO Box 8276 • Corpus Christi, TX 78468-8276

LWV-CC membership runs June 1 to May 31 and supports local, state and national LWV actions to Empower Voters and Defend Democracy. We welcome your membership. Please complete this form and return it to the League at the address noted above.

Date: _____

Select Member type and remit payment or visit: <http://www.lwv-cc-org/JoinRenewOnline.html>

- Individual \$60 Household (2 people, same address) \$90 Individual Sustaining \$100
 Student \$5 Friend of the League \$30 (without voting privileges)

Name(s): _____

Mailing Address: _____ Zip Code: _____

E-Mail Address: _____

Home Phone: _____ Cell: _____ Work: _____

I prefer to attend: Luncheon Meetings _____ Dinner Meetings _____

I’m interested in volunteering my help with one or more of the following activities:

- Register Voters Prepare/Distribute Voters Guides Organize Candidate/Issue Forums
 Advocate for Issues Investigate Issues/Conduct Studies Network/Facilitate Community Dialogues
 Budget/Fundraising Media/Communications Membership Services
 Governance/Bylaws Observer Corps (monitor local government meetings)
 Special/Community Projects Attend Austin “Lobby Days” During Legislative Session
 Train/Serve as Nueces County Volunteer Deputy Registrar Advertise in Monthly VOTER Newsletter *

* Note: Business card ads in the monthly VOTER newsletter are priced at \$100 for 10 issues.