

League of Women Voters
of Dallas

VOTER



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

2008 Dallas County Edition

Voters Guide INSIDE

Complete unabridged version available online at

lwvdallas.org

November Units to Meet with Public Officials

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Oak Cliff and East Dallas Units will meet together at 10AM on November 12 at the Hampton-Illinois Branch Library, 2951 S. Hampton Road across from Kiest Park. DISD Trustees **Jerome Garza** and **Leigh Ann Ellis** have been invited along with **Mavis Knight**, State Board of Education Representative to discuss a variety of **education issues**, including current fiscal problems and the new grading and homework policies.

The **Evening Unit** will meet at 6:30PM on November 12 at the Central Market's 2nd floor Community Room, 5750 E. Lovers Lane and Greenville. **Ken Anderson**, Public Utility Commissioner, and **Will Hartnett**, State Representative who serves on the state legislative committee for regulated industry, have been invited to discuss **electric utility regulation**.

Mockingbird Unit will meet with **North Dallas Unit** at 9:30 AM on Thursday, November 13 at Churchill Rec Center, 6906 Churchill Way off Hillcrest. County Commissioner **Maurine Dickey** has been invited to discuss county **health and human services**.

The ABC's of the ABC's (Appointed Boards and Commissions) in the City of Dallas

At a General Meeting of the League on November 20 a panel of resource people and Leaguers will present an informative program on appointed boards and commissions in the City of Dallas.

Deborah Watkins, our City Secretary, and **Sandy Greyson**, a former Council person, will participate as will **Theresa Daniel** from an academic point of view and **Rebecca Bergstresser** and **Beverly Tobian** who currently serve the city.

Chairman **Linda Camin** and members of the City Government Observer Corps have been working to update our position on appointed boards and commissions. Their numbers include **Theresa Daniel**, **Jane Davis**, **Agnes Ellsworth**, **Genie Fritz**, **Miriam Foshay**, **Julie Lowenberg**, **Gillian Parrillo**, **Toni Rose**, and **Linda Sharp**. Please see the enclosed flyer and spread the word.

From the President's Desk

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An Ancient Proverb states, "if you want one year of prosperity, grow grain. If you want ten years of prosperity, grow trees. If you want one hundred years of prosperity, grow people." As an organization of advocates for democracy, we work to ensure that Democracy works. Our efforts take on many forms and we tirelessly press our way to bring useable and critical education and information to the community.



During the months of September and October, we hosted a political forum between the two candidates for Dallas County Sheriff; we participated in the registering of hundreds of new citizens at ceremonies in Dallas and Grand Prairie; League members led the effort in the publishing and distribution of a massively impressive Voters Guide that presents a non-partisan candidate to candidate comparison of positions on issues; hosted a "state of the City presentation by the city manager and sponsored a combined Unit that focused exclusively on the Parkland Hospital Bond project – all intended to connect a greater number of citizens into civic participation.

When I look at this list of things planned and implemented for the two months, I am amazed that it all got accomplished. I also realize something else and that is we must begin to ensure that our organization is preparing the next generation of leaders who will assume the mantle in advancing progressive values to include defending the environment, ensuring access to quality education and healthcare, protecting civil liberties, and advancing equal opportunity for all.

So if we value the growth of people – and I absolutely believe that we do – then, we've got some more work to do. The identification and recruitment of a new group of members who reflect the full richness and diversity of our city, state, and county has to become a top priority. Yes, it does represent yet another thing to do. But in the end, or maybe one hundred years from now (smiling), the legacy we leave will be that we helped build an America of our dreams.

Until next time...

Libbie Terrell Lee

Voting Tips

- The November 4th Election is expected to have heavier-than-ever turnout. People who “haven’t voted in years” will be showing up, many of whom will be told that their voter registration is no longer active. **All voters should check to make sure they are on the voting rolls** by going online to dalcoelections.org and clicking on *Check Your Voter Registration Status*. If your voter registration and precinct information do not come up, prepare for the worst by calling the Dallas County Elections Department (214-819-6389) to find out why you’re not listed.
- If the voter registration and precinct information do come up on the screen, click on **View the Ballot for This Precinct, print it out** and look at the races that you will be expected to vote on.
- There are over a dozen **judgeships**, making it hard to know one from the other. **Our Voters Guide will be a tremendous resource to consult while determining your choice.** Having decided your preference, *mark it on your sample ballot*. The law allows you to take this marked ballot with you inside the voting booth. By having it to refer to, your voting will go faster than ever!
- There are also **two key Local ballot items** - the County Sheriff’s race and the New Parkland Hospital Bond Election. **The Sheriff’s race will be located almost at the very end of the ballot and the Parkland bond proposition will be on the back of the ballot and thus especially difficult to spot.** Be sure to vote on each of them.
- Once your ballot is researched and marked accordingly, take it to **Vote Early** and avoid the certain pandemonium of Election Day. There are over two dozen locations all around the County where citizens can vote at the time and place of their convenience. **Early Voting starts Monday, October 20 and runs until Friday, October 31st.**

The Parkland Bond Program

The Parkland Bond Program referendum to approve a \$747 million bond program will be located at the end of your ballot. **You must mark it separately and not assume that a straight ticket vote will cover it.** Be sure your friends and acquaintances are also aware of this ballot requirement.

If approved these bonds will be used to construct:

- an 862 adult-bed hospital that serves as a full service, acute care hospital and houses a Level 1 Trauma Center and Burn Center;
- construct an outpatient center adjacent to the hospital with associated diagnostic and therapeutic services and an integrated physician office space to enhance patient safety and physician access and productivity;
- construct office buildings near the hospital for support personnel, designed to optimize productivity and minimize occupancy costs;
- and reconfigure parking to supply a cost effective mix of parking garages and surface parking lots to meet the parking needs of patients, visitors, physicians, and employees.

Election Season Events Inform Voters

The 2008 Dallas County Edition of Voters Guide is in your hands, in local weekly papers, in our libraries, on our website, and in distribution by unit members. Your contributions and support of the Susan B. Anthony Luncheon and Auction, our grant from American Express, and the leadership of our Board made it possible. **The special dedication, hard work, and persistence of Nancy Caveness and Meg Kimberland made it a reality.**



Candidates Lowell Cannday and Sheriff Lupe Valdez faced off at our Candidates Forum on October 7. New Director **Carolyn Dunnigan** organized and facilitated this forum. Directors **Cherlyn** and **Karlton Remington** and their Lifetime Video volunteers taped the event for webstreaming on pegasusnews.com.



County Commissioner Maureen Dickey and Parkland CEO Dr. Ron Anderson presented the new Parkland Hospital Bond Program at our October 8th Issue Forum. For this combined unit meeting, Program VP **Mildred Pope** invited and introduced the speakers.

And a Note from Eleanor Sutherland, Volunteer Coordinator

Special thanks to the volunteers who have, to date, offered to answer the phones in the office during the early voting period (October 20 thru 31) and on election day itself. They are, in no particular order: **Lea Frailey, Barbara Materka, Gayle Hurst, Suzy Wills, Katherine Homan, Pat Vaughan, Ellen Key, Libbie Lee, Julie Lowenberg, and Jan Anderson**, with **Eleanor Sutherland, Alix Mason** and **Ann Ross** ready to serve on Election Day.