

League of Women Voters of Dallas

VOTER



A non-partisan organization that encourages informed participation in government and influences public policy through education and policy.

Mayoral and City Council Elections

May 14, 2011



The following candidates have been qualified for placement on the May 14, 2011 City of Dallas General Election.

Mayor	Michael S. "Mike" Rawlins David Kunkle Ron Natinsky E. Edward Okpa
City Council	
Place 1 (unopposed)	Delia Jasso
Place 2	William F. "Billy" Macleod Pauline Medrano "Shamrock" Keith McPhail
Place 3	David A. "Dave" Neumann Scott T. Griggs
Place 4	Dwaine Caraway Korey Mack
Place 5 (unopposed)	Vonciel Jones Hill
Place 6	Luis Daniel Sepulveda Monica R. Alonzo
Place 7	Helene McKinney Casie M. Pierce Carolyn Davis
Place 8 (unopposed)	Tennell Atkins
Place 9	Sheffield A. "Sheffie" Kadane Robert L. Foster Kirk D. Launius
Place 10	Jerry R. Allen Cynthia J. Durbin
Place 11 (unopposed)	Linda L. Koop
Place 12	William Mingtzong Tsao Donna J. Starnes Sandy Greyson
Place 13	Ann Margolin Richard P. Sheridan
Place 14	Vernon C. Franko James Nowlin Angela Hunt Brian Oley

League Plans Mayoral and District 6 Candidate Forums

"Tis the season for candidate forums!" The Dallas League will sponsor two forums, both in cooperation with the West Dallas Chamber of Commerce. The mayoral event will be from 11:30 to 1 p.m. Thursday, April 21, at the West Dallas campus of El Centro College, 320 N. Hampton. Participants will include all 4 candidates: David Kunkle, Ron Natinsky, Ed Okpa and Mike Rawlings.

The forum for District 6 will be held from 11:30 to 1 p.m. on Tuesday, April 12. It also will be held at the El Centro Campus. District 6 has no incumbent because Steve Salazar served the maximum of 4 terms. Candidates to replace him are Monica Alonzo and Luis Sepulveda. Both have accepted the invitation. Roger Kallenberg will moderate both forums.

Tuesday, April 12 Council Place 6 Forum

Monica Alonzo

Luis Sepulveda

11:30 a.m. — 1:00 p.m.

El Centro West Dallas Campus

3320 N. Hampton

Thursday, April 21 Mayoral Forum

David Kunkle

Ron Natinsky

Ed Okpa

Mike Rawlings

Same time and location as above.

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April Unit Meetings

TOPIC—Solid Waste

Presentation with speakers Mary Nix, Director, and Danielle McClelland from the City of Dallas Sanitation Department

Wednesday Morning Unit

10:00 am, April 13

Center for Community Cooperation

High Plains Room 204
2900 Live Oak 75204

Wednesday Evening Unit

6:00 pm, April 13

Angela's Restaurant
(next to Blockbuster's) on the NW corner of Inwood & Lovers Lane

Thursday Morning Unit

9:30 am, April 14

St. Thomas the Apostle Episcopal Church at Mockingbird & Inwood.

Board of Directors

2010 - 2011

Officers

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Vice Presidents

VP Organization

Open

VP Program

Mildred Pope

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Susan Oviatt

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Miriam Foshay

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Ann Adams

Carolyn Dunnigan

Rose Harder

Toni Rose

Elizabeth Walley

Contact the LWVD:

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Email: league@lwvdallas.org

VISIT US ONLINE!!

www.lwvdallas.org

Membership Directory

[http://](http://members.lwvdallas.org)

members.lwvdallas.org

From the President



Sandy Greyson
President

LWVD's annual meeting on March 26th was well-attended and an opportunity for members to socialize and conduct League business. The morning started with a yummy breakfast buffet provided by Rose Harder and Michelle Manners. Thank you, ladies!

While Leaguers ate and visited, they also saw wonderful **photographs taken by Linda Sharp** at the **Legendary Leaguers luncheon** last fall. Everyone enjoyed seeing these pictures and we thank you so much for taking them, Linda, and making them available to us. Linda also made a complete video of the luncheon that is really fun to watch. The **CD and pictures**

will be at the League office--if you would like to view them on loan, please call Lilia.

During the business portion of the meeting, we adopted bylaws changes and a new local study, and elected new officers and directors.

Our **new study** will be **Human Trafficking in Dallas County**, a topic that has generated intense interest as the scope of the problem has begun to be revealed. We will study different types of human trafficking, services currently provided to victims, and services still needed. If you are interested in being a member of the study committee, please contact the League office at 214-688-4125 or league@lwvdallas.org.

The **bylaws changes** that were approved included **six year term limits** for board members and the **option to select a president-elect in even-numbered years**. Members also approved flexibility in the number of officers so as to allow for additional positions without having to continually change the bylaws. One idea under consideration by the board is to have a VP of Membership, so that increased attention and resources can be directed to the critical area of member recruitment and retention. Incoming president Michelle Manners, in her acceptance remarks, said that increasing membership will be a priority for her.

After our business was concluded, we moved to the fun part of the meeting--presenting awards. **Patti Crumley and Ann Ross received the President's Meritorious Service Award** for their many contributions to the success of the silent auction for the past several years. **Elaine Wiant and Beverly Tobian received the Bulkley and Macdonald Awards** respectively, and both made meaningful and compelling acceptance remarks.

A good meeting that set LWVD on the path toward a **successful 2011-2012 year**.



The National Cancer Institute on Cannabis

**Suzanne Wills,
Drug policy chair
April, 2011**

It has been five years since the League of Women Voters of Texas studied drug policy and took a position in support of allowing use of cannabis in medicine. Since then four more states have voted to begin medical marijuana programs but the federal position has changed little.

In March another skirmish took place between scientists and politicians over use of marijuana as a medicine.

The National Cancer Institute (NCI), one of 11 federal agencies under the National Institutes of Health (NIH), posted a Physician Data Query (PDQ) summary on *Cannabis and Cannabinoids*. www.cancer.gov/cancertopics/pdq/cam/cannabis/healthprofessional

The summary describes these points as key.

- Cannabis has been used for medicinal purposes for thousands of years prior to its current status as an illegal substance.
- Chemical components of Cannabis, called cannabinoids, activate specific receptors found throughout the body to produce pharmacologic effects, particularly in the central nervous system and the immune system.
- Cannabinoids may have benefits in the treatment of cancer-related side effects.

The website also said, "The potential benefits of medicinal Cannabis for people living with cancer include antiemetic effects, appetite stimulation, pain relief, and improved sleep. In the practice of integrative oncology, the health care provider may recommend medicinal Cannabis not only for symptom management but also for its possible direct antitumor effect."

By the end of the month, the NCI had changed the second sentence to the much more benign, "Though no relevant surveys of practice patterns exist, it appears that physicians caring for cancer patients who prescribe medicinal Cannabis predominantly do so for symptom management." As of this writing the antitumor properties of cannabinoids are still reviewed in the lab studies section of the website. The NCI also explained that "The summary on Cannabis and cannabinoids does not represent a policy statement of NCI or NIH."

The League of Women Voters of Texas position on drug policy says, "Laws regarding drug abuse and drug addiction should include no criminal penalties for cannabis (marihuana) possession when recommended by a physician." Make sure your state and federal representatives are aware of the NCI's Physician Data Query (PDQ) summary on *Cannabis and Cannabinoids* and ask your federal representatives to support the petition to reschedule Cannabis.

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) steadfastly maintains that cannabis "has no currently accepted medical use in treatment in the United States" allowing Cannabis to be included in the Drug Enforcement Administration's Schedule I. A petition to reschedule Cannabis was filed with HHS in 2002. It has been ignored. The two largest physician groups -- American Medical Association and American College of Physicians -- have both called for a review of marijuana's status as a Schedule I substance. They have also been ignored.

Politicians and bureaucrats are the clear and absolute winners in most battles with physicians and scientists. This round may be a draw.

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In Appreciation of Bruce Sherbet



On Friday, March 4th, there was a lunch and reception to thank Bruce Sherbet for his many years of outstanding service to Dallas County voters.



LWVD President Sandy Greyson presented Bruce with a certificate of appreciation at this event.



Louise Ballerstedt Raggio, an Appreciation

By Eleanor Sutherland



"Women's rights pioneer helped transform Texas law." So reads the lead editorial in the Dallas Morning News following Louise Raggio's death in February this year. She arrived from west Texas with a law de-

gree for her first job interview, and was asked if she could type! That was her first realization that somehow it's a man's world. It then became clear that when a woman married, she became even more subject to laws that meant that men dominated certain aspects of life. In Texas, under marriage law, the wife was considered a man's "property." She could not own property or sign contracts without her husband's co-signature.

The backwardness of Texas' marital code didn't dawn on her until she moved to the District of Columbia during World War II. She saw that women could own property or sign contracts without their husbands' permission. Her mind was made up to try to change Texas law. The Texas Marital Property Act was at last passed in 1967 (after civil rights legislation in 1965). Other aspects of family law which were changed because of her influence earned her the soubriquet of Mother of Family Law.

Louise Raggio once said she had no nostalgia for the backward world she grew up in. She described the happiness of being satisfied with one's "station" in life. Then she said "my station was to try to change things."

Her autobiography, "Texas Tornado," written with her friend Vivian Castleberry, tells her story best. As a longtime member of the League of Women Voters of Dallas, she was close friends with some, and **special to us all.**

Members Make the Difference

Each year the Susan B. Anthony silent auction is a different event. This year snow didn't fall in a paralyzing storm the night before, but snow and ice sure complicated everyone's plans off and on for two weeks before the event. We are very grateful to those of you who were not deterred. You delivered your donations early. Ann Ross and Becky Brakke had plenty of baskets in hand when they chose plants. Patti



Crumley and Ann Adams had time to plan displays that highlighted your many unique items. Jane Pak completed lists and bid sheets. There was time to have fun!

To have an auction, we need not only auction items, but also volunteers who make the event a pleasant experience for luncheon guests. Again, you did it. Members drew attention to the items on the auction tables and began the bidding. Members competently staffed the entire check-out process. Members helped set up and close down. **Thank you, thank you** to both experienced returnees to these tasks and newbies who joined in for the first time this year.

The Susan B. Anthony luncheon and silent auction are important because they raise the money needed to produce the voter materials the LWVD gives to the public. Dollars are one measure of success, but member participation is another. In all the little interactions as we collect, deliver, talk, plan, set up, figure, clean up, talk and help, we get to know one another, share stories and laughter. **We hope you will join the fun next year!**



Jane Pak

Becky Brakke

SBA Silent Auction
Co-chairs



Economic Development Tools Position Statement

The League of Women Voters of Dallas supports:

The limited use of Tax Increment Financing Reinvestment Zones as a vehicle to encourage development in blighted areas within the City of Dallas. In addition, LWVD supports and encourages:

- City planners to place larger valuation criteria on providing affordable housing and park or green space, and other amenities focused on improving quality of life, within the policy benefits required by the City to approve TIFRZs,
- Greater emphasis on improved communication between the TIF Boards and residents and businesses within the district,
- The City's current cap, which allows for no more than 10% of the City's tax base to be in TIF-RZs, be maintained unless it can be shown that an increase would not adversely affect the City's budget and property tax base,
- Continuation of the City's exclusive use of property taxes to fund TIF-RZs and to prohibit the inclusion of sales taxes in TIF-RZs,
- The City's policy of prohibiting the issuance of bonds to fund TIF-RZ Districts,
- Community-based groups to propose and be involved in the planning of TIF-RZs in their areas where appropriate.



Please join the Good Neighbor Program by completing a Reward Application Form at the Courtesy booth of any Tom Thumb/Safeway using our account number **2917.**

Mike Cantrell appoints Glee Heubner to Advisory Committee

By Glee Heubner



I have been appointed to serve on the "Citizens Election Advisory Committee" by County Commissioner Mike Cantrell. This committee was created in 1989 to assist in the determination of election policy and in the evaluation of performance of the election system in major elections. There are 13 members, each commissioner appoints 2 and 3 are joint appointments. Meetings are supposed to be called before and after major elections.

I accepted this nomination because of my extensive experience working elections over the last 25 years. During that time, I have served as a Precinct Chair, roaming election judge, and on the Signature Verification Committee for mail-in ballots. I felt experiences with the various parts of the election process would help.

LWVD Honors 50 year Member Jeanne Dodds

Jeanne Dodds was honored as a 50 year member at the Annual Meeting and will be presented with her 50 year pin and certificate in appreciation of her many years of dedicated service to the League.



Join us in congratulating Jeanne!

Join the League of Women Voters of Dallas - *It's not just for Women!*

where hands-on work to safeguard democracy leads to civic improvement.

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF DALLAS

DIVERSITY STATEMENT

The League of Women Voters of Dallas (LWVD), in both its values and practices, affirms its belief in, and commitment to, diversity and pluralism.

LWVD welcomes any person to participate in any activity of LWVD, regardless of gender, race, religion, age, sexual orientation, national origin, disability or political persuasion.

LWVD recognizes that diverse perspectives are important and necessary for responsible and representative decision-making.

LWVD subscribes to the belief that diversity and pluralism are fundamental to the values it upholds and that inclusiveness enhances its capability to respond more effectively to changing conditions and needs.

LWVD affirms its commitment to reflecting diversity in its membership, board, staff and programs.

Membership Levels

____ \$60 / year individual ____ \$30 Add'l member at same address

____ \$150 / year Patron ____ \$500 / year Benefactor

____ \$25 / year Student ____ Contribution to Scholarship Fund

Reduced Membership rates available upon request. Call (214) 688-4125

Name(s) _____

Address _____

Phones: Home _____ **Mobile** _____

Work _____

Email _____

Mail a check payable to **LWVDallas** with this information to the **League of Women Voters of Dallas: 2720 N. Stemmons Freeway., Suite 812 Dallas, Tx 75207-2241.**

On-line registration is available at: www.lwvdallas.org

League of Women Voters of Dallas
2720 N. Stemmons Freeway., Suite 812
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