

League of Women Voters
of Dallas

VOTER

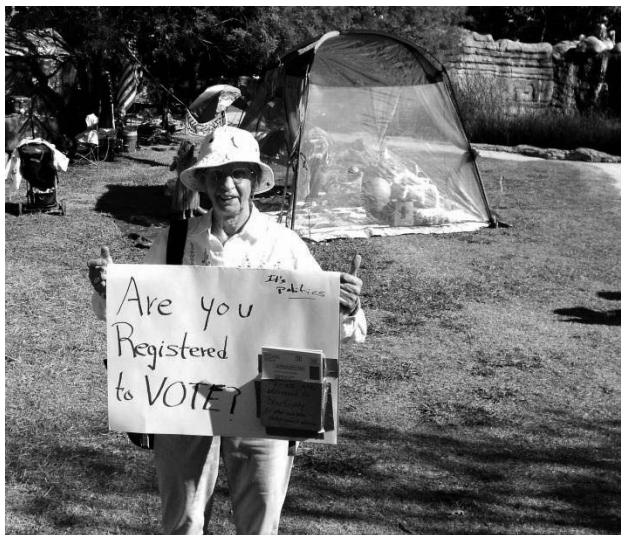


A nonpartisan organization that encourages informed participation in government and influences public policy through education and advocacy.

Out and About with Elaine Wildman

True to the LWV-Dallas tradition of not missing an opportunity to remind people of the importance of voting, League member Elaine Wildman shared information about voter registration and the new voter identification requirements when she visited her grandson at Occupy Dallas on October 13.

Elaine concluded that, based on her conversations with registered and potential voters that day, "We have a lot of education to do!"



November Unit Meetings

The Rain has fallen, but we still have drastic water shortages in Texas. So the League's November unit meeting topic is not just timely - it's urgent! At these meetings, members will review the issues and reach consensus on the LWV Texas Study on "Water as a Commodity in Texas".

The comprehensive and informative **LWV Texas Facts and Issues: Should Water be a Commodity?** is available online at <http://www.lwvtexas.org>. See also the report on pg. 5 of this issue by Miriam Foshay on the September 24 Water Forum and review the articles in the September and October Voters.

oooooooooooooooooooo

*(Please note the corrections below -
Wednesday Morning Unit begins at 10:00 a.m.;
Thursday Morning Unit is held at St Thomas the
Apostle Episcopal Church.)*

November 9
Wednesday Morning Unit10:00 a.m.
Center for Community Cooperation
High Plains Room
2900 Live Oak Street Dallas 75204
Contact: Mildred Pope

Wednesday Evening Unit 6:00 p.m.
Angela's Café
7979 Inwood Road Dallas 75219
(NW corner of Lovers Ln & Inwood Rd)
Contact: Susan Saunders

November 10
Thursday Morning Unit9:30 a.m.
St Thomas the Apostle Episcopal Church
6525 Inwood Road Dallas 75209
(NW corner of Mockingbird Ln & Inwood Rd)
Contact: Eleanor Sutherland, Ann Adams

Don't forget to VOTE!

Election Day – Tuesday, November 8

2011-2012

**Board
of
Directors**



*From the
President's Desk*

*Michelle Manners,
President*

President

Michelle Manners

VP Advocacy

Susan Oviatt

Co-VP Organization

Rebecca Bergstresser

Co-Vp Organization

Patti Crumley

VP Programs

Mildred Derrough Pope

VP Voter Outreach

Cal Chaney

Secretary

-

Treasurer

Miriam Foshay

Directors

Ann Adams

Carolyn Dunnigan

Sandra Johnson

Scherry Johnson

Brenda Marks

Fran McElvaney

Toni Rose

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.

We have exciting news. The League of Women Voters Dallas will host the League of Women Voters National Convention in June 2014. This will be a wonderful opportunity to showcase the League of Women Voters Dallas and our great city. I hope that all our members will plan to attend and participate. This will be a great time to increase our membership. Invite friends and relatives to attend meetings with you or volunteer to help. Let's use this occasion to introduce the important work that the League does and the League process to the community and potential members. We will need lots of volunteers to help make this a successful convention. We have already received offers of volunteer support from the Plano, Denton, Richardson, Irving and Arlington Leagues, but the bulk of the volunteers need to come from our League. The venue will most likely be the new Omni Hotel near the convention center. I will share more details as we begin the planning process. Please contact me and let me know if you would like to be on this committee. It should be fun.

Susybelle Gosslee has stepped up to host the first membership recruitment event this year. She is planning a champagne reception with a local speaker. I hope you will follow her example and plan an event too. It is every member's responsibility to help grow our organization. Thank you Susybelle!

Unit Meetings

Toni Pippins-Poole, Dallas County Elections Commissioner, spoke at one of the unit meetings and gave a very informative talk. She is eager to speak to groups. She would be an excellent speaker to invite to one of our membership recruitment events.

The focus of the unit meetings this month was coming to Consensus on the Federal Role in Public Education. I hope you received the information you needed. The topic for the November meetings will be coming to Consensus on LWVTX study on Water as a Commodity in Texas. Please plan to attend.

LWV-Dallas at National Night Out

LWV Dallas had a booth at the Tietze Park National Night Out 2011 event on Tuesday, October 4. This event was sponsored by the Lakewood Heights, Lower Greenville and Lowest Greenhill neighborhood associations and nearly 800 residents attended. The LWV-Dallas booth provided information on LWV membership opportunities and voter registration and identification requirements. New or updated voter registrations were completed and collected --and we even recruited a new voter registration volunteer at the event! Thanks to Elizabeth Walley, Cal Chaney, Michelle Manners and Fran Morris who staffed the booth.

IN MEMORIAM

We note with sorrow the passing of

Roger Kallenberg

Myrtle Bales Bulkley Award Recipient~2004
Dedicated League Member
Steadfast Seeker of Peace and Justice
September 25, 2011

Study Opportunity:

Should Government Services be Contracted Out to Private Companies?

Should government services be contracted out to private companies? A new LWVUS study addresses this question, and LWVD units will consider it next March. The first study paper is available on the LWVUS website. To see it and other information about the study, go to www.lwv.org and enter "Privatization" in the search box.

A local committee is forming now to help plan LWVD's activities and meetings on this subject. If you would like to participate, please contact Fran Morris at 214-688-4125 or email league@lwvdallas.org or lwvdallas@sbcglobal.net.

Report on September 24 Water Forum

Did you know that 2011 is the worst Texas drought year on record? Granted, the 6-year drought that ran from 1950-1956 was the worst multi-year drought, the benchmark by which all other droughts are compared. But the shortfall of rain in this one year is the worst year in recorded Texas history.

It gets worse. There are three major water utilities in North Texas: Dallas Water Utilities (DWU); North Texas Municipal Water District (NTMWD); and Tarrant Regional Water District (TRWD). The first two are doing pretty well, with reservoirs at least three-quarters full. NTMWD, which serves 1.5 million customers, including Richardson, Plano and Allen, is in serious trouble. Of the three major reservoirs that NTMWD depends upon, two are at 55% and 37% of capacity as of September 30. The third, Lake Texoma, which ordinarily supplies 30% of their water, was cut off to prevent the spread of zebra mussels into the lakes of North Texas. NTMWD customers are already on Stage 2 drought restrictions, and Stage 3 restrictions - the most stringent - are set to be in force on November 1. What will NTMWD do if the current drought continues?

All of this tells us that the LWVTX water study could not be more timely. If ever there was an issue vital to the economic health of this state, water is it. Should the State allow water to be bought and sold by the landowner, like oil and gas? Or should water be treated as a resource, to be owned and protected by the State for the benefit of all Texans?

At the Water Forum on September 24, Lewis McMahan of the Texas Water Development Board addressed this question. Water is already bought and sold, he says; the State treats it as both a commodity and a resource. He also spoke in favor of Proposed Constitutional Amendment 2 on the ballot November 8, as did Denis Qualls of DWU and Linda Christie of TRWD. In fact, none of the speakers at the forum had anything negative to say about Amendment 2, although Mr. McMahan was candid in wondering why bonding amounts should be in the constitution at all.

With regard to NTMWD's predicament, Simone Kiel of Frieze & Nichols says that there have been discussions among the three major water utilities about what TRWD and DWU would do if NTMWD runs out of water. All of the utilities draw on multiple reservoirs, but DWU has the greatest resources at its disposal. Dallas ran out of water during the 1950s drought of record, and has made a point of securing surface water permits and building reservoirs ever since.



The water forum was a great success, with over 80 attendees and six presenters, including Tyson Broad of the Sierra Club and Todd Reck of Irving Water Utilities. All of our seven co-sponsoring organizations helped to set up, collect questions from the audience, and clean up. Plus, there was water from each of the major utilities for the audience to sample.

If you missed the water forum, then you can still access the information that was shared with us. Each of the speakers created a PowerPoint presentation that is posted on the web site, <http://texaswaterforum.org>. A videotape of the Forum will soon be posted.

In addition, a yahoo group was created so that you can ask questions of our experts. Questions and answers, as well as helpful files, are posted there. To join the group, go to <http://www.groups.yahoo.com/group/texaswaterforum>.

Thanks to our co-sponsors: LWV – Arlington Area; LWV of Irving; LWV of Plano/Collin County; LWV of Richardson; LWV of Tarrant County; Sierra Club, Dallas Regional Group; and Sierra Club of Greater Tarrant County, as well as the Irving Public Library for providing their auditorium free of charge.

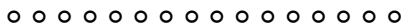
- Resources for LWVTX Consensus: Water As a Commodity in Texas -

<http://www.lwvtx.org> - Facts & Issues: Should Water Be a Commodity

<http://texaswaterforum.org> - Power Point presentations from forum

<http://www.groups.yahoo.com/group/texaswaterforum> - Yahoo discussion group

September VOTER pg. 4 - Will There Be Enough Water?



Susan B. Anthony Silent Auction

Checking closets as you prepare for the holidays? What's surfaced?

A bracelet you haven't worn recently? ... a painting that doesn't fit in your current home?... a gift box of spa products? ... a lovely pottery vase you bought and never used?... theater tickets you can't use because you're going to California for your cousin's wedding? ... lecture tickets that will appeal to someone else more than they appeal to you? a boy baby gift that didn't work for your new granddaughter?

Dust it off. Donate it **now** to the Silent Auction for February's Susan B. Anthony Award Luncheon. Co-chairs **Becky Brakke**, 214.363.0921, and **Jane Pak**, 972.233.2715, will answer your call in a *flash!*

Consensus Questions for LWV-TX Water Study

1. Texas has a mandate to preserve and conserve the water of the state. Both groundwater and oil and gas are considered the property of the landowner. Should water continue to be regulated differently from oil and gas? Choose one.
 - a) Like oil and gas, groundwater in place is private property. There is no reason to regulate the two differently.
 - b) While there are some similarities between water and oil and gas, water serves a much different function, and it should be managed for the benefit of the people and the protection of the resource.

2. The "Rule of Capture" has been modified by the creation of groundwater conservation districts (GCD's). How do you feel about the following issues? Yes or No.
 - a) If a water district prevents the owners of underground water from selling as much water as they want, thereby depriving them of income, the landowners should be compensated for loss of potential income.
 - b) Locally controlled groundwater conservation districts should have the power to regulate groundwater use in a way that protects landowner water rights from neighboring water withdrawal and to conserve the aquifer.
 - c) The state should enact laws strengthening the rights and responsibilities of GCD's in order to improve their ability to defend against lawsuits questioning those rights.
 - d) Groundwater should be owned and permitted by the state, as is surface water.

3. Transfers of water from areas of surplus to areas of scarcity have been discussed. Which of the following options would best serve Texans? Choose one or more.
 - a) A state agency with strong enforcement powers should regulate all water transfers to make sure that water resources are not depleted.
 - b) The state should allow water transfers through an exchange agency that lets price float with the market. Buyers would determine the successful bidder, not the state.
 - c) There is no need for the state to regulate water transfers. Because of the expense and distances involved, localities will solve this problem without interference from the state.
 - d) The state should only intervene when transfers are in dispute.

4. What steps should be taken to ensure that future growth makes the best use of limited water resources? Choose one or more.
 - a) Developers should not be allowed to build unless they are able to find enough water for the project.
 - b) Requiring permits would limit growth. Market forces plus the price of water should determine what gets built.
 - c) There should be mandatory public interest review of water transfers that considers potential third-party impacts and protects the environment.
 - d) Water moved to urban areas should not endanger the future economies of rural Texas.

5. Should groundwater be regulated differently from surface water or should the same rules apply? Choose one.
 - a) Groundwater and surface water are so interrelated that the same rules should apply.
 - b) Because groundwater is different in many ways, it should be governed by a different set of regulations and different agencies.

6. Given the limited supply and the various needs for water, how would you prioritize the following? Rank 1-3, with 1 being the highest.
 - a) The needs of people, including domestic uses and utilities.
 - b) The needs of the economy including industry, agriculture, and mining.
 - c) The needs of the environment, including in-stream flows for wildlife and preservation of our natural surroundings.

7. Texas has always suffered from periodic droughts, and this pattern will likely continue. In addition, the population of Texas is projected to nearly double between 2000 and 2060. What solution do you think is best to handle future water shortages?

OCTOBER CALENDAR
24 - Early Voting Begins

NOVEMBER CALENDAR
3 - Board Meeting
4 - Last Day of Early Voting
6 - Daylight Savings Time Ends
8 - Election Day
9/10 - Unit Meetings – LWVTX
 Consensus: Water as a
 Commodity in Texas
11 - Veterans Day
14 - December VOTER Deadline
24 - Thanksgiving Day

******* EARLY VOTING DATES *******

October 24, 2011 (Monday through Friday) October 28, 2011
8:00 A.M. - 5:00 P.M.

October 29, 2011 (Saturday)
8:00 A.M. - 5:00 P.M.

October 30, 2011 (Sunday)
1:00 P.M. - 6:00 P.M.

October 31, 2011 (Monday through Wednesday) November 2, 2011
8:00 A.M. - 5:00 P.M.

November 3, 2011 (Thursday through Friday) November 4, 2011
7:00 A.M. - 7:00 P.M.

Join the **League of Women Voters of Dallas**

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.

It's not for women only!

Membership Levels

___\$60/year Individual ___\$30 additional member at same address

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

___Scholarship information available upon request. Call 214-688-4125

___\$25/year Student \$___ Contribution to LWVD Scholarship Fund

Name(s) _____

Address _____

Phones: Home _____ Work _____

Cell _____ E-mail _____

**Mail your payment to -
League of Women Voters of Dallas**

2720 N Stemmons Frwy, Ste 812 S
Dallas, TX 75207

**League of Women Voters of Dallas
2720 N. Stemmons Freeway, Suite 812
Dallas, TX 75207-2241**

Voice & Fax: 214 688-4125

E-mail: lwvdallas@sbcglobal.net

The Dallas **VOTER** is the official publication of the League of Women Voters of Dallas, published 10 times yearly.

Volume 18, Number 3



**Copied on
Recycled Paper**