



April Is Upon Us & It Will Be Busy!

With it comes a new topic for your April 13 & 14 Unit Meetings ~ Police and Community Relations.



This month, Unit Meetings will focus on police community relations. Police community liaison officers from your nearest sub-stations will be attending the meetings and will discuss what is happening in your neighborhood. Come and see your friends, and bring a neighbor.

May brings the last of the unit Meetings until the fall. It's "Do-Your-Own-Thing" time! Use the April meetings to decide how you want to celebrate spring.

Check out April 19 General Meeting "*The Importance of Voting: Emerging Latino Voters*" on page 5 and the *Candidate Forum – DISD District 2* on the last page.

78th Annual Meeting

Please mark your calendar and plan to attend the 78th Annual Meeting to be held on April 30 at 9:00 a.m. at the Edgemere.

The meeting has a need for member votes, i.e. new bylaws changes, a budget, and election of board members. Don't forget, we need a quorum to pass these measures.



Congratulations go to Myrtle Bales Bulkley Award winner Elizabeth Walley and the Virginia Macdonald Leadership Award winner Bill Betzen.

Highlights of the Annual Meeting and a short bio on Elizabeth and Bill follow on page 3.

You can **RSVP** for the 78th Annual Meeting by contacting the League office at lwwdallas@sbcglobal.net or 214-688-4125.

April Unit Meetings Police & Community Relations



Apr. 13 ...10:00 am

Wednesday Morning Unit

Mildred Pope 469.235.7077

**Center for Community
Cooperation**

Piney Woods Room
2900 Live Oak Street
Dallas 75204



Apr. 14 ...9:30 am

Thursday Morning Unit

Kathy Calhoun 214.943.6738

**The Episcopal Church of
St Thomas the Apostle**

6525 Inwood Road
Dallas 75209



Apr. 14 ...11:30 am

Far North Dallas Unit

Ann Grant 972.931.5628

Anne Tabb 972.392.7067

Egg and I

15203 Knoll Trail
corner of Arapaho & Montfort/Knoll



Apr. 14...6:30 pm

Thursday Evening Unit

Arline Pitt 972.243.3966

Angela's Café

7979 Inwood Road
Dallas 75219

GENERAL AND UNIT MEETING DATES & TOPICS

Apr. 13/14 Unit Meetings - Police & Community Relations

Apr. 14 DISD Candidate Forum

Apr. 19 General Meeting "The Importance of Voting: Emerging Latino Voters"

Apr. 30 LWVD Annual Meeting

May 11/12 Unit Meetings - Do Your Own Thing!



INSIDE THIS VOTER...

- President's Message
- April 30 Annual Meeting Highlights
- General Meetings & Candidate Forum
- Reviews of Primary Election & LWVTX 2016 Convention
- SBA Silent Auction & pics
- April Calendar and more...



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FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

by Eileen Rosenblum

The Bylaws Committee has been very busy preparing the revised bylaws for us to vote on at our Annual Meeting on April 30 at 9:00 AM at the Edgemere Retirement Community. Please look for them in your email or your mailbox soon. They will be accompanied by an explanation that Linda Wassenich has prepared for you. The restated bylaws are necessary for our conversion to a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. Once our conversion has been completed, all payments you make to the League of Women Voters of Dallas will be considered donations.



LWV Texas is thinking about moving to a similar structure. This conversion will take them longer to complete because they hold board meetings less frequently and have a convention every other year. They are planning to complete their work before the 2018 State Convention.

Our Tuesday, April 19, general meeting will consider current and future trends in voter participation particularly with respect to the growing participation of the Latino community. There are more details about this meeting in this VOTER on page 5. Thanks to Elizabeth Walley and Marlene Cohen for planning this meeting.

We are proud to say we have had the most financially successful Susan B. Anthony luncheon ever. Many thanks to our hard working chair, Leigh Bailey, Silent Auction Chairs Becky Brakke and Jane Pak, and the legions of League members who contributed their talent, time, and treasures. This luncheon is not only our major fundraiser; it also provides us with an opportunity to get to know one another as we work side-by-side to make the luncheon a success. Acting Membership VP Rose Harp reports that 10 new members joined the League at the event. Thank you all for attending, bringing your friends and encouraging them to join. Rose will call or email all of our new members to welcome them and help them become involved in League activities. Your support of the League by attending, donating, bringing friends, providing items for the auction, helping with the many jobs before, during, and after the luncheon are the reasons this is a successful luncheon.

Again, thank you all for all you do to make this the largest, most vibrant League in Texas. It is my honor to serve as your President.

Eileen Rosenblum
LWVD President

Highlights of the 78th LWVD Annual Meeting - Saturday, April 30 at 9:00 AM

One focus of the 78th LWVD Annual Meeting will include completing the steps to becoming a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. The first step will be to review, discuss and vote on the new bylaws that will govern our organization. Linda Wassenich will provide you with a synopsis of the changes and walk you through the process.

Pending bylaws approval, we will then vote to move all of our members and all of the funds from the old League of Women Voters of Texas Dallas (*yes, that was the official name of our organization*) into our newly named League of Women Voters of Dallas.

We will also vote on basic bylaws for the 501(c)(4) shell organization that we will maintain as a safe guard. This organization will not be a membership organization, nor will it have any funds, but it can be funded in a pinch. Many of the large Leagues that have converted to a non-profit have established an inactive 501(c)(4) shell, but none have ever used it. We will then discuss the

amended Articles of Incorporation.

Treasurer Sandy Thornton and budget chair and President-Elect Cecilia McKay will explain how we will transition to a fiscal year that begins June 1, coinciding with when our officers become official. The new budget will be voted on. We will review our current investments and our strategic plan. Nominating Committee Chair Pat Vaughan will present the Nominating Committee Report and LWVD members will elect new officers.

Awards will be presented to those who have made significant contributions to the League and to new 50-year Members.

Board Vice Presidents will give reports, and the Development Chair and the Susan B. Anthony Luncheon Chair will review our development success and plans for the future.

78th Annual Meeting

Saturday, April 30, 2016

9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

The Edgemere

8523 Thackery Street @ Northwest Highway

Dallas, Texas

Elizabeth Walley, Myrtle Bales Bulkley Awardee, lives in Mesquite, Texas, with her husband, cats and a turtle. A CPA, she retired several years ago as Finance Director for a Metroplex city. As Vice President for Voter Outreach with the Dallas League of Women Voters she strives to see that League signature outputs get done.

Thanks to the unfailing support of the League and legions of other volunteers who also share the desire to “make democracy work”, things such as the Voters Guide, Vote411, the Your Elected Officials pamphlet and voter registration are maintained. In addition, she undertakes projects designed to address one of the most urgent issues of our time, **poor voter turnout**. This year’s project involves working with LULAC to improve the voter participation of young Latinos.

Bill Betzen, Virginia Macdonald Leadership Awardee, was born into a large extended family and grew up on a farm eight miles north of Hereford, Texas. He graduated from the University of Dallas and worked for 17 years as a Dallas County child abuse investigator where he was a supervisor of an investigative unit in Dallas for a decade. He then

worked with Lutheran and Catholic social service agencies focusing on the pioneering of open adoption alternatives in Dallas.

Bill finished his professional career by joining his wife in teaching. He worked in a Dallas ISD middle school where he helped develop a dropout prevention project—the School Time-Capsule Project. He retired to help spread the project. He now volunteers with 11 Dallas ISD schools that have an active Time-Capsule Project and is now preparing the second 10-year class reunion. This time it is for the students who wrote letters to themselves in 2006 as 8th graders.

He joined the League of Women Voters in 2012 and has been a board member involved in the Education Committee since 2013.

Bill and his wife Carolyn have raised two boys and two girls over the past 35 years and are now blessed with six grandchildren.

LWV March Unit Meetings Wrap-Up on Public Education in Dallas

by Bill Betzen, Susybelle Gosslee and the Rev. Anthony Nolan

The four March unit meeting presentations were an update on Dallas Independent School District's traditional public schools and public charter schools.

Texas started independent school districts in the early 1900s as a type of school district for primary and secondary education. They are an entity that is independent and separate from any municipality, county, or state. The objective was to keep city politics out of the administration of public schools. The democratic process was followed by electing the school board or trustees.

Charter schools were authorized in 1995 by the Texas Legislature. Proponents argued that charter schools could do a better job than ISDs at less cost. Charter schools are publicly funded, independent schools established by teachers, parents, or community groups under the terms of a charter with a local or national authority. Charter schools have boards of directors or boards of trustees appointed by the Charter Management Organization or founder, if there is no CMO. Parents cannot change the practices in a school. Their only choice is to stay or leave.

A quick overview of League education positions at national, state, and local levels was presented including the LWV US privatization position. The other

positions used in determining League action are the best use of public money, the principles of democracy for parents to select the schools' leadership, what is taught, and how their children are taught.

The four main aspects of education used to compare the two systems were achievement or performance rates, cost per child, graduation rates, and the public money from the Texas State budget to fund both systems. The data used was provided mainly by Dallas Independent School District (DISD) and the Texas Education Agency (TEA).

Student performance, reported in the Snapshot 2014 reports on the TEA web site, states that academic performance in charters was below ISD's in Texas. The cost per child for total operating expenditures per student were \$195 higher in charter schools than in ISD's. Both ISD and charter schools get more per child for special needs children.

The presentation illustrated the effect of many charter schools in close proximity. DISD bond elections and annual budgets have not shown equity in maintaining district schools.

(To request a copy of the full article, please contact the League office.)

DONOR HONOR ROLL

In addition to the generous contributions received through the Susan B. Anthony luncheon and the Silent Auction, the following people contributed in January and February.

Many thanks to the following:

Patron Members: Nancy LeCroy, Elaine Wiant, and Regina Montoya and Paul Coggins

Honoring: Eleanor Sutherland by Scherry Johnson

Memorials: Marlene Cohen In Memory of Renee Michelle Pope-Nweze

Scholarship: Eileen Rosenblum

Donors: Martha Moss, Victoria Gruben, Kathryn Tucker, Miriam Foshay and Gwen McKinney

A PLANNED GIVING OPTION

When you really want to make a planned gift to an organization, but you aren't sure how your finances will stretch out over the coming years, there are still options you can consider. One of those is a pooled income fund. The League of Women Voters Education Fund has a Pooled Income Fund that may be just what you're looking for. A Pooled Income Fund is a comingled trust that gives you and/or your beneficiary a quarterly return on interest earned for life, and then the trust reverts to the LWVEF.

If you wish, you can instruct LWVEF to divide the trust between their Ed Fund and the LWV Dallas Education Fund. Maybe you have been a member of several different Leagues and you want to give to all of them; you can make provisions to do so.

Contact Mea Geizhals, Manager of Major Gifts, or Laura Zylstra, Senior Director of Development, at LWVUS for more information. Mea's direct line is 202-263-1355. Laura's direct number is 202-263-1336.



The League of Women Voters of Dallas

Presents

The Importance of Voting: EMERGING LATINO VOTERS

Co-sponsored by the National Council of Jewish Women, Greater Dallas Section

April 19, 2016, Tuesday, 11:30 a.m.

Center for Community Cooperation
2900 Live Oak Street, Gulf Coast Room
Dallas, Texas 75204



Speakers

Timothy Bray

Director of the Institute for Urban Policy Research
The University of Texas at Dallas

Edwin Flores, Ph.D., J.D.

DISD Board of Trustees, District 1

Rene Martinez

Instructor at Eastfield College, Former LULAC District III Director

Texas is undergoing a demographic sea change. Already the state with the youngest population in the nation and the second highest proportion of Latino residents (tied with California, after New Mexico), Texas is also experiencing change in its potential voter base as more and more young and Latino Texans turn 18 every year. While the voter turnout rate among young and Latino Texans has heretofore lagged that of other segments of the Texas population, and that of similar populations in other states, election watchers are wondering if we are about to see increases spurred by the intense political focus on issues of importance to this community, such as education, health care and immigration. In this presentation, experts and members of the local Latino community will share their insights.

A boxed lunch will be available for \$10.00, payable at the door. **RSVP and reserve your lunch** by Friday, April 15, to LWV Dallas office at lwvdallas@sbcglobal.net or [214.688.4125](tel:214.688.4125). *(Parking is free.)*

The Anti-Poverty Coalition of Greater Dallas
presents

Mobilizing Dallas to Bring Significant Changes to Predatory Lending Practices

Thursday, May 5, 2016

1:00 PM to 3:00 PM

Goodwill Industries, Inc.
3020 N Westmoreland, Dallas, Texas 75212

This past year, the League of Women Voters of Texas explored payday and auto title lending in Texas from all viewpoints - history, stakeholders, use, policy options, and approaches to reform. In January 2016, the League adopted the following position:

The League believes that a loan is affordable if the borrower can repay the loan and cover basic expenses without borrowing again or obtaining money from another source. Local governments should be able to regulate payday and auto title lending within their jurisdictions in order to achieve a viable small dollar loan market that provides consumer access to affordable credit and safeguards against predatory lending.

The Anti-Poverty Coalition of Greater Dallas (APC) strives to unite the entire community around identifying and eliminating barriers preventing families from moving out of poverty and into financial sufficiency. One focus has been predatory lending and how best to protect vulnerable individuals. APC led the effort in the City of Dallas to pass ordinances that provide guidance as to where lenders can be located and how loans are structured.

At the Federal level, the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB) is about to release new rules regulating these lenders. The APC wants to make sure that the Dallas area continues to be a leader in the fight by spreading awareness on the need for these rules. This could be the one chance to get

comprehensive payday reform, so we need to make sure the CFPB and Congress know these rules are necessary.

At the May 5th APC meeting, you will hear how you can help raise attention to the need for increased regulations and why your voice is so important to the fight for reform. A lot can be accomplished if every person commits to talking about this and encourages as many people as possible to submit a comment in support of the rules. **APC's goal is to get over 1,000 people from the Dallas area to submit a comment.**

Also, if the CFPB has released the rules by then (as is rumored), an overview of the new rules and how they will protect consumers will be given.

We need **your** help to make sure this campaign is a success!

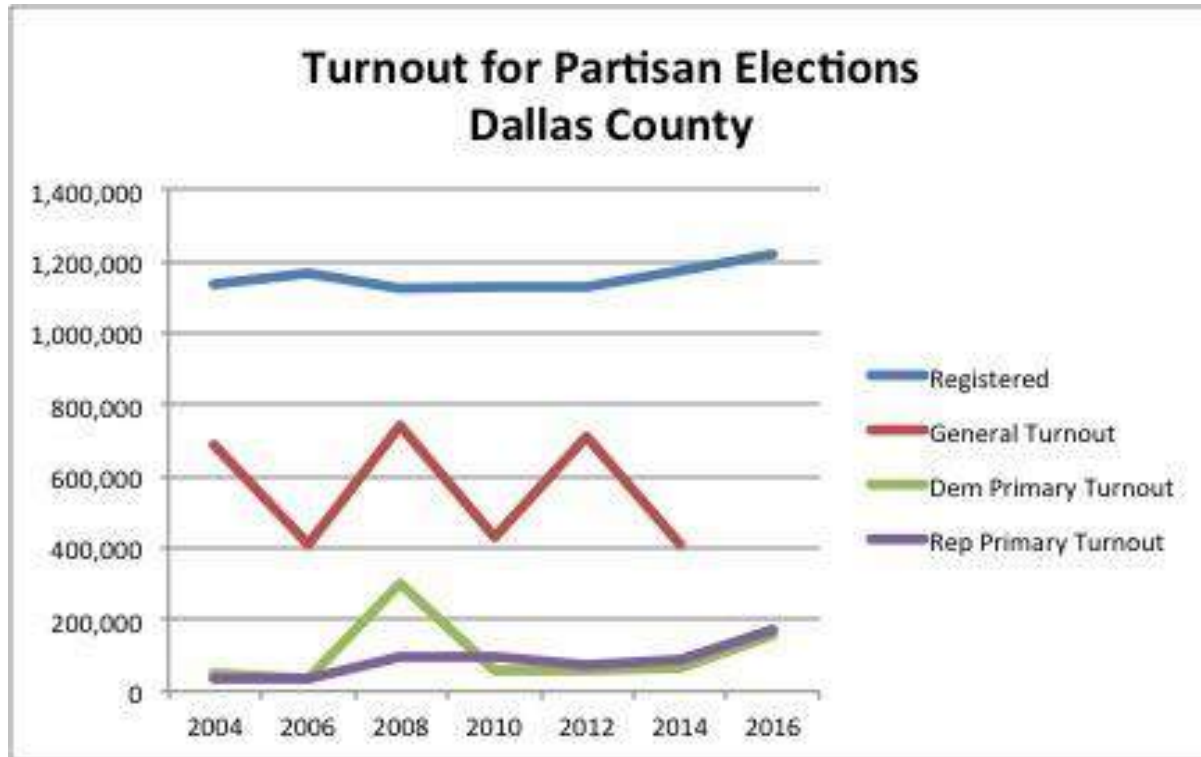
While it is a big undertaking for our community, we can do more together than separately!

Please **RSVP** at <http://dallaspoverty.eventbrite.com>.

Marlene Cohen, LWVD Program VP

Primary Election 2016

Dallas County turned out for the primary election on March 1. This election saw the best turnout for more than a decade for a primary election, with the exception of the stunning high in 2008. Below is a chart tracing turnout in primaries and the general election since 2004.



While it was encouraging to see good turnout, there were still reports from around the county of people having difficulty finding their polling place.

Don't forget! The primary isn't over until the runoff. A number of contests will be decided in the primary runoff on **Tuesday, May 24**, including Democratic contests for Railroad Commissioner, Dallas County Tax Assessor-Collector, a Republican contest for Sheriff, and judgeships both local and statewide.

Additionally, on **Saturday, May 7**, we vote in local elections for school board members, city council members and Dallas County Community College District board members.

I hope to see all of you at the polls this May!

KOREAN "COMFORT WOMEN" TO SPEAK AT SMU

In our study on Human Trafficking, we learned about the current prevalence of sex trafficking. During World War II, Korean women were taken as sex slaves for Japanese soldiers. They are now in their 90s and are telling their story through a book and a film, *Spirits' Homecoming*.

The SMU Embrey Human Rights Program is sponsoring their presentation on **Thursday, April 22, at SMU in the Dallas Hall's McCord Auditorium**

There will be a reception at 6:30 pm; the program starts at 7:15 pm. Come enjoy Korean foods and the traditional Korean solo dance, *Sai Pui Yi*, along with tributes to the "comfort women" victims.

The presentation is free and open to the public.

And the Winning Bidder is... Susan B. Anthony

The Susan B. Anthony Silent Auction was many things, but it was not silent! Old friends reconnected as they perused this year's offerings.

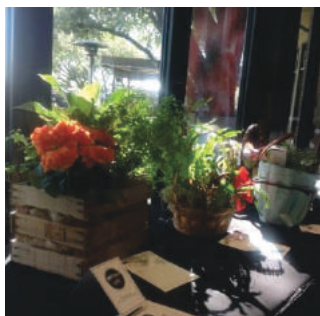


Behind the scenes many League volunteers gave hours of their time and talent to create this successful event.



First time attendees drawn by the colorful plant arrangements and unique items joined in the fun and the spirited bidding.

Auction items were solicited and donated; auction tables were decorated and carefully monitored; bidders were helped in their search for that perfect item, which was then carefully packaged for the journey home.



A Tip of the Auction Hat to those cashiers and assistants who seamlessly checked out our eager attendees.



A Great Time was had by All!



The 2016 silent auction was a successful team effort in true LWV Dallas style.

Our thanks go out to the many League members and friends who solicited and donated auction items and/or staffed the 2016 auction:

Ann Adams, Leigh Bailey, Donna Beavers, Joann Bostwick, Becky Brakke, Kathy and Jim Calhoun, Cal and Clare Buie Chaney, Marlene Cohen, Dorie Cranshaw, Frank and Patti Crumley, Carolyn Dunnigan, Harryette and John Ehrhardt, Laura Estrada, Ann Folz, Genie Fritz, Joyce Forney, Elba Garcia, Susybelle Gosslee, Ann Grant, Rose Harp, Mona Hersh-Cochran, Alice Johnson, Jean Kennerly, Sue Lichten,

Lucy Lockwood, Julie Lowenberg, Nia MacKay, Katherine McGovern, Cecilia McKay, Fran Morris, Pat Mitchell, Jan Naxon, Susan Oviatt, Jane Pak, Deborah Papathanasiou, Joella Phillip, Eileen Rosenblum, Ann Ross, Pat Sabin, Vernell Shuey, Eleanor Sutherland, Sandy Thornton, Mary Vogelson, Elizabeth Walley, Bessie Weed, Barbara Weinstein, Tannell Wells, Elaine Wildman and Barbara Wolfe.

We know a couple of members on this list brought in friends to help and we have memories of seeing other members flash by unexpectedly to lend a quick helping hand. If our bookkeeping is faulty and we've overlooked someone, we apologize.

A huge thank you goes out to co-chairs Becky Brakke and Jane Pak for another entertaining and successful Silent Auction!

Great Volunteers!

Every year we appreciate Leaguers who recruit helpful friends and zip in unexpectedly to lend a helping hand. This year's surprise was the young woman who phoned to volunteer because she read about the LWVD on Facebook.

The League sounded like women enabling citizen participation in government, active women – the kind of women she wanted to meet. She did, and she enjoyed conversation at her luncheon table and behind the scenes. Her participation made a real difference at checkout.

Is she a sign of the future? We hope so. Thank you, Joella, and thank you, Leaguers who welcomed her!



More SBA Luncheon pictures!



LWV Texas 2016 Convention Review

by Eileen Rosenblum, President and Susybelle Gosslee, Advocacy Vice President

LWV Texas President Elaine Wiant ably opened and conducted the 2016 LWV Texas convention in Houston March 11-13. Attending from Dallas were Susybelle Gosslee, Cecilia McKay and Eileen Rosenblum. They were part of the 97 delegates who participated in a variety of meetings and events planned for the weekend. The theme of the conference was: **Celebrating the Past, Embracing the Future.**

Chair Chris Davis Garcia and other members of the Texas Convention Committee earned kudos from attendees on every level for an outstanding and informative convention.

The evening river cruise of the Houston ship channel was a beautiful opening event with wonderful food, a fascinating shoreline and great conversation. A great slate of new officers was elected without opposition, and the biennium budget was approved.

The conference began for Cecilia and Eileen with an 8:30–11:30 AM Friday meeting related to their participation in Membership, Leadership Development (MLD). Participants in the meeting were asked to share ideas for developing leaders. The take-away from the session was that someone must ask a potential leader to take a leadership position and then to assume a position on the local board.

Friday was devoted to workshops and an entertaining lunch that included a fashion show highlighting fashions that suffragists wore during their battle for the vote. In addition Jennifer M. Ross-Nazzal, NASA historian and author, spoke about her book **Winning The West For Women: The Life of Suffragist Emma Smith DeVoe.**

LWVUS President Elisabeth McNamara engaged League members with news of the national, state and local Leagues' successful operations while

reminding us that **the vote is a symbol of equality and the League protects and serves the voters.** She noted that League work calls for us to build relationships and become more grassroots and noted the League's generation of informed citizen participation in the political discourse. Elisabeth will be resigning her position as LWVUS President in June. She announced that the National Convention in Washington DC will begin with Lobby Days on June 16 through Sunday morning, June 19.

Laura Blackburn, LWVTX Advocacy VP, reported instrumental efforts on Texas legislation to protect the vote, the public, and the environment. Local League members are needed to make more calls and emails for the LWV to be more successful. Susybelle Gosslee participated in a panel discussion on Advocacy discussing advocacy at the local level. Dallas Leaguers Elaine Wiant will remain President and Miriam Foshay will remain Treasurer of LWV Texas.

The President's Award went to Janice Schieffer (Plano) for her work with the LWV US, Texas and Plano Boards. Patti Jantho's (Plano) fabulous production, **We Hold These Truths**, was creatively performed by LWV Collin County and (former Dallas Leaguer) Mary Overton of LWV Austin.

The resolutions by passionate League members to promote human rights and democratic empowerment had unanimous support.

The new state program recommended by LWV Texas was **Get-Out-The-Vote: New Action.** The goal is to encourage informed and active participation in government by facilitating voter engagement. The objective is to increase voter turnout in Texas by 5% from 2012-2020. You can find more details about this on the LWVTX website. Other details about the convention and program will be forthcoming from LWVTX.

<p>In Memoriam <i>~ Mil Daffron ~</i> January 2016 League member for 16 years, You will be missed!</p>	<p>EVERYONE IS INVITED TO THE LWVUS CONVENTION It will take place June 16 to 19, 2016, in Washington, DC. State and Local League members are urged to attend. State and national conventions provide resources for Leagues and members to make an extra effort toward good government.</p>
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Join us for a
Dallas ISD District 2 Candidate Forum
Thursday, April 14
7:30 AM

*Hosted by the North Dallas Chamber of Commerce and
the League of Women Voters of Dallas*

Location

North Dallas Chamber of Commerce
10707 Preston Road
Dallas, TX 75230

In the southwest quadrant of Preston Road and Royal Lane, behind Veritex Bank

Candidates

Mita Havlik
Carlos Marroquin
Dustin Marshall
Suzanne Smith

Continental breakfast will be provided.

APRIL CALENDAR

7	Board Meeting @ LWVD office – 11:45 a.m.
13/14	Unit Meetings – Police & Community Relations (pg. 1)
14	Candidate Forum – DISD District 2 (see above)
19	General Meeting – The Importance of Voting (pg. 5)
19	May VOTER articles DUE
22	SMU Presentation – Human Trafficking (pg. 7)
22-24	Earth Day Dallas Celebration @ Fair Park
30	LWVD 78th Annual Meeting – The Edgemere (pg. 3)