

PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE

Barbara Murray

The midterm election season is now before us and the League is actively involved in “Making Democracy Work®!” September finds us busy with high school voter registration and Vote411 activities as well as other League-oriented endeavors. Let’s discuss!

Voter Registration Drives

Judith Oppenheim and the League’s volunteer deputy voter registrars (VDVRs) are hard at work staffing not only the [seven CCISD high school voter registration drives](#) but also drives at UHCL (University of Houston - Clear Lake) and San Jacinto College. Once voter registration season ends, we will present a detailed report of what we hope will be a very successful accomplishment.

Vote411

The Bay Area League’s Vote411 project is proceeding under the direction of Walter Kelm and his committee of League volunteers. [Vote411 is an online, interactive Voters Guide](#). For the first time Galveston County races will be covered in the system. In addition, a group from Brazoria County is working on covering several races in their county under the auspices of our League. This group has plans to form a League at Large much like the group in Beaumont. As of now, they are members of Bay Area or the state League until they meet certain state requirements.

Annual Report

The Annual Report for the Bay Area League is [hot off the press](#). Look for your copy in the October mailing that will contain the Voters Guide.

HIGHLIGHTS

- If you can help LWV-BA with its ambitious school-focused voter registration efforts, contact Judith Oppenheim. See pg. 2.
- Save November 3 for a discussion meeting on the facts about immigration, asylum, naturalization, etc.
- If your membership expires in September, do renew! You help us Make Democracy Work® by paying dues.
- Help us continue to grow! Invite friends to join. Clara Hockstedler can provide details. Write her at cookiehock@att.net
- If you missed the discussion meeting on school safety and gun violence, check out the summary on pg. 5
- Thanks for helping the LWV Make Democracy Work®!

Voters Guides

We have [ordered 2000 printed Voters Guides](#) (English and Spanish) and will distribute them to area libraries and other public places in mid-October. Members will receive them in a special USPS mailing as well as the English and Spanish PDF files in a separate email. Louise Peck is in charge of distributing the voters guides and will be calling on members to help.



Judith Oppenheim, Peggy Creamer, Connie Nyquist

If you would like to register voters or learn how to become a volunteer deputy voter registrar, contact LWV-BA Voter Registration Chair, Judith Oppenheim at 915-471-9405 or judopp@aol.com.

September Discussion Meeting

We kicked off our League year with an excellent, well-attended discussion meeting on September 8. Diane Sheridan expertly reviewed what [school safety measures](#) local school districts were implementing in response to last spring's high school shooting. She also examined what [legislative initiatives](#) might be part of the state's response to gun violence. Please check out the article found in this Voter for more details.

Look Ahead: November Discussion Meeting – Immigration

Mark your calendars for November 3. Our next discussion meeting will be focused on [immigration – reviewing the existing laws and procedures](#) that are currently in place. It will be an opportunity to educate ourselves using facts not rhetoric.

Membership

Thank you for your membership! Without you and your support, the League cannot function. If you have received your membership renewal in the mail from Clara Hockstedler, I hope you plan to renew. Your dues, almost in their entirety, go to support the excellent work done by LWV-Texas and LWVUS.

Facebook and Social Media

If you are at all active on social media, I [urge you to “like” and “follow” LWV-Texas and LWVUS](#) if you are not already doing so. In this day of “fake news” and misinformation, it is wonderful to have access to trusted sources with accurate information. I often share many of their posted articles with my friends. Click on the [links below to go to their Facebook pages](#).

<https://www.facebook.com/LWVTX>

<https://www.facebook.com/leagueofwomenvoters/>

GOTV

Get Out the Vote!

Whether you vote by mail in ballot or vote in person, be sure to make your voice heard in all elections! Visit VOTE411.org for Voters Guides and all your voting questions.

VOTE411.ORG
ELECTION INFORMATION YOU NEED

EARLY VOTING

More and more voters are taking advantage of early voting. Early voting for the November 6 election is [October 22 – November 2](#).

There are many early voting locations in Harris and Galveston counties. Listed below are the [early voting locations for Harris and Galveston Counties](#) in our area. During early voting you may vote in any early voting location in your county of residence. On Election Day, November 6, **Harris County** voters may vote only in their precinct's voting location. Your precinct is listed on your voter registration card. Precinct voting locations will be published in area newspapers or on Harris County online voting information site, www.HarrisVotes.com. **Galveston County** is conducting its election as a county-wide vote center election. If you are a registered voter in Galveston County, you may vote on Election Day at any of the polling locations throughout Galveston County. [Remember to bring a Photo ID when you go to vote.](#)

[Harris County Early Voting Locations in the Bay Area:](#)

Freeman Library in Clear Lake

Kyle Chapman Activity Center in Pasadena - 7340 Spencer Highway

[Galveston County Early Voting Locations:](#)

League City North County Annex – 174 Calder Road

COM League – 200 Parker

Creekside Intermediate

CCISD Administration Building

Dickinson Community Center

Old Bacliff Community Center

Kemah Community Center

Friendswood ISD Administration

Friendswood City Hall

For more county-detailed voting information, visit the Harris and Galveston Counties' websites:

Harris County - <http://www.harrisvotes.com/>

Galveston County - http://www.galvestonvotes.org/2017_Elections/November_General/index.html

In deference to our new members from Brazoria County, here is the Brazoria County website for voting information:

<https://www.brazoriacountyclerk.net/recorder/content/Elections/HomePage.htm>

Highlights of Voter Registration Drives as of Sept. 20...

- Registered 46 high school students at drives including 22 at Goose Creek Memorial HS and 20 at Clear Lake HS. Registered 19 college students at San Jacinto College Central Campus.
- Conducting drives the week of 9-24-18 at Clear View HS and Clear Brook HS.

Save the Date!
LWV-BA DISCUSSION MEETING
**The Current Systems for Immigration, Naturalization, Asylum,
Green Cards, Work Visas, Passports, Etc.**
Saturday, November 3, 2018
9:30 – 11:30 a.m.

location to be announced in next VOTER

At the LWV-BA Annual Meeting, immigration was one of the topics suggested for a discussion meeting this year. As they did with the school safety topic, the LWV-BA board recognized that all of us have opinions on topics like DACA and dreamers, detentions at the border, removal of citizenship, etc. But many of us lack understanding of the current laws and regulations governing immigration, DACA, naturalization, asylum, green cards, work visas, passports, etc. We will therefore look at the work of several government agencies that oversee these programs and enforce regulations. These include US Citizenship and Immigration Services, US Immigration and Customs Enforcement, and US Customs and Border Protection. We'll also learn about the work of the US State Department relating to visas and passports, and what the Internal Revenue Service and other agencies do related to the board immigration topic. This is an immensely complex issue, but we hope to be better informed as well as active citizens. **If you would like to help research and present a topic, contact Diane Sheridan at 281-326-5253 or DBSfacilitator@gmail.com.**



ELECTION AND LEAGUE CALENDAR

October 2018

- 9 Last day to register to vote for November election
- 22 First day of early voting by personal appearance
- 26 Last day to apply for ballot by mail (application received, not postmarked. May apply starting Jan 1 each year.)

November 2018

- 2 Last day of early voting by personal appearance
- 3 LWV-BA Discussion Meeting on Immigration and More. 9:30 – 11:30 a.m. Location TBD.
- 6 Election Day
- 6 Last day to receive ballot by mail (by 7:00 p.m. with a few exceptions)

SUMMARY OF LWV-BA DISCUSSION MEETING ON SCHOOL SAFETY AND GUN VIOLENCE

Diane Sheridan, Program Chair

At our first discussion meeting of the year, on September 8, LWV-BA members focused on the safety policies of the school districts in LWV-BA territory, with an interest in existing policies as well as those changed after the shootings at Santa Fe High School last May. We also reviewed Governor Abbott's *School and Firearm Safety Action Plan* and whether there is legislative interest in his recommendations to curtail gun violence.

In researching the topics, I looked for school safety and related procedures on school district websites including Clear Creek, Friendswood, Dickinson, La Porte, Deer Park, and Santa Fe ISDs. Some districts examined existing policies internally after the Santa Fe shootings. CCISD and FISD established large committees with a diversity of stakeholders and developed recommendations later adopted by their district. The *CCISD School Safety Committee Board-Approved Recommendations* and the *Friendswood ISD Safety Action Plan 2018-2019* provide a comprehensive overview for those interested in what schools do to protect students and staff. CCISD's report explains the committee's research and lack of consensus on 3 topics: metal detectors, school marshals and arming of teachers, and clear backpacks. Reviewing the pros and cons of using metal detectors resulted in several members at the LWV-BA meeting changing their minds about their effectiveness.

Research showed there are common elements in school safety and security policies: law enforcement/security personnel, hardening of facilities, mental health counseling, communications with parents, training, student IDs worn visibly, visitor ID and vestibule systems, perimeter fencing around schools, cameras, dress codes to address security, panic alarms that go beyond fire alarms, greater attention to substitute teachers, and uniformity of safety protocols. Many districts have "See something, say something" programs and a way to provide anonymous tips. Training of teachers, substitutes, staff, and students is available from a broad array of organizations, including a research center at Texas State University called the Texas School Safety Center.

After the shootings at Santa Fe HS, Gov. Abbott convened three roundtable discussions and issued a report with approximately 40 recommendations. The recommendations are aimed at better protection of students and teachers and enhancement of fire arm safety. Both the Texas Senate and Texas House of Representatives held hearings on some of the gun-related recommendations. Media coverage indicated there is not support for the red flag laws or gun storage proposals recommended in the report. But there may be support for some non-gun items when the Texas Legislature convenes in January.



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2018-2019

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WHERE TO FIND THE LEAGUE

www.lwv.org - www.lwvtexas.org - www.lwv-bayarea.org

LWV-Texas may be found at:

www.facebook.com/LWVTX/

@LWVTexas

<https://www.youtube.com>

VISIT THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF THE BAY AREA WEBSITE

www.lwv-bayarea.org

Want to contact your election officials?

You'll find them in our *Bay Area Guide to Elected Officials* at

<http://www.lwv-bayarea.org/CitizensGuide.pdf>