



The Tyler / Smith County VOTER

Sept-Oct. 2010



Federal Role in Public Education

Panel of Experts, LWV Members to Address

League of Women Voters Mission

The League of Women Voters is a nonpartisan organization that works to promote political responsibility through informed participation of all citizens in their government. The League does not support or oppose any political party or any candidate. It publishes factual information to help prepare citizens to cast informed votes.

The League does take action on selected governmental issues that members have studied.

Dr. Ross Sherman, chair of the Education Department at UT Tyler, leads the LWV-forum on the federal role in education on Monday, September 19, at 7:00 p.m., in Room 401 in the Muntz Library on the UT Tyler campus.

Dr. Wes Hickey, also a professor in the Education Department, will join Dr. Sherman in covering the history of federal involvement in education.

These two experts are joined by four LWV-TSC members as panelists in this forum. Each will explain the research findings on a delineat-

**Monday, September 19
7:00 pm
UT Tyler Muntz Library,
Room 401
Panel Led by Dr. Ross
Sherman, Chair of Education
Department, UT Tyler**

ed part of the national study committee:

- **Brenda McWilliams**—Common Core Standards
- **Lou Anne Smoot**—Funding and Equity Issues
- **Toni Ferrell**—Educating the Disadvantaged
- **Andie Rathbone**—Early Childhood Education

There will be time for questions and lively discussion. Bring your friends to learn about this critical part of our federal government interaction with states and commu-

Consensus—the Path to LWV Positions

2011-2012 is the year of consensus for LWV. That means it is a great year! Study of governmental issues is one of our basic functions, and consensus is required to turn study into action. It also means that it is a demanding year, for *every study at every level is your study.* Though a committee does the formal research, whether the study is about a national, state, or local issue, all members need to educate themselves so they can help shape the future positions that will devolve from the study.

The final step locally is the consensus meeting where informed members decide as a group what the League's position should be on this issue. The analysis of the consensus reached by each local League determines the final League position(s).

We will have three consensus meetings this League year—Water as a Commodity (October 12); Federal Role in Education (November 7); Privatization of Government Functions (January, 2012). The background studies for the first two are available at lwvtyler.org. See more details about these two on several pages in this newsletter.

If you want your positions considered, participate!

Inside this issue:

Letter from President Roberts	2
Women's Equality Day Celebrated	2
To Join the League	2
Member Handbooks Available	2
Member Dues Reminder	3
2010-2011 Board of Directors	3
Meet Six New LWV Members	3
Making Democracy Work Award	4
First Wednesdays Social Time	4
Fund Raising Appeal to Members	5
H S Voter Registration Project	5
2011-12 Board of Directors	5
Study of Federal Role in Public Education	6
Keep the Grass Roots Green-Nov 14	6
TX Water as a Commodity Member Consensus	6
Consensus Questions: Water as a Commodity	7
Constitutional Amendments: Pros & Cons at Forum October 17	8
Voters Guide Available Oct. 1	8
Your Elected Officials Ready Now	8
Naturalization Ceremony Nov 1	9
TJC Voter Registration	9
In Memoriam: Blake Reeves	9
2011 Events	10

Member Consensus on Education Set for November

Like all local Leagues, LWV-TSC needs to commit to making informed decisions about LWV's positions concerning the future of education in this country.

If you want a voice in shaping the future positions of LWV, be there and make your voice heard. For a preview of what the meeting will be like, read the leaders guide on this topic at lwv.org.

**Nov. 7 at 7 pm
Genecov Room
315 N. Broadway**

For more information about the LWVEF study on the Federal Role in Public Education and members' roles in participating, see [page 6](#)



The League of Women Voters is a strong nonpartisan voice of reason in a highly politicized climate. You can count on the League to advocate for policies on every level—but only after thorough study and discussion, leading to agreement about policies and actions to improve the lives of our communities, states, and nation.

This fall members tackle two such issues: water as a commodity and the Federal role in public education. Articles in this newsletter should lead you to the research tools needed to understand these complex issues. After all, isn't that why you joined the League?

On research: *Make Democracy Work!*

After all, isn't that why you joined the League? Here are just three key ways LWV-Tyler/Smith County works to make democracy function better in Tyler and Smith County:

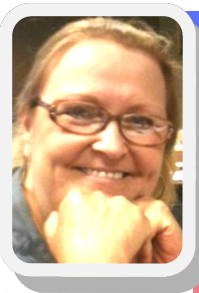
- Help residents know more about those seeking to become or remain our elected officials through *Voters Guides*, candidate forums, website information, and *Your Elected Officials* brochures;
- Register voters at naturalization ceremonies, on college campuses, in commercial enterprises, and at other venues and motivate them to use their votes;
- Advocate in the public interest on issues we have studied and agreed upon.

As members, you know about this work because you make it happen!

Please support LWV-TSC with a financial gift now and enable us to continue to educate ourselves and the community and to make our voice heard.

You can send your contribution to LWV-TSC to support advocacy and local organizational needs or to LWV-TEF (LWV-Texas Education Fund) as a tax-deductible gift for education and voters service.

**Mail your support gift to
P.O. Box 6271 Tyler, Texas 75711**



Organization News Linda R. Sharp, Organization VP

Women's Equality Day Celebrated

On August 26th members and guests celebrated women's right to vote with a Women's Equality Day event that honored early suffragists such as **Susan B. Anthony, Alice Paul,** and LWV founder **Carrie Catt.**



Distinguished guests who joined us at Gallery Main Street included **Judge Judith Guthrie,** who made the event even more memorable with her keynote speech. **Mayor of Tyler Barbara Bass** read a proclamation recognizing August 26 as Women's Equality Day in Tyler.

The League extended a special welcome to members of AAUW-Tyler. **Peggy Downing** and **Gerry and Polly Kuklewicz** became our newest members.

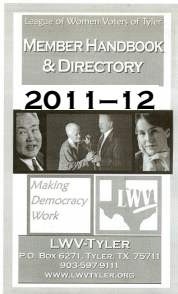


LWV-Tyler/Smith County also awarded the first "Making Democracy Work" award to long-time member Scherel Carver, recognizing her dedication and enthusiasm for the League and its principles.

Linda R. Sharp, Organization VP

2011-2012 Member Handbooks will be available in late September.

**Please contact Carol Reynolds if you do not receive yours:
cbr534@gmail.com
Or
903.504.5754**



To Join the League:

The League of Women Voters is where hands-on work to safeguard democracy leads to civic improvement. Join LWV, where leaders are actively engaged in effecting change at the local, state, and national levels.

SEND CHECK TO:	P.O. Box 6271 TYLER, TX 75711
\$60	INDIVIDUAL
\$90	TWO IN SAME HOUSEHOLD
\$25	STUDENT

Holiday Party Planned for December 12

This year's LWV holiday social will be at Meadow Lake Retirement Community Lodge, 11245 Shoreline Drive, Tyler

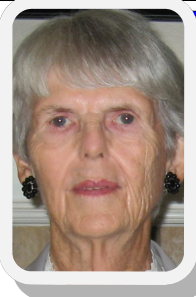
Bring a Guest! Bring a Drink! Bring Food! Or Just Bring Yourself!



Directions: Take Old Jacksonville Hwy South passed "Fresh" and "Bruno's" Immediately past Bruno's turn right on County Road 164 in front of the Exxon station. Drive about .4 of a mile and you will see the sign for Meadow Lake.

Enter through the gate and drive straight ahead on Water's Edge Way and you will see the "Chamness Lodge" at the end of the street on the right. Parking is available next to the building.

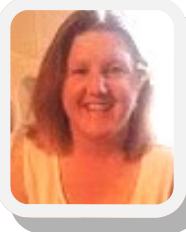
Meet New LWV Members — Carol Reynolds, Membership



We have six new members in the LWV-Tyler/Smith County.

Eddie Baggett lived in Tyler until he went away to college. He then lived and worked in many different states working in training and development as well as managing long term senior care. He joined the League of Women Voters because he feels that his goals and beliefs match well with the League's positions. Voter Registration is something that he is very interested in participating in, especially as it relates to under registered voter groups.

Peggy Downing has lived in the Tyler area for the last five years. She currently is working for Camp Tyler and is organizing and planning to open a private elementary school in the fall of 2012. She hopes the school may some time turn into a pre-K to Grade 12 school. She was unfamiliar with the LWV until she met Linda Sharp and attended Women's Equality Day. She is hoping to learn more about the organization at future meetings and is willing to help wherever she is needed. Downing recently traveled with other teachers to Austin to lobby for maintaining adequate funding for public schools.



Downing

Akemi & David Henderson moved to Tyler in 1997. Akemi grew up in Los Angeles; David grew up in Tyler, and they met and married in New York. Together they have organized and produced conferences, primarily for businesses going through bankruptcy and corporate restructuring. They are currently planning such a conference in Dallas next year. They came to the 2010 Women's Equality Day and liked the work that LWV was doing. They attended several other meetings and activities and joined recently. Akemi is most interested in helping with voter registration and education issues. David is particularly interested in voter registration and helping to get out the Hispanic vote.



David Henderson

Polly & Gerry Kuklewicz moved from New York to Tyler in 1978. Gerry worked for General Electric, and Polly raised two sons. She had taught school in New York. They joined the LWV because of their longtime interest in politics. Also, Polly's aunt had been a member of the League. Gerry has been involved with "Great Decision" for a number of years. They are looking at the various opportunities the League has to offer and are especially interested in voter registration. Since they have retired, they enjoy traveling, especially in Europe.



Member Dues Reminder

The following members are due in September, October, November, & December

September

Geri Cohen
Sunshine Knowles
Anna K. Hayes

October

Betty Groepper
Carole & Dick Kronenberg
Suzanne Ray
Carol Reynolds
Doris Stanley
Chester Vaughn
Francene Van Os

November

Barbara Bass
Reatha Kennedy
Madeleine Ross
Regina Roosth

December

Linda R. Sharp
Becky Slater
Virginia McKee

Overdue

Suzanne Ray
Samantha Winn
Mary Decker
Linda Hoak



Dee Brock talks with new members David and Akemi Henderson at Women's Equality Celebration

Add These New Members to Your Member Handbook & Directory

Polly & Gerry Kuklewicz (0812)

8306 Bucknell Dr Tyler TX 75703

903.561.3573 Pollygerryk@gmail.com

Peggy Downing (0812)

11300 Hwy 271 Lot 310 Tyler, TX 75708

903 283.0483 peggy.downing@tylerisd.edu

Eddie Baggett (0612)

2225 Tweed Court, Tyler 75703

903-705-0157 eddiebaggett@gmail.com

David & Akemi Henderson (0512)

3101 Old Bullard Rd. Tyler TX 75701 903 597 6153

dhenderson@renaissanceamerican.com

Thanks for your prompt response

LWV-Tyler Diversity Policy

The League of Women Voters of Tyler/Smith County, in both its values and practices, affirms its belief and commitment to diversity and pluralism, which means that there shall be no barriers to participation in any activity of the LWV-Tyler on the basis of gender, race, creed, age, sexual orientation, national origin, or disability.

The LWV-Tyler/Smith County recognizes that diverse perspectives are important and necessary for responsible and representative decision making. LWV-Tyler/Smith County subscribes to the belief that diversity and pluralism are fundamental to the values it upholds and that this inclusiveness enhances the organization's ability to respond more effectively to changing conditions and needs.

LWV-Tyler/Smith County affirms its commitment to reflecting the diversity of Americans in its board and programs.

First "Making Democracy Work" Award Given by Tyler/Smith County League

Something momentous happened on August 26th when League members, friends and special guests gathered to celebrate Women's Equality Day. Surprising the honoree and many present, longtime member Toni Ferrell took the speaker's podium, and on behalf of the LWV-Tyler/Smith County board, announced the League's creation and presentation of its first Making Democracy Work Award.

Explaining its purpose, Ferrell said: "With this new award, the League celebrates women leaders who have envisioned a way to improve the community and have mobilized others to work with them to effect change that promotes equality and democratic principles and benefits the broader community.

Ferrell then announced: "By a unanimous vote of the board, the LWV-Tyler/Smith County presents the first Making Democracy Work Award to Scherel Carver, a long-time and very deserving Leaguer who has been actively engaged in local and statewide leadership for many years."

Amidst excited applause, Ferrell then delighted the audience with photos covering three decades of service, while describing some of Carver's countless contributions to the Tyler/Smith County League and LWV-Texas and, thus, to her community and state.

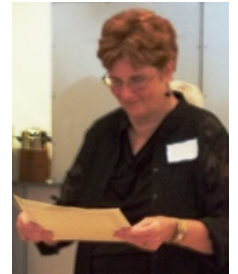
The tribute chosen to commemorate the award was the addition of Scherel Carver's name to handsome plaques honoring outstanding leaders in their local Leagues and in their state League. These plaques are on display in the state office in Austin, as well as at every state convention.

Ferrell described this choice as permanent and "League-like" and proudly announced: "We believe Scherel Carver's name should be engraved on both of these plaques; so, through member donations we've made that happen!"

For once, the unflappable Scherel Carver was really surprised, and the enthusiastic crowd agreed that the expression on her face was priceless.

MDW Award Bestowed on Scherel Carver

In remarks delivered to the crowd gathered in celebration of Women's Equality Day, at Main Street Gallery in downtown Tyler, on August 26th, Toni Ferrell announced that Scherel Carver was the recipient of the LWV-Tyler/Smith County's first Making Democracy Work Award. Ferrell enumerated the following as the basis for the well-deserved honor:



Mostly outside the spotlight, Scherel Carver has given full measure of her time, talent, and personal resources to the League of Women Voters. Shortly after joining this organization, she served as local League president from 1981-83. In the years since, she has worked as vice-president, secretary and treasurer--more than once - and often doing 2 or 3 jobs at the same time.

Numerous times she has served as a director, nominating committee chair, steering committee chair, grant writer, board trainer, and webmaster. She has written and published fliers, brochures, pamphlets, member handbooks, annual meeting workbooks, Voters Guides, and our VOTER newsletter.

Scherel also has contributed to the success of the League in Texas and raised the stature of our local League with her years of service as a director and officer on the LWV-Texas Board and as a trustee of the LWV-Texas Education Fund. In addition, she has been editor and contributor to many state publications, such as the *Texas VOTER* and the "Legislative Newsletter."

From mundane house-keeping chores to the weightiest tasks, she has done them all to keep our League strong and successful.



First Wednesdays Give Members Opportunities to Socialize



If you remember the LWV No-Agenda lunches from several years ago, you can look forward to more discourse with other League members with the launch of two new events set for the First Wednesday of each month.

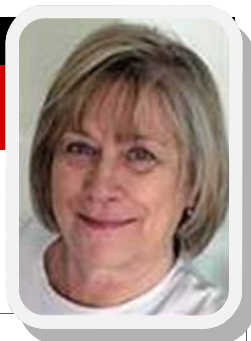
At 12 noon the No-Agenda Dine & Discuss lunches are planned for every other month. On alternate months, we take advantage of the happy hour with the 5:30 pm Hot Topics at Hot Spots. See future plans below.

October 5, 5:30 pm Come and join us at **Rick's on the Square, 104 W. Erwin**, on October 5 and let's talk about your favorite "Hot Topic." Is it education, the budget deficit, or the upcoming Presidential Primaries? It's your choice and I guarantee the discussion will be lively. Plan on joining us that evening for some good fun and great discussion.

November 2, 12 noon Meet you for No-Agenda Lunch! Let's Dine and Discuss at **Chuy's Tex-Mex Restaurant, 5935 South Broadway**, Tyler. November 2, *El Dia de los Muertos* or the Day of the Dead, is celebrated in Mexico in conjunction with All Saint's Day November 1. **Ghoulish and delish!**

December 7th, 5:30 pm Banzai!! It's Pearl Harbor Day and what better way to commemorate the event in a spirit of forgiveness and inclusiveness than with sushi and sake? Let's get together and talk about something besides the holidays and politics at **Wasabi, 5617 S. Donnybrook** (behind Best Buy/Lowe's).





Members Asked to Respond to Fund Raising Appeal

Now is the time for all good men (and women) to come to the aid of their party (the League)." Remember those days of learning to type—typing and re-typing the original sentence, parodied above? We worked until we could get it right.



Well, it is that time again: to come to the aid of the work of our LWV. Only 8% of our dues go to the local organization, and they are not enough to cover voter service activities, web site and telephone expenses, newsletter communications, and special projects and studies.

Soon you will receive a letter soliciting financial support for LWV-Tyler/Smith County. You may choose a tax-deductible donation to LWV-TEF or a gift to LWV-TSC to support advocacy in the public interest. So in addition to all that you already do, join us in contributing in your usual generous manner to the work of our fabulous League.

Contact

Information for the 2011-2012 LWV-TSC Board of Directors

Please contact any board member if you have questions or comments, or if you want to be involved in an LWV project.

Officers—Term

President—Kristi C. Roberts 2011-2013
kribru@aol.com 903.534.8825

Program Vice President—Dee Brock
2011-2012

deebrook@faqspress.com 903.565.6655

Community Relations Vice President—
Mary Claire Rowe 2011-2013
gardenrowes@sbcglobal.net
903.581.7158

Voters Service Vice President—
Linda Hoak 2011-129
903-531-9100 (w) 805-6644 (cell)
lhoak@hoaklaw.com

Organization Vice President—
Linda Sharp 2010-12
linda15262000@yahoo.com
903.526.3848

Treasurer—Scherel Carver 2010-12
eddiecivr@aol.com 903.245.1269

Secretary—Andie Rathbone 2011-2013
andier@earthlink.net 903.894.7950

Directors—Term

Lou Anne Smoot 2011-2012
annesmoot@sbcglobal.net 903.

Carol Reynolds 2011-2013
cbr534@gmail.com 903.504.5754

Shirley Hightower 2011-2013
eshightower@sbcglobal.net
903.561.7450

Amy Thrasher 2010-12
akthrasher@hotmail.com
903.780.0392

LWV-TSC Undertakes High School Voter Registration Project

Dee Brock



Texas ranks last among the states in the percentage of people who are eligible to vote who actually do vote. Though Smith County's record is slightly higher than the state average, it is still dismal. The passage of a photo ID regulation adds even more difficulty to the task of registering, informing, and motivating voters to vote.

The High School Registration Project is one strategy LWV-TSC will undertake in 2011-2012 to improve these statistics. The plan calls for convening a community coalition of several organizations to organize and implement a county-wide approach to engaging young voters. This project will make good use of the experiences of the LWV High School Registration Pilot

Project in 2010 and the excellent manual developed on the basis of those research findings.

In addition to registering students to vote, this project will also assist those who do not have government issued photo IDs, now mandated by state law, to secure them. Furthermore, the project will recruit student volunteers to help family and friends register and vote.

Please volunteer to help ensure that young people in this area understand that voting is important and help prepare them to take an active part in civic life.

Contact: deebrook@faqspress.com

Are You Ready to Vote? "Voting Matters"

Are you sure you are ready to vote? As of January 1, 2012 everyone who votes in Texas must present a government-issued photo ID, as well as a voter registration certificate in order to vote.

Probably all of the readers of this newsletter can easily handle these new requirements. Many Tyler and Smith County residents, however, do not have the required government photo IDs, such as passports or driving licenses. Often they do not have transportation to the Texas Department of Public Safety

where they can secure the photo ID they need to vote.

To help solve this problem, LWV-TSC is planning "Voting Matters," a community-wide meeting to help people in our area understand the new voting regulations and also to help people secure their photo IDs if they need assistance. "Voting Matters" will take place in late October. You are invited to attend and to volunteer to help implement a plan. **Watch your email for the exact date, time, and venue.**



Dee Brock
Program VP

Study: Federal Role in Public Education

Almost everybody has an opinion about the federal role in education. Unfortunately, many people don't really know the facts about this issue. The history is long, and the laws and regulations are complex.

At the last national convention LWV delegates adopted a national study of the Federal Role in Education. The research is now complete, and all local Leagues are asked to study the findings and come to consensus about them.

The Education Study scope includes the following areas: The role of the federal government in public education (pre-K through grade 12); The history, Funding, and equity issues which are addressed under the Elementary and Secondary Education Act, and The common core standards/assessments that are required for many federal grant programs. The latter are national—that is, written by national organizations, such as the National

Governors' Association and the Council of Chief State School Officers—not Federal.

There are three important activities each League member needs to undertake in the consensus process:

- ① Read the five background papers now available on LWV.org website:
 - History
 - Core Standards
 - Educating the disadvantaged
 - Early childhood education
 - Funding and equity
- ② Come to the LWV-TSC meeting on the federal role in education on September 19. Dr. Ross Sherman, Chair of the Education Department at UT Tyler, will chair the meeting (See page 1 for more information about the event.)
- ③ Attend the consensus meeting (see page 1) where members will discuss each proposition put forth by the committee and come to an agreement



Members to Reach Agreement on October 12 on Texas Water as a Commodity

Should Water Be a Commodity?

Members will meet October 12 at the Genecov Room of the Tyler Area Chamber of Commerce to discuss the questions raised by the state study committee on water resources and the trend to make them a commodity. LWV-TSC sponsored a public meeting last February on this topic, calling on experts in the field to help us better understand the issues involved. A *Facts & Issues* background paper is available to all members at lwvtexas.org



Discussion questions are on page 7 of this newsletter.

Now members are called upon to answer five key questions:

1. Should water be regulated differently from oil and gas?
2. Our opinions on the "rule of capture" and groundwater conservation districts.
3. Should water be transferred to dry areas of the state from areas with more water resources? How should it be done?
4. Should groundwater be regulated the same as surface water, or should different rules apply?

Don't miss this discussion session on one of our most precious and essential resources.

LWV Study on Water as Commodity

Focus: An update of the LWV-Texas Water position to consider the competition for water in Texas, including governmental policy, public interest rights, and water resource protection concerns.



Scope:

- Analyze current state regulations that govern the sale or transfer of water rights
- Consider ramifications if Texas were to classify water as a commodity rather than a natural resource
- Explore options such as a state-run water marketing administration
- Assess laws that would be needed for interstate or international water transfers
- Assess the best use of our water (i.e., public interest concerns, environmental factors, effect on third parties, future water requirements)

Delegates at LWVUS Convention 2010 voted that LWVUS members nationwide undertake a study of the **Federal Role in Public Education**. The study focuses on the role of the federal government in education policymaking, with possible consideration of funding, common standards, and/or governance relationships among all levels of the government. Study committee members have developed study materials and consensus questions and will review and tabulate all of the responses submitted by participating Leagues. Where consensus is reached, based on responses, the committee will recommend to the Board language for the new LWV position.

Issue Studies in the League: What Comes Next?

Keep the Grass Roots Green: Member Input on Public Policy November 14

7 pm
Roberts & Roberts
118 W. 4th Street

It may be hard to impossible to keep the grass in our yards green, but it will be easy to keep our grassroots organization green, if all of you will join us for our yearly meeting to discuss the local, state, and national public policy issues we want to undertake next year, as well as affirm those positions we want the League to maintain.

What are the issues that you want to learn more about? What are the projects that will make democracy stronger in our community?

Your input is important to our planning for the future. Help us make our "Keep the Grassroots Green" meeting an invigorating exploration of what we can to educate ourselves and our community and to increase the number of informed voters in Smith County, Texas.

CONSENSUS QUESTIONS on Water as a Commodity

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.

Comment:

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.

Comment:

3. **Transfers of water from areas of surplus to areas of scarcity have been discussed. Which of the following options would best serve Texas? 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.

Comment:

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.

Comment:

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 less quantifiable, it should be governed by a different set of regulations and different agencies.

Comment:

Voters Service News Linda Hoak, Voters Service VP



Linda Hoak
Voters Service
VP

Hear Pros & Cons on Proposed
Constitutional Amendments

Monday, Oct. 17, 7 pm
1st Christian Church
4202 S. Broadway

In addition to providing a balanced *Voters Guide* with pros and cons on the ballot issues to be voted on November 8, LWV-

TSC has planned a forum with policy experts to discuss and answer voters' questions about the ten propositions.

Official Ballot Language and Order for the Nov 8 2011 Constitutional Amendment Election

Proposition 1 SJR 14 "The constitutional amendment authorizing the legislature to provide for an exemption from ad valorem taxation of all or part of the market value of the residence homestead of the surviving spouse of a 100 percent or totally disabled veteran."

Proposition 2 SJR 4 "The constitutional amendment providing for the issuance of additional general obligation bonds by the Texas Water Development Board in an amount not to exceed \$6 billion at any time outstanding."

Proposition 3 SJR 50 "The constitutional amendment providing for the issuance of general obligation bonds of the State of Texas to finance educational loans to students."

Proposition 4 HJR 63 "The constitutional amendment authorizing the legislature to permit a county to issue bonds or notes to finance the development or redevelopment of an unproductive, underdeveloped, or blighted area and to pledge for repayment of the bonds or notes increases in ad valorem taxes imposed by the county on property in the area. The amendment does not provide authority for increasing ad valorem tax rates."

Proposition 5 SJR 26 "The constitutional amendment authorizing the legislature to allow cities or counties to enter into interlocal contracts with other cities or counties without the imposition of a tax or the provision of a sinking fund."

Proposition 6 HJR 109 "The constitutional amendment clarifying references to the permanent school fund, allowing the General Land Office to distribute revenue from permanent school fund land or other properties to the available school fund to provide additional funding for public education, and providing for an increase in the market value of the permanent school fund for the purpose of allowing increased distributions from the available school fund."

Proposition 7 SJR 28 "The constitutional amendment authorizing the legislature to permit conservation and reclamation districts in El Paso County to issue bonds supported by ad valorem taxes to fund the development and maintenance of parks and recreational facilities."

Proposition 8 SJR 16 "The constitutional amendment providing for the appraisal for ad valorem tax purposes of open-space land devoted to water-stewardship purposes on the basis of its productive capacity."

Proposition 9 SJR 9 "The constitutional amendment authorizing the governor to grant a pardon to a person who successfully completes a term of deferred adjudication community supervision."

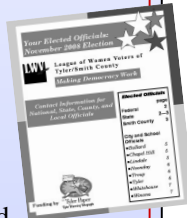
Proposition 10 SJR 37 "The constitutional amendment to change the length of the unexpired term that causes the automatic resignation of certain elected county or district officeholders if they become candidates for another office."

Voters Guide Available
Online & in Area

The LWV-Texas Education Fund *Voters Guide* to proposed amendments to the Texas Constitution on the November 8 ballot will be available online for downloading at lwtexas.org or lwt Tyler.org by September 30.

LWV-Tyler/Smith Co. will distribute paper copies at public and college libraries, the voter registration office, through classroom teachers, and at some retail locations.

Your Elected Officials:
May 2011
Available Now



The latest up-to-date edition of *Your Elected Officials*, including officials elected in the May 14, 2011 election, will be available soon. This newest edition is a basic resource that includes information about national, state, and county officials, as well as those of all cities and school districts in Smith County. For each official, it includes office addresses, email, and phone numbers. Use this information to contact your elected officials to let them know your opinions.

The brochure also can be a valuable tool for the community. If you know of a group that could use this brochure, contact a member of the LWV-Tyler/Smith County board.

Or you will be able to download a copy at lwt Tyler.org

Go to lwt Tyler.org

Check out the LWV-TSC website for details on upcoming events, publications to download, and links to related websites, such as the Texas Secretary of State and the state and national LWV.

You can request a speaker for your organization, subscribe to the League's newsletter, make a donation, or join the League of Women Voters of Tyler/Smith County.

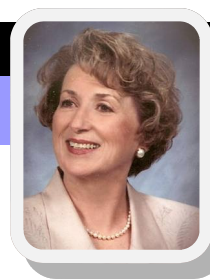


Calendar for November 8, 2011 Election

- Sep. 3**—First Day to Apply for Ballot by Mail
- Oct. 8**—Last Day to Register to Vote
- Oct. 24—Nov. 4**—Early Voting
- Oct. 19**—Last Day Application for Ballot by Mail May Be Received.
- Nov. 8**—Election Day



Naturalization Ceremony Set for November 1



LWV-Tyler/Smith County Nonpartisan Policy

The League of Women Voters of Tyler/Smith County, in both its values and practices, affirms its belief and commitment to diversity and pluralism, which means that there shall be no barriers to participation in any activity of the LWV-Tyler on the basis of gender, race, creed, age, sexual orientation, national origin, or disability.

The LWV-Tyler/Smith County recognizes that diverse perspectives are important and necessary for responsible and representative decision making. LWV-Tyler/Smith County subscribes to the belief that diversity and pluralism are fundamental to the values it upholds and that this inclusiveness enhances the organization's ability to respond more effectively to changing conditions and needs. LWV-Tyler/Smith County affirms its commitment to reflecting the diversity of Americans in its board and programs.

Save November 1 for the next US Naturalization Ceremony. 10 am and 2 pm

Thirty-three new citizens were sworn in at the federal courthouse in Tyler at 10:30 am July 7. There to assist all who wanted to register to vote were League representatives Eddie Baggett, Brenda McWilliams, and Lou Ann Smoot. Although only six completed the registration forms on the spot, about fifteen left with forms in hand.

During the afternoon session Dee Brock, Risa Hildeton, and Karen Wilkerson distributed registration forms to all thirty-eight new citizens and sent extras with them for family members. Risa and

Karen even braved the heat to escort several not from Smith County directly to the elections office two blocks away so the proper address for mailing could be determined.



Registration efforts continue to be hampered by the crowded conditions caused by the remodeling work that has not yet been completed on the third floor courtroom previously used. The afternoon session was so crowded many family members could not be seated and instead were located nearby. The good news is that the remodeled courtroom will be ready for the next ceremony scheduled for November 1.

All League members are encouraged to assist at least once a year. You will be enriched by the experience of witnessing the joy of these "citizens by choice."

Please notify Shirley Hightower if you can participate and say "yes" if called upon.

Call 903-561-7450 or email to eshightower@sbcglobal.net



Voter Registration at TJC Heats Up

League members Ed and Shirley Hightower, Sue Barham, and Linda Sharp withstood the severe heat on August 24, Student Activities Day at TJC, in order to register voters and provide information.

Eleven new registrations were completed and a dozen more conversations took place with students across a broad range of voters' concerns.

The next such event will be **INSIDE** Rogers Student Center in January. Details later.

What's New at lwvtyler.org ?

The web site lwvtyler.org has a new look! New software provided by our host gave us new options, and Scherel Carver took

over as webmaster. Most of the content remains mostly the same, but the arrangement is different and the look is fresher and lighter.



Go to lwvtyler.org

Coming Winter & Spring 2012

Great Decisions Foreign Policy Discussions Begin	Jan. 18—noon Tyler Public Lib.
Forum: Privatization of Government Services	Jan. 23—7 pm
Forum: Primary Candidates	Feb. 6—7 pm
U.S. Naturalization Ceremony	February TBA
Women's History Month— Women in Tyler Luncheon	March 22 11:30 am
Candidate Forum to Feature City, School Board, TJC Races	April 23 7 pm
LWV-TSC Annual Meeting	May 19, 10
U. S. Naturalization Ceremony	May TBA

In Memoriam—Blake Reeves

Blake Reeves, a past member of LWV-Tyler/Smith County and husband and father of LWV members Pam Reeves and Neville Reeves, passed away April 12, 2011. Born March 9, 1951, Blake and his family lived in Mineola the past 25 years. Blake Reeves was a master of residential construction and finishing, and his Reeves Design and Construction left a legacy of fine work in homes throughout Texas.



Neville Reeves is a recent graduate of the prestigious Wharton School of Business at the University of Pennsylvania. **Congratulations, Neville!**



LWV Tyler/Smith
County
P. O. Box 6271
Tyler, Texas 75711

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit No. 1143
Tyler, TX

Board of Directors

Kristi C. Roberts
President

Vacant
Voters Service VP

Dee Brock
Program VP

Mary Claire Rowe
Community Rel. VP

Linda R. Sharp
Organization VP

Andie Rathbone
Secretary

Scherel Carver
Treasurer

Directors

Shirley Hightower
U.S. Naturalization

Carol Reynolds
Membership

Amy Thrasher
Water Policy

Lou Anne Smoot
Observer Corps



www.lwvtyler.org

Your guide to the League, local government, links to information on candidates, & more.

In This Issue: —The Federal Role in Public Education, pages 1 and 6

2011 LWV-TSC —Calendar of Upcoming Events

September 19, 7pm—UT Tyler Muntz Library, Room 401

Federal Role in Public Education
Panel Discussion

October 5, Rick's on the Square
Hot Topic at a Hot Spot

October 12, 7:00 pm—Genecov Room, 315 N. Broadway
Water Resources as a Commodity
Member Discussion & Consensus

October 17, 7:00 pm—1st Christian Church, 4202 S. Broadway
Forum on Proposed Amendments

October-Date/Place/Time TBA
Voting Matters Planning Meeting

November 1, 10 am and 2 pm—Federal Courthouse
U. S. Naturalization Ceremony

November 2, 12 noon—Chuy's Tex-Mex, 5935 S. Broadway
No Agenda Lunch -Dine and Discuss

November 7, 7 pm—Genecov Room, 315 N. Broadway
Federal Role in Public Education
Member Discussion & Consensus

November 14, 7 pm—Roberts & Roberts, 118 West 4th St.
Keep the Grass Roots Green
Member Input on local, state, and national public policy issues

December 7, 5:30 pm—Wasabi, 5617 S. Donnybrook
Hot Topic at a Hot Spot

Monday, December 12, 7:00 pm
Meadow Lake Clubhouse, 11245 Shoreline Drive, Tyler
Holiday Party

Upcoming LWV Board Meetings—Members Welcome
Tuesday, October 4, 6:30 pm
Tuesday, November 1, 6:30 pm
Tuesday, December 6, 6:30 pm

Members are welcome to attend meetings of the LWV Board of Directors, first Tuesdays, 6:30 pm at Roberts & Roberts, 118 West 4th St.