

Denton VOTER

*The League of Women Voters of Denton, Texas
Established 1961*

P.O. Box 424945 TWU Station
Denton, Texas 76204

November 2006

Sue Smith, President
Ken Ferstl, VOTER Editor

www.lwvdenton.org

CALENDAR

**Tuesday, November 7. Election Day.
VOTE!**

Thursday, November 16, 7 p.m. General Meeting. “The State of the County,” guest speaker County Judge Mary Horn. EESAT Building, Room 176, on the University of North Texas campus, Hickory at Avenue C.

Sunday, November 19, 3 p.m. Board Meeting. Home of Peg La Point, 1900 Highland Park Circle. Members are welcome to attend board meetings.

Thursday, December 14, 7 p.m. Holiday Party and Program Planning. Home of Peg & Tom La Point, 1900 Highland Park Circle, (940-891-4985), **SAVE THE DATE!**

Membership dues are \$50 for an individual member. Household memberships are \$50 for the first member and \$25 for each additional member at the same mailing address. Students may join for \$20. Send a check, payable to LWV-Denton, to P.O. Box 424945 TWU Station, Denton, Texas 76204.

COUNTY JUDGE TO SPEAK AT NOVEMBER MEETING

Our speaker on November 16 will be Denton County Judge Mary Horn. We have asked Judge Horn to give us a “State of the County” report and discuss issues which she believes will be of most importance to the County in the upcoming year. Please join us and come prepared with your questions for Judge Horn.

Peg La Point, Program VP

OCTOBER MEETING REVIEW

Our thanks to Dorothy Damico for presenting an overview of the proposed amendments to the City Charter. Based on her experience as a member of the Citizen Review Committee, Dorothy explained how the committee came to its conclusions. The committee had time to address only 22 of the 100 proposed changes to the charter and no one seems quite sure why the Council was in such a rush to present the proposal for a vote. Dorothy indicated that some of the issues were simple housekeeping, while others were almost too complicated for the committee to grasp. As usual, Dorothy did an excellent job of leading a stimulating and informative discussion that helped us all vote wisely.

Peg La Point, Program VP

PRESIDENT'S PODIUM

First, thanks to Dorothy Damico for leading us through all 22 proposed City Charter amendments, excellent presentation as always. Second, thanks to all who attended. It really makes a difference to the discussion if as many members are there as possible.

Now we know how many people it takes to replace Sondra Ferstl as Community Service Vice President. Sondra sent us very detailed instructions for a local Voters Guide (VG). I got the list of candidates from party headquarters and made initial contact with them. Peg La Point sent the letters with questions and instructions sheets. Linnie McAdams did follow-up calling to be sure they all received the information. All but two of the ten candidates emailed me their replies and Peg La Point got that to Tracy Lindsay to do the formatting. Peg took that to the printer, mailed copies to our members and Linnie mailed to all our contributors. Luckily the state VG came in time for our October general meeting, so everyone there got the state guide and I mailed copies to those not present. Using Sondra's distribution list, all the state guides were taken by members at the meeting to deliver as soon as the local guide was ready. Sondra and Ken Ferstl delivered LWV-TX VG to libraries in Little Elm, Lewisville, Roanoke, Pilot Point, The Colony and Krum and I took them to Sanger. State and local VG were delivered to Denton libraries by Lois Sorensen, to UNT Library and North Lakes Recreation Center by Ann MacMillan, TWU Library by Sarah McIntire, Denton Chamber of Commerce by Duane Kraeger, Denton City Manager's Office and Denton County Voter Registration Office and Republican headquarters by Kay Branum, Democratic headquarters by Dorothy Adkins, Martin Luther King Center by Doris Dundas, Senior Center by Jean Aboul-Ela and DATCU by me. I also took Spanish state guides to Popo y Lupe. Whew.

We always appreciated Sondra's Voters Service efforts and now we know exactly why.

Do plan to attend our November general meeting with guest speaker, Judge Mary Horn. Details in this VOTER.

Sue Smith

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Sue Smith, President, lwvdenton@earthlink.net

Peg La Point, Program VP, tnplapoint@msn.com
Linnie McAdams, Organization VP,
LMMcAdams@verizon.net

Ann MacMillan, Treasurer,
amacmill@music.unt.edu
Maggie Dodd, Secretary,
maggiedodddenton@aol.com

Ken Ferstl, VOTER Editor, klferstl@charter.net
Sondra Ferstl, Director, smferstl@charter.net

VOTE411.org LAUNCHED

Voter participation in the United States is dismally low. In the 2002 mid-term elections, only 42% of eligible voters went to the polls to decide who would lead our country and make our nation's laws. Research continues to show that a lack of information about the voting process and the candidates is an overriding cause for low voter participation.

To address this issue, the League of Women Voters of the United States has launched an unprecedented Web site for voters:

VOTE411.org – The One-Stop Shop for Election Information.

This online tool, support in part by Yahoo!, provides answers to the full range of questions that voters might have about basic state-by-state requirements, including voter registration deadlines, absentee ballot information, ID requirements, polling place locations, and much more. There is simply no other single Web site that provides this level of comprehensive, state-specific information.

Mary G. Wilson, President, LWVUS
e-mail dated October 26, 2006