

# The VOTER

Newsletter of the League of Women Voters of Plano/Collin County Texas  
Donna Bening, VOTER Editor

January 2012

## League Events Calendar: January 2012

18, Wed., 7 p.m., LWV P/CC Board meets, home of board member Janice Schieffer,

19, Thurs. LWVP/CC open meeting with guest speaker, Rep. Jerry Madden, TX House Dist. 67, at Davis Library, 7501 Independence Pkwy, Plano.

23, Monday, January 23, at 7:00 pm on the Collin College Spring Creek Campus Conference Center, 2800 E. Spring Creek Pkwy. Increase your awareness of homelessness in Collin County...hosted by The Center for Scholarly and Civic Engagement

26, Thursday, January 26, 8:00pm – 1:00am at Various locations – Annual “point-in-time” homeless census.  
31, 11-1, Voter Registration at Collin College, Frisco

## February 2012:

1, 11-1, Voter Registration at Collin College, Plano  
2, 11-1, Voter Registration, Collin College, McKinney

9, Thurs., 11a.m. Tour of JJAEP, McKinney, 4690 Community Ave.

11, Saturday, 7-9 p.m., Cordial Tasting Fundraiser to benefit LWVP/CC at 6903 Maple Creek Lane, Dallas. (see invitation, RSVP p. 3)

15, Wednesday, 7-9 p.m., LWVP/CC Board meets at board member Pat Lawson’s home.

\_\_\_, Candidates Forum for SBOE, Dist. 12

## March 2012 -- Women’s History Month

3, or 10, Saturday, 10-4 LWV sponsors candidates forum at Parr Library, 6200 Windhaven Pkwy, Plano

15, Thurs., 7 p.m. LWVP/CC Discussion and Consensus meeting on the LWVUS study of “privatization of public assets and functions (see p.4.)

21, 7 p.m., Wed., LWVP/CC Board meeting at board member Pat Lawson’s home, 2520 Kelsey Dr.  
6:30 p.m., local program planning with members

19, Early voting begins for Partisan Primary.

**April 3, 7-7, Texas Partisan Primary Election.**  
Poll locations at [www.co.collin.tx.us/elections](http://www.co.collin.tx.us/elections)

## **From the President.....**

**Patty Jantho**

[pnjantho@gmail.com](mailto:pjantho@gmail.com)

The year 2012 is coming in with a rush for LWV P/CC. On Thursday, January 19, 2012, Jerry Madden, retiring 10-term state representative, District 67, will speak on the changes in the Texas Juvenile Justice Laws and their Impact on Texas and Collin County. The program, open to the public, will be held at 7 p.m. at the Davis Library 7501 Independence Parkway, Plano. A reception in his honor will be held following the program.

Rep. Madden’s talk fits in with our continuing study of Collin County’s Juvenile Justice education system. He sponsored the Judicial Campaign Finance Bill, the overhaul of Juvenile Justice in SB103 in 2007, the expansion of Drug Courts, the consolidation of the Juvenile Probation and Youth Commission and the development of the Nurse Family Partnership in 2011.

Also attending the January 19<sup>th</sup> meeting will be representatives from the Juvenile Justice Alternative Education Program (JJAEP), a non residential campus and the County Residential Center (CRC), a short and long term residential facility. Both facilities are located in McKinney. We are sponsoring a tour of these facilities on Thursday, February 9 beginning at 11 am at JJAEP, 4690 Community Avenue, McKinney 75071. Interested people can sign up for the tour on Jan. 19<sup>th</sup> or on line at [www.lwvcollin.org](http://www.lwvcollin.org)

February is for fun and fund raising as we sample cordials and support the ongoing work of LWV P/CC. The event will be held in a member’s home on Saturday, February 18 from 7 to 9 pm. See the article and reservation coupon in this issue. (page 3.)

Spring brings candidate forums as the 2012 elections get into gear beginning with the primaries. We are still awaiting final word from the courts regarding redistricting that could affect the election calendar. The voter ID program called for by the Texas State Legislature beginning in 2012 may also be subject to federal scrutiny.

Meanwhile, keep current on [www.lwvcollin.org](http://www.lwvcollin.org) and our Facebook, as well.  
[www.facebook.com/LWV/Collin](http://www.facebook.com/LWV/Collin)

## Elections 2012!

Janice Schieffer, Voters Service Chair  
(janice@schieffer.net)

What a topsy turvy election year! Last November we approved the questions for our 2012 Primary Election *Voters Guide* so that we'd be ready to go after the Dec. 12 filing deadline. Then the court challenges to the redistricting maps moved the March 6, 2012, election date to April 3, and even that is still up in the air! The U.S. Supreme Court will hear arguments on Jan. 9 whether to use the district maps drawn by the Texas Legislature, the interim maps drawn by a federal court in San Antonio, or to have other maps drawn.

Will voters need photo ID in 2012? We still don't know! The Texas law requiring voters to show a photo ID at the polls hasn't been precleared by the Department of Justice. A decision may be forthcoming in the next couple of weeks, but this decision may result in challenges to Section 5 of the Voting Rights Act.

**Candidates Forums:** In the meantime, we're proceeding with plans for an **April 3, 2012, Primary Election**. As of the Dec. 19, 2011, filing date an unofficial count of 63 candidates had filed for U.S. Congress, Texas House and Senate and county offices within our Collin County area. That number will likely change during the second filing period currently scheduled to end Feb. 1, assuming that the new district maps are in place before the end of January.

LWV-P/CC is planning another blockbuster all-day **Candidates Forum for Sat., March 3 or March 10, 2012, at Parr Library**. We will have multiple sessions with time to meet-and-greet the candidates informally between sessions.

We are also consulting with LWV-Dallas, LWV-Richardson and the Greater Dallas Section of the National Council of Jewish Women to co-sponsor a **Candidates Forum for the State Board of Education, District 12**. The newly-drawn SBOE district, which is not being challenged in court, now includes all of Collin County, in addition to Richardson and parts of Dallas. Four Republican candidates and one Democratic candidate have filed. The forum will probably be on a Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday evening Feb. 28-March 1 or March 6-8. Suggestions for a venue convenient to the Dallas, Richardson and Plano area are welcome.

Another possibility is a regional candidates forum for the **Fifth District Court of Appeals**, which includes Collin, Dallas and Grayson counties, among others. Twelve Republican and four Democratic candidates have filed for seven places in that district.

**Voters Guides** for the Collin County area races will be posted on our website as well as in the VOTE411 online *Voters Guide* before the **March 19 start of early voting**. And we will distribute printed copies of the LWV Texas *Voters Guide* for statewide races in both English and

Spanish to libraries and other public areas throughout the county.

**Voter Registration:** LWV-P/CC will register voters at **ROCK the Vote!** events at **Collin College campuses** 11 a.m. – 1 p.m. on Tues., Jan. 31 (Preston Ridge, Frisco), Wed., Feb. 1 (Spring Creek, Plano), and Thur., Feb. 2 (Central Park, McKinney). We will also continue registering new citizens at the ceremonies at the **Las Colinas Citizenship & Naturalization Center**. Thanks to volunteers who have helped with registrations .

Check out the new **Elections 2012** page on our League website, **www.lwvcollin.org**, for a look at our busy election year – elections, runoffs, candidates forums, *Voters Guides*, voter registration.

**Show your support for our League activities! Please plan to attend these forums and invite your friends, neighbors and other organizations. If you can work at a forum, help distribute Voters Guides, or register voters, contact Janice Schieffer, janice@schieffer.us, 214-415-3476.**

## LEAGUE IS STEPPING UP FOR 2012

by Eloise Richardson, Membership Chair

Happy New Year to all our LWV Plano Collin County Members and a warm welcome to our most recently joined participants. Be sure to greet to Connie Baker, Yolanda Longoria, and Teresa McGowan at our next meeting.

Becoming a member is easy and quick. Applications and Profile are available online at [www.lwvcollin.org](http://www.lwvcollin.org). The Profile is a tool you can use to indicate your area of interest; LWV Plano Collin County wants to give you an opportunity to use your gifts and talents. Completed applications and profiles with dues payments may be mailed to PO Box 866592, Plano TX 75086-6592. Contact [tweetrichardson@verizon.net](mailto:tweetrichardson@verizon.net), or 972.208.8459.

**JOIN.....RENEW.....PARTICIPATE** See our website: [www.lwvcollin.org](http://www.lwvcollin.org) . Send a check payable to the "LWV Plano/Collin County" for annual dues: individual \$55, or household \$80 (which are not tax deductible). Mail to LWV of LWV/Collin County, PO Box 866592, Plano TX 75086-6592.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address/City/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

e-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_



**Cordial Tasting Party Fundraiser Set**

**February 12, 7-9 p.m.**

**Not sure what to do for Valentine's Day....here's a suggestion....**

Mark your calendars for Saturday, February 11th to attend the next LWV fundraiser. You may have been to wine tastings, now try something unique & different: a cordial tasting party! Many of us are reluctant to spend \$25+ on something we may have never tasted before, so here's your chance to sip six different cordials and maybe find one you really like. Local liquor connoisseur, Tabby Soto Crocker, will be doing the pouring and sharing some of the background of each of the yummy selections.

The event is being held at a private home in the George Bush Turnpike/Hillcrest area, so it's convenient to nearly everyone. Tickets are only \$20 per person or \$35 per couple with proceeds going to help support the many League outreach efforts including Voters' Guides, candidate forums and voter registration drives.

Seating is limited so get your tickets today by going on the LWV website at [www.lwvcollin.org](http://www.lwvcollin.org) to get your tickets. Call or write to the fundraising chair, Dorie Cranshaw at 469-298-0796 or [doriebigd@aol.com](mailto:doriebigd@aol.com) with any questions.

Directions to Home of Holly Nichols, 6903 Maple Creek Lane, Dallas, located between I-190 (Bush tollway) and Frankford Rd.: From Hillcrest turn east on Genstar and follow Genstar all the way left to 6903 Maple Creek Lane,

**(highlight, click and copy to enclose with your check.)**

**YOU**

are invited to a

**CORDIAL TASTING**

For Fun and Fellowship and to Benefit the Educational Outreach of The League of Women Voters of Plano/Collin County

**Saturday, February 11, from 7 to 9 pm  
At 6903 Maple Creek Lane  
Dallas 75255**

(Between I-190 George Bush and Frankford, east of Hillcrest to Highland Creek Estates; turn east onto Genstar and follow left all the way to 6903 Maple Creek Lane, home of Holly Nichols)

\$20 per person, \$35 per couple  
Reservations due by

Wednesday, February 8, 2011

Send check payable to "LWVP/CC"  
to Sharon Goldgar, 2900 Dartmouth Dr., Plano 75075

Guest(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ single reservations @ \$20

\_\_\_\_\_ double reservations at \$35

Total payment enclosed: \_\_\_\_\_,

## **LOCAL PROGRAM STUDY 2012: VOTE**

**CENTERS** By Dorie Cranshaw, study chair,  
[doriebigd@aol.com](mailto:doriebigd@aol.com)

In 2009, Collin County volunteered for a pilot study of the use of vote centers on Election Day: allowing voters to vote anywhere in the county, not just in their home precincts. At the annual program planning meeting in the spring, your local League voted to undertake a study of this important project and the results so far.

A study committee has now developed the scope for the effort and is actively underway in researching the subject. "It is our hope to hold a public forum to share what we've found in late spring", says Dorie Cranshaw, study chair. The vote center study will attempt to determine how Collin County's experience measures up to the legislature's expectations. The experiences of other pilot counties around the state will be used as comparison. The group has already had a very productive sit-down discussion with Collin County Elections Administrator, Sharon Rowe.

The study committee, including Janice Schieffer and Sharon Goldgar, are looking for additional volunteers to speed their work. Anyone interested in getting involved should contact Dorie Cranshaw at 469-298-0796.

## **LWVUS Study of Privatization. – Join us on March 15 for consensus report**

See the Privatization information on the new LWVUS website, here is the URL to paste into your browser:  
<http://www.lwv.org/member-resources/privatization>

### **Scope of the Privatization Study:**

The purpose of this study is to identify those policy issues to be considered in connection with proposals to transfer federal, state or local government services, assets and/or functions to the private sector. Consider the stated goals and the community impact of such transfers, and identify strategies to ensure transparency, accountability, and preservation of the common good.

**Timeline:** Participate in the discussion of and consensus for the study on "Privatization of Government services, assets and functions, and the impact on local communities". LWVPlano/Collin County will meet March 15 at location to be announced. Consensus deadline is May 1.

LWV Program Planning - 2012-13  
Every two years state and national Leagues participate in the LWV Program Planning process by making recommendations concerning program issues – this is how we remain a grassroots organization. The Program Planning process is an important League tool for identifying issues for study. It gives members and Leagues the opportunity to balance the pros and cons, assess possible support, and consider the issues. During the process, members have the opportunity - especially with e-mail and discussion to organize support based on factual materials before the Program Planning deadlines: March 1, 2012 for LWVUS (Convention June 15-17 in DC); January 13 for TX (Convention April 13-15 in San Antonio); March 21 local program planning meeting and (annual meeting May 12 in Plano.)

### ***LWV Plano/Collin County Officers & Directors – 2011-12***

**President:** Patty Jantho ([pjantho@gmail.com](mailto:pjantho@gmail.com))

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**Website manager,** Carol Worthington

([cjrw722@verizon.net](mailto:cjrw722@verizon.net)).

### **Nominating Committee**

Meg Titus, Chair, Janice Schieffer, Sharon Goldgar

The Nominating Committee will meet soon to put together a slate of nominees for LWV-P/CC leadership for 2012-2013. If you want to suggest candidates - or volunteer yourself - please contact one of the committee members: Meg Titus ([meg@teamtitus.net](mailto:meg@teamtitus.net), 972-424-4993), Janice Schieffer ([janice@schieffer.us](mailto:janice@schieffer.us), 214-415-3476) or Sharon Goldgar, 972-596-6397 or ([sharongoldgar@verizon.net](mailto:sharongoldgar@verizon.net))