

to omit some of the technical inclusions that would have made such a tremendous difference in the everyday lives of Texans. I consider #8 the hardest to understand and together with #6 the hardest to explain in everyday language.

Your suggestions will be given serious consideration when we do the next ballot issue guide and I do appreciate them, but I did want to explain why the explanation was so difficult to write on some of the questions and to explain why some were indeed, difficult to understand. I hope that you will be better pleased with the primary VOTERS GUIDE and thank you for your comments.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Thomas R. Coker  
Voters Service Director

cc: State Office, file

Y P O C



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF TEXAS

Dickinson Plaza Center, Dickinson, Texas 77539 713-337-1722

Mrs. Darwin M. Winick President

October 16, 1973

Dear Librarian:

We are enclosing 50 copies of our English Voters Guide and 10 copies of our Spanish Voters Guide, for distribution to the patrons of your library.

The Guides present a pro/con view concerning the amendments to the Texas Constitution to be voted on November 6.

We hope your patrons will find them informative and an aid in the decision as to how they vote in this very important election.

Cordially,

Mrs. Darwin M. Winick  
President

W/ag  
encls.





PALESTINE HERALD-PRESS  
P. O. BOX 379  
PALESTINE, TEXAS 75801  
Telephone: 214/729-2244

DAY/TIMER  
*Time-Saver*

LETTER

IN REFERENCE TO

AIRMAIL ☐ FIRST CLASS MAIL ☐ INTER-OFFICE ☐

FOR  
League of Women Voters of Texas  
Dickinson Plaza Center  
Dickinson, Texas 77539

HOW TO USE THIS

DAY/TIMER

*Time-Saver* LETTER TO SAVE TIME

Type or write your reply in the space below. Then mail the white copy to us and keep the pink copy for your files. You'll save time and effort and we'll have your answer much faster! Thank you.

MESSAGE

FOLD

DATE

October 16, 1973

FOLD

Dear Mrs. Coker:

We have received with interest your Voter's Guide in Spanish.

As in prior years, we would like to publish your Voter's Guide in English in the Herald-Press, with full credit to your fine organization, of course.

Could you rush us a copy of the English version with your permission for us to use it.

Sincerely,

*Wayne C. Sellers*  
Wayne C. Sellers  
Publisher

FOLD

FOLD

BY

REPLY

DATE

10/17/73

*Thank you for your nice comments and we would appreciate receiving a copy of your newspaper when our ad appears.*

BY



# League of Women Voters of Texas

337-1722



DICKINSON PLAZA CENTER • DICKINSON, TEXAS 77539 • 713 834-3323

MRS. DARVIN M. WINICK, PRESIDENT

September 6, 1973

Dear Sir:

We are pleased to announce that the League of Women Voters, for the first time, is able to offer our nonpartisan VOTERS GUIDE in Spanish. The QUIA DE VOTANTE will cover the Constitutional Amendment Election scheduled for November 6, 1973.

Of course, we hope that our first offering of our GUIA DE VOTANTE will see wide circulation and the popular acceptance that our VOTERS GUIDE has for years received. With this in mind, we felt that one of the best ways to achieve wide distribution would be by allowing organizations, such as yours, to purchase the GUIA DE VOTANTE in any quantity at the same cost we make these available to our own local Leagues.

The cost is \$17 per thousand. They will be shipped prepaid to any address (except a post office box. Post office boxes are not acceptable for motor freight delivery.) We anticipate delivery before the first of October.

Included in the GUIA will be the ballot wording, an explanation, and the arguments for and against each of the nine constitutional amendments to be decided by the voters this November. These amendments are receiving very little publicity and are, in several cases, quite confusing.

The purpose of the League of Women Voters is to encourage informed participation of citizens in their government. It is to this purpose that the VOTERS GUIDE and the GUIA DE VOTANTE are dedicated. We welcome your orders and feel sure that your members will welcome this helpful publication in their homes.

Cordially,

*Darvin M. Winick*

Mrs. Darvin M. Winick, President  
League of Women Voters of Texas

VW/ag





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Mrs. Darvin M. Winick, President  
League of Women Voters of Texas

VW/ag





✓G's ✓✓ 11-13 Oct 28, 1973  
**Salaries Subject  
Of Amendment I**

EDITOR'S NOTE: Tuesday, Nov. 6, voters will ballot on nine proposed amendments to the Texas Constitution. The Herald-Press begins today publication of discussion of each of the amendments with arguments for and against prepared by the League of Women Voters of Texas. The discussions are from the League's non-partisan voters' guide and reproduced with their permission.

### Amendment 1

**FOR or AGAINST:** The constitutional amendment to provide for annual regular sessions of the legislature; and to provide an annual salary of \$15,000 and per diem for the members of the legislature, effective in January, 1975.

#### EXPLANATION NO. 1

This amendment of Article III, Sections 5, 24, 49a, and Article VIII, Section 6, of the Texas Constitution will authorize the legislature to meet in regular session each year. It provides that the regular session to be held in each odd-numbered year shall meet for a period not to exceed 180 days, and that the regular session in each even-numbered year shall meet for a period not to exceed 60 days and shall be limited to the consideration of fiscal matters and such emergency matters as may be submitted by the governor. It also allows for the session in even-numbered years to be extended by the governor for an additional period not to exceed 30 days. Amendment 1 also provides an annual salary for members of the legislature not exceeding \$15,000 per year and a per diem not exceeding \$18 per day for each regular session and each special session of the legislature. If the amendment passes it will become effective in January of 1975.

#### FOR:

Those who support Amendment 1 say that Texas is a modern and complex state which needs the services of adequately compensated, full-time legislators. Since problems confronting the legislature are continuous, the legislative process should also be continuous in order to deal with them. An adequate salary for legislators would mean more independence from special interest lobbying and fewer pressures from having to have outside employment, would help attract more qualified persons to serve as legislators, and would help keep experienced lawmakers in the legislature. The present biennial session of 140 days is just not enough time for the legislature to act on all of the legislative matters brought up in each session and also do the tremendous amount of work necessary on an appropriations bill.

#### AGAINST:

Those who appose Amendment 1 say that it is not a good amendment to achieve adequately compensated legislators and annual sessions. The salary amount it sets for legislators is too high, and Texas needs annual sessions of equal length that are unlimited as to duration and subject matter. Service as a Texas legislator should be viewed as an honor, rather than as a full-time job. Texas does not want or need professional legislators. The expense involved in raising salaries and extending legislative sessions is too great at this time. There is adequate time in the present 140-day session if the legislature would just get down to business. Annual sessions would only mean more wasted time and money.



OCT. 30, 1973

# Conservation, Reclamation, Seawalls Up for Consideration

Editor's Note: Voters will cast ballots Nov. 6 on nine proposed amendments to the Texas Constitution. To help in an understanding of the issues, the Herald-Press, through the courtesy of the League of Women Voters of Texas, is publishing that organization's comments from their Nonpartisan Voters' Guide.)

## Amendment 4

### FOR or AGAINST:

The constitutional amendment establishing certain requirements relative to the enactment of certain conservation and reclamation districts.

### EXPLANATION NO. 4:

This amendment to Article XVI, Section 59, of the Texas Constitution will require that the county commissioners be notified of any proposed conservation or reclamation districts that would fall, in part or totally, within the boundaries of their county, and that they can express support or opposition regarding its enactment to the legislature. This will make establishment of these districts conform with the procedures governing the establishment of other special districts.

### FOR:

Those who support Amendment 4 say that special districts should be accountable to some level of general-purpose government. Without such accountability, in their view, special districts are a fragmented way of solving local problems, which increases the number of governmental units and which leads to lack of governmental coordination of taxes and debt limits. This pyramiding of taxing authorities adds to the cost of debt service for all local governments in Texas. Since most conservation and reclamation districts hold elections for taxation purposes prior to incorporation or annexation, large debts are incurred by only a handful of voters that must be paid for by the general taxpayer in the neighboring city when annexation occurs. In the absence of restrictions (such as those placed on other districts), these districts are often guilty of inadequate reports and undemocratic procedures. Without passage of this amendment, these districts are often guilty of inadequate reports and undemocratic procedures. Without passage of this amendment, these special districts will continue to be difficult for general-purpose governments to supervise or control.

### AGAINST:

Those who oppose Amendment 4 say that special districts are needed because they can solve problems that cut across existing

governmental boundaries. Also, some of the governmental functions that they perform are those which existing governments are unwilling or unable to perform. For these reasons, opponents of this amendment feel that special districts should not be under the control of local general-purpose governments. Through the creation of a water district, an independent developer can provide expensive utility construction, that the individual district resident could not afford otherwise.

## Amendment 5

### FOR or AGAINST:

The constitutional amendment authorizing counties and cities bordering on the Gulf of Mexico to issue bonds for the construction of sea walls and breakwaters upon a vote of the resident property taxpayers.

### EXPLANATION NO. 5:

This amendment to Article XI, Section 7, of the Texas Constitution will reduce the number of votes required to issue bonds for the construction of sea walls and breakwaters from two-thirds to a majority. It affects only the Gulf Coast counties. A similar amendment was approved in 1968 for road construction bonds in Dallas County.

### FOR:

Those who support Amendment 5 point out that the construction of sea walls and breakwaters is in areas where there is small resident population, and that people who live 25 miles away are not as concerned about the dangers of the sea. Changing the needed vote from a two-thirds majority to a majority will ensure easier passage of bonds for sea wall construction to reduce damage and loss of life during hurricanes. Since a majority vote is all that is required for some other types of bond elections, Amendment 5 is only bringing this type of bond election into conformity with the others.

### AGAINST:

Those who oppose Amendment 5 say since provisions already exist in the state constitution to permit such bond elections, this amendment is unnecessary. In fact, with a small investment in scare tactics, this amendment could result in the passage of bonds for construction that was not necessarily in the best interest of the citizens of such a town or county. In view of the small voter turnout in such bond elections, this amendment could mean that an unnecessarily high tax burden is placed on the citizens of coastal counties at the whim of a very few.



OCT. 31, 1973

## Courts in Amendment

(EDITOR'S NOTE: Texas voters will cast ballots Nov. 6 on nine proposed amendments to the Texas Constitution. Follows is comment on another of the proposals, reproduced from the Nonpartisan Voters' Guide of the League of Women Voters of Texas.)

### Amendment 6

#### FOR or AGAINST:

The constitutional amendment stating that the district court concurrently with the county court shall have the general jurisdiction of a probate court, and providing the jurisdiction thereof, and further providing that in any probate proceeding the district court shall also have jurisdiction otherwise conferred upon it by law, and further providing that the legislature may increase, diminish, or eliminate the jurisdiction of the district court or county court in probate matters, and further providing that the legislature shall have the power to adopt rules governing the filing, distribution and transfer of all such cases and proceedings as between district courts, county courts, and other courts having jurisdiction thereof, and further providing that the legislature may provide that all appeals in such matters shall be to the courts of (civil) appeals.

#### EXPLANATION NO. 6:

This amendment to Article V, Section 8, of the Texas Constitution will provide the necessary jurisdiction for all probate cases (such as wills) to be tried in either a district court or a county court, and will give the legislature power to provide that all appeals on probate matters shall be to the court of civil appeals.

This is not now the procedure. Presently, all such cases must go through the county courts (the constitutional county court or the statutory county probate court.) Since the county courts are not courts of record in regard to probate

matters, any appeal requires a new trial (trial de novo) in the district court. The final appeal is to the court of civil appeals.

#### FOR:

Those who support Amendment 6 point out that the county judge is not required by the constitution to be lawyer, yet because the county court has the general jurisdiction of a probate court, he is often called upon to decide complicated questions of law. In many probate cases the questions to be decided are simple and administrative; in others, however, such as contested wills, the questions raised require judicial expertise.

This amendment would permit complicated probate matters in counties where the judge is not a lawyer, to be heard initially in a district court. At the same time, simple probate matters would continue to be handled in the county courts. Amendment 6 would also eliminate one step in the appeal process; this would save the parties involved and the state time and money.

#### AGAINST:

Those who oppose Amendment 6 say that the county judges are experienced in handling probate matters and that costs to parties and to the state are less at the lower court level than at the district court level. This amendment would add an additional burden to an already overcrowded district court docket. Since not all counties have a district court within their boundaries, this amendment could mean extra expense to all parties if they had to have the initial case probated at the district level. Others point out that it is just another attempt at patchwork judicial reform, an interim measure in the absence of much-needed overall judicial reform. Also, it would allow the lawyers involved to circumvent the constitutional county courts if they so desired.



Nov. 1, 1973

## Limits Due to Be Voted On

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** This is another in a series of discussions on proposed amendments to the Texas Constitution reproduced by permission of the League of Women Voters of Texas from their Nonpartisan Voters' Guide. Election on the proposals will be Nov. 6.

### Amendment 7

#### FOR OR AGAINST:

The constitutional amendment to provide for an additional \$100 million in bonds or obligations of the State of Texas for the Veterans' Land Fund.

#### EXPLANATION NO. 7:

This amendment to Article III, Section 49b, of the Texas Constitution will allow the Veterans' Land Board to issue another \$100 million in bonds for the Veterans' Land Fund, which has now issued its maximum constitutional limit of \$400 million. This fund allows war veterans to purchase farmland in Texas at low interest rates.

#### FOR:

Those who support Amendment 7 say that the original authorization in 1946 of \$25 million for the Veterans' Land Fund has been increased through a series of constitutional amendments to the present level of \$400 million. This program has proved highly successful over the years in providing low interest loans to veterans for the purchase of farmland without cost to the taxpayers of Texas.

#### AGAINST:

Those who oppose Amendment 7 say that since the state has a constitutional limit of \$200 thousand on the debt that it may incur, its citizens should not continually be voting exceptions to this limit. Circumventing the debt ceiling by constitutional amendment has resulted in the state's having a authorized bonded indebtedness in excess of \$700 million. Such circumvention fosters disrespect for the constitution itself.

### Amendment 8

#### FOR or AGAINST:

The constitutional amendment to authorize cities, towns, and villages to levy such ad valorem taxes as are sufficient to pay the principal of and interest on their general obligations hereafter issued subject to the restrictions provided by law.

#### EXPLANATION NO. 8:

This amendment to Article XI of the Texas Constitution, by adding a Section 5a, will give the legislature the power to enact general or special laws to establish limitations on the total indebtedness of any or all incorporated areas. Incorporated areas will be required to tax their citizens at whatever rate necessary to pay, when due, the principal of and interest on all

general obligations. Unless or until the legislature acts to establish statutory limitations, the limitations established with respect to the total principal amount of bonds which may be issued by independent school districts shall apply.

#### FOR:

Those who support Amendment 8 note that its passage will remove the constitutional limitations on the bonded indebtedness of incorporated areas. At present, the constitution puts a limit of 1½ percent of the value of taxable property on general obligation bonds that cities of 5,000 or less may issue, and a limit of 2½ percent on the larger cities. Passage of Amendment 8 would exchange this inflexible restriction for a more flexible one, and allow the legislature to meet the needs of a particular city. As a result, it would put cities, especially the small incorporated areas, in a more favorable contractual position. (If this provision had been in effect last year, they say, it would have saved Texas cities more than \$30 million, by allowing them to issue bonds for facilities and services, rather than securing them with general revenue funds or higher interest loans.) The current limitation on the bonded indebtedness that an incorporated area may incur has also caused the creation of many special districts to provide services to citizens. Any indebtedness increasing tax rates would, of course, have to be approved by the voters.

#### AGAINST:

Those who oppose Amendment 8 point out that it would supersede all other provisions to the contrary in the constitution and in any home rule city charter. It would also allow the legislature to fix the limits of authorized bonded indebtedness in any or all incorporated areas. While an election would be required before new bonds could be issued, voters might not be given adequate information about how much their taxes would be increased and could more easily accumulate an unbearable tax burden. Amendment 8 opens the door to the possibility of more taxes in many Texas communities. By changing restrictions from a limit on total taxes to limitations on principal and interest, it becomes more confusing to the voter. Simply stated, there has, in the past, been a constitutional limit on how much the taxpayer could be taxed annually. If Amendment 8 passes, this limitation will be removed and a statutory limit will be set on how much a local government can owe.

Since there is not a regular session of the legislature scheduled until 1975, the limits of local indebtedness would, initially be the same as the limitations imposed on independent school districts. Needs of towns and school districts are quite different. This is not acceptable because new laws affecting school district bonds will also affect municipal bonds. This amendment would also make it possible for local bond limits to be changed at any session of the legislature.



# Coop Taxes Due for Voting <sup>Nov. 2,</sup> 1973

(EDITOR'S NOTE: This is the last of a series of discussions on the nine proposed amendments to the Texas Constitution to be voted on Nov. 6. The discussions are from the Nonpartisan Voters' Guide of the League of Women Voters of Texas and reproduced through the courtesy of that organization)

## Amendment 9

### FOR or AGAINST:

The constitutional amendment authorizing the legislature to exempt from property taxes certain property used by a nonprofit water supply corporation or a nonprofit water supply cooperative.

### EXPLANATION NO. 9:

This amendment to Article VIII of the Texas Constitution, by adding a Section 2c, will allow the legislature to exempt nonprofit water supply corporations or cooperatives from paying property taxes on all real property and all equipment used in the reasonable activities of supplying water to their customers or members. All property used in the acquisition, storage, transportation, sale, and distribution

of water is included.

### FOR:

Those who support Amendment 9 say that since water is one of life's necessities, it is unfair for some Texas citizens to be charged higher rates for water because their suppliers are taxed. Municipal water suppliers are not taxed on the property they hold for use in water supply operations, so consequently their consumers do not have to pay the cost of such taxes. In some cities, water is supplied in part by the city and in part by water supply corporations. In such cases some of the citizens must pay more for their water because of the inability of the city to supply all its citizens. The current situation also penalizes rural water users.

### AGAINST:

Those who oppose Amendment 9 say that it is an instance of special interest exemption and that the revenues lost through such exemption will, of necessity, have to be recouped by a tax increase for all citizens. Though the majority of Texans will not profit from the passage of this amendment, they will end up paying for it.



# Homesteads, Tax Exemptions In Two State Amendments

OCT. 29, 1973

EDITOR'S NOTE: Voters will cast ballots Nov. 6 on nine proposed amendments to the Texas Constitution. To help in an understanding of the issues, the Herald-Press through the courtesy of the League of Women Voters of Texas is publishing that organization's comments taken from their Nonpartisan Voters' Guide.)

## Admendment 2

### FOR or AGAINST:

The constitutional amendment to include within the scope of homestead protection the real property of a single adult person which meets the other requirements of homestead property, and to provide that a family homestead may not be abandoned except with the consent of both spouses.

### EXPLANATION NO. 2:

This amendment to Article XVI, Section 50 and 61, of the Texas Constitution will expand the state's homestead protection to include single adults and will add the requirement that both husband and wife must consent to abandoning a family homestead.

### FOR:

Those who support Amendment 2 say that the homestead exemption now afforded heads of families discriminates against unmarried adults. As unmarried persons must comply with the laws and restrictions imposed on any other property holder in Texas, they should be granted the same immunity and protection under the law. Additionally, this amendment provides that a husband, or wife may not abandon the homestead without the consent of the spouse. This clause prevents one spouse from leaving the other in a bankrupt state and abandoning the homestead to foreclosure, thereby removing the right of the remaining spouse to claim homestead exemption in bankruptcy proceedings.

### AGAINST:

Those who oppose Amendment 2, say that to include unmarried adults in the homestead protection would remove one more of the incentives to continue the family as the basic unit

of our society. This protection was established to keep the family together in its home when financial reverses would have otherwise, caused eviction and foreclosure, not just to allow people to keep something of value safe from foreclosure or seizure for debt. If single adults are to be included, only those who have legal dependents should be eligible.

## Admendment 3

### FOR or AGAINST:

The constitutional amendment to extend the \$3,000 ad valorem tax exemption to the homesteads of unmarried adults.

### EXPLANATION NO. 3:

This amendment to Article VIII, Section 1a and 1b, of the Texas Constitution will expand the \$3,000 exemption from property taxation on homesteads to include the homesteads of single adults.

### FOR:

Those who support Amendment 3 say that there is no good reason to tax the real property of unmarried adults at a higher rate than that of families. Denial of the ad valorem tax exemption to single adults is discriminatory. People who choose not to marry are no longer married should not be penalized by higher taxation. This amendment would also make many senior citizens eligible for the special homestead exemption for those over 65.

### AGAINST:

Those who oppose Amendment 3 say that the single adult can more easily afford the payment of his full share of taxes. Additionally, the loss of revenue through the extension of exemptions would result in a tax increase for everyone. Some critics say that all exemptions are bad, and that inequities in our system point up the need for overall tax reform. Continuation of the exemption system leads to bureaucratic red tape and a heavier tax burden on the middle-class citizen. Taxation should be equal for all and without exemption for family homestead, churches, special interest groups, or unmarried homestead property owners.

*Hal Boule*



# League of Women Voters of Texas

337-1722



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Mrs. Darvin M. Winick, President  
League of Women Voters of Texas

VW/ag





LW of Texas  
October 1973  
Presidents Mailing  
(2 copies)

TO: Local League Presidents and PR Chairmen or Voters Service Chairmen  
FROM: Kathy Leabo, PR Vice President  
RE: Sample Press Release--Spanish Voters Guides

The following sample press release was prepared especially for those Leagues planning to distribute the Spanish Voters Guides. However, any local League is welcome and encouraged to use it if the obvious necessary changes are made--such as deleting the second paragraph and inserting Mrs. Darwin M. Winick, president of the League of Women Voters of Texas, in paragraph three.

In any event, please retype the release for each medium you send it to, inserting local names and rewriting wherever you wish.

\*\*\*\*\*

\_\_\_\_\_(Date)

TO: \_\_\_\_\_(Name of local medium)

FROM: League of Women Voters of \_\_\_\_\_(Your League)

FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL: \_\_\_\_\_(Your PR chairman, or president, or VS chairman, and phone number.)

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS

ISSUES SPANISH VOTERS GUIDES

For the first time in the long history of publishing nonpartisan Voters Guides for constitutional amendment and candidates' elections, the League of Women Voters of Texas has produced a Spanish language Voters Guide. The Guia De Votante, scheduled for October distribution, will cover the Nov. 6 constitutional amendment election.

Mrs. \_\_\_\_\_, president of the League of Women Voters of \_\_\_\_\_, says that \_\_\_\_\_ copies of the Guia De Votante have been ordered for distribution in the \_\_\_\_\_ area. This is in addition to \_\_\_\_\_ copies of the English Voters Guide which the \_\_\_\_\_ League will also distribute.

"We feel the Guia De Votante will be of help to an arm of the electorate that the League, for the most part, has not served in the past," said Mrs. \_\_\_\_\_.



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More than 26,000 copies of this Spanish translation will be distributed throughout Texas. In addition to distribution by local Leagues, selected organizations have been invited to purchase copies to give to their Spanish-speaking members.

By offering its Voters Guide in both English and Spanish, the League hopes to greatly increase the number of voters it reaches in its effort to encourage informed participation in elections. If the Spanish version is well received for the amendment election this fall, the Guides for the primary and general elections next year will also be translated.

Individuals or groups who wish copies of either version of the Voters Guide should contact Mrs. \_\_\_\_\_, Voters Service chairman of the \_\_\_\_\_ League, or write to the League of Women Voters of Texas, Dickinson Plaza Center, Dickinson, Texas 77539. Rates for bulk orders are available while the supply lasts.

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FROM: League of Women Voters of \_\_\_\_\_(Your League)

FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL: \_\_\_\_\_(Your PR chairman, or president, or VS chairman, and phone number.)

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OFFERS  
SPANISH LANGUAGE VOTERS GUIDE

For the first time in the long history of publishing a nonpartisan Voters Guide for constitutional amendment and candidates' elections, the League of Women Voters of Texas has produced a Spanish language Voters Guide in addition to its usual English version.

Called the Guia De Votante, it will cover the nine proposed constitutional amendments appearing on the November 6 ballot. More than 25,000 copies will be distributed throughout Texas during October. At the same time, some 200,000 English Guides will be distributed.

In announcing the Spanish Guide, Mrs. T. R. Coker, Voters Service chairman of the state League, said, "We feel the Guia De Votante will reach an arm of the electorate that the League, for the most part, has not served in the past."

Included in the Guide is the ballot wording, an explanation, and arguments for and against each of the amendments to be decided by the voters this November. It is a translation of a somewhat simplified version of the English Voters Guide, Mrs. Coker explained.

Leagues in 43 local communities, will distribute the Guia to Spanish-speaking voters in their areas. Selected organizations have also been invited to purchase copies to give to their Spanish-speaking members.

The Spanish translation is also being taped for any radio station wishing to air it as a public service program. Cassette tape versions will be available for group presentation.

Individuals or groups who wish copies of either version of the Voters Guide should write to the League of Women Voters of Texas, Dickinson Plaza Center, Dickinson, Texas 77539. Rates for bulk orders are available while the supply lasts.



By offering its Voters Guide in both English and Spanish, the League hopes to greatly increase the number of voters it reaches in its effort to encourage informed participation in elections. If the Spanish version is well received for this election, the Voters Guides for the primary and general elections next year will also be translated.

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\*\*\*\*\*  
League of Women Voters  
4751 Bucknell, Garland, Texas 75040 (214) 276-0797  
September 27, 1973

State Senator Ron Clower  
Capitol Bldg.  
Austin, Texas 78701

Dear Senator Clower,

Thanks so much for your help in gathering the information that I needed to do the VOTERS GUIDE for the Constitutional Amendment Election. I really appreciated you having John get the analysis done by the Legislative Council to me so quickly.

Enclosed are a couple of copies of the VOTERS GUIDE. We have not yet been able to get them all printed for distribution due to the paper shortage. I did have a few hundred copies done and thought that you and John should have copies to see that your contribution to its final production was really helpful.

Hope you and your family are well. I haven't seen Virginia for some time, but I hope that is because of her usual busy schedule.

Next time I see you I hope you can tell me why Oscar is so opposed to an appointed judiciary. I heard on the news that he thought the Dallas Bar Assn. was doing the report card thing in a backdoor attempt to get judges appointed.

Thanks again.

Sincerely,

Jo Coker  
Voters Service Director  
League of Women Voters of Texas

®



## *League of Women Voters*

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INDUSTRY SPONSORS

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# League of Women Voters of Texas

OCT - 1 1973



DICKINSON PLAZA CENTER • DICKINSON, TEXAS 77539 • 713 534-3323

MRS. DARVIN M. WINICK, PRESIDENT

September 26, 1973

To: All Local League Presidents  
(Please notify your Voters Service Chairmen.)

Due to the paper shortage the VOTERS GUIDE and GUIA DE VOTANTE are still waiting at the printers to be run as soon as sufficient paper arrives. However, I fear that we will not have them printed in time to meet our October 1st commitment to you.

Once again I have been assured that enough paper to complete our run will arrive before the week is out, but since this is based on promises from the paper companies to the printer I would not wish to depend on that. (Similar promises have resulted in six delays so far.)

To minimize your inconvenience I had a few copies of the English version GUIDE printed. I hope that the copies enclosed will help your speakers bureau meet any early commitments they may have. I feel sure that you will receive your complete order of VOTERS GUIDES shortly.

If I can be of further assistance, please contact me. I regret any inconvenience this delay may cause you, but this situation falls beyond the realm of my control.

Sincerely,

*Jo Coker*

Mrs. Thomas R. Coker  
Voters Service Director



DALLAS

FORT WORTH

SAN ANTONIO



DALLAS  
MAIN OFFICE  
801 CORE ST

*Spanish Language Newspapers*  
P.O. BOX 1742 • DALLAS, TEXAS 75201

747-2820 747-0117  
747-2223 747-2221

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS

DICKINSON CENTER PLAZA

DICKINSON, TEXAS 75539

STATEMENT

DATE	NUMBER	DESCRIPTION	AMOUNT
Oct. 10, 73	1	Spanish Typesetting Work.	\$30. 00

MUCHAS GRACIAS



# League of Women Voters of Texas

337-1722

DICKINSON PLAZA CENTER • DICKINSON, TEXAS 77539 • 713 534-3323



MRS. DARVIN M. WINICK, PRESIDENT

September 6, 1973

Dear Sir:

We are pleased to announce that the League of Women Voters, for the first time, is able to offer our nonpartisan VOTERS GUIDE in Spanish. The QUIA DE VOTANTE will cover the Constitutional Amendment Election scheduled for November 6, 1973.

Of course, we hope that our first offering of our GUIA DE VOTANTE will see wide circulation and the popular acceptance that our VOTERS GUIDE has for years received. With this in mind, we felt that one of the best ways to achieve wide distribution would be by allowing organizations, such as yours, to purchase the GUIA DE VOTANTE in any quantity at the same cost we make these available to our own local Leagues.

The cost is \$17 per thousand. They will be shipped prepaid to any address (except a post office box. Post office boxes are not acceptable for motor freight delivery.) We anticipate delivery before the first of October.

Included in the GUIA will be the ballot wording, an explanation, and the arguments for and against each of the nine constitutional amendments to be decided by the voters this November. These amendments are receiving very little publicity and are, in several cases, quite confusing.

The purpose of the League of Women Voters is to encourage informed participation of citizens in their government. It is to this purpose that the VOTERS GUIDE and the GUIA DE VOTANTE are dedicated. We welcome your orders and feel sure that your members will welcome this helpful publication in their homes.

Cordially,  
*Darvin M. Winick*

Mrs. Darvin M. Winick, President  
League of Women Voters of Texas

VW/ag



# League of Women Voters of Texas

SEP 4 1972



DICKINSON PLAZA CENTER • DICKINSON, TEXAS 77539 • 713 534-3323


MRS. DARVIN M. WINICK, PRESIDENT

~~July~~ July 1, 1973

Mrs. T.R. Coker  
[Redacted Address]

Dear Jo,

Enclosed is a list of Mexican-American groups as promised. It turned out to be much harder to compile than I had suspicioned. I have my doubts as to whether this Nov. issue of the Voters' Guide will be our most popular issue. It isn't exactly full of sensational political issues this time, is it? Which is just to say that I would not despair if the response from these groups is not overwhelming. It should bring them to an awareness of LWV and what we do and that we are trying to do it in Sp. too.

I presume you will be sending these people a letter to seek their commitment to buy or whatever. If you feel it would be helpful, use my name (as Mrs. Richard Avena). Most of them know either me or my husband. That might make them feel at home. I would personally expect the best response from Dr. Hector Garcia. He is founder of the G.I. Forum. He is not now State President, so you might ask that he forward your letter to the proper person. Although he is not president, he usually retains control, to a certain degree. Also, FAMA and MAUC might buy some, as well as the Commission for Mexican-American Affairs. 

I've never had time to look them up, but there is such a thing as Spanish-speaking media--newspapers, radio, etc. Somebody, somewhere must have a list. Have you tried El Sol in Dallas?

Another matter: Tx. Women's Political Caucus has its state convention here on Aug. 17-19. Wouldn't this be a good place to test your plan of selling LWV publications? If you think so, write: Ms. Jane Macon, 224 W. Craig, San Antonio, Tx., 78212, for arrangements. They are rather dis-organized at this point, but the plans now call for allowing women's groups free exhibit space. Perhaps you could contact S.A. LWV for volunteers to (wo)man the booth. Our League is rather dormant during the summer. I suspect someone would have time.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Richard Avena



13. Carlos Cantu, Jr.  
Manpower EODC  
1104 Salinas  
Laredo, Texas  
RA 2-7671 (ofc)
- ✓ 14. Dr. Jose Cardenas  
Texas for Educational Excellence  
214 Dwyer Suite 309  
San Antonio, Tex 78204  
224-0033
15. Dr. Romero Casso  
[REDACTED]
16. Mr. Martin Castillo  
Cabinet Committee on Opportunity for the Spanish Speaking  
1800 C. St N.W. Suite 712  
WashingtonDC 20506  
202-382-6651
17. Cesar Chavez UFWOC  
[REDACTED] [REDACTED]
18. Boren Chertkov  
Council Senate Subcommittee  
Migratory Labor  
252 Old Senate Ofc Bldg  
Washington DC 202-225-4538
19. Reynaldo De la Cruz  
Colorado Migrant Council  
McAllen Tex (no phone no. avail.)
20. Abelardo Delgado  
Colorado Migrant Council  
Denver Colo  
303-892-6911
21. U.S. Catholic Conference  
Division for Spanish Speaking  
401 International Bldg  
318 W. Houston - phone 225-3207  
San Antonio, Tex  
Mr. Abrego Reg Dir
22. Jim Drake  
Farm Workers Union  
Phoenix Arizona  
FTS: 8-602-261-3900  
Non-FTS: 602-1887 or 1783
23. Ruben Lopez, Supt  
Edgewood Independent School District  
5358 W. Commerce St.  
San Antonio 78237  
433-2361
- ✓ 24. Farm Workers (Migrant)  
International Bldg  
San Antonio, Texas 78205  
223-3371 (Bill Chandler)  
(John Dauer)
- ✓ 25. Federation for the Advancement of Mexican Americans  
(FAMA)  
2321 W. Commerce St.  
San Antonio, Tex 78207  
Genaro Garcia Ex Dir  
226-6565
- ✓ 26. Federation Migrant Project  
1147A Cupples Rd.  
San Antonio 78226  
434-9391
- ✓ 27. Bishop Patrick Flores  
[REDACTED]
- ✓ 28. Rev Robert S. Flores OFM  
Associate Director  
Texas Conference of Churches  
Valley Ofc 309 North Cage  
Pharr, Tex 78577  
512-787-6571
- ✓ 29. Dr. Hector P. Garcia  
[REDACTED]
30. Tony Garcia  
Southwest Education Dev Lab  
Austin Tex  
476-6861
31. Dr. Severo Gomez  
Director  
Ofc of International and  
Bilingual Education  
Texas Education Agency  
201 E. 11th St  
Austin, Tex 78701  
475-3651
32. Educational Systems Corp  
Andy Gonzalez, Director  
Kallison Professional Bldg  
San Antonio  
222-0168 222-0169
33. Josue Gonzalez  
Bi-Cultural Curricula Network  
419 S. Main Room 335  
San Antonio 78204  
224-1819
34. Augusto Guerra  
Region I Education Svc Cntr  
Migrant Division  
Edinburg, Tex  
512-383-5318
- ✓ 35. Jesus Hernandez  
Laredo Migrant Aids  
1502 Main St  
Laredo Tex 78040  
722-7644



Go  
Only the checked ✓ ones are a possibility  
page 1  
Lynda

SEP 4 1972

Conference on Migrant and Bilingual Education:

Attached is a list of organizations and community groups that should be contacted:

1. Alamo Area Council of Governments (AACOG)

118 Broadway, San Antonio, Texas  
225-5201

Contact Al Cervera or Al Natzen. I would also suggest that you look into the possibilities of inviting these regional organizations. Both Arizona, and New Mexico also have such groups.

2. Mathew H. Ahmann

Associate Director  
Governmental Relations  
National Conference of Catholic Aharities  
1346 Connecticut Ave Suite 307  
Washington DC 20036 202-785-2757

3. Erasmio Andrade

FAMA 226-6565  
Crystal City 374-3616 School  
374-2707 Municipal Court

4. Bob Apodaca

President NOSOTROS  
1413 N. Wilton Place  
Hollywood, California 213-465-6074

5. Polly Baca Barragan

former associate Southwest Conference of La Raza  
Democratic National Committee  
2600 Virginia Ave. N.W.  
Washington DC 20007 202-333-8750

6. Mac lovio Barraza

Southwest Council of La Raza  
Room 416 11 West Jefferson St  
Phoenix, Arizona 602-252-7401 zip: 85003  
Tucson: 602-622-2855

7. Barrio Betterment

San Antonio-Leonard Anguiano 224-2081

8. Barrios Unidos

San Antonio - Mariano Aguilar  
434-5624

✓ 9. Herminia Becerra

Director Multi Services Center  
1055 Military Highway  
Brownsville, Tex LI 6-4105

10. Interstate Research

Rick Bela - Director  
2001 Wisconsin Ave N.W.  
Suite 260  
Washington DC 20007  
phone: 8-900-965-4700 direct dial

Interstate also has offices in San Francisco, Dallas, and San Antonio

✓ 11. Joe J. Bernal

1514 Buena Vista  
Commission for Mexican-American Affairs  
San Antonio, Texas 78207  
phone: 224-4244

✓ 12. Mario Compian

San Antonio, Tex 78237  
435-1601 (ofc)



- ✓ 36. Leon M. Hernandez  
Director, Operation SER  
1515 Saltillo St  
San Antonio, Tex 78207  
434-9491
37. Nick Juarez  
SER National Office  
1506 3rd St  
Santa Monica, Calif 90401  
213-394-3715
38. David Lopez  
AFLCIO  
Houston, Tex  
713-464-9046
- ✓ 39. Mexican-American Unity Council (MAUC)  
615 Perez  
San Antonio, Tex 78207  
225-4241 Juan J. Patlan
40. Dr. Steve Moreno  
Education Dept  
San Diego State College  
San Diego, Calif 92115  
714-286-6110 (ofc)
- ✓ 41. Tony Ovendain  
United Farmworkers Organizing Committee  
2103 Chicago Street - McAllen, Texas  
682-6144
- ✓ 42. Colonias De Valle  
P. O. Box 907  
San Juan Texas  
787-6081 Pharr  
787-9901 San Juan  
383-2751 Edinburg
43. Santos J. Ruiz  
AFLCIO  
815 Sixteenth St N.W  
Washington DC 20006  
202-293-5276
- ✓ 44. Mrs. Maria Elena Salinas  
Texas State Auxiliary Chairman  
American G.I. Forum  
Kingsville, Tex  
LV 2-6700
45. Homer Segala  
School Superintendent  
San Felipe School District  
Del Rio Tex  
512-775-2251
46. Southwest PROGRAM Development Corp  
P.O. Box 5600  
San Antonio Tex 78201  
696-7230 Pepe Lucero/Mac Ramirez
47. Southwestern Cooperative Educational Laboratory  
1404 San Mateo Blvd St  
Albuq, New Mex 87108  
505-265-9561
48. Texans for Educational Advance of Mexican Americans (TEAM)  
401 International Bldg  
San Antonio  
224-4245 Ruben Flores



19 August 1973

AUG 21 1973

To: Coker cc: SO, Anderson, Leabo  
From: Mary Sieber  
Re: Voters Guide

The analyses (or explanations) are essential. I have edited on that basis, deleting explanatory material in the For and Against arguments that duplicates what is said in the analyses.

I am unhappy with the copy for amendments 4 and 8. That for no. 4 doesn't jibe with my memory of Dot Schmidt's copy for the VOTER, and since the League is supporting this one, I think it behooves us to have the For arguments really well honed. As written, they seem as much a criticism of special districts in general as a justification of the amendment, which has to do with restrictions on certain kinds of special districts. I have done some rewriting but without any real knowledge of what the amendment provides in fact, so please regard my efforts as just an intermediary draft.

The copy for no. 8, especially the For arguments, just does not add up. More background information on cities' current taxing power (limitations) and bond-issuing capabilities needs to be given, as well as more explanation as to why this amendment would have the effects that are asserted. The copy as written assumes the possession of background information on municipal financing that the average citizen (that's me) doesn't have.

According to the constitution (Article V, Sec. 15) and my knowledge of the court system in Harris County, the county court is a court of record. Please check me on this (as on any changes that I have made), but I've gone ahead and removed the de novo argument *in the copy for amendment 6.*

In the copy for no. 9, at the end of the For section, I've suggested adding the sentence--The current situation also penalizes rural water users.--to incorporate Betty's suggestion.

Wouldn't it be lovely to have a constitution that didn't need amending?

M

Thanks, Ann, for the Reader and the authoritative copy of the constitution. They came just at the right time to help with the VG checking.



Aug 17, 1973 ✓

AUG 20 1973

To: Jo Coker cc: SO  
From: Betty Anderson  
Re: Amendment 9

My water contact here sent me the latest newsletter of the Texas Assn. of Rural Water Corporations. This organization initiated the action for Amendment 9.

Their pro arguments go like this:

"1. Favorable passage of Amendment Nine gives the Texas Legislature authority to write enabling legislation that corrects problems in taxation that hinders rural areas.

2. Non-profit water corporations are in business to serve their members domestic water. Their operation is similar to municipal systems and water districts; however, they are taxed and do not have the power to tax.

3. Non-profit rural water corporations developed through local leadership interested in development of their community and rural Texas.

4. Non-profit rural water corporations borrowed to build their system and they are repaying the loan and interest through water sales only to their member-owners.

5. When non-profit rural water corporations form, land values in the area increase. By taxing the system and the increased land values, double taxation is unfairly being imposed.

6. The average minimum bill for rural water corporation member-owner-consumers is \$8.50 for the first 3,000 gallons of water--additional tax load burdens the consumer-owners and hinders development of Texas. )

You may already have the Guide at the printers, but I thought I would pass this along.

Tex. Assn of Rural Water Corp., P.O. Box 9651, Austin, 78757  
A/c 512--452-9188

®



To: Mary Sieber cc. S.O., Anderson, Leabo

AUG 15 1973

From: Coker

Re: Copy for V.G.

Here it is, better late than never. The typewriter I was using in Houston went zonk, my son took the mumps, I in my usual clever way managed to break my toe, so I decided to go on to the sunny beach and finish this up when I got home. I don't particularly like what I have on number 9 and Betty A. said she'd try to find out something more or better in her area and send it to you. Do what you think is best. When you finish with this please send one copy to Mrs. Geneva Gomez, 952 Houston Road, San Marcus, Texas 78666. I'll call her and go over it with her when I get my copy back from you. The main reason that I enclosed the fillers and headings etc., is for her to have them to translate. If you have any others that you'd like included please feel free.

I'm sorry that I was unable to give you the extra week that you had thought that you would have, however Veta gave us all a break by not promising the LLs too early a delivery date.

The State Program folder is underway and the designer at the printers is helping out to make it all fit. Maybe it'll all work out.

Love,

jo



San Antonio, Texas 78207

Mr. Hernandez, Exec. Dir.  
Hispanic Center  
1000 N. Nueces St.  
San Antonio, Texas 78207

Mr. Rodriguez  
Holy of Guadalupe Church  
1000 N. Nueces St.  
San Antonio, Texas 78207

Mr. F. Rodriguez  
Executive Director  
1000 N. Nueces St.  
San Antonio, Texas 78207

Mr. Rod Radle  
Executive Director  
City Development, Inc.  
1000 N. Nueces St.  
San Antonio, Texas 78207

Mr. F. Rodriguez  
1000 N. Nueces St.  
San Antonio, Texas 78207

Commission for the Advancement  
of Mexican Americans  
1000 N. Nueces St.  
San Antonio, Texas 78207

Mr. F. Rodriguez, Jr. Exec. Director  
1000 N. Nueces Bldg., 211 E. Commerce  
San Antonio, Texas 78205

Mr. F. Rodriguez, Outreach  
Coordinator  
1000 N. Nueces Bldg., 211 E. Commerce  
San Antonio, Texas 78205

Mr. F. Rodriguez, Retirement and  
Pension Corporation  
1000 N. Nueces Bldg., 211 E. Commerce  
San Antonio, Texas 78205

Mr. F. Rodriguez, Neighborhood  
Development  
1000 N. Nueces Bldg., 211 E. Commerce  
San Antonio, Texas 78205

Community Welfare Council  
Suite 512, Three Americas Bldg.  
118 N. Broadway  
San Antonio, Texas 78205

United Communities Development  
Corporation  
P.O. Box 37066  
San Antonio, Texas 78237

Wesley Community Center  
150 Colima Street  
San Antonio, Texas 78207

Collegio Jacinto Trevino  
Domingo Bueno  
P.O. Box 7370  
San Antonio, Texas 78207

J. Richard Arena, Director  
United States Commission on  
Civil Rights  
106 N. Broadway, Room 249  
San Antonio, Texas 78205

Madonna Neighborhood Centers  
Sister Mary Constance-Exec. Dir.  
1506 Castroville Road  
San Antonio, Texas 78237

Mr. David Andrews  
Acting Director  
SUDC  
P.O. Box 9326  
San Antonio, Texas 78204

Mr. Phillip R. Acosta  
Executive Director  
House of Neighborly Service  
407 N. Calaveras  
San Antonio, Texas 78207

Mr. Al Abrego  
Executive Director  
Guadalupe Community Center  
1801 Durango St.  
San Antonio, Texas 78207

Citizens of Columbia Heights  
Edward Garcia  
1529 Brington  
San Antonio, Texas 78211

Mr. Ernesto Gonzalez  
1000 N. Nueces Bldg., Suite 621  
San Antonio, Texas 78207

Mr. Severo Rodriguez  
Project Officer  
HDC Migrant Project  
P.O. Box 9326  
San Antonio, Texas 78204

Mr. Severo Rodriguez  
Project Officer  
HDC Migrant Project  
P.O. Box 9326  
San Antonio, Texas 78204

Concentrated Employment Program  
Administrative Offices  
410 S. Main  
San Antonio, Texas

Mr. Richard B. Gonzalez  
Project SURE  
426 So. Laredo  
San Antonio, Texas 78204

Ernest Berets  
Juan Guajardo  
3123 Colima Street  
San Antonio, Texas 78207

Mr. Richard Gallegos  
Project Detour  
214 Dwyer  
San Antonio, Texas 78204

Federation Migrant Program  
2327 Castroville Rd.  
San Antonio, Texas

Mr. Domingo Bueno, Exec. Dir.  
Child Advocacy Project  
1506 S. W. 19th St.  
San Antonio, Texas 78207

People's Community Development  
Corporation  
4225 W. Commerce St.  
San Antonio, Texas 78207

Commission for Mexican American  
Affairs  
1514 Buena Vista St.  
San Antonio, Texas 78207



Research Associates Corporation  
Commerce Bldg. rm 608 Mr. Edmundo Zaragosa  
101 N. St. Mary's Street 1924 Palo Alto  
San Antonio, Texas 78205 San Antonio, Texas 78211

Fernando Rodriguez House of Neighborly Service  
Amer. Federation of Gov't Emp 407 N. Calaveras  
P.O. Box V San Antonio, Texas 78207  
San Antonio, Texas 78211

Mr. Dan Medina  
Executive Director  
Harley Community Centers  
1406 Fitch  
San Antonio, Texas 78211

Project Stay  
Mr. Oscar Hernandez  
1302 Guadalupe St.  
San Antonio, Texas 78207

J. Valdez  
Spanish Speaking Housing  
Development Corporation  
1415 Tower Life Bldg.  
San Antonio, Tex 78205

LULAC  
P.O. Box 7010  
San Antonio, Texas

West Corporation  
12 S. Zarzamora St.  
San Antonio, Texas 78207

Wood Community Center  
John F. Wandless, Exec. Dir.  
10 N. Main  
San Antonio, Texas 78212

G. I. Forum  
Central Chapter  
435 Culebra  
San Antonio, Texas

Montez  
Executive Director  
Model Cities  
322 Buena Vista  
San Antonio, Texas 78207

Project Free  
Ms. Nancy Bohman  
15 Nebraska  
San Antonio, Texas

Esther Moreno  
United Youth Corporation  
1013 Castroville Rd.  
San Antonio, Texas 78237

San Antonio, Texas

Southside Concerned Parents  
Carol Bannion  
3825 S.W. Military Dr.  
San Antonio, Texas

Arnold Flores  
Service Employees Union  
2506 Buena Vista  
San Antonio, Texas 78207

Bexar County Migrant Farm Workers  
Association  
2327 Castroville Rd.  
San Antonio, Texas 78237

Ella Austin Community Center  
Delores Brantley  
1912 Burnet  
San Antonio, Texas 78202

United Businessmen of San  
Mrs. Julie Marquez  
3322 W. Commerce St.  
San Antonio, Texas 78207

Bilingual Bi-Cultural Coalition  
on Mass Media  
3019 W. French Place.  
San Antonio, Texas



*N. Guider*  
*Nov. 73*

JUN 19 1973

June 15, 1973

To: Jo Coker, Voter Service cc: SO, Anderson, Leabo, Higgins, Hunter, Jochim  
From: Brasher

Re: Proposed Amendments to be voted on in November 1973.

I have had one H--- of a time since the close of the session trying to get information from the last days of the session....It has taken phone calls, several trips (rather futile) to Austin)....and hot and sweaty trips to the now practically empty Capitol. ESI admitted even their information is not reliable...the hot line is no longer existent, and in order to get copies of the bills as finally passed (plus the reform bills) We had to pay \$9.65! A new memo was circulated immediately after the close of the session that no free copies of the bills would be available any longer....5 cents per page.... some bills are 80 plus long....Even ESI has to pay for them, but since I think it is imperative that we have final copies of these amendments and some of the other bills, I told them to just charge us for them if they could get them.

Anyway, Jo, I am sending along what I gathered up yesterday. There are still three others that I will try to get next week.

Veta....did you say Darv subscribes to the Texas Legislative Service? Perhaps he could pass on the blue book on the pros and cons of the proposed amendments that they usually put out to Jo. After the hassles we have had with ESI I am convinced we made a mistake switching, unless they do something about this bill situation. I never dreamed it would be so frustrating! We have nearly run ourselves to death. And the Senate distribution will only allow one copy of a bill...and that with ugly glares. I was so mad Thursday, I learned that Joe Allen who is on the House administration committee was in his office, so I went in to see him to make a complaint about the unavailability of bills (the taxpayers lament). Well, by the time he got through explaining how much this all was costing (\$400 or \$500) per month) there was not much I could say. They just don't have the money to continue the practice....especially when all of the agencies want as much as 200 copies of a bill! Imagine...why can't they make copies on their own? Before I could ask him that, he got called for a long distance call (Lynn Ashby of Houston Post) and was still talking when I walked out the door.... I caught enough of the conversation to know that Ashby was questioning him on the fine details of the proposed constitutional amendment on salaries and per diem.

Now that my complaints have been aired...let's get down to business....

The proposals to be on the ballot are as follows:

- HJR 6 by Williams. To provide for an additional \$100 million in bonds or obligations of the State of Texas for the Veterans Land Fund.
- HJR 7 by Miller. To include within the scope of homestead protection the real property of a single adult person which meets the other requirements of homestead property, and to provide that a family homestead may not be abandoned except with the consent of both spouses.
- SJR 1 by Schwartz. Putting water districts under the general laws and providing notice to cities and counties. \*



SJR 8 by Gammage. To provide for annual regular sessions of the legislature, and to provide an annual salary and per diem for the members of the legislature. (SUPPORT)

SJR 12 by Schwartz. Proposing an amendment to Section 7, Article XI of the Constitution of the State of Texas; amending Section 7 to provide that certain counties and cities bordering on the Gulf of Mexico may levy a tax to pay for bonds issued for the construction of seawalls and breakwaters upon the vote of the resident property taxpayers voting in an election.

SJR 13 by Jones. Proposing amendments to Article VIII, Sections 1-a and 1-b, of the Texas Constitution, to extend the \$3,000 ad valorem tax exemption to the homesteads of unmarried adults.

SJR 25 by Traeger. Proposing an amendment to Article VIII of the Texas Const. by adding a Section 2c authorizing the legislature to exempt certain water supply corporations and cooperatives from the property tax on certain facilities. (Vote no)

SJR 26 by Wallace. Giving district courts concurrent jurisdiction with county courts on probate matters; giving legislature authority to change jurisdiction on probate.

SJR 29 by Traeger. Authorizing cities to levy sufficient ad valorem taxes to pay general obligation bonds.

\* We have established a support position on SJR 8, but (Hunter and Higgins) what about SJR 1? This one got by me, I'm sorry to say. It is certainly something we could support under our position on proliferation of special districts in my opinion. Do we need to make a decision now, or should we defer until Sept. board meeting? You're the boss now!

Unfortunately, that is one of the resolutions that we haven't gotten yet. When I can (next week) I will get copies for VS, EQ, and SJR.

Jo, if you need any background info if you do pros and cons, you might try asking the Executive Information Network (they have changed their name) to do this research for you. They said they would be glad to dig out anything we wanted. After everyone gets over the crunch of the final days of the session, it won't be so hectic, and we can proceed more methodically (hopefully).

It has been a long, long session. I am bone tired, and still up to my neck sorting out last minute notes which got buried under files, boxes, etc. from the moving. I hope to get out the Newsletter next week. Don't have a thought in my head for the July Voter, but will try to come up with something this weekend. Marti will kill me!

Love to all.....

P. S. Address for EIN is: Suite 207, Westgate Building, Austin 78701  
Lehmann Marks, Director, is out for two weeks on National Guard duty, and the chief secretary has been sick in bed for a week (I can understand why.)

P.S. #2 I think SJR 4 also passed, but in very skeleton form. I do not have a copy of this or SJR 1, 8, 12 & 13 as finally passed. Will try to get next week sometime.



LWV of Texas  
June 29, 1970

To: State Board  
From: Jo Coker

Re: Request from Tarrant Co. LWV

At Veta's request I am polling the board about the copyright of the VOTERS GUIDE. Tarrant County has had troubles with another group using the name to circulate partisan information prior to elections and they wrote to national about it.

Mrs. Benson replied that they should apply for a copyright for their local VOTERS GUIDE, and they in turn have asked us to do the same for the state VOTERS GUIDE. The cost is very small and with the help of a friendly lawyer, I am sure we could have this done for less than twenty dollars. (Probably less than \$10.)

Please tear off the bottom of this memo and return it to me with your opinion.

-----

\_\_\_\_\_ Yes, go ahead with the copyright procedure.

\_\_\_\_\_ No, wait until after the September board meeting.

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LWV of Texas  
July 1973  
Presidents Mailing  
2 copies

To: Local League Presidents & Voters Service Chairmen  
From: Mrs. Jo Coker, Voters Service Chm.  
Re: Voters Guides, November 1973

ATTENTION!

ATTENTION!

ATTENTION!

ATTENTION!

It's really going to happen. The VOTERS GUIDE (GUIA DE VOTANTE) is available in English and Spanish version for the first time this year. Plan to make every effort to use both versions in your communities. The League will be more visible in the Mexican-American communities and the community as a whole will profit from this expansion of League services.

The cost to the local Leagues of the VOTERS GUIDE (GUIA DE VOTANTE) will be \$17 per thousand including freight charges. As in the past the request is being made that all orders be returned to the state office prepaid. (You may order direct shipment of orders of either version of the Guide to any address.)

The deadline for orders will be August 15. It is necessary for us to have that information so we can have the proper amount printed. You will receive shipment in the last half of September.

Remember that the GUIA DE VOTANTE will reach an arm of the electorate that the League, for the most part, has not served in the past. If it is well received for the amendment election this fall, we can expect even greater success with the primary and general election VOTERS GUIDES next year. To reach a new market for our services, we must see to it that samples of our wares reach the consumers.

It's up to you!

---

ORDER FROM FOR VOTERS GUIDES  
1973 Constitutional Amendment Election

To: League of Women Voters of Texas, Dickinson Plaza Center, Dickinson, TX 77539

The League of Women Voters of \_\_\_\_\_ requests that

\_\_\_\_\_ VOTERS GUIDES (English language version) and \_\_\_\_\_ GUIA DE VOTANTE  
(Spanish language version) be shipped to: (post office boxes are not acceptable  
addresses for motor freight delivery)

Order date: \_\_\_\_\_

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_  
(name & portfolio)

Deadline for return: August 15, 1973



JUL 26 1973

24 July 1973

To: Jo Coker, cc: SO

From Barbara Glickman

Re: VOTERS GUIDE Pres and Con

Received your note and the three amendments. Appreciate your consideration of my lack of experience etc.

Jo, is there anyway you can get someone else to take care of the water corps and co-ops. I know nothing about the subject and have no idea where to turn to get the info. I really hate to say can't but I am snowed trying to meet deadlines for this FSC study.

Please give me another chance in the future. Maybe Meg Titus can take care. Water is her thing, and she's well informed on the subject.

See you soon.

®



V. Guiden


JUL 10 1973

July 1, 1973

Mrs. T.R. Coker  
[REDACTED]

Dear Jo,

Enclosed is a list of Mexican-American groups as promised. It turned out to be much harder to compile than I had suspicioned. I have my doubts as to whether this Nov. issue of the Voters' Guide will be our most popular issue. It isn't exactly full of sensational political issues this time, is it? Which is just to say that I would not despair if the response from these groups is no overwhelming. It should bring them to an awareness of LWV and what we do and that we are trying to do it in Sp. &c.



I presume you will be sending these people a letter to seek their commitment to buy or whatever. If you feel it would be helpful, use my name (as Mrs. Richard Avena). Most of them know either me or my husband. That might make them feel at home. I would personally expect the best response from Dr. Hector Garcia. He is founder of the G.I. Forum. He is not now State President, so you might ask that he forward your letter to the proper person. Although he is not president, he usually retains control, to a certain degree. Also, FAMA and MAUC might buy some, as well as the Commission for Mexican-American Affairs. 

I've never had time to look them up, but there is such a thing as Spanish-speaking media--newspapers, radio, etc. Somebody, somewhere must have a list. Have you tried El Sol in Dallas?

Another matter: Tx. Women's Political Caucus has its state convention here on Aug. 17-19. Wouldn't this be a good place to test your plan of selling LWV publications? If you think so, write: Ms. Jane Macon, 224 W. Craig, San Antonio, Tx., 78212, for arrangements. They are rather dis-organized at this point, but the plans now call for allowing women's groups free exhibit space. Perhaps you could contact S.A. LWV for volunteers to (wo)man the booth. Our League is rather dormant during the summer. I suspect someone should have time.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Richard Avena

cc:  
Anderson   
State Office 

®



*r. Bunker*

JUL 12 1973

June 28, 1973

Mrs. Geneva Gomez

[REDACTED]

Dear Mrs. Gomez,

I would like to take this method of formally accepting you gracious offer to do the Spanish language translation of the VOTERS GUIDE for the election this fall. I had hoped to have copies of all the proposed amendments to send along with this letter, however, I will send you what I have now and the rest will follow. For several years we have had requests for a Spanish language version of the VOTERS GUIDE, but until now no Leaguer who was qualified has offered her skills and we have been naturally reluctant to use a non-League person to translate. We are very pleased to at last be able to fill this gap in Voters Service and are delighted that you are willing to work with us on this project.

Chris says that things in Austin are very confused and as yet there are three amendments of which we have no copies. I am trying to get them from here and Chris is trying to get them for us from there. I will enclose a copy of the wording on the amendments that I have and you will be able to start with them. I will get the copy on the Pros and Cons to the editor and back to you as soon as I get them prepared.

I will be shooting for an August 20th date to go to the printers. The final copy of each version should be in my hands a couple of days before that date. The order forms for VGs will go out of State Office in the next two weeks and it will have an August 10th date. From those orders we should be able to get a good idea of the number of Spanish guides to order.

Chris and I are hoping to get together in late July on the coast and if it is possible for me to come back through San Marcos I will call you and we can get together for a little while. If you have any questions please write me and I'll do my best to supply the answers. Please do let me know if your vacation will fall between mid-July and mid-August. If it does we will need to rearrange the proposed schedule so it won't interfere.

Since you are working on this project with us, I would like for you to be recognized for your efforts by joining the off-Board Voters Service Committee. Everything published by the League is anonymous but as the off-Board committees are recognized in Board Reports and in Convention or Council material, it gives other League members the opportunity to know who has worked on which projects.

Thanks so much for your help and I am looking forward to working with you on this and hopefully many other projects.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Thomas R. Coker

[REDACTED]



H.J.R.6

For or Against the proposition:

The constitutional amendment to provide for an additional \$100 million in bonds or obligations of the State of Texas for the Veterans' Land Fund.

H.J.R.7

For or Against the proposition:

The constitutional amendment to include within the scope of homestead protection ~~property~~ property of a single adult person which meets the other requirements of homestead property, and to provide that a family homestead may not be abandoned except with the consent of both spouses.

S.J.R.25

For or Against the proposition:

The constitutional amendment authorizing the legislature to exempt from property taxes certain property used by a nonprofit water supply corporation or a nonprofit water supply cooperative.

S.J.R.26

For or Against the proposition:

The constitutional amendment stating that the district court concurrently with the county court shall have the general jurisdiction of a probate court, and providing the jurisdiction thereof, and further providing that in any probate proceeding the district court shall also have jurisdiction otherwise conferred upon it by law, and further providing that the legislature may increase, diminish or eliminate the jurisdiction of the district court or county court in probate matters, and further providing that the legislature shall have power to adopt rules governing the filing, distribution and transfer of all such cases and proceedings as between district courts, county courts, and other courts having jurisdiction thereof, and further providing that the legislature may provide that all appeals in such matters shall be to the courts of (civil) appeals.

S.J.R.29

For or Against the proposition:

The constitutional amendment to authorize cities, towns, and villages to levy such ad valorem taxes as are sufficient to pay the principal of and interest on their general obligations hereafter issued subject to the restrictions provided by law.

I know what the other amendments are about but I don't as yet have the ballot wording or copies of the amendments. When I get them I'll send them to you. The H.J.R.'s and the S.J.R.'s will change to Amendment 1 through Amendment 9. Don't know what the order will be yet.

c.c. State Office, Leabo, file



SEP 4 1972

August 23, 1973

Mrs. John C. Kidwell  
[REDACTED]

Dear Mrs. Kiwell,

The request of the Tarrant County League of Women Voters to Copyright the state VOTERS GUIDE was forwarded to me and a poll of the State Board was made. It was agreed that the up-coming edition and all future additions would be copyrighted.

Problems similar to the ones you recounted have come up before in other League communities in Texas. The solution you made is a logical remedy and not complicated to achieve.

Thank you for the suggestion and I hope that our implementation of it together with your own Copyright of the Tarrant County VOTERS GUIDE will eliminate any other problems in this area in the future.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Thomas R. Coker  
Voters Service Director  
League of Women Voters of Texas

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