

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF FREEPORT

Freeport, Texas

February 9, 1958

To: Mrs. Maurice Brown, Local Current Agenda Chairman
From: Mrs. David Landsborough, Freeport LCA Chairman
Re: Freeport LCA

In anticipation of reaching consensus at our Unit Meetings this week on our Local Item - A Study of the Types of City Government, Working Toward Recommendation of the Best Type for Our Newly Consolidated City - and feeling rather strongly that this consensus will probably mean recommending the Council Manager form of city government for Freeport, we would very much like some advice from you as to whether our proposed plans in the event we do reach such consensus, are in accordance with proper League procedure.

Just to give you a brief resume of our present LCA, - in May 1957 we had Unit meetings using our present City Charter for study and discussion to acquaint the membership with our present city government now operating, and we had a general open meeting with our Mayor and City Secretary as speakers to outline and discuss how our present Commission type city government actually functions. Our next Unit meetings dealing with our LCA were held in October, and during that month we studied and discussed the Institute of Public Affairs at the University of Texas booklet "Forms of City Government". We are also using "Story of the Council Manager Plan" published by the National Municipal League. We have had fair representation at our city commission meetings, though not as many members have attended these meetings as should have. However, our Unit meetings this week will be devoted to our LCA, whether or not we wish to make a specific recommendation after our year of study and discussion, and of course what we should do for next year.

Now if the membership feels we should recommend the Council-Manager type of government for Freeport, will it be right and proper for us to write a formal letter so stating to our Mayor and each Commissioner? Also, should I as our LCA chairman and our president go personally and present the LWV recommendation at a regular city council meeting, and if so should it be done before our Annual Meeting, and immediately after our Local Board authorizes such action?

There seems to be quite a strong feeling both here and in Lake Jackson that a very good LCA for both leagues to adopt for next year would be Know Your County. If our local board decides to recommend this item, and it is so voted at our annual meeting, I presume the logical procedure would be to place on Continuing Responsibilities "Support of Council-Manager form of City Government for Freeport", or some such thing.

Can you just advise us please - are we on the right track with these ideas, and if not, please set us straight and let us know what we should do.

Many, many thanks.

Frances Landsborough

Mrs. David J. Landsborough
Local Current Agenda Chairman
1530 West Broad Street

cc to SO

League of Women Voters of Texas



February 12, 1958

TO: Dorothy Brown
FROM: State office
RE: Freeport's LCA memo to you, dated February 9th, Mrs. Landsborough

As Cookie is snowed in today, she asked me to write you a bit of background on this League's LCA.

She says the Freeport planning sounds "real fine". She suggests it possibly might be a little better if they keep their present item on as Item II instead of putting it on Continuing Responsibilities -- if they can think of plans along the public education idea.

They have to decide their own timing when they announce. They might wait and have the official vote at their Annual Meeting. They have to decide best public relations effect in Freeport.

The League has fine official prestige in Freeport. So they are on solid ground.

She suggests the necessity of your getting over the following two points:

Remind them that getting a city charter is a long range plan;

Encourage them to do a Know Your County with Lake Jackson with lots of member participation.

Freeport, Texa
March 11, 1958

Mrs. Maurice Brown
2620 Washington Avenue
Waco, Texa

Dear Mr. Brown:

I couldn't wait until
convention next month to show you
the reception we received when
we presented our plan to the Council.

Aren't we fortunate to have
such a good relationship with
the newspaper as well as the
city government?

Thank you for your helpful
letter and suggestions.

Sincerely,

Frances Landaborangh

FREEPORT

LCA - 1958-59

I. Know Your County

II. Support of Council-Manager Form of City Government for Freeport

Chairman: Mrs. Duncan MacLaren 1306 West 4th Street

CR: Community Action on Proposed Master Plan for Freeport

Correspondence

Letters May 12 '58 - Answer May 16 '58

Aug 2, '58 From M. Rindsee

Sept 9, '58 ans. Sept 13 '58

memo Jan. 1959

Report sheet + letter Feb 1959

Report recd.

LOCAL PROGRAM:

Annual Report

Describe any activity on your local Program.

*Freeport
18-59*
Have a very active CA chairman. Working hard on Charter Revision for city to have

Council-manager form of government and on Know Your County, which is in stage of

preparation. Both items will continue in 1959-60.

Freeport

League of Women Voters of Texas

1007 WEST 24TH STREET

AUSTIN 5, TEXAS

January 30, 1959

TO: Local Current Agenda Chairmen
FROM: Mrs. Eugene H. Hughes, State Chairman, LCA

Let's share our work on our LCA items this year! At President's Council in Austin we will have a LCA Browsing Table, where Local Leagues may display materials about their local programs. We have limitations as to space at the Driskill, so we must limit our display to materials which can lie on a table; such as, Know Your Town booklets, study outlines, newspaper publicity on LCA, outlines for work, or anything pertaining to your local program. Won't you arrange to have such a display? It will be helpful to other Leagues to see what you have been doing.

LCA REPORT, 1958-59

(Please return this report to me at 3812 Gertin, Houston 4, before February 20.)

League Freeport Chairman Mrs. Duncan MacLaren

LCA Item I Know Your County, - jointly with Lake Jackson League
(Use 2nd Report Form for LCA II or local Continuing Responsibility on which you worked this year.) This pertains to portion done by Freeport only

1. How many members on your committee? 15
2. How did you inform your members?
Units 2 General Meetings not yet
Voter progress report on Go-see trips Interviews at Court House
status of work, no resource yet.
Special bulletins or fact sheets _____
3. Was this an interesting item to most members? Yes, committee members that is.
4. Do you think that you accomplished your purpose in 1958-59? Yes, so far
5. Do you feel that you made a contribution to your community? Not yet.
6. Did you recommend this to continue as an active item for another year? Yes.
Or, made a continuing responsibility? _____
7. What can you bring (or send with your delegation) for display at Council?
(Description and space required on display table.)
Nothing this year. Plan to publish a booklet which we will display at a future Convention or Council .

Please use the back of this sheet for anything you wish to report about your plan of work and accomplishments.

League of Women Voters of Texas

1007 WEST 24TH STREET

AUSTIN 5, TEXAS

January 30, 1959

TO: Local Current Agenda Chairmen
FROM: Mrs. Eugene H. Hughes, State Chairman, LCA

Let's share our work on our LCA items this year! At President's Council in Austin we will have a LCA Browsing Table, where Local Leagues may display materials about their local programs. We have limitations as to space at the Driskill, so we must limit our display to materials which can lie on a table; such as, Know Your Town booklets, study outlines, newspaper publicity on LCA, outlines for work, or anything pertaining to your local program. Won't you arrange to have such a display? It will be helpful to other Leagues to see what you have been doing.

LCA REPORT, 1958-59

(Please return this report to me at 3812 Gertin, Houston 4, before February 20.)

League Freeport Chairman Mrs. Duncan MacLaren

LCA Item Support of Council Manager Form of City Government
(Use 2nd Report Form for LCA II or local Continuing Responsibility on which you worked this year.)

1. How many members on your committee? 3

2. How did you inform your members?

Units 2

General Meetings _____

Voter short article in
each issue

Go-see trips Attendance at City Commission
Meetings

Special bulletins or fact sheets _____

3. Was this an interesting item to most members? // ??? Not well attended.

4. Do you think that you accomplished your purpose in 1958-59? Yes

5. Do you feel that you made a contribution to your community? Yes

6. Did you recommend this to continue as an active item for another year? Yes, with

Charter Revision. 3 LWV members appointed to Charter Review Commission, and the question of Charter Revision Commission to be submitted to the voters in April.

Or, made a continuing responsibility? The other members of the Charter Review Commission constantly looked to the LWV members for advice and direction.

7. What can you bring (or send with your delegation) for display at Council?
(Description and space required on display table.)

Mimeographed legal size paper, LWV Recommendation to Board of Commissioners of City of Freeport, that the Council-Manager Form of city government be established in the City of Freeport.

Please use the back of this sheet for anything you wish to report about your plan of work and accomplishments.

(over)

ACTION ON CR: Community Action on Proposed Master Plan

General membership meeting on July 29, 1958, considered and discussed detailed information and plans regarding a proposed bond issue of the City of Freeport to be submitted to the voters on August 23, 1958, as recommended by the Planning Commission of the City of Freeport, and as part of a Master Plan still developing. As a Voters Service we sponsored a public meeting where the Mayor City Secretary and two Commissioners explained in detail the proposed bond issue. The League then supported the entire bond issue which appeared on the ballot as 10 separate propositions. It was passed by the voters of Freeport on August 23, 1958.

LCA REPORT, 1958-59

(Please return this report to me at 3812 Gerwin, Houston 4, before February 30.)

Chairman

League

LCA Item

(Use and Report Form for LCA II on Local Continuing Responsibility on which you worked this year.)

1. How many members on your committee?

2. How did you inform your members?

General Meetings

Units

Do see this

Voter

Special Bulletin or Last Sheets

3. Who was an interesting item to most members?

4. Do you think that you accomplished your purpose in 1958-59?

5. Do you feel that you made a contribution to your community?

6. Did you recommend this to continue as an active item for another year?

7. Made a continuing responsibility?

8. What can you bring (or send with your delegation) for display at Co-Ment?

(Description and space registered on display table.)

Please use the back of this sheet for anything you wish to report about your plan of work and accomplishments.

League of Women Voters of Texas



February 8, 1959

Dear Ruth,

Technically I guess this ought to be written on Freeport LWV paper, but I don't seem to have any left. Anyway, I am quickly sending you what little I have to say about local items. I think your idea of mailing the forms instead of having them go from SO is a good one. Hope you get the answers back real soon.

I did a Unit meeting last Thursday on both our Items, and what we think best to do for next year. The recommendation went out in the Voter some time ago to keep Know Your County as is for another year, and to put the Council-Manager thing on CR. I have missed both the December and January local Board meetings, - December because Ann's baby was born the day before and I had baby sitting to do, and the January one because of State Board. But anyway, our City situation has had somewhat of an upheaval just since Christmas so I strongly feel, and so do most of our Board that in light of that mess, we certainly should not put Council-Manager on CR, but even strengthen our stand there by encouraging the Annual Meeting to adopt as Item I: Support of Charter Revision Providing for Council Manager Form of City Government. Then, Kelly and I have talked at some length, naturally, about the County Item, and I aim to get ours worded, if I can "Jointly with LWV of Lake Jackson Continuation of Know Your County Survey and Publications of a Booklet." Yes, it sounds awfully ambitious, but we do have all the reports in now, and needless to say, Kelly and I are rather anxious to get it finished and figure if we state it definitely in the item we will have a better chance to actually complete it. Our annual meeting seems to fall the same day Chris will be here. I don't know whether Lois and Betty are both coming with her, or what, but I think Mrs. Caldwell figures we can elect our officers, adopt the budget and local item in about 30 minutes before the LJ board and the State Board arrives with Chris. Whew!

After several chats with me, and a phone call to Cookie, Kelly is going to take the Jury Item on State Board. I am delighted, of course. And I hope we can all still travel together.

Gwen is due in Lake Jackson Tuesday for their Finance training. I don't know whether I will see her or not, but I plan to baby-sit for Ann that day.

Love,

Marion

THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF FREEPORT

Position taken on 1957-1958 LOCAL CURRENT AGENDA as authorized by the Board of Directors of the League of Women Voters of Freeport at its regular monthly meeting held on February 17, 1958.

"Study of the Types of City Government Working Toward a Recommendation of the Best Type for Our Newly Consolidated City."

I. From a study of the City Charter adopted by the qualified voters of the city of Freeport at a special election held on October 1, 1949, and from fairly regular attendance at the regular meetings of the Board of Commissioners, we have found that the City of Freeport is governed by a Board of Commissioners composed of a mayor and four commissioners all elected at large for two year terms. Under our Commission type of city government the elected officials serve as a legislative body, and each commissioner may act as head of an administrative department, although this does not appear to be the case. Here all the commissioners collectively spend many hours on administrative details with no one vested with the authority to act quickly and decisively when necessary.

II. From a study of "Forms of City Government" published by the Institute of Public Affairs, at the University of Texas, and the "Story of the Council-Manager Plan" published by the National Municipal League, we have found that under the Council-Manager Form:

1. There is a small council elected at large.
2. All legislative and policy making functions are located in the Council.
3. The Council employs a professionally trained city manager who is subject to dismissal by the Council at any time.
4. The manager is responsible for administration, having the power of appointment and removal of employees subject to civil service rules.
4. The manager is responsible for the preparation and presentation of the budget to the Council.

Thus there is a clear differentiation between the policy-making function of government and the administrative function. 66% of the Home Rule Cities in Texas have the Council-Manager form of government, while only a fraction over 8% operate under the Commission type.

III. It has been observed by the League of Women Voters of Freeport that notwithstanding the fact that the City Charter stipulates that the governing body shall be a Board of Commissioners who shall administer the business affairs of the city, and who shall appoint a City Secretary and prescribe his duties and compensation, the governing body here actually functions more like the Council-Manager form of city government, with the exception that while the City Secretary seems to perform all the usual duties of a city manager, he does not at present have the administrative authority usually vested in that office.

IV. The Council should be the policy making legislative body of the city, and its time, effort and concentrated, collective thought should not be consumed with administrative details.

V. The city manager should be a professionally trained, competent executive chosen by, and subject to dismissal by, the Council. He should manage the city government. Responsibility for the appointment of the various department heads, and through them all other city employees should be delegated to him. He should be charged also with responsibility of preparing the city budget for the Council discussion and approval, and furthermore with its enforcement after its adoption. He should be the coordinator of all city activities. The Council should rely upon him for information and expert advice regarding the status of any and all city affairs. He should attend all meetings of the Council. His relationship with the Council is very similar to that of a general manager in a business corporation to its Board of Directors.

VI. Since our consolidation with the City of Velasco in 1957 which brought not only a relatively large population increase, but also a considerable area increase with all the various complex problems inherent therein, and furthermore since the extra population and area increases resulting from recent annexations of adjacent territories, it seems apparent that our original Home Rule City Charter adopted in 1949 is no longer adequate for the most efficient operation of our city government at the present time.

VII. Therefore, the League of Women Voters of Freeport respectfully recommends to the Board of Commissioners of the City of Freeport that the Council-Manager form of city government be established in the City of Freeport.

Feb. 2, 1959

Dear Marion:

I hope it won't be too much trouble to fill out these report sheets. I'm sending them out myself to each LCA chairman. Think there is a better chance of getting them answered than if they went out in a regular mailing from SO.

Glad to hear that you and Kelly had gotten together to work on "Know Your County." How is it coming? I surely hope that she decides that she can come on State Board. I think that it would be fun to have her.

Has anyone done anything on your CR this year? Don't know how you have had any time.

Love,

Ruth

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS

FREEPORT, TEXAS

MRS. JOHN CALDWELL, PRESIDENT

MRS. H. H. McAMIS, BULLETIN CHR.

PRESIDENT'S
MESSAGE

Thanks to all members for help through the hot weather to carry out League activity. We are now planning our fall program, which looks to be most interesting. Plans begin July 30 for the Finance Drive. Program plan for September is completion of Finance Drive.

TCR REPORT

TCR activity is now centered, on a state-wide basis, on getting a resolution adopted in as many precinct conventions of both parties as possible, calling on the 56th Legislature to appropriate funds for the specific purpose of research on the Texas Constitution. As all of you know, when House Concurrent Resolution 13 was passed and signed by the Governor, authorizing the Texas Legislative Council to do complete research on the Constitution, it did not provide funds for this purpose. The Council is naturally hampered in their work by this lack and the Leagues all over Texas are sponsoring this resolution in both precinct and county conventions.

We decided to join with Lake Jackson in an effort to cover the whole of Brazoria County, since we are the only two Leagues in the county. Letters have gone out to every Democratic precinct chairman in the county, and to as many Republican chairmen as we could ascertain. In Freeport and Lake Jackson proper, personal contact has been made, and we are hopeful of getting a goodly number of these resolutions passed in the July 26th precinct conventions and forwarded to the county convention for their consideration August 2nd.

We are also happy to report on the first Citizens Advisory Committee meeting, held in Austin June 13. News of this meeting did not quite reach us in time for inclusion in the July Bulletin, but you will all be interested to learn that our State President, Mrs. Horton Wayne ("Cookie") Smith, was named 2nd Vice Chairman and our TCR State Chairman, Mrs. George C. (Glen) Boller, was named Chairman of the Public Information Committee at the organization meeting held at this time.

Guess that's all the news on TCR for this time, but I want to extend my special thanks to Jane Gorton for her help in typing up the letters and resolutions to be used at the precinct conventions.

DELLE LAWTON

VOTERS'
SERVICE

A big "thank you" to Francis for the excellent work shop and distribution of Voters Guides for State and County Primary elections July 26th. Also for work on Candidates' Rally at the dedication of the Bernard River Bridge July 19th. The League received excellent publicity and again has made our efforts felt in our community with good information and facts given the citizens.

JURY
SYSTEM

In August, a trip to Angleton is planned to see the jury wheel. The date is tentative, but members will be notified and are urged to set aside time to go. This is an important part of our study of the Texas Jury System. Before we can evaluate our role in the jury system, we must be informed, so watch for this first important step in our study. Watch the Facts for questions which pertain to jury service. These will serve as a briefing before the Angleton trip.

MRS. R. T. McFADDEN

PUBLIC
RELATIONS

Coleen Kenyon has had excellent public relations for the League of Women Voters all through July. We are grateful to her for her untiring efforts with the Press, Radio and others.

(Continued on reverse side)

Freeport
Aug. 1958

LOCAL CURRENT
AGENDA

Item I - Support of Council Manager Form of City Government. A Charter Review Commission of fifteen members was appointed on June 16 by the Board of Commissioners of the City of Freeport. Three members of the League of Women Voters were named on this Charter Review Commission - Garnette Miller, Bertha Salmans and Marion MacLaren. The first meeting was held on June 24, when Mr. Dwight Wetherell was elected Chairman, our own Secretary Garnette, elected Secretary of the Commission. They will be meeting twice a month, and are charged with "reviewing the Home Rule Charter of the City of Freeport, Texas, and the amendments thereto, and making recommendations with reference thereto to the Board of Commissioners in a report which shall be filed with the Board of Commissioners of the City of Freeport, Texas, no later than January 1st of each year."

Item II - Know Your County. Lake Jackson and Freeport working jointly on this Item have appointed a committee of six members, made up of three members from each League-Lake Jackson's members being Mrs. E. Jack Turner, Mrs. Ivan Oden and Mrs. M.P. Keister, and the Freeport members are Mrs. Duncan MacLaren, Mrs. Alvin Miller and Mrs. Hardy Carlton. The Know Your County study will be carried on as outlined in the LWV handbook "Know Your County", with the exception that we plan to divide the survey into eight sections rather than ten, with two or more members from each League assuming the responsibility for each section. These eight sections to be studied and our members working on each are:

- I. Your County Government - What is its background?
Ruth West and Florence Wilson
- II. Popular Control of Government
Margaret Monte and Jane Gorton
- III. Structure and Functions of County Government
Marion MacLaren and Fern O'Bryan
- IV. Staff Service of Your County Government
Clara Carlton and _____
- V. Administration of Justice
Garnette Miller and Colleen Kenyon
- VI. Public Welfare and Public Health and Sanitation
Eileen Levine and _____
- VII. Education and Other County Services
Elizabeth Frink and _____
- VIII. Highway Administration
Carol Caulder and Ada Eads

ANNOUNCEMENTS

A public meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, July 29th, at 7:30 P.M. in the Brazosport Building & Loan Association building in Velasco, sponsored by the League of Women Voters for the purpose of facts and information on the Improvement Bond Issue for two million dollars for Freeport. Date of the election is August 23rd.

Area Conference in Galveston, Texas, November 3rd & 4th. Details in next bulletin.

Note enclosures- correct list of members up to June 30th, and a new policy sheet. Please keep these sheets in your file for reference.

We regret the loss of three members due to removal from this area - Mrs. L.W. Wright, Mrs. E.C. Dean and Mrs. Cecil A. Newton

Some did not renew their membership. We surely need you and hope you will reconsider. Please give me names of interested persons.

Handwritten notes:
3812 g...
Mr. [unclear]
[unclear]



September 13, 1958

TO: Hughes
From: MacLaren

RE: Freeport LCA
State Board Publications Committee

Thank you for the copy of your letter to Mrs. Caldwell about the Illinois State League booklet as a guide for our Know Your County. We are looking forward to having it soon. I am sure it will be helpful, Ruth, because we have really just begun on the survey. Kelly and I made the first official visit to the Commissioners Court on August 25. Then last Thursday we had a meeting in Lake Jackson, at Kelly's house, with all the committee members from both Leagues invited (8 from Frpt. and 12 from L.J. actually present) to outline the job and give some direction as to how to approach the various officers and employees at the Court House, and to emphasize the constant public relations for the LWV they would be creating. It was most encouraging, I thought, and everyone seemed most enthusiastic.

Our other Local Item is doing all right. Support of Council-Manager, you know. The Charter Review Commission has been meeting all summer, - and progress on that has been slow because of lack of legal and consulting talent at the meetings. But the last meeting, last Tuesday, with Mr. Crutchfield of Texas League of Municipalities and the city attorney present Garnette and I felt more encouraged. It will be a long drawn out item, though. Will chat with you more about it when I see you.

Sept. 16

Dear Marion:

Thanks for information about Freeport LCA.
Sounds as if you are coming along fine.

Gee, what a break to get to Vermont in October.
Take a look look at the bright foliage for me.
Have a wonderful time. I envy you.

Love,

Ruth

3812 Gertin
Houston 4, Texas
Sept. 9, 1958

Mrs. John S. Caldwell, Sr., President
League of Women Voters of Freeport
826 West Broad
Freeport, Texas

Dear Mrs. Caldwell:

By this time you probably have received from the Illinois State League a copy of a booklet: "A Guide to Publishing a KNOW YOUR TOWN Booklet." The State Office ordered these for the use of the Leagues who are doing surveys of either towns or counties. It seems like a very useful tool with lots of good suggestions, which may be quite helpful to you. Will you see that it gets into the hands of Marion MacLaren, your LCA chairman?

After your League has finished with it, I hope that you will return it to State Office so that others can use it.

How are things going with the Freeport League? Your August-September Bulletin showed that you have been busy during the summer. The LCA items seem to be going right ahead.

Cordially,

Mrs. Eugene H. Hughes
State LCA chairman

cc:MacLaren
SO

Braunagel
Pettis

Dear Marion: Your report in your last Voter showed that you are making strides on your LCA items. This booklet may be too late to be of much help to you, because you seem to be well along on your survey. Maybe there will be some ideas you can use.

RH

Freeport
LCA

August 2, 1958.

Mrs. Duncan MacLaren,
1306 West Fourth Street,
Freeport, Texas.

Dear Marian:

Re: City Charter and Council-Manager
Form of City Government.

Please forgive my delay in answering your letter of July 24th in regard to the work of the Brownsville League in City Charter Revision. Now that I have met a number of League deadlines, I can try to answer your questions.

First about Brownsville. Maura Smith (Mrs. H. M., 1704 West Elizabeth Street) and I were the last to work on the charter revision item. We were both on a rather informal charter revision committee. An election was held; every item was defeated so the two year interval does not apply; city "politics" are such that the League is lying low; and that is what we are doing right now. However, management of the city was not as issue in our controversy, so definite details of our experience will not interest you. I do think that our general plan of attack is one that you might consider.

For our initial study, we spent some League money and supplied ourselves with some very valuable material. Although you have some of it, I am going to list it all since a copy of this is going to Ruth Hughes, State LCA Chairman.

MODEL CITY CHARTER, National Municipal League, 299 Broadway, N.Y.7
A GUIDE FOR CHARTER COMMISSIONS, National Municipal League

MUNICIPAL HOME RULE CHARTER ELECTIONS IN TEXAS, Institute of
Public Affairs, University of Texas, Austin, Texas

REVISING A CITY CHARTER, Governmental Research Assn., 30 Rockefeller
Plaza, New York 20, N.Y.

BEST PRACTICE UNDER THE MANAGER PLAN, National Municipal League
THE STORY OF THE COUNCIL-MANAGER PLAN, National Municipal League.

FACTS ABOUT THE COUNCIL-MANAGER PLAN, National Municipal League.
CITY EMPLOYEES AND THE MANAGER PLAN, National Municipal League.

We also, on advice of the League of Texas Municipalities, armed ourselves with copies of the city charters of several Texas cities. Some were recommended as near-perfect; others were chosen because the cities were of comparable size.

Maura and I had much the same experience as you and Garnette. The committee looked to the League for information and leadership. We headed two important sub-committees. We furnished material to nearly every other committee. And we were quite vocal during the discussions.

I can see from your short description of the Freeport plan that you have followed our procedure in general. You might go a few steps further and suggest that the members of the Commission be supplied with the small and relatively inexpensive pamphlets dealing directly with the Council-Manager Plan. If the Rules you adopted do not provide for the division of the commission, I would recommend that as a quicker and more thorough method of getting the job done.

As the daughter of a very excellent lawyer, I have a great respect for the profession. But I am aware of their faults, too, and the greatest of these is put-off-itis. Besides, belonging to the profession does not necessarily elevate every member to the position attained by a few. So, as friend to friend, let me warn you: Do not expect too much from the lawyer member of the Commission, and do not accept his every word as gospel.... I have said rather bluntly what the National Municipal League dresses up rather nicely in warning the would-be city charter revisers that seldom is a local lawyer a municipal law expert. The League recommends municipal law experts from the universities and law schools as the final writers of city charters - after the Commission has agreed on the general provisions.

If is shooting. You did not mention the election date at which your commission /It is rather far in the future, your Commission might take a little time off to consider the proposed constitutional amendment extending the present 2-year term of city office to 4 years. That could make a big difference in your city charter planning. And it might be a very effective way for the Commission to gain prestige and backing in the community.

In my file, I find two left-over copies of an excerpt from A GUIDE FOR CHARTER COMMISSIONS which I made for members of the Brownsville committee. I am lending them to you to use until you secure copies of that excellent publication - or rather, as an inducement for you to place an order.

If I can help in any other way, don't hesitate to call. I am very much interested in city government, and I will always find time to talk about it. And I will always welcome an excuse to write to you.

Love,

Margaret

Mrs. E. A. Rendall

3812 Gertin
Houston 4, Texas
May 12, 1958

Mrs. Duncan MacLaren
1306 West 4th Street
Freeport, Texas

Dear Marion:

I see that you have taken on the job of LCA chairman in you local League. And you have 2 items, too! I expect the "Know Your County" one is the item that you and the Lake Jackson League are going to work on together. I will be so interested in hearing how your plans are being made on this item. Your Leagues will be helping other Leagues who decide to do this sort of thing some time in the future. I think it would be an awfully good idea if you asked some member of your committee to keep a running account of your plans and accomplishments. This will be a wonderful record for your League to have for it will be building for the future on LCA items.

I'm sure you have the new state publication: "On the Home Front". Wouldn't it be a good idea for each member of you committee to have one.

What is your outlook for work on your other item of support of council-manager form of city government? I suppose you are looking forward to some action on this item this year. When your committee has decided on plans, I'd appreciate it if you would write and tell me your plans.

I'm certainly glad that someone of your League experience has taken LCA for the Freeport League, and I'll be looking forward to hearing from you about them.

Cordially,

cc: SO
Braunagel
Pettis

Mrs. Eugene H. Hughes

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF FREEPORT
FREEPORT, TEXAS

1306 West 4th Street
May 16, 1958

Mrs. Eugene H. Hughes, LCA Chairman
3812 Gertin
Houston 4, Texas

Dear Ruth:

Thank you ever so much for your letter of May 12 regarding our Local Current Agenda. Yes, the fact that we do have two items scares me somewhat, - but circumstances sort of forced us into the situation, and we are all optimistic about both of them!

We had such a wonderful response from our City Commissioners when we made our recommendation that the Council-Manager form of city government be established in Freeport that we are eager to continue our efforts in support of it. I have a clipping which appeared in our local newspaper while I was away stating that the City Commissioners had decided to appoint a new Charter Review Commission to re-examine our City Charter for possible revision "as the result of recent recommendations from the Freeport League of Women Voters." But since I returned home last Saturday, I have not heard that this Commission has actually been appointed. I certainly plan to attend the regular meeting of our Board of Commissioners next Monday, the 19th, and I hope to learn something definite about it then.

As for the Know Your County item, we were all eager to get started on this too, and felt that even though it meant two items for us we really should do it with the Lake Jackson League. So far we have not done anything definite on this item except to order, and receive, 10 copies of the LWV book, Know Your County, and 1 copy each of the Policy Statement on County Councils and the Model County Council Agreement. We shall probably need to confer with you as to whether a County Council is really necessary in our case. I have tried to call Kelly Turner, but have not succeeded yet. Hope to see her soon so we can really make some firm plans and get going. And I feel sure we will order copies of "On the Home Front" for our committee members as soon as we decide how many we need.

My Lake Jackson grapevine, Ann, tells me that you and Maxine Barkan will be there next Thursday for their Board training, which is certainly good news, and I know Kelly will confer with you then about our joint LCA.

Sorry I do not have more specific plans to relate to you now, but the three weeks I was gone - in Atlantic City and Vermont - put me way behind League-wise, and every other wise too! It was all most worthwhile though, and I still have hopes of catching up soon.

Love and best wishes always,

MacLaren

Mrs. Duncan MacLaren

LOCAL CURRENT AGENDA

Item I KNOW YOUR COUNTY - After the adoption of this item at our Annual Meeting in 1958, ten copies of the "Know Your County" handbook were purchased from the National Office. Early in the year at a conference with the Lake Jackson LWV chairman, it was agreed that we would divide our survey into eight sections rather than the ten suggested in the handbook. We also agreed to appoint a committee composed of two members from each League for each section, thus making sixteen members in all working on the survey. A meeting was then scheduled for all committee members to outline the purpose and procedure for conducting the survey. Everyone was urged to attend the regular meetings of the Commissioners Court in addition to the necessary interviews with the various County Officials concerned with each section of the survey. January 15 was agreed upon as the deadline for the first written report from each committee. All such reports have now been turned in and unit meetings are being scheduled for discussion of the information and material gathered and compiled by each committee. According to present plans the committee members who did the research will lead the discussion for these unit meetings.

Item II Support of Council-Manager Form of City Government for Freeport. After the adoption of this item at our annual meeting in 1958, the LCA Committee urged and encouraged more members to attend regularly the meeting of the Board of Commissioners. In response to the LWV recommendation that our city government be changed to the Council Manager form, the Board of Commissioners appointed a Charter Review Commission on June 16, 1958, and directed this Commission to report by January 1, 1959. Three LWV members were appointed to this

Commission, with the first meeting being held on June 24. The Charter Review Commission held regular meetings twice a month, and submitted its report to the Board of Commissioners on November 10, 1958 in the form of a resolution recommending that the question "Shall a Charter Commission be chosen to fram a new charter?" be submitted to the voters of the City of Freeport, as required by law when it is found to be in the best interest of the City to revise the Charter. The Commissioners have accordingly caused the question to be placed on the ballot for the regular General Election of the City to be held on April 4, 1959.

The Local Current Agenda Committee has recommended that our Local Program for 1959-60 be worded as follows:

Item I Work for and support City Charter Revision providing for Council-Manager form of City Government.

Item II With the League of Women Voters of Lake Jackson completion of our Know Your County survey and Publication of a booklet.

C. R. - Community Action on Proposed Master Plan.

LCA Committee
Mrs. B. H. Carlton
Mrs. A. A. Miller
Mrs. Duncan MacLaren, Chairman

Report of Bulletin Editor: 1958-59

This portfolio has been shared by Mrs. H. H. McAmis and Mrs. W. J. Binyon III for the fiscal year..April 1958 to April 1959.

McAmis: Combination....April and May 1958
Combination....June and July 1958
Combination....June and July 1958
Combination....August and September 1958
October 1958
Binyon: Combination....November and December 1958
January 1959
February 1959
March 1959

Katy Binyon, Editor

BRAZORIA COUNTY HISTORY

SECOND PART

Location:

Brazoria County is located on the Texas Gulf Coast. Bounded on the north by Cedar Creek, east by Galveston County, south by Gulf of Mexico and southwest by Matagorda County, on the west by Wharton County, and northwest by Fort Bend County, with the Brazos River serving as a portion of the line.

History:

Brazoria County was created from an original municipality in 1836, organized in 1837 and named for the first town Brazoria.

Geography:

1,441 square miles. Surface level, sloping to coast with two thirds covered with coarse coastal grasses and one third timber. Drained by the Brazos River, San Bernard River, Oyster Creek, and Chocolate Bayou. Altitude is sea level to 60 feet above. Annual rainfall averages 48.1 inches and mean temperature is 68.7 degrees.

Population:

1950-----46,549 1957-----68,000 1960-----75,000*

Native White-----80.1%

Negro-----14.7%

Foreign born-----5.2%

Urban-----34.4%

Rural farm-----12.6%

Rural non farm52.6%

Economic Characteristics:

Oil, salt, rice, cattle, shell, natural gas, cotton, pecans, sulphur, magnesium, shrimp, tourist trade, agriculture, commerce, industry, and chemicals.

Agriculture:

Soil types are loams and coastal clays on the uplands and alluvials in the lowlands. Principal crops, rice and corn. Rice, 819,000 lbs. Corn 150,500 bushels. Cotton 5,528 bales. Milk, 1,316,000 gallons sold. One fourth of farm income is derived from livestock sales. One fourth of county in timbers, pin oak, live oak, mulberry, hackberry, ash, elm, cottonwood and pecan.

Oil and Minerals:

Oil discovered in 1902. Brazoria county one of the wealthiest mineral counties in the state. Production from 1902 to 1952 461,945,023 barrels.

Governmental History:

Spain ---1820-1821 Mexico---1821-1836
Republic of Texas - March 2, 1836 to 1845
Admitted to the Union December 29, 1945

Governmental subdivisions:

- | | |
|--|----------------------|
| 1. Independent School Districts | 4. Courts of Justice |
| 2. Brazoria County Road District | 5. Four Precincts |
| 3. Brazos River Harbor Navigation District | 6. Cities |
| 7. Towns Villages | |

Pearland

Liverpool

Alvin

Clute

Damon

W. Columbia

E. Columbia

Angleton

Brazoria

Anchor

Danbury

Lake Jackson

Marvel

Sweeny

Snipe

Iowa Colony

Sandy Point

Chocolate Bayou

Bonney

Chenango

Oyster Creek

Jones Creek

Freeport

Otey

Phair

Banciger

Rosharon

Certain Class under State Laws:

Population of counties under 50,000 determines salaries and the number of people to work in administration capacity.

County and State Surveys:

Yearly survey of taxes and roads.

President informed the Board members that she had received word from Trudy Dean that the Lake Jackson Board had voted to mimeograph the Know Your County booklet, using the County Map as an insert. The final copy will be supplied to us soon for publication as we can provide or desire.

As a proposed item for Local Current Agenda for 1980, the decision of those attending the last unit meeting endorsed study and community action on the proposed revision of the Freeport Charter. Mrs. MacLaren was authorized to formulate the wording; membership to have details in our next bulletin.

Chairman Levine also stated that a general meeting on "Know Your County" had been planned for November 19, at which time our County Commissioner and County Judge would be invited to attend. Mrs. MacLaren suggested that the date be changed to Monday the 16th, inasmuch as Thursday the 19th might conflict with a special meeting of the Charter Commission. Chairman Levine said this change could and would be made and that the Program Committee would meet for further preparation of the general meeting.

L.C.A. ITEM II, Levine as Chairman, reported she and Mrs. Dean will complete preparation of the K.Y.C. Outline this forthcoming week. This, in turn, will be submitted to each chairman for re-editing. Mrs. Levine asked for suggestions as to best method of securing the needed five incomplete topics, whereby Mrs. Caldwell offered to obtain the information on the Veterans Administration. Questionnaire forms will be used for the other four topics.

President Caldwell outlined the content of a letter received fromileen Levine with regard to our position and desire concerning the publication of a KNOW YOUR COUNTY booklet. After discussion, Mrs. Landsborough moved that Mrs. Levine be authorized to proceed on the publication of the booklet as she and Mrs. Dean felt proper. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Kenyon and carried. The ways and means to cover cost of publication was discussed in the light of the \$100. earmarked for this purpose. Mrs. MacLaren moved that we recommend the booklet be prepared by mimeographing. The motion was duly seconded and carried.

LOCAL CURRENT AGENDA ITEM I Chairman MacLaren stated that the Charter Commission was continuing their studies and drafting a proposed Charter on the second and fourth Thursday of each month.

A copy of a study by Amarillo, similar to our "Know Your County" survey, has been sent to the President and she has referred it to the KUC Chairman as an excellent example of indexing and compilation. Freeport - Oct 19, 1979

THE FREEPORT VOTER

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS

APRIL-MAY 1960

FREEPORT, TEXAS

Mrs. John Caldwell, President

Mrs. W. J. Binyon, Editor

Looking back into the month of March we can recall that the Annual Meeting of the Freeport League of Women Voters produced excellent reports from the officers and directors. The highlight of the meeting was the interesting report of the Planning Committee for Freeport, given by Frances Landsborough, the only "Femme" on this committee of five. The members approved the Budget, the Local Current Agenda, and the slate of officers and elected directors and accepted with regret the withdrawal of Mrs. Vanarsdale Fallis as Secretary. The slate of the Nominating Committee for 1960-61 was approved as submitted by the outgoing Nominating Committee. Delegates to the Convention in Dallas, Mrs. Tom Kenyon and Mrs. W. J. Binyon were appointed. The "Know Your County" survey is now complete. Copies have been delivered to sixty county employees by the Freeport League. Sixty nine were mailed to contributors and others. There remains in the office about two dozen copies of "Know Your County". Anyone may have a copy or copies.

Mrs. John Caldwell, President

DUES ARE DUE ---- PLEASE SEND YOUR CHECK FOR \$4.00 TO
MRS. WALLACE DAVIS -- 1430 WEST 8th.

* * * * *

AN ALERT TO ALL MEMBERS!! Work on the Local Item is to begin immediately.

LOCAL CURRENT AGENDA: Study of Proposed New City Charter with continued support of Council-Manager form of city government.

The Charter Commission elected on April 4, 1959, to draft a new Charter for the City of Freeport has completed its work, an official copy of the Proposed Charter will be presented to the Board of Commissioners by the Charter Commission Mr. Dwight N. Wetherell at a special meeting of the Commissioners on Monday, April 25, 1960. A copy of the Proposed Charter has also been sent to the printer, and as soon as it is ready a copy will be sent to every qualified voter in the City of Freeport, at least 30 days before the election for its adoption, which is now set for June 18, 1960. We will have two Unit meetings in May, one on the 11th., and the other on the 25th., for the purpose of studying and discussing this Proposed Charter, so that all our members, and any other interested citizens, may become informed and familiar with the provisions of the Proposed Charter well in advance of the election date. Tentative plans have also been made for an open general public meeting to be held sometime the latter part of May for the purpose of giving the entire community an opportunity to discuss the Charter after every voter has received a copy. The Proposed Charter does provide for a change in the form of our city government, which we recommended over two years ago. If it is adopted on June 18, we will have the Council-Manager form of city government for which we have been working these last two years. There are many other provisions in the Proposed Charter which EVERY LEAGUE MEMBER, and indeed every citizen of Freeport should know and understand before going to the polls on June 18. Our meetings in May will be the place to discover many things about your city government!

CALENDAR - 1960

April 25	Voters Guide Preparation
May 9	Unit Meeting - Study of Charter - Mrs. MacLaren - Mrs. Miller (members of Charter Commission)
May 16	Board Meeting
May 23	Unit - Charter Revision Concensus
June 6	Unit re: T.C.R. Survey and Opinions
June 20	Board Meeting
June 27	T.C.R. - Report and Concensus
July 18	Board Meeting
August 15	Board Meeting

REMINDER ---- MAY 7, 1960 ---- VOTE

OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS
(Elected and Appointed)

OFFICERS

Mrs. John Caldwell, President
Mrs. Franks West, Vice President
Mrs. Tom Kenyon, Secretary
Mrs. Wallace Davis, Treasurer

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Mrs. Russell McFadden, Chairman
Mrs. Bertha V. Salmans
Mrs. R. R. Curbello

DIRECTORS

Mrs. Duncan MacLaren, Local Item
Mrs. L. P. O'Bryan, ICR
Mrs. A. A. Miller, Units
Mrs. Fred MacDonald, Nat'l. Program
Mrs. Dale Fallis, Budget

HOLD OVER DIRECTORS

Mrs. Frank West, Publication
Mrs. Tom Kenyon, Publicity
Mrs. David Landsborough, Voters Service
Mrs. W. J. Binyon, Bulletin

The Finance Drive, usually held in September, has been set for Feb. 1, 1961.

CONVENTION MEMORIES

Delegates Colleen Kenyon and yours truly, Katie Binyon, wish that all of you could have been with us. A most invigorating experience, to put it mildly! At the end of the three jam-packed days, we feel like experts in the field of caucusing. Announcements after each general meeting led to continued discussion in various rooms, such as Room 906 -- By-laws changes; or room 1682 for the Houston delegation, re: a non-recommended item -- or the Voters Registration item led by neighbor Lake Jackson League, under the guidance of calm low-voiced Katie Rave (in room 1484) and so on into the midnight hours. In order to facilitate finding League groups, we were supplied with lists of names of delegates by cities and towns with room numbers of each delegate. The "mike" was used to the breaking point by many of the delegates, and in listening to them, all of us were filled with pride in belonging to an organization containing so many intelligent women, ages 21 to that of a charter member of the first LWV founded in 1920.

Our dear, delightful, outgoing President, Cookie Smith, cut the 40th. Anniversary cake. At the closing meeting, Cookie handed the gavel to our neighbor, Mrs. George Boller of Galveston. Both Cookie and Mrs. Boller are small of stature, but filled with energy to again make a TEXAS BEST BOAST, the very best League in the U.S.A. Dallas hostesses were wonderful. Mrs. Briscoe, a candidate for First Vice President of the National League, thrilled the audience with her succinct remarks about LEAGUE MEMBERS. Loads of other outstanding events were ours to share with the interesting women present. Several Leagues invited us to their homeland for the next Convention. Edinburg won. Don't miss being there-let's all go in 1962.

Your grateful Editor
Katie Binyon

REMINDER ---- MAY 7, 1960 ---- VOTE

League of Women Voters
Freeport, Texas



Mr. Earl E. Ziegler,
Box 855,
Tyler,
Texas.

Spangler

FINAL REPORT - KNOW YOUR COUNTY SURVEY

February 9, 1960

WORK

Acting on the recommendation of the Lake Jackson League Board and in accord with the Freeport League to produce the maximum number of copies of the KYC and stay within the bounds of \$200.00 in cost, the joint KYC committee of the two Leagues has now completed the project.

Before duplicating, the report was checked for discrepancies by each member of the Lake Jackson Board. Investigation was made of the different methods of reproduction--multilith, photographic process, printing, and mimeograph. Because the cost of other methods was prohibitive, mimeographing was chosen, using the machine belonging to the Lake Jackson League. The chart was done on multilith, with the Brazosport school administrative office donating the work. All other work was done by League members and the only costs were for materials. Those who worked on printing the booklet were: Barbara Dunn, Mary Fran Ballard, Delores Spangler, Adeline Johnson, Rosalie Woodworth, Jane Gorton, Eileen Levine, Ann Cathcart and Trudie Dean.

RESULTS

A total of 550 copies of the 40 page booklet were produced at a total cost of \$75.00, each booklet costing about 13¢. The proportionate cost to each League is \$37.50. The stencils are available for future use and original detailed committee reports are available for League files; one set for Lake Jackson and one set for Freeport.

EVALUATION

In evaluation of the booklet, shortcomings may be listed as: not enough copies for amount of paper used; cover illustration not clearly defined; mimeograph printing poor (more or less sloppy); margins uneven and, on a few pages, print extending into the fold; print "bleeding" through from reverse side; and crowded typing in places. Most of these failures caused by the limitations of the mimeograph, perhaps the paper used, and inexperience in producing this type of booklet. On the positive side, the report is intact as approved by the Board, is a handy copy of our county government survey, is a good basic source to use on future depth studies on county-level items, and will serve as a reference for outsiders needing the information.

DISTRIBUTION

Except for a final checking of each booklet (to make sure that all pages are intact), the booklets are ready for distribution. A preliminary distribution list has been submitted to the Lake Jackson League President with recommendation that a joint committee from both Leagues be set up to choose the final list, handle the mailing, etc. (Freeport has offered to set aside one hundred of their allocated 275 for a joint mailing with Lake Jackson League.)

Submitted to the Board Feb. 11, 1960
by Trudie Dean, member of the joint
Committee and Local Resource Chairman
for the Lake Jackson League.

FREEPORT

LCA 1959-60

I. Work for and support city charter Revision providing for Council - Manager form of City Government for Freeport

Chairman: Mrs. Duncan MacLaren 1306 W. 4th St.

II. With the League of Lake Jackson, Completion of our "Know Your County survey and publication of booklet.

Chairman: Mrs. Leonard Levine 1714 West 9th St.

CR: Work for Community Action on the Proposed Master plan for the city of Freeprt.

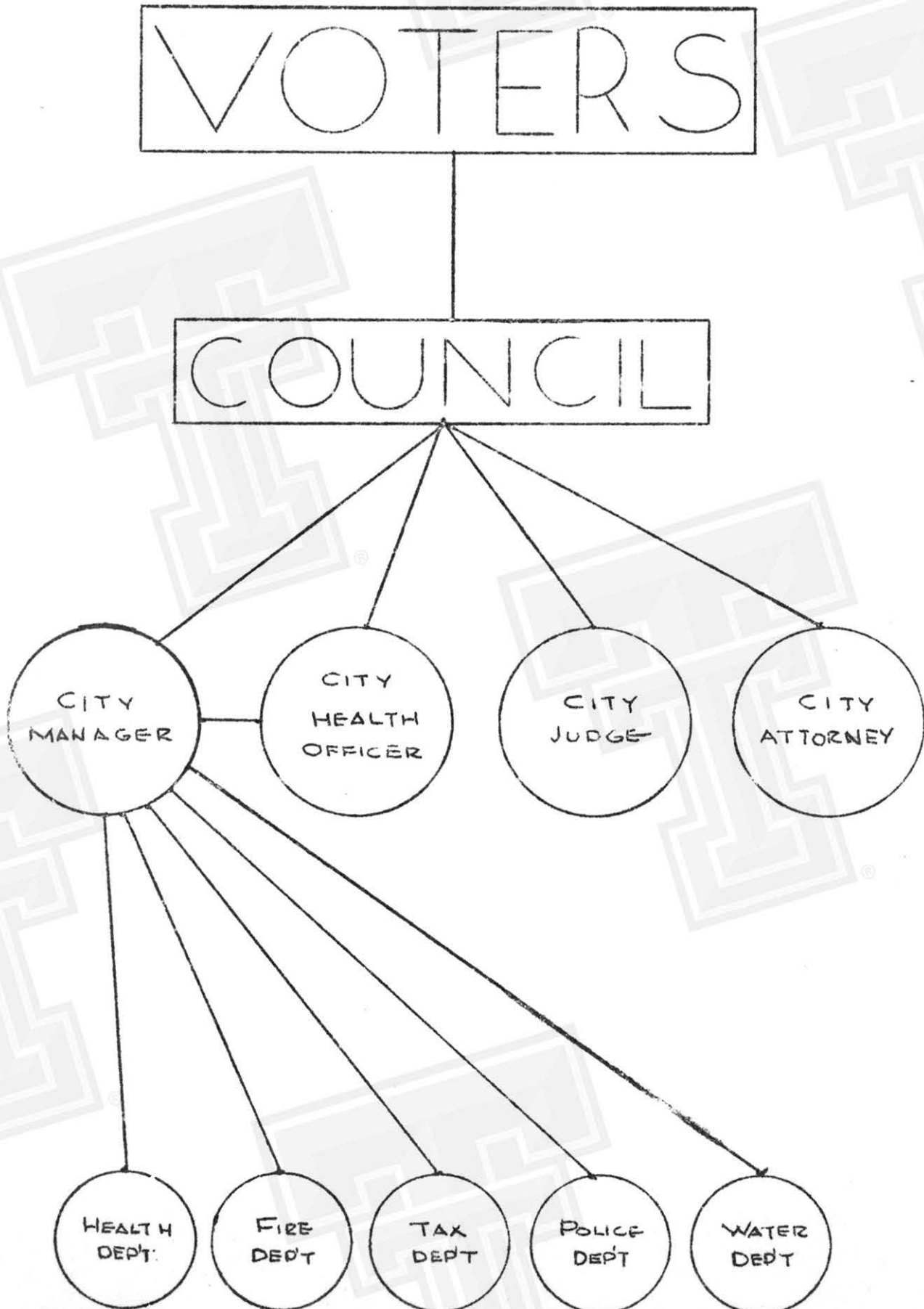
Chairman - MacLaren

Memos, Correspondence, etc.

Memo April 9, 1959

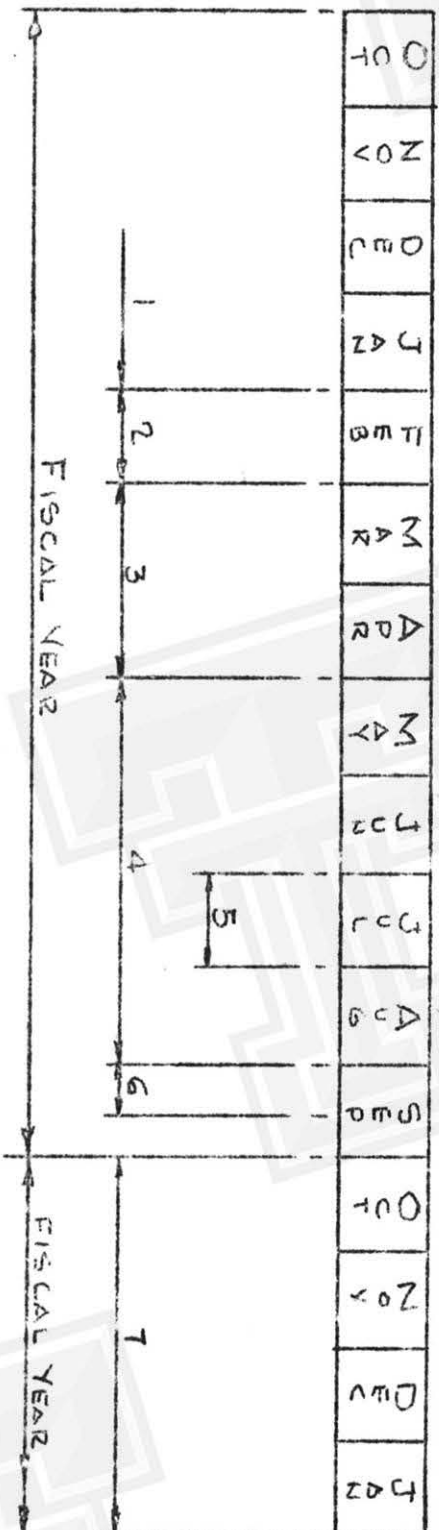
Memo May 1959 (On Know Your County surveys)

COUNCIL-MANAGER FORM OF GOVERNMENT AS PROVIDED IN
PROPOSED HOME RULE CHARTER



PREPARED AS A SERVICE TO VOTERS, BY LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS

FISCAL YEAR AS PROVIDED IN PROPOSED HOME RULE CHARTER



- 1 ASSESSOR - MAKS TAX RENDITION FORMS. (ON OR BEFORE JAN 31)
- 2 PROPERTY OWNERS RETURN FORMS. (BEFORE MARCH 1ST)
- 3 ASSESSOR - MAKES ASSESSMENT ROLL.
- 4 BOARD OF EQUALIZATION MEETS (NOT LATER THAN MAY 1ST; RETURNS ROLL TO COUNTY NOT LATER THAN SEP 1ST)
- 5 CITY MANAGER SUBMITS PROPOSED BUDGET (BETWEEN 60 AND 90 DAYS BEFORE THE END OF NEXT FISCAL YEAR)
- 6 BUDGET ADOPTED BY COUNCIL (NOT LATER THAN 15 DAYS BEFORE BEGINNING OF NEXT FISCAL YEAR)
- 7 TAXES PAYABLE (AFTER THIS ROLL IS FOR NEXT YEAR, TAXES MUST BE PAID BEFORE FEB 1ST)

FP League Supports Merger

Freeport's League of Women Voters, a non-partisan group dedicated to the study of public affairs, Friday recorded their first stand on a local issue by unanimously endorsing the proposed consolidation of Freeport and Velasco.

To date, seven area organizations have gone on record as favoring the consolidation of the two cities.

The vote on the merger was taken by the League in a special general membership meeting, after a study and discussion of the report of the fact-finding committee on consolidation.

Though the League of Women Voters never supports or opposes a candidate or a party, they may take a stand on an issue "after concerted study, discussion, and deliberation of the facts pro and con."

At the Friday meeting, League members were given the fact-finding report by two members of the committee, W. V. Curry, its chairman, and W. G. Correll.

Each of the 10 points of the fact-finding report was discussed, after which the vote was taken.

Since its organization and "Know Your Town" survey in 1953 and the subsequent adoption of its first local current agenda item, concerned with "implementation of the Freeport Planning Board and Master Plan" and this year's "Community Action on the Proposed Master Plan," the Freeport League has been studying, discussing, and taking to the community facts relative to the development and future of Freeport.

Following visits of the fact-finding committee to their meetings the following organizations, many of which are composed of citizens from throughout the area, have also voted their support to the merger of the two cities: Brazosport Chamber of Commerce, Freeport Jaycees, Freeport Kiwanis, Freeport Lions, Freeport Business Association, and Brazosport Optimist Club.

Members of the fact-finding committee will appear tonight at 7:30 p.m. at Lanier High School to talk to a joint meeting of the Lanier PTA and the Velasco Community Achievement Club.

Saturday at 2 p.m. they will be at the Velasco Fire Station to talk with the Volunteer Fire Department there. Monday, Feb. 4, the committee will appear at a 7:30 p.m. meeting of the Operating Engineers Union Hall, and the following night will talk at 7:30 p.m. at Whittens before the Velasco Lions.

Also that night, at 8 p.m. in the Brazosport Savings Civic Meeting Room, part of the committee will talk to the LULAC.

BRAZORIA COUNTY

The first white man to set foot on Texas Gulf Coast was a Spaniard, Alonzo Alvarez de Pineda in 1519. He drew a fairly accurate map of the coast line of the Gulf of Mexico. In 1528 an expedition from Spain was shipwrecked near Galveston Island. All but Alvar de Vaca were killed by Indians. Many tribes of Indians ranged the country from Galveston to San Antonio. There were eight noteworthy tribes when Stephen F. Austin brought colonizers to the coast, Comanches, Waccoes, Ionies, Towaccannies, Kechis, Lipans, Tonkawas, and the Karankawas, the last names were the most well known.

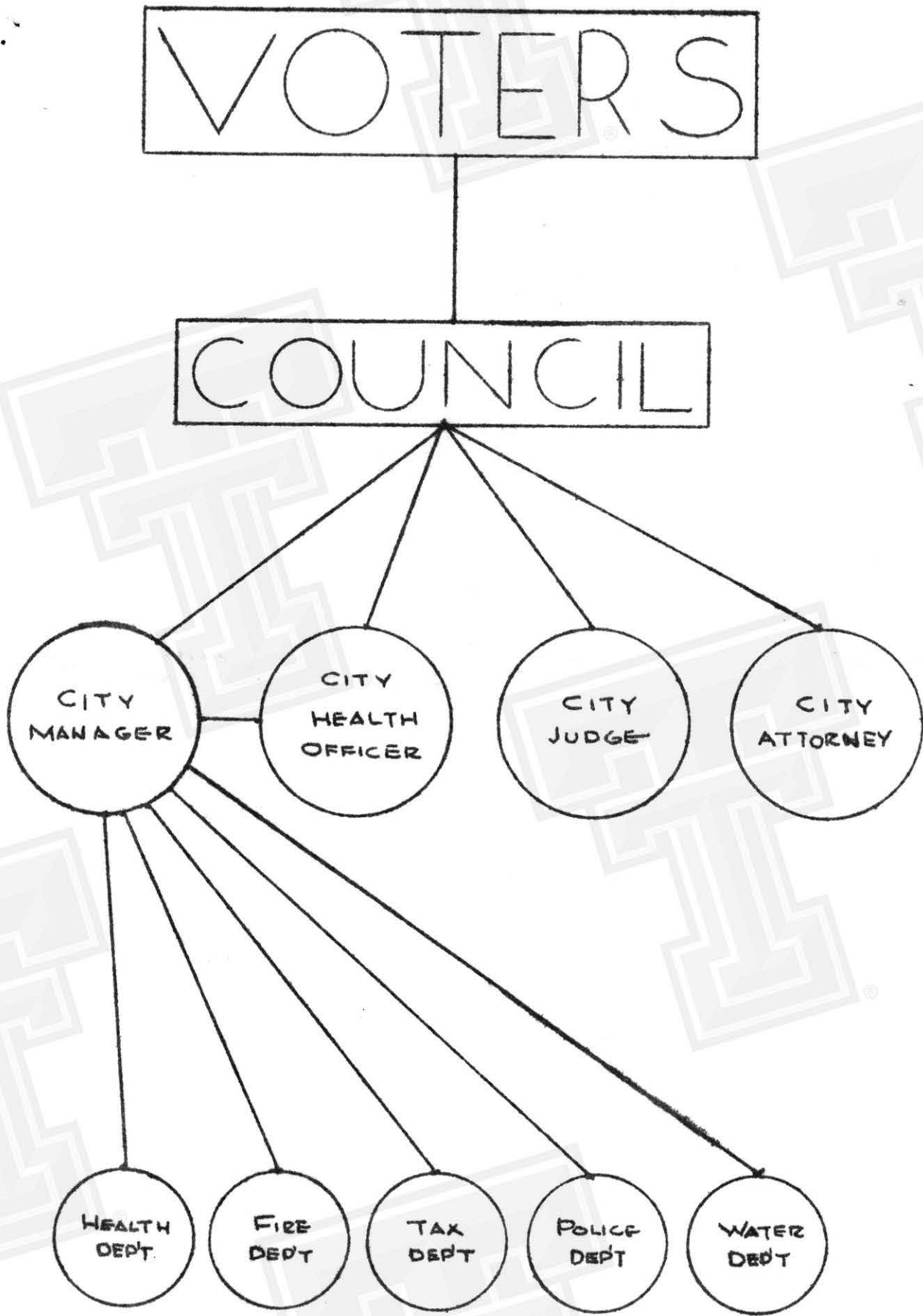
In 1820 Moses Austin traveled to San Antonio to seek permission from the Governor of Spain to establish a colony of Americans in Texas. After his death late in 1820 his son Stephen F. Austin made plans to follow out his father's colonization. In 1821 Stephen F. Austin came to an agreement with Governor Martinez relative to establishment of a colony in Texas. He chose the territory between the Colorado River and the Brazos River. Permission was granted to settle 300 families; each head of a family and each single man would be granted 640 acres and 320 additional acres allowed for a wife and 160 acres for each child and 80 acres for each slave. Austin to receive 12½ cents an acre from each settler for surveying.

In 1821 the first attempt to permanent settlement was made when 17 or 18 immigrants from New Orleans arrived on the schooner "Lively". They selected a site near present town of Richmond. But soon became discouraged and disbanded and returned to the U. S. Confusion exists concerning the exact dates of the next settlement in the county. In 1824 Josiah H. Bell laid out a town which was known as Bill's Landing or Marion, today is called East Columbia. Columbus-on-the-Colorado and Washington-on-the-Brazos were being settled, also Velasco, Brazoria and Quintana. San Felipe de Austin (now in Austin County) was laid out as the seat of first government of the colonies

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS
Freeport, Texas

BASIC PRINCIPLES TO BE USED AS A GUIDE
IN JUDGING A HOME RULE CITY CHARTER
AND WHAT IT SHOULD PROVIDE

1. Framework of basic law written in clear, simple language with the form of government clearly stated.
2. A system of government which is responsible to the will of the people and which enables the voter to carry out his obligations as a citizen.
3. Qualifications for voter eligibility and guarantee of fair elections.
4. A system of government in which responsibility is clearly fixed.
5. Provision for justice with minimum of delay.
6. A system of government in which there is a clear differentiation between policy-making functions and administrative functions.
7. A system of government which provides for adequate financing of government functions and services as efficiently and economically as possible with sufficient flexibility for emergency requirements.
8. Provisions for a master plan for the physical development and improvement of the city.
9. Provisions for simple, flexible, numbering system for the sections with a complete index.
10. Provisions for amendment and revision.



Prepared as a Public Service by the League of Women Voters

Freeport, Texas

PROPOSED HOME RULE CHARTER
COUNCIL-MANAGER FORM OF GOVERNMENT AS PROVIDED IN

PROPOSED HOME RULE CHARTER
COUNCIL-MANAGER FORM OF GOVERNMENT AS PROVIDED IN

UIN

FISCAL YEAR

- 1 ASSESSOR - MAHS TAX RENDITION FORMS. (ON OR BEFORE JAN 31)
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