



REPLY CARD

THIS SIDE OF CARD IS FOR ADDRESS.



LEAGUE of WOMEN VOTERS of TEXAS
2509 Washington Ave., Waco, Texas

LEAGUE:

BEAUMONT

Texas

EXACT WORDING OF LOCAL CURRENT AGENDA

- 1953: Health Appraisal for the city of Beaumont, approaching the problem from the needs of citizens for health services.
- 1954: Health survey with the League implementing and activating the findings of the survey so that Beaumont will have an adequate health program.
- 1955: Item 1: To continue to support action on a coordinated health program for Beaumont.
Item 2: To study the zoning ordinance as proposed by the City Planning Commission and act upon it."

December 2, 1957

Mrs. H. V. Trumpy
840 Nichols
Beaumont, Texas

Dear Mrs. Trumpy:

I am most appreciative of your interim report on your exciting Local Current Agenda project. Such a successful effort, coupled with such fine public relations, cannot help but build strength into the League of Women Voters of Beaumont -- in addition to providing a needed improvement in Beaumont's services.

One other thing I should like to ask for. You mention a report of the study committee and that it has been sent to the state office. I'm sorry, but we have never received a copy of this report and would like so much to add it to your file on the work you were doing. This file, it seems to me, will be valuable information for Mrs. Maurice Brown, state LCA chairman, in her work with other local Leagues on their local program.

Thanks again for sending such exciting information and I hope you will continue to keep us up to date on developments.

Most sincerely,

Mrs. Horton Wayne Smith

cc: Mrs. Maurice Brown ✓
Hughes

BEAUMONT

LCA -- 1958-59

1. The LWV of Beaumont will work to obtain a professional survey of the library system of Beaumont and work for improvement of its services and facilities

Chairman - Mrs. Sam Lyons 273 W. Circuit Drive

2. A report to the community on the two school systems in Beaumont

Chairman - ~~Mrs. B. Tyler Bryan 2595 Hazel~~

Correspondence

Letter to Mrs Lyons May '58 - no answer

" " Mrs Bryan " " "

Memo from State office Jan '59

Report from State File 55

to Mrs Lyons

to L. Brown

2 reports rec'd

LOCAL PROGRAM:

Annual Report

Describe any activity on your local Program.

Library item- worked with the Beaumont Citizens Library Committee to obtain survey of library.. no luck to date. Distributed 1000 copies of ~~LET'S LOOK AT OUR LIBRARY~~. Biding time now.

School item- Still collecting data. Membership have discussed data at two unit meetings; one fact sheet in bulletin; Two folders for public distribution in preparation stage, 1) Development of districts; 2) finance picture. Two reports to local groups, a PTA and a YMCA group. When first folder ready, will distribute with note to effect that we are willing to talk about what we have learned.

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

League

Beaumont

Chairman

Mrs. Sam Lyons

LCA Item

Study of J. P. Library 1958 - completed in 58 - kept on

(Use 2nd Report Form for LCA II or local Continuing Responsibility on which you worked this year.)

1. How many members on your committee?

6 when the committee was formed -
inactive in 59 -

2. How did you inform your members?

Units

yes

General Meetings

yes -

Voter

yes

Go-see trips

yes

Special bulletins or fact sheets

yes -

3. Was this an interesting item to most members?

yes

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

no

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

The circulation
shows a good increase.

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

yes

Work to obtain a professional survey of the library system to improve
Or, made a continuing responsibility? the services and facilities

7. What can you bring (or send with your delegation) for display at Council?

nothing

(Description and space required on display table.)

This was done

in Spring of '58 - the committee has been
inactive and waiting in line of the city
Administration reaction to doing anything about it at this
time.

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

We hope some thing will happen before too long so the
issue can be reopened.

League of Women Voters of Texas

1007 WEST 24TH STREET

o 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 Beaumont Chairman Mrs. A. Woyd Byram (acting)

LCA Item A Report to the Community on the Two School Systems in Beaumont
(Use 2nd Report Form for LCA II or local Continuing Responsibility on which you worked this year.)

1. How many members on your committee? 7
2. How did you inform your members?
Units 2 General Meetings _____
Voter yes - factual info. Go-see trips by some committee members -
Special bulletins or fact sheets attached to Voters
3. Was this an interesting item to most members? yes
4. Do you think that you accomplished your purpose in 1958-59? not completely
5. Do you feel that you made a contribution to your community? yes - when we publish our info.
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.)

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

We have presented some of our information to one of the larger PTA groups. and a small group of businessmen.

We plan to publish some of our facts in fly-folder form for distribution to the public — also perhaps use newspaper, radio & TV to disperse more information — and make speakers available to other local organizations.

ICA REPORT, 1958-59

(Please return this report to me at 3512 Gerlin, Houston 4, before February 28.)

Chairman

League

ICA Item

(Use this Report Form for ICA 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

Go-out trips

Voter

Special bulletins or fact sheets

3. Was this 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?

Or, made a continuing responsibility?

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

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

Feb. 2, 1959

Dear Louise:

I see that you have lost your LCA chairman for your item about Schools, so I am sending you the report sheet. Hope that you can fill it out without much trouble - I made them as simple as I could.

Will you be coming to President's Council this year? Hope to see you then.

I'm sending another report blank to Mrs. Lyons for for a report on the library item.

Sincerely,

Ruth Hughes

3812 Gertin
Houston 4, Texas
May 28, 1958

Mrs. B. Tyler Bryan
2595 Hazel
Beaumont, Texas

Dear Mrs. Bryan:

I am so glad to see that you have taken the chairmanship of the local current agenda item of the LWV of Beaumont in regard to the two school systems there. This will certainly be a most interesting and stimulating study, and will arouse a lot of community interest, I'm sure. As state chairman of LCA, I am much interested in how you will plan to proceed with making this study. When you and your committee have made your plans, I hope that you will write me and give me your outlook for work.

I hope that you have the new state publication: "On the Home Front." You will find it most useful in planning your work on this item.

You might ask some member of your committee to keep a running account of the steps you take in carrying out this item. This will furnish a record of your accomplishments for your league files, and will be building for the future on LCA items.

I will be looking forward to hearing from you about your outlook for work.

Cordially,

cc:SO
Braunagel
Pettis

Mrs. Eugene H. Hughes

3812 Gertin
Houston 4, Texas
May 28, 1958

Mrs. Sam Lyons
273 W. Circuit Drive
Beaumont, Texas

Dear Mrs. Lyons:

This is the time of year when you will be getting a committee and making plans for carrying out your local current agenda item about the library situation in Beaumont. You have such a good background on this subject from the work done last year, that I'm sure you are ready for the action that this item states. As state chairman of LCA, I am much interested in how you will plan to proceed. When you and your committee have made plans, I hope that you will write me and send me your outlook for work.

Do you have the new state publication: "On the Home Front"? I think you will find it most helpful. It would be a good idea for each member of your committee to have a copy of it.

I might also suggest that you ask someone on your committee to keep a running account of the steps you take in carrying out this item. This will furnish a record of your accomplishments for your League files. This is such a splendid action item that I am going to be most interested in your success.

I will be looking forward to receiving your outlook for work.

Cordially,

Mrs. Eugene H. Hughes

cc:SO
Braunagel
Pettis

LOCAL CURRENT AGENDA ITEM #1 - An analysis of the advantages and disadvantages of consolidation of the Beaumont and South Park School Districts, with the purpose of bringing factual information to the community.

The Committee on the Study of the Two School Systems was somewhat inactive in 1957-58 due to the illness of the chairman, Mrs. T. E. Clemons. However, one of the most important steps in the study was taken, an outline developed which will guide the Committee to continued action in the coming year. The outline is excellent and similar in many respects to the outline being used in the Hale Aiken Study in our State at this time. It is logical and includes all of the necessary items which when answered factually will give us an excellent picture of the two school systems as they are now operating. Mrs. Clemons was forced to resign due to pressure of family and business, and the committee was without a chairman for several months.

In February 1958, the Board appointed me as chairman and a committee of volunteers agreed to serve. These are Mrs. T. E. Clemons, Mrs. G. G. Kesner, Mrs. Leonard Malinowsky, Mrs. W. C. Dort. The first meeting was held February 18th, 1958. We discussed method and procedure in obtaining factual information that we might have the full cooperation of the two School Boards, as well as the local newspaper. (Our local newspaper has been challenging the community to the consolidation of the two systems for the past two years.)

We feel our success in fact finding depends on objectivity in obtaining and presenting the facts to the citizens - i. e. How do the two systems compare? We realize that the newspaper can be very helpful, but we do not wish to become identified with consolidation.

Members of the committee met with Bob Akers, Editor-in-Chief of the Beaumont Enterprise and Journal, to discuss our study plan. He was cooperative and agreed to publish our findings as we completed them. On this day we carefully drafted a letter to the President of each School Board with copy to the Superintendent, asking for permission to appear at a regular Board meeting to explain our study and ask their cooperation. We were granted an audience by both schools and were cordially received. However, both Boards ask that we wait until after the dead line date of May 1st for completion of the Hale Aiken Study Group before having our conferences with them. Conferences are to be pre-arranged by appointment so that we will not impose any hardship on any Administrator or Faculty member. The meeting with South Park was on March 18th, 1958, and with Beaumont Independent on March 19th, 1958.

For the present, the focus of the study is under the leadership of Mrs. Dart who has spent hours preparing accurate maps of each School District. She is taking responsibility for obtaining the history of the two systems and will show original boundary lines, annexation dates, etc. The committee has agreed to help in research by reading the Minutes of the County School Board. Two additional members have been appointed, - Mrs. Perry McFaddin, Jr., and Mrs. A. L. Byrum.

Our study has been well publicized by the newspaper and T. V. news. Interest is high resulting in pro and con of our success in obtaining facts and there is unity of thinking in at least one area, - The Study is a Herculean Undertaking.

Marjorie Bryan,
Chairman.

LOCAL CURRENT AGENDA ITEM 11: A study of the Facilities and Services of the Beaumont City Library.

In June, 1957, the resource committee on this local current agenda item issued a survey report which convinced the League members that a professional survey of library facilities and services would be the most effective way to find out what our library needs are here in Beaumont, and to know how to meet the needs. The League concluded that the project would be executed more effectively and more easily if other citizens were asked to help. In November, the Beaumont Citizens Library Committee was formed. It was composed of about 25 interested citizens, and Mr. Travis Brooks was named chairman, with Mrs. V.H. Trumpy, secretary. The Committee has progressed in its work to the point where it will appear before the City Council on April 14, 1958, to ask that the Council hire a professional surveyor to analyze our library facilities and services.

During March of this year the Library Committee of the League of Women Voters prepared and had printed 1000 copies of LET'S LOOK AT OUR LIBRARY, a ten-page digest of some of the facts collected. Distribution of this booklet is being carried out in early April. Copies will be mailed to League members, League contributors, and to various other individuals and organizations who are interested in and support our efforts.

At least ten women have been active on this project. They include, - Miss Maxine Johnston, Mrs. E. W. Gross, Mrs. Frank Anderson, Mrs. Rex Fortenberry, Miss Kira Kalichevsky, Miss Alice Cashen, Miss Clair Andrews, your president and your two co-chairmen. Several of these women are not League members.

Mrs. Sam Lyons
Mrs. V. H. Trumpy
Chairmen.

REPORT ON VOTERS SERVICE:

During October, 1957, 5,250 copies of the State VOTERS GUIDE were distributed to various organizations in Beaumont. These GUIDES gave information on the three constitutional amendments voted on in November.

Four poll tax stations were maintained in January, 1958. Mrs. W. W. Coffey, Mrs. Sam Lyons, Mrs. E. C. McKinzie and Mrs. Kenneth Sutton were in charge of these stations. We issued 4,110 poll tax receipts, receiving \$205.50 for the treasury. Thirty members and fourteen non-members helped in this drive.

At the general membership meeting in January, over twenty women from other organizations received instructions in issuing poll tax receipts. Approximately 100 copies of instructions were distributed to workers.

Mrs. J. B. Coltharp,
Chairman.

BEAUMONT ENTERPRISE

Established 1880. Published every morning by
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General Telephone TE 3-3311

Want Ads TE 3-1431

Thursday, April 17, 1958

The Plight of Our Library

THE report to the City Council that Tyrrell Public Library is far below both state and national standards is not something to be taken lightly by members of that body — or anybody else in Beaumont.

To allow this situation to continue would simply mean the deepening of a black mark against the city as a place to live and bring up a family.

And we must never get the idea that the matter of public library facilities is not thoroughly looked into by many a prospective resident of this or any other American town.

Travis Brooks, chairman of a citizens' committee which made a study of Tyrrell, reported that since 1931 the local institution has slipped steadily down the rating list.

Book circulation in Beaumont, he said, has dropped from an average of seven per person per year in 1931 to 1.7 at present.

Then the committee chairman presented these disturbing facts:

In 1931 an average of \$1.07 per person was spent on the library; this figure dropped during the depression of the 30s and has never gone back up; the expenditure is now about 65 or 70 cents. In the meantime, the consumer price index has climbed steadily.

What have we been thinking about?

Nothing, it seems to us, can improve the situation without the expenditure of some money.

It was pointed out in the report to the council that the American Library Assn. requests an expenditure of about \$3 per person.

Mr. Brooks requested the city governing body to employ a trained librarian of national reputation to study the public library facilities here and recommend measures for their rehabilitation, pointing out that such a survey would cost between \$3,000 and \$5,000.

That seems like a good place to begin.

Show To d Today erland

O, April 16 (Spl)—
Texas" will be the
1958 flower show of
den Club from 3:30
Thursday at the
Neches Woman's

competition will be
es in the artistic di-
classes in the horti-
on.

be allowed for non-
rs in a section,
he Garden Club," on
itive basis with the

"classes will be
ng to the scale of
the "Handbook of
" The entries will
qualified garden
now judges, to be
he show.

is invited to visit
view the many

ation Of s Weekly uspended

April 16 (Spl)—Publi-
Groves Gradual,
aper, has been sus-
he paper will not
ay, regular date for

Gober, of Beaumont,
firmed the suspen-
tion Wednesday but
ment on the future
he newspaper.
of the paper began

oman's Birthday gs Bad Luck

Ala., April 16 (P) —
McTyre of Dallas,
nvicted Wednesday—
day anniversary—of
ney through false

sentenced Monday by
David H. Edington.
e was tried on a
ht two rings from
ment store Dec.
ek for \$188.

'Y' REPORTS ON MEMBER DRIVE

488 Added Last Night Bring Total of New Ones to 1,226

The YMCA membership camp-
aign was going full steam ahead
with 488 memberships reported
yesterday, bring to 1,226 the tot-
al number of memberships ob-
tained thus far.

Don Braugh Sr., "big boss,"
presided over the men's division
and Leo Bradley over the boys'
division at the third report meet-
ing of the drive last night.

Yesterday's Total

Yesterday's total included 431
men's and 57 boys' memberships.
A total of 1,042 men's and 184
boys' memberships have been re-
ported in the drive thus far.

Bill E. Tucker's team of Square
"M" ranch, was the day's high
team in the men's division with
59 memberships and 4,764 points.

Quota Busters in the drive to
date include Gene Allen, Jerry
Berly, Charley Smith, Dr. Jack
Orrick Jr., W. D. (Bill) Norwood
Jr., Donnie Braugh Jr., and Bill
E. Tucker.

Special Entertainment

Entertainment last night consist-
ed of songs by Marvyn Harrison
accompanied by Betty Addison.

The fourth report meeting will
be held today at 6:15 p. m. at the
YMCA building. Tommy LeBlanc,
cobig boss, announced the pro-
gram will include songs by Bar-
bara Hargraves and Marilyn Bec-
kner accompanied by Mrs. Eloise
Milam.

(Advertisement)

Does BLADDER WEAKNESS

MAKE YOU FEEL OLD

NEW YORK—Special: Thanks to new,
scientific laboratory formulation, thou-
sands of men and women now escape
feeling old, tired, irritable and depressed
from losing sleep and worrying about
"Bladder Weakness"—too frequent,
burning and itching urination, Bed Wet-
ting, Getting Up Nights—or Strong
Cloudy Urine, due to common Kidney or
Bladder Irritations, which often result
in secondary Backache, Headache and
Nervousness. In such cases New Improved
CYSTEX usually gives quick, calming re-
lief by combating irritating germs in acid
urine; and by relaxing the spasmodic path

6159

DEVELOPMENT OF BEAUMONT'S SCHOOL DISTRICTS

Interest and concern over our schools has been greatly stimulated since 1957 when the Space Age thrust the first Sputnik into orbit. This concern has rightly centered on the local level where citizens can be most effective in strengthening, if necessary, the school programs of their own children.

When Beaumont citizens examine their schools, they must first consider the fact that there are two independent school districts here, the Beaumont Independent School District (BISD) and the South Park Independent School District (SPISD). The thousands of citizens who have moved here within the last ten years may need an explanation of this situation, because knowing the circumstances which brought about the establishment of the two districts will help these citizens make intelligent decisions about the future of the local schools.

In 1883, when (the citizens of) Beaumont voted in favor of the establishment of a school district and so became a part of the Texas school system, the control of the district was placed in the hands of the city administration. The eight-member board of trustees was appointed by and was responsible to the city council for staggered two-year terms. The council, under various city charters prior to the one the citizens adopted in 1947, could appoint as school trustees citizens who did not reside in the school district. These board members had no authority to call elections for bond issues to provide money for needed schools or to set tax rates.

Records indicate that until the early 1920s the boundaries of the Beaumont Independent School District coincided with those of the city.

When the South Park School District, established by the County Commissioners' Court in 1892, became an Independent School District in 1913, its board of trustees was elected by and was responsible to the citizens of the district. The usual seven-member board with staggered three year terms has the authority to carry on the business of the district, including the assessment of taxes and calling bond issues.

The boundaries of the original South Park Independent School District were completely outside the city limits of Beaumont.

A third school district, the French Independent School District, was established during the same period north of Beaumont, with a school board which was elected by the citizens and which had similar responsibilities as the board in SPISD. Its boundaries were completely outside the city when it was formed.

As the population of the area increased, city services were needed in the suburbs. By 1927 parts of the South Park Independent School District and of the French Independent School District had been annexed by the city. However, no action was taken to change the governmental status of the school district; available records show no serious effort made to reconcile the basic differences in control. So the three school districts became firmly established over thirty years ago.

In 1947, the present city charter was adopted, separating the Beaumont Independent School District from the city. It was organized as an independent unit similar to the SPISD and the FISD. The trustees are elected by the people and have authority to assess taxes and call bond elections. The following year, the French and Beaumont districts consolidated into the Beaumont Independent School District, thus reducing the number of districts inside the city to two.

Additions to the present school districts since 1948 are shown below.

BEAUMONT INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

1948-French District consolidation

1949-Portion of Calder Place joined
by petition

1949-Voth-Rosedale District consolidation

Present area: 54 sq. mi.
Partially in city.

SOUTH PARK INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

1949-Amelia District consolidation

1951-Cheek District consolidation

Present area: 108 sq. mi.
Partially in city.

Why Not an Admission Charge?



Survey Shows Unrealistic Costs in City's Two School Districts

THE two-headed calf that is Beaumont's dual school district system takes another, and needed, rap on the ribs from the Beaumont League of Women Voters.

This nonpolitical organization, after a fair and lengthy study of the system, has prepared a report that clearly shows the unrealistic cost incurred in one city supporting two separate school districts.

Although no recommendation is attached the report is further evidence of a growing need to remedy a situation which, in addition to unfairly penalizing taxpayers and students, reflects a lack of co-operation on a citizen level that is poor advertising for Beaumont.

People in other cities—in competing cities—surely blink their eyes at a school system which is as antiquated as the horse and buggy. They must wonder how it survived that mode of transportation when other cities solved similar problems by cutting the educational goods to fit a progressive pattern.

The league's financial survey merits study in connection with the city's master plan which spells out a single district to supplant the two-headed one. At a time when Beaumont must make every tax dollar go the full way, any possible reduction in costs should be studied, stopped, saddled and ridden for all it is worth.

Beaumont children are entitled to, and should have, the best possible public educational system. With its own Lamar Tech College offering a boost to higher education on a local level, the secondary schools should be set to supply it with the very best. But the best cannot be obtained from a system that is split down the middle, that costs taxpayers extra money, inconveniences students and creates an artificial civic division among Beaumonters.

The two-headed calf that nurses both sides of the mother cow at the same time belongs in a side show. It has no place in a city that is branded, and destined, for bigger and better things.

See Related Editorial

Two Districts Should Be One
An Enterprise July 5, 1959
PROMOTION of participation in government is a religion to members of the League of Women Voters.

And they believe, of course, that enlightened exercise of citizenship is dependent upon a wealth of factual information about public issues and activities.

The League tries earnestly to do more than its share in supplying that information to the people of every community in which it operates, carrying out its work without participation in politics as an organization.

Clear-thinking Beaumonters undoubtedly are grateful to the local group for its report to the people on the sources of revenue of this city's two school districts and the cost of operations in each.

The League did not, of course, recommend the formation of a single district, as did the Master Planners. However, the figures in the report tell their own story.

It is a story of unequal distribution of taxable wealth and unequal distribution of tax burden—all within the same community and in the name of the same kind of children.

It is also the story of duplication of time and effort and money—and waste of money.

It is the story of blind alleys in planning for the future.

And above all, it is the story of people's failure to give to their children that which they are capable of giving them.

2011 Sheridan
Houston 25, Texas
July 17, 1959

Mrs. A. L. Byram
2665 Louisiana
Beaumont, Texas

Dear Mrs. Byram:

I have just received the little blue pamphlet which your League has published about the school situation in Beaumont. May I congratulate you, as Local Current Agenda Chairman, on a fine job. The pamphlet is attractive looking, and the information contained therein is succinct, and much to the point. It seems to me that this will be a good shot in the arm for the Beaumont League.

Already you have received such good local publicity as contained in the clippings from the Beaumont papers. The cartoon is certainly clever, and the editorial write-up is a real boost for the League.

I hope you have much success as you continue with this project.

Cordially,

Mrs. E. H. Hughes

cc:SO
Braunagel
Loomis

Beaumont
Jan
Schools: Mrs. Byram reported that The Report on the Two School Systems was the topic for both Dec. unit meetings and there was an attendance of four at each meeting.

LIBRARY: Miss Loomis submitted a written report that the committee had mailed the Library report to all members with a request for views on the principles recommended by the committee and approved at the Nov. unit meetings.

Mrs. Tucker was directed to mail copies of the Library committee report and Voter's Key to the Mayor, City Mgr. and Council members. Mrs. Clemmons was appointed to discuss the report with the Mayor and ascertain his views.

Mrs. Lyons was directed to contact the papers to see if The Library Board question could be approached as an item provided for in the City Charter, but one we do not have.

The Board decided to send a digest of the Library Report to all clubs which have supported a Library Survey and ask if they support the League position on Library Boards.

Beaumont
Oct 5, 1959
Be Oct.
Library

The chairman was absent and the president reported for her that Miss Johnston's compilation of the information from the library questionnaires was not quite completed.

Study of Two School Systems:

Mrs. Byram, chairman, reported that the Junior Forum had requested 50 copies of "Your School Dollar" and the Pilot Club had requested 60 copies of the same and of "History of the Two School Districts". The Sertoma Club had asked for a speaker of October 22.

Units

Beaumont
Oct 5, 1959
Mrs. Clemmons, unit chairman, reported on the last general meeting at which Mr. Sam Landrum of Beaumont and Mr. Campbell of the city planning engineering firm had made a comprehensive presentation of the proposed city zoning ordinance. The board regretted that only eight members had availed themselves of the privilege of hearing it. It was decided not to invite guest speakers in the future until we were assured of better than

LCA:SCHOOLS

Mrs. Byram's committee will be prepared to lead the Dec. units.

LCA:LIBRARY

Beaumont
Dec.
Miss Loomis reported that the library board report will be in the mail to members, contributors and the Citizens Library Committee this month. Additional material has been added to the information used in unit discussions. The committee will meet after Christmas to plan ways to promote support for a library board.

Nov.
Beaumont

The summary on the Library report was corrected to read as follows: Miss Louise Loomis, newly appointed Chairman for the Library item, reported that Miss Johnston's compilation of the information from the library questionnaires was not quite complete.

Under the report of the School Committee, the date given for the Sertoma Club speech should read October 27, instead of October 22.

The minutes were approved as corrected.

SCHOOLS Mrs. Byram and Mrs. Clemmons will present the school material to the South Park Rotary Club August 10. Seventy letters offering brochures and speakers have been mailed to organizations.

LIBRARY Mrs. Lyons reported
The library survey on use of library boards is still being compiled.

ZONING (OR) LCA Bmt. Aug 3
Mrs. Lyons, on the Committee of 100, reported that when the zoning brochure is ready she will give them to the bulletin editor for mailing to league members. Miss Loomis reviewed the background material issued in the July VOTER on our work in this area. Mrs. A'isaga moved that the board take action on the proposed zoning ordinance under our local OR; Support of an adequate zoning ordinance for Beaumont. Seconded and carried. It was agreed that we should attend the public hearings to hear what opposition is raised.

BEAUMONT

LCA - 1959-60

Local Current Agenda: Study looking towards support of long range development programs for Beaumont with emphasis in (a) Work to obtain a professional survey of the Library system and to improve its services and facilities (B) A report to the community on the school systems in Beaumont.

- CR: 1. Support action on a coordinated health program for Beaumont.
2. Support an adequate zoning ordinance.

Chairman: Mrs. A. L. Bryam 2665 Louisiana

Correspondences, Memos, etc.

Memo: April 9, 1959

Letter - July 17 '53

COMMISSION GOVERNMENT



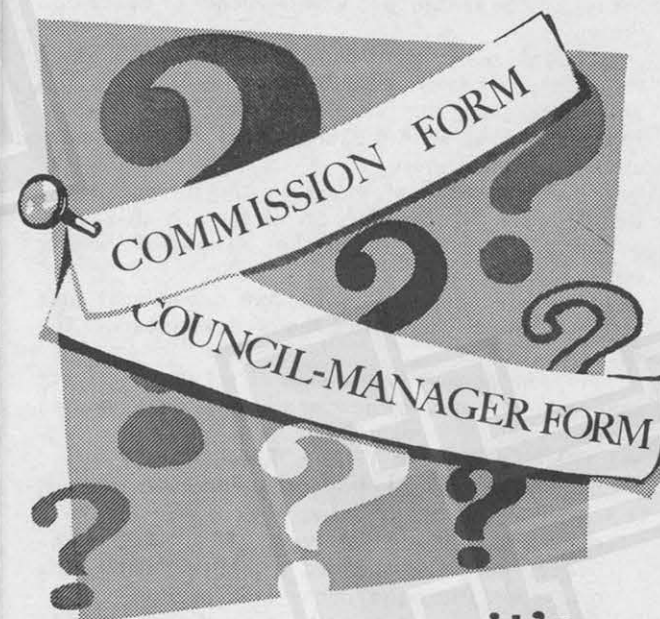
"Passing the Buck . . ."

COUNCIL-MANAGER GOVERNMENT



"Democratic City Government"

Galveston's City Government



it's
good
business
to
make it
your
business

Prepared by
the League of Women Voters
of Galveston, Texas

not recommended

THE COMMISSION FORM OF GOVERNMENT

In Galveston, which has a Commission form of Government, the voters elect the five members of the Board of Commissioners: Mayor-President, Commissioner of Finance and Revenue, Commissioner of Streets and Public Property, Commissioner of Water Works and Sewerage, and Commissioner of Police and Fire.

Although the original charter of 1901 anticipated that the Commissioners would supervise *Appointed* department heads, the practice has evolved for these five people to serve in a dual capacity, as policy makers and administrators.

The Mayor-President, who is a voting member of the Board, is the executive officer of the city and is required by the charter to see that all laws of the city are enforced.

Each Commissioner runs his own department with very little aid or check from the other members of the Board.

This form of government is in effect in only 13 per cent of American cities now, and has not been adopted for use by any city since 1947.

WE DO NOT FAVOR THIS FORM BECAUSE

1. Legislative and administrative functions are not clearly separated. The five elected officials make the laws, then execute them. They propose the budget, adopt the budget, establish the city tax rate, appropriate the money, and spend it.
2. Government is not unified. In practice it tends to be four little governments, each acting independently.
3. Rivalry among commissioners for budget funds exists. The tendency of each department is to overspend.
4. There is frequent friction among the city officials. Each tends to be more loyal to his own department than to the best interests of the city as a whole.
5. Commissioners are seldom trained in public administration. Most of them have had to learn on the job. Ability to win votes is no guarantee of ability to act as both legislator and administrator of public business.
6. The position of a commissioner with dual responsibilities does not attract many candidates. Few civic-minded men of high calibre are willing to give the time required to perform both the administrative and legislative duties.
7. Division of responsibility fosters the tendency to "pass the buck"!
8. Political obligations are often paid off with jobs and contracts, which should be awarded on the basis of efficiency and economy.

Recommended

THE COUNCIL-MANAGER FORM OF GOVERNMENT

In this type of city government, the voters elect a city council of from five to nine members, who serve on a part-time basis and receive nominal compensation. The powers of the council are strictly legislative; it passes ordinances and resolutions, establishes policy, approves the budget, and levies the city taxes. The council appoints a professionally trained city manager to carry out its policies and handle the administrative phases of government. Limitations to the powers of the council and of the manager are clearly defined in the charter. (The "mayor" in this form of government may be either elected by the council from its ranks or separately elected by the people. He serves primarily as chairman of the council and titular head of the city.)

WE FAVOR THIS FORM OF GOVERNMENT BECAUSE

1. Policy making functions are clearly separated from administrative. The elected council levies taxes, appropriates funds and contracts, debts. The city manager submits the budget for the approval of the council and then is responsible for spending the money.
2. Under a city manager, government is unified. The departments are run in an efficient, business-like way under appointed heads who are responsible to the manager.
3. Tax money is budgeted wisely. The integration of the administrative set-up reduces waste and inefficiency. The manager is able to make maximum use of personnel and equipment, cutting across department lines.
4. A city manager feels an obligation to see that all city departments are run equally well. His professional success depends upon the quality of his administration.
5. Council Manager government is not run by amateurs but by a trained city manager, chosen by the council on the basis of his executive and administrative qualifications. Over 80 per cent of city managers today have degrees in public administration.
6. More candidates are willing to offer themselves for election to a council which does not have the burden of administration. The council determines policy but hires a qualified executive to carry it out.
7. The tendency to "pass the buck" is gone. There is a responsible chief administrator, the manager.
8. A city manager is a non-partisan appointee; therefore he does not have any political obligations to affect the quality of his administration.
9. Continuity in actual administration of city business is maintained even with a change of council members.
10. This form is democratic. Appointment of a trained manager to carry out the policies established by an elected council is similar to the appointment of a trained school superintendent to carry out the policies established by the elected school boards. Both arrangements are considered democratic because the wishes of the people, as expressed through their elected representatives, are being carried out.

COUNCIL-MANAGER FORM OF GOVERNMENT WORKS IN CITIES THE SIZE OF GALVESTON

In Texas, 105 cities (over 5000) have Council-Manager Form of Government. Of those in the 50,000 to 110,000 range (1950 census), the following are examples: Amarillo (adopted 1913), Beaumont (1920), San Angelo (1918), Lubbock (1919), Waco (1924), Wichita Falls (1928), Port Arthur (1932), Corpus Christi (1945).

These Texas cities have all shown steady growth—some phenomenal. Evidently the Council-Manager Plan has, in these cities, demonstrated its ability to cope with the many problems, which parallel growth and expansion.

In the 50,000 to 110,000 population group, Galveston is the only Texas city with the Commission Form of Government.

IT IS THE PREFERENCE OF CITIES ADOPTING NEW CHARTERS

Four out of five cities today are selecting Council-Manager government.

A PROFESSIONAL APPRAISAL

The Committee on Public Administration of the Social Science Research Council says: "The committee found that the plan—by comparison with the preceding forms of government—brought a diminution of partisan or factional influence over the government—furthered long-range planning—raising the standards of public employment—improving the methods of financial management. The great contribution of the new form of government was to make a single governing body collectively responsible to the voters for all aspects of the city government."

CHANGE FOR THE SAKE OF CHANGE IS NOT ENOUGH

No charter can guarantee superior government without citizen participation. Like every other political structure the Council-Manager Plan is not self-operating. Success comes in the communities where citizens show constant interest, participation, and supervision. Yet the form of government is of great importance. Just as the workman must have the best tools to do a superior job, so a city must have the best form of government to give superior public service.

BECAUSE THE COUNCIL-MANAGER FORM OF GOVERNMENT MOST CONSISTENTLY PROVIDES SUPERIOR, PROGRESSIVE ADMINISTRATION AND LEADERSHIP, THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF GALVESTON RECOMMENDS THAT THE PRESENT FORM OF GOVERNMENT FOR THE CITY OF GALVESTON BE CHANGED TO THAT OF A COUNCIL-MANAGER PLAN.

TOTAL BONDED INDEBTEDNESS

August 31, 1958

BEAUMONT Ind. School Dist. \$13,293,800

SOUTH PARK Ind. School Dist. 5,792,000

CONSTRUCTION COST SINCE 1952*

Beaumont \$7,800,000

South Park 3,850,000

*Source: Hale-Aiken Reports

CLASSROOMS NEEDED BY 1963*

Beaumont 26

South Park 99

*Source: Hale-Aiken Reports

THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS

always studies the facts before reaching conclusions.

THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS

encourages political responsibility through informed and active participation of citizens in government.

*Your School Dollar
Income and Outgo*



Published by
BEAUMONT LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS

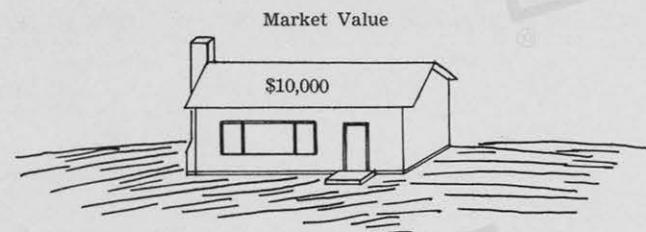
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One of a series of publications on Beaumont Schools

BEAUMONT
INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT
SOUTH PARK
INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT
Beaumont, Texas

"A report to the community on the two school systems in Beaumont"—Adopted as Local Project by the Beaumont League of Women Voters, 1958.

COMPARATIVE TAXES 1958 - 1959



	Beaumont	South Park
Assessed Valuation	\$5,100.00 (51%)	\$4,000.00 (40%)
Tax Rate	\$1.78/\$100	\$1.50/\$100
Tax	\$90.78	\$60.00
Ratio	\$1.51	\$1.00

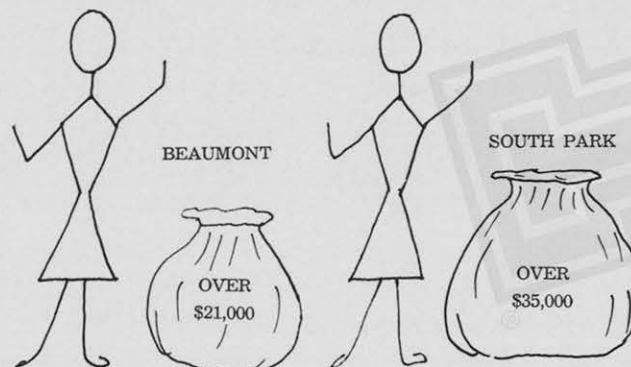
The above diagram and table show the assessed valuation, tax rate and amount of tax for a house which sells for \$10,000.00 in each of the school districts. The ratio shows the homeowner in the Beaumont Independent School District pays \$1.51 in school taxes for each \$1.00 the homeowner in the South Park Independent School District pays.

SOURCE OF TAXES

	Beaumont	South Park
Non-Residential	53%	70%
Residential	47%	30%

All local school taxes are based on property: Real, Physical Assets and Inventories of Businesses.

MARKET VALUATION PER SCHOOL CHILD 1958 - 1959



BEAUMONT—Assessed valuation is \$160,000,000, 51% of market value. Market value is \$313,725,490. This figure divided by 14,700 students (Nov. 1958) gives a market valuation per school child of \$21,342.

SOUTH PARK—Assessed valuation is \$124,500,000, 40% of market value. Market value is \$311,250,000. This figure divided by 8,740 students (Nov. 1958) gives a market valuation per school child of \$35,612.

The market valuation per school child represents the per-pupil wealth of the school district.

ESTIMATED CURRENT EXPENSES* 1958 - 1959

Beaumont		South Park
2.9%	SERVICES **	4.4%
4.0%	ADMINISTRATION	5.5%
9.6%	OPERATION - MAINT.	12.9%
83.5%	INSTRUCTION	77.2%
\$4,136,173	TOTAL	\$2,786,538

* Source: School District Budgets for 1958 - 59.

Current Expenses do not include capital outlay or debt service.

** Services include: Attendance service, Health Service, Transportation, and Fixed Charges.

SOURCES OF REVENUE 1957 - 1958

	Beaumont	South Park
Local Sources	57.8%	63.6%
State Sources	42.1%	36.2%
County, other	.1%	.2%

The Local Sources include: Local Maintenance Tax, Debt Service Tax, Tuition from patrons, Gifts, Rental, Etc.

The State Sources include: Per Capita Apportionment, Foundation Fund Salary and Operation, Foundation Fund Transportation, and Vocational Education.

DEVELOPMENT OF BEAUMONT'S SCHOOL DISTRICTS

Interest and concern over our schools has been greatly stimulated since 1957 when the Space Age thrust the first Sputnik into orbit. This concern has rightly centered on the local level where citizens can be most effective in strengthening, if necessary, the school programs of their own children.

When Beaumont citizens examine their schools, they must first consider the fact that there are two independent school districts here, the Beaumont Independent School District (BISD) and the South Park Independent School District (SPISD). The thousands of citizens who have moved here within the last ten years may need an explanation of this situation, because knowing the circumstances which brought about the establishment of the two districts will help these citizens make intelligent decisions about the future of the local schools.

In 1883, when (the citizens of) Beaumont voted in favor of the establishment of a school district and so became a part of the Texas school system, the control of the district was placed in the hands of the city administration. The eight-member board of trustees was appointed by and was responsible to the city council for staggered two-year terms. The council, under various city charters prior to the one the citizens adopted in 1947, could appoint as school trustees citizens who did not reside in the school district. These board members had no authority to call elections for bond issues to provide money for needed schools or to set tax rates.

Records indicate that until the early 1920s the boundaries of the Beaumont Independent School District coincided with those of the city.

When the South Park School District, established by the County Commissioners' Court in 1892, became an Independent School District in 1913, its board of trustees was elected by and was responsible to the citizens of the district. The usual seven-member board with staggered three year terms has the authority to carry on the business of the district, including the assessment of taxes and calling bond issues.

The boundaries of the original South Park Independent School District were completely outside the city limits of Beaumont.

A third school district, the French Independent School District, was established during the same period north of Beaumont, with a school board which was elected by the citizens and which had similar responsibilities as the board in SPISD. Its boundaries were completely outside the city when it was formed.

As the population of the area increased, city services were needed in the suburbs. By 1927 parts of the South Park Independent School District and of the French Independent School District had been annexed by the city. However, no action was taken to change the governmental status of the school district; available records show no serious effort made to reconcile the basic differences in control. So the three school districts became firmly established over thirty years ago.

In 1947, the present city charter was adopted, separating the Beaumont Independent School District from the city. It was organized as an independent unit similar to the SPISD and the FISD. The trustees are elected by the people and have authority to assess taxes and call bond elections. The following year, the French and Beaumont districts consolidated into the Beaumont Independent School District, thus reducing the number of districts inside the city to two.

Additions to the present school districts since 1948 are shown below.

BEAUMONT INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

1948-French District consolidation

1949-Portion of Calder Place joined
by petition

1949-Voth-Rosedale District consolidation

Present area: 54 sq. mi.
Partially in city.

SOUTH PARK INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

1949-Amelia District consolidation

1951-Cheek District consolidation

Present area: 108 sq. mi.
Partially in city.

Background on Beaumont School Districts Outlined By Women Voters' Group

A report, reflecting months of study of the school districts in the city, has been released by the League of Women Voters. The report follows:

"Interest and concern over our schools has been greatly stimulated since 1957 when the Space Age thrust the first Sputnik into orbit. This concern has rightly centered on the local level where citizens can be most effective in strengthening, if necessary, the school programs of their own children.

Two Districts

"When Beaumont citizens examine their schools, they must first consider the fact that there are two independent school districts here, the Beaumont Independent School District and the South Park Independent School District.

The thousands of citizens who have moved here within the last ten years may need an explanation of this situation, because knowing the circumstances which brought about the establishment of the two districts will help these citizens make intelligent decisions about the future of the local schools.

"In 1893, when the citizens of Beaumont voted in favor of the establishment of a school district and so became a part of the Texas school system, the control of the district was placed in the hands of the city administration.

Appointed by Council

The eight-member board of trustees was appointed by and was responsible to the City Council for staggered two-year terms. The council, under various city charters prior to the one the citizens adopted in 1947, could appoint as school trustees citizens who did not reside in the school district. These board members had no authority to call elections for bond issues to provide money for needed schools or to set tax rates.

Records indicate that until the

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Outside City

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1947 Separation

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"Additions to the present school districts since 1948 are shown below. Beaumont Independent School District: 1948-French District Consolidation; 1949, portion of Calder Place joined by petition and 1949, Voth-Rosedale District Consolidation.

Present area is 54 square miles, partially in city.

South Park Independent School District: 1949, Amelia District consolidation and 1951, Cheek District consolidation.

Present area is 108 square miles, partially in city.

Cost of Operating Two School Districts in City Bared in League Report

Sources of revenue and costs of operating Beaumont's two school districts, a situation which the city's master plan says should be eliminated by forming a single district, are shown in a comparative financial survey released by the Beaumont League of Women Voters.

Titled "Your School Dollar, Income and Outgo," the pamphlet is one of a series of publications the league has prepared on Beaumont schools. The report is based upon figures for the 1958-1959 school year.

Tax Sources

The report reveals that the Beaumont District obtains 53 per cent of its local taxes from non-residential property and 47 per cent from residential. By comparison the South Park District draws 70 per cent from non-residential property and 30 per cent from residential.

The Beaumont District uses 51 per cent of the assessed valuation with a tax rate of \$1.78 per \$100 valuation.

The South Park District uses a 40 per cent valuation and a rate of \$1.50 per \$100 valuation, the report says.

The ratio shows that the homeowner in the Beaumont District pays \$1.51 in school taxes for each \$1 the South Park District homeowner pays, according to the report.

(Editor's note: The South Park District has just announced that taxes due in October will be based upon a 50 per cent valuation instead of the former 40 per cent.)

Current Expenses

A study of the estimated current expenses, based on the 1958-59 budgets, Beaumont, \$4,136,173 and South Park, \$2,788,538 reveals the following breakdown:

Services, including attendance, health, transportation and fixed charges: Beaumont 2.9 per cent; South Park, 4.4 per cent.

Administration: Beaumont, 4 per cent; South Park, 5.5 per cent. Operation and maintenance: Beaumont, 9.6 per cent; South Park, 12.9 per cent.

Instruction: Beaumont, 83.5 per cent; South Park, 77.2 per cent.

The Beaumont District, serving 14,700 students, has a bonded indebtedness of \$13,283,900 while the South Park District, serving 8,740 students, has a bonded indebtedness of \$5,792,000.

The Beaumont District has spent \$7,800,000 in construction since 1952 and will need only 26 additional classrooms by 1963.

The South Park District has expended \$3,850,000 in construction during the same period, but will need 99 additional classrooms by 1963. The construction figures and the classroom projection are based on the Hale-Aldin reports.

June 29 Enterprise