

*San Antonio*

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF SAN ANTONIO TEXAS  
LOCAL PROGRAM

1955-56 (Adopted March 9, 1955)

1. Voters Service.
2. A campaign of public education, based on the County Survey, as to the need in Bexar County for a modernized and efficient structure of government, and action in local areas to attain it.
3. Continued support of the basic principles of council-manager government.

1954-55

1. Voters Service
2. A Campaign of public education, based on the County Survey, as to the need in Bexar County for a modernized and efficient structure of government and the means to attain it.
3. Continued support of the basic principles of council-manager government.

1953-54 (Adopted March 11, 1953)

1. Voters Service
2. A campaign of public education, designed to point up the need for county home rule as a basis for efficiency in county government, using as a tool the completed "Know Your County" survey.
3. Continued support of the basic principles of council-manager government in San Antonio. (Adopted June 29, 1953)

1952-53 (Adopted March 12, 1952)

1. Voters Service.
2. Continuation of "Know Your County" study.

1951-52

1. Voters Service.
2. A continuation of the "Know Your County" study as a basis for timely action when necessary.
3. Continued support of local legislation leading to council-manager form of government for San Antonio.

1950-51

1. Voters Service.
2. Continued work for Council-Manager Charter revision.
3. "Know Your County" study.

League of Women Voters of Texas

Austin 5, Texas

April 16, 1956

To: Local Current Agenda Chairman, State Board  
From: San Antonio League of Women Voters.  
From: Mrs. H. R. Yeary, State Chairman, Local Current Agenda

Here we are, hardly unpacked from a great State Convention, and all keyed up with plans for another satisfying job in L.W.V. I'm sure you and your Board have already read how the Organization Committee of the State Board is set up under Pauline Lemon, Vice-President, and how we're going to have a day of orientation in Austin on June 20. I would like to hear from you as soon as possible, with a few answers which I can use there.

1. List your local agenda item for this year (April 1, 1956 --April 1, 1957) adopted at your Annual Meeting.

~~A Know your Community Survey, with view to preparation of a handbook~~

2. Have you read the State Board Report, Outlook For Work on the State Item, mailed to your president on April 10? Yes x No         
Have you read the National Board Report, Outlook For Work on the National Items, mailed to your president January, 1956? Yes x No       

3. Will you please send me your Outlook For Work on Local Items?

~~1. Work under supervision of a steering committee, subject to Board approval. Tentative time schedule as follows:~~

~~April: Steering Committee planning, Unit leader briefing.~~

~~May: Selected 3 main chapters, Govt. including personnell and finance, Education, and Public Welfare for intensive summer work. Rough drafts of these chapters, plus material for general and unit meetings to be ready for opening work in Fall. Take 3 or 4 more chapter topics for another 3-4 months work beginning in Oct, again in Jan, and complete last ones by June 1957. Editorial and polishing work to be done summer 1957, ready for publication and distribution Fall 1957.~~

~~May Unit leaders discuss plans and secure names of interested individuals (Which topic would you like to work on? not who wants to work.....)~~

~~June, Meeting of committees on each of these chapters (chaired by members of steering committee acting as resource persons) organization and planning of work for summer. (no regular meetings of units etc)~~

~~July August--Committees working independtly of one another--except for steering committee conferences.~~

~~September, completion of work in these areas, selection of new ones, revision~~

4. What immediate help do you need or expect from the State Board on the local items adopted at your annual meeting? as need

1. Copies of surveys of cities or metropolitan areas done in recent past.

2. suggestions on organizing material on "satelite" communities and relations with county.

(Please return one copy of this page, when you have completed it, to: Mrs. H. R. Yeary, Box 534, Laredo, Texas.)

Note I am leaving town for a year in August, so the work will be under the direction of the steering committee and my as yet unappointed sucessor.

It might be wise to address communications to the president of the league in order to avoid conuision until sucessor is named.

Carolyn Attneave 318 Palm Drive San Antonio, Texas



[REDACTED]  
May 14, 1958

Miss Frances Scarbrough  
[REDACTED]

Dear Miss Scarbrough:

This is the time of year when you will be getting a committee and making plans for work on the local item of the LWV of San Antonio. As state chairman of LCA, I am much interested in how you plan to proceed on your item of "Completion of Know Your City Survey." When you and your committee have made plans, I hope that you will write me and give me your outlook for work.

Do you have the new state publication: "On the Home Front"? I think that you will find a most useful guide in carrying out a LCA item.

I might suggest that you ask someone on your committee to keep a running account of the steps that you take in completing this survey. A published booklet will be the record of your accomplishment.

Good luck! And I will hope to receive your outlook for work.

Cordially,

cc:SO

Pettis

~~Manager~~

Mrs. Eugene H. Hughes

[REDACTED]  
May 14, 1958

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[REDACTED]

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Cordially,

cc:SO

Pettis

Benniger

Mrs. Eugene H. Hughes

League SAN ANTONIO none LCA Chairman

If yours was an action item in 1955-56, did you achieve your goal? not an action item

If answer to above was no, why in your opinion was goal not reached?

(1) Bad timing (2) Not enough local interest (3) Other

How did you inform your membership? Units yes VOTER yes General meeting yes

How many members did you use on your committee? about 12

Was your portfolio directly responsible for getting new members or reactivating old members? Don't know. However discussion in units has been lively and considerable interest has been shown by members.

(See attached sheet)



[REDACTED]  
January 16, 1957

REPORT ON LOCAL CURRENT AGENDA 1956-57

Current Agenda: A Know Your City Survey with a view to preparation of a handbook.

Continuing Responsibilities:

1. Continued use of the County Survey to meet the needs for a modernized and efficient structure of government, and action in local areas to attain it.
2. Continued support of the basic principles of council-manager government.

Local Current Agenda in San Antonio during 1956 was handicapped by changing leadership.

Mrs. Fred Attneave,  
The local chairman/moved from the city and resigned August 18. We have not been able to secure a replacement so the board has assumed supervision since that time.

Our subchairman on the "Education" section, Mrs. Harold Vexler, carried the subject to the units in October and this section of the survey got under way.

In December Mrs. Vexler turned over her sub-chairmanship to Mrs. Louis Lieblich. Together with her committee she expects to have this section available in mimeographed form in April 1957.

A general membership luncheon in September featured a speaker on "Housing" - a part of the survey in which there is much interest.

Two of our sub-chairmen were unable to carry through on their sections of the study because of other heavy League commitments: Mrs. B.H. Passmore on "Structure of Govt." and Mrs. Ed Conroy on "Welfare".

We have secured a new subchairman on "Structure of Govt." - Miss Frances Scarsborough. She expects to do active work with her committee after April 15, completing that section of the survey in two or three months.

There seems to be considerable member interest in making "Housing and Planning" the next section to be done. If so, Mrs. William Sinkin will be available to us as sub-chairman for this section.

Local continuing responsibility for support of council-manager government has been the portfolio of Mrs. J. J. Bell who has had observers at City Hall regularly throughout the year.

We have a regular weekly column in one of our local papers. Several of these columns have covered phases of council-manager government.

Reported by:

*Gerald Ashford*  
Mrs. Gerald Ashford, President

SAN ANTONIO

LCA - 1958-59

I. Completion of Know Your City Survey, and publication and use of a handbook

Chairman: Miss Frances Scarbrough [REDACTED]

- II. Use of the Citizens Handbook of Bexar County as a tool for:
- a. a campaign of public education on the need for county home rule
  - b. support of improved budgetary procedures to obtain more efficient county government

Chairman: Mrs. B. H. Passmore [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Continued support of the basic principles of council-manager gov't.

*Correspondence*

Letter - May 14 '58 TO Scarbrough To One.  
" May 6 '58 TO Passmore One. May 29 '58  
Card June 15 '58 "  
note June 5 '58 "  
Letter Sept 10 '58  
" Nov 10 '58  
Memo Jan 59 from S O  
Report sheets + notes Feb '59  
Report rec'd

LOCAL PROGRAM:

Describe any activity on your local Program.

*Annual report*

*Observers attend meetings of city Council*

*Research carried on - material prepared for City Handbook.*

*Public education carried on - particularly on need for County*

*Home Rule - by means of County Handbook Speakers Bureau,  
and cooperation with Bexar Co. Home Rule Assn.*



San Antonio

League of Women Voters of Texas

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 [REDACTED] before February 20.)

League San Antonio Chairman Mrs. B. H. Passmore

LCA Item See attached report.

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

1. How many members on your committee? About 5.

2. How did you inform your members?

Units Yes

General Meetings One meeting in Dec.  
with Legislators

Voter Some items.

Go-see trips ----

Special bulletins or fact sheets Budgetary procedures & HJR 45

3. Was this an interesting item to most members? Yes.

4. Do you think that you accomplished your purpose in 1958-59? No, it still needs heavy duty.

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 the County Home Rule item strengthened to include legislative  
Or, made a continuing responsibility? support.  
The second part to be made a CR for possible future action.

7. What can you bring (or send with your delegation) for display at Council?  
(Description and space required on display table.) Yes, some will be brought by our delegates.

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

At our annual meeting, the two above recommendations were accepted by the general membership. My committee is now 20 & is increasing.

*From the desk of*

*Mrs. B. H. Passmore*

[REDACTED]

March 13, 1959

Dear Ruth Hughes,

This LCA item on County Home Rule has been simmering and now it is at a boil. Carol said she had been mailing you the clippings and Lila will give you orally some more of the details.

Until now I have waited for something to report.

I am attaching for you a copy of the letter I mailed to Cookie, and I am asking Carol to hand you my belated report. Also there is a copy of my report at our annual meeting which is too large a version to be included on the blue sheet.

SA will need all the mental and moral support you gals can think up and sustain. I am sorry I am not twins so I could be there too.

With love,

Florence Passmore

[REDACTED],  
San Antonio, Texas.  
March 8, 1959.

Mrs. Horton Wayne Smith, President,  
League of Women Voters of Texas,  
[REDACTED]  
Austin, Texas.

Dear Cookie:

Our committee for County Home Rule, made up of members from the Chamber of Commerce, the League of Women Voters, the Taxpayers League and the Research and Planning Council, have been in liaison with committees from other metropolitan areas. There have been meetings in San Antonio, Dallas, Houston, Fort Worth and Austin.

Last October the Texas Home Rule Commission was organized with Mr. Ben Belt of Houston as Chairman. However, this organization was rather loosely formed, and included wonderful people but terribly busy people, and it has never seemed to be able to get off the ground. Members from Houston and San Antonio have had attendance at each meeting.

The draft that was presented at the Regional Conference of the League in Austin was not acceptable to the Harris legislators. The Houston delegation proposed a compromise, but San Antonio rejected it mainly on two points. The population bracket was upped to 350,000 and this statement was inserted "no consolidation of any city, town or village with the county shall take place prior to 1975". It also required an enabling act.

It has been the hope of many of us that an amendment could be jointly sponsored by the four big metropolitan counties, but by the end of February, the Bexar County delegation felt that if any action was to be attempted this session, it would have to be as "special legislation for Bexar County". We believe we have the support of our legislators. We realize that this type of legislation has many ramifications, but if we win, and if it is not crippled by amendments, it would certainly open the door for other counties in the future. We will need reinforcements for passage in the House and Senate for a 2/3 vote as well as before the hearings.

HJR 45 has been filed in the House by Representative Raymond Russell, and we have started action at the local level for support. I am attaching some of the press releases. Copies of the bill are being mimeographed and shall be sent you.

I have had nothing concrete to report before, but from now on I hope we will have much to write about. Your guidance, your suggestions, your voice with your legislators, will be needed.

Copies to Sher, Brownscombe,  
Hughes and Pettis.

With best regards,  
Mrs. B. H. Passmore



March 10, 1959

To League of Women Voters of San Antonio  
Report of Director of

1958-59 Local Current Agenda

Use of the Citizen's Handbook of Bexar County as a tool for:

- a- A campaign of public education on the need for county home rule;
- b- Support of improved budgetary procedures to obtain more efficient county government.

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This has been a dual item. The campaign of public education on the need for county home rule is tied in closely with metropolitan area problems and gives hope to a way of possible reform. The budgetary procedures item has created interest and support for reform in the county structure as it now exists.

In July a copy of the budgetary procedures was sent to contributors. In October the Unit leaders were briefed on county government and county home rule, and all units discussed this item in November. The Representatives and the Senator were invited to our December general meeting, and copies of the proposed amendment for county home rule were given them, and their support asked. Six of the eight were present. In January members of the League attended the budget hearing, and the League again spoke on improving the budgetary procedures.

The use of the Handbook is continuing. It is available through League Publications, at the Courthouse, and through College bookstores. It is being constantly used in government classes and by some of the legislators. In the last two months seven talks have been given to civic groups on "County Government and County Home Rule."

Your Director has served on the Bexar County delegation with members from the Chamber of Commerce, the Taxpayers League and the Research and Planning Council, to attend conferences with delegations from other metropolitan areas to explore means of securing a workable home rule amendment. There have been meetings in San Antonio, Dallas, Houston, Fort Worth and Austin. Last October the Texas Home Rule Commission was organized.

A proposed draft of an amendment was presented at the Regional Conference of the League of Women Voters of Texas. Permission for the three local Leagues who had "County Home Rule" on their agendas to work together for a common legislative goal was given.

This draft was not acceptable to the Harris legislators. The Houston delegation proposed a compromise but SA rejected it mainly on two points. The population bracket had been upped to 350,000 and there was an insertion "no consolidation of any city, town, or village with the county could take place prior to 1975."

It had been hoped that an amendment could be jointly sponsored by the four metropolitan counties, but by the end of February, the Bexar delegation felt that if any action was to be attempted this session, it would have to be as "special legislation for Bexar County." We believe we have the support of our legislators. We realize that this type of legislation has many ramifications, but if we win, and if it is not crippled by amendments, it would certainly open the door for other counties in the future. We need reinforcements for passage in the House and Senate for a 2/3 vote as well as before the hearings.

Copies of HJR45 which has been filed in the House are available this evening. Concerted, intelligent citizen support locally will be necessary to get this passed.

A Bexar County Home Rule Committee has been organized and your Director has been named as Chairman. The League of Women Voters of San Antonio will be looked to for a great measure of support.

# In Austin On Two Bills

Bexar County Commissioners court was in Austin Monday afternoon in regard to two legislative measures now under consideration.

The entire court was supporting creation of a state medical school and urging it be located in San Antonio.

The majority of the court also was opposing a county home rule amendment being backed by Commissioner Sam Jorrie.

The home rule measure has resulted in violent opposition from all other members of the court.

At the signing of a resolution opposing county home rule as presently proposed, Commissioner A. J. Ploch said:

"I'd rather sign this resolution done in my life."

Turning to Jorrie, Ploch added:

"Benedict Arnold and other people have tried to undermine this nation before you came along."

The bill also was attacked by DA Civil Chief L. J. "Buck" Gittinger, who said:

"It is this sort of thing that makes the other 253 counties look upon Bexar county as a rebel."



velop.

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\* 3-10-59

# Jorrie on Home Rule

Special to The Light

AUSTIN — County Commissioner Sam Jorrie told the senate state affairs committee that Rep. Raymond Russell's proposed constitutional amendment for home rule for Bexar county, which he supports is a good sound amendment, but he also agreed with Houston home rule advocates that a thorough study should be made on a state-wide basis.

Sen. Baker, Houston, failed, however, to get his resolution passed out of the senate committee. On motion of Sen. Parkhouse, Dallas, the resolution went to a subcommittee, where Parkhouse said he hoped it would remain "a long time."

Appearing against the bill were mayors of Garland, Grand Prairie, Highland Park and other Dallas county communities.

Mayor R. V. Thompson, Richardson, said tersely:

"We are opposed to the bill. We are plenty capable of taking care of our own affairs."

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# County Officials Take Shots at Home Rule

A few more salvos of buckshot Monday were fired at the proposed constitutional amendment which would allow Bexar County voters to decide whether they want local home rule.

County Judge Charles Anderson, County Com. A.J. Ploch and Dist. Atty. Civil Chief L.J. Gittinger took pot shots at the amendment which, if approved, would give Bexar County voters a chance to vote on what type of government they want, consolidate those where they think savings might be made.

"I personally don't believe other counties are going to make an example of Bexar County," Gittinger said in pointing out that a statewide election in which all 254 counties would vote would have to be held before home rule could come to Bexar County.

## Powers Not Defined

"How anybody can be for such an amendment, I can't understand," Anderson said, as he told County Com. Sam Jorrie that the powers of the commission to draw up a home rule charter are no

where defined, would result in chaos, confusion, uncertainty . . .

"Against this amendment, I'd give my life," County Commissioner A.J. Ploch commented. "I've never seen anything so treacherous."

## Some Other Way

"I wish you'd find some other way to get even with this court, Sam," Ploch told Jorrie, who has supported the amendment.

Commissioner Jorrie fired back by reading the home rule amendment already on the books.

Ploch commented:

"There's been people undermining this country before you came in."

Anderson said:

"I don't object to letting the people vote on it (home rule) but sometimes the people are grossly misled."

Ploch took a side road long enough to fire another blast at the city administration for its failure to keep up roads, streets, pointing with pride to W.W. White Rd. which he takes care of.

CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT  
ESTABLISHMENT OF HOME RULE COUNTIES

HJR 45

March 5, 1959

Proposing an amendment to Article IX of the Constitution of the State of Texas, by amending Section 3 to read as set out in this Resolution, to provide for the adoption by Bexar County of a charter for the creation of home rule government; providing a method of creating charter commissions and adoption of a charter by a vote of the qualified voters; providing for a method of amendment and repeal of charters; providing for the form of government, for the officers and employees of the county, for creation of a County Court of Record and the performance of State functions; providing for the powers, taxation and for creation of debt; providing for the assumptions of functions of cities, towns, villages and districts with their consent; providing for the creation of urban and non-urban tax districts; providing for creation of separate districts for purposes of local government; providing that Section 3, Article IX, shall solely govern Home Rule Counties and providing that such amendment is self-executing.

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

"Section 1. That Article IX, Section 3 of the Constitution of the State of Texas be amended to read as follows:

LIMITATION

"Section 1. Bexar County may form and adopt a Charter for its own government as provided in this article, and upon such adoption shall be a body corporate and politic.

CREATION OF  
CHARTER  
COMMISSION

"Section 2. A charter commission may be proposed by petition signed by a number of qualified voters of Bexar County equal to 10 percent of the number voting in the county for the office of County Judge in the last preceding general election. Upon such petition being presented to the Commissioners' Court or other governing body of Bexar County, the said Commissioners' Court shall examine the same, and, upon a determination that it is in all things in conformity to the requirements hereof, shall order an election on the question:

"Shall Bexar County authorize the appointment of a Commission to frame a county charter."

The election on such question shall be held within sixty days after the filing of such petition, and if a majority of the qualified voters casting their ballots at such election shall be in favor of the appointment of a Commission to frame a County Charter, such Commission to consist of twenty-five members, shall be appointed within 30 days by the District Judge or by a majority vote of the District Judges serving within Bexar County.

A charter commission shall also be appointed aforesaid by the District Judge or Judges if a majority of the Commissioners Court of Bexar County shall, by resolution, authorize the creation of a charter commission, in which event the Commission of twenty-five members shall be appointed by the District Judge or Judges serving within the County.

The charter shall provide for the process of amendment upon a majority vote of the qualified voters voting at a charter amendment election; provided that no charter shall be amended more often than every two years.

"Section 3. The Commission shall establish its rule of procedure which shall include provision for public hearings and within twelve months following appointment, the Charter Commission shall frame a charter and shall deliver the same to the Commissioners Court of Bexar County, which shall, within 10 days, call a special

election on the question of adopting the charter to be held not less than thirty or more than sixty days after the call of such election. The charter shall take effect on the day fixed therein and shall supercede any existing charter or government, if approved by a vote of a majority of the qualified electors of the County voting on the question.

"Section 4. A charter shall provide the form of county government. It shall create a governing body for the county government and prescribe the powers and duties of the governing body, and provide for the election, removal, compensation and terms of office, not exceeding six (6) years, of the members of the governing body.

The Charter shall provide for any other officers or employees of the county, and may create, consolidate, organize, reorganize or abrogate any office, or department of the County, whether created by other provisions of this Constitution or by statute, define the duties and jurisdiction thereof, fix the compensation for service therein, prescribe the manner of selection and the time, qualifications and conditions for tenure in any such office.

COURT OF  
RECORD

The Charter may also provide for the creation of a County Court of Record which shall have original jurisdiction in all cases at law, equity and probate not within the exclusive jurisdiction of the District Court. Such Court may sit in divisions and shall have as many judges as may be provided by the Charter and with the qualifications, tenure, compensation and manner of selection also provided by the Charter, which qualifications shall not be less than those required for the district judge.

ORGANIZATION

The Charter may vest in the governing body of the County, the power to organize or reorganize the executive department, including the power to create and abrogate positions of employment and to prescribe the duties, compensation, qualifications and manner of appointment and discharge of County employees. Provided, however, that said Charter shall not affect members of the State Legislature or other State officers or State Courts, and provided, further, that the county shall be required to render and perform, through some officers or employees of the county, or otherwise provide for, the duties, services and functions of the State Government which are or may be required of counties by the Constitution or general laws enacted thereunder.

POWERS

"Section 5. A home rule charter may provide for the exercise of governmental and proprietary powers, including, but not limited to, those powers already granted to counties or to a home rule city by any general or special acts of legislation prior to the adoption of such charter, notwithstanding any other provision of this constitution, or those powers granted to counties by any general act of the legislature thereafter. No act shall be deemed a general act unless applicable to all counties. The county may sue and be sued and shall be liable to the same extent as a city may be liable under the same facts and circumstances.

TAXATION

The county shall have the power, and the charter shall authorize the county to levy, assess and collect taxes; provided, however, that no ad valorem property tax for any purpose shall ever be lawful for any one year which shall exceed two and one-half per cent of the assessed value of the taxable property of the county, except that in the event of an assumption of powers, duties and functions of any city, town, village, district, or other political subdivision of the county, as authorized by Section 6 herein, it shall be lawful for the county to levy an additional ad valorem tax on the taxable property of the area in which such powers, duties and functions are assumed.

CREATION  
OF DEBT

Bexar County shall have the power to borrow money for all purposes lawful under its Charter, to include the refunding of a lawful debt, in a manner conforming to the General Laws of the State, and may issue therefor its obligations. Such obligations, other than



those to refund a lawful debt and other than those that are payable from revenues other than taxation as may be provided in the Charter, shall not be valid unless authorized by a majority of the qualified property tax-paying voters of the area affected by the taxes required to retire such obligations, voting at an election held for that purpose. Such obligations may pledge the full faith and credit of the county; but in no event shall the aggregate obligations so issued, in principal amount outstanding at any one time, exceed the then existing Constitutional limits for such obligations and such indebtedness and its supporting tax shall constitute a first and superior lien upon the property taxable in such county. No obligation issued hereunder shall be valid unless prior to the time of the issuance thereof there be levied a tax sufficient to retire the same as it matures. The county shall have such other fiscal powers as may be necessary to accomplish the purposes of this Section.

ASSUMPTION  
OF POWERS  
AND DUTIES  
OF CITIES

"Section 6. A County Home Rule Charter adopted under the provisions of this amendment may provide for the assumption of the powers, duties and functions, either governmental or proprietary, in whole or in part, of any city, town, village, district or other political subdivision of the county with the consent of a majority of the qualified voters of such city, town, village, district or other political unit voting at an election held for that purpose. The charter shall provide for the procedures and methods that may be necessary and appropriate to effectuate the assumption of any such powers, duties and functions.

The charter may provide for the exercise by the county government of any powers appropriate and necessary to a city, town, village, county, district or other governmental unit as is necessary to carry out the intent of this provision, notwithstanding any other provision of this constitution; but no charter provision granting such powers shall be effective insofar as it is in conflict with any general act of the legislature withholding such powers from all counties.

URBAN AND  
NON-URBAN  
TAX  
DISTRICTS

"Section 7. In the event of the assumption of powers, duties and functions of any city, town, village, district, or other political subdivision of the county as provided for by Section 6, the charter shall provide for the establishment of an urban tax levy applicable to the area in which such powers, duties and functions have been assumed and a non-urban tax levy applicable to the remaining area of the county, and provide that taxes at different rates may be levied, assessed and collected for such defined urban and non-urban tax districts. Such charter provision shall prescribe specific standards for defining such urban and non-urban tax districts. The boundaries of such urban and non-urban tax districts may be altered pursuant to the county charter.

SEPARATE  
DISTRICTS  
WITHIN  
COUNTY

"Section 8. The charter may provide in its provisions, or empower the governing body of the county, to define and create, and to administer, either by separate boards or through its governing body, districts for purposes of local government, which may include, but not be limited to zoning, firefighting, sewage disposal and water supply, and have and exercise the powers and authority granted by the Constitution and laws relative to such local governments.

CONTROLLING  
PROVISIONS

"Section 9. The provisions of this Section 3, Article IX shall govern the powers, duties and functions of Bexar County adopting a charter hereunder, and any other provisions of this Constitution inconsistent with the provisions of this Section shall be superceded by this Section.

AMENDMENT  
SELF-  
EXECUTING

"Section 10. This amendment shall be deemed in all things self-executing, and may be availed of by Bexar County within its terms at any time after its effective date."



# From The January, 1959

## "County Officer" Magazine

### 1959 — WHERE TO IN COUNTY GOVERNMENT?

By Robert K. Bell

Editor's Note: *We are proud to print in this issue extracts from a talk given before the 1958 Annual Conference of the Alabama State Association by the Honorable Robert K. Bell, County Attorney for Madison County, Alabama. We feel he sums up the crux of all the matters facing counties in 1959.*

I want to ask you to consider some of the complex problems confronting County Government today. I want to also ask you a few questions as to whether or not you and your associates are adequately meeting or preparing to meet these problems.

As County Commissioners you head up and are responsible for the oldest form of delegated Constitutional Government known to the democratic world.

You have inherited not only the proudest symbol of local self-government, but you head the government that has for many decades been closest to the people. County Government has a rightful place in our American way of life and it should continue to be the backbone of our democracy. *Will it continue as such or just where is County Government headed?* This question can be answered by you and the County Government officials like you in the over 3000 counties in this country.

We have seen in recent years the steady encroachment of state and federal governments on the jurisdiction and prerogatives of County Government. Is this due in part to the fact that we have failed to think in terms of solving not only today's, but tomorrow's problems? Or could it be due to the fact that we are unconscious of the conditions of the world in which we live today, and are wandering around reminiscent of America as it was at the turn of the century?

We have long been accustomed to decentralized authority, and we are too inclined to accept it as a convenient, ordinary and permanent fact of life. In this we are inclined to be dead wrong. We have brought a great deal of centralization of government on ourselves by our failures to meet certain demands of our people. Never under our Constitutional System, could the federal government, and even the state government in some instances have syphoned away local authority without the neglect, acquiescence, or unthinking cooperation of the local officials themselves. But like nature, people and their governments are intolerant of vacuums. Every failure on the local level to meet a pressing public need has created the opportunity, developed the excuse, and fed the temptation for the national government or the state government to poach on the local preserves.

As our population steadily increases and our rural areas gradually become more and more urban in char-

acter, the people are going to demand, and they are going to have, more of the things and services that make for a better way of life. If the county wants to help them with these . . . all well and good. If the county is dilatory and unresponsive to their demands, they will simply look to another source or level of government.

The surest way for you to preside over the liquidation of the County Government System is to be complacent about changes, new ideas and modernization of County Government where these things are needed. Take a look at your County Government as a whole, and where you find phases of it that are still operating on the horse and buggy basis, then get busy toward modernizing and in doing so, don't think in terms of what will be sufficient in the 1960's. Today's and tomorrow's problems are yours and if you fail to meet them, then you can rightfully expect some other level of government to do so.

I cannot over-emphasize this era of the most rapid population expansion that we have ever known. You simply cannot close your eyes to it and think that it is a situation that will correct itself, because it is a very elementary fact that the increase today will definitely make for a larger increase tomorrow. It is inevitable that many problems inherent to population density come to rest on the doors of the county courthouse.

More people mean pure and adequate water supplies, proper sewage disposal, better drainage, additional transportation, better rural and urban street lighting and maintenance, fire protection and police protection—and these are but a few of the services which are bound to be needed in every growing section and in every growing community.

You have met your constitutional responsibilities such as local law enforcement, collection of taxes, maintaining the courts and keeping records of court actions, records of real estate transfers, vital statistics, the issuance of licenses, and many other responsibilities delegated by the state constitution and by the legislature, and this might seem sufficient, but today things are changing, and while present day conditions have been a long time coming, all of a sudden new problems threaten to overwhelm us, especially in counties where the growth is the fastest.

In some of our more rapidly growing counties today we already have the situation of dormitory towns, i.e., thickly populated areas or unincorporated towns that house many citizens who work in the industrial plants or defense installations nearby. These present

(Continued on next page)



**WHERE TO IN COUNTY . . .**  
(Continued from page 1)

many problems and what is County Government going to do about it? Are they going to do all they can according to our present laws or are they going to do as little as possible to get by? We as county officials must never be unwilling to do as much as legally possible to help in the economic solution of any problems which may arise and to seek the solution at the county level.

We must always think in terms of a plan to give our county citizens the same right to provide collectively for themselves through the county government

**Official National Policy of the National Association of County Officials**

1-6. Support recommendations of President's Commission on Intergovernmental Relations. The National Association of County Officials reaffirms its enthusiastic support for the recommendations of the President's Commission on Intergovernmental Relations and commends the President, the Congress and the members of the Commission for this outstanding contribution to the understanding of American representative government. We particularly indorse the basic government philosophy of the Commission which states:

"Leave to private initiative all the functions that citizens can perform privately; use the level of government closest to the community for all public functions it can handle; utilize cooperative intergovernmental arrangements where appropriate to attain economical performance and popular approval; reserve national action for residual participation where state and local governments are not fully adequate, and for the continuing responsibilities that only the national government can undertake."

1-7. County Home Rule a cornerstone. We in county government believe that Home Rule, or the right of local self determination, is a cornerstone of our American Democracy. Our state legislatures have not always recognized this and have been notoriously slow to delegate adequate authority to local officials to solve purely local problems. Counties have been hamstrung by antiquated state statutes and constitutional provisions that make it extremely difficult for elected county officials to act effectively, with the result that counties have often been forced to abandon functions to state and national government that could more efficiently and economically be discharged at the county level. We advance the following principles as the basis for an effective home rule movement and urge that every county official support these principles before the state legislatures in their respective states:

A. State constitutions and statutes. The National tradition of local home rule and self determination should be strengthened through adequate provisions in state constitutions and statutes. County general law should provide for flexibility wherever possible

some of the services which their city neighbors provide for themselves through city government.

Today we hear the far-away rumblings of the consolidation of local governments whereby the city and the county are consolidated or where one consumes the other. Such examples as Miami and Dade County, Florida; Houston and Harris County, Texas; Pittsburgh and Allegheny County, Pennsylvania; Nashville and Davidson County, Tennessee. I use the term "far-away" advisedly, because these may seem far away and we don't like to think in terms of such here, yet it is within the realm of possibility that we here will be confronted with the same problems and the same decisions much sooner than you might think.

so that simple administrative modernization can be accomplished without resort to a charter.

B. Areas of responsibility defined. Areas where counties act primarily as agents of the state in performing a state service and do so with substantial state financing should be distinguished from areas of local or mixed state and local interest, so as to provide a basis for indicating where statewide standards and supervision may be justified.

C. Counties determine extent of governmental service. Counties should be free to determine the scope and extent of the governmental service each will render, subject to the recognized need for some uniformity in the standard of performance of services of national or statewide import.

D. Degree of uniformity examined. In services of national or statewide import, the degree of uniformity required should be carefully determined in each case, with emphasis on the purpose of the individual requirement—to the end that uniformity will not be "uniformity for uniformity's sake," but in each case will serve a specific beneficial purpose and to the further end that the progress which can come only from the existence of a variety of administrative approaches and methods shall not be stifled.

E. Counties determine operation policies. Counties should be free to devise their own operating policies in all governmental programs not financed wholly or substantially by federal or state funds, subject to a requirement that such policies be definitely set forth in writing.

F. Counties devise internal organization. Counties should be free to devise their own internal organizations, either under a charter or under general law.

G. Counties devise purchasing, capital, outlay, employment policies. Counties should be free to devise their own operating policies in such fields as purchasing, capital outlay and employment conditions, subject to a requirement that such policies be clearly set forth in writing.

H. Control in county legislative body. To assure direct responsibility to the people and to enable the enforcement of such responsibility, general control of the county government should be placed wholly in the county legislative body.

**Action Program to Support the American County Platform**

**State Action Program**

The state association can best support the American County Platform if they do the following:

. . . promote at the state legislature those measures which will facilitate our national policy (county home rule for example) . . .

**Bexar County Home Rule Legislation Provides for Cases Like These Following:**

*From "County Progress" Magazine, Feb. 1959*

FORT WORTH — County Judge Simpson proposed recently a planning and improvement program designed to uplift the economic life of Tarrant County's bedroom communities, the ring of small municipalities surrounding Fort Worth.

His program calls for a county-wide system of:

1. Sewerage and sanitation collection and disposition.
2. Police protection and traffic regulation.
3. Uniform water rates and adequate water supply.
4. Zoning and planning for industrial, commercial and residential areas.
5. Parks and recreation areas.
6. School unification.

He proposes that the county government take over those functions and sell the services to communities outside Fort Worth.

"We could make suburban living a pleasure and make Tarrant County an attractive place for industry and commerce," said Judge Simpson, a resident of Richland Hills, adding:

"We now have more than 30 communities with 30 different sets of rules and regulations. Each has its own water department, police force, sewerage system. The situation generally is confusing, unsatisfactory and inadequate."

Judge Simpson plans to ask Congressman Wright for help in obtaining federal funds to finance a survey on what is needed to unify the system of municipal services in the county.

The program has been tried out successfully in Miami and Los Angeles, Judge Simpson said.

"I do not propose a merger of city and county governments," declared Simpson. "However, I do think unification of services will provide a stronger county government and enable the municipal governments to provide the services their citizens need and demand."

He plans to discuss his program with mayors of suburban towns during the next few weeks. County Commissioners already have been informed of his plan.

"The program may sound like a utopia dream," commented Simpson, "but it has been tried in California and Florida and those people are no better or smarter than Texans.

"I think it can be done."

He said that remedial legislation probably would be necessary to put the program across. Laws on a county manager form of government are some of those he suggested.

"Tarrant County is growing daily and something must be done to assist with the growth, not attempt to stunt it," he added.

*From "County Officer" Magazine, June 1958*

**Service Package Offered by Los Angeles County**

Los Angeles County has taken a healthy step forward toward establishing a more mature metropolitan governmental structure through its *Lakewood Plan*. Under terms of the plan, fifteen of the sixteen cities which have incorporated since 1954 contract for a "service package" in which Los Angeles County provides municipal services for the cities at cost. Most popular of the services is the assessment of property and collection of taxes. This job is performed for 57 cities. Other much used services include health, law enforcement, 49 cities; emergency ambulance, 35 cities; subdivision final map checking, 53 cities; traffic signal maintenance, 35 cities; elections, 36 cities; and library services, 36 cities. All together, the county offers 41 services to its cities, ranging from a low of five for Santa Monica to thirty for Norwalk.

As acknowledged by the Los Angeles County Counsel, Harold W. Kennedy, the *Lakewood Plan* is not a panacea for the multitudes of problems facing local government, but it does represent the "foundation for further efforts at governmental consolidation, efficiency and economy."

**"City and County Home Rule in Texas"**

*By Institute of Public Affairs, University of Texas 1951*

The Texas County is completely a creature of the State. To remedy this situation some method of reorganizing the County and providing a modicum of local authority was sought. Texas turned to County Home Rule as the answer. Almost two decades have elapsed since the electorate approved the plan, and thus far nothing has been achieved. The Home Rule Amendment itself is partly to blame.

Perhaps a different approach to County Home Rule is needed.

## **BEXAR COUNTY HOME RULE ASSOCIATION**

San Antonio 5, Texas

MRS. B. H. PASSMORE, Chairman  
MELVIN SISK, Vice-Chairman

### **WHO BELONGS TO THIS ASSOCIATION?**

Members from the Chamber of Commerce, League of Women Voters, Taxpayers League and other interested citizens.

### **WHAT IS ITS PURPOSE?**

To provide a workable home rule amendment to the Constitution of Texas for the County of Bexar.

### **WHAT DO WE HOPE TO ACHIEVE?**

Our county government is based on the 1876 Constitution. We want a government for Bexar County that is directly responsible to the citizens and that will meet the needs of modern times.

### **WHY THE URGENCY NOW?**

The first step in a long-range program has been made by the introduction of HJR 45 by Representative Raymond Russell into the current session of the Legislature. We citizens of Bexar County must inform ourselves so that the Legislators may have our support in bringing about the passage of the bill.

### **WHAT IS THE BACKGROUND ON COUNTY HOME RULE IN TEXAS?**

A constitutional amendment approved by the people of Texas in 1933 was intended to provide the framework for county home rule, but that amendment has since been determined unworkable.

### **WHAT IS IN HJR 45?**

Upon the petition of 10 percent of the qualified voters who voted for the County Judge in the last election or on the initiative of Commissioners Court, an election must be called on the proposition, "Shall Bexar County authorize the appointment of a Commission to write a County Charter?" If the proposition is approved by a majority of the voters, a Commission to frame a charter will be appointed by the majority of the District Judges in the County.

Within twelve months the Commission is obligated to frame a charter, after public hearings, which will provide for all operating requirements and functions needed in County Government. It is especially provided that State Courts, State Officers and Legislators can in no wise be affected by the Charter and that the County must perform duties and functions as required by the State of Texas.

The Charter will then be submitted to the electorate of the County and if approved by a majority of the voters will be the operating framework for Bexar County's Government. All features of HJR 45 are permissive so as not to entwine the Charter Writing Commission in its efforts to provide a reorganized County Government truly the servant of the people in Bexar County.

The Amendment is restricted to apply to Bexar County only.

### **WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE?**

HJR 45 is permissive legislation that must pass the House with a 2/3 majority. A similar bill must pass the Senate by a 2/3 majority. It must be voted on as a constitutional amendment in 1960. Only then can the local citizens vote on whether they would like a Charter Commission to draft a charter to fit the needs of Bexar County. The Charter will also be subject to a vote of the people.

### **WHAT CAN CITIZENS DO?**

Make time on programs for speakers. They are available by calling [REDACTED]

Help mold public opinion.

Write your State Senator and State Representatives.

Senator: Henry B. Gonzalez, State Senate, Austin, Texas

Representatives: House of Representatives, Austin, Texas

Marshall O. Bell  
Robert L. Vallance  
Frates S. Seeligson  
R. L. Strickland

Franklin S. Spears  
Raymond R. Russell, Jr.  
James A. McKay, Jr.



*San Antonio Express-News*  
3-7-59

# Home Rule Action Boils on 2 Fronts

## Proposed Bill Gets Backing

The Bexar County Home Rule Association was formed Friday to support a proposed constitutional amendment to give the people the right to decide on county government reforms.

Mrs. V. H. Passmore, past president of the League of Women Voters, was elected chairman and Melvin H. Sisk, executive secretary of the San Antonio Chamber of Commerce, vice chairman.

Rep. Raymond Russell Jr., who introduced in the Legislature the amendment applicable to Bexar County alone, attended the meeting of the Chamber of Commerce and urged an immediate educational campaign for voters throughout Bexar County.

"I have studied the bill," said Russell, "and I know it is permissive legislation only and leaves every step to be taken up to the voters, but already there is propaganda that it is designed to knock out county jobs. We must explain the provisions to the people, for it is they who will make the decisions."

### Amendment 'Clean'

Mr. Passmore and Sisk invited all organizations interested in county home rule to meet immediately and consider the amendment which will be available upon request. Each organization which endorses the bill, known as House Joint Resolution 45, may send a representative to the executive committee of the association which will be formed immediately.

County Commissioner Sam Jorrie said the proposed amendment is "as clean as a hound's tooth" and does nothing but give the people the right to vote on government reform.

Jorrie worked with groups from other major counties in Texas for a home rule amendment which would apply to metropolitan areas. When Harris County legislators refused to join in introduction of the joint bill, Jorrie had it redrawn to apply to Bexar alone.

### Gonzalez Agrees

Jorrie said the Bexar delegation in the House with the exception of Rep. Franklin Spears favored the amendment. He added that Sen. Henry Gonzalez had agreed to sponsor it in the Senate if the House passed the bill.

The amendment is a "local bill" and as such usually would pass quickly in either House through endorsement of local delegations.

However, the state organization of county commissioners is expected to fight even a local bill which would permit reform of county government. Bexar County Commissioners, with Jorrie dissenting, passed a resolution against the amendment earlier Friday.

All Texas voters would have to approve the Constitutional amendment in November, 1960, for it to



SAM JORRIE



MRS. PASSMORE

## The Last Call For Downtown Contest Entry

This is last call.

Amateur city planners have until midnight Saturday to get their entries in for the \$250 Downtown Development Contest. If your entry is hand-carried, it must be in Room 307, Express Publishing Co. building by noon. If it is mailed, it must be postmarked on or before midnight.

Scores of entries have been received and all will be turned over to the Chamber of Commerce Downtown Development Committee to judge. Winners will be notified and all entries will go to city planners.

This contest was sponsored as a public service by the Chamber Committee and by the San Antonio Express and News. Its aim is to stimulate public interest in renewal of vital areas of our city and to find ways to do it. Response has been encouraging. See Page 15-A.

## Sam Jorrie Blasted For Stand

By KEN KENNAMER

Friday was a tough day for Com. Jorrie.

He was verbally drawn and quartered, ridiculed and abused, out-talked and outvoted by all four of the other members of Commissioners Court.

But, to his credit, he left the meeting with head high, a smile on his lips and his principles still intact.

It all started over Jorrie's backing of a county home rule amendment now before the state legislature, an extremely unpopular piece of legislation with county officials. Some of the milder remarks by fellow commissioners Friday included:

Com. Albert Pena Jr.: "For two years, you've been working against this court, doing your best to destroy the court. You deliberately campaigned against one of your own colleagues (a reference to Marvin Cobb's unsuccessful bid to unseat Com. A. J. Ploch last summer), throwing your own money into the race. You couldn't destroy the court that way, now you're trying another way."

### 'Pure Hot Air'

Jorrie: "That's pure hot air."

Ploch: "Sam is sincere. He's sincere as hell. The trouble is he just doesn't know what he's talking about. We don't want to change a government of the people and by the people. We're for home rule that would be governed by home people."

Pena: "We have a good example right here of what happens when a city manager runs a government, haven't we? Of the damage that can be done when out-of-towners take the place of local governing bodies?"

Jorrie: "I don't agree with you. I think we have a fine city government."

Pena: "You're completely brainwashed, Mr. Jorrie."

Ploch: "The people who started this movement (for county home rule amendments) here already have city government well in their clutches. You know who I mean. I mean the syndicate. The Texas League of Municipalities."

### Judge Surprised

County Judge Charles Anderson: "I thought this thing was dead. I knew that Houston had turned it down cold and it looked as if no one was going to bring it up before the legislature (the home rule amendment.) I see you (Jorrie) have revived it."

Ploch: "You know this syndicate uses the taxpayers' own money to mislead them. The city pays \$4,368 a year to be a member of that syndicate, then spend more of the taxpayers' money to put out a yearly report in the newspapers on the great things they've accomplished. Great things, you know, like telling the people they've appointed Ted Pinson to the council. We're not against county home rule if that's what it would be. We're against appointive government."

Anderson: "I have a resolution here for the court's approval in

WASHINGTON (AP)—The four men who lead Congress met for 90 minutes with President Eisenhower Thursday and promptly proclaimed bipartisan backing of his firm stand against Red threats to Berlin.

"The Communists will discover that this country and our free allies are determined to preserve the free world," Senate Democratic Leader Lyndon B. Johnson of Texas said.

"We are unified; we don't have any parties in this thing," Speaker of the House Sam Rayburn (D-Tex) said.

"A common and unified posture," Senate Republican Leader Everett M. Dirksen of Illi-

(over)



**SUPPLY CORRIDORS**—This map shows the relation of Leipzig, where Nikita Khrushchev spoke Friday, to the disputed area 100 miles to the north in East Germany. Map also shows three major air corridors used to and from Berlin, plus the Autobahn connection eastward from Helmstedt.—AP Wirephoto Map.

## Services Set For Boerne Mayor

Funeral for Burt Shepard, Boerne mayor, who died Wednesday at Brooke Army Hospital, will be at 2 p.m. Tuesday at Gunsight, Texas.

Shepard, 71, who had served as Boerne's mayor for six years, was a retired Navy officer. He had been undergoing treatment at the hospital several months.

The mayor retired from Navy service prior to World War II, but accepted a call to active duty during the war years. After he again retired, he entered city politics. His current term expires next month.

Boerne city officials announced Thursday that city hall will be closed Tuesday in memoriam.

Only immediate survivor is his wife.

## BILL

Continued from Page 1A eight years with the idea of returning to the people the right to determine their form of government. She said Bexar County had 38 units of government and a home owner had eight different types of taxes to pay.

Reading from Vernon's Constitution, Jorrie quoted a commentary on the existing, "unworkable" 1933 county home rule amendment in the Constitution, which said county government long had been the "most inefficient and irresponsible" in the state governmental structure.

"But I want to emphasize," he said, "that nothing can be changed first without approval of all state voters and then approval of Bexar voters at least twice. It's permissive legislation and it will take from five to 10 years for reform, if wanted, to become effective if every vote is favorable."

## JORRIE

Continued from Page 1A

which we will go on record opposing the home rule amendment and suggest that copies be sent to all Bexar legislators and to State Sen. Henry Gonzales."

Com. Ollie Wurzbach, whose only comment during the hour-long harrangue came when Jorrie was reading magazine articles on county government ("Let's forget all this nonsense from other states. Let's stick to Texas), joined Pena, Ploch and Anderson in endorsing the resolution.

Jorrie, who said he has "always voted my principles and beliefs," voted against the measure.



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See BILL, Page 2A

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# Home Rule Pushed

The Bexar County Home Rule assn. Saturday was organizing to back a constitutional amendment introduced in the legislature by Rep. Raymond Russell jr.

Russell's amendment would give Bexar county permission to hold an election at which its citizens could decide if they want a home rule charter to revise the present county government.

## COURT OPPOSED

Commissioners court—with the exception of Commissioner Sam Jorrie—has condemned it roundly. Jorrie helped organize the new association in a meeting Friday.

The association's chairman, Mrs. B. H. Passmore, called a home rule charter the "first necessary step toward reform."

She described the system now in use as a maze of separate taxing authorities and noted city dwellers pay eight different kinds of taxes.

She said a 1933 constitutional amendment approved home rule government for counties, but was unworkable. She said the new plan, sponsored by many local groups, would solve the problems the first amendment presented.

## 10-YEAR FIGHT

Jorrie told the group called by the chamber of commerce that only Rep. Franklin Spears has expressed reservations on the amendment.

He predicted it will take 10 years of maneuvering before a home rule charter for Bexar county actually could become fact.

Mrs. Passmore put the figure at four to five years.

John F. Willmot, executive vice president of the Research and Planning council, warned opposition to the measure will start "late" but will be "virulent and malicious and stronger than we expect." He said backers should not expect the measure to pass the legislature the first time it's presented.

Russell himself said his measure may not survive this legislative session, but he thinks it can be pushed through in 1961.

## MAIN JOB

Mrs. Passmore said the association's main function will be to publicize the measure.

Melvin Sisk, executive vice president of the chamber, was named vice chairman. Others attending were Earl Wentworth, Taxpayers league; Luis

Cabral, manager of the Mexican Chamber of Commerce; Bud Wheeler of the San Antonio Teachers council; Dick Paxton, county teachers; Mrs. Rufus D. Bell, president, and Mrs. Sid E. Cockrell jr., president-elect; League of Women Voters, and Harold Keller, president, Taxpayers league.

The Russell amendment, which would have to be adopted by a two-thirds vote of the legislature and then approved by a state-wide vote, would provide "Bexar County may form and adopt a charter for its own government as provided in this article, and upon such adoption shall be a body corporate and politic."

The Russell proposal would call for an election to be called on petition of 10 per cent of the qualified voters who voted for county judge in the last preceding general election. If approved by the voters, a charter commission of 25 members would be appointed by district judges.

## 12-MONTH PERIOD

Within 12 months following appointment, the charter commission must frame a charter and deliver it to commissioners court, which then must call a

special election on the question of adopting the charter.

The charter would provide the form of county government and create a governing body. It would provide for the election, removal, compensation and terms of office, not to exceed six years.

It is prescribed that "the charter shall provide for any other officers or employees of the county, and may create, consolidate, organize, reorganize or abrogate any office, or department of the county, whether created by other provisions of this constitution or by statute, define the duties and jurisdiction thereof, fix the compensation for service therein, prescribe the manner of selection and the time, qualifications and conditions for tenure in any such office."

The amendment also would make possible the consolidation of the county and city governments of San Antonio, with the approval of voters within the city.

The amendment would make it possible for the county to levy separate "urban" and "nonurban" tax rates in event of consolidation of city and county governments.

# Merger Topic Of Talk

The Public Affairs forum, YWCA, will hear a talk by Mrs. B. W. Passmore, League of Women Voters, on the proposed merger of city and county governments at a 10:30 a. m. Wednesday coffee at the main building.

The YWCA annual dinner meeting will be held at 6:30 p. m., Thursday, also in the main building, with Dr. Earl Waldrop, Central Christian church, the speaker. His subject will be "The Role of an International Christian Organization in Today's World."

Dr. Waldrop has recently returned from a world tour of Christian organizations.

*San Antonio  
Light 3-1-59*



Feb. 6, 1959

Dear Mrs. Passmore:

I have just talked to Horthy Sher about the progress of the Home Rule Amendment. She says that the Harris County Home Rule Committee is going to have a meeting next Monday, at which time they will decide which of three versions of the amendment they will propose to the legislature. Horthy will write you after the meeting and tell you what happened. It seems that not many people are encouraged about getting this thing through this legislature. People have told Horthy that Dallas is very lukewarm, and there is a lot of opposition here in Harris County.

I will be interested in hearing how things are going in Bexar County.

Cordially,

Mrs. E. H. Hughes,  
State LCA Chairman



C O P Y

November 10, 1958

Mrs. Malcolm Sher

[REDACTED]

Dear Horty:

At the meeting last week, the State Board discussed ways and means of helping the Leagues of Dallas, Houston, and San Antonio on their County Home Rule project and considered the requests which you had me present as State Current Agenda chairman.

First, let me say, that the State Board members are eager to be helpful and will be in so far as they are able. We are all exploring new dimensions in League work - namely, several local leagues working on the state level on an item upon which the State League has no position. So we are all feeling our way in order to use the best procedures possible.

There will be an article in the next Voter, as you requested. This will inform local league members in Texas about the county home rule project of the metropolitan Leagues. We will hope that many will work as individuals, since, of course, it can not be done as a local league item. It was the thinking that the article you submitted should be edited some what to make it into a feature story that could be run in a box, to draw attention to it. This will require some deletions, but I'm sure the meaning of the article will remain as you wish.

It was agreed that the mailing files of all League members in Texas be made available to your committee. These are on plates, and so would have to be run off at the mailing service and will involve a small cost to the Leagues.

We wished that the Capitol Committee could help in watching the legislation, but our hesitancy about this is simply one of woman power. A new Capitol Committee from the Austin must be activated and trained. Since there is no way of knowing how many the Austin League can furnish for this job, and since they will be new and inexperienced, it is likely that watching League legislation will be all they can handle.

However, Margaret Rendall pointed out that there are other ways available to your committee for getting this legislation watched --- e.g., one of the legislators from the areas involved, or a member of the Press from one of the cities. Margaret Rendall said that she will be very glad to do all she can to help. She will be writing to you.

Mrs. La Tourette, statepublic relations chairman, has offered her services to help in any way she can. She will write you.

Mrs. Braunagel and Mrs. Pettis, who do a lot of field work, said if they had some information in hand when they go out to visit local leagues they would be glad to give them information on the subject, and to suggest that the members work as individuals.

Del Tallman told me in Austin that there is a good chance that the Ft. Worth League will be ready to have a position by January. And, of course, Lybbock and Ailene may be involved, too. Ailene would not have a position on this however.

So it would seem, with all of us working together on this that we should get something accomplished. If I can be of any assistance to you at any time don't fail to call me. I will be very glad to help in any way ~~that~~ that I can.

Cordially,

Mrs. E. H. Hughes  
State LCA Chairman

cc : Mrs. Brownscombe, Dallas  
Mrs. Passmore, S. A?  
SO  
Rendall  
Braunagel  
Pettis  
La Tourette

O. & 6 —

Dear Mrs Hughes, —

Thanks for the "Guide to  
Publishing ---". Our survey is delayed  
because of Frances Scanlan's illness —  
but we are still working on it.

The booklet will be returned to the  
State office —

Yours

Gussie Beel



[REDACTED]  
Houston 4, Texas  
Sept. 10, 1958

Mrs. Rufus D. Bell, President  
League of Women Voters  
[REDACTED]

Dear Mrs. Bell:

By this time you have probably received from the Illinois State League a copy of the pamphlet: "A Guide to Publishing a KNOW YOUR TOWN Booklet. The State Office ordered these for the Leagues in Texas that are doing a KNOW YOUR TOWN SURVEY this year. This seems as if it would be a very helpful tool, for it has so many good suggestions on this kind of project. Will you see that it gets to your chairman of this item, please.

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

With good wishes for success in making your survey,

I am,

Cordially yours,

Mrs. Eugene H. Hughes  
State LCA Chairman

cc: Scarbrough  
SO

Pettis

Dear Miss Scarbrough: I hope that your KNOW YOUR TOWN Survey is coming along all right, and that this book will be of use to you. Do let me hear of your progress when you have time to write.

Sincerely,

RH



[REDACTED]  
Houston 4, Texas  
June 5, 1958

Mrs. B. H. Passmore  
[REDACTED]

Dear Florence:

Thank you for your prompt reply to my letter. It would seem that you and your committee have laid out quite a schedule of work for this year. When your League makes out program calendar for year, be sure to put in your bid for some time in the units for your progress reports.

I don't seem to have a copy of your hand book in my file, and I would like to have it, so I am going to take you up on your offer to send me one.

Thanks a lot.

Cordially,

*E. H. Hughes*

Mrs. E. H. Hughes

cc:SO

Pettis

*Rec'd June 11, 1958  
past end - June 15, 1958*

Citizens' Handbook of Paxon County

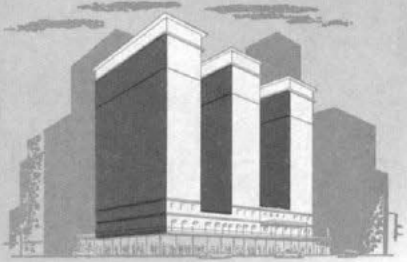
Rec'd June 11, 1958 -

Cards of thanks to

Mrs. B. H. Posamore

Mrs. Albert Boston, Pres. Chairman

June 15, 1958



# *The* RICE HOTEL

HOUSTON, TEXAS

ONE THOUSAND ROOMS • COMPLETELY AIR CONDITIONED



HOUSTON'S "WELCOME TO THE WORLD"

*From the desk of*

*Mrs. B. H. Passmore*

[REDACTED]

Thursday, May 29, 1958.

Mrs. Eugene H. Hughes,

[REDACTED]

Dear Mrs. Hughes:

Thank you for your nice letter of May 6th and the suggestions.

Our local current agenda on the county level is a two-headed item, and it will require ~~two~~ approaches. It is-

Use of the Citizen's Handbook of Bexar County as a tool for:

- a) A campaign of public education on the need for county Home rule;
- b) Support of improved budgetary procedures to obtain more efficient county government.

We revised our County survey last year and published an enlarged County Handbook and Directory with emphasis on finances (the allocation and use of county funds). County funds had been given special study last year and we made recommendations to the Commissioners Court.

The campaign of public education on the need for county home rule ties in closely to our ever increasing metropolitan problems and guides citizen interest in reform and constitutional action. The budgetary procedures creates interest and support for reforms in the existing structure. The latter also is more tangible as it hits the pocketbook nerve.



"From the desk of

Mrs. B. H. Passmore

[REDACTED]

Carol Ashford gave me a copy of "On the Home Front" which is very good. I studied it and it seems to me our need~~s~~x for this work will be: A large committee, able speakers on the county level, publicity of speaker availability, coordination with Public Relations to create interest in and places to speak, coordination with Publications Chairman for widespread use of Handbook, timing and constant evaluation of public relations and community interest stimulating devices. Orientation of membership and progress reports through the units which stimulates the flow into the community. That is a large order! As we go along, I'll try to keep you in touch. If other Leagues have some brainstorm about presentation, please share them with us.

I could not attend the Metropolitan Conference but Agnes Willmott went with her husband who is head of our Research and Planning Council here. She is expecting a report of the Conference and that might have some new and good ideas for us locally. She also said there would be another conference soon for the drafting of the Home Rule Amendment. Mrs. Sher will probably be in on the ground floor on this and I hope it will be broad enough to protect the interests of the other 14 metropolitan areas in Texas.

Thanks again, and with very best regards to you and Mr. Hughes,

Very truly,

*Flarence Passmore*  
Mrs. B. H. Passmore

P.S.-If you didn't get a copy of our Handbook drop me a card and I will send you one.

[REDACTED]  
Houston 4, Texas  
May 6, 1958

Mrs. B. H. Passmore  
[REDACTED]

Dear Mrs. Passmore:

I'm glad to see that you have the big <sup>LCA</sup> item of the League of Women Voters of San Antonio. I'm sure it is in good hands, that that you will accomplish a lot. It seems to me that the county item is a mighty big one. In your outlook for work, how do you plan to divide the item - by having two committees each working on one part of it or what? Since I am LCA chairman on state board this year, I'm much interested in your plans on this item, since it is the type of item that many of the Leagues in Texas are going to be working on before long.

Do you have a copy of the new state publication: "On the Home Front"? By all means, get it before you start work on this item because it contains so many suggestions for the successful planning and executing of LCA items. It would be a good idea if every member of your committee also had a copy of this tool.

I wonder if you know about the conference on Metropolitan Problems at the University of Texas, May 16-17. I should think it would be very helpful if you or some member of your committee could attend. You can get information about this by writing to: The Institute of Public Affairs, P. O. Box 8033, University Station, Austin 12, Texas.

I might also suggest that you ask someone on your committee to keep a record of your plans and achievements - a sort of running account of the steps you take to carry out your item.. This would be most useful for your League to have in its files, I should think. It could be a guide for future LCA chairmen, and also would be of help in choosing LCA items on the county level in the future.

Houston will be working of the first part of your item, and Mrs. Malcolm Sher will be in charge of this item. I believe she intends to attend the Conference in Austin next week. If you are there the two of you can compare notes on your plans.

If I can ever be of any assistance to you, please don't hesitate to write me.

cc: SO, Pettis

Cordially,

Mrs. Eugene H. Hughes

To Florence Passmore  
San Antonio

January 18, 1959

Dear Florence,

Long ere now, I hoped to get around to thanking you for your note and the copy of your speech on County Home Rule. I used parts of it when I was talking with our legislators recently about TCR legislation and proposed legislation on our CR's. I had seen a copy of your excellent Bexar County Handbook but I am so pleased to own a copy as the Waco League hopes to finish their study and publish a handbook on McLennan County this next year.

Recently I accompanied a committee of our Waco League to interview the City Manager about possible LCA items. I was delighted to find that he is a n advocate of County Home Rule. In fact, he is for Constitutional revision that would provide for the state to be divided into operating units under one governing body.

Would it not be true everywhere that city officials would be our allies in this effort?

I will be watching with great interest as this session of the Legislature continues and will bring it to the attention of local leaguers and others as I am able.

Success to you. Let me know if you see any place that I can be more helpful.

Cordially,

Mrs. Irving Pettis

cc. S.O. Hughes

*How Mrs. Hughes:  
We are still  
working hard on this  
amendment. I hope you'd  
like to see this.  
Love, Florence*

Statement before Constitutional Amendments  
Committee — of the House,  
Austin, Texas

4/7/59

Mrs. B. H. Passmore

I am Mrs. B. H. Passmore, chairman of the Bexar County Home Rule Association which is composed of members from the Chamber of Commerce, the League of Women Voters, the Taxpayers League and other interested citizens. Our object is, with your help, to provide a workable home rule amendment to the Constitution of Texas for Bexar County.

We believe the citizens of Bexar County do desire and could draft a charter for county government that would be directly responsible to the citizens, and could be the local, responsible, governmental unit of the State that is required.

Citizens of Texas have been interested in county home rule for at least 30 years. Let me briefly review the history of the movement.

It must have taken a great many people and a great deal of time, energy and voices to write the 1933 Home Rule Amendment that is part of State law. It must have been the intent of those framers of the amendment that a county could adopt the right to Home Rule, draft a local charter, and thus effect reforms with the authority of the voters in their counties. That was 26 years ago and no county has been able to get Home Rule.

After its passage in 1933, the citizens of El Paso made a really determined effort to adopt county home rule. They went through all the steps prescribed in the amendment, drafted a charter, and by majority vote of the people across the county the charter was approved. However, because of the election procedures and a minority negative vote, its adoption was blocked.

In 1934, citizens groups in Travis, Tarrant, Bexar, Dallas and Harris counties made definite efforts to draft charters, but bogged down.



The stumbling blocks were the complicated enabling act, the paradoxes within the amendment, and the complications on commission procedures.

In 1947, Delta County, with a population of 15,000, and with a special 2/3 majority vote in both houses, was given authority to proceed and work for county home rule. They too carried out each provision of the amendment, but when the charter was submitted to the Attorney General, in 1948, the charter was declared invalid, so it was never submitted to the voters of that county.

The 1933 Amendment has been tried and found to be completely unworkable.

Then, after 21 years there appeared some light after the darkness. Harris County by legislative action in 1955 was given permission to set up a Harris County Home Rule Commission and was given the task of suggesting to the legislature what constitutional amendments or statutes might be necessary to simplify the structure of local government to meet the demands of modern expansion. The Commission was composed of persons widely representative of Harris County and appointed by the Governor. To do an adequate job of study and reporting, the Commission was generously supported by three private foundations, the M. D. Anderson Foundation, the Houston Foundation, Inc., and the West Foundation.

This work stimulated statewide interest, and liaison between interested groups in the large counties was established, and many attended meetings from the less populated areas. Conferences were held in Fort Worth, Dallas, Houston, San Antonio and in Austin where citizens met to explore the avenues for securing a workable home rule amendment that might be applicable to their own counties. Some of those who attended were:

SA - Mr. Weise and Mr. Leo Brewer, lawyers, Mr. Melvin Sisk of the Chamber, Commissioner Sam Jorrie and Mr. Harold Keller, real estate and investments.

Houston - Mr. Burke Holman and Mr. Carl Illig, lawyers, Mr. Gail Whitcomb, Humble Oil & Refining Co., Mr. Henry Mudd, Telephone Co., and Mr. Ben Belt, Gulf Oil, and Mr. Fred Flannigan of the Chamber of Commerce.

Dallas representatives were Paul Carrington, attorney, Dr. J. M. Claunch of SMU, Jerome Crossman, businessman, Granville Moore, ex-VP Greater Dallas Planning Commission.

From Fort Worth, Mr. Burl Godfrey, a banker and lawyer, Mr. W. O. Jones of the Chamber.

Members from the Leagues of Women Voters of Dallas, Ft. Worth, Houston and San Antonio attended these conferences and watched them with great interest.

25 other centers had individual delegations, including:

County Judge Raymon Thompson of Young County;  
County Judge Joe Evans of Burnet;  
Representative Louis Anderson of Midland;  
County Judge R. H. Weaver of Big Spring;  
Freeman Carney, Chamber representative from Tyler;  
Marion E. Fox and Jack H. Drake from the Valley;  
C. W. Rattliff, newspaper man from Lubbock.

Work on drafting an amendment went on for months by these civic-minded Texans. County officials were invited to join in the conferences. In October the Texas Home Rule Association was organized. It was the hope that an acceptable amendment could be jointly sponsored by the four largest counties. For their own reasons, the other counties withdrew. The delegation from Bexar County realized that in order to secure a workable home rule amendment for Bexar County, we must ask for "special legislation." Studies had been made, conferences held, amendments examined by citizens and able lawyers, including Mr. Theo Weiss, Mr. Stanley Banks Jr., Mr. A. William Worthy, Mr. Leo Brewer and Mr. Burke Holman, and on March 5th, Representative Raymond Russell filed HJR 45 for Bexar County.

Briefly, what is in HJR 45? Upon the petition of 10% of the qualified voters who voted for the County Judge in the last election

or at the initiative of Commissioners' Court, an election must be called on the proposition, "Shall Bexar County authorize the appointment of a Commission to write a County Charter?"

If the proposition is approved by a majority of the voters, a Commission to frame a charter will be appointed by the majority of the District Judges in the County.

Within twelve months the Commission is obligated to frame a charter, after public hearings, which will provide for all operating requirements and functions needed in County Government.

It is especially provided that State Courts, State Officers, and Legislators can in no wise be affected by the Charter and that the County must perform duties and functions as required by the State of Texas.

The Charter will then be submitted to the electorate of the County and if approved by a majority of the voters will be the operating framework for Bexar County's government.

We believe that HJR 45 constitutes a workable amendment. We hope it will be approved but we sincerely urge your careful scrutiny and assistance in perfecting it. It is subject to the vote of the people in all its provisions. It is permissive and not mandatory. It is the outcome of drafting by able Texans and citizens of Bexar County.

The citizens of Bexar County have always been pioneers. We were one of the first populated areas in Texas. Our forefathers fought for independence. This amendment may provide another testing ground for citizens of Bexar, but within the due process of the laws of our State. We ask that you help us have the opportunity to try county home rule.



Revised  
(April 14, 1959)

H. J. R. NO. 45

BY: RUSSELL

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION

PROPOSING an Amendment to Article IX of the Constitution of the State of Texas, by amending Section 3 to read as set out in this Resolution, to provide for the adoption by Bexar County of a charter for the creation of home rule government; providing a method of creating charter commissions and adoption of a charter by a vote of the qualified voters; providing for a method of amendment and repeal of charters; providing for the form of government, for the officers and employees of the county; providing for the powers, taxation and for creation of debt; providing for the assumptions of functions of cities, towns, villages and districts with their consent; providing for the creation of urban and non-urban tax districts; providing that Section 3, Article IX, shall solely govern Home Rule Counties and providing that such amendment is self-enacting.

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

Section 1. That Article IX, Section 3 of the Constitution of the State of Texas be amended to read as follows:

LIMITATION

"Section 1. Bexar County may form and adopt a Charter for its own government as provided in this article, and upon such adoption shall be a body corporate and politic.

CREATION OF  
CHARTER  
COMMISSION

"Section 2. A charter commission may be proposed by petition signed by a number of qualified voters of Bexar County equal to ten percent of the number voting in the county for the office of County Judge in the last preceding general election. Upon such petition being presented to the Commissioners' Court or other governing body of Bexar County, the said Commissioners' Court shall examine the same, and, upon a determination that it is in all things in conformity to the requirements hereof, shall order an election on the question:

"Shall Bexar County authorize the appointment of a Commission to frame a county charter?"

The election on such question shall be held within sixty days after the filing of such petition, and if a majority of the qualified voters casting their ballots at such election shall be in favor of the appointment of a Commission to frame a County Charter, such Commission, to consist of twenty-five members, shall be appointed within 30 days by a majority vote of the District Judges serving within Bexar County.

A charter commission shall also be appointed aforesaid by the District Judges if a majority of the Commissioners Court of Bexar County shall, by resolution, authorize the creation of a charter commission, in which event the Commission of twenty-five members shall be appointed by the District Judges serving within the county.

"Section 3. The Commission shall establish its rules of procedure which shall include provision for public hearings and within twelve months following appointment, the Charter Commission shall frame a charter and shall deliver the same to the Commissioners Court of Bexar County, which shall, within 10 days, call a special election on the question of adopting the charter to be held not less than thirty or more than sixty days after the call of such election. The charter shall take effect on the day fixed therein and shall supercede any existing charter or government, if approved by a vote of a majority of the qualified electors of the County voting on the question.

"Section 4. A charter shall provide the form of county government. It shall create a governing body for the county government and prescribe the powers and duties of the governing body, and provide for the election, removal, compensation and terms of office, not exceeding four (4) years, of the members of the governing body.

The Charter shall provide for any other officers or employees of the County, and may create, consolidate, organize, reorganize or abrogate any office, or department of the County, whether created by other provisions of this Constitution or by statute, define the duties and jurisdiction thereof, fix the compensation for service therein, prescribe the manner of selection and the time, qualifications and conditions for tenure in any such office. The provisions of Sections 15, 16 and 17 of Article V of this Constitution, however, shall continue to be applicable and shall be controlling as regards the office of County Judge.

#### ORGANIZATION

The Charter may vest in the governing body of the County the power to organize or reorganize the executive department, including the power to create and abrogate positions of employment and to prescribe the duties, compensation, qualifications and manner of appointment and discharge of County employees. Provided, however, that said Charter shall not affect members of the State Legislature or other State officers or State Courts, and provided, further, that the county shall be required to render and perform, through some officers or employees of the county, or otherwise provide for, the duties, services and functions of the State Government which are or may be required of counties by the Constitution or general laws enacted thereunder.

The charter shall provide for the process of amendment or repeal upon a majority vote of the qualified voters voting at a charter amendment or charter repeal election; provided, however, that no charter shall be amended or repealed more often than every two years.

#### POWERS

"Section 5. A home rule charter may provide for the exercise of governmental and proprietary powers, including, but not limited to, those powers already granted to counties or to a home rule city by any general or special acts of legislation prior to the adoption of such charter, notwithstanding any other provision of this constitution, or those powers granted to counties by any general act of the legislature thereafter. No act shall be deemed a general act unless applicable to all counties. The county may sue and be sued and shall be liable to the same extent as a city may be liable under the same facts and circumstances.

#### TAXATION

The county shall have the power, and the charter shall authorize the county to levy, assess and collect taxes; provided, however, that no ad valorem property tax for any purpose shall ever be lawful for any one year which shall exceed two and one-half per cent of the assessed value of the taxable property of the county, except that in the event of an assumption of powers, duties and functions of any city, town, village, district, or other political subdivision of the county, as authorized by Section 6 herein, it shall be lawful for the county to levy an additional ad valorem tax on the taxable property of the area in which such powers, duties and functions are assumed.

#### CREATION OF DEBT

Bexar County shall have the power to borrow money for all purposes lawful under its Charter, to include the refunding of a lawful debt, in a manner conforming to the General Laws of the State, and may issue therefor its obligations. Such obligations, other than those to refund a lawful debt and other than those that are payable from revenues other than taxation as may be provided in the Charter, shall not be valid unless authorized by a majority of the qualified property tax-paying voters of the area affected by the taxes required to retire such obligations, voting at an election held for that purpose. Such obligations may pledge the full faith and credit of the county; but in no event shall the aggregate obligations so issued, in principal amount

outstanding at any one time, exceed the then existing Constitutional limits for such obligations and such indebtedness and its supporting tax shall constitute a first and superior lien upon the property taxable in such county. No obligation issued hereunder shall be valid unless prior to the time of the issuance thereof there be levied a tax sufficient to retire the same as it matures. The county shall have such other fiscal powers as may be necessary to accomplish the purposes of this Section.

ASSUMPTION  
OF POWERS  
AND DUTIES  
OF CITIES

"Section 6. A County Home Rule Charter adopted under the provisions of this amendment may provide for the assumption of the powers, duties and functions, either governmental or proprietary, in whole or in part, of any city, town, village, district or other political subdivisions of the county with the consent of a majority of the qualified voters of such city, town, village, district or other political unit voting at an election held for that purpose. The charter shall provide for the procedures and methods that may be necessary and appropriate to effectuate the assumption of any such powers, duties and functions.

The charter may provide for the exercise by the county government of any powers appropriate and necessary to a city, town, village, county, district or other governmental unit as is necessary to carry out the intent of these provisions, notwithstanding any other provision of this constitution; but no charter provision granting such powers shall be effective insofar as it is in conflict with any general act of the legislature withholding such powers from all counties.

URBAN AND  
NON-URBAN  
TAX  
DISTRICTS

"Section 7. In the event of the assumption of powers, duties and functions of any city, town, village, district, or other political subdivision of the county as provided for by Section 6, the charter may provide for the establishment of an urban tax levy applicable to the area in which such powers, duties and functions have been assumed and a non-urban tax levy applicable to the remaining area of the county, and provide that taxes at different rates may be levied, assessed and collected for such defined urban and non-urban tax districts. Such charter provision shall prescribe specific standards for defining such urban and non-urban tax districts. The boundaries of such urban and non-urban tax districts may be altered pursuant to the county charter.

CONTROLLING  
PROVISIONS

"Section 8. The provisions of this Section 3, Article IX shall govern the powers, duties and functions of Bexar County adopting a charter hereunder, and any other provisions of this Constitution inconsistent with the provisions of this Section shall be superceded by this Section.

AMENDMENT  
SELF-  
EXECUTING

"Section 9. This amendment shall be deemed in all things self-executing, and may be availed of by Bexar County within its terms at any time after its effective date."



Statement of the Position of the LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS of San Antonio in regard to the election of the Mayor; statement made by Mrs. Sidney E. Cockrell, Jr. League President, at the Public Hearing on December 17, 1959

To the Honorable Mayor and City Council of the City of San Antonio:

The League of Women Voters has followed with great interest the deliberations of the Charter Revision Committee which was appointed by this Honorable Council for the purpose of making recommendations for proposed changes in the City Charter. As you know, the League of Women Voters has a long history of study and support of Council-Manager Government. In recent weeks, League of Women Voters members, in eight neighborhood unit groups, and in a general membership meeting, have studied the issues considered by the Charter Revision Committee. At a recent meeting of the Board of Directors, consensus of League opinion was reported, and we wish to state the League's position at this time.

The League of Women Voters of San Antonio supports the recommendation of the Charter Revision Committee that there be no change in the method of electing the Mayor of our city. The League feels that this issue was the most important one to the operation of Council-Manager Government which was considered by the committee, and in concurring with the recommendation of the committee that the Council continue to elect the Mayor, we submit the following reasons:

1. Effective operation of the Council-manager form of government depends on authority being vested in the Council, with the Council responsible for policy-making and for hiring a City Manager to carry out the administration of these policies. The members of the Council can be more effective in working together when they are permitted to name one of their own number as Mayor for purposes of serving as the presiding officer of the Council, and as the official representative of the City. A Mayor elected by direct popular vote might feel under no compunction to cooperate with other members of the Council, and might dissipate his energies by bickering with the Council.
2. A Mayor elected directly by the people might be the target of all those seeking special favors from the City. Under the present system impartiality more generally prevails.
3. Under the present system, all Councilmen feel equally important and equally responsible for the policy-making of City Government; direct election of the Mayor by the people would tend to make the other Councilmen feel less important and responsible.

The League feels that public discussion and comment in the local press, however, has served to point up a need for a reevaluation of the relationship of the average citizen to the City. Any citizen wishing to approach the City Government for any reason; to complain, to criticize, to commend, to question, to suggest, to observe, or to seek information of any kind, should find easy access to the proper authority. We feel that direct election of the Mayor would not improve this relationship, and that it would create other problems as enumerated above, but we feel that the desired result can be obtained through procedural changes. We recommend, therefore, that the City Council consider and reevaluate these procedures.

  
April 26, 1959

Dear Florence:

I read your testimony before the Constitutional Amendments Committee with interest. It was very and I expect, made them sit up and take notice.

It's grand that the Bexar County Home Rule Amendment is going along so well, and it is a pity that Harris County bogged down. Our legislators didn't think that the Home Rule here had the right leadership, and they just wouldn't go along. Well, I guess we will keep trying. It will help our cause if Bexar County is successful this time.

Sincerely,

(Mrs. E. H. Hughes)

May 28, 1959

Mrs. B. H. Passmore  


Dear Florence:

Just a word on paper to tell you how disappointed we all were at the fate of HJR 45, and to tell you how proud we are of the campaign you waged in its behalf.

I'm sure there's no thought in your mind of quitting until you are successful, and I do hope that we can develop ways to involve all Texas Leagues, at a very early date, in your future plans.

There was a word introduced at National Council which may hold a clue to some possibility for more general action on your Home Rule amendment two years from now. The word is "concurrence" and I'm an idiot to mention it until the State Board and others have had a chance to discuss the various possible uses of this proposed new technique. It may have no possible connotation in the campaign for a County Home Rule amendment, but I want to mention it to get us started thinking of new ideas and new techniques which may be of help in your next legislative effort.

Again, my congratulations and you know you have my good wishes for success.

Affectionately,

Mrs. Horton Wayne Smith

cc: Mrs. Malcolm Sher  
Mrs. E. R. Brownscombe  
Mrs. Eugene Hughes  
Mrs. Frank Bridwell



SAN ANTONIO

LCA - 1959-60

I. Publication of a handbook of San Antonio directed toward citizen understanding of the performance of Council-manager government.

Chairman: Mrs. Rufus D. Bell [REDACTED]

II. A campaign of public education of the need for county home rule  
(a) Support of legislation leading to a workable county home rule amendment.

Chairman: Mrs. B. H. Passmore [REDACTED]

CR: Promotion of long-term budgeting procedures and support of Council-manager government

Memos, Correspondence, etc.

Memo - April 9, 1959

*Report from Mrs. Passmore  
letter to " Apr. 26 '59*

BEXAR COUNTY HOME RULE ASSOCIATION

San Antonio 5, Texas  
Capitol 7-8181

Mrs. B. H. Passmore, Chairman  
Melvin Sisk, Vice-Chairman

\*\*\*\*\*

News on County Home Rule:

March 1, 1960

Progress Report and Action Needed

**Purpose of Organization:** To provide a workable home rule amendment to the Constitution of Texas for the County of Bexar whereby a county charter might be drafted and voted upon that would make county government responsive to the local citizens.

**History of County Home Rule:** In 1933 a constitutional amendment providing county home rule was proposed and won statewide approval. There was also provided an enabling act. The intent of these provisions was to allow a county to adopt the form of county government best suited to its needs. In the intervening years many groups of citizens in different counties have tried to make use of these provisions but found they were completely unworkable. These citizens realize that no change can be effected in county government without new permissive legislation and have sought to draft a workable amendment.

The main opposition has always come from the county office-holders who fear for their jobs and resist any change in the status quo. The present system may provide many political jobs, has no executive head, cannot provide coordinated action because of lack of direct lines of authority and responsibility, and is dependent in its form and for its supervision from the State. Even though the local citizens elect a long ballot of county officials and provide the county funds, they can exert no authority over administration.

In 1955 the State Legislature created a citizen commission to study the feasibility of governmental or functional consolidation in Harris County. After two years of study and investigation, the first item proposed to improve obsolescent county government was to "undertake to secure a new county home rule amendment to the Texas Constitution,".

A statewide committee was formed with delegates from about thirty areas. It was hoped that the four largest counties, Harris, Dallas, Tarrant and Bexar, could draft and support workable permissive legislation for home rule. Meetings were held across the state, time was consumed, but no concerted action was agreed upon.

By the end of February 1959 the Bexar County citizens interested in home rule felt that it was imperative that some action be initiated in the Legislature and that it would have to be "special legislation for Bexar County." It was known that passage would depend on the legislators from Bexar County, most of whom were felt to be in favor of this, and after more conferences, a good home rule amendment for Bexar County was believed to have been drafted and ready for presentation.

The 1959 Amendment for Bexar County: HJR 45 was filed in the House on March 5. A campaign for support and information was undertaken at the local level. News stories, television, radio programs were presented, and about seventy clubs welcomed speakers on county government and the need for county home rule. The present organization was formed with members from the Chamber of Commerce, the Taxpayers League, the League of Women Voters, and other interested citizens. The amendment and plans were presented at Commissioners Court. Material and copies of the amendment were distributed locally and to interested citizens across the state.

The last session of the legislature was so concerned with fiscal matters that local bills were delayed. HJR 45 did not reach the agenda of the Constitutional Amendments Committee until April 14. A delegation of Bexar County citizens attended the committee hearing. A representative of Bexar County offered amendments which were not acceptable to proponents of the bill.

It was believed that the amendment had favorably passed the committee, but when the printed version appeared it was apparent that the amendment had undergone considerable change. It was realized that skill and strategy would be needed to restore it to its original form, and that it could no longer be classed as a "local and uncontested bill" since one of the legislators from Bexar County was not in agreement. Nevertheless it was hoped that the measure could reach the floor of the House for discussion and a vote taken so that statewide strength could be gauged. The session adjourned however without further action.

What Can Be Done Now: Public opinion is a vital force. Even though this measure is dependent on the Legislature, molding public support can be done now. Offices are to be filled at the state and county levels. Platforms are made of what the constituents desire. Now is the time for the voter to ask the candidate for his views on this important measure and enlist his active support. The endorsement of County Home Rule by groups and organizations is effective material for the new official to have.

A REPORT BACK TO THE ASSOCIATION of your individual success or failure in behalf of County Home Rule would be appreciated.

This issue is vital. As news and action develops, newsletters will be mailed.

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Speakers on "Bexar County Government and Home Rule" are available for groups of twelve or more by calling Mrs. Prothero at [REDACTED]

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# THE SAN ANTONIO VOTER

THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS  
OF SAN ANTONIO



Pres. Mrs. S. E. Cockrell, Jr.

Editor: Mrs. R. E. Thatcher

APRIL 1960

## OLD FASHIONED CANDIDATES MEETING - Tuesday, April 12

PLACE: Douglas McArthur Park (Upper Pavilion)

Bring your family and picnic supper and eat any time after  
5:30 PM. Speeches begin any time after 7:00 PM

Speakers will be candidates for the Legislature - for Sheriff -  
for County Assessor - Collector, & County Commissioners offices  
will attend

..... COME ON OUT AND LET'S HEAR THESE CANDIDATES

## APRIL CALENDAR

April 6	Unit Meetings
April 13	Board Meeting
April 19	Candidates Meeting
April 25	Briefing
April 25-29	National Convention St. Louis, Missouri

\* \* \* \* \*

BOARD NOTES: The March Board Meeting was held at the home of Mrs. Edwin Smith,  
The April Meeting will be at Mrs. Smith's on  
April 13.

QUESTIONNAIRE: A Questionnaire was sent by your League to the candidates for judges,  
tax assessor-collector, sheriff and county commissioners, asking  
their age, occupation and qualifications. Such questions as: do you  
favor deputizing citizens to act as Deputy Poll tax collectors? Do  
you recommend any changes in present methods of assessing real  
estate property for tax purposes?  
The candidates for sheriff were asked: What are your specific  
proposals regarding law enforcement in Bexar County? County  
Commissioners were asked: Do you favor the enforcement of the County  
Unit Road Law? What suggestions do you have for improving Budgetary  
Procedures in Bexar County?

RESIGNED: Mrs. Ross Irwin was your First Vice-President. Due to her many duties  
at this time, Virginia is taking time out from the Board of the League.  
She has done a splendid job in her office as First Vice-President. Mrs.  
John O'Hair has resigned from the Board as her husband is running for an  
office in Terrell Hills.



GENERAL  
MEETING

Those of you that weren't at the March General Meeting missed hearing all the good reports about the things the San Antonio League has done the past year - the work of the League of Women Voters of San Antonio is indeed admirable.

The 1960-61 Budget was adopted - the Proposal Local Program for 1960-61 was adopted. The slate of officers to start the new year off with some exciting new things to accomplish.

NATIONAL  
CONVENTION

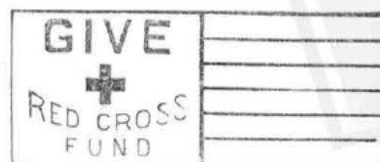
Mrs. Sid Cockrell Jr. will be our San Antonio League delegate to the National Convention in St. Louis, Missouri. We know she will bring many interesting things of National League work back to us.

\* \* \* \* \*

UNIT MEETINGS

Topic: Foreign Policy

<u>UNIT</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>TIME</u>	<u>PLACE</u>
[REDACTED]	April 6	10:00 AM	Mrs. Warren Beselliew
[REDACTED]	April 26	7:30 PM	Mrs. Edwin D. Smith
[REDACTED]	April 6	8:00 PM	Mrs. Catherine Marr
[REDACTED]	April 1	10:00 AM	Mrs. Melvin Sisk
[REDACTED]	April 12	8:00 PM	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	April 6	8:00 PM	Mrs. Joe Ward, Jr.
[REDACTED]	April 6	10:00 AM	Mrs. William Brockhausen
[REDACTED]	April 11	8:00 PM	Mrs. John Huntress, Jr.



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS

[REDACTED]

Mrs. Karl E. Teigler

[REDACTED]



# THE SAN ANTONIO VOTER

## THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF SAN ANTONIO



Pres. Mrs. S. E. Cockrell, Jr.

MAY 1960

Editor: Mrs. R.E. Thatcher

### MAY GENERAL MEETING

Joint Meeting with the Import-Export Club of San Antonio

DATE: May 26

TIME: 12:15 Noon

PLACE: Gunter Hotel (Ball room - Mezzanine)

LUNCHEON: \$2.50 including tip

SPEAKER: Dr. Paul Geren of Southern Methodist University

RESERVATIONS: Mrs. F. M. Koch,  
Mrs. R. E. Thatcher,

### STATE CONVENTION REPORT

The State Biennial Convention was held at the Adolphus Hotel, Dallas, Texas, March 29,30,31, 1960

There were ten delegates representing the San Antonio League of Women Voters. They were Mmes. Koch, Barstis, Noland, O'Hair, Castleberry, Davis, Hausman, Cockrell, and Thatcher. Mrs. Rufus D. Bell was the Convention Parliamentarian and Mrs. Gerald Ashford was Convention Chairman.

The three days were busy days, all delegates were at work either attending Caucuses, Little Meetings, Sessions and Dinner Meetings.

The work of the Convention was to select a Budget, Program, By-law changes and election of State Officers. All this was accomplished. The proposed Budget, with some changes was accepted. The proposed Program for 1960-62 was, after much thought and consideration by the delegates adopted. The changes were made on Current Agenda. A second item was added which will read "Evaluation of Methods of Voter Registrations". Also added to Current Agenda was an item that the San Antonio League supported and approved which will read "Other Areas of the Constitution, beginning with State-Local Relations" This includes County Home Rule.

The Continuing Responsibilities were changed in minor ways. A part of the Preamble of the Texas League of Women Voters was changed from "and works through a Voters Service activity" to read "and helps the individual citizen to be politically effective" San Antonio was responsible for this and Mrs. Robert Hausman was our spokesman.

The By-Laws were/amended to fix the year of the State Convention so as not to conflict with the National Convention. But this was defeated and the Convention years will remain the same. The next State Convention will be in 1962. Edinburg will be the Convention City.

The League of Women Voters of the U. S. is celebrating it's 40th year. Mrs. Horton Smith cleverly and humorously described this event and the history of LWV in Texas from the beginning.

There were speeches by Louis Wilkerson, Prof. A. J. Thomas, Jr. and Robert Storey, able men who told the facts about the revision of the Texas Constitution. Mrs. John Briscoe, National Director, spoke on "60-60 Vision" of the League. She was most inspiring and gave the Convention a look into what is expected of the League and all its members in the future.

All delegates came away from the Convention informed, inspired and more than ever cognizant of the importance of good citizenship.

### NEW STATE BOARD DIRECTOR

Mrs. Albert Barstis was appointed to the State Board as Voters Service Chairman. Gladys has been the San Antonio League's capable publications Chairman.

Local Board Mrs. Bryan M. Stacy, State Constitutional Revision  
Appointments Mrs. George Weideman, Publications  
Mrs. Warren Bessellieu, Unit Organizations  
Mrs. Herbert Soule, Local Program-School Survey

Elected to the Nominating Committee were Mrs. F. M. Koch and Mrs. James Castleberry.  
Board Notes The April Board Meeting was held at the home of Lila Cockrell. It was decided to have Work Shop for the new chairmen, at the close of the May Board Meeting.

League Lila Cockrell and Isabel Benson appeared on T V station KONO, April 18th.  
Speaks They spoke about League work, our political rally at MacArthur Park and the fine Voter's Guides that the League has been distributing. Mr. Ed Hyman of KONO was most helpful to Lila and Isabel.

Helen Hausman spoke to the Highland Park Lioness Club. She told them the need for revision of the Texas State Constitution.

Sympathy Our sincere sympathy is extended to Mrs. Leah Johnston, past Third Vice-President, in the loss of her daughter.

Dues Have you paid your dues? Now is the time to pay for the coming year. Send  
Due to Mrs. Edwin DeLand Smith, [REDACTED] B. The San Antonio League has 210 members to date.

Finance Your League has reached 76% of its goal. Mop-up still in progress.  
Report

Foreign The Foreign Policy Committee met at the home of Mrs. Charles A. Erickson,  
Policy Jr., [REDACTED] April 25th at 7:45 P.M. Mrs. Erickson would like to have a representative of each unit on this Committee. The next meeting of the Committee will be Monday, June 13, at Mrs. Erickson's home. Anyone interested in the work of this nature are invited to attend the June 13 meeting. Mrs. Erickson also wishes to extend her thanks to Catherine Marr who was acting as chairman of the committee and Mrs. Juliette Brockhausen who was Mrs. Erickson's representative on the Board during the time she was unable to be active.

New Unit Welcome! The new unit will be known as the Northtowne Unit. First meeting will be at the home of Mrs. Herbert Soule on May 10th, at 8:00 PM  
[REDACTED]

Candidates The rally at MacArthur Park on April 19 was well attended by all candi-  
Meeting dates. There were 22 candidates present. All were given five minutes to speak. The audience was very attentive and seemed to enjoy the meeting. and seeing the candidates. The League is well pleased with the turnout.

National Mrs. Sid Cockrell, Jr. and Mrs. R. E. Thatcher will attend the National  
Convention League of Women Voters Convention in St. Louis, Mo. April 25th to 30th.

NEW MEMBERS: Welcome to the San Antonio League!

Miss Elizabeth McCollister,	[REDACTED]	Mrs. Lewis Fay,	[REDACTED]
Miss Elizabeth Ellington,	[REDACTED]	Mrs. Wm. P. Preddy,	[REDACTED]
Mrs. Raymond E. White,	[REDACTED]	Mrs. Floyd McGown, Jr.	[REDACTED]
Mrs. James Barlow, 1552	[REDACTED]	Mrs. G. S. McCreless,	[REDACTED]
Mrs. J. R. Swain,	[REDACTED]	Mrs. J. B. Olsen,	[REDACTED]
		Mrs. Orville P. Clark, Jr.	[REDACTED]
Mrs. Leonard Karpel,	[REDACTED]	Mrs. Robt. E. Wildin,	[REDACTED]

Briefing Overall study of Latin American Economics and diplomatic relations. Mrs. Erickson will mail briefing

#### UNIT MEETINGS

Unit	Date	Time	Hostess
[REDACTED]	May 10	8:00 PM	Mrs. Herbert Soule,
[REDACTED]	May 4	7:45 PM	Mrs. Catherine Marr,
[REDACTED]	May 6	10:00 AM	Mrs. Bryan Stacey,
[REDACTED]	May 4	10:00 AM	Mrs. Wm. Brockhausen,
[REDACTED]	May 4	10:00 AM	Mrs. Warren Bessellieu,
[REDACTED]	May 4	8:00 PM	Mrs. Chas. Erickson, Jr.
[REDACTED]	May 10	8:00 PM	Mrs. Robt. Wilden,
[REDACTED]	May 11	8:00 PM	Mrs. John Huntress,
[REDACTED]	May 25	7:45 PM	Miss Antoinette Newcomb,



April, 1960

San Angelo League of Women Voters

REPORT OF ANNUAL MEETING (CONT.)

Local Current Agenda for 1960-61

The League of Women Voters of San Angelo will work for a program to obtain a county-wide tax equalization by:

- A. Obtaining detailed information on the property valuation of this county.
- B. Bringing to the attention of the commissioners court discrepancies in evaluation of rural and urban properties.
- C. Supporting the tax assessor-collector's request for additional qualified personnel to expedite tax equalization.
- D. Stimulating citizen interest and participation in this program.

Continuing Responsibilities

1. Support of the revision of the San Angelo Charter.
2. Support of the development of water resources of our community.
3. Support of election procedures to:
  - A. Encourage economy by consolidation of some voting precincts.
  - B. Adherence to the Election Code.
  - C. Selection of more suitable locations for voting in some precincts.
  - D. Encourage use of voting booths.

Budget for 1960-61

<u>Expenditures</u>		<u>Income</u>	
General Administration		Dues: 50 @ \$5.00	\$ 350.00
President and Board of Directors	\$ 10.00	Contributions	
Committees	65.00	Member	100.00
Delegates	400.00	Non-member	1330.00
Operating Costs		Transfer from 1959-60 budget (KYC)	400.00
Supplies	20.00	Transfer from savings	250.00
Postage	10.00		\$ 2230.00
Telephone & Telegraph	10.00		
Publications			
State & National ( 20.00)			
Local (400.00)	420.00		
Monthly Bulletin	75.00		
Activities			
Meetings	10.00		
Action in Community	800.00		
State and National Services	400.00		
Miscellaneous	10.00		
	\$ 2230.00		

WATCH THE NEWSPAPER FOR INFORMATION CONCERNING YOUR PRECINCT MEETING.



# THE SAN ANGELO VOTER

President - Miss Elizabeth Ward  
Bulletin Editor - Mrs. Gregory Robertson

San Angelo, Texas  
April, 1960

## CALENDAR

April 22 Candidates' Coffee - [REDACTED] - 9:30 A M  
May 7 Democratic Primary  
May 9 Board Meeting - Elizabeth Ward - [REDACTED] - 9:30 A M  
May 20 National Convention Report - Mrs. Curtis Poynor  
[REDACTED] - 9:30 A M

## KNOW YOUR CANDIDATES

Candidates for Representative from [REDACTED] - Jack Shaw, Bob Brewer, Bill Hinnant, and Forrest A. Harding - will be presented at a coffee at the Indian Room at [REDACTED] on Friday, April 22 at 9:30 A M. Come. Bring your friends.

Since May 7 election is almost here, BE AN INFORMED VOTER. READ, WATCH TV, LISTEN TO THE RADIO, AND GO TO CANDIDATES MEETINGS. Watch the newspaper for details.

## FINANCE DRIVE

The annual Finance Drive will be held this year the first two weeks in May. Chairman for the drive will be Mrs. N. R. Huggins, assisted by Mrs. Harry Childress. If you are called to help in this drive, PLEASE RESPOND. IT IS VERY IMPORTANT!

## REPORT OF STATE CONVENTION

San Angelo League was represented at State Convention held March 29, 30, 31 at the Adolphus Hotel in Dallas by Miss Elizabeth Ward, Mrs. Marguerite Randhawa, Miss Kathryn Brown, and Mrs. Geza Gaspar. Marguerite gave a five minute talk to the convention on San Angelo League's study of Foreign Policy. Mrs. George C. Boller, [REDACTED] Galveston, was elected new state president. Watch your State Voter for details of the convention.

## DUES

## DUES

## DUES

It's that time of year again. Please pay your dues of \$5.00 to Mrs. Geza Gaspar, [REDACTED]. You may mail a check to Ila payable to the League of Women Voters of San Angelo. AND DO IT TODAY!

## NATIONAL CONVENTION

The National Convention will be held in St. Louis, Missouri April 25 - 29. We will be represented by Mrs. Ray Boster. For a complete report on "what happened" come to the unit meeting May 20.

## NEW MEMBER

We wish to welcome Mrs. George Ricker (Frances), [REDACTED], [REDACTED] to the League.

## REPORT OF THE ANNUAL MEETING

The League of Women Voters of San Angelo held their annual meeting at 10:00 A M on March 26 at [REDACTED]. Report of the business meeting follows:

### Officers elected for 1960-62

2nd Vice President - Mrs. Curtis Poynor  
Secretary - - - - - Mrs. Fred Dawson  
Treasurer - - - - - Mrs. Geza Gaspar  
Directors - - - - - Mrs. Marguerite Randhawa  
Miss Ruby McCollum  
Mrs. Gregory Robertson

(continued on page 2)

YOUR PARTY PRECINCT CONVENTION MEETS MAY 7. PLEASE ATTEND! ! !

THE SAN ANGELO VOTER

San Angelo, Texas  
April 1960

# CALENDAR

April 22 - San Angelo College - Coastal Hotel - 9:30 A.M.  
Democratic Primary  
April 23 - San Angelo College - Coastal Hotel - 9:30 A.M.  
April 24 - San Angelo College - Coastal Hotel - 9:30 A.M.  
April 25 - San Angelo College - Coastal Hotel - 9:30 A.M.

## KNOW YOUR CANDIDATES

Candidates for Representative from the 11th District - Jack Shaw, and Robert E. Hinson, and Robert A. Harding. All to be presented at a coffee at the Indian Room at the Coastal Hotel on Friday, April 22 at 10:00 A.M. Come. Bring your friends.  
Since the election is almost here, let us inform you.  
Watch the newspaper for details.

## FINANCE DRIVE

The annual Finance Drive will be held this year the first two weeks in May. Chairman for the drive will be Mrs. M. P. Higgins, assisted by Mrs. Mary Childress. If you are called to help in this drive, please respond. It is very important!

## REPORT OF STATE CONVENTION

San Angelo League was represented at State Convention held March 29, 30, 31 at the Adelphi Hotel in Dallas by Miss Elizabeth Ward, Mrs. H. Russell Bandman, Miss Kathryn Brown, and Mrs. Gene Zapp. Mrs. Zapp gave a five minute talk to the convention on San Angelo League's stand on the new policy. Mrs. George G. Holler, State League Executive, delivered a new state president. Watch your state voter for details of the convention.

## DUES

It's that time of year again. Please pay your dues of \$1.00 to Mrs. Gene Zapp, 1500 University. You may mail a check to the League or the League of Women Voters of San Angelo. AND DO IT TODAY!

## NATIONAL CONVENTION

The National Convention will be held at St. Louis, Missouri April 29 - May 2. We will be represented by Mrs. Ray Foster. For complete report on what happened come to the next meeting May 20.

## WELCOME

We wish to welcome Mr. George H. (Frank) Noel, Jr. to the League. Phone 2-1855 to the League.

## REPORT OF THE ANNUAL MEETING

The League of Women Voters of San Angelo held their annual meeting on March 28 at First Road Restaurant. Report of the business meeting follows.

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS  
SAN ANGELO, TEXAS

re-elected for 1960-62  
Mrs. E. H. Foster  
Mrs. H. Russell Bandman  
Mrs. Kathryn Brown  
Mrs. Gene Zapp  
Mrs. George G. Holler  
Mrs. Ray Foster



Mrs. Karl E. Teigler  
Tyler, Texas

## **BEXAR COUNTY HOME RULE ASSOCIATION**

San Antonio 5, Texas

MRS. B. H. PASSMORE, Chairman  
MELVIN SISK, Vice-Chairman

### **WHO BELONGS TO THIS ASSOCIATION?**

Members from the Chamber of Commerce, League of Women Voters, Taxpayers League and other interested citizens.

### **WHAT IS ITS PURPOSE?**

To provide a workable home rule amendment to the Constitution of Texas for the County of Bexar.

### **WHAT DO WE HOPE TO ACHIEVE?**

Our county government is based on the 1876 Constitution. We want a government for Bexar County that is directly responsible to the citizens and that will meet the needs of modern times.

### **WHY THE URGENCY NOW?**

The first step in a long-range program has been made by the introduction of HJR 45 by Representative Raymond Russell into the current session of the Legislature. We citizens of Bexar County must inform ourselves so that the Legislators may have our support in bringing about the passage of the bill.

### **WHAT IS THE BACKGROUND ON COUNTY HOME RULE IN TEXAS?**

A constitutional amendment approved by the people of Texas in 1933 was intended to provide the framework for county home rule, but that amendment has since been determined unworkable.

### **WHAT IS IN HJR 45?**

Upon the petition of 10 percent of the qualified voters who voted for the County Judge in the last election or on the initiative of Commissioners Court, an election must be called on the proposition, "Shall Bexar County authorize the appointment of a Commission to write a County Charter?" If the proposition is approved by a majority of the voters, a Commission to frame a charter will be appointed by the majority of the District Judges in the County.

Within twelve months the Commission is obligated to frame a charter, after public hearings, which will provide for all operating requirements and functions needed in County Government.

It is especially provided that State Courts, State Officers and Legislators can in no wise be affected by the Charter and that the County must perform duties and functions as required by the State of Texas.

The Charter will then be submitted to the electorate of the County and if approved by a majority of the voters will be the operating framework for Bexar County's Government. All features of HJR 45 are permissive so as not to entwine the Charter Writing Commission in its efforts to provide a reorganized County Government truly the servant of the people in Bexar County.

The Amendment is restricted to apply to Bexar County only.

### **WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE?**

HJR 45 is permissive legislation that must pass the House with a 2/3 majority. A similar bill must pass the Senate by a 2/3 majority. It must be voted on as a constitutional amendment in 1960. Only then can the local citizens vote on whether they would like a Charter Commission to draft a charter to fit the needs of Bexar County. The Charter will also be subject to a vote of the people.

### **WHAT CAN CITIZENS DO?**

Make time on programs for speakers. They are available by calling [REDACTED]

Help mold public opinion.

Write your State Senator and State Representatives.

Senator: Henry B. Gonzalez, State Senate, Austin, Texas

Representatives: House of Representatives, Austin, Texas

Marshall O. Bell  
Robert L. Vallance  
Frates S. Seeligson  
R. L. Strickland

Franklin S. Spears  
Raymond R. Russell, Jr.  
James A. McKay, Jr.



Mrs. Barstis gave an account of the report from the units for local current agenda.

Mrs. Barstis moved the Board recommend that proposed item #1 on the current agenda be: Conduct a "Know your schools" survey to further the community awareness of its responsibility for public education. The motion was seconded and carried.

Mrs. Barstis recommended the second item, Completion of "Know your City" handbook, be placed on the current agenda. The motion was seconded and carried.

Mrs. Barstis moved that "Support of County Home Rule" be proposed as a Continuing Responsibility. The motion was seconded and carried.

The General Membership of the League of Women Voters met with a luncheon meeting on January 20th, 1960, at the Fellowship Hall of the Central Christian Church, at 12:30.

Mrs. Reuben Roth, president of the Council of Jewish Women, gave the invocation.

Mrs. Cockrell, president, introduced the City Council members and their wives. Other guests were also introduced.

The following approval committee for the minutes was appointed by the president: Mrs. Willis Jourdin, Mrs. L. Bonham Jones, and Mrs. Jack Allensworth.

Mrs. Koch, membership chairman, introduced the committee members working with her.

Mrs. Lecznar, finance chairman, stated the "Kick Off" date for the finance drive would be on February 17th at 9:30 A. M., the place to be announced later. She also stated there would be two report meetings on February 21st and on March 1st.

The President announced the State Convention would be on the 29th, 30th and 31st of March at Dallas and our League would be allowed 20 delegates. Any one desiring to go as a delegate, contact her.

Mrs. Koch introduced three new members, Mrs. John Fisher, Mrs. Donald Taylor, and Miss Betty McCann.

The President presented Mrs. Archie Reeves who introduced the speaker, City Manager Lynn Andrews who gave an interesting and informative talk on "Financing the needs of the City of San Antonio."

San Antonio  
Jan-13

4  
San Antonio

*See Exhibit  
10c*

Mrs. Rufus Bell, a member of the Citizens Advisory Committee on Charter Revision, charged of the program on Council Manager Government. She introduced Mrs. Harriet Gerhardt who is a member of the Citizens Advisory Committee on Charter Revision, and also the Chairman of the Planning Board. Mrs. Gerhardt summarized the work of the Charter Commission and its report to the City Council. Following a discussion, a straw vote was taken which indicated support for the Charter Revision Committee recommendation that there be no change in the present method of electing the mayor by the City Council. Mrs. Gerald Ashford moved that the discussed charter changes be studied in the Units in December with a view to arriving at positions. Motion seconded and carried. The meeting adjourned at noon.

Ela Russell, Secretary

*Ela Russell*

20  
19  
LCC  
The City Survey is now being brought together by the members who are preparing various chapters. As the chapters come into the League office, five copies of each are being typed so that the editors can each have a copy. It is hoped that publication will be started in November with final copies coming out in January.

In accordance with the consensus reported from four units. Mrs. Siskin moved that the League support the retention of the charter provision providing for the election of the mayor by the Council. Motion seconded and carried. Mrs. Cockrell will read a prepared statement at the public hearing (December 17) on the charter revision proposals and League members are encouraged to attend the hearing. It was also reported that no consensus has been reached on the school tax proposal. It was agreed that City Manager Andrews be asked to speak to the January General Membership Meeting on "Financing the Needs of the City of San Antonio." *San Antonio - Dec 1*

*San Antonio  
Oct. 19*  
County Home Rule, Mrs. Pasmore was absent. Mrs. Cockrell reported that Mrs. Pasmore had called a meeting of the steering committee of the Bexar County Home Rule Committee, and there were six at the meeting. It was the consensus of opinion that local home rule would try again and would try to get it on the current agenda on the state level.

Council Manager Government Chairman, Mrs. Bell cited the need for more people to change at the City Council meetings. She also cited the need for education on Council Manager Government for League members and the general public.

*San Antonio  
Oct. 19*  
The First Vice-President, Mrs. Irvin, reported that she with Mrs. Siskin and Mrs. Cockrell went to see Mr. Allison of the Light paper concerning space for Council Manager Government. She later saw Mr. Riddell of the Express-News about space for the L.H.V., point of view on Council Manager Government. Mr. Riddell requested copies on special issues as they arose. Mrs. Irvin also left U. N. pamphlets at the San Antonio Light, Express-News, and the Alam Heights.

County Home Rule, In the absence of Mrs. Pasmore, Mrs. Cockrell reported that on Thursday, November 5th, there was a luncheon meeting of the steering committee of the Bexar County Home Rule Committee with Senator Consales. Five members were present and much was accomplished. Senator Consales was more strongly in favor of Home Rule.

*San Antonio  
Nov.*  
Council Manager Government Chairman, Mrs. Bell reported on the Charter Revision Committee. She stated the controversy still existed in the committee on the election of a mayor by the people, or the election of a mayor by the other councilmen. She said that probably two reports would be presented to the City Council. She also announced that at the General meeting on Wednesday, November 18th, she, with Mrs. Manfred Gerhardt, another member of the City Charter Revision Committee would report on the City Charter Revision and current issues in City Government.

The President outlined procedure for arriving at League consensus on the election of a mayor and other issues.



204  
200  
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