“EDUCATE AND INFORM THE WHOLE MASS OF THE PEOPLE…
THEY ARE THE ONLY SURE RELIANCE FOR THE PRESERVATION OF LIBERTY” –
Thomas Jefferson

The League of Women Voters of Dallas Presents a Panel on Public Education

DOES CURRENT STATE AND LOCAL FUNDING PROVIDE FOR A QUALITY EDUCATION?

Thursday, August 30, 2018
6:30 p.m. to 8:15 p.m.
El Centro West Dallas Community College
3330 North Hampton Road
Dallas, Texas 75212

Moderator:
Mavis Knight, State Board of Education 2002 – 2014

Speakers:
Dr. Lori Taylor, Texas A&M - What are the variations in the cost of education and the determinants of school district efficiency
Chandra Villanueva, Center for Public Policy Priorities - How does the state education budget meet the need (or not)
Rena Honea, President of American Federation of Teachers - How are students and classrooms affected by more and less funding
Joyce Foreman, Dallas ISD Trustee - How is DISD currently funded and is it enough

Mavis Knight represented the southern Dallas County and eastern Tarrant County district on the State Board of Education from 2002 to 2014. Her experience as a community volunteer helped her be a reasonable representative on the board. Knight resisted efforts to politicize standards in science, history and social studies. She’s been part of the sensible center that has tried to focus on facts, not ideology, in writing state standards. Knight’s constructive leadership and decades of experience have been a great benefit for Texas schoolchildren. She currently is working on her doctorate degree.

Dr. Lori Taylor is the head of Public Service and Administration Department, Professor, and Director of the Robert A. Mosbacher Institute for Trade, Economics and Public Policy at Texas A&M University. She holds the Verlin and Howard Kruse ’52 Founders Professorship in the Bush School of Government and Public Service and is an adjunct professor in Texas A&M’s Department of Economics. Lori holds a BA in economics and a BS in business administration from the University of Kansas, and a master's and PhD in economics from the University of Rochester. Prior to joining the Bush School, she spent fourteen years as an economist and policy advisor in the Research Department of the Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas. Lori has written extensively on variations in the cost of education and the determinants of school district efficiency.

Chandra Kring Villanueva is Program Director on the Economic Opportunity Team at the Center for Public Policy Priorities (CPPP). She oversees the Center’s work on education, workforce development and job quality. She joined CPPP in 2010 and has focused on school finance and education policy ranging from early education to higher education access and success. Prior to joining the Center, Chandra was the manager of Advocacy and Public Policy with the Women’s Prison Association (WPA) in New York City to help formerly incarcerated women with the legislative process and researched options for pregnant women in the criminal justice system. She has also served as a Bill Emerson National Hunger Fellow with the Congressional Hunger Center with placements in Tucson, AZ and Washington, DC. Chandra earned a Master of Public Administration from New York University's Robert F. Wagner Graduate School of Public Service, and a Bachelor of Arts from The Evergreen State College in Olympia, WA.

Rena Honea received her education in Dallas ISD. She received her Bachelor of Science Degree in Education with endorsements in Kindergarten, Early Childhood for the Handicapped and Generic Special Education from Texas Tech University. She always dreamed of a career that would help others and decided that her calling was teaching students in public schools. Rena taught for 26 years at the same elementary school in Dallas ISD teaching multiple subjects and grade levels during her tenure and served in numerous leadership positions, conducted staff trainings, led professional development sessions, served as the liaison between the university partnership and the school district for the professional development site at the campus. She was elected Campus Teacher of the Year and District Semi-Finalist for Teacher of the Year for the 1999-2000 school year. In 2004, Rena accepted the position of Education Center, Inc. Director for the Alliance-AFT Local 2260 in Dallas. She oversaw the union professional development program that partnered with Dallas ISD to train teachers and support staff. In January 2009, Rena became President of Alliance/AFT, the largest teachers’ union in Texas. She has received state affiliate awards in many areas.

Joyce Foreman was elected to the Dallas ISD Board of Trustees in June 2014, representing District 6 in southwest Dallas. She is a business owner and community leader who brings experience from a variety of education-related affiliations to the board, including Dallas ISD Bond Advisory Committee since 2002, the Superintendent’s Advisory Committee, the Commission on Educational Excellence, the Greater Dallas Chamber Executive Committee, as Vice Chair of Dallas Area Rapid Transit Board, Chase Bank of Texas Board and El Centro College Office Career Advisory Committee. In 1981, after a successful career as a corporate buyer, Joyce started her own local company, Foreman Office Products, a business venture that lasted 30 years until her retirement in 2011.