

# LWV

The League of Women Voters  
of Midland, Texas

## The Midland

# VOTER

LWV-Midland  
[www.lwvtexas.org](http://www.lwvtexas.org)

Sept/Oct  
2014

The Midland Voter is the official publication of the League of Women Voters Midland, Texas, published four times a year.

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### September 24 Luncheon *(see page 4)*

Honoring U.S. District Judge Robert Junell  
Petroleum Club at 11:30am; \$40

### School Finance 101 *(see page 6)*

October 6 at 7:00pm  
Carrasco Room at Midland College  
Speakers: David Garcia, MISD  
Tedrah Robertson, Equity Center

### Everyone Welcome!

### Future program...

"Payday Loans & Lending Reform"  
Monday, Nov. 3 at 7:00pm  
Midland College

### Calendar of Events

**Labor Day  
Holiday** Sept 1

**LWV Board Mtg,** Sept 15  
7pm @ Jr League

**National Voter  
Registration Day** Sept 23

**11:30am  
Judge Junell  
Luncheon** Sept 24

**Program: School  
Finance 101** Oct 6

**LWV Board Mtg,** Oct 20  
7pm @ Jr League

**THE MIDLAND VOTER:**  
[donnarobertson51@gmail.com](mailto:donnarobertson51@gmail.com)



Karmen Bryant  
President, LWV  
Midland  
[Karmen@jhnc.org](mailto:Karmen@jhnc.org)

Welcome to another exciting League year! The Board has been busy over the summer preparing great programs that you will not want to miss! Our year begins in September with our Making Democracy Work luncheon honoring U.S. District Judge Junell. In October, its back to school with our program "School Finance 101." We will take a closer look at payday loans and what we can do to reform lending in November. I urge you to get involved and get informed this fall! This is your League and we value you as a League member. Please feel free to contact me at anytime with any questions you might have about our League year.

*Karmen Bryant, President LWV-Midland*



On October 19, 1919, the League of Women Voters of Texas, a nonpartisan political organization, was formed at San Antonio, Texas.

The League of Women Voters never supports or opposes candidates for office, or political parties, and any use of the League of Women Voters name in campaign advertising or literature has not been authorized by the League.

Since **September 23 is National Voter Registration Day**, LWV-Midland plans to register voters that day at the County Annex (Elections office) from 9 am to 5 pm. October 6 is the last day to register to vote for the November 4 Election. Can you help? Need volunteers for 2-hour shifts. If possible, let's try to have two people per shift **Tuesday, September 23:**

**9 am - 11 am**

**11 am - 1 pm**

**1 pm—3 pm**

**3 pm—5 pm**

**VOTER REGISTRATION**



Lynnette Schillo at 770-0840 or email her at: [lynnetteschillo@gmail.com](mailto:lynnetteschillo@gmail.com)

## Membership Matters ....

"I found dozens (and now hundreds) of women and men who are as feisty as I am. We are interested in serious issues and how to get information about those serious issues to the public for discussion and informed voting."

~ The Honorable Ellen Wheeler, LWV of California

"The amazing women — and men — I've met through the League have taught me how to move capably through the tumultuous partisanship I find in my professional life, and have become not just amazing role models, but wonderful friends."

~ Scott Britton, LWV of Metropolitan Columbus, Ohio



Many thanks to our members who continue to build a grassroots network of men and women in Midland who want to help every citizen have a voice in government.

We have a "no guilt" membership. If you believe in what the League does in promoting active and informed participation of citizens in their government, but have no time to give us at this stage of your life, we welcome your show of support with your membership.

If you have any questions about LWV membership, please contact Membership Chair Patricia Stevens:

[patricia.midland@gmail.com](mailto:patricia.midland@gmail.com)



## 2014 LWV-US Convention by Karen Nicholson

kjnicholson@sbcglobal.net

I didn't know how busy I would be! I'd attended Convention several times before as a local delegate, a state delegate and then as a LWVUS Board nominee, but never as a LWVUS Board member.

We arrived early for a Board meeting and went directly to workshops and then the business of Convention. The workshops were different this year in that they were organized by track. Basically the same material was covered in each track (voter service, visibility, effective teams, others—all the "usual suspects" that must be repeated often for volunteers ) but from different perspectives: long time member, leader, new member etc. Since I chair a LWVUS committee which includes voting rights, I welcomed people to several of those workshops and introduced the staff who presented the material. There were also caucuses, some initiated by LWVUS (like Program Planning Q & A), and since I served on that committee, I attended.

Since the presidency was contested—Deirdre Macnab from Florida ran against the presidential nominee from the nominating committee, Elisabeth MacNamara, that, too, took extra personal time since I was both a member of the nominating committee and a nominee. (MacNamara beat Macnab by an almost 2-1 margin, by the way.) Too, as a Board member I sat in on several other caucuses, the agriculture one particularly, organized by individual LWV members, since the LWVUS committee I chair was involved in the agriculture study. There were also a couple of receptions and meals for small groups that Board members attended. Phew! Some of you may wonder why I was nominated for 2<sup>nd</sup> VP, but am now the LWVUS secretary.

There was a by-laws change that separated secretary and treasurer and did away with the 2<sup>nd</sup> VP. The easiest way to handle that was to give me a title change.

One of my favorite parts was hearing Ray Martinez. He's Pat Stanley's son-in-law. Ray was one of two speakers on a voting rights panel. The other one was Anne McGeehan, also from Texas, who formerly worked in the TX Sec. of State's office. She worked closely with LWV-TX for a number of years. They both did an excellent job, and here's my favorite part: Ray's closing remarks included that his mother-in-law was a longtime LWV member who had been president several times in Midland. As he had decisions to make about voting, he would ask himself, "What would Pat Stanley do?" Now picture that—on the floor of National Convention where there were almost 1,000 people!

*Red Hot Patriot: the Kick Ass Wit of Molly Ivins*, was Saturday night, a Dallas LWV fundraiser, and another highlight. It was hilarious. Those of us from Texas recognized everybody and laughed; those not from Texas laughed at it all, too! I couldn't attend one of my usual favorite parts of Convention, the dine-around, because of a Board commitment, but if you ever go you shouldn't miss it. The host League has sign-up sheets for local restaurants. It's an opportunity to sample local cuisine—good for food and for conversation with Leaguers from other states.

It is amazing to see such a passionate, informed group of people. Several of the speakers commented that they enjoyed watching democracy work—watching good conversation about the topics that needed to be discussed—and discussed in a civil way. There was a lot of grassroots action—much to see and learn about how the LWV works. I hope more of you will experience Convention some time in the future.

## Making Democracy work...



### Luncheon Honoring U.S. District Judge Robert A. Junell

**Wednesday, September 24  
11:30am  
Petroleum Club of Midland**

President George W. Bush appointed Robert Junell as U.S. District Judge to the Western District Court effective 2003.

Prior to that, Judge Junell served in the U.S. Army from 1970—1973. He graduated with a JD from Texas Tech University in 1976 and served 14 years in the Texas Legislature.

Beginning Feb. 13, 2015, Judge Junell will begin his official senior status with a reduced docket.

At more than 1,000 criminal defendants in 2013, the most of any judge in the Western District of Texas, Judge Junell hopes the U.S. Congressmen in this region and President Barack Obama see the importance of filling the spot.

**\$40 / person luncheon (pay at door)**

**RSVP by Sept. 19:**

**Ellen Ramsey at (432) 556-8092**



**Finance Drive:** It takes more than people to keep the League active! When you receive your letter for our finance drive, please consider giving a donation to **LWV-Midland**.

Unlike membership dues, which go to support the Texas League and the National League, **100% of your donation to LWV-Midland goes to support the Midland League's local activities.**

Your support is critical to LWV-Midland. We need your support to continue bringing nonpartisan information to **YOU** and the community.

Your decision to support the League of Women Voters of Midland (LWV Midland) allows us to impact the election process by volunteering to help educate the citizens of our community and provide opportunities for voter registration. Specifically, the LWV Midland will continue our work to inform the public concerning voter services and citizen education programs in our area (such as the Agriculture, Human Trafficking, School Finance and Candidate Forums.)

Note: If you want to make a tax-deductible donation, please make your check payable to the LWV-TX Education Fund, a 501(C)(3) organization. The money will be used only for citizen education in Midland.

Thank you!

*Meredith Morgan Tipton*

Meredith\_morgan@hotmail.com

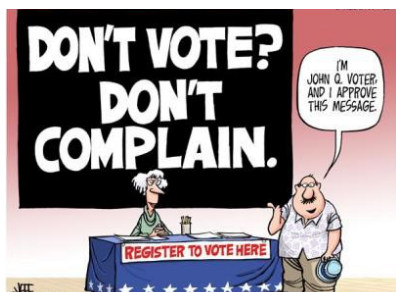
## Did you know...



### New Elections Administrator Appointed for Midland County

Deborah Land was appointed to the position of Election Administrator (EA). She replaced Ruth Sloan, who had been the EA for about ten years. Deborah started on June 10, 2014.

In Midland County, the election administrator is appointed by the five members of the county election commission. The County Judge, County Clerk, Tax Assessor/Collector, Democratic Party Chair and Republican Party Chair served on this commission. The affirmation vote of a majority of the commission's membership is necessary for the appointment of the administrator.



### Early Voting for November 4 General Election: October 20—31, 2014

Call 432-688-4890 for schedule at these polling places:

Centennial Library, Cogdell Center, Fellowship Community Church and Manor Park

*(At the time the VOTER was distributed, these were the polling places being recommended.)*

Do what most of the people in the world only dream of doing. **VOTE.**

### National Voter Registration Day is Tuesday, September 23

[www.nationalvoterregistrationday.org](http://www.nationalvoterregistrationday.org)



By participating in National Voter Registration Day, our League will not only help bolster the LWV's visibility and impact, we'll do so while helping new voters participate in the political process. LWVUS President Elisabeth MacNamara said, "For the past two years, the League has been the single-largest, on-the-ground partner registering new voters. With your help, we know we can exceed our previous years' involvement."

If you want to help, please call Lynnette Schillo, 689-6434 or email her at: [lynnetteschillo@gmail.com](mailto:lynnetteschillo@gmail.com)



**Reform for Payday Loans?****"Payday Loans & Lending Reform"****Monday, November 3 at 7pm****Carrasco Room at Midland College****Speaker: Paul McCord****Certified Housing Counselor for BEDC**

In Texas, where payday and auto-title lending is a \$4-billion-a-year industry with some 3,500 businesses, there are no limits on fees or loan sizes. Supporters of the industry say lenders offer a needed service to consumers who have few options for short-term loans. Critics say the businesses prey on struggling Texans by charging high fees and trapping borrowers in a cycle of debt.

Texans get larger loans and pay higher fees than consumers in the nation as a whole, according to the Center for Public Policy Priorities, a liberal think tank that has pushed for state reforms. Texans spent \$1.2 billion in payday and auto-title fees in 2012, and 35,000 cars in the state were repossessed.

Some argue, though, that less regulation in Texas is better. Bill Peacock, vice president of research at the Texas Public Policy Foundation, a conservative think tank, said Texas has "one of the most competitive payday industries in the country."

"So-called consumer advocates often complain that consumers are getting a bad deal, but consumers are voluntarily entering into these arrangements because they need access to capital," said Peacock, who opposes city ordinances and state legislation that increase regulation of the industry.

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Excerpts from **Texas Tribune** article, *Fight Over Payday Loans, From Capitol to Campaign Trail* by Corrie MacLaggan.  
For complete article go to:

<http://www.texastribune.org/2014/01/15/payday-lending/>

**Confused About School Finance?****"School Finance 101"****Monday, October 6 at 7:00pm****Carrasco Room at Midland College****Speakers: David Garcia, MISD****Tedrah Robertson, Equity Center (Austin)****A Few School Finance Terms**

**Available School Funds (ASF)** — Created by the Texas Constitution of 1876, the ASF is made up of interest and earnings generated by the state's Permanent School Fund, as well as constitutionally dedicated motor fuel taxes and other miscellaneous revenue sources. This fund can be used only to support public education and must be distributed based on a per capita basis to school districts.

**Chapter 42 District**—A district with a property wealth sufficiently below the equalized wealth level to receive Foundation School Program (FSP) aid in excess of its Available School Fund (ASF) per capita allotment. Ch. 42 districts (and "Gap" districts) do not pay recapture.

**County Appraisal District (CAD)** — Each county has established an appraisal district office responsible for maintaining taxable real and personal property records and placing a value on all property for taxation purposes. A chief appraiser heads the CAD office. He or she is an individual appointed by an appraisal district board of directors.

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Glossary Excerpts from:

<http://www.equitycenter.org/resources/school-finance-glossary>



**Midland**  
**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS**  
***Your Membership Matters!***

Your Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: TEXAS Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Preferred Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

I'm enclosing a check made payable to the League of Women Voters of Midland for:

- ☐ \$50 Individual Membership
- ☐ \$75 Family Membership (two individuals in the same household)

The name of second person is \_\_\_\_\_

- ☐ \$\_\_\_\_\_ Add a Gift Membership for \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

*Please return this form and your check to:*

*Patricia Stevens, Membership Chair, 2207 Hughes Street, Midland, TX 79705*

If you know of someone who might be interested in joining the League of Women Voters, please provide us with their contact information below or email Patricia at: [patricia.midland@gmail.com](mailto:patricia.midland@gmail.com)


*The League of Women Voters is a 501(c)4 organization and your membership is **not** tax deductible.*