

# THE VOTER

APRIL 2010

MAKING DEMOCRACY WORK

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF TARRANT COUNTY



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®  
of Tarrant County  
3212 COLLINSWORTH ST  
FORT WORTH, TX 76107

“NOT FOR WOMEN ONLY”

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## GLOBAL CLIMATE CHANGE

Global warming: the term creates passionate debate. Discuss the facts and debunk the myths of climate change at our April unit meetings.

Global climate change is one of the most serious threats to the environment, health and economy of our nation. Recent scientific studies show that global warming is already causing environmental changes that will have significant global economic and social impacts.

The League believes that now is the time to act on global climate change. We can reduce global warming pollution by using existing technologies to make power plants and factories more efficient, make cars go farther on a gallon of gasoline, and shift to cleaner technologies. Cities, states and individuals are already adopting many of these solutions, which also reduce our dependence on oil, reduce air pollution, and protect pristine places from oil drilling and mining. State and local initiatives are proving that answers exist.

To reinforce and expand on those efforts, the League urges federal action that reduces global warming pollutants on a national and global scale.

See pages 6-7 for a summary of approaches to curbing greenhouse gas emissions and page 8 for our unit discussion questions. For more information, please access the link provided on our website [www.lwvtarrantcounty.org](http://www.lwvtarrantcounty.org). Several articles on this subject by the League of Women Voters of the United States are available at [http://www.lwv.org/AM/Template.cfm?Section=Global\\_Climate\\_Change](http://www.lwv.org/AM/Template.cfm?Section=Global_Climate_Change).

## MARK YOUR CALENDARS:

- League's 90th Anniversary Luncheon **April 8**
- Contemporaries Meeting **April 22**
- LWV Texas Convention **April 23—25**
- Annual Meeting **May 10**



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

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Reed Bilz, Environmental Committee

## FROM OUR PRESIDENT

League of Women Voters  
of Tarrant County

*The mission of the League of Women Voters is to encourage informed and active participation in government and to influence public policy and advocacy.*

**President**

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**THE VOTER**

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Dawn Ellison  
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As spring finally settles in, we are looking forward to our **90<sup>th</sup> anniversary luncheon** with Mrs. Chandler Roosevelt Lindsley, granddaughter of Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt, and Shelley Koffler, news director of KERA. The luncheon is **April 8** at Trinity Terrace, and there is still time to get tickets. Purchase them at our website, or call Doris Sawey at 817-348-8683 to make a reservation by April 2.

As we celebrate the League's 90<sup>th</sup> birthday, we also need to acknowledge several long-time members of the Tarrant County League who are having a big impact beyond our own League. Board member and past president **Georgia Kidwell** will be honored on March 31 with the opening of the JPS/HEB Georgia Kidwell Child Health Center on Pipeline Road in Euless. Georgia has been making a difference in Northeast Tarrant County for many years, and HEB will now have a permanent reminder of her tireless advocacy for health. Congratulations, Georgia.

The League of Women Voters of Texas holds its biennial convention in San Marcos on April 23-25, and two LWV Tarrant County members will complete a two-year term of service on the state Board. **Eddie Jones** has served as Treasurer since 2008 and on the LWV Texas Board since 2003. Edie chaired the state study of public transportation (2003-06) and is now state transportation issues chair. **Pat Cheong** has been a director on the LWV Texas Board since 2008 while keeping her day job as Assistant Vice-president for Advocacy, Research and Education at United Way of Tarrant County. **Reed Bilz** has also served LWV Texas by chairing the recent voting issues study and serves as Coordinator of the LWV Texas social policy committee.

Fast on the heels of the state convention, we will be getting ready for our **annual meeting on Monday, May 10**, at the Gardens Restaurant in the Fort Worth Botanic Garden. Please mark your calendar now for this important event, and keep your eyes open for the meeting workbook, which will be sent out by email in mid-April.

The April topic for unit meetings is global climate change. Can it be part of the reason for the record snowfall and other strange weather patterns of the last six months? Be sure to read up on the topic in this issue of the Voter and on the national LWV website, then come to an April unit meeting to discuss the facts.

I hope to see you at the luncheon, unit meetings, and the annual meeting.

Nancy Stevens  
[kenandnan@sbcglobal.net](mailto:kenandnan@sbcglobal.net)  
(817) 926-3109

**ANNUAL MEETING**  
**MAY 10, 2010**  
**THE GARDENS RESTAURANT**  
**5:30 PM**

The Nominating Committee  
is filling out the 2010—2011  
Slate of Officers.

If you get a call inviting you  
to serve in the coming year

**Just  
Say  
Yes!**

# Report on DFW Ozone Event

*Several Tarrant County LWV members attended an event sponsored by DFW environmental and clean air activists on Tuesday March 16 at Arlington City Hall. In keeping with LWV-US positions on clean air, LWV-TC President Nancy Stevens spoke in favor of reducing the ozone standard for DFW. President-Elect Dawn Ellison provided the following observations.*

Arlington Mayor Robert Cluck, a doctor and hospital administrator, opened the event with his support for the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) proposal to lower the ground-level ozone standard to .06-.07 parts per million (currently .075 ppm). His reason: he sees a direct correlation between high ozone levels, ER asthma cases and deaths of seniors.

EPA Region 6 Administrator Dr. Al Armendariz followed with a short background briefing:

- Ozone—a primary component of smog—has been studied since the 1960s.
- The U.S. Supreme Court has ordered EPA to issue regulations consistent with 2007 Clean Air Scientific Advisory Committee (CASAC) recommendations by August 2010. CASAC is composed of physicians and scientists; their recommendations are based on some 1,700 studies.
- Asthma, chronic bronchitis, and cancer are caused or negatively impacted by ozone.
- EPA's .01-.005 ppm reduction is needed to help children and seniors, who are at high risk.
- DFW does not satisfy the current standard. Significant measures will be required to meet the proposed new standard by the **2030** target date.

Concerned citizens of North Texas then addressed Dr. Armendariz and the panel, which included State Representatives Diane Patrick, Carol Kent and Lon Burnam; Tarrant County Commissioner Roy Brooks; and Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) Regional Director Tony Walker. Court reporters recorded the citizens' testimonies. Here are a few of the interesting points shared:

- U.S. citizens with asthma doubled between the years 1980 and 2000.
- Asthma is one of Tarrant County's most common chronic diseases.
- Tarrant County's 8 -9 year-olds are three times more likely to have asthma attacks than same-age children in the rest of Texas.
- Asthma is a primary cause of absenteeism in Dallas public schools (no data reported on Tarrant County schools).
- TCEQ continues to issue coal-fired power plant permits in neighboring Navarro County (DFW is downwind), where residents find anecdotal evidence of high rates of cancer and immune diseases.
- Fort Worth officials focus on air quality by replacing 3 HP gasoline mowers with electric while the city of Dish alone operates 20,000 HP compressors 24 hours/day.
- Governor Rick Perry, Fort Worth Mayor Mike Moncrief, and other DFW government officials don't seem to understand: Dirty air contributes to soaring medical costs and is bad for business.

Most testimonies focused on the adverse impacts of North Texas' toxic air. Although traffic is often cited as this region's primary contributor to air pollution, citizens at the event clearly believe that it is only one component. From my personal experience with smog in the Washington, D.C. area, where traffic problems far exceed those of DFW, it's hard not to suspect more here than vehicle emissions.

The above is, of course, subject to debate. Environmental Committee: can you give us your perspective on the local air quality issues in an upcoming VOTER? Others members with information about the prevailing Texas view on air quality please comment in the VOTER. Let's have a dialog.

Finally, I do worry that the same *Star-Telegram* that reported this ozone event also reported that North Texas has more breast cancer per 100,000 women than any area of the state. "Experts" don't know exactly why.

Air quality: are we betting our lives on it?

## GEORGIA KIDWELL HONORED



Board member and past president Georgia Kidwell will be honored on March 31 with the opening of the Georgia Kidwell Child Health Center on Pipeline Road in Euless.

A retired elementary school teacher from the HEB district, Georgia has long been aware of the relationship between children's health and children's education. She has served on the JPS Advisory Committee for Northeast Tarrant County for the past 17 years, and has worked with mid-cities school districts in the opening of several school-based clinics over the last six years. This JPS/HEB clinic will be a permanent reminder of Georgia's long advocacy and activism in Northeast Tarrant County.

Congratulations, Georgia!

## NATURALIZATION

Sixty eight new applicants from 29 countries became new U. S. Citizens Thursday, March 25, 2010, in the courtroom of the Honorable Judge Charles Bleil. Participating for the League of Women Voters were Barbara Rubin, and registrars Emma Allen and Janine Thomas. Barbara Rubin addressed the candidates before the ceremony, stressing the importance getting their applications completed in time to vote in the May 8 local elections, and the importance of voting in local elections.

Speaker for the day was Aisha Saleen, Assistant U. S. Attorney in Dallas, who is herself a naturalized citizen from Pakistan. She stressed the importance of voting and serving on juries. Judge Bleil explained the freedoms that the new citizens were entitled to as U. S. Citizens.

After the ceremony, eighteen of the new citizens completed their voter registration applications that same day, while the remainder took home the applications to mail.

The next Naturalization ceremony will be held Thursday, April 22, at 11 a.m. in Judge John McBryde's court. Emma Allen will be chairing this ceremony for the League. Any League member that would like to participate may call Emma at 817 292-5934, or e-mail her at [Allen04@flash.net](mailto:Allen04@flash.net).



*Sitting in the courtroom waiting for the start of the Naturalization ceremony*



*League members and voter registrars help a new citizen with his voter application.*

The next Naturalization ceremonies are scheduled for:

Thursday, April 22, at 11:00 a.m. in

Judge John McBryde's Court,

Tuesday, May 25, at 10:00 a.m. in

Judge Terry R. Means' Court.

Any League member who would like to participate may call Barbara Rubin or send an e-mail to

[naturalization@lwvtarrantcounty.org](mailto:naturalization@lwvtarrantcounty.org)

90TH LEAGUE ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION



LEAGUE OF  
WOMEN VOTERS®

*You are cordially invited to a luncheon celebrating  
the League's 90th Anniversary  
Special Guests  
Chandler Roosevelt Lindsley  
(Granddaughter of Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt)  
and  
Shelley Kofler, News Director for KERA  
Thursday, April 8th  
11:15am to 11:45am Pre-Luncheon Reception  
12:00pm to 1:30pm Luncheon and Program  
Trinity Terrace, 1600 Texas Street, Fort Worth  
\$15 - League Members  
\$20 - Non-League Members  
RSVP  
no later than Thursday, April 1st  
817-348-8683 or [lwvtarrantcounty@sbcglobal.net](mailto:lwvtarrantcounty@sbcglobal.net)*

*If you made reservations for the February 11 luncheon, please reconfirm your reservation with the League office by April 5 if you have not already done so.*

*(817)348-8683*

*[lwvtarrantcounty@sbcglobal.net](mailto:lwvtarrantcounty@sbcglobal.net)*

## Curbing Greenhouse Gas Emissions — Two Approaches

By Eleanor Revelle (LWVIL and LWVUS Climate Change Task Force Member)

Facing the growing evidence that burning fossil fuels is contributing significantly to global climate change, policymakers are evaluating strategies for reducing U.S. greenhouse gas emissions. They have two general approaches to consider.

### Cap-and-Trade

With a cap-and-trade system, policymakers set a limit on the quantity of a pollutant (e.g., CO<sub>2</sub>) that can be emitted in a given period. The total emissions allowed under this cap are divided into permits representing the right to emit a given amount (e.g., one ton of CO<sub>2</sub>). The permits are then allocated to the sources covered by the program (e.g., power plants). At the end of the compliance period, each source must report all emissions and surrender an equivalent number of permits.

Since the number of permits is limited, they have financial value. Companies able to reduce their emissions at low cost can sell the permits they don't need to companies for whom the cost of reducing emissions is high. Each company has the flexibility to choose how to meet its emissions target, but market incentives encourage them to develop new, cleaner technologies. Over time, the cap is lowered to achieve more aggressive emissions-reduction goals.

### *Carbon Tax*

A carbon tax is imposed on fossil fuel suppliers at a rate that reflects the amount of carbon that will be emitted when the fuel is combusted. The tax is included in the price of the coal, oil, and natural gas supplied to wholesale users and ultimately is passed on to consumers in the price of electricity, gasoline and other energy-intensive products. By raising the price of carbon-based energy, the tax creates incentives to reduce energy use, stimulates demand for more energy-efficient products, and promotes a shift to cleaner fuels and renewable energy.

### *Emissions Certainty*

The strength of the cap-and-trade approach is that it sets firm limits on emissions. The cap is set at a level designed to achieve a desired environmental outcome (e.g., a reduction of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions to 80 percent of 1990 levels by 2050).

A carbon tax allows the quantity of emissions to fluctuate as the demand for energy rises or falls. Allowing emissions to vary from year to year gives firms the flexibility to abate less and pay more in taxes when abatement costs are unusually high (and vice-versa when abatement costs are low). In order to achieve climatic goals, the tax rate can be adjusted over time to attain greater emissions reductions.

### *Price Predictability*

The advantage of a carbon tax is that it fixes the price of carbon emissions. It creates a permanent incentive to reduce emissions, thereby encouraging investment in alternative fuels and energy-efficient technologies that have high up-front costs.

Under a cap-and-trade system, the price of emissions permits may vary considerably from year to year. An especially cold winter, for example, could increase the demand for energy and cause a spike in the price of permits. This volatility could weaken incentives to invest in cleaner technologies.

For illustrative purposes, this paper focuses on a cap-and-trade system for carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>).

\* Safety valve—establishes a ceiling on the price of permits. If the price reaches this level, the government can sell additional permits at this price to the capped entities.

\* Circuit breaker—freezes a gradually declining emissions cap if the permit price rises above a predetermined level.

\* Banking—allows companies to save unused allowances for future years.

\* Borrowing—allows companies to borrow permits from future years and pay them back, with interest, later.

\* Offsets—allow companies to cover some of their emissions by purchasing credits created by carbon mitigation projects (e.g., tree planting) from sources outside the cap-and-trade system.

These mechanisms (with the exception of banking) could delay emissions reductions and undermine the integrity of the cap.

### *Environmental Effectiveness*

The impact of a cap-and-trade system depends on a number of factors. How stringent is the emissions target? How will baseline emissions be measured and a corresponding and appropriate number of emissions permits be determined and distributed? Will the cap be applied economy-wide or only to certain sectors? Does it include cost-control measures that are likely to break the emissions cap?

The impact of a carbon tax depends in large part on whether the tax rate is set high enough to create real market incentives to develop and adopt climate-friendly technologies. Although a carbon tax does not establish a firm limit on emissions, it applies economy-wide and provides a constant incentive for companies to make carbon-saving investments. The tax rate can be increased over time to provide stronger incentives to reduce emissions.

### *Equity*

Under many cap-and-trade proposals, a substantial portion of the emissions permits are to be distributed free to the capped entities. Research indicates that only a modest portion of the permit value is needed to offset the costs of the cap, but the full amount is passed along in increased prices to consumers. This would disproportionately affect lower-income households because they tend to spend a larger fraction of their income than do higher-income households and because energy products make up a bigger share of their spending.

A carbon tax directly raises substantial revenues. These could be used in part to fund "progressive" tax-shifting policies that would reduce the burden of higher energy costs on lower-income groups.

### *Simplicity and Transparency*

A cap-and-trade system requires new institutions (e.g., a system to allocate permits, markets where firms can buy and sell permits, a means of monitoring emissions and trades). Auctioning permits rather than distributing them free could help promote simplicity and transparency.

A carbon tax can be levied and collected via existing institutions with experience in enforcing compliance. It is simpler and less expensive to administer and enforce than a cap-and-trade system. Its underlying premise—the price of energy should include the environmental costs associated with its production—is transparent and readily understood.

Produced by the LWVUS Climate Change Task Force

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**For unit discussion questions see page 8**

Questions for Unit Discussion on Curbing Greenhouse Gas Emissions

1. Do you think Cap-and-Trade is a fair way to limit industrial emissions?
2. Do you think the Carbon Tax is an effective way to lower emissions?
3. Do you think the Carbon Tax is a fair way to lower emissions?
4. Which plan do you think will be fairer:
  - a. to the industry?
  - b. to the consumer?
5. Which plan do you think will be more effective?



The Contemporaries, our recently-organized unit for young professionals, will meet on Thursday, April 22, at noon, at the new Mezza Mediterranean Grill in the new 7<sup>th</sup> development, 2973 Crockett St. There is street parking. Please make reservations with Kate Lattimore at [kate@pavlikandassociates.com](mailto:kate@pavlikandassociates.com) or by calling 817-343-9491. If you would like to eat, a wonderful buffet including beverage is only \$12.99! The Contemporaries unit is generating a lot of interest; about 12 women and men met in March and agreed they would encourage their friends to join them in the next meeting. Discussion topic for the April meeting will be “What do we want to discuss? What means the most to us at our age?”

MARCH UNIT MEETING REPORTS

23 members and 1 guest participated in the March unit meetings, which covered local program planning. The reports from these meetings indicate lively discussions.

*Just a reminder*—May is ‘Do Your Own Thing’ month. Please be thinking of what you wish to discuss or do.

# MEMBERSHIP

NEW MEMBERS - Laurie Ogborn

RENEWING MEMBERS -

Emma Allen, Reeta Johnson, Vincent Kiernan, Wanda Miller, Ruth Wassenich

***Thank you for 90 years of support! ~ LWV-TC***

## Help Us Bring New Talent into the League of Women Voters

We're the League of Women Voters of Tarrant County, one of the hundreds of local organizations across the nation whose members are committed to Making Democracy Work. Our non-partisan organization encourages informed and active participation by citizens in government and influences public policy through education and advocacy. The League of Women Voters does NOT support or oppose any political party or any candidate. Our goal is to empower citizens to shape better communities around the world.



### MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES

\$59/yr	<b>Regular</b> full voting member	\$59 _____
\$49/yr	<b>Senior</b> full voting member, Age 65 and older	\$49 _____
\$89/yr	<b>Family</b> (two members in one household; one membership vote)	\$89 _____
\$100/yr	<b>Sustaining</b> Membership ~ Elizabeth Cady Stanton	\$100 _____
\$150/yr	<b>Advocate</b> Membership ~ Carrie Chapman Catt	\$150 _____
\$200/yr	<b>Patron</b> Membership ~ Mary McLeod Bethune	\$200 _____
\$300/yr	<b>Benefactor</b> Membership ~ Eleanor Roosevelt	\$300 _____
_____	<b>Contribution</b>	Contrib. _____
\$10/yr	Additional fee to receive <i>The VOTER</i> Newsletter by U.S. Mail (online <i>VOTER</i> is no additional cost)	<i>VOTER</i> _____
		Total \$ _____

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(E-mail) \_\_\_\_\_

(Fax) \_\_\_\_\_

LWV/US PMP	\$29.20
LWV/TX PMP	\$22.00
PMP = PER MEMBER PAYMENT	

*Membership dues and contributions are not eligible for a tax deduction under I.R.S. 501(c) (3) rules. You may make an additional tax-deductible contribution by writing a separate check payable to the LWV/Texas Education Fund. This will be used for educational projects benefiting the League of Women Voters of Tarrant County. Mail your membership application, dues, and contributions to LWV-TC, 3212 Collinsworth Street, Fort Worth, TX 76107 or join online [www.lwvtarrantcounty.org](http://www.lwvtarrantcounty.org).*



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Fort Worth, TX 76107

## APRIL 2010 CALENDAR

### Unit Meetings Discussion Topic — Global Climate Change

- April 15 (Thurs) 12 noon—Southwest Lunch Unit**, Trinity Terrace, 1600 Texas Street, Fort Worth.  
RESERVATIONS REQUIRED. Cost: \$10/person. Call John Johnson at 817-810-9399 for reservations.  
Deadline for reservations is Tues., April 13. Call Christie Campbell at 817-732-0556 for information.
- April 15 (Thurs) 5:30 p.m.—Fort Worth Evening Unit**, La Madeleine Restaurant, 6140 Camp Bowie Blvd.,  
Fort Worth. Dutch Treat. Call Betsy Hedden at 817-923-9198 for information.
- April 20 (Tues) 7:00 p.m.—Mid-Cities Unit**, Barnes & Noble Bookstore, 861 North East Mall Blvd., Hurst  
(The Shops at North East Mall). Call Georgia Kidwell at 817-282-0712 for information.
- April 22 (Thurs) 12 noon. — Contemporaries Meeting**, Mezza Mediterranean Grill, 2973 Crockett St,  
Fort Worth, (in the new 7th development). For reservations email Kate Lattimore -  
[kate@pavlikandassociates.com](mailto:kate@pavlikandassociates.com) or call 817-343-9491
- April 8 (Thurs) 11:15 a.m. reception, luncheon begins at 12:00 noon — League Anniversary Celebration**,  
Trinity Terrace, 1600 Texas Street, Fort Worth. **RESERVATIONS REQUIRED.**  
Cost: \$15 member/\$20 non-member. Call Doris Sawey at 817-348-8683 for reservations.  
Deadline for reservations is Friday, April 2
- April 12 (Mon) 6:00 p.m. — Board Meeting** at League Office, 3212 Collinsworth Street, Fort Worth, 76107
- April 20 (Tues) — VOTER info deadline**
- April 26 (Mon) — Early Voting begins**
- May 10 (Mon) — Annual Meeting**

~ WE'RE ON THE WEB! ~  
[WWW.LWVTARRANTCOUNTY.ORG](http://WWW.LWVTARRANTCOUNTY.ORG)

ALL MEMBERS AND GUESTS ARE WELCOME AND ENCOURAGED TO ATTEND ANY LEAGUE EVENT.

**LEAGUE OFFICE HOURS: M, W, & F 8:30 A.M.—12:30 P.M.**