



# TEXAS WOMEN'S POLITICAL CAUCUS Newsletter

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## \* \* \* VOTER REGISTRATION INFORMATION

The 64th Legislature passed a bill, S.B. 300, which will require that every person registered to vote in Texas will have to be reregistered in order to keep voting in the future. Under this bill, each person who is eligible to vote in the Nov. 4, 1975, constitutional amendments election is to be mailed a notice that his or her registration is to expire on March 1, 1976. Included with this notice is to be an application for a new registration certificate which, if returned to the tax assessor-collector by Jan. 31, 1976, will automatically reregister the applicant. IF THE REGISTRANT DOES NOT MOVE OR OTHERWISE BECOME UNQUALIFIED, THIS NEW REGISTRATION WILL BE GOOD FOREVER.

The new registration application will ask several questions not previously required. For example, women who use their husband's last name will be required to register using their first name, their maiden name and their husband's last name. The use of Mrs. John Doe will no longer be allowed. The new application form also asks for both the applicant's permanent residence address and mailing address, if different. Applicants should be careful to register within the county of residence if different from that of their mailing address.

The new application form will not ask whether the applicant is a student or military personnel as the old form did. The certificates issued under this new system are to be mailed on March 1, 1976, and are good through March 1, 1978. In the late fall and early winter of 1977-78, the registrar is to mail a new certificate to all persons whose names appear on the registration rolls as of Oct. 31, 1977. This new certificate will be valid through March 1, 1979. No new application for voter registration is required. These new certificates will be automatic. The new registration certificate will have a blank space on it where the election judge is to stamp the name of the party in whose primary the voter votes. This is designed to discourage cross-over voting in a run-off, etc. by clearly showing that the registrant is a member of another party.

No change of a substantial nature was made by the 64th Legislature in the provisions providing for voluntary deputy registrars. In order for a citizen to be allowed to register voters, he or she must be deputized by the tax assessor-collector in his or her county of residence. The Election Code, under the provisions of Art. 5.20a, provides that the assessor-collector may not refuse to deputize any resident of the county. Deputy registrars are authorized to circulate registration applications and assist persons in filling them out, however, the applications must be returned to the assessor-collector for a registration certificate to be issued. Voluntary deputies may not be paid without the approval of the county commissioners court. It is important to note that the application does not have to be mailed to the assessor-collector, but may be hand delivered.

The Legislature, however, did change the period of time in which a voter can transfer his or her registration to another precinct following a move within his or her county of residence. The old law provided that such a transfer could be made up to 5 days prior to the date of the election and that the voter could then vote in the new precinct. The new law says that there is a 30 day waiting period between the notification to the registrar that a move has been made and the time that the voter can vote in the new precinct. This change is counterbalanced by the fact that the period during which a voter can vote in his or her old precinct after a move has been extended from 30 days to 60 days. With the passage of S.B. 165, the Legislature provided for bi-lingual registration applications. These applications are also required by the 1975 amendments to the U.S. Voting Rights Act and must be accepted by the assessor-collector.

It should also be noted that the application form asks for the voter's social security number. However, the state cannot require that the voter provide it under the terms of the Federal Privacy Act of 1974. The application also asks for the voter's telephone number, however, it is also not mandatory. The assessor-collector must accept applications which do not include either the social security number or phone number. The new law made no change in the system allowing a voter to register and vote in any election held at least 30 days after the date he or she applied for a certificate.

Applications may be signed by an agent for the applicant, however, the agent must be a registered voter and must be either the applicant's husband, wife, father, mother, son, or daughter. A sister may not sign for her brother or sister; however, a daughter may register and sign the application for her mother or father.

In summary, every registered voter in the state must reregister between Nov. 5, 1975 and Jan. 31, 1976. If you are presently registered to vote, you will be mailed a form by your assessor-collector to be returned to same. You must complete that form or you will no longer be registered to vote. Any person who is presently registered to vote has the right to become a deputy registrar after being sworn by your assessor-collector.

If you believe that your assessor-collector is in violation of the new law, contact Mark White, Secretary of State, Capitol Bldg., Austin, Tx. 78711.

## \* \* \* STATE BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

The following vacancies will occur between Oct. 15th and Dec. 31st: San Jacinto River Authority, Board of Directors, 2 vacancies, Oct. 16th; Texas State Board of Examiners, Psychologists, 1 vacancy Oct. 31st; Alcoholic Beverage Board, 1 vacancy, Nov. 15; Cosmetology Commission, 2 vacancies, Dec. 31st; Texas Board of Examiners in the Fitting and Dispensing of Hearing Aids, 3 vacancies, Dec. 31st; Public Safety Commission, 1 vacancy, Dec. 31st; Texas County and District Board of Trustees Retirement System, 3 vacancies, Dec. 31st; Veterans Affairs Commission, 2 vacancies, Dec. 31st.

If you are interested in being appointed to any of the above, please follow this simple procedure:  
1) Send your resume and letter of intent to Governor Dolph Briscoe, State of Texas, State Capitol, Austin, Tx. 78711, attention: Mr. George Lowrance.

2) Send your resume to Lorey Gallop, 9830 Dalecrest #1076, Dallas, Tx. 75220 and she will contact the local caucus.

3) After the local caucus Chair has responded to the Boards and Commissions Committee, Chaired by Lorey Gallop, and the Administrative Committee of the TWPC has responded favorably to your request, both the local caucus and the TWPC Chair will send letters of nomination to the Governor.

The TWPC will inform you of the upcoming vacancies on State Boards and Commissions. If you have any questions, please contact Lorey Gallop.

## \* \* \* TWPC APPOINTMENTS

Martha Smiley, Chairperson of the TWPC, made the following appointments at the Policy Council meeting in September: Lorey Gallop and Jan Weimer to the Child Care '76 Task Force; Wilhelmina Mumford, Criminal Justice Task Force; Cathy Bonner, Public Information Officer; and, Abigail Havens, Newsletter Editor.

**\* \* TEXAS DEMOCRATIC WOMEN MEETING**

The Texas Federation of Democratic Women will hold a state-wide organizational meeting in Dallas on November 7th and 8th, at the Hotel Adolphus. Any Democratic woman, who is, or would be a member of an organized Democratic Club will have full delegate status if registered. Registration is \$5 and you must register by Nov. 2nd. Send your check, payable to the Texas Federation of Democratic Women, to Mrs. Marla Sinclair, P.O. Box 30245, Dallas, Tx. 75230 (214-363-0304). This meeting is an outgrowth of a meeting held in Dallas on July 28, 1975, where the resolution was approved: "That it is the sense of this meeting that a Texas Federation of Democratic Women be formed; and, that the objectives of the organization be to unite women of the Democratic Party to promote the cause of the Democratic Party, and to encourage full participation of women in every level of the Democratic Party structure." If you want more information, call the TWPC State Office, 512-474-1798.

**\* \* TARGETING PLAN**

The TWPC Targeting Plan Task Force has begun to talk with many groups around the state about the issues and candidates that are important. By October 15th, the Task Force hopes to have heard from all of the local caucuses concerning the issues and candidates they feel are of importance to the Task Force plans. Betsey Wright, a long time Texas politician commented, on hearing of this plan, "it is one of the most exciting things to happen in Texas within this decade."

**\* \* TEXAS CONSTITUTION--REMEMBER TO VOTE NOV. 4th**

This resolution was passed at the State Convention in August concerning the State Constitution: Whereas, the TWPC has, since its inception, endorsed and urged revision of the Texas Constitution; and, whereas, on November 4, 1975, the citizens of the State of Texas will have the opportunity to vote on a proposed new constitution for the State for the first time in over 100 years; and, whereas, the proposed constitution represents significant improvement over the present document; now, therefore BE IT RESOLVED, that the TWPC urges its members to strive to inform all citizens of the intent of the proposed constitution.

**\* \* VOTING RIGHTS ACT CONFERENCE**

On November 14 and 15 in San Antonio, the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights is sponsoring a seminar on the Texas Voting Rights Act. It will be held at the El Tropicana Hotel, 110 Lexington. For more information, contact Pauline Martinez, 242 Continental, San Antonio, Tx. 78228.

**\* \* WOMEN IN PUBLIC LIFE SEMINAR**

In the aftermath of the International Women's Year Conference in Mexico City, the first major meeting in the U.S. is the Conference on Women in Public Life sponsored by the LBJ Library and the LBJ School of Public Affairs. It will be held at the LBJ Library on Nov. 9-11, beginning at 8 p.m. on Sunday with Gloria Steinam narrating a program on excerpts from the best films of current interest to women in public life. Other topics include: Problems Around the World-Common and Uncommon; The Women's Movement Through the Eyes of the Media; Exploring the Gains and Gaps of Women in Power in Texas. Among the women attending are: Martha Griffiths, Jill Ruckelshaus, Clare Booth Luce, Barbara Jordan, Dr. Cleo Garcia, Hanna Gray, Anne Armstrong, Judge Sarah T. Hughes, Sarah Weddington, Sissy Farenthold and Alicia Chicon. Many caucus members will be among the participants in the seminars. It is open to the public free of charge. For more information, contact the Conference on Women in Public Life, LBJ Library, Austin, Tx. 78705.

**\* \* TWPC VISITS TO LOCAL CAUCUSES**

Martha Smiley and Pattie Magee have already visited Wichita Falls, San Angelo, Stephenville, San Marcos and during the next month they hope to visit many other areas with the other TWPC officers. There are workshops planned in Beeville and Lubbock. These will be workshops aimed at educating caucus members on targeting, voter registration, delegate selection, campaigning, and organizing caucuses in their areas. The Beeville workshop will be held on Saturday, Nov. 8th at the Bee County College, 10-12 a.m. The main focus of this workshop will be voter registration. The Lubbock workshop is scheduled for Oct. 25th, from 10-12a.m. and 2-4 p.m. It is hoped that local caucuses from the surrounding areas will attend. For more information, contact the State Office.

**\* \* NEWS FROM LOCAL CAUCUSES**

Congratulations to the women of Erath County who have decided to organize a caucus. We hope that your enthusiasm and hard work continue throughout this year.

**\* \* REMINDER FROM THE MEMBERSHIP VICE-CHAIR**

Remember local caucuses, dues that are collected after Nov. 1st will count as memberships for 1976.

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