

# VOTER for December 2006

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To: League of Women Voters of Wichita Falls  
Cc: LWV-Texas State Office  
And: Friends of the League & Local Elected Officials  
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## **PROFESSOR MICHAEL FLAVIN speaks on THE IMPACT OF THE NOVEMBER ELECTION at our December General Meeting**

*Wednesday, December 6th, at Piccadilly Cafeteria*

*11:30 lunch line - 12 Noon, call to order*

**Professor Flavin** has taught political science at Midwestern State University since 1969. His courses focus on the Congress, the Presidency, and Elections. He suggests that the recent television analysis of the election results has been almost ludicrous. Some TV networks have their own political agendas to foster, and thus bend the analysis in that direction. Other TV networks offer "balance" by having exponents of extreme left and extreme right as their "talking heads." As a result a more moderate and reasoned analysis is difficult to find.

**He will seek** to provide us with an election analysis that covers the new Congress, the impact on Texas influence in the national government, and what we might expect after the First of the Year, with a so-called divided government. He is also appalled that the news media "horse race" for the 2008 presidential election has already started, even though it is over a year before the candidates are required to formally announce, and the caucuses and primaries are a year and a half away. But he will be ready to field questions, and hopes to engage us in a meaningful dialogue.

**Dr. Flavin grew up** in St. Louis, receiving his bachelor's and master's degrees from St. Louis University. His PhD was granted at the University of Arizona. His wife Dawn, formerly worked for FEMA, but he emphasizes that she left the agency before the Katrina debacle. She is now heavily engaged in multiple forms of charity work.

## **LOOKING FORWARD TO THE JANUARY GENERAL MEETING**

**The Texas Legislature** convenes January 9th, and will extend through May 2007. At our general meeting on Wednesday, January 3rd, State Representative David Farabee, and Senator Estes' legislative aide Lewis Simmons will be featured speakers. Unfortunately Senator Estes will be traveling and unable to attend.

**They will focus** on the upcoming legislative session, issues that will be coming up, and suggesting the best ways for citizens to contact and express their desires as to pending issues.

## **LEAGUE LOBBY DAY**

**Put Tuesday, January 30th** on your calendar for a trip to Austin to participate in the League Lobby Day, to be held at the Texas State Capitol, the Legislative Conference Center. The \$30 registration includes breakfast, to which each Legislator and Senator has been invited. Then a briefing session will follow, after which participants will be ready to visit with their

Legislators and Senators. More information will be made available in the January VOTER, since the deadline for registrations is January 16th. Cut-off date for hotel reservations at La Quinta Inn Austin Capitol is January 15th.

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**JOIN THE LEAGUE (or renew), NOW**

**LEAGUE DUES are \$45 per member annually (\$67.50 per couple).** New member dues (or renewals) paid now are good through June of 2007.

**LEAGUE DONATIONS** are vital to publication of our Voters guides, and other information to citizens on public issues. A contribution of *\$15 or more*, makes one a ***Friend of the League***, but any amount is appreciated. Members may also make special contributions. Mail dues or contributions to treasurer, Levonne Weaver, at P.O. Box 4034, Wichita Falls, Texas 76308, or bring to a meeting.

**TAX DEDUCTIBLE CONTRIBUTIONS** should be made payable to LWV-Texas Education Fund, and sent to the treasurer. It is almost the end of the year, so make such contributions, now.

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**STATE STUDY on EDUCATIONAL TESTING IN THE PUBLIC SCHOOLS**, is now underway by the LWV-Texas. The year of 2007 will be a time of study by the State Committee, and we will be receiving a ***Facts and Issues*** when that study is completed. We hope to have a program during the Spring of 2007, on the issue, from one of our local educators. So, look forward to information about that program effort.

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**THE YEAR OF THE VOTER - 2006**

**Some of you** will remember that the LWVUS designated 2006 as the Year of the Voter, and asked all State and Local Leagues to focus on such effort. Our LWV-Wichita Falls did the following things to help in this effort. ***March 7th Primary***, prepared and distributed Voters Guides throughout Wichita County. ***May 13th City/School Election***, we prepared and distributed Voters Guides throughout the City, and held a Candidate's Forum on April 25th, which was televised on Cable TV. ***November 7th General Election***, we prepared and distributed almost 5,000 Voters Guides throughout the County, and held a Candidate's Forum on October 24th, which was broadcast on Cable TV.

**Special Thanks** should go to Dr. Mike Preda, VP and chair of the Voters Service Committee for his leadership in these efforts, and agreeing to serve as moderator for both Candidate Forums.

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**DEATH OF FORMER MEMBER**

**You may have** noticed the recent death notice and obituary for ***Laura Doing*** in the Wichita Falls Times Record News. Laura was a columnist for The Paper, and was a long time member of the League, until her health caused her to withdraw from her many community activities.

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**Dear League Members:** As we come to the end of 2006, I want to thank each of you who have contributed to our League work. That consists primarily of helping citizens to express their right to vote, on an informed and non-partisan basis.

During 2007 we will have both a new Legislature in Austin, and a new Congress in Washington D.C. We may be called upon, from time to time, to respond to an Action Alert from the State or National League to contact our representatives. These usually come only when an issue critical to our established policies on a more open, fair, and responsive government are on the line. Member responses to such Action Alerts are strictly voluntary, but should be looked at carefully.

The State League is embarking on a study of Educational Testing in the Public Schools, and eventually all Local Leagues will be asked to arrive at a member consensus on issues involving the results of that study.

The National League has embarked on a study titled: Immigration 101: the Basics, and when completed, Local League & State League delegates to the National Convention will be considering, debating, and voting on a League "position". To get more information on the progress of this issue, go to the LWVUS web site at [www.lwv.org](http://www.lwv.org).

Our General Meeting programs for December 6th & January 3rd look to be exciting and timely, and I hope to see you there.

Penny Miller, President