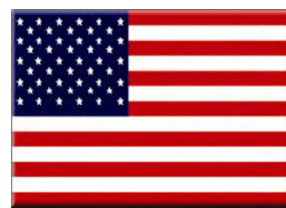




Village Republican Women



October 2011

Newsletter

www.VillageRepublicanWomen.org

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Americanism

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PROGRAM

Wednesday, October 26, 2011

11:00 a.m.—12:30 p.m.

Lakeside Country Club

100 Wilcrest Drive

Houston, TX 77042

11:00 - 11:25 - Sign in and pay for lunch

11:25 - Pledges/prayer/introduce guests

11:30 Lunch (optional) and business meeting

12:00 - 12:30 Speaker

Menu:

Butternut Squash Bisque

Red and Green Baby Romaine Lettuce Salad with choice of

(#1) Mediterranean Grilled Shrimp

OR

(#2) Chicken

2 dressings will be on the table

Coffee and tea

RSVP by Tuesday October 18

(only if you are staying for lunch)

with your menu selection

WE WILL NOT BE ABLE TO ADD LUNCHES ON THE MEETING DAY

(\$20 cash/no-shows will be billed)

[Click Here to RSVP on the website](#)

Nolia Rohde: noliarohde@aol.com

281-496-1195



Speaker: State Representative Beverly Woolley



Speaker Bio:

State Representative Woolley of District 136, has been our conservative voice in Austin for 16 years. The State Legislature worked hard this session passing a balanced budget in the face of a nearly \$15 billion shortfall, a redistricting plan that added 4 new Congressional seats, and a Voter ID bill. We are excited to hear from State Representative Woolley as she presents her take on the session and how it will impact our lives. She will also highlight the election process so we have a greater understanding of this important activity.

President's Message.....

What a great event it was! Four members of Village joined me in Kansas City MO at the NFRW Convention: Carolyn Hodges, Buffie Ingersoll and Diane Sloan. We heard from presidential candidates, state leaders from around the country, our RNC Chair and Co-chair and attended interesting and informative workshops to strengthen our resolve to continue to pursue Republican ideals.

A presidential straw poll showed a strong preference for Herman Cain, a speaker at the Convention, with Rick Perry and Mitt Romney coming in a long-shot second and third. I invite you to look at the Convention highlights at www.nfrw.org.

Village continues to work within the community to educate and register voters, reach out to school children, elect Republicans to office and work hard to keep our election process free and fair. Stay involved if you want to be part of the national effort to "take back our country"!

Best regards, Beverly Roberts



Congratulations to the slate of officers for 2012—2013



We are grateful for their willingness to serve Village RW!

President—Buffie Ingersoll

1st Vice Pres., Programs—Carol Prince

2nd Vice Pres., Hospitality—Sherry Johnston

3rd Vice Pres., Ways and Means—Sharon Donaldson

Corresponding Secretary—Ellie Essalih

Recording Secretary—Pam Goodson

Treasurer—Nancy Scott



November is coming, it's an odd-numbered year, meaning Texas voters will vote on amendments to our Texas Constitution. The current Constitution, passed in 1876, contains NO "necessary and proper" clause, which prevents the judiciary from trying to make the Texas Constitution into a "living, breathing document" (unlike some other constitutions we can name). If the Texas Constitution does not explicitly delegate the power from the people to the state, the State of Texas doesn't have the power, which is why you will be voting on bonds for parks in El Paso this November.

Propositions 1 and 9 are Good Ideas. Proposition 7 is an OK Idea. The rest are Bad Ideas.

Proposition 1: To allow the surviving spouse of a disabled veteran to receive a homestead tax exemption.

Good Idea. It's the least we can do, since the widow has to stay widowed and in the homestead that was the disabled vet's homestead when the vet died.

Prop 1 on the ballot: "The constitutional amendment authorizing the legislature to provide for an exemption from ad valorem taxation of all or part of the market value of the residence homestead of the surviving spouse of a 100 percent or totally disabled veteran."

Proposition 2 will renew authority for the Texas Water Development Board bond.

BAD Idea, even with a \$6 billion cap on it. TWDB makes loans to political subdivisions AND to privately-owned water supply corporations; read more at

<http://www.twdb.state.tx.us/publications/shells/TWDF.pdf>

Prop 2 on the ballot: "The constitutional amendment providing for the issuance of additional general obligation bonds by the Texas Water Development Board in an amount not to exceed \$6 billion at any time outstanding."

Proposition 3: will renew state bond authority to finance low-interest student loans.

BAD Idea as there are NO restrictions in the enabling legislation, which is cleverly worded to make it appear that there are restrictions. This gives away the keys to the vault.

Prop 3 on the ballot: "The constitutional amendment providing for the issuance of general obligation bonds of the State of Texas to finance educational loans to students."

Proposition 4: Will allow counties to participate in certain tax financing zones.

BAD Idea, as the county would be allowed to issue bonds to finance "development or redevelopment" of "an unproductive, underdeveloped or blighted area" and pay the bonds from the "increase in taxes" in the now-developed area. Great if you're an insider, not so great if someone thinks your house is "an unproductive, underdeveloped or blighted area."

Prop 4 on the ballot: "The constitutional amendment authorizing the legislature to permit a county to issue bonds or notes to finance the development or redevelopment of an unproductive, underdeveloped, or blighted area and to pledge for repayment of the bonds or notes increases in ad valorem taxes imposed by the county on property in the area. The amendment does not provide authority for increasing ad valorem tax rates."

Proposition 5: will allow cities and counties to enter into interlocal contracts with other cities or counties without meeting the tax assessment and sinking fund requirements.

Right now, if a city or county wants to share costs of services with another city or county, the politicians have to (1) figure out what the cost of administration of the agreement to share will be and (2) set aside the money to pay the costs and (3) assess a tax to pay the costs. Prop 5 will sweep that aside.

If you trust politicians to honestly assess costs of going into business with other politicians, and to not play any accounting games, this amendment is a Good Idea. If you are a bit more skeptical, Prop 5 is a BAD idea.

Prop 5 on the ballot: "The constitutional amendment authorizing the legislature to allow cities or counties to enter into inter-local contracts with other cities or counties without the imposition of a tax or the provision of a sinking fund."

Proposition 6: will allow for the distribution of revenue from the permanent school fund to the available school fund.

BAD Idea. Not only is it barely intelligible, Prop 6 has mark-to-market in it. Mark-to-market is what made Enron's stock go way up (and we know what happened to Enron stock once the "market" became less friendly).

Prop 6 on the ballot: "The constitutional amendment clarifying references to the permanent school fund, allowing the General Land Office to distribute revenue from permanent school fund land or other properties to the available school fund to provide additional funding for public education, and providing for an increase in the market value of the permanent school fund for the purpose of allowing increased distributions from the available school fund."

Proposition 7 will authorize El Paso County districts to issue bonds for parks and recreational facilities.

Take a coin and toss it. If Prop 7 passes, it should be revenue-neutral for the rest of the state.

Prop 7 on the ballot: "The constitutional amendment authorizing the legislature to permit conservation and reclamation districts in El Paso County to issue bonds supported by ad valorem taxes to fund the development and maintenance of parks and recreational facilities."

Proposition 8 will provide for the taxation of open-space land that is devoted to water stewardship purposes to be based on its productive capacity.

BAD Idea. All you have to do is claim that your front yard is a retention pond, and you get taxed on its productive use (which is \$-0-). Or worse, your well-connected neighbor will claim HIS yard is the only retention pond in the neighborhood, and you won't get the tax break he gets.

Prop 8 on the ballot: "The constitutional amendment providing for the appraisal for ad valorem tax purposes of open-space land devoted to water-stewardship purposes on the basis of its productive capacity."

Proposition 9 will allow the governor to pardon those who have successfully completed a term of deferred adjudication.

GOOD Idea. Currently, the governor can only pardon folks who have served time in jail. If you're less of a risk to the community, successfully complete a deferred term, and are an otherwise model citizen, you won't be in line for a pardon unless Proposition 9 passes.

Prop 9 on the ballot: "The constitutional amendment authorizing the governor to grant a pardon to a person who successfully completes a term of deferred adjudication community supervision."

Proposition 10 will lengthen the time period (BY 30 WHOLE DAYS) before county officials must resign to run for another office.

Right now, if certain elected officials file for another office with a year or less left on their terms, they are deemed to have resigned the currently-held office. Prop 10 changes the deemed resignation time to a year and 30 days. The \$64,000 question: WHO is this amendment supposed to be favoring/hurting? Until we know the answer to that question, Prop 10 is A BAD Idea.

Prop 10 on the ballot: "The constitutional amendment to change the length of the unexpired term that causes the automatic resignation of certain elected county or district officeholders if they become candidates for another office."

--Kathleen Slaydon, Legislative Chair

Dates to remember:

Oct. 26, 11:00 a.m. VRW General Meeting, Lakeside CC

Nov. 8 Election Day

Nov. 16, 11:00 a.m. VRW General Meeting, Lakeside CC

Dec. 4, 6:00 p.m. VRW Christmas Party, Ingersoll residence

★ **Community Outreach—Patricia Fortune** ★

This year our major Community Relations Project was to celebrate Constitution Day on September 17th. We delivered over five hundred *Liberty Day* books to four elementary schools during the week before the 17th. Every fifth grader got a personal copy of the Constitution and the Declaration of Independence. In addition, they received some learning games to help them have fun and promote their reading of these historically significant documents.

This effort is a National Project whose goal is to place in the hands of every fifth grader in America a pocket size book containing the Constitution and the Declaration of Independence. The Constitution has become almost sacred to a great many Americans because its basic precepts are being threatened more than at any time since the Revolutionary War.

We had about twenty minutes with the children at each of the schools we visited. We let them know who we were and gave a ten minute narrative on how important these two documents are to our country. We asked them questions regarding the documents and found that many of them knew why and when these papers were written. We were proud of the children and proud to be part of this project.

The Village Republican Women volunteers took books to Bunker Hill Elementary, Frostwood Elementary, Hunters Creek Elementary and Shadow Oaks Elementary schools. A big “Thank You” is due to the ladies who took the time to help deliver the books: Kathleen Slaydon, Laura Miller, Nolia Rohde, Diane Sloan, Carol Prince and Beverly Roberts. Also, another “Thank You” is due the teachers, principals and administration of Spring Branch Independent School District and their Board.

Community Relations Chairman
Patricia Fortune



 **From Carolyn Hodges** 

To my friends in Village RW...I regret that I will not be with you for the next few meetings due to NFRW and TFRW convention travel commitments and a planned vacation.

As you probably are aware, I have been nominated to be TFRW President for 2012-2013. I am very humbled and honored to receive this nomination and my activities in Village RW were my beginning in RW work.

There are so many wonderful ladies who provided mentoring and leadership for me in my first years as a member...Lynn Hester, Merle Carlson, Lo Wallace, Mary Ann Wall, Pat Howard, and the late E.B. Bryant and Vera Carhart (also a TFRW President). I have many treasured friendships within this club.

If elected to this office in November, the next two years will be extremely busy ones and I know I can count on each of you to be dedicated and committed to the task we will have at hand in electing Republicans in what will be the most important election in our lives. I am looking forward to seeing many of you in Ft. Worth at the TFRW Convention!