



The Beach Voter

League of Women Voters Beach Cities
Serving El Segundo, Hawthorne, Hermosa Beach, Inglewood, Manhattan Beach & Redondo Beach

HOLIDAY LUNCH AND PROGRAM PLANNING

It's time for our yearly get-together where we review our program and positions, then enjoy a holiday luncheon, socializing and fun.

Program is the heart of the League, for our studies and positions enable us to provide information and advocacy to the public as well as to League members. This year we will review our State positions and make recommendations to retain, drop or update them. The State positions are on the LWVC website at <http://www.lwvc.org/issues/lwvc-positions> You can follow the links to the individual positions.

At our meeting, the questions we will be asking are: "What would you like to see as the focus of our program activity for 2017-2019 on the state level?" "What are the most important issues for advocacy?" "Where should our outreach be?" "Is there an issue of concern that our program does not cover?" Come to the meeting and share your ideas and opinions. We are truly a grassroots organization!

When:	Saturday, December 3, 2016 – 10:00 am -1:30 pm
Where:	Home of Ann Martin 921 Rowell Avenue, Manhattan Beach
Bring:	Last Name A – L: Hot dish Last Name M – Z: Salad

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The League affirms our belief in our commitment to diversity and pluralism. There shall be no barriers to participation in any activity of the League on the basis of gender, race, creed, age, sexual orientation, national origin or disability. The League recognizes that diverse perspectives are important and necessary for responsible and representative decision-making.

The League of Women Voters encourages informed and active participation in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy. Any person of voting age, male or female, may become a League member. The League does not endorse, support or oppose candidates or political parties.

The Beach Voter

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To become a member: Send check in the amount of \$30.00 (first time members introductory rate) payable to League of Women Voters Beach Cities to Susan Grebe at 629 19th Street, Manhattan Beach CA 90266.

Name _____
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ELECTION 2016

Candidate Forums

On October 12, 2016, LWV Beach Cities, along with Palos Verdes and Torrance Leagues, sponsored candidate forums for the 66th Assembly District and the Water Replenishment District of Southern California, Division 2.

On October 12, 2016, at the Toyota Meeting Hall in Torrance, more than 200 voters had an opportunity to hear from David Hadley and Al Muratsuchi, candidates for the 66th Assembly District, and Merrill Kruger and Jim Kennedy, candidates for the Board of the Water Replenishment District. Moderator Barbara Arlow read a statement from Robert Katherman, the incumbent Board member, who was unable to attend.

After their opening statements the candidates answered a wide range of questions from the more than 200 attendees. Barbara Arlow did her usual excellent job of moderating, keeping the flow of the discussion civil. Feelings were high in the Assembly race, and the candidates were deeply passionate about their opinions on their plans for California's future, focusing on education and on resolving the Torrance refinery issues. Beach Cities Leaguers Joan Arias, Barbara Arlow, Susan Grebe, Henrietta Mosley and Diane Wallace teamed with volunteers from the Palos Verdes and Torrance Leagues to make this a successful event.

Pros and Cons Panels on the Ballot Measures

Thanks to Joan Arias, Barbara Arlow, Debra Estroff, Susan Grebe, Ruth Hart, Henrietta Mosley, and Margaret Thelen we presented the Pros and Cons of the 17 state propositions and the 2 county measures to 9 groups for a total of 427 people. Beach Cities purchased and distributed 600 copies of the League of Women Voters' Voter Guide for Los Angeles County.

Voter Registration

We provided voter registration services at the Inglewood Library and at the Manhattan Beach Hometown Fair, where we had a well-staffed booth for both Saturday and Sunday. The first weekend of October brought very pleasant weather and our tent-like umbrella protected us from the sun. We registered voters and gave out impartial information on the November election. We had the added bonus of getting to know and interact with other community-based groups. Thanks to Leaguers Harriet Chase, Joan LeSage, Wendy Phillips, Maureen Kelly, Marian Drahnak, Sunhee Park, Margaret Thelen, Penny Markey, Peggy Bartlett and our two student member Eliza Davis and Carter Revell for making us look so good. (Reported by Co-chairs Susan Grebe and Henrietta Mosley.)

All in all, it was quite an election season! Well done, everyone.

VOTE WITH THE LEAGUE MEETING

Thirty-five voters attended the “Vote with the League” meeting at the Manhattan Beach Library on Monday, October 24th to hear LWVBC address League positions on the propositions. Joan Arias, Barbara Arlow, Susan Grebe, Ruth Hart, Henrietta Mosley and Margaret Thelen explained League positions and answered questions about the Ballot Initiatives including the two Los Angeles County measures. We also explained our neutral position on Proposition 56 – Cigarette Tax as well as why we did not take positions on some of the initiatives. For additional information on League positions we referred attendees to the LWVC website, where the State League compiled considerable information about the initiatives and about our positions. (Reported by Joan Arias)

ELECTION OUTCOMES

The following are the outcomes of voting on the California ballot measures on which the League took a position:

	<u>LWVC</u> <u>position</u>	<u>CA Voters</u>
PROP 51: School Bonds: K-12 and Community College.	Yes	Passed
PROP 54: California Legislature Transparency Act	Yes	Passed
PROP 55: Children’s Education and Health Care Funding	Yes	Passed
PROP 57: Criminal Sentences and Juvenile Procedure	Yes	Passed
PROP 58: English Proficiency. Multilingual Education	Yes	Passed
PROP 59: Constitutional Amendment Advisory Measure	No	Passed
PROP 62: Death Penalty Abolition	Yes	Rejected
PROP 63: Safety for All Act (Guns and Ammunition)	Yes	Passed
PROP 65: Carryout Bag Charges	No	Rejected
PROP 67: Protect California’s Plastic Bag Ban	Yes	Passed
 PROP 56: Cigarette Tax	 Neutral	 Passed

Other races of local interest:

L.A. County Measure A: 1.5 cent tax for Parks and Recreation	Yes	Passed
L.A. County Measure M: Half cent tax for Public Transit	Yes	Passed
Manhattan Beach School Bond Measures C and E		Passed

CA Assembly 66th District: Al Muratsuchi
Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors, District 4: Janice Hahn
Division 2, Water Replenishment Dist. of So. Calif. Bd of Dirs: Robert “Rob” Katherman

MENTAL HEALTH COMMITTEE

The Tri-League Mental Health Committee that is planning a forum on Mental Health for April 2017 held their first planning meeting on Tuesday, November 15 at the home of Harriet Chase.

The committee has developed a list of possible topics to cover at the April forum. We have invited two guest speakers to work with us to narrow the topics, Dr. Sam Chan, former District Chief, Children's System of Care, Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health, and a Director or Assistant from Service Planning Area 8m Department of Mental Health Services.

For more information you can contact me at 310-545-1026 or hzchase@roadrunner.com.

Harriet Chase
Mental Health Program Planning Committee Chair

COMING UP IN JANUARY: COMMUNITY CHOICE AGGREGATION

Community Choice Aggregation (CCA) is a program that permits local governments, such as cities, counties and other authorized entities, to purchase and/or generate electricity for homes and businesses. The objective of a CCA is to maximize access to green power, promote climate protection while maintaining rates that are competitive or lower than with conventional coal and other fossil fuel-burning utility power.

The California Public Utilities Commission has established a set of rules and tariffs that must be followed to facilitate the relationship between the Utility Company (Southern California Edison) and the CCA.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has supported the concept by giving "green power leadership awards" to communities that have adopted a CCA.

Learn more at our membership meeting on Monday, January 23 at the Manhattan Beach Library Conference Room. For more information contact Diane Wallace, dmbarkwall@gmail.com)

[Editor's note: In April of 2015 our League sponsored a well-attended public meeting on the homeless problem. The following article, by Pat Colby and Vi Iungerich of the Palos Verdes Peninsula LWV, should be of interest to our members. Proposition HHH was passed by City of Los Angeles voters.]

Homeless Update

Proposition HHH on the November 2016 ballot, a \$1.2 billion bond measure for homeless housing, reflects legislative and community concern for an alarming increase in the homeless population: locally--over 1,000 homeless in the Lomita, Wilmington, San Pedro area alone.

In the meantime the county and city continue to release funds for the homeless population. Most recently county funds were released for new homeless housing. Much of the county's initial overall plan for the homeless is being implemented including service centers to provide information about available housing and small grants to stabilize those about to lose their housing.

But solving the homeless problem is not easy. In this political season of "meanness" -- the homeless have not been left out. In San Pedro there is a billboard that says "SEE THAT PERSON ON THE OFF-RAMP—YEAH THAT ONE! Don't give them a dime! They refuse any real help!" As most of the League knows this complicated problem is interconnected with a multitude of economic and social issues that are not popular.

Some recent changes in the homeless population for 2016 are as follows:

- The homeless numbers in Los Angeles are up 11% from last year.
- The number of encampments and people living in vehicles increased by 20%.
- There is an increase in the number of women—currently about 14,000 women (about a third of the homeless and an increase of 55% since 2013.)

Homeless women face staggering levels of violence in shelters and homeless housing as well as on the streets, yet officials in the recent past did not target women with the kind of concerted effort that has helped homeless veterans and families.

More than 60% of skid row women are over 50 and the hardest to place in housing. Interviews with this population show some sad statistics. These are women who have been working in low-paying jobs and who have not been homeless until recently. Typical causes are being unable to keep up with the physical work they had been doing (due to an illness or accident etc.). A significant portion has signs of dementia. Also about 2/3 have histories of being abused as a child which impacted their adult working life. These are women who do not qualify for family shelters as they are without families or children.

Included in the increased statistics are also a significant number of pregnant women who are showing up on the street and seeking shelters. Once their baby is born, housing then becomes available to them as a "family".

On a larger scale, the practice of certain L.A. area hospitals dumping homeless patients on Skid Row has been a problem for years. The issue garnered national attention in 2006 after a surveillance camera at a Skid Row rescue mission recorded a 63-year-old woman with dementia wandering around the crime plagued area in a hospital gown and slippers. The next year, a paraplegic man in a soiled gown was

seen sliding along Skid Row sidewalks with his hands, dragging a broken colostomy bag behind him. Police said the man was dropped there by a van driver from a Hollywood medical center. Since 2014, four L.A. area hospitals have settled law suits over patient dumping and agreed to protocols to properly release homeless patients. The amount of such settlements with L.A. hospitals amounted to \$1.9 million.

The most recent suit of hospital “dumping” illustrates the current “lose-lose” pattern for all of us.. This suit against the Gardena Regional Hospital and Medical Center was won for dumping a woman in skid row with no identification and wearing only paper pajamas. The history of this case shows the social dilemma of all parties. This woman had been taken into their emergency room 5 times previously-- (it turns out she had a relative working there). She was diagnosed with depression, hearing voices, amphetamine and alcohol abuse, and uncontrolled diabetes. Although the relative had notified authorities that she was missing--- the hospital did not check for that. And although the hospital had listed her as homeless in their records they had previously discharged her to “home”. The hospital’s defense stated that she had been treated to “the standard of care”. Unfortunately it has become the “standard of care” of many hospitals to release these types of patients by driving them to skid row and leaving them there. In this case the city “won” about \$142,000 from the hospital driving the hospital to declare bankruptcy and forcing it to be sold.

Blaming, dumping or ignoring the homeless does not address citizen concerns and the plight of the homeless. Most League members understand that homelessness is a complex matter interconnected with the economy, mental health and affordable housing. The League further understands that without collective solutions to homelessness, this population will continue to increase.

So what are the potential solutions to this overwhelming challenge? Aside from the city suing hospitals for patient dumping, local elected officials are responding strongly to the homeless women crisis. A new women’s dorm opened downtown recently at the Weingart Center and the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority has put out a call for more shelter space for women. The city has put up \$2 million, and the county \$1 million to provide beds for women with histories of domestic violence. A multiagency effort to close gaps between domestic violence and homelessness systems is underway, and the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development is helping L.A. study the shortfall for women. Yet, nonprofit providers say the resources are insufficient. Officials and advocates say the situation would improve with the passage of Proposition HHH (the \$1.2 billion city bond initiative) along with expanding funds promised from county and state.

Proposition HHH will not eradicate homelessness in Los Angeles. It is not a panacea for the 42,000 homeless, many of them mentally ill. That said, Proposition HHH is potentially an important part of the regional solution to homelessness. The measure, if passed, would fund the creation of up to 10,000 units of permanent supportive housing in the city, make available facilities for mental health, drug and alcohol treatment and provide strict oversight and independent auditing of funding. This measure could get some of the people who most need apartments, as well as those who are resistant to accepting help, off the streets. That in turn could lead to cleaner sidewalks, reduced crime and better living conditions for both housed and homeless Angelenos.

CALENDAR

Date	Time	Subject	Place
Saturday December 3	10:00 am – 1:30 pm	Program Planning and Holiday Potluck	Home of Ann Martin 921 Rowell Avenue Manhattan Beach
Monday January 9	7:00 pm – 9:30 pm	Board Meeting	Home of Henrietta Mosley 436 First Street Manhattan Beach
Monday January 23	7:00 pm – 8:45 pm	Membership meeting- Community Choice Aggregation (CCA) in purchasing electricity	Manhattan Beach Library 1320 Highland Avenue Manhattan Beach



League of Women Voters of the Beach Cities
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