



The Beach Voter

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

FEBRUARY MEMBERSHIP MEETING PRIVATIZATION CONSENSUS

At the last LWVUS convention, a second study was adopted on the subject of Privatization. To our surprise, the deadline for consensus is May 1, 2012. In order to comply with this deadline, we are planning the February membership meeting as an information/consensus meeting on this subject. It will be held at the Manhattan Beach Library on February 28, 2012 at 7:00 p.m.

Several members have offered their time and energy to prepare summaries of the study papers, after which we will consider the consensus questions. You can find the information in greater detail on the LWVUS website at the following URL:

<http://www.lwv.org/member-resources/privatization>

The consensus questions are included as an attachment to this *Voter*. Additionally, a summary of the scope of the privatization study is contained on page 7.

If you cannot access the website or wish hard copies, please contact Barbara Arlow by email at gerbar92@msn.com or Jan Nathanson at (310) 643-6247.

We look forward to your attendance at the membership meeting in February. Your opinion is important in reaching consensus.

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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 Beach Voter

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The League of Women Voters, a non-partisan political organization, 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.

To become a member: Send check in the amount of \$55.00 (payable to the League of Women Voters Beach Cities) to Susan Grebe at 629 19th Street, Manhattan Beach CA 90266.

Name _____ Phone _____ Email _____

Address: _____

**SAVE THE DATE
ANNUAL LASAGNA DINNER**

Monday, March 19th 6:00 P.M. – 8:30 P.M.
Katy Geissert Civic Center Library
3301 Torrance Blvd., Torrance

County Supervisor Don Knabe or his Deputy Steve Napolitano will be addressing us on County issues of importance to our three Leagues.

Dinner will begin at 6:00 P.M. The program will start at 7:00 p.m.
The cost of the complete supper is \$15.00.
For more information see the flyer included with this issue.

APPOINTMENTS: BUDGET AND BYLAW COMMITTEES

At its January meeting, the Board of Directors of LWVBC made the following appointments:

Budget Committee: Peggy Bartlett (chair), Barbara Arlow, Susan Grebe

Bylaw Committee: Barbara Arlow, Peggy Bartlett, Susan Grebe

NEW DIRECTORIES

All members should have received their new 2011 – 2012 LWVBC Directory in the past month. If you are a member and did not receive your copy, please let us know – you can contact us at susan@beachvoter.com or 310-545-2097. Also, please check your listing for accuracy and notify us of any changes that are needed. We have already found one glaring error. The name of our stalwart Voter Editor, Ruth Hart, was left off the pages of our Board of Directors.

PROGRAM PLANNING REPORT

At the Program Planning meeting in December, approximately 18 members of LWVBC reviewed the national (LWVUS) positions and agreed that all current positions should be retained. A list of these positions may be found in the publication *Impact on Issues*, and were described in the summary in your last *Voter*.

Following discussion about the judiciary, a long time favorite and concern of our members, it was finally determined that we would not recommend it as a new study at the national level. The group unanimously agreed to no new study.

An update was recommended for International Trade, with emphasis on the ports.

We were asked to report on how our national positions were used in our local communities. Putting our positions in practice, we highlighted Voter Registration as an implementation of the Voting Rights position and our action and support for redistricting was an implementation of the Apportionment position. Our League was also active in the environmental area with programs and participation in activities supporting clean water and water systems. Additionally, LWVBC lobbied for universal health care in California and participated in the education study, emphasizing the federal role in education and its effects on local and state programs.

Additional comments were recommended from the Representative Government discussion group as follows:

- Under *Election Process - Apportionment*, the position should be amended to read “Apportionment should be conducted by the states on a non-partisan basis.”
- Under *Election Process - Selection of the President*, it was recommended that the sentence “The League supports changes in the presidential election process, from the candidate selection process to the general election” either be deleted or clarified.

This year, we were also asked to review the County (LWVLAC) positions. Following review, it was agreed to retain all positions. Further, it was recommended that the water position be updated, with education on the state level. Once again, the judiciary was discussed, but questioned whether it would be a viable study on the county level.

This report will be sent to the national and county Leagues for consideration by their Boards. Their recommendations will be returned to local Leagues and the final decision will be made at the county convention in March and the national convention in June.. Our League will be represented by delegates who will go informed, but not instructed, to vote for program for the next two years.

Thank you to our discussion leaders, June Eicker, Joan Arias, Maggie Wilkinson, Harriet Chase, and Fatima Malik for their valuable assistance and for the interest and engaged participation of the members who attended. Ann Martin, our gracious hostess, provided the ideal meeting place for our discussion groups and the festive luncheon that followed.

Jan Nathanson, Vice President Programs

LOCAL PROGRAM PLANNING REMINDER

This is the time to consider what issues are critical to our local communities and whether there is a topic our League is willing to study for the next two years, with the goal of adopting a position. Local positions enable us to take action or educate our citizens and to make a difference.

Please send your ideas and suggestions to our co-president Barbara Arlow by email or call Jan Nathanson at (310) 643-6247. The Board will review your suggestions and present their recommendations for a new study, to be voted on at the annual meeting in May.

Jan Nathanson

ACTION ALERTS

LWVUS has issued the following Action Alerts. More information can be found at the LWV Get Involved page at <http://www.lwv.org/get-involved>

Fight Back Against Citizens United:

Today you have an important opportunity to take an essential first step to fight back against *Citizens United* and the deregulation of the campaign finance system.

Already in this important election year, new Super PACs are flooding elections with huge expenditures from million-dollar donors. Because they are supposedly “independent” from the candidates, and with new loopholes from the Supreme Court’s *Citizens United* decision, Super PACs can raise and spend unlimited amounts from corporations and individuals, and they can do so with limited disclosure.

While there are different avenues that can be taken to fight back against *Citizens United* and cut the influence of special interests, you can join us by taking the first step today by urging President Obama to appoint new commissioners to the FEC. Among other duties, the FEC can define what election efforts are “independent” from the candidates.

The FEC is supposed to be the agency that enforces campaign finance laws, but it is dysfunctional. Of the six commissioners at the agency, three of them staunchly refuse to enforce the law, and five of the six are serving despite expired terms. It is time to clean house.

Make the Clean Air Promise:

We're working every day to protect our families from dangerous air pollution. Join us in promising to support clean air by making the Clear Air Promise.

I Promise to protect America's children and families from dangerous air pollution.

Because toxics and pollutants such as mercury, smog, carbon, and soot, cause thousands of hospital visits, asthma attacks, and even deaths,

I will support clean air policies and other protections that scientists and public health experts have recommended to the EPA to safeguard our air quality.

LWVC JOINS “THE CHILDREN’S MOVEMENT”

At its November board meeting, the League of Women Voters of California unanimously agreed to join *The Children's Movement* organized by our frequent partner, *Children Now*. *Children Now's* Ted Lempert explains that it's much more effective for children's issues to be taken seriously by the state legislature when we can leverage respected representation across fundamental children's health and education policy issues. The LWVC is joining this *Movement* on an opt-in basis, meaning that we will continue our traditional analysis of bills relating to children, and will sign on for specific bills when warranted. By joining, we become part of a coalition with dozens of other respected child advocacy organizations.

Harriet Chase, Social Policy Chair

MORE ON THE PRIVATIZATION STUDY

The purpose of this study is to identify those parameters and policy issues to be considered in connection with proposals to transfer federal, state or local government services, assets and/or functions to the private sector. It will review the stated goals and the community impact of such transfers, and identify strategies to ensure transparency, accountability, and preservation of the common good.

League members have authored a number of papers to address various aspects of privatization. These papers are available at the LWV website. Some of the topics that are addressed are:

- Federal Privatization: The Ryan Plan
- Surveying State Laws Addressing Privatization
- Privatization: The Public Policy Debate
- State Level Privatization 2011
- Public Library Privatization: A Case Study
- Strategies for Best Practice
- Subcontracting Public Education
- Privatization of a Publicly Owned Waste Water Treatment Plant
- Deregulation of Railroads
- The Legal Framework of Transparency and Accountability within the Context of Privatization

CALENDAR			
Date	Time	Subject	Place
Tuesday February 7th	7 pm – 9:30 pm	Board Meeting	Home of Harriet Chase 2151 Valley Drive Manhattan Beach
Tuesday February 28th	7 pm – 8:45 pm	Membership Meeting	Manhattan Beach Library 1320 Highland Avenue Manhattan Beach
Tuesday March 13th	7 pm – 9:30 pm	Board Meeting	Home of Ruth Hart 170 Via Los Miradores Redondo Beach
Monday March 19th	6 pm – 8:30 pm	Lasagna Dinner	Katy Geissert Civic Center Library 3301 Torrance Blvd Torrance



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