



# ***The Beach Voter***

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

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## **TRI-LEAGUE STUDY OF PUBLIC HIGHER EDUCATION**

Public Higher Education is at a crossroads. Almost daily, there are news articles about the need for reform in terms of access, affordability, preparedness, equity and funding.

Because the League of Women Voters of California (LWVC) does not have a position on public higher education that includes the CSU and UC systems, the League cannot comment on or advocate for or against any legislation in this area. That is why LWVC is doing a statewide study to develop a specific position.

Here are a few of the many questions that need to be answered:

- How will California graduate one million in-state graduates with Bachelor's Degrees by 2025 (that's what will be needed for our workforce)?
- Where will the funding to support public higher education come from?
- How can public higher education be made more affordable and accessible?
- What role should on-line training play in public higher education?
- What changes must be made in high school programs in order to align the curriculum with college requirements?

Our Tri-League that includes Beach Cities, Torrance Area, and Palos Verdes Peninsula has been studying materials received from the State Higher Education Study Committee and is planning a consensus meeting to discuss these questions and more.

The future of our State depends on the education decisions we make today. Please join us and share your thoughts on some of the things that can be done as we go through our deliberations at the discussion/consensus meeting on public higher education. **Manhattan Beach Library (meeting room), Monday, February 22, 2016, beginning at 6:00 pm.** For more information contact Harriet Chase at (310) 545-1026 or [hzchase@roadrunner.com](mailto:hzchase@roadrunner.com).

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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, 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.

<p>The Beach Voter</p> <p>President: Barbara Arlow</p> <p>Editor: Ruth Hart</p> <p>Copy Editor: Barbara Arlow</p> <p>Production: Mignon Thiem-Murphy Peggy Bartlett Susan Grebe Sunhee Park</p> <p>Labels: Ann Martin</p>
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To become a member: Send check in the amount of \$60.00 (payable to the League of Women Voters Beach Cities) to Susan Grebe at 629 19<sup>th</sup> Street, Manhattan Beach CA 90266.

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

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## ***THE BEACH VOTER IS GOING DIGITAL***

Starting with the next issue, the newsletter of LWV of the Beach Cities will be sent via email. This will save Beach Cities the cost of printing and mailing. Copies will be mailed via the US Post Office for all members who do not have an email account. Members who want to continue receiving copies via the US Post Office should contact Barbara Arlow at [gerbar92@msn.com](mailto:gerbar92@msn.com).

## **WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!**

LWVBC has two new members, Dency Nelson and Adrienne Zeigler. Welcome, Dency, and welcome back, Adrienne!

## **LWV OF THE BEACH CITIES DIRECTORY**

Please keep your 2014-2015 Directory for the 2015-2016 year. Go to our website [www.LWVBeachCities.org](http://www.LWVBeachCities.org) and click on the **calendar button** for the 2015-2016 League calendar. The following updates have been made to the roster of members:

- p. 13 – Mary Lou Busch - change of phone # and email address
- p. 14 – add Eliza Davis
- p. 14 – Debra B. Estroff - change of email address
- p. 17 – add Dency Nelson
- p. 18 – add Yvette Reiner
- p. 21 – add Adrienne Zeigler

For contact information call Susan Grebe (310) 545-2097 or Barbara Arlow (310) 379-6663.

## **WE NEED YOUR SUGGESTIONS!**

Do you have an idea for a local program that would be of interest to League members? All LWVBC members are encouraged to suggest topics for local programs in areas of their interest. All such recommendations should be sent to Jan Nathanson at [rjnathanson@yahoo.com](mailto:rjnathanson@yahoo.com) or (310) 643-6247 or Diane Wallace at [dmbarkwall@gmail.com](mailto:dmbarkwall@gmail.com) or (310) 546-1425.

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## PROGRAM PLANNING AND HOLIDAY LUNCHEON RECAP

On Saturday, December 12, 2015 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., sixteen members of the League of Women Voters of the Beach Cities gathered at Ann Martin's home for the annual program planning and holiday luncheon meeting. Barbara Arlow, President, and Jan Nathanson and Diane Wallace, Program Planning co-chairs, led the meeting.

The first part of the meeting was devoted to program planning for the next year. June Eicker reviewed the process for county positions and additions that had been made. The discussion included the following comments:

- We made a note to highlight our concern about local transportation issues.
- We noted that the Waste Management position does not mention recycling and biofuel production.
- The wording related to population impacts needs to be updated – stabilization or reduction.
- We had a question about state standards for the county jail system but it seems this is ok and handled within the current wording.
- The Child Care position needs to be updated to delete the statement about county employees. We checked to see if there is a resources and referral agency and there is one.
- We had a discussion about how to confidentially share the identification of individuals with mental health issues related to purchasing guns. Should we share this information with law enforcement? We suggested this should be raised as an area of concern.

Next, the national positions were reviewed as a group. Some of the areas for discussion included the following:

- Should we have a national discussion about the time that Congress has to confirm or deny candidates who are nominees to various positions? Should we limit the time Congress has to approve nominees?
- Have we supported sufficient funding for early intervention for at-risk children and children with special needs? Do we need to have a discussion or develop a statement about special needs? We should add a point to the allocation of public money to fully fund special needs children.

Barbara Arlow suggested that if, as a result of our discussion, we want a local study, we can raise this at the next board meeting.

We concluded discussions at 12:30 and shared the delicious food that was contributed by members. Thank you to Ann Martin for hosting the meeting!

## LEGISLATIVE INTERVIEW – DAVID HADLEY

On Friday, January 22, 2016, Assemblymember David Hadley met with five League of Women Voters members as part of the League annual Legislative Interview program. Mr. Hadley, a self-described moderate, answered three key questions and participated in a wide-ranging discussion of current legislative priorities. Los Angeles County League of Women Voters President Nancy Mahr and League of Women Voters Torrance Area President Athena Cormier conducted the interviews. Assemblymember Hadley's District Director, Sarah Wiltfong, and his Communications Director, Dylan Gray, also attended. The questions and Mr. Hadley's responses follow:



Left to right: Nancy Mahr (LA County President), Joan Arias (LWVBC Secretary), Athena Paquette (Torrance Area President), Assemblymember David Hadley, Emma Simmons (Torrance Area Communications Director) and Briana Krank (Torrance Area Secretary).

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(David Hadley Interview - continued from p. 5)

**1. Voting and Elections – What legislative proposals would you support to improve the number of California citizens who register and turn out to vote? Are there other steps that government should take to engage more California residents in elections?**

- a. Mr. Hadley recognized that we have a crisis in voter participation. He noted that the South Bay voting numbers are at the low end of voter turnout in the state but at the high end of Los Angeles County voter turnout by a huge margin. He pointed out that although there are more people in Southern California than in Northern California, our governing representation is mostly from Northern California and the Bay Area has far better voter turnout. “We are underrepresented in decision making,” he commented. He expressed the wish that this problem were easier to fix. “It is not that hard to vote,” he said. But we have an old-style voting system. Nowadays, everything is done on line from shopping to bill paying and other financial transactions. Expecting young people to use paper ballots doesn’t encourage voting. We need to be more aggressive with technology. For example, our ATMs and our financial systems move trillions of dollars around securely so the voting system could be electronic and secure. Move money around and we manage to make things easy and secure. We need to do more to support online registration – not everyone knows this is available.
- b. He pointed to California Secretary of State Alex Padilla’s web site ([sos.ca.gov](http://sos.ca.gov)) that enables people to dedicate their vote to veterans as an example of a way to remind people of the importance of their vote. He said that he would love it if the League of Women Voters would market that portion of the Secretary’s program. He stated that he was open to weekend elections in order to encourage more people to vote because “election day is not the event that it used to be.” He noted that currently 60% of the voting in California is done by absentee ballot. Mr. Hadley added that Senator Ben Allen, Chair of the Elections Commission in the California Senate, is working on creating voting centers rather than precincts. This would make voting more convenient. He feels that precincts are somewhat obsolete in this digital world.
- c. He expressed his opinion that the main issue in California is that we are a one-party state. His view is that people think their vote does not matter because we are “written off” in elections and it is tough to get people fired up. “One of my jobs is to make the state more competitive.”
- d. Mr. Hadley pointed to the large number of elected positions in California – judges, water boards, library districts, insurance commissions and many others. There are so many that it is often overwhelming for people to vote. “And that is before you talk about ballot measures!” It is much more complex to vote locally than to vote in federal elections that are less frequent and less complex. He asked if perhaps we should we hold the governor responsible for some areas of state policy instead of having voters elect so many statewide officers. “Some of our elected offices perhaps might be appointed.” The vast majority of voters have no idea who the people running are for many offices.

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(David Hadley Interview - continued from p. 6)

- e. He summarized the discussion by saying that we can make voting easier and more convenient and that we can have online voting that is secure. He noted that Dean C. Logan, Los Angeles County Registrar/Recorder, is right in not rushing to implement a technology-based solution but that voting accessibility does need to be the goal. “We need to broaden the use of the franchise whenever we can,” he concluded.

**2. Housing – What will you do to ensure that your constituents are not displaced from their homes, and what steps would you take to increase the supply of housing – especially housing that is affordable to people of modest means? Do you agree this would require a stable and dedicated source of funding?**

- a. Mr. Hadley pointed out that this is a very complicated topic. He agreed that we need to make sure that people are not displaced from their homes. “I am a strong protector of Proposition 13. I know this is not popular with everyone but it passed in the ‘70s and is still popular because of rising housing costs.”
- b. Mr. Hadley described the situation in the South Bay where we have very high housing prices because of the desirability of living here. He feels that the single biggest thing we can do to improve the situation is to improve the LA Unified School District. People pay a huge price to be in the South Bay because of our schools. He pointed out that we are blessed to have five locally managed school districts here that do a great job: Palos Verdes, Torrance and the three Beach Cities (Redondo, Hermosa, Manhattan). He noted that AB803, which he introduced, gives cities and communities a path to form locally controlled school districts. “We have a huge premium in the South Bay because of our schools and we need to give parents who can’t afford the local housing costs a way to improve their children’s education.” He also mentioned that we have one of the highest tax burdens in the nation but one of the lowest school rankings. He mentioned that he thinks that parents should have the choice on which school to send their children to. That under-privileged or children from lower income families should not be forced to accept a lesser education.
- c. He also talked about housing supply, which he says is key to the situation. It is so hard to build housing here that the supply is down. He pointed to a 2015 study on housing produced by a San Francisco law firm, *In the Name of the Environment: Litigation Abuse Under CEQA*. This Holland & Knight report is the first comprehensive study of lawsuits filed under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). Analyzing all CEQA lawsuits filed in California over a three-year period, 2010-2012, the report systematically documents widespread abuse of CEQA litigation that undermines the state’s environmental, social equity and economic priorities. Hadley feels that these lawsuits undermine our ability to create new housing and proposes a base-line reform in CEQA that will allow us to know who is filing the lawsuits, knowledge which is not accessible now.
- d. Mr. Hadley noted that we will always have many people wanting to live here and that there

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(David Hadley Interview - continued from p. 7)

is real resistance against increased traffic, population density and other problems brought on by increased population. He added that we can't accommodate everyone here and we will never make housing cheap. There is a funding issue but it won't solve the main problem: it is hard to build here and everyone wants to live here. We can help the truly poor and veterans, for example, but we cannot fix the problem overall except by increasing supply and by improving the non-South Bay school districts where people can afford to live.

- e. He noted with pride that his AB306 now enables children of active-duty military service families to attend schools outside their district of residence. He gave the history of the problem that relates to the Los Angeles Air Force Base, housing for which is in San Pedro (LA Unified Schools). He gave the example of the base commander from VA whose husband and children stayed in VA until they could get a waiver from LAUSD to go to the school of their choice. They waited 1 year for this to happen before moving out here. The children of military families move a lot and therefore this is a real burden that we put on the possible short stay here and on a family who is already sacrificing for our country. He talked about the prior reluctance of LA Unified to give waivers so that children could attend other schools. He talked about the Palos Verdes Schools that have gone to Ft. MacArthur to market their school district to military families! "I am a one-step at a time person," he said. But this step begs the question of why all children can't have the same privilege to select a school district.

**3. Climate Change – What are your priorities for state legislation and policies on climate change? Are there other related issues that you feel need to be addressed?**

- a. Mr. Hadley said that he was "trying to participate in the conversation" and pointed to the fact that he was one of two Republicans who voted for SB350. (\*Note – Catherine Baker, District 16, was the other). He noted that there is a lot we don't understand about the climate but the earth is getting warmer. There is a coherent theory about why that is happening and "prudence requires we act even if there are questions about the science." He emphasized the difficulty of really doing anything significant since even if we "returned our economy to the Stone Age, it would not move the needle," because rising emissions in China and India, for example, would present serious challenges. He also pointed out that there are California political leaders such as Governor Brown and Senate Pro Tem de Leon who have taken on the cause and that he is not proposing a specific plan given his freshman status.
- b. Environmental issues present serious challenges. Mr. Hadley pointed to two different economies in our state – a very technologically sophisticated, affluent and educated technology sector that doesn't consume a whole lot of carbon and "everyone else," that is, people responsible for manufacturing and agriculture. In California, it is hard to make a good living outside the technology economy. "If you think the solution to our environmental problem is to bankrupt whole regions, communities and industries in the state economy, that is not good." California, Hadley pointed out, has the highest "energy poverty" index in the

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(David Hadley Interview - continued from p. 8)

United States. That is an index that looks at people who spend a high percentage of their income on energy.

c. He pointed to three factors:

1. "I am a Republican who takes this issue seriously and is proud to engage."
2. The need to create broadly shared prosperity through our environmental policy.
3. The National Security issue - Energy independence has a real value – "people in the world who wish us harm are petroleum powers. "I worry about the most aggressive environmentalists who want to make oil someone else's problem and increase U.S. dependence on foreign energy," he concluded.

The last question was one of particular local concern – Education. Mr. Hadley noted that he is a "Public School Dad." He believes in local control and fought to overturn the cap on local school reserves to give schools more flexibility. He is working to see how to advance local control and to give communities the ability to create their own school districts. He said that he will continue to be very focused on this issue. He believes in the Local Control Funding Formula but he feels the math was too punitive to the South Bay and that it needs to be changed – not the principle of local control but the math. He also worries about the State Education Code, now 2000 pages long and far too complex.

He commented that he is a "legislative public policy geek" and worries that we have two parties – a majority and a minority – that are mirror images of one another. He stressed that we need to change the Legislature and make the minority party more engaged and more competitive. He laughingly related that at different points in his life he had been a registered Democrat, Libertarian and Republican and he told us he considers himself a common sense moderate.

In his final statement he said a particular peeve of his is the money we are wasting on the high-speed train. "We should kill the bullet train and spend the money on local transportation." He feels that the money would be better spent helping people get places locally and made quite a plea for improved local transportation.

We thanked Assemblymember David Hadley for his open, engaging responses that drew on personal experiences. We all felt that the time was well spent and that we had a good chance to get to know our representative.


NOTE: League members also conducted a Legislative Interview with State Senator Ben Allen. The next *Voter* will include a report on that interview.

## CONSENSUS MEETING ON MONEY IN POLITICS

A consensus meeting on the Money in Politics (MIP) study was held on Saturday, January 16 at the Malaga Cove branch of the Palos Verdes Library. Members of the Palos Verdes Peninsula LWV, Torrance Area LWV, and the LWV Beach Cities participated. Ruth Hart reviewed the Powerpoint presentation on “Money in Politics,” prepared by the national Study Committee, that had also been presented at the first MIP meeting at the Manhattan Beach Library in October. Following a brief discussion, those present considered the consensus questions provided by LWVUS and were able to reach consensus on the answers. Each League’s Board approved the consensus report before it was forwarded to LWVUS by the deadline of February 1. On request, a copy of the report may be obtained from Henrietta Mosley or Barbara Arlow.

## TRI-LEAGUE BREAKFAST

The spring Tri-League meeting will be held on Saturday, February 13, 2016 at the Depot Restaurant (Kimono Room), 1250 Cabrillo Avenue, Torrance, CA 90501. Registration and coffee will open at 9:30 am, followed by breakfast at 10:00 am and the program at 11:00 am. Martha L. Gomez, Staff Attorney at MALDEF, will speak on current immigration issues. A flyer is included. For those unable to attend, a report will appear in the next issue of the *Voter*.

**The Tri-League Breakfast**  
 **Saturday February 13, 2016**  
 at  
**The Depot Restaurant - Kimono Room**  
**1250 Cabrillo Ave. Torrance CA 90501**  
 9:30 AM Registration/Coffee 10:00 AM Breakfast 11:00 AM Speaker  
 \$30.00 Per Person  
**Speaker: Martha L. Gomez**  
**Staff Attorney at MALDEF**  
 Topic:  
**Current Immigration Issues**

Reservation Form	
Name(s) _____	
Number of People _____	
Amount Enclosed _____	(at \$30 per person)
Your League _____	
Please send your check payable to LWV PVP to Cindy by February 6 at 29910 Avenida Anillo, RPV 90275	

# League of Women Voters

*Beach Cities, Torrance, and Palos Verdes*

**PRESENT THE**

## **HIGHER EDUCATION** **Consensus Meeting**

**Who:** All League Members

**When:** Monday, February 22nd from 6-8:30pm

**Where:** Manhattan Beach Library meeting room  
1320 Highland Avenue, Manhattan Beach

**What:** A consensus meeting on higher education  
that will focus on: Equitable Access,  
Preparedness, Funding/Affordability, and  
Opportunities/Barriers to Success

**LWV**



<b>CALENDAR</b>			
Date	Time	Subject	Place
Thursday February 11, 2016	7:00 pm – 9:30 pm	Board Meeting	Home of Henrietta Mosley 436 1 <sup>st</sup> Street MB
Saturday February 13, 2016	9:30 am – 12:00 noon	Tri-League Breakfast Current Immigration Issues	The Depot Restaurant Kimono Room 1250 Cabrillo Avenue Torrance
Monday February 22, 2016	6:00 pm – 8:30 pm	Higher Education Consensus Meeting	Manhattan Beach Library Meeting Room 1320 Highland Avenue Manhattan Beach
Thursday March 10, 2016	7:00 pm – 9:30 pm	Board Meeting	Home of Henrietta Mosley 436 1 <sup>st</sup> Street MB



**League of Women Voters of the Beach Cities**  
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