



The Beach Voter

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

ELECTION 2012 ACTIVITIES

September and October are always busy months for the League and this year is no exception. From registering voters to educating voters on the pros and cons of the multitude of ballot propositions to explaining the positions that the State League has taken on some of those propositions, League members have a busy Fall schedule. A significant portion of this Voter is devoted to describing these activities and how the League is supporting both its education and advocacy missions.

OCTOBER MEMBERSHIP MEETING: VOTE WITH THE LEAGUE

League members and the public are invited to attend the membership meeting on Tuesday, October 23, 2012, at 7:00 p.m. at the Manhattan Beach Library conference room to learn about the ballot measures the League of Women Voters are supporting, opposing or taking no position on this year. We encourage members to be informed voters, whether by absentee ballot or in person on November 6th. There are also several pros and cons meetings scheduled, which you are encouraged to attend.

The advocacy meeting is different. Speakers will inform you of the ballot measures on which the League members have studied, reached consensus and taken a position. Then, following extensive review by the State Board, recommendations were made. Our mission is both education, which is provided at the pros and cons meetings, and advocacy, which enables us to influence voters on selected issues. It is a long ballot this election year, and your informed vote will make a difference. A summary of Vote with the League recommendations can be found on page 3. See page 4 for a list of the scheduled Pros and Cons meetings.

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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: _____

VOTE WITH THE LEAGUE!

The League of Women Voters of California has taken positions on the following propositions that will appear on the November ballot.

PROPOSITION 30: Schools and Local Public Safety Protection Act	YES
PROPOSITION 31: Government Performance and Accountability Act	NO
PROPOSITION 32: Special Exemptions Act	NO
PROPOSITION 34: SAFE California Act	YES
PROPOSITION 40: Referendum on Redistricting	YES

The League occasionally takes a ***neutral position*** on ballot measures that deal with issues we have studied, either because there are conflicting League positions or because there are aspects to a measure which in our judgment make our support or opposition inappropriate. This year, the League remained neutral on:

PROPOSITION 38: Tax for Education and Early Childhood Programs

PROPOSITION 39: Tax Treatment for Multistate Businesses

The League has not studied the issues in the following measures, and so has ***no recommendation*** on:

PROPOSITION 33: Auto Insurance Rates

PROPOSITION 35: Human Trafficking

PROPOSITION 36: Three Strikes Reform

PROPOSITION 37: Genetically Engineered Foods

More detailed analysis of the League's positions can be found on the LWVCA website at <http://ca.lwv.org/action/prop1211/flyer.html>

SPEAKERS BUREAU – PROS AND CONS

Every election year, LWVBC members present an objective summary of the pros and cons of each of the ballot initiatives to a variety of community organizations. As of the publication of this Voter, the following public meetings have been scheduled:

Saturday, October 13th, 2:00 pm
Wiseburn Library
5535 W. 135th Street, Hawthorne

Wednesday, October 17th, 7:00 pm – 9:00 pm
Manhattan Beach City Council Chambers
1400 Highland Avenue, Manhattan Beach

Thursday, October 25th, 11:45 am – 1:00 pm
Manhattan Beach Older Adults
Manhattan Beach Police/Fire Conference Room
420 15th Street, Manhattan Beach

Additionally, we are also providing the same service to a wide range of private organizations including the Machinists Union, PEO, Keenagers @ Trinity Lutheran Church, AAUW, Congregation Tikvat Jacob, and Casa de los Amigos.

2013-2014 NOMINATIONS

The Nominating Committee is looking for members who would be willing to serve as an Officer or on the Board of Directors for 2013-2014. Any such suggestions (including volunteers) should be sent to the Chair of the Nominating Committee

Ann Martin
921 Rowell Ave
Manhattan Beach, CA 90266
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LWVBC REGISTERS NEW VOTERS

On September 25th, National Register to Vote Day, Penny Markey organized a cadre of LWVBC members to register new voters. Penny reports:

The time actually flew by yesterday as we manned the registration table at the Albertsons on Artesia Blvd. in Redondo Beach. Our final count was 5 on-site registrations and 9 people who took applications to fill out and mail from home. We got lots of thumbs-up from folks who appreciated us being there. We had several questions on registration and voting procedures and several who thanked us for making the election information available for them to use to help make decisions.

Thanks to Penny and her team of Peggy Bartlett, Susan Grebe, and Ruth Hart (as well as Doris Rosenberg in spirit) for performing this valuable community service.

LWVBC members will also be registering new voters at the Manhattan Beach Old Hometown Fair on October 6th and 7th. Look for our table!

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS FOR 2012-2013 – Jan Nathanson

Following the election, the League of Women Voters of the Beach Cities will engage in a study of the Initiative and Referendum process. This is California's form of direct democracy, but democracy is not always perfect. It will be interesting to review the process and hopefully reach consensus during the meetings in November and January. If you are interested in working with the committee, please call Jan Nathanson at [310-643-6247](tel:310-643-6247) or send an email to rjnathanson@yahoo.com.

Membership meetings next spring will address program planning on state issues, environmental issues, such as fracking and water, and health care. We invite you to participate and join us at membership meetings as the year progresses.

The following article was first published in the September 2012 LA County Voter.

County Summer League Day - LA County and Public Health July 28, 2012 By Pat Colby, LWV PVP

On July 28, 2012 the County League of Women Voters sponsored its annual “Popovers in Pasadena” at the Pasadena Women’s Club and featured guest speaker Wendy Schwartz, Director of Board Relations, Department of Health Services, who addressed the question, “How does L.A. County meet the public’s health needs?”

Ms. Schwartz identified the scope of the county’s mandate. The county runs four hospitals (LAC + USC Healthcare Network, Harbor UCLA Medical Center, ValleyCare Olive View – UCLA Medical Center, Rancho Los Amigos National Rehabilitation Center) and contracts with 61 health clinics; has 20,000 employees, an annual budget of \$3.05 billion and sees 800,000 unique patients every year. Outpatient visits number 3 million per year, 12,000 of which are children under the age of 17—a group that includes approximately 2,400 youth in juvenile hall, many with poorer health than their non-juvenile hall peers. The county additionally serves a substantial number of the undocumented.

Health surveys conducted by the county in partnership with the UCLA Public Health Research Center use a formula which combines mortality (years of life lost) and morbidity (years living with a disability such as chronic illnesses, drug and alcohol dependence, violence and unintentional injuries) to produce a clearer picture of health issues in the county. The county also operates five medical hub centers for children entering the foster care system which includes, among other services, forensic exams in the case of abuse or neglect.

The Affordable Patient Health Care Act (ACA) has profoundly impacted the county. 900,000 L.A. County inhabitants will qualify for Medical (Medicaid) expansion and 750,000 (those above the poverty line) for health care exchanges. “Medical homes” are being established to provide ambulatory care to the chronically ill (hypertension, depression, high cholesterol, diabetes etc.) so that patients see the same doctors and nurse practitioners and receive medications and other services from the same place, just one example of expanding forms of “integrated” care to increase efficiency and less duplication in the medical system.

Finally, the county is implementing a much needed information technology system at a cost of \$280 million so records can be maintained and shared at highest efficiency. Among the on-going questions under the ACA are these:

- How do we balance the patient mix visiting medical facilities and how do we provide a quality safety net for those who are uninsured?
- How will doctors and nurses be reimbursed for services?

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- How are funds for the expansion of Medicaid refused by some states redistributed to states that are implementing the expansion?
- Will the focus on Medical Homes and other integrated systems redirect those who use the Emergency Room as their primary care system?
- How do we educate our citizenry to adopt healthy life styles in order to avoid certain preventable diseases?

League of Women Voters Annual Kickoff Meeting Beach Cities, Palos Verdes Peninsula, Torrance Area September 22, 2012

More than 20 LWVBC members joined the Palos Verdes and Torrance Leagues at the annual Kickoff to hear Los Angeles Times Business Columnist Michael Hiltzik speak on the Initiative and Referendum Process. Introduced by Lola Ungar LWVTA, Mr. Hiltzik, a well-known and highly regarded LA Times columnist and author praised the League of Women Voters as one of his favorite audiences, "the best informed audience and most politically engaged."

He began by quoting a 2005 column he had written on then Governor Schwarzenegger's special election proposing fiscal reforms, a redistricting proposal and a complicated set of provisions to establish teacher tenure. He noted that the Governor's proposals were voted down but the initiative process has grown worse since then. It has become more self-interested, has involved more spending and lies and has resulted in crummier laws. "California isn't ungovernable but it is getting there," he said as he listed many of the laws and processes that have made California difficult to govern, culminating in Proposition 32 which, he noted, "features the biggest billionaires masquerading as salt of the earth." He added that the League "NO ON 32" position is a wise decision.

Hiltzik gave a brief history of the initiative process that was created by Hiram Johnson, a Republican and former California Governor (1910 – 1916) and U.S. Senator (1917 – 1945 when he died). Hiram Johnson was a founder and long-time member of the Progressive Party and supported many of President Theodore Roosevelt's reforms. While Governor, he had been thwarted by the powers that controlled the Legislature (among them the Southern Pacific Railroad and the Los Angeles Times) and created the Initiative process to combat the reactionaries. Hiltzik theorized that Johnson was probably "spinning in his grave over what's going on with his baby."

Hiltzik discussed the example of Proposition 32 which is another attempt on the part of big money conservatives to destroy the Unions: "They offer to take the unions off the backs of people so big business can saddle up!"

He reminded us of Proposition 29 on the June 2012 ballot that wanted to add \$1 in taxes for cigarettes and dedicate the revenue specifically to Cancer research. He opposed that proposition, noting that he had received a great deal of mail relating personal histories and asking how he could oppose dedicating monies to cancer research. He felt that in times when monies were being cut from a number of poverty programs, leaving people without resources, personal experiences should not govern policy setting. Generally against “sequestering money,” he feels that slogans and soundbites are no way to establish public policy.

He reminded us of the 2004 Proposition 71 – the stem cell initiative bond issue. He was skeptical about the proposition and noted “all of my skepticism has been borne out.” Voters approved the proposition and money was allocated through a board fraught with conflicts of interest. Now, they plan to return for more money hoping that voters’ memories are short.

Hiltzik focused particularly on Proposition 37 (labeling of genetically modified foods) on the November ballot. He noted that Proposition does not solve the problem; in truth, we are not even sure we understand the problem. Money is pouring into Proposition 37 from both the “pro” and the “con” sides and the vested interests are clearly involved on both sides: Monsanto for the “NO” side and Joseph Mercola on the “YES” side. For the complete story, read Mr. Hiltzik’s September 16, 2012 column in the Los Angeles Times: “Prop. 37: Another example of the perils of the initiative process.”

When asked what might be done about all this, he gave his proposed solutions:

- Strengthen the discussion
 - Disclose the financial backers without disguising them with civic-sounding names.
 - Hold hearings to disseminate information
 - Restore legislative oversight; ban any initiatives that do not involve legislative oversight
- Have a mechanism for the Legislature to fix contradictory or irreconcilable provisions
- Ensure that revenue provisions are attached to spending proposals

Key to all this is a return of the Legislature to an experienced body – get rid of Term Limits – so that people do not need to resort to initiatives for legislation.

In answer to questions which followed his talk, he noted that “truth in advertising” is a Sisyphean struggle” the correction to which is “daylight.” He added that the ideal way to enact legislation is through the Legislature if it is working properly. The job of the Legislature is to evaluate the pros and cons of legislation and we need to require more vetting by the Legislature via hearings. Ironically, the only way to give the Legislature more voice is through yet another Initiative!

Joan Arias

ENVIRONMENTAL NEWS - Maggie Wilkinson

LWVUS Takes Action to Defend the Clean Air Act

During the week of Sept 20th, the LWVUS joined members of the environmental community to send two letters to the US House of Representatives to defend the Clean Air Act (CAA). The first letter refers to HR3405, the Stop the War on Coal Act of 2012. The bill fundamentally weakens the CAA and takes aim at an array of laws that keep the American public safe. The second letter was sent to a subcommittee of the Energy and Commerce Committee regarding HR6172, a bill that would rewrite the CAA and block EPA from setting any standards for power plant carbon pollution.

League Comments on Hydraulic Fracturing Rule

Early in September, the LWVUS sent a range of comments to the Bureau of Land Management regarding a proposed rule that would regulate hydraulic fracturing on public lands and Indian land. The rule would provide disclosure to the public of chemicals used in hydraulic fracturing on public and Indian land, strengthening regulations related to well-bore integrity and address issues related to flow back water.

Local news: Ban on Polystyrene Food Packing in Hermosa Beach

Early in Sept. the H.B. City Council adopted an ordinance to ban the use of polystyrene food packaging in the city. The ordinance is aimed at cutting down on beach and ocean pollution. (Polystyrene is often referred to as styrofoam)

Enforcement of the ordinance will begin on March 10, 2013. Violations will be considered to be administrative penalties. A first offense will result in a written warning with subsequent violations possibly resulting in fines up to \$500 and the possibility of filing a criminal misdemeanor complaint after a third citation.

DATE	TIME	SUBJECT	PLACE
Saturday-Sunday October 6-7	10:00 am – 6:00 pm	Voter Registration @ Old Hometown Fair	Live Oak Park Manhattan Beach
Tuesday October 9th	7:00 pm – 9:30 pm	Board Meeting	Home of Jan Nathanson 13731 S. Rossburn Ave. Hawthorne
Saturday October 13 th	2:00 pm	Pros and Cons	Wiseburn Library 5535 W 135 th Street Hawthorne
Wednesday October 17 th	7:00 pm – 9:00 pm	Pros and Cons	Manhattan Beach City Council Chambers 1400 Highland, MB
Tuesday October 23 rd	7:00 pm – 8:45 pm	Membership Meeting	Manhattan Beach Library 1320 Highland, MB
Thursday October 25 th	11:45 am – 1:00 pm	Pros and Cons	Manhattan Beach Police/Fire Conf. Room 420 15 th St, MB
Tuesday November 6 th	7:00 am – 8:00 pm	Election Day!	
Tuesday November 13 th	7:00 pm – 9:30 pm	Board Meeting	Home of Maggie Wilkinson 430 Loma Vista El Segundo



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