



The Beach Voter

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

PROGRAM PLANNING AND HOLIDAY JOY COMBINED

Once a year, in December, we gather for a holiday luncheon, socializing, and fun, combined with a review of our program and positions.

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 League members. This year we will review our State positions (see page 5 for a list) and make recommendations to retain, drop or update them. We will also ask for your recommendations for new studies. Is there an area of government or a social issue you believe we should study and hopefully be able to take action to change or improve? Come to the meeting and share your ideas and opinions. We are truly a grassroots organization.

When: Saturday, December 8, 2012 – 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

ELECTION ROUNDUP

One of the busiest times for the League is immediately before an election. During this election season, League members provided Voter Service by hosting numerous Pros and Cons sessions, registering new voters, and advocating for the League's positions on a number of ballot propositions. Pages 6 and 7 provide details on each of these efforts.

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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

Co-Presidents:
Barbara Arlow
Janelle Freeman

Editor:
Ruth Hart

Copy Editor:
Barbara Arlow

Production:
Mignon Thiem-Murphy
Peggy Bartlett
Sunhee Park

Labels:
Ann Martin

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: _____

NOW THAT THE ELECTION IS OVER--LET'S REVIEW THE INITIATIVE AND REFERENDUM PROCESS – Jan Nathanson

It has been called "democracy in action" and this election cycle had some historic results. Now we have an opportunity to review our position on the Initiative and Referendum in California to determine if we want to retain it "as is", amend or change it in any way.

The *Los Angeles Times* reported that five of eleven propositions on the November ballot were approved by voters, at an expense of approximately \$500,000. (See the official results on page 5.) Many measures end up in the State Constitution, which is the longest of any in the U.S. The League often supports or opposes certain measures we have studied and on which we have reached consensus. Most notable was redistricting, which was once again upheld by the voters.

We urge all members to attend our membership meetings in November and January to review the current State position, study the recommendations for change, and reach consensus. Our results will be merged with all Leagues within California and presented for adoption at the LWVC convention next spring.

JOIN US on **Tuesday, November 27, 2012** and **Tuesday, January 22, 2013** at 7:00 p.m. at the Manhattan Beach Library Conference Room, Highland and 15th Street.

An article on the study is provided on p. 4 of this newsletter and the subset of consensus questions to be considered at the November meeting is provided as an insert. Additional information on the study is available at the California League website at <http://ca.lwv.org/study/initiative-and-referendum-0>.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

LWVBC welcomes four new members: Marsha and Gregg LuMatte of Hollyglen, Councilwoman Olivia Valentine of Hawthorne and Councilwoman Amy Howorth of Manhattan Beach.

LWVC INITIATIVE AND REFERENDUM UPDATE STUDY

(This article appears courtesy of the California LWV.)

During the LWVC Convention in May, delegates adopted an update of the initiative and referendum process in California. The state study committee has been chosen, has met once in person, adopted a study scope, budget and tentative timeline. They are responsible for developing the study material that all local Leagues in California will use to come to consensus. The consensus meetings will be in late 2012 or early 2013—after the 2012 presidential election.

The study committee divided into subgroups, each taking a topic to research:

- history of the initiative and referendum process, with an emphasis on California
- description of the initiative and referendum process as it exists today in California
- a comparison of other states and how they are using the processes for direct democracy
- identification of key issues with the processes
- ideas or methods for reforming the process

The group also agreed to create community education and outreach material as part of its work, with the help of some as-yet-to-be-identified grant money.

There are multiple ways to find out more about the study and join in the ongoing discussion. There is a Facebook group (League of Women Voters of California Initiative and Referendum Study), a Yahoo Group that you can link to via the LWVC members only page (contact your local League leadership if you need information about how to find this), and a page on the League's website (<http://ca.lwv.org/lwvc/issues/initiativeand-referendum.html>), where the study committee will provide a continually updating list of articles and reading materials.

CALIFORNIA STATE LEAGUE POSITIONS

Below is a list of all of the positions taken by the California State League. We will be reviewing each of these positions at our December meeting. For those reading this newsletter online, hyperlinks are provided to the details of each position.

Natural Resources Issues

[Position on Agriculture](#)

[Position on Air Quality](#)

[Position on California Water Resources](#)

[Position on Energy](#)

[Position on Hazardous Materials](#)

[Position on Land Use](#)

[Position on Solid Waste](#)

[Position on Transportation](#)

Government Issues

[Position on California State Constitution](#)

[Position on Campaign Financing](#)

[Position on Election Systems](#)

[Position on Initiative and Referendum](#)

[Position on Intergovernmental Relationships](#)

[Position on Public Libraries](#)

[Position on Redistricting California](#)

[Position on State and Local Finances](#)

[Position on Voting Rights](#)

Social Policy Issues

[Position on Child Care](#)

[Position on Community College System](#)

[Position on Education](#)

[Position on Housing](#)

[Position on Juvenile Justice and Dependency](#)

[Position on Legal Aid](#)

[Position on Mental Health Care](#)

VOTER SERVICE – Barbara Arlow

Susan Grebe, Margaret Thelen, Joan Arias, Janelle Freeman, Janis Hirohama, Fatima Malik, Penny Markey and Barbara Arlow presented Pros and Cons for the Nov. 6th election to 12 groups. We spoke to over 400 people.

We distributed 1,150 Pros and Cons and 1,000 English and Spanish Easy Voter booklets to our members, El Camino Community College, libraries and Senior Centers in Hawthorne, Lawndale, Inglewood, Redondo Beach, Manhattan Beach, Hermosa Beach and El Segundo, and to participants at our Pros and Cons presentations.

Penny Markey, Ruth Hart, Susan Grebe and Peggy Bartlett registered new voters at the Albertsons in Redondo Beach and we had a registration booth at the Manhattan Beach Hometown Fair (see the following article).

As part of the National High School Registration Project we phoned and emailed the high school seniors we registered in the spring, reminding them of the importance to vote.

Doris Rosenberg provided voting information to those who called Beach Cities League.

MANHATTAN BEACH HOMETOWN FAIR REPORT October 6th & 7th 2012

This year our League staffed a voter registration booth for two days at this popular annual event. Thanks to the efforts of Harriet Chase, Michelle Murphy, Marge Thelen, Dayna Johnson, Wendy Phillips, Maureen Kelly, Jan Nathanson, Ruth Hart, Barbara Arlow and Fatima Malik we were able to register 35 citizens to vote and handed out registration material to another 42 people. We also distributed 75 Pros and Cons and a like amount of Easy Voters (Spanish & English).

Our thanks to all who made this possible.

Henrietta Mosley and Susan Grebe, Co-chairs.

ELECTION RESULTS

Eleven propositions were on the November ballot in California. The League took positions on xxx of these. Following are the official results:

Proposition 30: Temporary Taxes to Fund Education - **PASSED**

Proposition 31: State Budget, State and Local Government - **FAILED**

Proposition 32: Political Contributions by Payroll Deduction - **FAILED**

Proposition 33: Auto Insurance Prices Based on Driver History - **FAILED**

Proposition 34: Death Penalty - **FAILED**

Proposition 35: Human Trafficking - **PASSED**

Proposition 36: Three Strikes Law - **PASSED**

Proposition 37: Genetically Engineered Foods Labeling - **FAILED**

Proposition 38: Tax for Education: Early Childhood Programs - **FAILED**

Proposition 39: Business Tax for Energy Funding - **PASSED**

Proposition 40: Redistricting State Senate - **PASSED**

The League supported Propositions 30, 34, and 40, opposed Propositions 31 and 32, and was neutral on Propositions 38 and 39. It had no position on Propositions 33, 35, 36, and 37, because it had not adequately studied the issues involved. In all cases except for Proposition 34, the League position prevailed.

Beach Voter		CALENDAR		Nov/Dec 2012
Date	Time	Subject	Place	
Tuesday November 27th	7:00 pm – 8:45 pm	Membership Meeting: Initiative & Referendum Update Study – Part 1	Manhattan Beach Library 1320 Highland Avenue Manhattan Beach	
Saturday December 8th	10 am – 1:30 pm	Holiday Brunch/ Program Planning	Home of Ann Martin 921 Rowell Avenue Manhattan Beach	
Tuesday January 10 th	7:00 pm – 9:30 pm	Board Meeting	Home of Harriet Chase 2151 Valley Drive Manhattan Beach	
Tuesday January 22 nd	7:00 pm – 8:45 pm	Membership Meeting: Initiative & Referendum Update Study – Part 2	Manhattan Beach Library 1320 Highland Avenue Manhattan Beach	
Saturday January 26 th	10:00 am – 1:30 pm	County Winter League Day – Initiative and Referendum	Taix Restaurant 1911 West Sunset Blvd Los Angeles	



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629 19th Street
Manhattan Beach, CA 90266