



# ***The Beach Voter***

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

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***FOLLOW THE MONEY, New Funding for K-12 Public Schools***  
**Tuesday, April 29, 2014, 7:00 – 8:30 p.m.**  
**Don and Sari Brann Center at the Peter Burnett School**  
**5403 W. 138<sup>th</sup> Street, Hawthorne**

For the first time in 40 years, California is changing its funding formula for K-12 public schools. After many years of research, policy development and community input, Governor Brown signed the Local Control Funding Formula (LCFF) into law on July 1, 2013.

With the implementation of LCFF, each school district must work with parents and other community stakeholders to develop a Local Control Accountability Plan (LCAP). This plan, which must be adopted by July 2014, will outline intended outcomes and guide each District on the expenditure of the new monies available to them.

The League of Women Voters of the Beach Cities and the Torrance League of Women Voters are co-sponsoring a public forum to provide information on the upcoming funding changes. Local PTAs and Public Libraries are also co-sponsoring this event. ***FOLLOW THE MONEY, New Funding for K-12 Public Schools*** will provide background information and include a panel of superintendents & administrators from local school districts to outline what LCFF means to the children and families in our communities.

Diane Wallace, Professor, National University, and a member of LWVBC will provide an overview of the Local Control Funding Formula and the Local Control Accountability Plan. The panelists will be:

Patricia W. Escalante, Superintendent, Hermosa Beach City School District  
Erik Elward, Director, Educational Services, Redondo Beach Unified School District  
Tom Johnstone, Superintendent, Wiseburn School District  
Don Brann, State Trustee, Inglewood School District, LWVBC member

We hope to see you there. Please share this information with others who may be interested.

Penny Markey, Education Committee, LWVBC

INSIDE THIS ISSUE	PAGE
Education Forum	1
Inside This Issue	2
Non-Event Thank You	3
2 <sup>nd</sup> Agriculture Consensus Meeting	4
Annual Meeting Notification	4
LWVC Nominations	4
Winter League Day	5
Legislative Interviews	7
Interview With Senator Ted Lieu	8
Ways We Can Respond to the Drought	10
LWVC Nomination Form	11
Calendar	12

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.

The Beach Voter	
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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 19<sup>th</sup> Street, Manhattan Beach CA 90266.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

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

Address:

\_\_\_\_\_

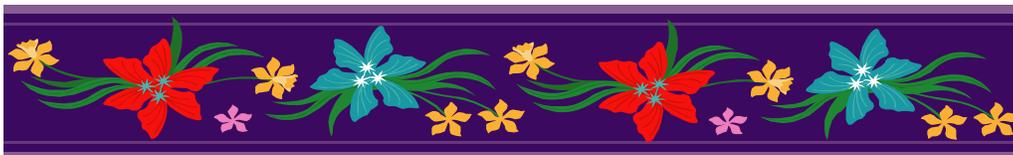


*Thank you to all our wonderful members who  
contributed so generously to the Non-Event*

*Martha Andreani  
Barbara Arlow  
Joan Arias  
Cecilia Ball  
Peggy Bartlett  
Don & Sari Brann  
Mary Lou Brenneman  
Janice Brittain  
Paulette Caudill  
Harriet Chase  
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Annabel Sims  
Bea Savellano  
Margaret Thelen  
Mignon Thiem-Murphy  
April Halprin Wayland  
Elaine Weiner  
Lance Widman*

*As of March 1<sup>st</sup> we have received \$2907.00 in donations. Your  
contributions will help us in our work registering High School Students,  
buying election materials, presenting candidate forums and much more.*



## 2<sup>ND</sup> AGRICULTURE CONSENSUS MEETING

You are invited to share your thoughts at the next Agriculture Consensus Meeting that will take place jointly by the Tri-League on Saturday, March 22<sup>nd</sup> from 10:30 am -12:30 pm at the Malaga Cove Library in Palos Verdes Estates. A number of us have been working together for more than two months on this project and hope that you can help us complete our work with representatives from all three Leagues, Beach Cities, Torrance Area, and Palos Verdes Peninsula.

At this meeting, we are going to talk about Food Safety, Food Labeling, GMOs (Genetically Modified Foods), and the future of Agriculture in California and the U.S.A. The new farm bill sounds good but where are we going? What will the future be like for consumers, farmers, and big corporations? Your input is a vital part of what the LWVUS wants to hear. Perhaps the League of Women Voters can influence the public and also Congress in a big, big way.

More details are provided in the enclosed flyer.

## SAVE THE DATE – ANNUAL MEETING

LWVBC will hold its annual meeting on Saturday, May 17<sup>th</sup> at the home of Joan Arias, 720 8<sup>th</sup> Street, Hermosa Beach. Additional details will be forthcoming in the next newsletter.

Materials for this meeting will be sent via email to all members who have email. Members without email addresses will receive materials via US Mail.

## LWVC NOMINATIONS ARE NOW OPEN

The LWVC Nominating Committee is pleased to announce that nominations are now open for the LWVC Officers, Board of Directors, and Members of the Nominating Committee for the term of July 1, 2015 through June 30, 2017. **If you know of someone who would make a good state leader, please submit a nomination form. You may recommend more than one nominee, but you must use a separate form for each one. Self-nominations are welcome.** The deadline for nominations to be received is Monday, September 1, 2014; however, you are encouraged to submit nomination forms as early as possible. For your convenience, a PDF of the nomination form appears on page 11 of this *Voter*. You may also refer to the January 2014 Board Updates on the members' only web site for additional nominating committee information and the online nomination form.

### Nominating Committee

**Caroline de Llamas, Chair**

**Members: Lottie Fox, Ann Havlik, Ellen Wheeler, and Kathy Souza**

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**WINTER LEAGUE DAY – Joan Arias**  
**Saturday, January 25, 2014 at the Lakewood Country Club**

LWVBC was well represented among the more than 50 attendees at the LA County League of Women Voters Winter League Day focused on The Affordable Care Act: Where are We Now?

After President of the LWV of LA County Nancy Mahr thanked the team that put together the event, Moderator Rita Zwern, LWV Glendale/Burbank introduced the panelists:

- Angelina Valencia, Information Officer, Covered California
- Connie Salgado-Sanchez, M.P.H., Legislative Analyst LA County Dept. of Health Services
- Michael Wilson, MHA, FACHE, Director of Communications, LA County Department of Health Services
- Anthony Ly, Program Coordinator, Long Beach Dept. of Health and Human Services, Medi-Cal Outreach and Health Access Program
- Laura Cosentino, Certified Educator, Covered California Outreach and Education Program

In turn, the panelists described the current situation in California that is leading the way in enrollments. They described the programs underway to increase Latino enrollment and to increase the enrollments of the 18-34 year old group called “Young Invincibles!”

Some of the innovations introduced by the Affordable Care Act include coverage of pre-existing conditions, inclusion of checkups in coverage and no financial caps to reimbursements as well as the elimination of the “doughnut hole.”

The panelists described the Los Angeles County health services including four hospitals, two ambulatory service centers and six community health centers serving 830,000 patients per year with 2.8 million outpatient visits and 330,000 emergency visits. Many of those served are well below poverty levels. The County is working to improve services with special programs for low income patients, patient-centered homes in which patients are assigned care with a single point of contact, electronic health records and a new phone system with a “personal touch.” The goal of the County is to move from being the “provider of default” to becoming a “provider of choice,” although they will continue to provide health care services to undocumented, homeless and other people who are either ineligible for coverage or refuse to sign up for coverage.

Representing Long Beach, Anthony Ly described his efforts in getting people enrolled in programs, extending beyond Long Beach and with special programs for children of undocumented workers. He described Long Beach’s approach in looking at the broad issues of health care. He also stressed his efforts to educate health workers and allied professionals such as social workers and school counselors.

(continued on p. 6)

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(Winter League Day - continued from p. 5)

Laura Cosentino described the ways in which enrollment counselors might receive training through online courses and public education efforts.

During the Question and Answer session that followed the brief presentations, the panelists fielded questions such as:

- What is being done for Latinos and Invincibles?
  - The County is working to certify more people, use Spanish language media, mailers and special call centers.
  - The County is working with community groups to hold special events that focus on health care and assist with enrollment through churches and colleges.
  - There are enormous outreach efforts including bilingual presentations
  - The panelists noted that reaching women was a tough effort because of the current political issues involved in birth control and contraception although the County does provide help in those areas.
- What about the high cost of care for the invincibles?
  - There really is no answer about future costs. There are many people working on such concerns and time will tell.
  - Insurers are working on costs but they must get the young invincibles so that the problems will resolve themselves over time.
- What about the difficult process of enrollment? (many people cited examples of the difficulties inherent in the online process)
  - The difficulties are in large part a result of the system being inundated! This is a new system that will get better.
  - There is an active hiring process so that more counselors become available and the County is hiring staff.
  - Kiosks are being set up in malls with trained staff designed to help people get enrolled.
- What about doctors and hospitals which refuse to provide service through Covered California?
  - The health plans determine the doctors and hospitals.
  - It is true that to keep premiums down, plans can't include all doctors. However, over 80% of doctors and hospitals are included.
  - Many of the plans have narrowed networks to control costs.
  - The public needs to put pressure on health plans and insurers but we are all trying to work it out!
- Where should we refer people who would like to be trained?
  - Go to <https://www.coveredca.com/hbex/employment/> and click on JOBS for information or look at the certified entities in your area (all available through the web site [www.coveredca.com](http://www.coveredca.com))
- What is the role of insurers and insurance agents?
  - Our outreach uses certified insurance agents. One of the problems we have is that not all

(continued on p. 7)

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(Winter League Day - continued from p. 6)

counselors have strong backgrounds in existing care and we are trying to fix that especially for Medical clients.

- What about Pharmacies?
  - Most pharmacies will accept Covered California coverage. The plans determine which ones do and do not.
- Why is there such a heavy focus on Latinos? What about the undocumented?
  - There is such a large population (46% of LA County population) and many are eligible for subsidies. However, we are also working with other populations: African-American, Asian-American and other populations.
  - One interesting innovation is that the Affordable Care Act eliminated the required “linkage” to qualify for Medi-Cal. Now it is based only on modified adjusted gross income so that should help many people.
  - As for the undocumented people, that is a political issue but the County Health System treats everyone and will continue to treat the “residually uninsured” which include the homeless and undocumented population and others who have refused to sign up. Most counties have programs for indigent and others.
- If March is the deadline, what happens to people who come in late for unavoidable reasons?
  - Until September you are able to change enrollment if there has been a life-changing event so if someone comes back to the US (and is eligible) after a period of time and has missed the deadline, that person could enroll late without penalty because that would be considered a life changing event.
- How long is the wait to find out if someone is eligible for Medi-Cal? And what about states that rejected Medi-Cal expansion?
  - We can’t say really but there is an accelerated process.
  - Many states that originally rejected the Medi-Cal expansion now accept it.
- What about the 35-45 year old group? They seem to have been forgotten! And rates seem to be skyrocketing.
  - The system allows you to “play around” with subsidies and you can make changes annually as income rises or falls.

We all thanked the panelists with our applause and agreed that it had been an interesting discussion and that we had all learned a great deal. With thanks to the team that put together this valuable program, the meeting was adjourned at 1:00 PM

## LEGISLATIVE INTERVIEWS

Every year, League members conduct interviews with local legislators to assess how well the legislator’s views align with League positions. The specific questions to be asked are provided by LWV California. This year, interviews were conducted with Assemblyman Al Marutsuchi and State Senator Ted Lieu. A report of the interview with Senator Lieu appears on the following pages. No members of LWVBC attended the interview with Assemblyman Marutsuchi; contact Barbara Arlow at [gerbar92@msn.com](mailto:gerbar92@msn.com) if you would like a copy of the report generated by Torrance LWV.

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## INTERVIEW WITH STATE SENATOR TED W. LIEU, 28<sup>TH</sup> DISTRICT

March 7, 2014, 10AM in Senator Lieu's District Office, 2512 Artesia Blvd. Suite 320

League of Women Voters attendees:

Joan Arias, League of Women Voters of the Beach Cities  
Barbara Clegg, League of Women Voters of Los Angeles  
Susan Grebe, League of Women Voters of the Beach Cities  
Barbara Inatsugu, League of Women Voters of Santa Monica  
Jo-Anne Waller, League of Women Voters of Palos Verdes Peninsula

Following introductions, Susan Grebe opened the interview with the first question:

- 1. Bills to require disclosure of the sources of all contributions in California campaigns and to make campaign disclosure more transparent and user-friendly in general will come before the Assembly and Senate early in 2014. Will you help see that effective measures are passed in the Assembly/Senate to help voters know who is funding campaigns?**

(Special note: Senator Lieu is a cosponsor with the League of Women Voters of SB 2 which will improve state mailer disclosure, require "Stand by your Ad" in State elections and strengthen enforcement).

Senator Lieu answered Question 1 with a resounding and unsurprising "YES." Campaign Finance Reform, he noted, is one of his highest priorities. "Citizens United was a terrible decision," he commented. As voters, we can make it more transparent. Besides SB2, he has also introduced a bill that will enable California voters to assert that they do not like Citizens United. This bill is similar to 2013 Proposition C, which passed in Los Angeles City elections. Senator Lieu commented that it passes at the State level in California and if similar bills pass in other states, it would send a powerful message to the Legislature.

Senator Lieu noted that he considers himself a "champion of campaign finance reform" and has supported other measures such as District 34 Senator Lou Correa's bill. At this time Senator Lieu put in a "Spot Bill" similar to Proposition C that will reflect the opinion of the entire State of California as opposed to local measures. A "Spot Bill" is a bill introduced to assure that a germane vehicle will be available at a later date after the deadline has passed to introduce bills. It is essentially a "place holder."

The actual vote, once it reaches the ballot, would give voters an opportunity to vote YES or NO on a non-binding referendum that, with enough support from other states, might lead to a Constitutional Amendment. Senator Lieu considers this a major vote and noted that he was honored to co-sponsor the bill with the League of Women Voters.

(continued on p. 9)

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(Senator Lieu Interview – continued from p. 8)

Barbara Inatsugu followed with Question 2 on Education:

- 2. “The Local Control Funding Formula (LCFF) is rolling out over the next few years. Implementation strategies are being drafted and there will inevitably be some adjustments. What do you see as the ongoing role of the legislature? Are there programs you feel should remain categorical? Are there areas you deem as off limits for spending supplemental and concentration funds?”**

Senator Lieu expressed his pleasure that funding had been increased to education and would continue to be for 7 years. School districts now have more discretion about spending but Senator Lieu feels that they should focus on Arts education with the restored funding, since, he noted, many districts have ignored Arts education despite mandates, because they did not have the funding. But they do now! He also supports the accountability requirements as adopted by the state board of education, specifically for students in special categories for which funding was designated. Money should be used as committed to help students with special needs. Senator Lieu supports continued funding and increased oversight. So far, he noted, the State Board of Education seems to be taking advice from many constituencies and working diligently to implement suggestions from those constituencies.

He strongly supports Adult Education and Student Career Technical Education as implemented in the Regional Occupational Centers and by the Regional Occupation Programs. We have the Southern California Regional Occupation Center (SCROC) training for Student Career Technical Education. Senator Lieu feels that this training is potentially at threat under the Local Control Funding Formula. A year ago, he and other legislators appealed to Governor Brown and asked for protection (dedicated funding) which they received for 2 years. There is one year left and “we need to find ways to ensure they are protected.” He feels that we should continue to fund career education – “we need to draw a circle around technical and adult education.” He doesn’t want adult education to be discretionary. “Education should be lifelong,” he stressed. Many people use it to advance themselves and Career and adult education should not be diverted.

When asked about Senator Darrell Steinberg’s bill for transitional kindergarten, he expressed strong support for education in the early years because it is “so important to the rest of life and the earlier the better.”

We asked about local flexibility with funding and he noted that the State Board had taken input from many stakeholders and that programs need time to reach a level of balance. We need to give at least a year to see if the programs are well implemented and if they work as promised. “I have never seen a perfect law but we need to be given time to see if what we have works,” he noted.

Following the education discussion, Jo-Anne Waller asked Question 3 on the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA):

(continued on p. 10)

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(Senator Lieu Interview – continued from p. 9)

**3. Do you think specific projects should be exempted from parts or all of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) process, or have special rules set for them? If so, how would you determine which projects should receive such treatment?**

“I don’t believe special particular projects should be exempt – that is why I voted NO on the basketball arena proposed by Senator Steinberg. You can curb some of the abusive suits and expedite the appeals process and limit the time for the courts but I am not supportive of giving exemptions.”

When asked the League concern for the annual end-of-year exemptions, “gut and amend” bills, a practice used during the final days of a legislative session in which the entire contents of a bill are stripped out and replaced with something new, a particular concern of the League, he noted that he only would support such exemptions for urgent matters that can’t wait, not for bills used to circumvent the regular process.

He also talked about SB4, which regulates oil and gas drilling, particularly fracking, and the League concern for projects that get approved or are underway before 2015 when SB4 will go into effect. This year he will co-author a bill on fracking. He pointed us to SB4 author Senator Fran Pavley for specific answers about the timing questions we had.

In follow-on questions, we asked why Governor Brown vetoed SB3 and he pointed out that Governor Brown’s veto has resulted in the sponsors of SB2 being very careful with the requirements. What often happens when bills are vetoed, he noted, is that the executive branch then directs commissions to carry out the activities that the vetoed bills proposed.

When asked about gun safety measures, he pointed out that this has been a “good year” (albeit not a “great year”) for gun safety measures.

We expressed our gratitude for Senator Lieu’s open discussion and thanked him for all his service to the people of California.

### **WAYS WE CAN RESPOND TO THE DROUGHT – Maggie Wilkinson**

Even though we have had several inches of rain in the L.A. area from the two storms we experienced over the first weekend in March, Governor Brown has asked that we reduce our water consumption by 20%. Some suggestions of ways to reduce the amount of water our households use are: 1) Water our yards less, replacing some of the plants or grass with succulents and not running the sprinklers during daylight hours. 2) Be conscientious about shutting off the water when brushing our teeth and using the sink to rinse dishes. 3) Run the dishwasher and washing machine when they are full. 4) Take a shower rather than a bath. An eight minute shower uses only 17 gallons of water whereas the typical bath takes 30 to 70 gallons of water. 5) Recycling our water. On the outdoors we can connect a rain barrel to a downspout and this rainwater can be used for gardening. In the kitchen, we can use a container to catch water from sink activities that can be reused for other purposes such as rinsing dishes before putting them in the dishwasher. Hopefully this information will be helpful and we will have more rain soon so that our California drought conditions will be less serious.

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League of Women Voters of California (LWVC)

NOMINATING FORM FOR STATE BOARD

Nominator: \_\_\_\_\_ LWV \_\_\_\_\_

I/We recommend for nomination to the LWVC Board:

Name \_\_\_\_\_ (Please print)
Street Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_
Name of local League nominee is a member of \_\_\_\_\_
Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Work/ Cell Phone \_\_\_\_\_
E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Is there a specific position for which you are nominating this person? If so, please list that position: \_\_\_\_\_

Why are you nominating this person to the State Board?

\_\_\_\_\_
\_\_\_\_\_
\_\_\_\_\_
\_\_\_\_\_
\_\_\_\_\_

What special qualities and expertise does this person have which would be valuable to a successful LWVC Board of Directors? Indicate if this person has ever held a leadership position in League or elsewhere.

\_\_\_\_\_
\_\_\_\_\_
\_\_\_\_\_
\_\_\_\_\_
\_\_\_\_\_

Your Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail \_\_\_\_\_

Use a second page if needed \* Use a separate sheet for each nomination
Self-nominations are welcome!

Please send the completed form by Monday, September 1, 2014 to:

Caroline de Llamas, LWVC Nominating Chair
3355 Rancho La Carlota Road, Covina, CA 91724
Questions: Home Phone: 626-332-5188 - Email: nominating@lwvc.org

Beach Voter		CALENDAR		March/April 14
Date	Time	Subject	Place	
Saturday March 22nd	10:30 am – 12:30 pm	Agriculture Consensus Meeting	Malaga Cove Library 2400 Via Campesina Palos Verdes Estates	
Saturday March 29th	9:30 am – 2:00pm	52 <sup>nd</sup> Annual County Convention	Rio Hondo Event Center 10627 Old River School Road, Downey	
Wednesday April 9th	7:00 pm – 9:30 pm	Board Meeting	Home of Peggy Bartlett 701 13 <sup>th</sup> Street Manhattan Beach	
Tuesday April 29th	7:00 pm – 8:30 pm	Education Forum	Don and Sari Brann Center at the Peter Burnett School 5403 W. 138 <sup>th</sup> Street Hawthorne	
Saturday May 17th	TBD	LWVBC Annual Meeting	Home of Joan Arias 720 8 <sup>th</sup> Street Hermosa Beach	



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**Manhattan Beach, CA 90266**