



THE BEACH VOTER

The League of Women Voters of the Beach Cities

310 / 793-0569 www.beachvoter.org

serving El Segundo, Hawthorne, Hermosa Beach, Inglewood, Manhattan Beach and Redondo Beach

LWVUS IMMIGRATION STUDY

Over the past year we have considered immigration policies and statistics, citizenship qualifications, economic impacts and global interdependence. We have heard a variety of speakers. In April our Immigration Committee led us in an informative and stimulating discussion. At the Tri-League lunch this summer we took the citizenship test. We have benefited from excellent articles in the *National Voter*, including those on “Border Enforcement” and “Family Reunification and Diversity Policies” in this month’s issue.

At our October and November meetings, we will participate in the time-honored process of pulling together a national League consensus to be the basis for future action on immigration questions. Join us on October 9 to be a part of the consensus process.



PLEASE NOTE NEW DAY AND LOCATION:

→ Tuesday, October 9, 2007, 7 PM to 9:00 PM
 → David K. Hayward Community Center
 2000 Artesia Blvd. (at Green Lane), Redondo Beach

An insert with consensus questions is enclosed. Please bring it to the meeting.

SEE YOU AT THE FAIR!

MANHATTAN BEACH HOMETOWN FAIR

Saturday and Sunday, October 6 & 7

Cupcakes!!!!!!

Voter information!

We still need help. Call Peggy (310-545-1087) if you can staff the food booth, or Henrietta at (310-379-4591) to hand out voter information at our table in the Free Speech area.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Immigration Consensus Meeting	p. 1
From the LWVBC Board	p. 2
Local elections	p. 3
L.A. County CEO Wm. Fujioka	p. 4
Élections à la français	pp. 4, 6
Calls to action	p. 5
Health coverage demographics	p. 7

The League of Women Voters, a non-partisan political organization, encourages informed and active participation in government and influences public policy through education and advocacy.

The League never supports or opposes any political candidate. The League advocates on issues that members have studied and on which members have reached consensus.

The Beach Voter

Administrative Committee

Doris Rosenberg,
President of Record

Peggy Bartlett

Susan Grebe

Editor

Henrietta Mosley

Production

Mignon Thiem

Circulation

Ann Martin

The League affirms our belief in and 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.

WE ARE OUR MEMBERS

This month we will be out in full force doing what we do. We will be at the Manhattan Beach Hometown Fair selling cupcakes at our food booth (generally our fund-raiser for the year) and offering voter information in the Free Speech area. We will be organizing and moderating four candidates meetings in the local elections. We will hold the first of two consensus meetings in our immigration study (PLEASE NOTE NEW LOCATION AND DAY.)

Sometimes we worry about how these things will get done in the years ahead, and whether there are other things we should be doing. We wonder how we can involve younger members. We wonder how we can get more people doing a little for the League so that a few veteran board members don't have to do quite so much. We plan to devote some time at future board meetings to discussing alternative forms of governance and alternative approaches to our mission.

We invite your help, your insights and your suggestions.

LEAGUER APPOINTED TO REDONDO COMMITTEE

The Beach Cities League was recently asked to nominate a member to serve on Redondo Beach's newly formed Growth Management and Traffic Committee. Jim Stewart has agreed to take on that role and report back to us on the committee's work. Watch for Jim's reports in future issues of the *Beach Voter*.

LWV EDUCATION FUND RECEIVES MAJOR GRANT

The American Express Corporation has awarded the LWVEF with a grant to support election related work in 16 local priority communities during 2008. Participating Leagues in these communities (Atlanta, Boston, Chicago, Dallas, South Florida, Greensboro, NC, Houston, Los Angeles, New York City, Philadelphia, Phoenix, Portland, Salt Lake City, San Diego, San Francisco, and Seattle) will focus on voter registration, education and outreach, as well as candidate and issue forums and debates.

NEW MEMBER

We welcome Elizabeth Jensen of Manhattan Beach who recently joined the Beach Cities League.

We hope we will have a chance to get acquainted at this month's events.

LOCAL ELECTIONS NOVEMBER 6

Voters will go to the polls on November 6 to vote in the following races for city officials and school district governing boards:

El Segundo:	El Segundo Unified School District (2 seats).
Hawthorne:	Mayor and two city councilmembers. Hawthorne School District (2 members). Centinela Valley Union High School District, Areas 3 and 4.
Hermosa Beach:	Two councilmembers, city treasurer, city clerk. Measure H. Hermosa Beach City School District (2 members).
Manhattan Beach:	Manhattan Beach Unified School District (2 members) El Camino College District, Trustee Areas 1, 2, 3.

The Beach Cities League of Women Voters will sponsor candidates meetings in El Segundo, Hawthorne and Hermosa Beach. See Calendar for times and places. Please note that the Hermosa Beach meeting that we are co-sponsoring with the Hermosa Beach Women's Club on Wednesday, October 10 includes an optional lunch, beginning at 11:45, for \$10.00. To attend the lunch, please RSVP by October 5 to Diane Miller, (310) 376-4532. The candidates forum will be from 12:30 to 2:30.

For candidate statements and your personalized ballot, go to www.smartvoter.org.

JANIS HIROHAMA APPOINTED TO COMMISSION FOR IMPARTIAL COURTS

Janis R. Hirohama—President of the League of Women Voters of California, practicing attorney, and veteran LWV-Beach Cities leader—has been appointed by California Chief Justice Ronald George to the Steering Committee for the newly created Commission for Impartial Courts. The Steering Committee will oversee the work of four task forces which will study and recommend ways to ensure judicial quality, impartiality and accountability for the benefit of Californians.

In announcing the formation of the commission the Chief Justice stated his concern about “developments in other states that have changed the tone, tenor and cost of judicial elections.” He added, “The manner in which judges are selected, retained, and removed from office can have a serious impact on the independence of the judiciary. It is essential that we make every effort to avoid politicizing the judiciary so that public confidence in the quality, impartiality, and accountability of judges is protected and maintained.”

Last January, at the Judicial Independence Conference (co-sponsored by the L.A. City LWV and the L.A. County Bar Association), we heard tales of the costly partisan contests that have prompted the Chief Justice's concern. At that Conference California jurists weighed the danger that money and politics could infect judicial contests here.. A DVD of the conference is still available for viewing at home; call Jan Nathanson, (310)-643-6247 .

Janis also appeared on the 10 o'clock news on August 23 when she joined Governor Schwarzenegger, former Governors Davis and Wilson, and members of the Voices of Reform Coalition and Common Cause at a press conference championing redistricting reform. You can watch the video at <http://gov.ca.gov/index.php?/press-release/7239/>.

L.A. County CEO William T. Fujioka Charts A New Course

The annual Tri-League Breakfast Buffet on Saturday, September 15 drew an audience of over 40 to hear the recently appointed Chief Executive Officer of Los Angeles County, William T. Fujioka, share his perceptions and ideas.

A Los Angeles native and graduate of UCLA, Fujioka has a wealth of relevant administrative experience in the LAPD, the County Health Department and the City of Los Angeles. He served as Chief Administrative Officer to Mayor Reardon, with whom he crossed swords over whether the mayor had the right to review the CAO's reports to the City Council before they were presented.

Fujioka retired last year, but came out of retirement to take his new position after revisions were made to the County's governing structure to provide that certain departments would report to him as Chief Executive Officer rather than to the Board of Supervisors as before. He will thus have authority and discretion beyond that allowed the former Chief Administrative Officer.

Fujioka declared his intention to change the "bunker mentality" of County departments in order to improve the economy and efficiency of overall County operations. Although some areas work well, he said, there must be more cooperation and offers of assistance across departmental boundaries. He analogized changing the County's institutional culture to turning around a steamship going full throttle. He projects a three-year turnaround.

When questioned about highly publicized problems in particular departments, Fujioka offered an interesting analytical distinction between system errors and human errors, saying it is important to determine which type of error you're dealing with before imposing a solution. There are, of course, instances when system errors make human errors more likely.

It should be fascinating to follow events at the County in the months ahead with the new CEO at its helm.

Henrietta Mosley, *Beach Voter* editor

Élections à la française, Part I

Sally Rivera of the League of Women Voters of Whittier had an opportunity to observe the French national elections this past spring. Her article for the League of Women Voters of California will be reprinted here in two parts. This month's installment focuses on the presidential elections on April 22 and May 6. The conclusion in November will discuss electronic voting and the legislative elections held in June.

The League has long agonized about how to encourage informed and active participation of the electorate. How many voters do not vote because they do not understand the issues presented to them? At what point does the complexity of the ballot undermine the democratic process? How can we inspire confidence in the administration of our elections? These are fundamental questions asked not only within the United States, but around the world. As a League member, frequent Los Angeles County poll worker and all-my-life adherent of civic engagement, I was almost automatically analyzing the similarities and contrasts of the election process during my recent visit to France.

International focus was aimed at France during the recent French national elections. The presidential elections were held on April 22 and May 6, followed by the legislative elections on June 10 and 17 (a second round is always held if no candidate wins a simple majority in the first round). Visiting France during both cycles, I was able to witness the transition process from close range. Although most of my electoral exposure, including visitation of numerous polling stations, was in Paris, I also observed at a rural polling site in southeastern France for the first round of the legislative elections.

A striking contrast of the always-on-Sunday elections was the simplicity of the ballot: voters were asked to vote for only one office. The April 22 election asked voters to choose one of 12 candidates for president. With a stunning turnout of 83.77 percent and no candidate winning a simple majority, the field was whittled to two candidates for the May 6 runoff: Nicolas Sarkozy of the center-right Union pour un mouvement populaire (UMP) and Ségolène Royal of the Parti socialiste (PS). Royal was the first-ever woman to compete in the French presidential runoff. The runoff was marked by an even greater turnout: 37,342,004 voters, representing 83.97 percent of those registered. Again the only item to be voted on was the choosing of the president. (Continued on page 6.)

ACTION ALERT:**Healthcare for America's Children**

This summer the Senate and the House passed bills to reauthorize the State Children's Health Insurance Plan (SCHIP), which provides health care coverage to millions of low-income children. This past Friday congressional leaders announced they had come to a bipartisan, bicameral agreement in a conference committee. Votes in both the House and Senate are expected this week so we must take action to encourage Congress to pass SCHIP reauthorization legislation at the \$50 billion funding level *NOW!*

Take action today to help insure America's children!

Over the past ten years, SCHIP has dramatically improved children's access to health care, and has made great strides in covering children. The program covers children from low-income families who do not qualify for Medicaid. As of today, SCHIP is only authorized through September 30, 2007, which is fast approaching. It is the right time to improve and strengthen SCHIP to further increase access to affordable, comprehensive, equitable, and quality health coverage.

for all of our nation's children. As a direct result of this program the percentage of low-income children in the United States without health coverage has fallen by one-third in the past decade even as employer-based coverage has decreased.

The conference bill will include up to \$50 billion over five years to provide health care for about half of America's nine million uninsured children. It is important to continue our nation's great progress in covering more uninsured, low-income children. We hope you will send a message to your Senators and Representatives to encourage them to pass the bill at the \$50 billion funding level.

Without SCHIP millions of children whose families cannot afford health care coverage will go uninsured!

TAKE ACTION

1. Contact your Senators and Representatives now, by phone or by email, and urge them to reauthorize SCHIP.
2. Send this alert to other concerned citizens - your grassroots network, your friends and coworkers. Encourage them to contact their Senators and Representatives today!

CALL TO ACTION:**Ask the Governor to Veto Restrictions on Campaign Finance Reform**

AB 1430 (Garrick), a bill which would gut local campaign finance regulations and preempt them with more lax state regulations, has been passed by the Legislature and is on the Governor's desk.

Please contact Governor Schwarzenegger and ask him to veto AB 1430. You can send an e-mail by accessing the Governor's Web site, <http://gov.ca.gov/interact>. Phone and fax information is also available on the Web site.

POINTS TO MAKE:

- AB 1430 would make it essentially impossible for a local jurisdiction to regulate campaign communications from organizations, including political parties, to their members. Cities and counties are concerned that large contributions to political parties for such communications can be used to circumvent contribution limits. This bill would prohibit a local government from limiting such payments or placing restrictions on their source, and would leave the door open for even broader prohibitions.

- AB 1430 could restrict a municipality's ability to require reporting of certain expenditures, lessening the information available to the public and interfering with existing campaign finance regulatory procedures.
- AB 1430 is an inappropriate restriction on the ability of local governments to regulate their own elections. Contributions to parties for spending on candidates to elective state office are limited in state law. There is no reason why similar limitations at the local level should not be allowed, should a municipality choose to impose them.
- AB 1430 imposes one-size-fits-all disclosure laws for local elections. AB 1430's prohibitions cover not only contribution limits, but disclosure as well.

LEAGUE POSITION:

The League of Women Voters believes that the methods of financing political campaigns should ensure the public's right to know, combat corruption and undue influence, enable candidates to compete more equitably for public office and allow maximum citizen participation in the political process.

Élections à la français (Continued from page 4)

With 53.06 percent of the Nicolas Sarkozy became the sixth president of the Fifth Republic. His inaugural was on May 16.

The total number of bureaux de vote (polling stations) was reported as 64,000. In Paris each arrondissement (20 geographic divisions of the city with widely differing populations) is responsible for overseeing polling stations. The number of polling stations is based on population, with each Parisian station responsible for approximately 1,500-1,800 voters. A representative contrast is the less than 15 polling stations in the 4th arrondissement as compared to 65 stations in the 20th. Polling stations are public buildings - usually city halls and schools - marked by the French flag (almost always) and elections signage, including a list of all jurisdictional polling stations with corresponding residence listings and official posters for each candidate presented in an approved, numbered sequence. For the April 22 election, the Constitutional Council, following a drawing, designated number 1 for Olivier Besancenot of the Trotskyite Ligue communiste révolutionnaire; number 4 for third-place winner François Bayrou of the Union pour la démocratie française (UDF); number 8 for Royal; and number 12 for Sarkozy. The identical 1-12 sequence was displayed in every electoral jurisdiction. For the presidential runoff, Sarkozy was number 1 and Royal was number 2. Similar drawings were done for the legislative elections cycle so that poster display was uniform.

The eligible voter is at least 18 at the time of the election, a French citizen and registered. Registration for the 2007 elections closed December 31, 2006, months before the first election and in strong contrast to California's 15 days before the next scheduled election. Registration information is basic. Political party affiliation is not requested and there are no language options. French is the sole language, which is in strong contrast with the mandate on Los Angeles County to offer materials in seven languages. The successfully registered voter will receive a carte électorale that confirms registration information, assigns a voter number, designates polling location and lists upcoming elections.

Although polling stations are overseen by the local jurisdiction, they are staffed by both municipal employees and partisan representatives. Reception and ballot issuance are administered by government workers; the ballot box (typically a large transparent bowl secured by locks) and rosters are overseen by partisans - a striking departure from California staffing. As far as I could determine, transparency and checks-and-balances procedures were strongly in place and all workers were attentive to impartial elections administration. Visitations by both jurisdiction officials and other partisan representatives were common. Unforeseen problems were resolved quickly. The polling station atmosphere was cordial, even with very long lines during the presidential cycle.

Arriving at the polling station on April 22, the voter saw twelve stacks of index-size cards (approximately 6 inches by 4 inches) with the names of presidential candidates displayed on the reception table. Each stack was placed in the 1-12 order designated by the Constitutional Council. The voter picked up as few as two or as many as 12 cards along with one small envelope before proceeding to the voting booth. The standard protocol for all elections is that the voter then selects one card and folds it to fit into the envelope. Decision-making was clearly in advance of voting because typical voting booth turnaround was seconds. Unused cards can be discarded or kept by the voter.

The voter then approaches the ballot box to cast the "ballot." The ballot box clerk accepts the voter's carte électorale and a photo identification card. The ballot clerk calls the number and name of the voter. In larger jurisdictions the roster is alphabetically split, similar to Los Angeles County. The roster clerk quickly finds the voter in the roster with a standard-issue modified ruler featuring a midsection transparency. The roster clerk repeats the voter's name, the ballot clerk opens the slit to allow the voter to insert the envelope, and then the ballot clerk closes the slit and ritualistically completes the statement started by the roster clerk's repetition of the voter's name by saying "a voté" (has voted). The voter then proceeds to the roster and signs in the signature block carved out of the ruler transparency, retrieves the date-stamped carte électorale and identification card, and then leaves. (I was able to obtain a sample of the ruler and have shown it to the Los Angeles County Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk's office. A modified version is being considered for use here.)

After reconciling the roster with envelopes, all counting of ballots is done at the polls by voters who have been recruited as volunteers throughout the day. Qualifications are being a registered voter and willing to do the task. Typically 20 volunteers are equally divided among five tables. Training with required forms is performed by a municipal clerk, usually taking no more than 15 minutes. Tables receive unopened ballot envelopes that have been evenly divided. The group assigns tasks, opens envelopes, records votes and verifies totals (during my April 22 observation, I saw only one group using a calculator). Signatures of each group member and poll workers are required on each official tally sheet. Nullified ballots (examples: ballots for two candidates found in an envelope, writing on the ballot, non-candidate card in an envelope) are retained with the tally reconciliation sheet. Once all have certified that the totals are correct, all non-disputed ballots are thrown away! All tally sheets are delivered to elections headquarters as official records. Also delivered are brown paper bags filled with discarded ballots destined for paper recycling. Election results are announced before midnight. (To be continued in November)

© Copyright. League of Women Voters of California.
No information on this page may be used by any person unless he/she is an official member of the League of Women Voters.

From the 2007 Annual Summer League Day—Popovers in Pasadena—July 21, 2007.

LOS ANGELES COUNTY		
Health Insurance Coverage, the Lack of Coverage, and Demographic Characteristics		
Based on Data from the 2005 California Health Interview Survey		
<p>Approximately 2,130,000 children and adults who were uninsured for all or part of the year reside in Los Angeles County, out of a total of 6.5 million uninsured Californians statewide. Approximately 307,000 uninsured children and 1,823,000 uninsured nonelderly adults reside in this county, out of 1.1 million uninsured children and 5.4 million uninsured adults statewide. There are 6,106,000 non-elderly adults and 2,948,000 children in this county, for a total non-elderly population of 9,053,000.</p>		
	LOS ANGELES COUNTY	CALIFORNIA
HEALTH INSURANCE COVERAGE OF THE NONELDERLY (AGES 0-64)		
% UNINSURED ALL OR PART YEAR (95% RANGE)	23.5% (22.3 - 24.8)	20.2%
% INSURED ALL YEAR, EMPLOYMENT-BASED (95% RANGE)	48.8% (47.4 - 50.1)	54.3%
% INSURED ALL YEAR, MEDI-CAL/HEALTHY FAMILIES (95% RANGE)	19.4% (18.2 - 20.6)	15.9%
% INSURED ALL YEAR, PRIVATELY PURCHASED AND OTHER (95% RANGE)	8.3% (7.6 - 9.0)	9.5%
HEALTH INSURANCE COVERAGE OF CHILDREN (AGES 0-18)		
% UNINSURED ALL OR PART YEAR (95% RANGE)	10.4% (8.7 - 12.2)	10.7%
% INSURED ALL YEAR, EMPLOYMENT-BASED (95% RANGE)	43.8% (41.3 - 46.4)	50.3%
% INSURED ALL YEAR, MEDI-CAL/HEALTHY FAMILIES (95% RANGE)	38.6% (36.0 - 41.2)	31.2%
% INSURED ALL YEAR, PRIVATELY PURCHASED AND OTHER (95% RANGE)	7.1% (5.9 - 8.4)	7.8%
HEALTH INSURANCE COVERAGE OF ADULTS (AGES 19-64)		
% UNINSURED ALL OR PART YEAR (95% RANGE)	29.9% (28.3 - 31.4)	24.8%
% INSURED ALL YEAR, EMPLOYMENT-BASED (95% RANGE)	51.2% (49.5 - 52.8)	56.2%
% INSURED ALL YEAR, MEDI-CAL/HEALTHY FAMILIES (95% RANGE)	10.1% (9.1 - 11.2)	8.7%
% INSURED ALL YEAR, PRIVATELY PURCHASED OR OTHER (95% RANGE)	8.9% (8.0 - 9.7)	10.4%
% OF UNINSURED NONELDERLY (AGES 0-64) WITH ANNUAL FAMILY INCOMES OF LESS THAN 300% FPL†	78.1%	74.5%
% OF UNINSURED CHILDREN (AGES 0-18) WITH INCOMES < 300% FPL	87.8%	82.1%
% OF UNINSURED ADULTS (AGES 19-64) WITH INCOMES < 300% FPL	76.5%	72.9%
CITIZENSHIP AND IMMIGRATION STATUS OF THE UNINSURED		
CITIZEN	56.4%	63.5%
NONCITIZEN WITH A GREEN CARD	18.2%	14.6%
NONCITIZEN WITHOUT A GREEN CARD††	25.4%	21.9%

† FPL – Federal Poverty Level (The 2005 FPL was \$9,973 for one person, \$12,755 for a two-person family and \$15,577 for a three-person family.)
 †† Includes residents who have other immigration status as well as undocumented persons.
 Note: The “95% range” (more commonly called the “margin of error”) provides a more reliable estimate of the uninsured rate for persons in the population group than does the “point estimate.” Point estimates with narrower 95% ranges are more precise or reliable than those with wider ranges.

UCLA CENTER FOR HEALTH POLICY RESEARCH  Source: 2005 California Health Interview Survey
 UCLA Center for Health Policy Research, March 2007
 Available at www.healthpolicy.ucla.edu

INVITATION TO JOIN THE LEAGUE

All citizens of voting age are welcome to join. Associate membership is open to young people and non-citizens. If you can't attend our monthly meetings and special events, please consider showing your support through your 2007/08 annual membership fee of \$50 (which is not tax deductible -- however, donations to the LWV Beach Cities Education Fund are tax deductible).

For more information, contact Irma Cohen at irma@beachvoter.org or (310) 939-0946. Or just send your check (payable to the League of Women Voters-- Beach Cities), to Peggy Bartlett at 701 13th St, Manhattan Beach, CA 90266.

Name _____ Phone _____ E-mail _____

Address _____

Interests _____

Oct. 4 Thursday	7:00 PM- 8:30 PM	CANDIDATES FORUM: Governing Board, Centinela Valley Union High School District Areas 3 & 4.	Guerrero Center, Juan de Anza Elementary School 1210 Hindry St., Hawthorne
Oct. 6 & 7 Sat. & Sun.	10:00 AM- 6:00 PM	MANHATTAN BEACH HOMETOWN FAIR at Live Oak Park on Valley Drive. Can you help us sell cupcakes? Call (310) 545-1087. Distribute voter information in the Free Speech Area? Call (310) 379-4591.	Live Oak Park, Manhattan Beach See www.mbfair.org for general information and maps.
Oct. 9 Tuesday	7:00 PM- 9:00 PM	LWVUS Immigration Study—membership meeting and consensus. NEW MEETING LOCATION.	David K. Hayward Community Ctr. 2000 Artesia Blvd. (at Green Lane), Redondo Beach
Oct. 10 Wed.	11:45* AM- 2:30 PM	CANDIDATES FORUM: Hermosa Beach City Officials. Co-sponsored by Beach Cities LWV and Hermosa Beach Women's Club. *Lunch at 11:45 (\$10-optional). Forum 12:30-2:30. See p. 3 to RSVP.	Hermosa Beach Women's Club Clark Building, 861 Valley Drive, Hermosa Beach
Oct. 10 Wed.	7:00 PM- 9:00 PM	CANDIDATES FORUM: Hawthorne City Officials (7-8 PM) and Governing Board, Centinela Valley Union High School District, Areas 3 & 4 (8-9 PM).	Dana School Aviation and 135th St. Hawthorne
Oct. 15 Mon.	7:15 PM- 8:30 PM	CANDIDATES FORUM: Governing Board, Centinela Valley Union High School District, Areas 3 & 4.	Hawthorne Memorial Center 390 El Segundo Blvd. Hawthorne
Oct. 22 Monday	7:00 PM- 9:30 PM	Board Meeting. 7 PM-social. Meeting starts promptly at 7:15.	At home of Harriet Chase.

VOTE NOVEMBER 6 Last day to register is Oct. 22. Last day to apply for an absentee ballot is Oct. 30.



701 13th Street
Manhattan Beach, CA 90266

The League of Women Voters of the Beach Cities
310 / 793-0569 www.beachvoter.org

serving

El Segundo

Hawthorne

Hermosa Beach

Inglewood

Manhattan Beach

Redondo Beach