



# THE BEACH VOTER

The League of Women Voters of the Beach Cities

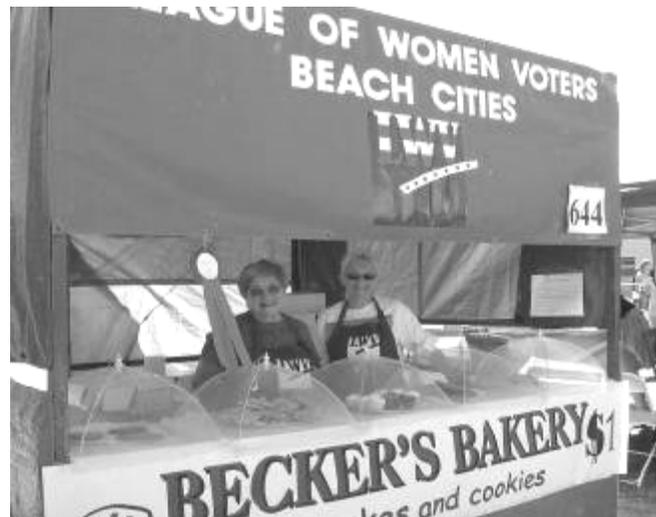
310 / 793-0569 [www.beachvoter.org](http://www.beachvoter.org)

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



**THEY NOTICED !!!!** After all those years of having what we knew was the best looking booth at the Manhattan Beach Hometown Fair, this year we were awarded the blue ribbon to prove it. Peggy Bartlett, our food booth organizer for lo these many years, was thrilled, as this photo shows, but says the credit should go to George and Mignon Murphy, who have assembled the booth year after year, responding to the Fair’s requirements and our members’ needs while always achieving a crisp, colorful, stand-out design.

**THANK YOU !!!!** George and Mignon. Thank you, everyone who helped out in the food booth and in our information booth in the free speech area (see names on page 4). And thank you Peggy, for shepherding us through the years of baking brownies and a successful transition to the ever-popular Becker’s Bakery cookies and cupcakes. Take a bow, everyone.



Jan Nathanson with Peggy in our prize-winning booth.

## MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Tuesday, November 13,

Membership Meeting on Immigration.

Discussion and consensus.

Saturday, December 8

Holiday Lunch and Program Planning.

See pages 2-3 for details.

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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.*

### ***The Beach Voter***

#### Administrative Committee

Doris Rosenberg,  
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Susan Grebe

#### Editor

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#### 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.

## YOU, TOO, CAN BE AN EXPERT

AT THE CONCLUDING MEMBERSHIP MEETING OF OUR IMMIGRATION STUDY ON NOVEMBER 13, 2007. INFORMATION AND CONSENSUS.

At the October 9th meeting, a group of obviously well-read and informed members discussed, elucidated, and brought their knowledge and experience to bear in reaching consensus in the first part of the immigration study. The second set of questions we will review is enclosed with this voter. Please think about them and bring your input to our November meeting.

All the information you need can be found at [www.lwv.org](http://www.lwv.org) (click on the immigration link in the left-hand column) or, if you are pressed for time, see the articles in the June and October issues of the National Voter.

June Eicker, Program Co-Chair

## COMING SOON!

### Annual Holiday Potluck Lunch National and County Program Planning

Saturday, December 8, 10 AM-1 PM  
at the home of Ann Martin, 921 Rowell Ave.,  
Manhattan Beach.



Once again we are asked to make suggestions for the LWVUS and LWVLAC programs. What ideas do you have for the calendar year 2008 to 2010? You can suggest a new study, continuation of a current study, concurrence with a study by another League or no new study. In addition, we will review the existing positions and recommend, in each category, to retain, modify or drop.

This is a great opportunity to become familiar with or be reminded of our many positions on the national and county levels, which enable us to take action. A most recent example is the representation of Washington, D.C., one of the League's very first positions almost 88 years ago. A Redondo Beach Committee on Transportation has been formed and the county position may prove a helpful guideline for the League's representative, Jim Stewart.

Join us on December 8th at Ann Martin's lovely home for sharing of ideas and lively discussion, followed by the always delightful holiday luncheon. If your last name begins with A-L, please bring a salad to share; M-Z people please bring a main dish. About six servings will do nicely. Coffee, dessert, rolls, punch and wine will be provided.

Jan Nathanson, 1st Vice Pres., Program

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## **LWVBC Holds Forums for Local Candidates on November 6 Ballot.**

The Beach Cities LWV has been busy with candidate forums during this pre-election time. We had three forums in Hawthorne: 1 school Board, 1 City Council and 1 combination of these two. We had a forum at the Women's Club in Hermosa Beach for the City Council candidates. A forum featuring the three candidates for the Manhattan Beach School Board was held on Tuesday, October 30, 7:00-8:30 p.m. at the Manhattan Beach City Council Chambers.

We're keeping the electorate informed! Thanks to our wonderful moderators—Barbara Arlow, Susan Grebe, and Joan Arias. Applause for the question screeners—Peggy Bartlett, Susan Grebe and Jan Nathanson. With women like this who can fail!

Linda Mack, Forums Organizer

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## **Report on “Candidate Forums ‘R’ Us,” a Moderator Training Seminar.**

On Saturday, September 29, 2007, Joan Arias and Susan Grebe represented the LWV-Beach Cities at a Seminar for League Leaders: Candidate Forums “R” US at Taix Restaurant. We heard presentations from League experts on how to get started and set up candidates forums, how to avoid pitfalls with the media and with difficult questions and questioners. The meeting included a skit that illustrated how to politely and diplomatically handle “moderator’s nightmares” and an exercise on selecting the most appropriate questions to ask candidates.

The highlight of the meeting was a presentation by Dean Logan, Chief Deputy Registrar-Recorder and County Clerk for Los Angeles County (the largest electoral jurisdiction in the United States). Chief Deputy Logan talked about how recent past elections have focused the Congress on voter verification and audit. Our own Senator Feinstein has a bill before the Senate focused on standardizing elections across the country and in California we have ongoing top-to-bottom reviews of voter processes and equipment conducted by our Secretary of State Debra Bowen who has certified and decertified several systems. Her efforts will affect the 2008 elections.

Mr. Logan talked about the election “crunch” now that our June primary has been moved up to February and the unprecedented number of elections in 2007 (9 in LA County including a number of special elections) and the coming 2008 elections. He also described our LA County situation which includes:

- Touch screen voting systems for early voting only at public libraries and other public buildings. New procedures would require a paper trail and hand vote count of every electronic voting machine.

(Continued on page 4.)

### **NEW MEMBER**

Jerry M. Givens of Inglewood has joined our League. He is the assistant City Administrator for that city. Welcome, Jerry. We're delighted to have you with us .

## “Candidate Forums ‘R’ Us,” continued from page 3.

- Inka Vote system at regular polling places on election day. This system was decertified because the vendor was late in submitting their equipment for review but Mr. Logan noted that the equipment is now in the process of being reviewed by the Secretary of State’s office and he is hopeful that the system will be recertified in time for the February Primary. Inka Vote will stay in place for the November election but will be phased out at the year’s end unless recertification occurs.
- Absentee voting which has grown to 25% of the voters now. A new law requires that absentee votes must be counted precinct by precinct, this procedure will add many more hours to the absentee vote tabulation.

The goal of the Registrar-Recorder’s office is to make all the changes transparent to voters to avoid confusion. Adding significantly to the challenge is the resignation of the current County Registrar of Voters, Connie McCormack, who has served the County for many years with much skill and grace. Mr. Logan noted that poll workers, staff and voters themselves are suffering from “election fatigue” which is a big problem especially since the February and November turnouts are expected to be large. So 2007 and 2008 will certainly present challenges.

How can we help? We can continue to educate and reach out to voters to make sure they understand the process and the changes. We need to continue our efforts to build an educated voting population. AND we need to help recruit poll workers – or volunteer ourselves since there will be a shortage especially of multi-lingual workers and people who are willing to work in areas that are considered difficult.

In concluding, Mr. Logan described an election he witnessed in Morocco. Some interesting points of contrast:

- In Morocco there is a 2-week limit for the campaign period. So from announcing to the election, candidates had a 2-week period during which they could campaign. Wouldn’t that be a relief!
- In Morocco it is illegal to campaign on election day.

By Joan Arias

*Our thanks to everyone who helped staff the League’s booths at the Manhattan Beach Hometown Fair. We couldn’t have done it without you.*

Selling cookies and cupcakes at the food booth:  
Linda Mack, Sunhee Park, Margaret Thelen, Ann Martin, Carole Vallianos, Susan Grebe, Janis Hirohama, Jan Nathanson, Harriet Chase and, of course, Mignon Thiem and Peggy Bartlett.

Giving out information and making new friends for us at our booth in the Free Speech area:  
Mary Lou Brenneman, Jan Nathanson, Susan Grebe, Sun Hee Park, Margaret Thelen, Jim Stewart, Diane Barrow, Michelle Murphy, Doris Rosenberg, Henrietta Mosley.



Jim Stewart, Diane Barrow and Michelle Murphy at the Free Speech table.

## ACTION ALERT: We Must Restore Civil Liberties

Earlier this year, Congress gave sweeping new surveillance powers to the Executive Branch, including widespread warrantless wiretapping of American citizens, in the so-called Protect America Act.

Now, the Senate Judiciary Committee is poised to consider legislation to reinstate protections for civil liberties and reestablish checks and balances in government. We need you to contact your Senator on the Committee to insist that he or she votes to repeal the Protect America Act and to limit the ability of government agencies to obtain information about American citizens without the appropriate judicial constraints.

[Take action today to protect Americans against government spying programs!](#)

The Protect America Act was rushed through Congress earlier this year with little public debate. It is critical that the Senate pass legislation that reinstates needed checks and balances. This legislation must ensure that government agencies obtain individual warrants before wiretapping the communications of American citizens and not provide retroactive immunity to telecommunications companies that have provided government agencies with information on their customer's records.

[Send a message to your Senator to urge them to vote to repeal the Protect America Act.](#)

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## Judicial Independence News

The LWVUS is pleased to report that we have received two additional years of funding for our [Safe-guarding U.S. Democracy: Promoting a Fair and Independent Judiciary](#) program, sponsored by the Open Society Institute! Here are some recent highlights of our critical work in this area:

- *Podcast on the Importance of Fair and Impartial Courts Now Available* In this new podcast, LWVUS President Mary G. Wilson addresses the importance of a fair and impartial court system in our democracy. To listen, please visit the multimedia section on our web page at [www.lwv.org/faircourts](http://www.lwv.org/faircourts).
- *2008 Supreme Court Elections: Five States to watch*: Thirty-nine state contestable State Supreme Court seats in 21 states are on the ballot next year, potentially making 2008 the most expensive year ever for candidates seeking election to America's state courts. But threats to the fairness and impartiality of the courts may not end with elections: special interest ballot measures and legislative efforts to inject politics into non-partisan judicial selection systems are also on the horizon for 2008. [Click here for information on five key states to watch.](#)

*Colorado Citizen Survey: Judicial Independence* With Support from LWVUS, the LWV of Colorado recently conducted a survey of Colorado citizens' views on the judiciary. The poll, conducted in partnership with the Institute for the Advancement of the American Legal System, [has yielded some interesting results](#) which are summarized on the LWVUS website, [www.lwv.org](http://www.lwv.org). Click on Judicial Independence.

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## Track the Implementation of Successful 2006 Ballot Measures

At Governor Schwarzenegger's direction, a website has been established to allow citizens to follow the process of implementing all the propositions that the voters adopted in 2006 (Propositions 1B, 1C, 1D, 1E, and 84). You can access this information by going to: <http://www.bondaccountability.ca.gov/>.

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## Élections à la française, Part II

*Last month's issue of The Beach Voter carried Part I of Whittier Leaguer Sally Rivera's description of the French election process, as she witnessed it during the national elections this past spring. This month's installment concludes the article.*

Provisional and absentee ballots do not exist [under the French election system]. However, if a voter cannot vote in person, the ballot may be cast through procuracy, which is a type of proxy voting. By writing to the local jurisdiction to ask for procuracy due to specified, officially approved reasons (examples: physical incapacity, employment obligations), a voter may designate another to cast the registered voter's ballot. The proxy is named, is listed in the roster, is verified against a supplemental form, goes through the ballot process at the polling station, provides photo identification and signs his/her name in the roster as the proxy.

Even though French elections typically consist of only one question, officials have been experimenting with electronic voting. During the April 22 election, 82 communities went electronic. Following difficulties with systems and logistics problems, five communities dropped electronic voting for the May 6 runoff. Although some computer system problems were reported, more difficulties were attributable to insufficient training for use on the part of poll workers and voters, an inadequate number of available machines, poor design for the aged and vision-impaired and waiting in line for more than an hour. Due to the simplicity of the ballot, the confidence in the current system by the electorate, the opportunity for civic engagement by volunteering to tally election results and the speed with which results are reported, I asked an elections official what rationale is being given for converting to electronic voting. The principal reasons given were speed in reporting results, long-term cost savings and modernity. Conversion is proceeding. System vendors for the spring elections were Nedap (Netherlands), Indra (Spain) and ES&S (United States - known in Los Angeles County for its association with the InkaVote Plus system).

During the legislative elections 7,639 candidates were vying for all 577 seats of the Assemblée nationale. By French standards, voter turnout was low - 60.50 percent on June 10 and 60.02 percent on June 17. Although legislative elections have a history of low turnout (even when they were the sole elections held in any one year), some speculated that voter fatigue was the cause and recommended consolidating the presidential and legislative elections. An intriguing twist in voting for the député is the simultaneous vote for the candidate's suppléant. If the elected député cannot serve for whatever reason, the suppléant automatically becomes the representative. There is no need for a special election and voters know in advance exactly who will serve if the elected representative cannot complete the five-year term. A similarity between the U.S. and France

can be found in redistricting complaints. Redistricting for the 577 seats has not been done since 1986 (based on a 1982 census). Critics have pointed out repeatedly that there have been major population shifts since the 1982 marker. Although redistricting has not been among high legislative priorities, Sarkozy has announced that proportional representation changes are among recently initiated institutional reforms.

There was a very strong push by the UMP to strengthen Sarkozy's power with an overwhelming legislative victory. François Fillon, the new prime minister, encouraged all cabinet ministers to run for election or reelection (not all decided to do so) as a validation of the electorate's support for Sarkozy. The first round saw the outright election of 110 candidates - 109 UMP and one Socialist. However, following the June 17 runoff for the remaining seats, the UMP lost 35 and the Socialists gained 58. In addition, a completely new center-leaning party, the Mouvement démocrate (MoDem), founded by Bayrou following his third-place finish, obtained four seats. The UMP maintained its majority status, but it was weakened. Among UMP casualties was Alain Juppé, a very high-ranking cabinet member. Following the loss of his legislative seat, Juppé decided to resign from the government. His resignation set off the formation of the second Sarkozy/Fillon government. The line-up was announced on June 19. The first session of the newly elected Assemblée nationale was on June 20.

Noticeably absent from all the campaigns were incessant television ads. Official campaign video is run at designated times on television (about ten minutes per total installment for several parties/candidates) during the last week or two before the election. Ad quality ranges from extremely slick to homespun. Platform is the focus. Interviews on public interest and news shows are also done, but equal time must be given to the opposition. For the first time since 1995, a presidential debate was held (incumbent Jacques Chirac had refused to debate extreme-right candidate Jean-Marie Le Pen of the Front national in 2002). Caution was exercised to make sure that neither Royal nor Sarkozy monopolized the debate. Each candidate was timed as they faced off, again staying almost entirely with issues of platform and experience. At the conclusion, Royal had spoken for 74:20 minutes; Sarkozy, 72:00 minutes. Other than a type of Palm Pilot held by Sarkozy to reference numbers, neither candidate used notes. Media analysis abounded for days.

Financing of campaigns is done via both public and private/party coffers. Individuals have contribution limits and corporate interests are not allowed to contribute. Although the most recent presidential campaigns are the most expensive in French history, they pale in comparison to American campaigns. The Sarkozy campaign expended 21.6 million euros (approximately \$29.2 million). The largest expenditures were for massive political events, such as a huge final campaign rally at the Bercy stadium in Paris, easily costing 500,000 euros. All candidates also invested in the (Continued on p. 7.)

Internet as a means of reaching the most voters at the least cost. The Royal campaign expended 1.2 million euros, while Sarkozy forces spent approximately 500,000 euros. The site for Royal was interactive, while Sarkozy's was a passive display of campaign materials. Royal's site received far more hits.

In addition to finding out about a multitude of elements that propelled the French elections process during my visit, I answered questions about American elections and showed my November 7, 2006 General Election sample ballot to many. The French were uniformly struck by the ballot length (nine pages) and its complexity. They wondered how far in advance of the election did the voter receive the ballot, how the voter obtained information to be an informed voter, the amount of time that would be required to study the ballot, how many voters would even want to study the ballot, and the length of time spent in the voting booth to complete the ballot. Almost everyone was bothered by our voting for or against judges. Even though California ballots can be very complex, I explained that there are reliable, easy-to-access resources for becoming an informed voter.

League members are well aware that detailed elections information, including profiles of judicial candidates, can be found on League Web sites. Looking ahead to local elections

in November 2007 and three major elections in 2008, we know that we can expect lengthy, complex ballots. Making sure that as many voters as possible know about the League's election information Web sites is crucial for promoting an informed, participating electorate. Promoting Smart Voter and Easy Voter could help to mobilize record high turnout by voters. League voter education tools truly make a difference in ensuring that voters:

1. know when and where to vote;
2. know what is on their ballot;
3. have a balanced, trustworthy source for information;
4. and find simple, clear explanations of issues in multiple languages.

[www.smartvoter.org](http://www.smartvoter.org)

[www.easyvoter.org](http://www.easyvoter.org)

- Sally Rivera, League of Women Voters of Whittier

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Don't miss Harriet Chase's article in the October issue of the LWV/LAC Voter on Los Angeles County's plans to take part in a 5-year foster care "waiver" demonstration project. Under this project, a provision limiting use of Title IV-E Federal funding to services for children who are in the foster care system would be set aside to enable the County to provide services to children who have not been removed from their homes. The LWV/LAC Voter went out by e-mail on October 3 and can be viewed on-line at [www.lacilo.ca.lwvnet.org](http://www.lacilo.ca.lwvnet.org).

#### 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](mailto: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 \_\_\_\_\_

Nov. 3 Saturday	10:00 AM– 2:00 PM	<b>LWV Los Angeles League Day.</b> “How Will We Conduct Elections in the 21st Century? See pg. 5 of <i>LWV/LAC Voter</i> for details and registration.	Taix Restaurant, 1911 W. Sunset Blvd., Los Angeles CA 90026
Nov. 6 Tuesday	7:00 AM– 8:00 PM	<b>ELECTION DAY.</b> City officials and school district governing boards. El Camino College District Trustee Areas 1, 2, 3.	Find your polling place, sample ballot and candidate statements at <a href="http://www.smartvoter.org">www.smartvoter.org</a> .
Nov. 13 Tuesday	7:00 PM– 9:00 PM	<b>LWVUS Immigration Study—membership meeting and consensus.</b>	David K. Hayward Community Ctr. 2000 Artesia Blvd. (at Green Lane), Redondo Beach
Nov. 26 Monday	7:00 PM– 9:30 PM	Board Meeting. 7 PM-social. Meeting starts promptly at 7:15.	At home of Henrietta Mosley.
Dec. 8 Saturday	10:00 AM– 1:00 PM	<b>HOLIDAY POTLUCK LUNCH with NATIONAL AND COUNTY PROGRAM PLANNING.</b> <b>See page 2.</b>	At home of Ann Martin

BE SURE TO VOTE NOVEMBER 6. Remind your friends and neighbors to vote.  
Every vote packs a wallop in a local election.

LEARN ABOUT THE CANDIDATES at [www.SmartVoter.org](http://www.SmartVoter.org)



701 13th Street  
Manhattan Beach, CA 90266

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