



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

EDUCATION in the South Bay: Breakthroughs & Challenges

Monday, April 7
7:00-8:45 PM

Redondo Beach Main Library

2nd Floor Meeting Room
303 N Pacific Coast Hwy

(Free parking in garage under Library)



LISTEN....LEARN....ASK THE EXPERTS

A symposium for residents, parents and taxpayers.

- South Bay School Administrators discuss exciting new programs and current challenges. **See list of panelists on page 5.**
- League of Women Voters of California presents current work on school reform.

No sign-up or registration required * Light refreshments provided by Friends of the Redondo Beach Library
For more information, contact Harriet Chase at harriet@beachvoter.org



Sponsored by
League of Women Voters of the Beach Cities
Redondo Beach Public Library



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF THE BEACH CITIES

ANNUAL MEETING

Saturday, May 10, 10 am to 1:00 pm
Home of Linda Mack, 571 27th St., Manhattan Beach

Speaker: Alex Areyan
"Mexican Americans in Redondo and Hermosa Beach"

Bring a salad to serve at least 6 persons. Rolls, drinks and dessert will be provided. The Annual Meeting Kit is enclosed with this issue; we will be adopting our budget and program and electing officers.
PLEASE BRING THE KIT WITH YOU TO THE MEETING.

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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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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.

Sidelined:

Irma Cohen has dropped off the Board for a time to recover from a nasty back injury. We miss you, Irma!

Welcome!

Please welcome our newest members, Ola Carpenter of Inglewood and Vida Barone of Manhattan Beach. We look forward to getting to know you.

LOOKING INWARD; LOOKING FORWARD.

Recently we began something new in the *Beach Voter*, an essay called "Why I Joined the League" to be provided each month by a different member. We think you will enjoy reading about what attracted other members to join the League of Women Voters and what they feel they have gained from being a part of the League. We hope you will be inspired to submit your story as well.

It is especially enlightening to hear the stories of those members who join each year and attend the occasional meeting without taking a more active role in our activities. We need to know how we can serve you better and inspire more participation. We would, of course, love to be able to tap your talents from time to time.

The kit for the LWV-Beach Cities Annual Meeting on Saturday, May 12 is enclosed with this issue. We hope to see everyone there to celebrate our many successes this year and help us plan for the future.

If you have suggestions on how we can keep our organization vital and relevant—how we can grow new leadership for the years to come—please feel free to share them during the meeting or over lunch afterward, or drop them in the Suggestion Box that we will have on hand. We will be having a board retreat during the summer to discuss just these questions. Those who cannot attend the Annual Meeting are invited to email or call the League phone (310-793-0569) to offer their suggestions and ideas.

The LWV-Beach Cities Board

Additional Non-Event Contributions

We have received the following members' contributions since our last Voter. Thank you so much for adding the League to your list of special places to which you contribute. We do appreciate it as it keeps our League active in our communities.

Gratefully, Peggy Bartlett, Treasurer

MERLE GROSSMAN

IRMA COHEN

PATRICIA DREIZLER

VELMA ANDERSON

PEGGY BARTLETT

ALICIA BREWSTER

MARY SPRING ALBRECHT

SUSAN JONES

JIM STEWART

JUNE EICKER



LWV OF LOS ANGELES COUNTY 46th ANNUAL CONVENTION

The 46th Annual Convention of the League of Women Voters of Los Angeles County (LWV/LAC) was held at Almansor Court in Alhambra on Saturday, March 29, 2008. Eleven local Leagues participated.

The guest speaker was William T. Fujioka, Chief Executive Officer of Los Angeles County, who spoke on "The Role of a Stronger CEO." He stated that one of his main priorities has been to get department heads to work together on goals and promote better inter-departmental collaboration. His focus is to provide help to forty departments that have been working in separate "silos" and enable them to focus on common interests.

He offered the example of the juvenile camp system, where 50 percent of the youth in camp have come from the foster care system, yet there is no sharing of case files. He would like to institute a practical, common sense approach that would allow such sharing.

Following the address by Mr. Fujioka, the business of the convention was taken up and the proposed budget accepted. The present board was recognized and a new slate of officers approved. The new president is Nancy Mahr from the Palos Verdes Peninsula League.

The following program was adopted:

1. Continuation of 2006-2008 LWV/LAC positions.
2. Study of Los Angeles County Jail System.
3. Education and action on election procedures, the expanded role of the County CEO, redistricting and universal healthcare.

By Margaret Thelen, Delegate to the Convention

JUNE 3, 2008 ELECTION - WHERE WE STAND

PROP 98 Deceptive Measure Would Abolish Rent Control and Harm Environmental Protection. OPPOSE

Californians deserve protection from eminent domain abuse, but Proposition 98 is a radical proposal that goes too far. Its extreme provisions would eliminate rent control and other renter protection laws; that is why wealthy apartment and mobile home park owners have contributed most of the money to qualify Proposition 98 for the ballot. In addition, Proposition 98 contains language that would make it difficult to protect the environment and regulate land use, growth and development. This hidden agenda would threaten water quality, hurt the environment, and thwart regulations that protect our neighborhoods.

PROP 99 Homeowners Protection Act. SUPPORT

This measure is a real eminent domain reform measure that will protect homeowners, without the hidden agendas and adverse consequences of Proposition 98. Proposition 99 will prohibit the government from using eminent domain to take a home to transfer to another private party. It is supported by a broad coalition of homeowners, business, labor, cities, counties and environmentalists.

* VOTE WITH THE LEAGUE ON JUNE 3, 2008! *

EIR FOR LAX SPECIFIC PLAN AMENDMENT STUDY — PUBLIC SCOPING MEETINGS

Public scoping meetings have been scheduled on the Draft Environmental Impact Report for the LAX Specific Plan Amendment Study, which includes related amendments to the adopted LAX Plan and LAX Specific Plan. Proposed alternatives (referred to as "Yellow Light Projects") to be addressed include developing a Ground Transportation Center (GTC); constructing an Automated People Mover 2 (APM2) from the GTC to the Central Terminal Area (CTA); demolishing CTA Terminals 1, 2 and 3; reconfiguring the runway, including center taxiways; and making on-site road improvements associated with the GTC and APM2.

Meeting dates: Wednesday, May 7, 6:00 to 9:00 PM and Saturday, May 10, 9:00 AM to Noon.

Location: The Proud Bird Restaurant, 1022 Aviation Boulevard, Los Angeles, CA 90045

SECOND REPORT FROM YOUR REPRESENTATIVE ON THE REDONDO BEACH GROWTH MANAGEMENT AND TRAFFIC COMMITTEE (GMTC)

Since my previous report the GMTC has met twice, first on March 1st in conjunction with the first of the three scheduled Public Workshops I mentioned last month, and the second on March 17 (St. Patty's Day, but no refreshments at the meeting).

The meeting on March 1st with the public was interesting, both for its structure and for the dichotomous intents of the participants. The participants were divided among 9 or 10 tables, each with 2 or 3 Committee members and from two to several members of the public, along with a paid facilitator to keep us on track. After introductions, our facilitator gave us a rundown on the way we were to record our suggestions: directly on large, high-resolution, aerial maps of the city with adhesive notes for suggestions as to where more housing units could be built and with marker pens of different colors for different times of day to identify congested streets. These data from the maps on each table were then to be the fodder for the deliberations of the Committee in the coming months.

The dichotomous intent of the participants is well illustrated by a question put to our group by one of the two public members at our table: "Are we addressing immediate needs or long term needs -- something to meet the State's plan for a little over 2200 housing units in RB in the required report at the end of June, or a way to modify the long range plan?" He saw these as quite different questions. As the meeting progressed, participants appeared to be split between conforming to the State's desire to have RB accept more housing units in our updated Plan as opposed to envisioning what our city should look like 20 or 30 years from now. This split appeared again at the March 17th meeting of the GMTC. Nonetheless the required consolidation of the data from the Public Workshop was accomplished.

To be honest with my nominators, my fellow League members, I need to tell you that I am one of those supporting the more long-range approach. I would appreciate hearing from you via e-mail (jss.sge@verizon.net) or by phone (310-406-0915), especially those who may not agree with me. Please also consider attending the next Public Workshop, to be held on Saturday, May 31, at 10:00 AM at the Knob Hill Community Center, 320 Knob Hill.

My expectation at this juncture is that the GMTC will submit a minority report, come June 30. My approach for Redondo Beach is that mass transit must be made available, solar panels must be installed on nearly all buildings, energy use per individual must be reduced and open space for children to get to know something besides electronic games must be made available. Recognition of these elements must be part of every version of our long range plan beginning NOW. I think it will not be possible to avoid the further impoverishment of our environment, including our economic environment, if we do not get very serious and get these things into an implementation plan NOW.

What do you think? Contact me and/or come to the Public Workshop on May 31. Let your voice be heard.

By Jim Stewart, LWV-Beach Cities Delegate

Education Symposium Panelists

The following panelists will participate in our Education Symposium on Monday, April 7, 2008:

Centinela Valley Union High School District ~ Joann Kennelly, Director of Special Education
(Filling in for Interim Supt. Jose Fernandez)

[Joanne is a past-president of LWV-Beach Cities!]

El Segundo Unified School District ~ Supt. Geoff Yantz

Hawthorne School District ~ Terry Moore, Assistant Supt. of Educational Services
(Filling in for Supt. Donald Carrington)

Hermosa Beach City School District ~ Supt. Sharon McClain

Inglewood Unified School District ~ Supt. Pamela Short Powell

Manhattan Beach Unified School District ~ Supt. Beverly Rohrer

Redondo Beach Unified School District ~ Supt. Steven E. Keller

Wiseburn School District ~ Principal, Matt Wunder, Dana Middle School
(Filling in for Supt. Don Brann)

Moderator:

Barbara Inatsugu ~ LWVC Program Director for Education (PK-12)

The Symposium will take place from 7:00 to 8:45 PM in the Redondo Beach Main Library, 2nd Floor Meeting Room. The Redondo Beach Library and the LWV-Beach Cities are co-sponsors.

LOCAL EDUCATION MEASURES ON THE JUNE 3rd BALLOT:

- Hawthorne School District: Measure H. Bond issue.
- Centinela Valley Union High School District: Measure A. Education parcel tax.
- Hermosa Beach City School District: Measure E. Education parcel tax.

For more information see the Los Angeles County Registrar-Recorder website, www.lavote.net, and click on "Measures appearing on ballot" under "June 3 Primary Election."

For nonpartisan state and local election information:



www.smartvoter.org

Key Election Dates from the Secretary of State

Friday, April 4—Overseas citizens/military can apply for special vote-by-mail ballot

Monday, May 5—First day to apply for vote-by-mail ballot by mail

Tuesday, May 13—Last day for state to mail Voter Pamphlet

Tuesday, May 13—Last day for counties to mail Sample Ballot

Monday, May 19—Last day to register to vote (for June 3)

Tuesday, May 20—Last day for candidates to file for write-in

Tuesday, May 27—Last day to apply for vote-by-mail ballot by mail

Tuesday, June 3—ELECTION DAY—Polls are open from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m.

SINGLE PAYER: IT'S TIME TO HAVE HOPE

The following excerpts are from an article by Sara Rogers, Health Consultant, Office of State Senator Sheila Kuehl.

“Politically feasible” is just another way of saying that folks are scared to stand up to insurance companies. I don’t accept that. It’s time to take a stand for what we really want. It’s time to have hope.”

— Senator Sheila Kuehl

SB 840 is alive and well in the Assembly Appropriations committee, much further along in the legislative process than it was in 2006, just before its historical passage out of both houses of the legislature and onto the Governor’s desk. Legislative deadlines for passage out of fiscal committees aren’t until August 15th and, between now and then, grassroots organizing and education efforts are really taking off. Every day, Senator Kuehl and her staff receive requests for presentations regarding SB 840, the truly universal healthcare bill.

On Sunday, January 27th and Monday, January 28th, the American Medical Students’ Association held their hugely successful third annual rally and lobby day in Sacramento, which included a daylong training that drew nearly 400 med students from all over the state. The fact that so many overworked medical students spent an entire weekend, even taking a rare day off from school, to advocate for single payer health care shows an unparalleled level of dedication and passion. AMSA students give every single payer supporter hope and inspiration as they push for passage of the bill.

Single payer advocates are also busy preparing for a historical strategy summit taking place in Los Angeles later this month that will bring together representatives from the broad coalition of organizations dedicated to bringing single payer to California. . . . It’s the kind of grassroots movement that has been largely absent in the history of health reform, and it’s just one example of the changing landscape of health care politics.

On that note, my “leisure” reading lately is a book called *One Nation Uninsured: Why the US Has No National Health Insurance*. It chronicles the 20th century’s long line of failed attempts at achieving national health insurance. There’s an unmistakable pattern to each major attempt, in that there seems to have been an attempt once every decade and,

each time national health insurance is within our grasp, it is defeated with a capitulatory “compromise.”

I couldn’t help but notice that, historically, the compromises are forged by the exact same powerful interests every time, working like scavengers randomly picking through the ideas of national health insurance, with little consideration given to whether any “reform” was actually going to improve the health care system for the average American. . . .

The litmus test for “politically feasible” has historically been largely defined by where doctors, insurers, business and labor stood on the issue. Throughout the last century, there was no grassroots group as singularly focused on the passage of single payer health care as the physicians and insurers were opposed to it. That’s changed considerably, especially in California, as the 500 or so organizations that support SB 840 continue their evolution into an effective coalition that works tirelessly (and largely under the radar of many in Sacramento) to educate and organize Californians on universal health care.

More importantly, groups that traditionally oppose single payer, like physicians, are no longer unified against it. The American College of Physicians made history last year in their endorsement of single payer and the California Medical Association includes a large and growing minority of members that strongly support single payer. [She also mentions the American Medical Students Association and the California Nurses Association.] Their dedication unites with that of organizations like Health Care for All – California, school employees, the League of Women Voters, retired teachers, and others who are deeply embedded in communities across the state.

The lesson that advocates of single payer should take from history is to observe how the AMA was able to defeat national health insurance through steady community education and organizing. This is why single payer has the best shot, politically, as well as on a policy basis, for winning passage. Only single-payer boasts the kind of unified and dedicated grassroots movement for something that makes large reform possible.

In the midst of an unprecedented and inspiring presidential primary, the theme for 2008 is unmistakable - it’s time to have hope.

Why I Joined the League by April Halprin Wayland

I grew up in a large, warm, Jewish extended family—my mother had twelve brothers and sisters, I had twenty-two cousins. Uncle Raphael Konigsberg, the oldest of the siblings, was someone we all looked up to.

Raphael was a social worker at the City of Hope Hospital by day and a law student at night. The whole family rejoiced when he passed the California bar exam.

But it was 1954—the height of the McCarthy era. Uncle Raphael was called before the House Un-American Activities Committee for investigation of his political affiliations and opinions. He would not answer the questions put to him. He was banned from practicing law.

His case went to the U.S. Supreme Court twice. Finally, twenty-five years after he was denied the right to practice law, Uncle Raphael was vindicated.

His case is still taught in law schools across the country.

Before I cast my first vote in high school, I phoned Uncle Raphael. We all did. He knew the judges, he understood the issues, and he explained them to us so that we could make our own decisions. I counted on his help before each election. Uncle Raphael was my voting guru.

These days, to my surprise, friends come to *me* for advice on the issues, on the judges. So, before every election, I create a website for my friends. But Uncle Raphael is no longer around, so I have to do my own research. And my research always starts with the League.

In our recent primary, I went to the League’s forum on the propositions completely confused. The members of the panel did their job admirably—when I left the meeting, I felt I could explain the propositions to my friends.

Thank goodness for the League—my guide in the increasingly confusing labyrinth of propositions, compacts and constitutional amendments on our ballots!

These days, the League of Women Voters is my voting guru.

Why did you join the League? We want to hear from you. Send your story (short or long) to editor@beachvoter.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 Susan Grebe (rgrebe6072@aol.com or 310/545-2097). 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 _____

April 7 Monday	7:00 PM– 8:45 PM	Symposium on Education in the South Bay: Breakthroughs and Challenges. Sponsored by LWVBC and the Redondo Beach Public Library.	Redondo Beach Main Library 2nd Floor Meeting Room 303 N. Pacific Coast Hwy, R.B.
April 26 Saturday	9:30 AM– 12:30 PM	Ballot Briefing for State Primary Election. Training in presenting Pros and Cons. Park in the parking structure and enter by library side door.	East Los Angeles Library 4801 East 3rd Street (just off the 710 freeway) Los Angeles 90023
April 28 Monday	7:00 PM– 9:30 PM	Board Meeting. 7 PM-social. Meeting starts promptly at 7:15.	At home of Mignon Thiem-Murphy
May 10 Saturday	10:00 AM– 1:00 PM	LWV-Beach Cities Annual Meeting Speaker: Alex Areyan, "Mexican Americans in Redondo and Hermosa Beach." Bring a salad to share with 6-8 persons and your meeting kit.	At home of Linda Mack
May 17-18 Sat.- Sun.		LWV of California Leadership Council 2008 More details at www.lwvc.org	Holiday Inn Capitol Plaza 300 J Street Sacramento, CA 95814
May 31 Saturday	10:00 AM– 12:30 PM	Public Workshop for input to Redondo Beach Growth Management and Traffic Committee	Knob Hill Community Center 320 Knob Hill Ave., R.B.
June 3 Tuesday	7:00 AM– 8:00 PM	California State Primary Election.	Check www.smartvoter.org for election information.



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Manhattan Beach, CA 90266

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