



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS  
OF THE BEACH CITIES

# THE BEACH VOTER

The League of Women Voters of the Beach Cities

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

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

## Kudos to the LWV at Tri-League Lasagna Supper Joan Arias

Representatives of the Tri-League group - Beach Cities, Palos Verdes and Torrance Leagues - met at the Nakano Theater in Torrance to hear an informative presentation by Erika Bonilla, Acting Executive Liaison Officer for the Deputy Registrar, County of Los Angeles. After Jan Nathanson introduced key League members present and Julie Rajan, WVC board member, reviewed the recent LWV-California press release in opposition to Propositions 1A, 1C, 1D and 1E (to be on the May 19 Special Election ballot), Ms. Bonilla began her presentation by thanking the League of Women Voters for their long history of collaboration with the LA County Registrar of Voters and for our non-partisan civic engagement. She noted that she had always found us well versed in all the matters that were before the voters of Los Angeles County.

She continued with a discussion of the efforts the Registrar's office had made in preparation for the November 2008 elections, future activities planned to make sure that we are prepared for the coming elections, and for a transition to newer modernized voting systems.

Ms. Bonilla called the November elections "an amazing election on all fronts" that "hit records on many levels." She pointed to the record level of new registrations and noted that by the end of the election period Los Angeles County voters had turned in 3.3 Million ballots with a record 82% turnout! She described the voter engagement campaign of the Registrar's Office, the public service announcements, the Office's partnering with community groups, the Los Angeles Dodgers and UCLA Football supporters to engage people in their everyday activities with special focus on underserved communities.

She pointed to the Voter Registrar web site - [www.lavote.net](http://www.lavote.net) that will allow the voting public to check on their registration status and make sure they are properly registered.

Future activities are complicated by the number of vacancy elections coming up (one example is the replacement election for Hilda Solis, now part of the Obama Cabinet). She noted that the Registrar's Office foresees a "trickle down" of all the vacancy elections that promise to make 2009 a very busy year.

She talked about the Registrar's effort to identify voting systems that are both compliant with State and Federal laws and that meet the needs of Los Angeles County's diverse community. Voting community includes many speakers of languages other than English and people whose disabilities make voting a challenge. We have six unanticipated elections coming up as well as the consolidated elections in November.

The current voting system, meant to be interim, is still in effect pending a solution that is both technologically more advanced and compliant. Ms. Bonilla gave a history of the attempted punch card to touch screen evolution made possible by Proposition 41. She also noted that the 2002 Help America Vote Act was geared toward technology that would meet the requirements and she highlighted Debra Bowen's top to bottom review of voting systems. We are still "navigating through the State and Federal guidelines" to make sure that voting systems address all our needs and this year the Registrar of Voters will convene a panel to discuss an equitable voting system.

Although we are working to modernize voter registration, the system will not be ready for our next election on May 19 and we are still "paper-based." Ms. Bonilla made sure to highlight the League of Women Voters as a key organization as LA County works to modernize. She called out Margo Reid and Frances Talbott-White as having been enthusiastic and helpful collaborators in the last election.

The State is putting out an RFP (Request for Proposal) to create uniform statewide voter registration databases that will help make the process more effective and efficient in the future.

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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Thanks to all of our generous League Members, the contributions for the Non-Event are still pouring in. All donations, no matter the amount are welcome. There is still time to respond and be included in this yearly event. We haven't received our usual contributions this year so if you haven't responded please do.

Below are the members who have already sent in their contribution.

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**Website Links**  
**Doris Rosenberg**

- |                     |  |
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| LWV United States   | <a href="http://www.lwv.org">www.lwv.org</a>                           |
| LWV California      | <a href="http://www.lwvc.org">www.lwvc.org</a>                         |
| LWV LA County       | <a href="http://www.lacilo.ca.lwvnet.org">www.lacilo.ca.lwvnet.org</a> |
| LWV Beach Cities    | <a href="http://www.beachvoter.org">www.beachvoter.org</a>             |
| Smart Voter         | <a href="http://www.smartvoter.org">www.smartvoter.org</a>             |
| Secretary of State  | <a href="http://www.ss.ca.gov">www.ss.ca.gov</a>                       |
| California Senate   | <a href="http://www.senate.ca.gov">www.senate.ca.gov</a>               |
| California Assembly | <a href="http://www.assembly.ca.gov">www.assembly.ca.gov</a>           |

**"Catch the Wave to the Future"—LWVC Convention 2009**

The 2009 LWVC Convention will take place from May 15 through May 17 at the Marriott Hotel in Long Beach. California League members meet in convention to adopt program, elect officers and directors, learn and advocate at workshops and caucuses, network with other Leaguers, and purchase League publications and gifts.

Please check the [Convention Blog](#) for details about workshop offerings, speakers, registration, and a link to the hotel to make your reservations at the reduced convention rate. The deadline for registration and to reserve a hotel room at the special rate is April 23, 2009.



Join Us in Making Democracy Work at [www.lwv.org](http://www.lwv.org)

League of Women Voters  
1730 M Street, NW, Suite 1000  
Washington, DC 20036  
Mary G. Wells, President, LWVUS

**LEAGUE FORUM ON FOSTER CARE  
Harriet Chase**

It takes a village to raise a foster child. There are many ways to help change the life of a child, small and large. Join sponsors LWVBC, Redondo Beach Public Library, and the Children's Law Center of Los Angeles in a Foster Care Forum to find out how you can get involved and make a difference.

Hear from Leslie Starr Heimov, Executive Director of the Children's Law Center of LA, who will give an overview of the Los Angeles County Foster Care System. Young adults recently exited from the foster care system, will talk about what made a difference in their lives. Agencies and organizations will present volunteer activities and the process for getting involved. The forum will be held, Tuesday, April 21, from 7 - 8:45 p.m. at the Redondo Beach Main Library, 303 N Pacific Coast Highway. Contact: [harriet@beachvoter.org](mailto:harriet@beachvoter.org).

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.

For membership. Send check (payable to the League of Women Voters –Beach Cities) to Peggy Bartlett at 701 13<sup>th</sup> Street, Manhattan Beach, CA 90266)

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

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Interest \_\_\_\_\_

**Calendar – Peggy Bartlett**

<b>Thursday, April, 21, 7:00pm</b>	<b>Foster Care Forum, Redondo Beach Library, 303 N. Pacific Coast Hwy., RB</b>
<b>Monday, April 27, 7:00pm</b>	<b>Board Meeting, Home of Susan Grebe, 310-545-2097</b>
<b>Saturday, May 9, 10:00am</b>	<b>Annual Meeting, Home of Ann Martin, 310-372-2823</b>
<b>Fri-Sun, May 15 – 17<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>LWV California State Convention, Long Beach Marriot, 4700 Airport Plaza Dr., LB</b>



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