



League of Women Voters Beach Cities

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The Beach Voter

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS of the BEACH CITIES SENDS DELEGATES TO LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS NATIONAL MEETING

Fatima Malik and Wendy Phillips Take Part in 2010 Convention in Atlanta marking organization's 90th anniversary

The League of Women Voters of the Beach Cities was represented by Fatima Malik and Wendy Phillips at the 2010 League of Women Voters of the United States (LWVUS) biennial national Convention June 11-15, 2010 in Atlanta, GA. Malik and Phillips were among nearly 700 delegates from throughout the nation in attendance.

Our delegates were welcomed to the conference by iconic civil rights leader Congressman John Lewis, who represents Atlanta. Secretary of Health & Human Services Kathleen Sebelius addressed the delegates praising the League's efforts on health care reform, and Speaker Nancy Pelosi sent 90th anniversary greetings via video. Eight former national League presidents – all those still living – were in attendance and reflected on each of their presidencies, spanning the 1960s to the present. Podcasts of these historical talks are now available on the League of Women Voters website (www.lwv.org) in the *For Members* section under the *Council & Convention* page.

While in Atlanta, Malik and Phillips attended workshops and caucuses, and discussed many of the critical issues facing citizens across the nation, including global climate change, healthcare reform, elections and voting rights, redistricting reform and more. Delegates elected Elisabeth MacNamara of Atlanta president along with a new Board of Directors, passed the LWVUS budget, and voted on LWVUS public policy positions for the next two years, including voting to study the federal role in education policy and privatization. The study of the federal role in public education will focus on education policymaking, with possible consideration of funding, common standards and governance relationships among all levels of the government. The study on privatization will research the policy agenda to transfer government functions, services and assets to the private sector.

“I was proud to represent the LWV of the Beach Cities at Convention 2010 for the first time,” Malik said. “I learned many new things and brought back important ideas for our League to use in our community.”

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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 Beach Voter

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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.

For membership. Send check in the amount of \$55.00 (payable to the League of Women Voters –Beach Cities) to Peggy Bartlett at 701 13th Street, Manhattan Beach, CA 90266)

Name _____ Phone _____ Email _____

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Interview with Assemblymember Steven C. Bradford (51st District)

On July 22, 2010, LWVBC Board members, Joan Arias, Jan Nathanson and Susan Grebe interviewed Assemblymember Steven C. Bradford in his Inglewood office.

We asked the following questions:

1. Budget Dilemmas: How will you prioritize the choices the Legislature needs to make to align the state's spending and revenue in a way that addresses the need for fair, sufficient and flexible revenue sources that can provide for state and local government services?

ANSWER: We shouldn't cut from the neediest: seniors, children, education. We need to set good priorities. If the State doesn't make these priorities, it'll fall on local communities who are in worse shape! We can't look at cuts alone; we must balance with needs and those who deserve help. We need to look at how can we make up deficits with a growing population: more homeless, more unemployed, emancipated youth coming out of foster care who need homes, an aging population. There are matching funds from the Federal Government so that when we talk about cutting – for example – home health care – that also eliminates the federal match! So we lose the programs altogether. If we don't put up our State funds, we lose the Federal money. For example, school lunch meals work that way with a 50-100% match. We have a greater need in the Lawndale and Hawthorne school districts with a higher “take rate” and for some children it's the only meal they get in a day.

2. The Budget Process: What proposals do you support to fix the budget process?

ANSWER: We need to move from a 2/3 majority requirement to a simple majority of 50% plus 1. Only 3 other (smaller) states have a 2/3 requirement. We can do that with some caveats – for example if we can't reach a simple majority within the first month, then we can move to 2/3 requirement. There's not enough crossover these days especially in a term-limit environment in which everyone is risk averse. It's being discussed. We need to educate the voters so they understand that a 2/3 majority requirement handicaps government from getting work done. We've discussed going to a 2-year cycle but coming from my local (Gardena) experience where they had a 2-year cycle, I believe one year gives us greater oversight and accountability. If you have an annual cycle, things don't slip through the cracks so much. IF you go to a 2-year cycle, you need a pay-as-you-go system so we don't keep relying on “next year's money.” We have hurt local governments. We want to give money back to local governments for social services; they actually provide the services. We call our budget proposal a “jobs budget” because it protects jobs. The Governor's budget eliminates jobs and our budget protects the ones the government wants to eliminate. We're looking at many ways to raise revenues; I feel that people aren't completely averse to rate increases if it solves the problems that exist and if the money will fix things; they want to know that the money will be used to solve the problems. We can't keep raising revenues and not manage the money well.

3. Constitutional Reform: What types of reforms do you think are important to make government function more effectively?

ANSWER: We need to move from a requirement for a 2/3 majority to a simple majority. and amend term limits. That isn't a selfish statement! I am chair of the Utilities and Commerce Committee and I have experience but most new freshmen can't chair a committee of that size. Turnover is hurting us. Look at the bills that have come out from freshmen– most are authored and promoted and sponsored by lobbyists. Look at the sponsors. I had experience with local government so I'm different in some ways but you don't have that with term limits.

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Environmental News

By Maggie Wilkinson

Over the summer months, National LWV has continued to lobby the Senate to pass climate change and clean energy legislation. The House of Representatives passed climate change legislation earlier this year but the Senate does not have sufficient support for the legislation. Several letters supporting the adoption of climate change/clean energy legislation were signed by the LWV US along with a number of environmental organizations and sent recently to members of the US Senate. If you are interested in following the actions of the LWV US, you can log onto the LWV US website and go the Issues section and then to Issue Priorities. Considerable information is available regarding Global Climate Change and recently they asked individuals to respond to a Call to Action by signing onto a letter addressed to our Senators.

In addition to participating in the lobbying activities regarding the Climate Change/Energy Legislation, LWV US has also put together a Tool Kit for Climate Action that provides information and guidance on how local leagues can play a role in educating our communities about global climate change and the need for strong action to reduce greenhouse gases. If you might be willing to participate in this effort for our league, please give me a call. As for the situation here in California, we do have effective legislation at the State level that requires reducing greenhouse gas emissions that cause global warming – the 2006 Global Warming Solutions Act (AB 32). However, two Texas oil companies have put a measure on the November ballot – Proposition 23 – that would suspend AB 32, until California's unemployment rate drops to 5.5% or less for four consecutive quarters. The measure would require the state to abandon implementation of this comprehensive greenhouse-gas-reduction program which includes increased renewable energy, cleaner fuel requirements, and mandatory emission reporting and fee requirements for major polluters such as power plants and oil refineries, until the suspension is lifted. The California LWV has taken a position opposing Prop. 23 and we are being asked to help educate the public about the negative effects of Prop 23. Our next Beach Cities Voter will provide more information about League's efforts regarding this proposition.

Maggie Wilkinson 310-322-7870

Our members don't have experience and connections. Turnover is making our lives very difficult. There is no long-term stability. About the initiative process, we have too much government by initiative. Legislators are risk averse; we're letting residents do our job for us. We shouldn't turn over legislative and judicial tasks to residents. Governing is not a business for popularity; it's for making decisions and serving the state. Look at Proposition 16 – the utilities proposition on the June election ballot. That was an example of the self-serving utilities trying to convince voters to take local control away! Cities need the ability to make those decisions. It made me feel good, restored my confidence in the voters that this one was defeated. After the recent Supreme Court ruling allowing unlimited corporate funding, citizen politicians may be going away. People will buy offices either with corporate or self-funding. This Supreme Court ruling was one of the worst ever. It equated money with free speech and allows unlimited money to be spent for lies and misinformation. Labor can't ever build a match for corporate America; it's not a level playing field. But sometimes that doesn't work – look at the example of Betsy Butler who won the election despite extensive spending against her. And look at the PG&E proposition that lost. As for a constitutional convention, I don't think we can pull together a focused discussion of all key areas. I don't see it coming together in the short term. We need to focus on specific areas rather than on the whole Constitution. It's too big.

4. What other major issues do you think the Legislature must address in 2010? What are your priorities?

ANSWER: As I said initially, the social services are most important and need to be protected. We also need to reprioritize education. We need to keep our work force educated otherwise how can we be a competitive state. We need to reinstitute the value of manual labor; that's what built this country and yet we devalue it. College isn't for everyone and there aren't enough seats! As Chair of Utilities, it's a monolithic message that doesn't work, like California we need diversity. We need to move forward and protect the rate payers, providing a reliable product that is diverse. We need to establish a renewable portfolio standard (RPS). I'm afraid that when we set targets and deadlines the rate payers suffer because the regulations outrun the technology. We need goals and objectives; we don't need to be trapped by deadlines and targets. PG&E has had a bad time with residents because they rolled out technology before it was ready and we need to do this in a measured step. We need to be careful with mandates for technology that isn't ready for “prime time.” As for water, we look at it as part of electricity and power and energy but it's part of Natural Resources. My committees are: Housing and Community, Appropriations, Local Government, and Procurement. I am no longer on the Insurance Committee or on Government Ops. None of my bills has reached the Governor's desk but the one with the greatest potential to do so is my bill related to surrogacy. It is a bill that controls the financial side of surrogacy and it represents a big need in California.



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PROGRAM PLANNING UPDATE FOR 2010-2011

Jan Nathanson, Program Chair

The Board of Directors of the LWVBC met at their annual retreat and considered several program priorities for the coming League year. We were honored to have in attendance the President of LWVC, our own Janis Hirohama. She gave us an update on the ballot measure positions for the November election. As a result of her inspiring presentation, the decision was made to offer an Action Program in September or October and a meeting on the Pros and Cons for members and the public. Janis told us that Redistricting is nearing completion of the first phase of selecting a Commission. Be watching for information and a possible program update on this important topic. Our thanks to Janis Hirohama and also to Wendy Phillips, who offered a power-point overview of Redistricting and the selection process.

LWVUS , at their recent convention adopted two new studies: The Federal Role in Education and Privatization. We are excited about embarking on either one or both of these studies. If you are interested in servicing on a study committee at the national or local level, please contact our co-president, Fatima Malik, who attended the convention. Margaret Thelen, Education Director or Jan Nathanson, Program Vice President.

Ten of our members attended the LWVLAC summer League Day in Pasadena and were enthusiastic about the continuation of the Jail Study, which will be reaching consensus later in the League year. An impressive study guide has been completed and is ready for the yet to be appointed local study committee. If you are interested in participating, please contact Jan at 310-643-6247 at your earliest convenience.

If you would like to join us for a final celebration of the League 's 90th birthday, there is a trip to Heritage Square Museum on August 26th sponsored by the League of Women Voters of Los Angeles.. They are planning a picnic pot luck and tour of the museum, which features the history of the 90th anniversary of women 's suffrage. For more details go to their website <http://www.lwvlosangeles.org> . Finally, don 't miss the TRI-LEAGUE (Torrance, Palos Verde and Beach Cities) Kickoff Breakfast on August 28th. See the enclosed flyer for more information.

Our apologies to new member Tina Phillips who was listed as Tiny Phillips in our last Voter

LWV Celebrates Women's Equality Day and the 90th Anniversary Of the 19th Amendment - Giving Women The Right to Vote!

On February 14, 1920, with passage of the 19th Amendment imminent, suffragists met to transform the movement into the League of Women Voters to help educate women to be responsible voters. On August 26, 1920, just days after Tennessee became the thirty-sixth (and last-needed) state to ratify the amendment, the Secretary of State signed the proclamation enacting the 19th Amendment giving women the right to vote.

Because of this important history, The League of Women Voters, more than any other organization, "owns" August 26th, Women's Equality Day, and should be celebrating it every year—especially in 2010, the 90th anniversary of the passage of the 19th Amendment. While we will be celebrating the League's 90th anniversary all through 2009-2010, we should be giving August 26, 2010, equal importance—involving everyone in our communities, not just League members.

Brief History

Elizabeth Cady Stanton and others first seriously proposed women's right to vote at Seneca Falls, N.Y., on July 19, 1848. Prior to this time, Susan B. Anthony was active in the women's temperance movement, but when she met Stanton in 1851, they joined forces and worked together over the next half of the century—and what a force they were. Although they both died before the goal was reached, they lived long enough to see significant progress and were primarily responsible for the ultimate success. Carrie Chapman Catt, founder and early leader of the League of Women Voters, younger than Anthony and Stanton, entered the struggle later and became a leader in the suffragist movement that helped lead it to victory with passage of the 19th Amendment in 1920.

League's Mission—Educate Current and Future Generations on the History

The sacrifices these three made to win the right to vote for women is amazing and one that few people recognize today. In most cases, they gave their lives to the movement. Becoming public advocates at the time for this or any movement, meant that they were living lives and playing roles in a totally unconventional, unacceptable, inappropriate manner—to many they were pariahs. It is impossible to even conceive of how difficult their lives were, what hardships they endured—public humiliation, terms in jail, ridicule—and they did it so that women of yesterday, today and tomorrow can exercise their right to vote.

Recently, a group of college women—graduate and undergraduate students, as well as faculty—attended a showing of *Iron Jawed Angels*. At the end of the film the auditorium sat in stunned silence. When the moderator opened discussion, one after the other of the women said in voices filled with emotion and in a variety of ways, "I had no idea what they went through." And they were not alone. Without reminders, few of us can really know what they endured throughout their lives.

Article reprinted from the LWWVNC Voter

CALENDAR

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|----------------------------------|--|---|---|
| Aug 26 Thursday | 12 noon 2 PM | LWV Los Angeles Women's Equality Day | Heritage Square Museum 3800 Homer Street Highland Park |
| Aug 28 Saturday | 9 AM 11 AM | Kickoff Breakfast | Marie Callendar's 21211 Hawthorne Blvd. Torrance Ca |
| Sept 14 Tuesday | 7 PM 9:30 PM | Board Meeting | Home of Susan Grebe |
| Sept 28 Tuesday | 7 PM 8:30 PM | General Meeting Vote with the League | M.B. Library 1320 Highland Ave. Manhattan Beach |
| Welcome to new Members | Sari Brann Barbara Paulson Ruth Hoffman | El Segundo Hawthorne Hermosa Beach | |



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