



The Beach Voter

League of Women Voters Beach Cities

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

Global Day of Climate Action *Working Together to Protect Our Planet*

Remember our human tide line* along the beach last October? We were part of a nationwide group asking for climate change action at the Copenhagen talks. This year, on **10-10-10 (Sunday, October 10th)**, the city of Manhattan Beach will be hosting an all-day Sustainability Summit that is part of the global movement to get communities together that day to talk about the solutions to climate change.

At the national level, the LWVUS believes that now is the time to act on global climate change and is urging local Leagues to participate in activities to promote awareness of climate change on October 10th. At the local level, our Beach Cities League will join other environmentalists and vendors for Manhattan Beach's Sustainability Summit on 10-10-10. The purpose of the actions that day will be to help the public understand what individuals can do to address the climate change problem, to garner media attention, and to send a message to decision-makers at all levels that it's time for them to address the problem. Below are highlights from this day of eco-activism on 10-10-10:

10:00 to 12:30 – Panel discussion at the Manhattan Beach City Hall (1400 Highland) on climate change, energy efficiency, and water conservation through sustainable landscaping – please contact Sona Kalapura at 310-820-5058 or skalapura@citymb.info if you'd like to reserve a seat for this.

From 11:00 to 4:00, there will be an Eco-Fair where green technology vendors and solar, water efficiency and environmental organizations will showcase green technologies. The Beach Cities League will be a part of this Eco-Fair, with two booths – one to register voters, and the other to provide voter information on League recommendations for the November ballot measures – **with special emphasis to vote NO on Prop 23!** We'll be on 13th Street between Morningside and Valley (where the Farmers Market is held). In addition, there will be a “work party” event outside city hall designed to teach participants how to plant and maintain a beautiful California friendly garden using drought tolerant plants.

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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 _____

Address _____

Tri-League Kickoff Breakfast – August 28, 2010 at Marie Callender's Restaurant, Torrance

Joan Arias Reporting

Mr. Marvin Martinez, new president of Harbor College, outlined his vision for Community Colleges at the League of Women Voters' Tri-league Kickoff breakfast held at Marie Callender's restaurant on Saturday, August 28, 2010. Mr. Martinez holds AB (English) and MA (urban planning) degrees from UCLA and has significant experience in education and at the Community College level at both Santa Monica Community College and within the Los Angeles Community College district. The District named him Harbor president in July.

The child of immigrants from El Salvador, Mr. Martinez grew up in Long Beach and attended local schools. He has a deep and personal belief in what Community Colleges do and a vision for where he would like to take Harbor College.

He focused on the linkages he has established and will establish with the United States Federal Government, State Government, local industry – especially in the aerospace and healthcare areas – , K-12 school districts and colleges and universities in the area. He pointed to President Obama's grants program and noted that President Obama “put the Community Colleges on the national picture,” allocating many funding resources to Community Colleges. While many colleges are not prepared to take advantage of these resources, Mr. Martinez assured us that he will! He cautioned that while Community Colleges do a great job of providing access with open admission, the big challenge Harbor and other Community Colleges face is the level of success. Many students who enroll do not complete their programs and have a problem finding jobs. Martinez pointed to the “American Graduation Initiative” which means that Community Colleges can not measure their success by providing access. Martinez is working to develop external links to government and local industries to ensure that students link to the “real world” as they study. He described legislation in Sacramento that looks at transfer rates, completion and graduation rates. He predicted that within 5-10 years the Community Colleges will be held more accountable for helping students succeed and he has delivered this message in his talks with Harbor faculty. He names this the “Student Success” policy.

Martinez described the high school located on the Harbor campus from which students graduate with a diploma and an AA degree. He described his work with the Los Angeles Unified School District to grow that school from 400 to 650 students and his hope that the LAUSD will develop other similar high schools. He also commented on his own review of the Harbor programs to make sure that Harbor prepares students for careers. He wants to strengthen the Harbor STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Math) program by linking to local aerospace corporations who are seeking new people to replace an aging workforce. He pointed to funding from the Federal Government for STEM and for health care careers and pointed to the challenge facing Harbor College to meet the needs of our local industries.

Another challenge facing Harbor relates to the skill levels of new students. Mr. Martinez noted that many students reach Harbor with low level skills and he hopes that linkages with local K-12 schools will help strengthen those skills so that when students reach college they are prepared for coursework at college level.

Mr. Martinez talked about his desire to link with the Port of Los Angeles, the largest employer in the City of Los Angeles. Harbor needs to supply a workforce to help manage the Port and fill the many job openings related to the port going “green.” Martinez described his efforts to push the faculty to ensure that Harbor's programs relate to jobs in the local area and to programs at UCLA and other local universities: oceanography, marine biology, engineering, healthcare.

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Ready - Set - Vote

As Tuesday, November 2nd, draws near, League is gearing up to full election mode. There will be three Pros and Cons presented this election period that are open to everyone. ***The Pros and Cons presentations are part of the League's education effort and measures are presented without bias and without the League's recommendations.*** The Manhattan Library has asked us to present the Pros and Cons this Monday night, September 27th at 6:30 PM in their meeting room. Our League is sponsoring a presentation of the Pros & Cons on Thursday, October 7th starting at 7 PM in the Manhattan Beach City Council Chambers. Finally, we will be presenting on Wednesday morning, October 13th at 10 AM in the Joyslyn Center in Manhattan Beach. This presentation is sponsored by the Manhattan Beach Older Adults Group. In addition to the open meetings mentioned above, we will be making presentations to other various civic and religious groups. If you belong to a group that would like a presentation, there is still time to schedule one. *Contact Barbara Arlow 310 379-6663 with any requests.*

In addition to the Pros and Cons we also present a separate meeting called ***"Vote with the League"***. This is presented by our Action arm. ***In this meeting we will present the League's views on the ballot measures.*** When a ballot measure appears that touches a subject we have studied and have taken a position on we will make recommendations and tell you why we feel either "yea, nay or neutral". Our Vote with the League meeting will be taking place just days before the election. There is only one of these meetings scheduled and it will take place on Tuesday, October 26th at 7 PM at the Manhattan Beach Library.

LOOKING AHEAD

We are fortunate to be starting a new year at LWVBC with a capable and talented board. But as your nominating committee, we must keep thinking ahead, and we are asking for suggestions for the next year of 2011 - 2012. As you are working with the League this fall and note someone (even yourself) who would make a good leader, please submit the name to a member of the nominating committee. Thank You.

Ann Martin, Chair, Doris Rosenberg and Carol Wagner Vallianos



WE'RE ON
FACEBOOK!



We are now on **Facebook!** Search: **LWV Beach Cities** under the "pages" tab and click  button to get updates on seminars, workshops, pictures, relevant news stories and commentaries. The newest way to get all the latest on the League! www.facebook.com

1:30 to 3:30 – Work party outside City Hall, to teach participants how to plant and maintain a beautiful California friendly garden using drought tolerant plants.

All League members and families are urged to attend this important event and to invite neighbors and friends to attend. If you would like to assist at either of the LWV Beach Cities' booths, please contact me. For more information regarding the activities of the day, check the website at www.sb350.pbworks.com/Manhattan+Beach+10-10-10 .

Maggie Wilkinson

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310- 322-7870

- Check out the video of our amazing waving human tideline!

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ebix5VQPtOY>

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Martinez described his own skill at getting resources from the Government and he pointed to the solid financial resources in the District. He vowed that Harbor will get out of deficit and create an innovative and collaborative environment on campus. He sees a significant part of his job as reaching out and letting the community know about Harbor.

He talked about his own career and the circuitous path he took from his UCLA graduation with a BA in English to his current position as president of Harbor College, the people who influenced him and his hopes that students at Harbor will find the same inspiration he found as a young man.

In response to the many questions asked by the 40 attendees, he talked about the increased number of full-time students (as a result of the economic downturn and lack of job opportunities, many students are now full-time) and the challenges of meeting the needs of increased class sizes combined with a lack of basic skills on the part of many of the students and a faculty that remains heavily part-time. He pointed to his efforts to find resources and ways to give students external experiences beyond the classroom. He asked the League of Women Voters to offer opportunities to students as part of his philosophy of collaboration at all levels. He invited the League to spend a day at Harbor College, to tour the college and to get a personal view of the College and the opportunities the College offers its students. He re-emphasized the problems related to measuring success and his current efforts to define success in a meaningful way.

The Tri-League League of Women Voters organization: Beach Cities, Palos Verdes and Torrance Leagues, expressed their deep appreciation to Mr. Martinez for his engaging discussion and indicated that we would indeed accept his invitation for a "look-see" visit.

CALENDAR

Sept 27 Monday	6:30 PM	Pros and Cons on the Nov 2, 2010 Ballot Measures Sponsored by the MB Library	M.B. Library 1320 Highland Ave. Manhattan Beach
Sept 28 Tuesday		Meeting Rescheduled for Tuesday Oct 26th	
Oct 7th Thursday	7 PM	Pros and Cons on the Nov 2, 2010 Ballot Measures	M.B. City Council Chambers 1400 Highland Ave., M.B.
Oct 12 Tuesday	7 PM	Board Meeting	Home of Michelle Murphy
Oct 13 Wednesday	10 AM	Manhattan Beach Older Adults Pros and Cons	Joslyn Center 1601 Valley Dr. M.B.
Oct 26 Tuesday	7 PM	General Meeting Vote with the League	M.B. Library 1320 Highland Ave., M.B.

Remember the Sustainability Summit 10-10-10



League of Women Voters of the Beach Cities
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