



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

SMARTVOTER COVERS UPCOMING ELECTIONS

Tip O'Neill said "All politics are local." As Leaguers, we know it takes a lot of elections to keep local politics in business. From our special primary election for the 53rd Assembly District on September 13th, to city and school board elections throughout the South Bay on November 8th, the League's award-winning website – www.smartvoter.org – will be offering up-to-date profiles of your candidates along with well-organized links to media coverage.

Want to keep up with the latest on statewide initiatives that have qualified for the ballot? Again – your answer is www.smartvoter.org.

Check it out! And contact Wendy Phillips (wendy@beachvoter.org) with any questions or comments.

SPECIAL PRIMARY

A special primary election is scheduled for September 13 to replace 53rd District Assemblymember Mike Gordon, who died on June 25 of complications from a brain tumor. In the running are three Republicans (Mary Jo Ford, Paul Nowatka and Paul Whitehead), one Democrat (Ted. W. Lieu) and one Peace and Freedom Candidate (James R. Smith).

A light turnout is predicted. We can help boost it by reminding friends and neighbors to vote and that they can find their polling place on www.smartvoter.org.

SETTING OFF ON A NEW LEAGUE YEAR

Please join us on Saturday morning, September 17, 2005, from 9 to 11:30 a.m. at the Bluewater Grill in Redondo Beach to hear 51st District Assemblymember Jerome E. Horton at the Annual Tri-League Kickoff Breakfast Buffet

See details page 3.



DID YOU KNOW?

TO BE ABLE TO VOTE YOU MUST REGISTER AT LEAST 15 DAYS PRIOR TO ELECTION DAY. A POSTMARK ON THE 15TH DAY PRIOR IS ACCEPTABLE.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Kickoff Breakfast	Page 3
Redistricting - Where WE Stand	Pages 3 & 7
Upcoming Local Events	Page 4
Homeland Security and Civil Liberties	Page 5
League Ballot Recommendations	Page 6

FROM THE BEACH VOTER EDITORS

The League of Women Voters is a non-partisan organization open to all citizens of voting age. Young people and non-citizens may join as associate members. The League's mission is to promote political responsibility through informed and active participation in government. The League never supports or opposes any political candidate. The League advocates on issues that members have studied and on which members have reached consensus.

Beach Voter

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- Herbert R. Mosley
Henrietta E. Mosley

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It's autumn again! Time for back-to-school and brownies, for campaigns and krispie krittlers, for pumpkins and Program. Any long-time member of the Beach Cities League knows that.

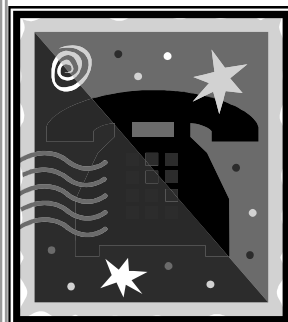
Each year brings a few changes. This year, when we have an Executive Committee instead of a President, the Board decided it would be appropriate to rotate the Column Formerly Known as From the President among the Board Members.

So it is that the Mosleys, co-editors of The Beach Voter, have the pleasure of welcoming you to a new League year. We hope you will find the Voter helpful in tracking public issues and finding ways to participate in the democratic process. We hope the Voter will remain an effective channel of communication between the Beach Cities League's most active members and the membership at large. We also hope it will inspire you to take an active part in our efforts.

We welcome your suggestions and comments. Communication does not have to be a one-way street. Please feel free to get in touch with us: VoterEditor@beachvoter.org.

Henrietta and Herb

WHAT'S NEW UNDER THE SUN?
THE BEACH CITIES LEAGUE HAS A



NEW PHONE NUMBER!

JOT IT DOWN:
310 / 793-0569

REDISTRICTING—Where WE Stand

In 1987 and 1988, the League of Women Voters conducted an extensive study of the redistricting process in California. We immediately applied our resulting position in support of Proposition 119, an unsuccessful attempt to establish an independent commission to draw district lines in California. The next two redistricting plans drawn by the state legislature (in 1991 and 2001) either were rejected by the courts or were widely criticized as being fundamentally flawed. Today we find ourselves in the middle of a sustained public debate on the future of redistricting in California, a debate that will continue for some time.

What does the League have to say about the way California should redistrict? In brief, we support a redistricting process and standards that promote fair and effective representation in the state legislature and in the House of Representatives, with maximum opportunity for public scrutiny of the process. And we support redistricting by a bipartisan commission rather than by the legislature. (Continued on page 7)

TRI-LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS

BEACH CITIES - PALOS VERDES - TORRANCE

ANNUAL KICKOFF BREAKFAST BUFFET

CALIFORNIA'S BUDGET CHALLENGE:

TO LIVE WITHIN ITS MEANS

SPEAKER

JEROME E. HORTON, ASSEMBLYMEMBER, 51ST DISTRICT

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 2005

9:00 A.M. - 11:30 A.M.

BLUEWATER GRILL

665 North Harbor Drive

Redondo Beach 90277

310/318-FISH (3474)

Make check payable to: Tri-League (Deadline – Sept. 10, 2005)

Send to Peggy Bartlett (310) 545-1087 701 13th Street, Manhattan Beach, CA 90266

Number of reservations _____ \$20.00 per person - Check enclosed for \$ _____

Name(s) _____ Phone _____ League _____



LOOKING AHEAD . . .

TO THE MANHATTAN BEACH OLD HOMETOWN FAIR

The weekend of October 1 and 2 will be here before we know it. Time to start baking those brownies and krispie kritters. As always, Peggy Bartlett is prepared to store them in her freezer if you want to get a head start.

Our League relies on the Old Hometown Fair brownie booth and the non-event event in the spring for funding its local activities. This year we will again also have a table set up in the Free Speech Area to register voters and pass out Voters Service information. **WE'LL NEED VOLUNTEERS FOR BOTH -- SO HOLD THE DATE.** More information to come next month.

THE LWV CAN SERVE YOU BEST / IF YOU'LL DIVULGE YOUR WEB ADDRESS

Like other organizations, the LWVUS has discovered that it is quicker, easier and more cost-effective to communicate with its vast grassroots network by e-mail than by U.S. Mail. For two years LWVUS has sought e-mail addresses from its members to provide them with the weekly LWVUS Presidents' Update and monthly electronic e-newsletter, the LeagueVoice. This fall the LWVUS is intensifying its quest by calling on local Leagues to gather as many of their members' addresses as possible.

An additional incentive for making sure your e-mail address is available is the impending launch of a new and improved LWVUS Web site. While the public portion of the website will be accessible to members and nonmembers alike, e-mail addresses will be the primary piece of information needed to give members access to the members-only section.

The Beach Cities LWV also likes to have members' e-mail addresses so we can notify you about upcoming events and calls to action. If you have not shared your e-mail address with us and would like to do so please send an e-mail (what else?) to Susan Grebe, susan@beachvoter.org. Please state whether we have permission to send the address on to LWVUS.

The League never shares your address with other groups.

Smart Voter on the Airwaves

Next time you're trapped in traffic you may hear a familiar name coming from your radio -- Smartvoter.org. KNX-AM 1070 and KFWB-AM 980 will be mentioning the League's award-winning on-line voter service tool on all on-air promotional announcements directing listeners to www.kcbs.com. The stations' newly designed website will feature an array of voter information resources including a prominent link to Smart Voter's personal ballot look-up. With 2 million weekly listeners tuning in to each of these stations, the new partnership with LWV California's Ed Fund should help spread the word that Smartvoter.com is the place to go for voter-specific ballot information.

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.

“LOCAL VOICES” -- A COMMUNITY DIALOG

On Saturday, June 25 Beach Cities members Jan Nathanson and Irma Cohen attended a community dialogue entitled *Local Voices: Citizens Conversations on Civil Liberties and Secure Communities*, one of ten such meetings being sponsored by the LWVUS across the nation to gather input for a report the League will release to Congress and the nation in early September. Delegates to the National Convention in June 2004 directed the LWVUS Board of Directors to make civil liberties issues, in relation to the Patriot Act, a top priority. Provisions of the Patriot Act that would otherwise expire in December are before Congress for reauthorization.

The “Local Voices” meeting featured a variety of perspectives on homeland security measures in relation to the preservation of our civil liberties. Lieutenant John Sullivan of the Los Angeles County Sheriff’s Department, Los Angeles Terrorism Early Warning Group spoke on County homeland security infrastructure, local and federal homeland security funding, security risks and mitigation strategies in Southern California. Each county has a counter-terrorism expert who is responsible for passing information along to the intelligence community. An inter-agency task force set up in 1996 acts as an early warning center for identifying threats to national security.

Pam Noles, Policy Associate, Post-9/11 for the Southern California branch of the American Civil Liberties Union, highlighted threats to the public’s freedom of expression and restrictions on civil liberties under provisions of the Patriot Act to be addressed by the House-Senate conference committee in September. The Specter/Feinstein bill the Senate passed on July 29 would reauthorize expiring provisions of the Patriot Act for four years and place some modest limitations on provisions that curtail freedoms guaranteed by the Constitution. The House bill would make 14 of the 16 expiring provisions permanent and extend the two most intrusive provisions for 10 years with no new safeguards offered. The ACLU regards the House bill as severely flawed.

Ron Paul, Republican Congressman from Texas, noting that the Patriot Act will soon be acted upon, wondered why Congress is so focused on American citizens while Osama Bin Laden and other foreign operatives have not been captured. He noted that constitutions and laws do not keep government in check; only a vigilant population has that power.

The presentations were followed by small group discussion sessions. The views stated in the discussion sessions, as captured in facilitators’ notes at the ten nationwide “Local Voices” meetings, will be fed into the LWVUS report.

Irma Cohen, Membership Development

Editors’ Note: Carole Wagner Vallianos, former LWVC President, LWVUS Board member, civil rights attorney and long-time member and former President of the Beach Cities League, has been appointed as one of two coordinators for the League’s Civil Liberties activities in California. Carole will advise local Leagues on resources for Civil Liberties programs and activities.

THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS RECOMMENDS**NOVEMBER 8, 2005 SPECIAL ELECTION****PROP 73 *Waiting Period and Parental Notification before Termination of Minor's Pregnancy.****** OPPOSE ***

Parents rightfully want to be involved in their teenagers' lives and all parents want what is best for their children. But good family communication can't be imposed by government. Mandatory notification laws may sound good, but in the real world, they just put teenagers in real danger.

PROP 74 *Public School Teachers. Waiting Period for Permanent Status. Dismissal.**** OPPOSE ***

The League supports fair, rigorous, and effective teacher evaluation and tenure procedures. However, this measure raises questions of due process rights and may limit the use of dismissal for cause. It does nothing to encourage teachers to enter and remain in the profession.

PROP 75 *Public Employee Union Dues. Restrictions on Political Contributions. Employee Consent Requirements.* * OPPOSE *

The League supports fair, even-handed campaign finance reform, but this measure is bad policy. It restricts public employee unions' use of member dues for political activity but has no similar constraint on corporations.

PROP 76 *State Spending and School Funding Limits.* * OPPOSE *

This constitutional amendment changes the state's spending cap, increases the governor's power to make budget cuts, and revises the Proposition 98 minimum guarantees for state support of education. It reduces flexibility to address changing needs and will cause cuts in essential services. School funding will be permanently reduced by \$4 billion per year. Our system of checks and balances will be undermined by giving this and all future governors the power to make cuts unilaterally. This is not budget reform!

PROP 78 *Discounts on Prescription Drugs.* * OPPOSE *

There are two prescription drug initiatives on this ballot. Drug companies have contributed over \$50 million to support Proposition 78, an inferior program that depends on their voluntary participation.

PROP 79 *Prescription Drug Discounts. State-Negotiated Rebates.* * SUPPORT *

Proposition 79 offers deeper drug discounts to nearly twice as many Californians as Proposition 78. It has an enforcement mechanism to hold drug companies accountable for providing discounts.

PROP 77 *Reapportionment.* The LWVC has not yet taken a position on this initiative. We have urged the legislature and governor to negotiate to place an alternative measure on the ballot.

Because League positions do not cover the issues in **PROP 80, *Electric Service Providers. Regulation,*** the LWVC is remaining neutral on this initiative.

VOTE WITH THE LEAGUE ON NOVEMBER 8, 2005

REDISTRICTING-- (continued from p. 3)

The standards on which a redistricting plan should be based, regardless of who has responsibility for redistricting, should include (1) substantially equal population, (2) geographic contiguity and (3) protection of the voting strength of a racial or linguistic minority from dilution.

To the extent possible, these standards should also include respect for legal boundaries of cities and counties, and preservation and protection of "communities of interest." On the other hand, the standards should not consider the protection of incumbents or the preferential treatment of any political party.

The League places a good deal of emphasis on the importance of the structure of the redistricting process. It is clear that members feel that how redistricting is done is even more important than who does it. League positions on opportunities for Citizen participation in government decision making, the need for adequate notice of proposed actions and the need for open meetings are all crucial to member understanding of what constitutes a fair redistricting process.

The League believes that the redistricting process should include (1) specific time lines for the steps leading to adoption of the redistricting plan, (2) public hearings on the proposed plan, (3) an

automatic non judicial backup procedure in the event of deadlock and (4) a requirement that any redistricting plan drawn by the legislature be adopted by more than a simple majority vote.

Members prefer redistricting by a commission over redistricting by the legislature. Balance, however, is considered important and commission members should reflect California's diversity of population and varied geography, as well as a balance of economic, social and partisan interests. Members conclude that a redistricting commission would make fair and effective representation a more likely outcome than the decisions of legislators, whose self-interests seem to dominate over their concern for fairness and the common good. Given only two practical choices—legislature or commission—the choice of a commission reflected members dissatisfaction with the legislature's previous redistricting performance as much as enthusiasm for a commission per se.

The questions of who should redistrict California and how such redistricting lines should be drawn are complex. All the criteria involve difficult and controversial definitions and decisions. The League position does not promise panaceas or quick fixes. Rather, it represents a thoughtful reflection on a complex political process and offers balanced suggestions for a road map to navigate the difficult journey.

We're a not-for-profit organization, established in 1920, with the mission of promoting political responsibility through informed and active participation in government. We never support or oppose political candidates. We do advocate on issues that our members have studied and on which we've reached consensus.

All citizens of voting age are welcome to join. Associate membership is open to young people and noncitizens. If you can't attend our monthly meetings and special events, please consider showing your support through your 2005/06 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, you may contact Susan Grebe at susan@beachvoter.org or (310) 545-2097. Or just send your check (payable to the League of Women Voters of the Beach Cities), to Peggy Bartlett at 701 13th St, Manhattan Beach, CA 90266.

Name _____ Telephone _____ E-mail _____

Address _____

Sept 12 Monday	7 pm- 9:30 pm	Board Meeting	At home of Joan Arias.
Sept. 13 Tuesday	7 am - 8 pm	SPECIAL PRIMARY ELECTION 53rd Assembly District	Check www.smartvoter.org for polling place and election information.
Sept. 17 Saturday	10 am- 1 pm	TRI-LEAGUE KICKOFF BREAKFAST hosted by LWV Beach Cities, Palos Verdes and Torrance. Speaker: 51st Dist. Assemblymember Jerome E. Horton. Bring friends!	Bluewater Grill 665 N. Harbor Dr. Redondo Beach, CA 90277
Sept. 15		October <i>Beach Voter</i> Deadline	E-mail articles, pictures, news Subject: "October Voter" to: VoterEditor@beachvoter.org .
October 1 & 2 Saturday & Sunday	10 am- 6 pm	MANHATTAN BEACH OLD HOMETOWN FAIR. Can you bake brownies? Can you work our booths? Contact Peggy Bartlett at 310-545-1087 or Peggy@beachvoter.org	Live Oak Park, Manhattan Beach See www.mbfair.org for fair information.
Oct. 24 Monday		Registration Deadline for SPECIAL STATEWIDE AND CONSOLIDATED ELECTIONS on Tues., NOVEMBER 8.	Check www.smartvoter.org for polling place and election information.

**THERE ARE TWO ELECTIONS THIS FALL.
REMINDE YOUR FRIENDS TO REGISTER AND VOTE.**



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Manhattan Beach, CA 90266

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