



# Beach Cities Voter

September 2003

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**Inside this issue:**

Voter Education	
Recall Election	2-3
Propositions Pros/Cons	4-5
Action and Advocacy	6
Upcoming Events in the Beach Cities	7
Join the League	8

## Co-President's Message

A new LWV season! And what a season it is starting out to be! **THEN:** It looked as if our Voters Service people would have an easy time, with only a few local elections coming up in November. **NOW:** For the first time in history, California voters will decide if the Governor should be recalled — and, at the same time, choose a replacement! Also, two propositions that had been scheduled for the election in March 2004 have been moved up to October 7th. It will be most interesting to see the voter turnout for this special election. By the way, the November election is still on!

Our California League is actively opposing Propositions 53 and 54. Prop 54, commonly known as the Connerly Initiative, would prohibit the collection of racial and ethnic data in areas of health care, education, hate crimes and other areas. Proposition 53, titled Funds Dedicated for State and Local Infrastructure, would generally dedicate up to 3% of general fund revenues annually to infrastructure projects. Please read these propositions carefully before you vote. You will find Pros and Cons on both of these propositions in this VOTER issue (pages 4 and 5).

On Saturday, September 20th, we shall join the Torrance and Palos Verde Leagues at our annual Tri-League Kickoff Breakfast at the Bluewater Grill in Redondo Beach. We hope that many of our members will be there to hear a panel discussion of civil liberties and the USA/Patriot Act. In October and November, our monthly meetings will still be held at the Manhattan Beach library. As construction is taking a lot of parking spaces, if at all possible, drive with a friend. This may be an opportunity to invite a member who has not been active to come with you. Our committees are already hard at work preparing very interesting programs.

Seventeen years ago I stated writing the VOTER — on my old typewriter — and I must say it is a pleasure to welcome Wendy Phillips this month as our new editor. She knows all the tricks re news letters. Even though my typewriter has been gone for many years, I still call or e-mail one of my kids to help me figure out how to do certain tasks! When the next California League convention rolls around, I'm sure the Beach Cities VOTER will be in the running for one of the awards! Welcome, Wendy!!!



**Who we are —**

*The League of Women Voters is a non-partisan organization open to all citizens, men and women, of voting age. 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.*

## Recall Process Under Scrutiny

A Statement from the League of Women Voters of California

In recent months, efforts to recall Governor Gray Davis from office have drawn attention to the recall process in California. The recall is the power of the voters to remove elected officers before their terms expire. It was added to the state constitution in 1911, along with the initiative and referendum and other changes resulting from the Progressive movement.

Recall elections combine features of both a ballot measure and a candidate election. A question of recalling an elected official is placed on the ballot by filing petitions containing the signatures of the required number of registered voters. For a statewide officer, this is 12 percent of the number who last voted for the office, or in this case 897,158 signatures, based on the approximately 7.5 million who voted in the November 2002 gubernatorial election. As in other cases where signatures are gathered, such as to qualify initiatives for the ballot, more than the minimum number of signatures are obtained to allow for ineligible ones. The goal of recall proponents is likely to be roughly 1.2 to 1.3 million.

Proponents of the recall have 160 days for circulating petitions. Every 30 days, county elections officials certify the number of qualified signatures they have received to that point. Once the Secretary of State certifies that sufficient signatures have been obtained, a special election is set to take place within 60 to 80 days. However, if a regularly scheduled statewide election will take place within 180 days of certification, the recall election can be consolidated with it.

Thus, if enough signatures are certified for the recall of the governor by September 3, 2003, a special election must be called for a date in the fall of 2003. If signatures for a recall election are certified after that date, the election would be consolidated with the March 2, 2004 statewide primary election. Accounting for the time required for the certification process, recall proponents believe they must turn in signatures by July 16, 2003 to ensure a fall 2003 special election. [Note from the editor: Since this article was written (in the early summer), a special election has been scheduled for October 7, 2003.]

Before 1994, the only question at the recall election was whether the official should be recalled; if the recall was approved by a majority of the voters, a subsequent election was held to elect a successor. However, in November 1994 the law was amended to consolidate those two elections. Now the question of the recall and a list of candidates to succeed the official appear on the same ballot.

Candidates must file nomination papers and a declaration of candidacy 59 days prior to the election. For governor, a filing fee of \$3,500 and 65 valid signatures of registered voters of the same party as the candidate are required. Candidates not affiliated with a party may submit 65 valid signatures of registered voters of any party affiliation. Candidates may apply for a fee waiver by submitting additional signatures.

If the recall succeeds, the candidate with the largest number of votes is elected to the office and takes office the following day. There are no party primaries to select candidates, and no provision for a runoff if no candidate receives a majority of the vote. There is no limit on the number of candidates who can run. If there are a number of candidates running, the winner could be elected with a relatively low percentage of the vote.

The proponents' statement of reasons for recall and the response, if any, filed by the official whose recall is sought are printed on the recall petitions and on the sample ballots mailed to voters.

According to a [Fair Political Practices Commission fact sheet](#), the recall part of the election would be classified as a ballot measure, for which there are no contribution limits under the state Political Reform Act. Thus, the contribution limits of Proposition 34 would not apply either to the proponents of the recall measure or to the elected official who is the target of the recall.

However, Proposition 34 contribution limits would apply to the campaigns of the candidates running to succeed the recalled official. As with other elections in California, all candidates and campaign committees have reporting and disclosure obligations under the Political Reform Act.

If a special statewide recall election is called, the cost to taxpayers is estimated at \$25-35 million. If the elected official is not recalled, his or her campaign expenses are reimbursed by the state. This potential cost to taxpayers is unknown.

For more information: Recall process: Secretary of State's website: [www.ss.ca.gov/elections/elections\\_recall](http://www.ss.ca.gov/elections/elections_recall). Campaign finance reports: [www.cal-access.ss.ca.gov/Global/search.asp?SERCH=Recall+Davis](http://www.cal-access.ss.ca.gov/Global/search.asp?SERCH=Recall+Davis).

- Opponents of the recall: Taxpayers Against the Governor's Recall, 916-569-0898 or 213-382-4111 or [www.stopherecall.com](http://www.stopherecall.com).
- Recall proponents: Rescue California, 916-443-6703, [www.rescuecalifornia.com](http://www.rescuecalifornia.com), or People's Advocate, 916-482-6175, [www.davisrecall.com](http://www.davisrecall.com).



Make Smart Voter your resource for information about the October 7th special recall election. This unique website ([www.smartvoter.org](http://www.smartvoter.org)), developed by the LWVC, is a wonderful tool for finding nonpartisan information on local and state elections. Information you can find on Smart Voter includes:

- a list of candidates,
- propositions 53 and 54,
- polling places,
- news articles, and
- electronic versions of League publications such as Pros and Cons and the Easy Voter Guide.



**UCLA, the League of Women Voters of LA, and the UC CA Policy Research Institute**

**invite you to an informational presentation**

**Secretary of State Kevin Shelley, on Recall Issues**

**Wednesday, September 10th, from 6 to 8 pm**

**UCLA Campus, Schoenberg Hall**

**This event is free, but seats are limited and tickets (limit 2/person) are required. Please RSVP by September 5th to (310) 794-6810 or to [advocacy@support.ucla.edu](mailto:advocacy@support.ucla.edu).**

For an electronic version of *Pros and Cons*,  
please return to our “Home Page” and click on the button  
“Oct 7 Special Election.”

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please return to our “Home Page” and click on the button  
“Oct 7 Special Election.”

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Tri-League of Women Voters  
Beach Cities—Palos Verdes Peninsula—Torrance

**Annual Kickoff Breakfast Buffet**

**Panel Discussion on the**

**Civil Liberties and the USA/Patriot Act**

Saturday, Sept 20th, from 9:00 to 11:30 a.m.

**Bluewater Grill**

665 North Harbor Drive in Redondo Beach  
(310) 318-FISH (3474)

Please RSVP—before September 13th — by mailing a check (\$18 / person, payable to Tri-League) to Peggy Bartlett at 701 13th Street, Manhattan Beach, CA 90266 (310-545-1087)

**County League Day**

**Mike Feuer speaks on:**

**What's Wrong with**

**Los Angeles County Government?**

**Sat, Oct 4th, 9:30 am to 2 pm**

**TAIX Restaurant at 1911 Sunset Blvd, LA**

(near Hollywood Fwy and Alvarado)

This County League Day will help prepare you for the study of County Government and consensus. Make your reservation, by September 22nd, by mailing a check (\$25/person, payable to LWC-LAC), to Peggy Bartlett (310-545-1087) at:

701 13th Street, Manhattan Beach, CA 90266

Please include your contact information and indicate your preference for chicken salad or vegetarian salad.

**Issues for Emphasis — LWVC 2003 to 2005**

**Community College Position Adopted!**

Harriet Chase, Social Policy Director

Delegates to the State convention adopted a Community College position. This position is right in line with the position recommended by our Beach Cities League. **IN BRIEF:** *Support a statewide community college system with sufficient resources to fulfill its overall goal: to offer all Californians access to a quality higher education. Resources should be stable, accommodate all enrolling students, be fairly distributed among the college districts, and provide opportunities for long-range planning. Governance should allow greater authority within the system itself with local districts making key decisions about mission priorities to meet community needs.*

**Health Care -- A Broken System**

Harriet Chase, Chair, Health Care Committee

This topic brought out a lively discussion at our April meeting. A big **THANK YOU** to Committee members **Barbara Arlow, Jan Nathanson, and Doris Rosenberg** for their outstanding work in preparing and presenting *Health Care -- A Broken System* at this meeting. Since this meeting, the State League has adopted healthcare as an "Issue for Emphasis" for the next two years—so you'll be learning much more about this. Also since April, Senator Kuehl has withdrawn SB921 and placed it in the Senate's inactive file. She plans to bring it back to the new legislative session beginning in January 2004. And in the meantime, she has asked the Franchise Tax Board to look at ways to fund a new healthcare program.

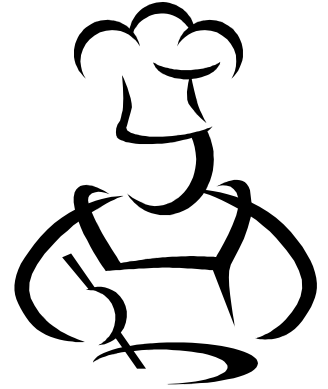
SB2 is in Conference Committee, as of August 25th. It has been amended to declare the intent of the Legislature to ensure health care coverage for working Californians and their families.

## Bakers Alert — We need your brownies at the Home Town Fair!

We try very hard to keep our membership fees down. This means we need to raise money to support our voter education and advocacy activities. Toward this end, we are asking each of our members to supply 2 to 6 batches of brownies or Rice Krispy treats to sell at our booth at the Manhattan Beach Hometown Fair on the weekend of October 4th and 5th.

Please deliver your baked goods to Peggy Bartlett at 701 13th Street in Manhattan Beach. You may deliver them anytime before the Fair, and she will store them in her freezer. Contact her at (310) 545-1087 or treasurer@beachcities.ca.lwvnet.org.

We also need your help to sell our brownies and Rice Krispy treats. Can you take a two-hour shift at our booth on Saturday or Sunday? Contact Peggy (see contact information above) to schedule your shift.



## Calendar

Sept 8	Mon	7:15 pm	Board Meeting	121 Marine Place, Manhattan Beach (at home of Wendy Phillips)
Sept 10	Wed	6:00 to 8:00 pm	Recall Issues, a discussion by Secretary of State Shelley	UCLA Schoenberg Hall (see page 3)
Sept 20	Sat	9:00 to 11:30 am	Tri-League Breakfast Buffet and Panel Dis- cussion on Civil Liberties and the Patriot Act	<b>Bluewater Grill</b> —655 N Harbor Drive, Redondo Beach (see page 6)
Sept 20	Sat	9:30 to 3 pm	Learn about League! Membership Training Workshops	Sisters of St. Joseph Center 480 South Batavia, Orange
Oct 4	Sat	9:30 am to 2 pm	Mike Feuer speaks on “What’s Wrong with LA County Government?”	TAIX Restaurant (see page 6) 1911 Sunset Blvd, Los Angeles
Oct 4	Sat	All day	Home Town Fair — Come help us sell brownies (see above)	Live Oak Park
Oct 5	Sun	All day	Home Town Fair — Come help us sell more brownies.	Live Oak Park
Oct 7	Tues	All day	Special Recall Election	<b>VOTE</b>
Oct 27	Mon	7:00 to 9:00 pm	<b>Membership Meeting on County Government</b>	Manhattan Beach Public Library



### **The League of Women Voters of the Beach Cities**

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

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### **Join the League!**

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 — men and women of voting age — are welcome to join. If you can't attend our monthly meetings and special events, please consider showing your support through your annual membership fee of \$45.

For more information, you may contact Susan Grebe at [membership@beachcities.ca.lwvnet.org](mailto:membership@beachcities.ca.lwvnet.org) or (310) 545-2097. Or just send your check (for \$45, payable to the League of Women Voters of the Beach Cities), with your name and address, to:

Peggy Bartlett

701 13th Street, Manhattan Beach, CA 90266

If you'd like to attend our League Workshop in Orange on September 20th, please contact Wendy Phillips at (310) 545-9343 or [webmaster@beachcities.ca.lwvnet.org](mailto:webmaster@beachcities.ca.lwvnet.org).

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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.