



Beach Cities Voter

The League of Women Voters of the Beach Cities

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

THE ELECTION IS BACK ON – VOTE ON OCTOBER 7TH!

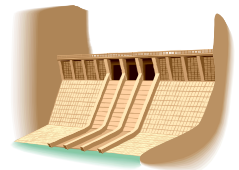
As the nation watches, Californians will vote in a Statewide Special Recall Election on Tuesday, October 7th. But unless you're from North Dakota, you've never voted in a gubernatorial recall election. How did this election about in California? Why did a 3-member panel of the US 9th Circuit Court of Appeals reverse a State Court decision and delay the election? And just last week, why did the entire panel of 11 judges of that same Court then unanimously reverse the 3-member panel decision? Is Darrell Issa, a congressman from the San Diego area who is largely responsible for qualifying the recall initiative for the ballot, still in support of the recall? And do you understand the math on the 2-part ballot? To help our voters, the *Beach Cities Voter* is going to press early this month.

The right for voters to recall state officials and to initiate legislation goes back 1911, when voters approved changes to our State constitution. But the roots of the election go back to the fundamentals of our 19th century economy, when California's mining industry gave way to dominance by agriculture. Ag's rise in California was supported by the rail industry, which obviously provided a rail network for transporting increasing volumes of fruits and grain. But in addition, the rail industry — Hiram Johnson's "dreaded octopus" — effectively used its influence to support ag by advocating against hydraulic mining and in support of development of irrigation works.

Here's a recap of events, selected by your ersatz editor/hydrogeologist, that have led up to this unprecedented election (with apologies to scholars for any misinterpretation or over-interpretation of California history.)



- 1850s and 1860s — With the discovery of gold at Sutter's Mill in 1848, mining is California's principal industry. Miners develop large scale hydraulic methods of washing ore from the millions of tons of silt, sand, and gravel.
- 1869 — The transcontinental railroad is completed, with the State of California at one end. This transportation feat spurs rapid growth of commercial agriculture in California, at the expense of agriculture in other western states such as Oregon and Washington.
- 1874 — Central Valley farmers form the Anti-Debris Association to combat the effects of hydraulic mining, which clogged streams and polluted water needed for irrigation. The public also advocates against hydraulic mining and its impact on potable water supplies and recreation, as indicated by angry letters to the editors of Sutter County newspapers.
- 1886 — The State Supreme Court issues an unpopular decision on water rights, restricting the ability farmers to divert water for irrigation of land that is not adjacent to streams.
- 1887 — Another chapter in California's water wars ensues, when legislators respond to the court decision by passing the Wright Irrigation Act, allowing farmers to form water districts that can buy certain (riparian) water rights through condemnation, and to levy taxes and issue bonds to finance their irrigation works.



- 1907 — President Theodore Roosevelt orders an investigation of allegedly corrupt political leaders in San Francisco. Hiram Johnson, an ADA for the City, prosecutes two cases.
- 1910 — Hiram Johnson wins the gubernatorial election. Campaigning as a Progressive (a party previously known as the Lincoln-Roosevelt League), Johnson promises to eliminate the influence of railroads in California.
- 1911 — Voters approve amendments to the State constitution, adding to voters' rights the referendum and initiative processes, including the recall of elected state officials. Johnson, as governor until 1916, pushes for other elements of his reform program, signing many new laws, among which include legislation that: provides for direct election of US Senators (who, up until 1913, were elected by the state legislature), establishes a state civil service, and establishes commissions to curtail the power of railroads and other utilities.
- 1912 to 2002 — There are 31 attempts to recall a governor, but none qualifies for the ballot.
- March 25, 2003 — Secretary of State Kevin Shelley certifies the language on a recall petition, and Congressman Issa and other recall proponents start to collect signatures. Proponents have 160 days to collect 897,158 signatures (12% of the 7.5 million voters in the last gubernatorial election — i.e. the election last November).
- July 23, 2003 — Secretary of State Kelly certifies that the recall proponents have obtained enough signatures for a recall election. The Lieutenant Governor must now set an election date in the next 60 to 80 days, unless there is already a statewide election scheduled within 180 days.
- July 24, 2003 — Lieutenant Governor Cruz Bustamante signs a proclamation for a special statewide election on October 7th.
- August 9, 2003 — Deadline for candidates to file nomination papers, pay a \$3,500 fee, and submit 65 valid signatures. Local registrars designate 135 applicants as candidates for the ballot.
- August 20, 2003 — The California district court denies an injunction to delay the election.
- September 15, 2003 — A panel of 3 judges from the US 9th Circuit Court of Appeals reverses the district court denial and delays the election, citing concerns raised by the ACLU about the use of punch card ballots in 6 counties.
- September 23, 2003 — Stating that a federal court cannot lightly interfere with a State election, and noting concern about the hardship that the State and its citizens will suffer in the event of a delay, a full panel of 11 judges from the same court overturns its earlier 3-judge panel decision and affirms the district court ruling. The election is on again.
- October 7, 2003 — Election day. VOTE!
- November 4, 2003 — California's 58 counties have a deadline of 28 days following the election to report results to the Secretary of State, who will then proceed to certify the results.



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A special election on Tuesday, October 7th, will decide whether or not Governor Gray Davis is to be recalled and, if so, who will replace him. The ballot for the recall question contains two parts. You may vote on both parts or on just one.

1. The first part asks "Shall Gray Davis be recalled (removed) from the office of governor?"
2. The second part lists names of 135 candidates running to replace the governor if he is recalled. If you choose to vote for a replacement candidate, you may vote for only one of 135 candidates. Can 135 candidates really fit on one ballot? YES! Candidate names will be spread over seven pages.

If a majority of voters votes "no" on the first part, Governor Gray Davis remains in office. If a majority of voters votes "yes," the recall succeeds. There is no runoff, and the candidate (from the second part) with the most votes — a plurality — is elected for the remaining term of office.

The ballot also includes two state measures -- Propositions 53 and 54. Prop 53 asks "Should the California Constitution be amended to require specified percentages of General Fund Revenues to be committed to pay-as-you-go infrastructure projects for state and local projects?" Prop 54 asks "Should the California Constitution be amended to restrict state and local governments from 'classifying' (collection and using) information on an individual's race, ethnicity, color, or national origin?" For unbiased information on these measures, check our Pros and Cons (inserted, and also on SmartVoter.org).



In recognition of "Technology benefiting Humanity," Applied Materials presented SmartVoter.org with one of 25 laureates for the prestigious Tech Museum Awards. Looking for a sample ballot? Not sure of your polling place? Need unbiased explanations of Props 53 and 54? Looking for extensive information on the recall? Try www.SmartVoter.org, developed by the LWVC as a source of nonpartisan formation on local and state elections.



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Just a few more details about Hiram Johnson. In 1912, he ran as Teddy Roosevelt's vice presidential candidate on the Bull Moose ticket, losing to Woodrow Wilson and Thomas Marshall on the Democratic ticket. California voters later elected him to the US Senate, where he served from 1917 until 1945. During the 1920s, he led efforts to prevent Japanese immigration. Known as an isolationist, he was "rarely a constructive force" in the Senate.

And if you're really interested in recall history, here's what happened in North Dakota in 1921. Governor Lynn Frazier, having run on the Nonpartisan Party ticket and having advocated for a state-owned bank and mill that would protect farmers (who comprised most of the state's workforce), was recalled during his third term which coincided with a particularly harsh period for North Dakota's agrarian economy. After a nasty campaign which alleged charges of Bolshevism against the incumbent, 70% of North Dakota's voters turned out to support the recall by a ratio of 51:49. But Frazier's political career didn't end in 1921, as North Dakota voters later sent him to the US Senate for 3 terms.

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, which is not tax deductible. Donations to the Beach Cities LWV Education Fund are tax deductible.

For more information, you may contact Susan Grebe at 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), to Peggy Bartlett at 701 13th St, Manhattan Beach, CA 90266

Name _____ Telephone _____

Address _____

Email _____

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.



Thanks to Irma Cohen for arranging a most successful "chocolate party" for prospective members. Due to her efforts, we have four new members to welcome to our League, who are Maureen Kelly, Marge Wilson, Kate Alson, and Jason Suchman, all of Redondo Beach. We're also pleased to welcome Linda Peterson and James Vandevere, also of Redondo Beach, and Desi Alvarez of Manhattan Beach, who is our first member to join through the internet! We will look forward to getting acquainted with our new members as we start our new League year.

Valma Evans and Susan Grebe
Co-chairs, Membership

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Do you have time to help us out? We need volunteers for a variety of tasks, including:

- **Candidates Forums** — A long honored tradition in League, we need your help to organize and oversee this important voter ed activity. Are you interested in learning how to be a League moderator? Can you assist our moderators by being an usher or by timing candidates' responses? Can you help us issue invitations and groundrules for candidates forums?
- **Beach Cities Voter** — Can you help fold and label our monthly newsletter?
- **www.beachcities.ca.lwvnet.org** — Interested in learning to be a webmaster? League Easy Web is an easy-to-use on-line template for our website. We need help keeping it up-to-date and adding webpages about our local activities.

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.

Beach Cities Voter

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The two co-presidents from another League began their message by saying "thank you" for electing us for another term, which Jeanne and I certainly wish to state, as well. The follow-up was, "maybe this time we'll get it right." We know that the Beach Cities League is going in the right direction, with a full agenda, which includes two elections this fall, an active program schedule, and many issues for advocacy. We'll try even harder this time around, with your help.

We thought it would be a quiet, uneventful summer, but the activity was greater than usual. The state League (LWVC) support of both health measurers before the Legislature has had partial success, with SB 2, the Burton bill, signed by both houses and awaiting the Governor's signature. If approved, it will be an incremental first start toward universal health care.

The debate over the October 7th Recall election, which is now going forward, brings back some personal memories. I served on the LWV County board as Election Procedures Chair at the time the punch card system was adopted. We were invited to tour the Registrar's office, where very large computers were housed to tabulate the votes. We knew little about computers, but believed that it was a daring step to use the newest technology to protect every person's vote . The local Leagues participated in educating the public on how to use the punch card system, and it has worked quite successfully for almost 40 years in Los Angeles County.

At the same time, the Board of Supervisors voted to establish an Elections Commission to oversee the voting process. Prominent citizens were appointed and served up until a few years ago, when, believing that there were no major problems any longer, the Board terminated the Commission. When we addressed the Supervisors years ago to thank them for establishing the Elections Commission, one of the members said, "I never thought the League of Women Voters would thank us for anything."

Little did we realize what difficulties "hanging chads" would cause. Once again, the League is in the forefront by supporting legislation to modernize the voting systems with the latest electronic machines. We urge your participation in advocating for the best and most accurate voting systems available, with the necessary funding.

Ironically, the Recall Election, according to the LA Times, has brought in 200,000 or more new registered voters, and a larger turnout than usual is anticipated. The League supports informed and active citizens in government and welcomes a large turnout of informed voters. The State League's information on the Recall Election and Pros and Cons on the Ballot Measures are in this and last month's *Beach Cities Voter*. Please share this information with friends and family and encourage everyone to vote on October 7th.

Linda Mack, co-Voters Services Vice President, has arranged for several candidates forums in our local communities. Please pass the word and attend one or all of them. Finally, thank you to all members who are baking brownies and krispie critters for the Manhattan Beach Hometown Fair. It is our major fund-raiser. Our thanks to Peggy Bartlett and Mignon Theim-Murphy, co-chairs.

See you at the Fair,

Jan



PARTICIPATE IN OUR LEAGUE STUDY ON THE COUNTY! Government of Los Angeles County will be our topic for discussion and consensus at our October and November membership meetings, with emphasis on the roles and functions of the LA County Board of Supervisors and the County's Chief Executive Officer. When the League last studied County Government 25 years ago, the population of LA County was about 7 million. Today it is almost 10 million with each supervisor representing almost 2 million people vs. 1.4 million in 1978. Tremendous increases have occurred in other areas as well including expansion of the responsibilities of County Government and the number of County employees.

Our fall meetings will provide information on the history, structure, and operation of County Government. The issues for discussion and consensus will include: Should the legislative and executive functions of the Board be separated with the responsibilities of the Board restricted to legislative matters and the administrative decisions to be made by a county executive officer (CEO)? Should the CEO be elected by the voters or appointed by the Board? Should the Board be enlarged to better represent the interests of County residents? These issues are not new; past ballot measures addressing them have failed. However, our study this fall will be a new look at the questions while providing an overview of past history along with a review of the structure and operation of County Government in today's world. For a headstart, check out <http://lacilo.ca.lwvmet.org>.



The Public is welcome to join us as we discussion these issues.

First Meeting — Monday, October 27, 7 TO 9 pm

at the Manhattan Beach Library, 1320 Highland Avenue

Maggie Wilkinson and June Eicker

The League of Women Voters of the County and the City of Los Angeles present:

Proposition 13—Twenty Five Years After

Morning Panelists include:

David Janssen, LA County Chief Administrative Officer

Susan F. Rice, former President, LWVC

Fred Silva, Public Policy Institute of California

Lunch Speakers include:

Edmund Edelman, former Supervisor, LA County

Joel Fox, former President, Howard Jarvis Taxpayers Association

Saturday, November 15th, from 9:30 to 2:30

Regency Room, Pickwick Gardens, 1001 Riverside Drive, Burbank

Please RSVP—before October 27th, — by mailing a check (\$30 / person, payable to Beach Cities LWV) to Peggy Bartlett at 701 13th Street, Manhattan Beach, CA 90266 (310-545-1087).

Price is \$35 after October 31st.

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Check here if you would like a vegetarian option.

Yes—We are a nonpartisan organization. In 1920, the League decided to neither support nor oppose any political party or candidate. At the same time, the League encourages active participation in government, and we study issues. Assuming that our members are able to reach consensus on those issues, we develop positions on which we may advocate—or take Action, using League parlance.

The League of Women Voters of California recommends:

NO ON PROPOSITION 53 DEDICATED SPENDING

Oppose Proposition 53—Funds Dedicated for State and Local Infrastructure. This measure would lock into the state constitution a new program of pay-as-you-go infrastructure funding. It is true that public works projects are needed, but Prop 53 is the wrong way to pay for them. Legislators would allocate funds, half to state and half to local projects of their choice, with no requirement for funding the projects of greatest need and no accountability. K-12 schools and community colleges would be excluded. Prop 53 does not provide new revenue but simply earmarks funds, even if that means cuts for essential health care, education, public safety, or other programs. Even in hard times, transfers from the General Fund might still be required, reducing the state's flexibility in setting priorities.

NO ON PROPOSITION 54 INFORMATION BAN

Oppose Proposition 54—Classification by Race, Ethnicity, Color, or National Origin. This constitutional amendment would ban state and local governments from using information essential to public health, education reforms, crime prevention, and civil rights enforcement—even though much of this data would still have to be collected to meet federal mandates. The medical "exemption" is poorly written, will invite litigation, and could jeopardize the use of information important in fighting cancer, heart disease, diabetes, the spread of infectious diseases and other illnesses. The California Medical Association and more than 40 other health organizations agree that Proposition 54 is bad medicine for all Californians.

Patriot Acts and Civil Liberties, A Bad Mix

Irma Cohen, Action Chair of the County of LA LWV

The League of Women Voters is particularly concerned about the impact of the provisions of the USA Patriot Act passed by Congress in October 2001 and administration proposals for a new Domestic Security Enhancement Act (DSEA), also known as Patriot Act II. The LWV urges that all Americans be aware that the need to protect against security threats to America must be balanced with the need to preserve the very liberties that are the foundation of our country.

It is our understanding the the proposed DSEA would incorporate and expand some of the most controversial and threatening aspects of the USA Patriot Act by (a) including an overly broad definition of terrorism so that government action could be directed against protesters and organizations that voice disagreement with the policies of the leadership of the US, (b) authorizing government officials to obtain data, such as financial records and library records of individuals, without a warrant or involvement of the courts, c) providing for indefinite detention of individuals, including American citizens, without disclosure of names and filing charges, (d) ending existing court-imposed limits on law enforcement spying on political and religious organizations.

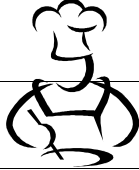
We support SB1158, the Library and Bookseller Protection Act, sponsored by Barbara Boxer (D-CA) which would ensure that libraries and bookstores are subjected to the regular system of court ordered warrants.

The Freedom to Read Protection Act HR 1157 sponsored by Bernie Sanders (I-VT) exempts libraries and bookstores from the provisions of the Patriot Act that allow law enforcement to obtain personally identifiable information regarding patrons without their knowledge or subpoena.

We are concerned about the potential impact that the Patriot Act and the proposed DSEA could have on the checks and balances of government. We believe that accountability and responsibility to the people require that unnecessary secrecy between the President and Congress be eliminated. It is critical that Congress know of the actions of the Executive and the Judiciary branches and that the courts be kept apprised of and have the opportunity to review the actions of law enforcement.

These are challenging times for all Americans. We recognize that there are real and serious terrorist threats. But the threat to our civil liberties is an even greater threat and should be of concern to all Americans.

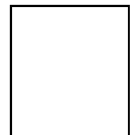


Oct 4	Sat	All day	Home Town Fair — Stop by our booth to try a brownie!		Live Oak Park
Oct 5	Sun	All day	Home Town Fair — Stop by our booth to try a brownie!		Live Oak Park
Oct 7	Tues	7 am to 8 pm	Statewide Special Recall Election		For information on your precinct, go to Smart-Voter.org and type in your address.
Oct 8	Wed	11:45 to 1:45 pm	Forum for the Hermosa Beach City Council contest		Hermosa Beach Women's Club, at 8th and Valley (lunch at 11:45, forum at 12:30)
Oct 13	Mon	7:15 to 9:30 pm	Board Meeting		At home of Valma Evans, on 628 11th Street, Manhattan Beach
Oct 23	Thur	7 to 9 pm	Candidates Forums for the Hawthorne City Council and Mayoral contests (7:00 to 9:00) and the Centinela Valley School Board contest (9:10 to 9:45).		Dana School Cafeteria, at 13530 Aviation (at corner of 135th)
Oct 27	Mon	7 to 9 pm	Member meeting, to study County Government — Open to public		Manhattan Beach Library, 1320 Highland
Oct 30	Thur	6 pm	DEADLINE for submittal of articles for next <i>Beach Cities Voter!</i>		Please submit your articles electronically.
Nov 4	Tues	7 am to 8 pm	Local Elections		For information on your precinct, go to Smart-Voter.org and type in your address.
Nov 10	Mon	7:15 to 9:30 pm	Board meeting		At home of Irma Cohen, on 1420 Walnut, Manhattan Beach
Nov 15	Sat	9:30 to 2:30 pm	County League Day, on Proposition 13 — 25 Years After		Regency Room, Pickwick Gardens, 1001 Riverside Drive, Burbank (see page 6)



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