



THE BEACH CITIES VOTER

The League of Women Voters of the Beach Cities

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

Where Have All The Voters Gone?

On Friday, September 10th the LWVLA held a day-long forum exploring why people don't vote and what can be done to get them to the polls. Morning and afternoon panels featured an impressive lineup of experts from a variety of backgrounds and viewpoints.

The keynote speaker was R. Michael Alvarez, PhD, Professor of Political Science at Caltech and Co-Director of the Caltech/MIT Voting Technology Project. Professor Alvarez highlighted U.S. Census Bureau data on the decrease in voter participation between 1968 and 2000. He stressed the need to target young voters and to make registration and voting easier. Reports from the Caltech/MIT Voting Technology Project at www.vote.caltech.edu/, include recommendations to the Election Assistance Commission titled "Immediate Steps to Avoid Lost Votes in the 2004 Presidential Election."

Other panelists with academic credentials were Thomas A. Hollihan, Ph.D. from USC Annenberg School for Communication and Lynn Vavreck, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of Political Science at UCLA. They were joined by a representative of the L.A. County Registrar's Office, political strategists from the two major parties and representatives from two organizations cultivating the grassroots - Linda Lucks, Vice President of SheVotes.org and Heidi Pendergast, Program Director of Rock the Vote. Here's a sampling of insights from the experts:

- ? According to census records, 111 million people voted in the November 2000 election, or 55% of the voting age population, 60% of voting-age US citizens and 86% of those registered. Of US citizens, the age group with the highest percentage of voters was the 65-74 year-olds

with 72.2%, followed by the 55-64 year-olds with 70.1%. The age group with the lowest percentage was 18-24 year-olds with 36.1%. That percentage increased to 50.5% among 25-34 year-olds.

- ? The people who can be counted on to vote are the ones who feel they have a stake in the outcome, because they have jobs, homes, families, investments or expectations that can be affected. To attract younger voters you have to make the process both relevant and accessible to them.
- ? Major candidates speak to the elderly and their issues because that's where the votes are. Although young people volunteer readily for projects like feeding the homeless where they can see the results of their efforts, they don't bother to vote, because they don't see how an election's outcome can affect their lives and they distrust politicians' credibility. They need to learn what they have at stake and how they can make the political system work for them.

(Continued on page 3 — "Voters Gone")

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Co-President's Message, by Wendy Phillips

The League of Women Voters is a non-partisan organization open to all citizens - both 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 Voter

Co-Presidents

Wendy Phillips

Henrietta E. Mosley

Editor

Kate Alson

Production

Sunhee Park

Susan Grebe

Harriet Chase

Circulation

Ann Martin

Hello Beach Voters!

Never has the need for the League of Women Voters been greater.

The campaigns run by our presidential candidates and the booming 527 groups have already alienated many voters. The League struggles, during times like this, to reach voters with objective, nonpartisan information.

Keeping voters focused on important state and local races is a challenge for the League during a presidential election year. In addition to the presidential race, remember that we have a US Senate race - did you catch the exciting candidates forum last month for Boxer and Jones, sponsored by the League and broadcast live on KNBC? And the League will sponsor another **forum, on Sunday, October 17th in Torrance, for the candidates running in the 36th Congressional District and 56th State assembly races.** And don't forget about the 5 judicial races on the ballot. If you're among the many who don't have a clue about selecting judges, check out some of our special voter services materials, at <http://ca.lwv.org/lwvc.files/judic/>. Need a hard copy? Call and ask us for our brochure on criteria for choosing judges.

Don't forget about our special districts. We have two water districts in our area. You need to decide which candidate should represent us on the board of the West Basin Municipal Water District (a water wholesaler) as well as the Water Replenishment District of Southern California (a groundwater management agency). Confused about this? Visit www.smartvoter.org - another League tool! - for the latest information on our water district candidates. Remember the Beach Cities Health District? Don't look for candidates running for this board - no one stepped up to run against the incumbents, and the election has been cancelled.

Then there are other local issues of interest. The County of Los Angeles is asking voters to approve a ½ cent sales tax increase to provide additional funding for the sheriff. And the Hawthorne School District has a special bond on the ballot - will voters approve a \$24 million bond for school improvements? Also in Hawthorne, the City Council is asking voters to adopt an ordinance regulating use of fireworks.

In addition to all this, there are 16 statewide ballot measures you'll have to sort through. It's a lot to consider. So here in our six beach cities, the League is actively reaching out to voters with our *Pros & Cons. Want to learn more about the ballot measures in a friendly, objective and non-partisan format? Come join us on Tuesday evening, October 14th in Manhattan Beach or Tuesday, October 26th in Redondo Beach, when we'll discuss the ballot measures and answer your questions.* For details on all these meetings, as well as election information, check our e-calendar at www.beachvoter.org . These are open meetings - all are welcome to join a constructive and spirited discussion. You can also request a Pros & Cons presentation for your community group by contacting Barbara Arlow at 310-379-6663 or Voterservice@beachvoter.org.

-Wendy

Remembering Our Mission

The League's Two Separate and Distinct Roles

It's election time again! This is the time of year many of us think of as the core component of what makes the League extremely valuable and useful to our communities. During this period many people turn to us to learn about all the election issues on the ballot. However there is sometimes confusion about the League's mission and how we operate. So here's a refresher for the veteran Leaguers out there, and a brief cheatsheet for the newbies...

The League of Women Voters is a non-partisan political organization, open to both men and women of voting age, encouraging the informed and active participation of citizens in government. The League influences public policy through education and advocacy. We never support or oppose any political party or candidate.

5 Things You Need To Know On Election Day

1. Your Ballot—Your Vote — If you're name's not on the list, don't panic. Ask a poll worker for help. You may need to go to a different location or fill out a provisional ballot. **2. I.D.—Don't Go Without It—** You may need to show it to vote. **3. Writing On The Wall** -read the signs posted in the polling place. They tell you how to use the voting machines, your voting rights, and info on filing a complaint if you need to. **4. When in Doubt—Ask—** Poll workers are there to help you! **5. In and Out—** You probably won't have to wait too long, but even if the line is long, don't leave without voting. The outcome of this election will be important! Your vote will make a difference in the race results!!

The League of Women Voters has two separate and distinct roles...

- ? **Voters Service/Citizen Education:** we present unbiased nonpartisan information about elections, the voting process, and issues.
- ? **Action/Advocacy:** we are also non-partisan, but, after study, we use our positions to advocate for or against particular policies in the public interest.

To conduct our voter service and citizen education activities, we use funds from the League of Women Voters of California Education Fund, which is a 501(c)(3) corporation, a nonprofit educational organization. The League of Women Voters, a membership organization, conducts action and advocacy and is a nonprofit 501(c)(4) corporation. *(For more info on the LWV and the upcoming elections visit www.beachvoter.org)*

VOTERS GONE (continued from pg.1)

- ? Schools no longer teach "civics." If teachers don't have time to teach the basics of voting and government, the LWV can assist by providing experiences with voting and the legislative process. A secondary outcome of holding mock elections in grade schools--and getting students excited about voting and candidates—is that the parents are more likely to go vote.
- ? Teens are more in tune with electronic voting machines than with InkaVote. Taking a voting machine, or a computer with election information, into the classroom can help engage them in a "civics" lesson.
- ? First-time voters and people with limited English can be intimidated by the registration process and by identity verification procedures. Other barriers to voting are not knowing where the polling place is and being confronted with a thick ballot pamphlet.
- ? Face-to-face recruitment is by far the most effective way to reach potential voters. People are unlikely to register because an ad tells them to, but they may register and vote as the result of a one-on-one contact by someone with whom they can relate. SheVotes.org and Rock the Vote are building on this insight.

—Henrietta Mosley, Co-President

ACTION

THE ADVOCACY ARM OF THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF CA RECOMMENDS...



YES ON PROPOSITION 59

GOVERNMENT OPEN TO THE PEOPLE

Support Proposition 59--Public Records. Open Meetings.

This measure will add to the State Constitution the requirement that meetings of public bodies and writings of public officials and agencies be open to public scrutiny. California's open government laws have been weakened by special interest legislation, court decisions that put the burden on the public to justify disclosure, and government officials who want to avoid scrutiny and keep secrets. Prop. 59 establishes a new civil right of access to meetings of government bodies and writings of government officials. It protects personal privacy and allows reasonable exceptions in the public interest. Citizens should not have to prove to government officials why they should have access to "public" records and procedures. Prop. 59 shifts the burden, requiring government officials to prove their need for secrecy. **For more information: www.yesonprop59.org**



NO ON PROPOSITION 69

FIGHT ATTACK ON PRIVACY RIGHTS

Oppose Proposition 69--DNA Samples. Collection. Database. Funding.

More than a fingerprint, DNA exposes personal, private medical information about you and your family. California already has a DNA database for criminals who have committed sexual assault and other serious, violent crimes. Proposition 69 would expand the collection of DNA to include all convicted felons and some nonfelons, and, beginning in 2009, all adults *arrested* for *any* felony. This expansion is an invasion of privacy not needed for criminal justice. Once individuals are put into the criminal DNA database, they must request a court order to be removed--even if they are factually innocent and never charged with a crime--and the government has no obligation to remove them. Prop. 69 violates the principle that one is innocent until proven guilty. **For more information: www.protectmydna.com**



YES ON PROPOSITION 72

SUPPORT CALIFORNIA HEALTHCARE

Support Proposition 72--Health Care Coverage Requirements. Referendum

Prop. 72 allows a 2003 law (SB 2) to go into effect, giving health coverage to a million uninsured employees and dependents. Prop 72 requires large and mid-sized employers to provide health benefits or contribute to a statewide purchasing pool. About 80 percent of those who will be covered are employees of large companies (200 or more workers) and their families. Small businesses with under 50 employees are exempt from Proposition 72. Rising healthcare costs are a concern to all Californians. Prop 72 will help employees by limiting their share of premiums and out-of-pocket costs; it gives employers marketing power to lower premiums. It will level the playing field for companies that provide health insurance benefits but have to compete against those who don't. **For more information: www.yesonprop72.com**

The League is neutral on all other propositions meaning that we are not taking a stand either for or against those propositions.

JOIN THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS BEACH CITIES

What better time to join, or give the gift of the League than right now? You depend on us for pros & cons, action, community studies and in-depth issue analysis. Log on right now to www.beachvoter.org/join_form.html and print, fill out, and mail in your membership form today to support and join the important work done by the League! Contact us at 310-413-6904 or info@beachvoter.org for further info. The League of Women Voters is open to all citizens - both men and women - who are 18 or older.

Make Time To Volunteer For The League!

A few of the exciting ways YOU can get involved...

1. Voter Registration

How You Can Help: Help staff a voter registration table. All you need is a couple of hours, voter registration forms, a high traffic location, and a table and chair.

Whom To Contact:

Linda Mack or Barbara Arlow at
Voterservice@beachvoter.org.

2. Action Committee

How You Can Help: Monitor local, state, and national League issues such as environmental and social policy including: campaign finance reform, water, land use, and reproductive rights.

Whom To Contact: Jan Nathanson, Action Chair, at 310-643-6247 or Action@beachvoter.org for general action info or James Stewart at 310-406-0915 or

jstewartsege@earthlink.net for environmental or Harriet Chase at 310-545-1026 or hzchase@earthlink.net for social policy.

3. The Voter, League Newsletter

How You Can Help: Sign up to proofread, write articles, take pictures at LWVBC events, pick up/drop off newsletters at the printers, and help with mailings.

Whom To Contact: Kate Alson at 310-376-7882 or Editor@beachvoter.org or Sunhee Park at 310-545-7713 or Publicity@beachvoter.org.

4. High School Voter Outreach

High School administrators have told us they'd welcome the League's help with voter education and registration projects for graduating seniors, as well as other projects promoting how to be responsible citizens.

How You Can Help: Help start this program!

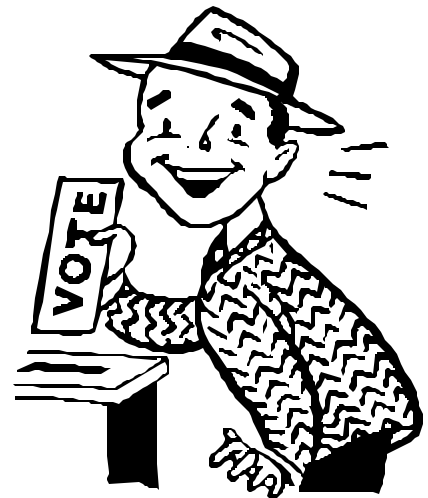
Whom To Contact: Irma Cohen at 310-939-0946 or incohen@adelphia.net.

MAKE SURE YOUR VOTE COUNTS!

Seven Steps To Make Sure Your Vote Is Counted:

1. *Make sure you are on your precinct's list of registered voters --- DO IT TODAY!*
2. *Get a sample ballot and read it carefully*
3. *Bring your sample ballot to help you in the voting booth*
4. *Try to vote between 10 a.m.-4 p.m. on election day, or allow extra time for long lines*
5. *Know your rights and ask for help if you need it*
6. *You have a right to vote if you are registered in your precinct (even if your name does not appear on the list of registered voters in your precinct)*
7. *Stop and double check that your ballot reflects how you want to vote before you cast your ballot*

(courtesy of www.vote.Caltech.edu/)





'Here's our chance to answer the perennial question: **'Who ARE these judicial candidates?'**

'Meet Your Judicial Candidates', an hour-long television program produced by Santa Monica City TV and co-sponsored by LWV/LAC, LWVLA, and LWVSM (plus other civic-minded organizations) will be airing repeatedly on your local government channels during the

month of October.

It features one-on-one interviews with each of the ten candidates for the five Superior Court judicial positions appearing on all ballots in L.A. County.

Questions? Call Frances Talbott-White, Chair, LWV/LAC Judicial Candidate Forum Committee at 310-397-4970.

Tri-League Kickoff Program Well-Received

Program Provided Insights Into CA's Educational System

At this year's Annual Fall Tri-League Kickoff Program, "**Great Expectations vs Limited Resources K-12 Education**," the speaker, Mary Perry, EdSource Deputy Director, gave us a highly informative presentation clearly explaining the intricacies of school funding in California. She described our vast and diverse system encompassing more than 6.2 million students in 982 districts organized into elementary, unified, and high school districts, plus about 450 charter schools.

She pointed out the fragmentation of state leadership. We have an elected non-partisan Superintendent of Instruction, an appointed Secretary of Education, an appointed State Board of Education which sets policy, and a State Department of Education which implements the policy. In addition, the Governor and the Legislature decide how much should be allotted to education in the state budget.

She described how our current system has evolved since the 1970s starting with the Serrano v. Priest decision requiring equalization of funding, Prop. 13 which limited local property taxes, and Prop 98 which set a minimum guarantee for K-14 funding. As a consequence, the state took control of school funding. In spite of efforts to equalize funding among school districts, inequities still exist.

How do we compare with other states? We have the largest, most diverse student population. We remain below the national average in per pupil expenditure. We have the lowest staff-to-pupil ratios in the United States.

A Quality Education Commission authorized by the



The Tri-League Kickoff Program participants enjoyed a stimulating program, a breakfast buffet, and good company at the Bluewater Grill in Redondo Beach.

(Seated, L-R) Front Row: Barbara Inatsugu, LWVC Program Director for Education, Henrietta E. Mosley, Co-President LWVBC, Mary Perry, Deputy Director EdSource and featured speaker.

(Standing, L-R) Second Row: Harriet Chase, Education Committee Chair, Doris Rosenberger, Education Committee Member

Legislature is charged with providing the state with a target amount for school funding needed to meet the state's academic standards. To date, 6 of the 13 members have been appointed by former Governor Davis. Governor Schwarzenegger has not yet made appointments.

Ms. Perry concluded her presentation by suggesting that we in California should be asking what do we expect of our public schools and how much would it cost.

To learn more about K-12 public education issues, be sure to attend our Ed. Update Study Consensus meeting Oct. 25, 2004. For details see information on the consensus meeting on page 7.

-Marion Greenman and Doris Rosenberg,
Education Committee Members

Local News

JOIN US FOR THE UPCOMING MEMBERSHIP MEETING... EDUCATION UPDATE - CONSENSUS

MONDAY, OCTOBER 25, 7 PM TO 8:45 PM, MANHATTAN BEACH PUBLIC LIBRARY

PARTICIPATE IN THE PROCESS OF UPDATING OUR STATE LEAGUE'S POSITION ON K-12 PUBLIC EDUCATION

We will be grappling with these questions and more--

- ? Is it the obligation of the state to provide equitable opportunities for teaching and learning systemwide?
- ? Are charter schools helping children succeed?
- ? Should we have universal preschool?
- ? Are funds distributed equitably to local school districts?



And bring a friend!

- Harriet Chase, Chair, Education Committee

KUDOS KUDOS KUDOS KUDOS KUDOS KUDOS

I want to thank everyone that worked with me on the Tri-League Kickoff mini-grant program: **"Great Expectations vs Limited Resources K-12 Education."** It was due to their effort and dedication that the program was a success!

The Tri-League Education Committee members, who were a pleasure to work with, included: Marion Greenman, Jeanne Leuschner, Jan Nathanson, Beth Perkins, Doris Rosenberg, Helen Coffey, Chair, LWVPV, Rosemary Caterson, and Pat Kromka, Chair, LWVTorrance.

Others that helped make the event a success included: Kate Alson, Barbara Arlow, Star Bartlett, Shirley Bork, Chris Carson,

Sunhee Park, Wendy Phillips, Jason Suchman, Lola Unger, Maggie Wilkinson, Barbara Inatsugu, LWVC/EF Program Director for Education, and Joanne Leavitt, Education Update Study Committee Chair.

And special thanks to Henrietta Mosley, LWVBC Co-President, although not a formal member of the committee, who provided invaluable hands-on help and to Peggy Bartlett, LWVBC Tri-League member, who was breakfast coordinator, handled the mini-grant funding process, and was in charge of registration.

- Harriet Chase, Chair, Tri-League Ed. Committee

Membership News

Sweet Success The second "Chocolate Social" hosted by Irma Cohen (complete with chocolate sodas and truffles), an event created to introduce prospective new members to the League and its mission, as well as specifically to LWVBC, and invite them to join, was a success! We welcome five new members who joined at the party, Alan Cohen, Bonnie Cohn, Ani Haigazian, Barbara Daunis, and Lindie Banks. We also want to welcome another new member J.D. Eddy who found us online via our website: www.beachvoter.org. Four of our new members are from Redondo Beach, two are from Hermosa Beach.

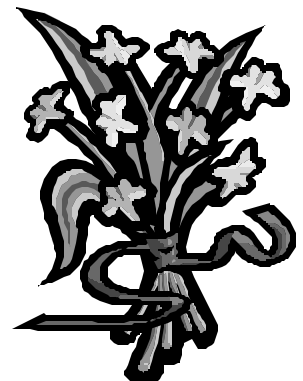


Existing Leaguers, also remember to encourage your spouse, friends, and acquaintances to join! Both men and women who are of voting age, are welcome!

Maureen Skiba, one of our Redondo Beach members, passed away this September. Maureen and her husband Walter attended our membership meetings and voter service events regularly. Maureen was a U.S. Army nurse during World War II and then worked as a nurse for the Los Angeles School District, from which she retired. She was 86. Our condolences to Walter and their family. Maureen will be missed.

-Valma Evans & Susan Grebe, Membership Chairs

In Memoriam



Oct. 14	7 - 9:30p.m.	Pros & Cons: Statewide Ballot Propositions. We'll discuss the pros and cons for all of the initiatives on the November 2004 state ballot. <i>(Repeated 10/26)</i>	MB City Council Chambers Manhattan Beach City Hall 1400 Highland Ave., MB, CA
Oct. 17	2 - 4p.m.	Candidates Forum -- 36th Congressional and 53rd Assembly Districts. Come to the candidates' debate! Hosted by LWV Torrance and LWV Beach Cities. Contact Linda Mack at 310-545-4738.	Ken Miller Auditorium Torrance Cultural Arts Center 3330 Civic Center Drive Torrance, CA
Oct. 18		<i>The deadline to register to vote for this election!</i> <i>A single vote can change an election—make yours count -register and vote this November 2nd!!</i>	Visit www.beachvoter.org/elections.html for more voter & election info.
Oct. 20 -29		Early Touch-Screen Voting. You can vote in the Nov. 2nd general election early via touch screen! Visit www.lavote.net/main.htm for times and more info.	Redondo Beach Main Library 303 N Pacific Coast Highway Redondo Beach, CA
Oct. 25	7 - 8:45p.m.	Education Update Consensus Meeting- Part 1 This is the first of a two-part meeting to reach a consensus on education-related issues. All welcome!	Manhattan Beach Public Library 1400 Highland Ave., MB, CA
Oct. 26	7 - 9:30p.m.	Pros & Cons: Statewide Ballot Propositions. We'll discuss the pros and cons for all of the initiatives on the November 2004 state ballot. <i>(Repeat of 10/14)</i>	Redondo Beach Main Library 303 N. Pacific Coast Highway Redondo Beach, CA
Nov. 2	7a.m. - 8p.m.	U.S. Election. This Election is held for national, state and local offices. Don't forget to vote, and bring friends or family with you! Every vote counts!!!	Visit www.beachvoter.org/elections.html to find out where to vote, as well as other election info.



701 13th Street
Manhattan Beach, CA 90266
310- 413-6904
editor@beachvoter.org
www.beachvoter.org

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