



# *The Beach Voter*

League of Women Voters of the Beach Cities

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

## **Hear the Pros & Cons of Propositions on the Nov. 6 Ballot**

Manhattan Beach City Council Chambers  
1400 Highland Ave. Manhattan Beach  
Wednesday, October 3, 2018 at 7:00 pm

Co-sponsored by the City of Manhattan Beach

**See enclosed flyer**

## **Candidate Forums - Hawthorne Municipal Election**

On Nov. 6<sup>th</sup> voters in the City of Hawthorne will select two City Council members, a City Clerk and Treasurer. The LWV-Beach Cities will be sponsoring two candidate forums:

### **Hollyglen**

Wed., Sept 26, 6:00 pm  
Cabrillo Elementary School  
5309 W 135th Street  
Hawthorne, CA 90250

### **Hollypark**

Thur., Oct. 4, 2018, 7:00 pm  
Atherton Church  
2627 W. 116th Street  
Hawthorne, CA

## **Can you spare some time to help with any of the following?**

Call candidates to remind them to post their qualifications on Voter's Edge (votersedge.org/ca)? Contact Joan LeSage (sage.joan@gmail.com).

Spend a couple of hours helping register voters at the Manhattan Beach Hometown Fair on October 6 and 7, or at some other venue? Contact Penny Markey (pennymarkey@gmail.com).

Assist with a candidates forum by passing out paper and pencils, sorting written questions from the audience, timekeeping, or greeting attendees? If so, contact Diane Wallace (dmbarkwall@gmail.com). Every little bit helps, and YOUR help will be VERY much appreciated!

INSIDE THIS ISSUE	PAGE
Pros & Cons Meeting in Manhattan Beach	1
Candidates Meeting in Hawthorne	1
Help needed in election season	1
Inside This Issue	2
Membership Activities	3
Revitalizing the League—Hutchison Talk	3-4
January homeless program and count	4
Vote With The League on Ballot Measures	5-6
How About Joining a League Committee?	6
LA Homeless Myths	7
Calendar	8

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 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, 16 years or older, male or female, may become a League member. The League does not endorse, support or oppose candidates or political parties.

To become a member: Send check in the amount of \$30.00 (first time members introductory rate) payable to "League of Women Voters Beach Cities" to Susan Grebe at 629 19th Street, Manhattan Beach, CA 90266.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Interests \_\_\_\_\_

## MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

Welcome new members! Maria Reifler of Venice, Katie Frankle of Redondo Beach, Dorothy Claire Kearney of Redondo Beach, Justin Massey of Hermosa Beach and Heather Averbrook of Manhattan Beach.

Our August Member Mixer was a lively evening event. Fourteen of us celebrated the 98<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment in the festive El Torito cantina!

A dozen members attended the September Member Mixer at St. Cross Church in Hermosa Beach where we discussed upcoming Voter Service events. October is busy with pre-election forums and voter registrations — a great way to get involved and meet other members. Look for **volunteers needed** on the website and in your emails.

Please contact me if you are interested in planning a November mixer.  
[annkuhns@verizon.net](mailto:annkuhns@verizon.net)

## REVITALIZING THE LEAGUE

Speaking on “The Journey to 2020” at this year’s Tri-League Kickoff Brunch, Helen Hutchison, President of the League of Women Voters of California, highlighted recently adopted innovations aimed at making the state organization more relevant and helpful to its members.

Concerned with lack of diversity in the LWV, the State Board recently created a task force to support local Leagues in attracting a more diverse membership. Webinar discussions on the topic are scheduled. In this effort and others, Hutchison reminded us to “think outside the box” and said the Board had discussed the possibility of creating a different way to nominate members to the State Board to increase diversity.

The League is also looking at ways to be stronger advocates and enhance our efforts by partnering with other groups. In environmental work, she said, there was a time when the LWV often seemed to be the only game in town, but now there are many organizations addressing environmental issues. We welcome opportunities to work with these organizations.

Features of the League that will not change are the information we provide to voters, our work to expand the electorate, our advocacy and our desire to be as effective as possible. Every League can work on issues of special importance to them, while the focus at the National level will be on core issues.

Hutchison mentioned that there is funding available to Leagues who register new voters in areas where they have not been registered before.

The LWV needs to build membership and embrace new members in new ways. We must help new members get engaged in their areas of interest. We don’t want to say: “It’s not the League way,” “We don’t have consensus,” or “That’s not how its done.” We must not miss opportunities to try new things. (Continued on p. 4)

Page 4

Revitalizing the League, cont'd.

Hutchison said there is still talk about having dues sent directly to Washington.

Topics that came up during the question and answer period included the split roll for property taxes, problems with registration of non-citizens at the DMV, and implementation of the Vote Centers that in 2020 will replace neighborhood Polling Places throughout Los Angeles County.

For more on activities of the League of Women Voters of California, election information and much, much more, visit the LWVC website: <https://lwvc.org>.

### THANKS TO ALL OF YOU

. . . who completed and returned our recent survey. We value your input and will keep it in mind in planning where our Beach Cities LWV should be directing our energies. This is your League!

Sincerely, The LWV-Beach Cities Board

### FOR YOUR CALENDAR

Late January 2019:

**Look forward to a LWV program on Homelessness.** It's a concern that touches our cities, county, state, and experts predict the population will grow if our communities don't actively embrace projects that help prevent and eliminate it.

**Participate in the annual LA County Homeless Count.** It only takes a few hours, allows you to observe those in need in our area, and contribute to the required data for our communities' support groups who work with these individuals daily.

#### **Did you know?**

13,000 people lose their housing EVERY MONTH in LA County, due to systemic problems including: rising rents, stagnant wages, and the decreased development of affordable housing.

There is only one shelter bed for every four LA County individuals experiencing homelessness.

## Vote With The League

### **YES ON PROP 1: VETERANS AND AFFORDABLE HOUSING BOND**

California is experiencing a housing crisis. The state's extreme shortage of affordable housing has life and death consequences, especially for people with low incomes. Housing instability has been linked to public health crises, food insecurity, and developmental problems in children. Prop 1 will build and preserve affordable homes, including supportive housing, for veterans, working families, people with disabilities, Californians experiencing homelessness and others struggling to find a safe place to call home.

### **YES ON PROP 2: HOMELESS HOUSING BOND**

A quarter of the nation's homeless reside in California--over 130,000 people. A significant percentage of our homeless population suffers from mental illness. Prop 2 allows the use of unspent money, originally allocated through a 2004 measure to fund mental health services, to be used to address the problem. If passed, the unspent money would be used to provide permanent supportive housing for people who need mental health services, and are either currently homeless or at risk of becoming homeless.

### **NO ON PROP 3: WATER BOND**

It is essential that California manage and develop water resources in ways that benefit the environment, and that the environmental focus emphasizes both conservation and use-appropriate high water quality standards. However, this bond is not the way to accomplish those goals. While the League of Women Voters of California supports the use of long-term debt (bond measures) to finance capital projects, this measure has a number of fatal flaws, including:

- Shifting the cost for water from the end users to California taxpayers.

### **NO ON PROP 4: CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL BOND**

While the League supports quality healthcare for all Californians, Prop 4 would use \$1.5 billion in public, general obligation bond money to support privately-owned children's hospitals, along with five children's hospitals in the University of California system. State funds should not be used to support private facilities. This principle stands even when, as is the case in this measure, the facilities serve severely ill children. The bond money would be used for construction, expansion, renovation, and equipment projects.

### **NO ON PROP 5: PROPERTY TAX**

Property taxes are the major source of funding for schools and local services. Prop 5 is a costly constitutional amendment that would reduce funds for schools and local services by \$1 billion per year. In exchange for that \$1 billion a year, Prop 5 would provide special tax benefits to some property owners. It does nothing to help low-income seniors, or families struggling to find housing. Seniors already have the ability to keep their tax break when they downsize. Prop 5 drains California's coffers of money that is essential to schools and communities.

(Continued on page 6)

**NO ON PROP 6: GAS TAX REPEAL**

California is in critical need of highway and local street repairs and maintenance, and improvements to mass transit and transportation. Prop 6 would repeal the recently-enacted 2017 package of taxes and fees approved by the State Legislature to fund transportation projects, amounting to a loss of \$4.7 billion in annual funding. The measure would also add a constitutional amendment requiring any fuel or diesel taxes to be approved by voters, limiting the legislature's ability to address California's serious infrastructure needs.

**YES ON PROP 10: REPEAL COSTA HAWKINS**

Multiple strategies are needed to address the significant housing shortages and inequities that exist across California. While this rent control measure offers little systemic progress, and may not result in adding new affordable housing units, it does allow local communities to respond to the housing crisis in ways that are appropriate for each of them. We support providing local communities with this control.

**Gain new insights. Share ideas.  
Collaborate with talented people.  
Join a League committee.**

**EDUCATION**

Jeanne Hamilton, Chair  
909-204-1512  
[jeannehamiltonclaremont@gmail.com](mailto:jeannehamiltonclaremont@gmail.com)

**HEALTH AND WELLNESS**

Harriet Chase, Co-chair  
310-545-1026  
[hzchase@roadrunner.com](mailto:hzchase@roadrunner.com)

**ENVIRONMENT**

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**HOMELESS**

Teri Neustaedter, Chair  
913-568-5466  
[tmufic@gmail.com](mailto:tmufic@gmail.com)

Contact the committee chairs for more information.

## Being homeless is not a crime.

### LA Homelessness Myths

Fear and misinformation reign regarding our homeless neighbors. Some paint our house-less neighbors as drug addicts and criminals; others see construction of new supportive housing units as a threat to their quality of life and personal safety. Please help us bust these common myths:

**Myth #1: Homeless people prefer living on the streets** The truth is that a lack of affordable housing, a dearth of supportive solutions, and far too few shelter beds have pushed more than 53,000 people onto our streets (A small drop from 2017). These folks are homeless because they can't access housing—not because they love the lifestyle. *People living on LA streets want to live in stable housing; Nobody enjoys sleeping on a sidewalk.*

The problem is a lack of housing. Since 2015, L.A. County has moved more than 14,000 homeless residents into supportive units. But we need to help many, many more.

Shelters are another issue. Of our 12,000 emergency shelter beds, many fill up every night. Mayor Garcetti recently announced plans to build 1,500 more, but that would still only provide short-term shelter to around a quarter of our unhoused population. (In comparison, New York has over 60,000 shelter beds, serving around 77,000 homeless people.)

**Myth #2: Homeless people just need to get jobs** Many homeless people already have jobs, but average wages are too low to keep up with exploding rents. About 44 percent of homeless people around the country did some paid work during the previous month, according to a 1996 survey by the Urban Institute. In 2013, the Department of Housing and Urban Development found that 17 percent of homeless adults in families had paying jobs and 55 percent worked during the previous year.

But rents keep rising. Today, 1 in 3 renters in the Los Angeles metropolitan area is considered “severely rent burdened,” meaning they spend at least half (or more) of their income on housing. L.A. County is also one of the most unaffordable regions in the country for the poorest renters, according to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. It's estimated that a rent increase of just 5 percent across the county would push 2,000 people into homelessness. This is why we need more supportive housing solutions now – so many are already so close to the edge.

**Myth #3: L.A. will always have homeless folks because our weather is so great** Unhoused people are not foreign intruders; the majority are longtime residents who've fallen on hard times. More than three-quarters of people experiencing homelessness in L.A. County have lived here for at least five years, and 57% of those living on the streets have been living in L.A. for more than 20 years.

Perpetuating the idea that our homeless neighbors are foreigners only further dehumanizes them. And, by not recognizing this crisis as homegrown, it's far easier to ignore it.

For more detail on these myths, and additional valuable information about homelessness and what LA city and county are doing to improve the situation, check the United Way website:

<http://everyoneinla.org/> #EveryoneIn.

From Teri Neustaedter,  
Homeless Committee Chair

## CALENDAR

Page 8

<b>Oct 3 Wednesday</b>	<b>7:00-9:00 PM</b>	<b>Review of Pros &amp; Cons of Propositions on Nov. 6 Ballot</b>	<b>Manhattan Beach City Council Chambers 1400 Highland Ave. Manhattan Beach</b>
<b>Oct 4 Thursday</b>	<b>7:00-9:00 PM</b>	<b>Hawthorne Municipal Candidates Forum</b>	<b>Atherton Church 2627 W. 116th St. Hawthorne CA 90250</b>
<b>Oct 6-7 Sat—Sun</b>	<b>10:00 AM–5:00 PM</b>	<b>M. B. Hometown Fair LWVBC Voter Registration Table</b>	<b>Live Oak Park North Valley Drive Manhattan Beach</b>
<b>Oct 8 Monday</b>	<b>6:45 PM-9:30 PM (Mtg begins promptly at 7:00)</b>	<b>Board Meeting</b>	<b>St. Cross Church 1818 Monterey Blvd. Hermosa Beach Rm. 5</b>
<b>Oct 22 Saturday</b>		<b>Last day to register to vote in Nov. 6 General Election</b>	
<b>Oct 29 Saturday</b>	<b>7:00 PM-9:00 PM</b>	<b>Vote With The League (recommendations on the November ballot measures)</b>	<b>Manhattan Beach Library Meeting Room 1320 Highland Ave.</b>



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