



Democracy is not a  
spectator sport.

Marian Wright Edelman

@quotefancy

THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF THE BEACH CITIES:  
EL SEGUNDO, HAWTHORNE, HERMOSA BEACH, INGLEWOOD,  
MANHATTAN BEACH & REDONDO BEACH

## FROM OUR PRESIDENT

Joan LeSage



2021 - already? Are we *all* ready?? Now is the time for New Year's Resolutions AND League Program Planning!

What should the CA League focus on? Where can LWVBC make a difference? At our January Membership Meeting we will review current League positions and discuss what we should tell the League we want them to focus on for the next 2 years.

We also need to talk about what we want to focus on for the rest of this year. On what are you willing to expend your time, energy and expertise? Please join us January 16!

Our book club choice for January is *Making Our Democracy Work* by Supreme Court Justice Stephen Breyer (one of the "liberal" justices).

Why is there such a commotion about appointments to the Supreme Court? We all should understand the role of the court, and this book will help us become more educated citizens. Join us even if you haven't read the book-it should be a good discussion.

The really good news is that the COVID vaccine is being distributed, and it will help us out of this crazy environment. In the meantime, our League activities can help you focus on things that do matter.

I hope to ZOOM with you in January!

Life is  
beautiful  
ENJOY IT  
HAPPY  
New Year

## THE VOTER

January 2021

EVENTS FOR YOUR  
CALENDAR

### Saturday Jan. 16<sup>th</sup> 10am - Noon

Don't miss our **Annual Meeting** to discuss positions and program planning for 2021. More information will be sent to you in December. On ZOOM

### Thursday Jan. 21<sup>st</sup> 6:30-8pm

Join us for **Third Thursday Mixer** on ZOOM! What is the one thing you would like to see happen in 2021?

### Wednesday Jan. 27<sup>th</sup> 7-8:30pm

LWVBC Book Club on ZOOM: *Making Our Democracy Work* by Supreme Court Justice Stephen Breyer. Even if you can't read the entire book, read a few chapters and come ready to discuss the Supreme Court.

### Saturday Jan. 30<sup>th</sup> 9:30am-12:30pm

LA County LWV Winter League Day

### Monday Feb. 8<sup>th</sup> 7-9pm

LWVBC **Board Meeting** on ZOOM.

### Thursday Feb. 18<sup>th</sup> 6:30-8 pm

Join us for **Third Thursday Mixer** on ZOOM! What would you like to discuss?

### Wednesday Feb. 24<sup>th</sup> 7-8:30pm

LWVBC Book Club on ZOOM: *CASTE The Origins of our Discontents* by Isabel Wilkerson. Great discussion ahead!

## WINTER LEAGUE DAY

More than a dozen local LWV chapters in Los Angeles County get together quarterly to learn, share information, and organize. All LWV members are invited to these social and educational events. In pre-COVID times, we met in person with two programs separated by brunch.

**This January 30, we will meet via Zoom 9:30-12:30.** You can register for Winter League Day at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/winter-league-day-redistricting-education-equality-tickets-131662392761>

At 9:55-10:45, immediate LWVUS past president, Chris Carson, will **teach us about redistricting** with an emphasis on what's happening in Los Angeles County. The LWV serves as a watchdog on democracy. Learn how you can help monitor and ensure that redistricting is fair and transparent.

At 10:55-12:00, learn about **Equality and Education from Professor John Rogers**, director of UCLA's Institute for Democracy, Education and Access (IDEA). He will share and discuss his two recent reports: *Learning Lessons: US Public High Schools and the COVID-19 Pandemic in Spring 2020* and *Reclaiming the Democratic Purpose of California's Public Schools*. Rogers will lay out his team's recommendations to make education more equitable and democratic.

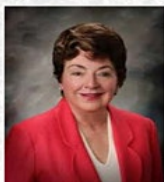
LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF LOS ANGELES COUNTY

# WINTER LEAGUE DAY

Saturday, January 30, 2021

9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Zoom Meeting | \$10 Registration



## Redistricting: Education, Monitoring, and Organizing. What You Need to Know.

Chris Carson, LWV California Redistricting Liaison

Former LWVUS President Chris Carson will present on the LWV's work in ensuring a transparent redistricting process. Discussion will focus on LA County and City redistricting.



## Equality and Education

John Rogers, UCLA

Dr. John Rogers is director of UCLA's Institute for Democracy, Education, and Access (IDEA). He will share and discuss his two new reports: *Learning Lessons: U.S. Public High Schools and the COVID-19 Pandemic in Spring 2020* and *Reclaiming the Democratic Purpose of California's Public Schools*. Rogers will lay out his recommendations to make education more equitable and democratic.

9:30 A.M.	Overview & Introductions
9:45 A.M.	Redistricting: Education, Monitoring and Organizing
10:45 A.M.	Break
10:55 A.M.	Equality and Education
12:00 P.M.	LWV LAC Updates and Announcements

## REGISTER AT

**WinterLeagueDay2021.eventbrite.com**

Deadline to register is Wednesday, January 27.  
Zoom link will be emailed prior to the event.

**LWVBC needs volunteers to monitor redistricting** for city council districts in Inglewood and Redondo Beach, and El Camino Community College District, West Basin Municipal Water District and Water Replenishment District Boards. Please email Grace Peng, [gspeng.lwv@gmail.com](mailto:gspeng.lwv@gmail.com), if you can "adopt" any of these districts by monitoring their redistricting process. (Chris Carson will show us how!)

With past problems of mismanagement and graft at various water boards in the region, this is an important function of local LWV chapters. This is a perfect opportunity for students and new LWV members to get involved.



## LWVBC Membership Meeting

Saturday January 16<sup>th</sup>, 10am – Noon

*Join Zoom Meeting*

<https://zoom.us/j/95825306545?pwd=aFJwU0lUM1hQNmRrWFBpcINJa3d5QT09>

Meeting ID: 958 2530 6545      Passcode: 743011

### ***Make Your Voice Heard!***

The League of Women Voters was built on this premise - it is truly a grassroots organization.

The League of Women Voters of California (LWVC) looks to its local leagues (like ours) to give it direction. In League lingo “PROGRAM” includes the issues the League chooses for study, education, and action (including advocacy) at local and state levels.

**Now is our opportunity to send LWVC our input on where we think the League should use its resources for 2021-2022.** During our zoom meeting we will review the League’s positions on Education, Mental Health, Water (Natural Resources), Housing & Homelessness, and Criminal Justice. For each topic we will discuss current issues and concerns, where things need to change, and how we can make a difference.

This is also a time for our league to consider where we want to spend our resources for the rest of the year. It’s a great way to learn what position LWV takes on these topics and determine how you might want to get involved.



### **These presenters will walk us through the different topics:**

Jeanne Hamilton: **Education**  
Mary Dillon: **Mental Health**  
Teri Neustaedter: **Housing & Homelessness**  
Arnette Travis: **Criminal Justice**  
Grace Peng: **Water/Natural Resources**

**Your voice matters, so please ask questions and feel free to jump in on the discussion. This is a conversation, not a lecture.**

Would you like to learn more about LWVC Program Planning? [Click right here.](#)

# Natural Resources Corner

By Dr. Grace Peng, *Chair, LWVC Energy Team*



## Energy: Moving Away from Natural Gas

LWVC supports gradual electrification of residential buildings while paying attention to low-income vulnerable communities. **This means not installing natural gas hookups in new home construction and encouraging the gradual conversion of existing homes from gas to electricity.** For instance, when our gas dryer died after 23 years, we upgraded the electrical to 220 volts and replaced it with an electric dryer.

I thought that this would be relatively non-controversial because of the health dangers to using natural gas appliances inside homes. The evidence against natural gas stoves, even when properly vented, is damning. Children who live in homes with gas stoves are 42% more likely to develop asthma than children who grew up with electric stoves.

<https://www.sciencetimes.com/articles/25590/20200506/gas-stoves-making-people-sicker-exposing-children-higher-risk-asthma.htm>

Correlation is not causation. I read a journal article where they recruited families who had brought their children into hospitals for acute asthma attacks and had gas stoves in their homes. They were randomly assigned to 2 groups. The study paid for swapping out gas for electric stoves in half the families. All children were given the same standard of medical care for asthma. *There was a 30% reduction in asthma attacks for the children whose families were given electric stoves.*

I've watched SoCal Gas' efforts to get local governments to pass their "Balanced Energy Solutions" bills that would exert local control should Sacramento pass a ban on gas hookups in new residential construction. **Sammy Roth at the LA Times has covered this extensively, including SoCal Gas'**

**payments to communities of color to be the public face of this campaign.**

<https://www.latimes.com/business/story/2020-11-23/clean-energy-fossil-fuels-racial-justice>

<https://www.latimes.com/business/story/2020-12-07/should-california-ban-gas-in-new-homes-a-climate-battle-heats-up>

I watched my city (Redondo Beach) and South Bay Cities Council of Governments debate and vote down the SoCal Gas' bill. In both cases, Latino, Black and some Asian officials, who were relatively quiet in the deliberations, voted in support of SoCal Gas. Many found it odd that "Balanced Energy Solutions" is being sold as a Local Control issue; but, when it failed to pass in many South Bay cities, it was introduced at SBCCOG to supersede local cities' decisions.

As the Chair of the LWVC Energy Team, IMHO, LWVC's policies on electrification and decarbonization of CA's energy sector are moderate and well-considered.

**In summary**, we will need natural gas power plants to stabilize our grid and help us keep the lights on. We should phase out residential use of natural gas on both greenhouse gas emissions and health grounds. UC Berkeley and UCLA studies agree. We can reach 90% clean electricity with the same cost as today. **100% carbon-free electricity 24/7 will cost more than twice as much and be poor ROI compared to decarbonizing transportation, CA's largest GHG emitter.**

<https://gspp.berkeley.edu/news/news-center/the-us-can-reach-90-percent-clean-electricity-by-2035-dependably-and-without-increasing-consumer-bills>

<https://newsroom.ucla.edu/releases/california-policy-grid-renewable-energy>

## Let's Learn About... The Water-Energy Nexus

Water is heavy; it takes large amounts of energy to haul water uphill. Conversely, the prodigious power of water rolling downhill can scour stone into canyons, and can also be harnessed for energy, whether it is used for grinding grain or generating electricity.

Water has embedded energy; the awesome power of the sun evaporates water from the oceans-leaving salt and other impurities behind-and then lifts it high up in the atmosphere where it coalesces into precipitation. The higher up that precipitation falls, the more places it can potentially roll downhill (its natural watershed).

Add energy, and we expand the natural watershed by pumping water uphill. Moving water around consumes more electricity in California than any other use. The [Edmonston Pumping Plant](#), which lifts water 2000 feet from the Central Valley to southern California, is the single largest user of electricity in California and accounts for [40% of the electricity used by the State Water Project](#) (SWP).

Water conveyance, treatment, delivery, heating and sewage treatment account for about [20% of California electricity and 30% of natural gas use](#). Most of the energy consumed by the water sector is for [residential use](#).

For the full article, click here:

<https://lwvc.org/water-energy-nexus>



# HELP NEEDED!

*Do you like to edit content? What about making something look attractive? Or maybe you've always wanted to learn how to do a newsletter...*

*We are in urgent need of a member to produce our monthly newsletter email. This includes the collection of articles and information, reports and events that are submitted by other members.*

Please contact [Joan LeSage](mailto:sage.joan@gmail.com) at [sage.joan@gmail.com](mailto:sage.joan@gmail.com)

## Numbers that Defined us in 2020

*Pass the Data, Please!*

[From USAFACTS.org](http://USAFACTS.org)

16 million Americans have had **COVID-19** as of Dec. 14, 2020 – **1 in 20** have contracted the virus since its onset in the spring.

In April, the **unemployment** rate was at its **highest in more than 70 years: 14.7%**. We remain down 9.8M jobs compared to last February.

**April air travel** was less than a tenth of what it was in the wake of 9/11: 3.3M this past April vs 39M the month after 9/11.

The **price of oil dropped** to its lowest point in over 30 years in April at \$16.55/barrel.

The **federal deficit** accrued in FY 2020 was the **largest ever: \$3.1 trillion**.

**13% of adults** reported that they sometimes or often **didn't have enough to eat** at the start of this December.

This year was **among the 4 worst for acres burned** in wildfires: 9.5 million.

**12: record number of named storms** that made landfall in the US. The US has spent more than \$1.79 trillion on natural disasters since 1980.

**Zero: number of federal agencies that provide timely, comprehensive data** on excessive use of force, and both lethal and non-lethal shootings, by police.

**158 million: number of votes** counted in the 2020 November presidential election, 21 million more than 2016's election.

**White people own 86% of wealth** in the US and make up 60% of the population.

Americans 55 and older **collectively own 72% of wealth** in the US, with Americans 70 and older owning 28% alone.

In 1Q of 2020, 44% of Black Americans owned homes, while 74% of White Americans did, **a 30% gap, fueling wealth inequality**.

**Indulge Your Interests**  
*Get involved!*

Our members join the League for many reasons and contribute their talents in a variety of ways.

Listed below are the active committees within our Beach Cities Chapter, along with the contact person for each committee. Consider how you want to participate in 2021 – one thing is for certain – *Our cities, states, country need you* – now, more than ever!

**ADVOCACY** - Dale Petrulis,  
[dale.petrulis@gmail.com](mailto:dale.petrulis@gmail.com)

**EDUCATION/FAIR ELECTIONS -**  
Jeanne Hamilton,  
[jeannehamiltonclaremont@gmail.com](mailto:jeannehamiltonclaremont@gmail.com)

**HEALTH AND WELLNESS -**  
Harriet Chase,  
[hzchase@roadrunner.com](mailto:hzchase@roadrunner.com)

**HOUSING & HOMELESSNESS -**  
Teri Neustaedter,  
[tmufic@gmail.com](mailto:tmufic@gmail.com)

**MEMBERSHIP** - Arnette Travis,  
[arnettetravis@gmail.com](mailto:arnettetravis@gmail.com)

**NATURAL RESOURCES** - Grace Peng, [gspeng.lwv@gmail.com](mailto:gspeng.lwv@gmail.com)

**VOTERS SERVICE - Barbara Arlow, [gerbar92@msn.com](mailto:gerbar92@msn.com)**

**OBSERVER CORPS –** New for 2021, we'd like to have two people assigned to each city in our chapter so we can stay on top of what's happening and advocate where appropriate. Two people means there's someone to switch off with, as well as someone you can compare your notes and ideas with. Nothing elaborate required: it can be as simple as reading the local papers and staying on top of the city council meeting minutes. When there's a "hot topic" (e.g. RB's outdoor homeless court), Dale Petrulis, our Advocacy Chair, will get the information to the right person. We anticipate this will make our chapter more robust in the coming years!

**The more active you are  
in League, the more  
rewarding you will find it!**

You may also want to investigate our LA County Inter-League Organization (ILO) (email Grace Peng). And right now there are movements around Health Care and Criminal Justice on a state level – if these are areas you're passionate about, don't hold back! Participating on a task force beyond our local chapter can be an incredibly rewarding experience – and can really help our chapter become more active in that area (email Teri Neustaedter for more information).

Together We Succeed!



# The COVID-19 Vaccine is Here!

*Destined to be in our arms soon...*

LA County is hopefully cresting its peak of C19 cases, with nearly 8,000 patients currently hospitalized and 20% of those in ICU (as of 01/14/21). We have lost more than 13,000 LA County residents to COVID; 1 in 3 of us have had the virus, according to the LA Times.

Vaccine supply remains limited, but as soon as more becomes available people 65 and older will be able to receive it at various locations across the county. Visit: [www.VaccinateLACounty.com](http://www.VaccinateLACounty.com) to learn about the vaccination phases, determine when you can get vaccinated, and sign-up for our COVID-19 vaccine newsletter.

*Left: LWVBC member Michele Devlin received her initial dose of the vaccine in late December, and has been vaccinating others ever since.*

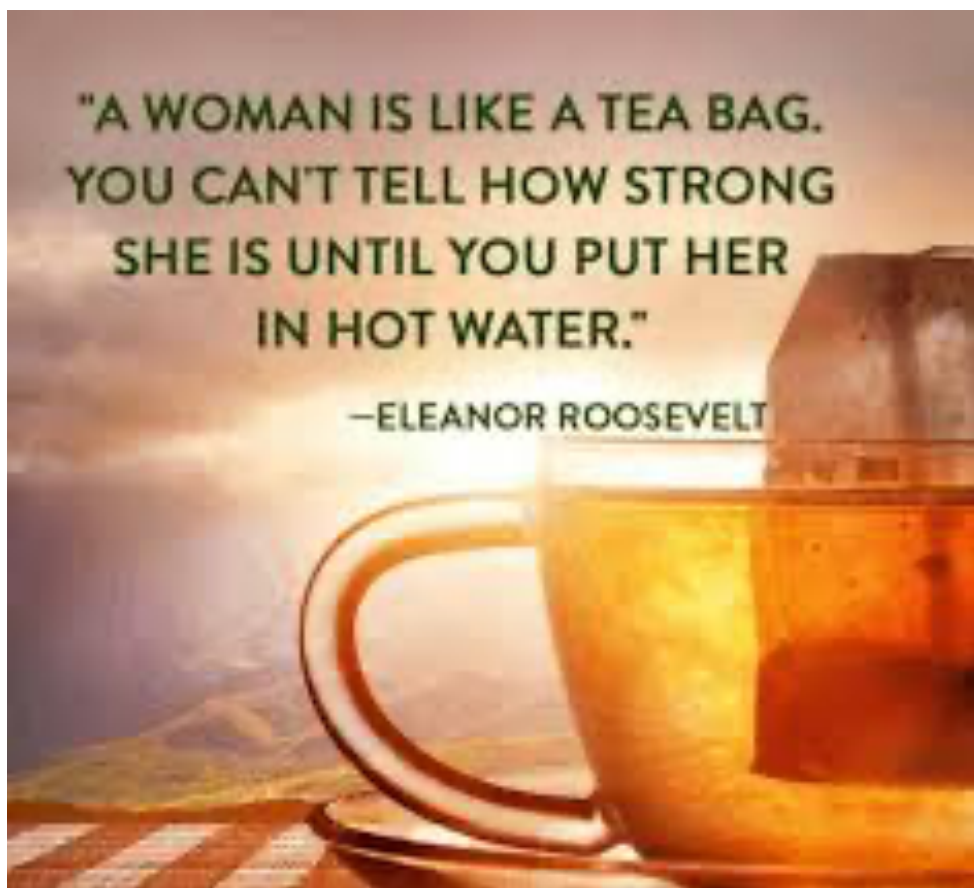


## Be on the Lookout



Soon you will discover our new LWVBC Directory in your mailbox. This information is meant for League use only.

You will also find our "Non-Event" Fundraising letter enclosed. We greatly appreciate your generosity.



## THE VOTER

League of Women Voters  
of the Beach Cities

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[www.lwvbeachcities.org](http://www.lwvbeachcities.org)

