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THE VOTER

Fall 2024

In This Issue:

- Why we have a new Facebook page:
- LA COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY CANDIDATE FORUM
- CA PROPOSITION PROS & CONS
- HAWTHORNE CANDIDATE FORUM
- MANHATTAN BEACH CITY COUNCIL CANDIDATE FORUM
- Event Calendar 2024

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Why we have a new Facebook page: Trolls, Algorithms or Mischief-makers?

In April, we were informed by Facebook that our LWV Beach Cities page had been disabled.

We're not alone. Dozens of League organizations across the country have seen their pages suspended with various non-specific explanations from the social media company for disabling their pages. None of the Leagues know why they were targeted.

According to the League of Women Voters national organization, at least eight chapters around the country have requested support to have their pages reinstated.

"Voters rely on the social media accounts of trusted sources in their communities like their local Leagues," said LWV press secretary Shannon Augustus in a statement. "It is troubling that local League Facebook pages have been suspended so close to elections, which harms the voters looking for accurate election information on the social media platform."

We appealed the ban, with the response: "Our technology found that your content goes against our standards," and in a follow-up Facebook added that examples of things that "go against our Community Standards" "Pretending a Page or profile has a business relationship with a business, celebrity or public figure."

None of those things applied to our League page. But we were unable to get any response from Facebook/Meta to lift the ban. With the election bearing down on us, we had no option but to create a new page to get election news out. (Our Instagram page remains the same.)

Please visit our new Facebook page here.



David Silva, an assistant communication studies professor at Kent State, noted that individuals and groups of Facebook users, as well as political opponents, have launched flagging campaigns against particular groups, in which they mark posts as "inappropriate." The freeze may be more a result of the number of flag requests than anything that is actually in the posts, he said.

When flags are placed on content that is extreme or violent, society benefits, but "those same tools can be used maliciously," he said.

That the LWV is being targeted, he said, is no accident and may reflect society's longstanding and pervasive targeting of disadvantaged groups. Given that the LWV's focus on voting rights benefits traditionally disadvantaged groups, that makes sense. Silva could not say for sure, but he thought it was "fairly likely" that a group opposed to the LWV was having its members report those posts.

"Social media is no better than real life. It's no different where disadvantaged groups continue to have their voices under-represented," he said.

Because Facebook has deprioritized its investment in ensuring that content flags are coming from authentic uncoordinated sources, Silva said, "the ability for someone to abuse the Facebook system, which is built for something good, to keep harmful things off of social media, obviously leads to bad outcomes for this particular group."

IMPORTANT ELECTION EVENTS

LA COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY CANDIDATE FORUM

Tune in Sunday, September 29 at 6p on ABC 7 for a District Attorney Candidate Forum hosted by LWV Greater Los Angeles, LWV Los Angeles County, ABC7 and Univision. Questions for George Gascon and Nathan Hochman have been developed by the League and host organizations.

LA COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY CANDIDATE FORUM

SAVE THE DATE! SUNDAY EVENING SEPT. 29, 2024 LIVE ON TV!

Candidate Forum for the November 5, 2024 Election

Co-sponsored by
the Leagues of Women
Voters of Greater Los
Angeles and Los Angeles
County on
KABC Television

Stayed Tuned for more information!





CA PROPOSITION PROS & CONS

Make informed choices when you vote.

Open to the Public



Learn the Pros and Cons of State Propositions and County Measures

Sunday, October 13, 8:30-9:50am Manhattan Beach Community Church 303 S Peck Ave, Manhattan Beach, CA

Tuesday, October 22, 6:00 - 7:30pm

Manhattan Beach Library 1320 Highland Ave, Manhattan Beach, CA

Open to the Public

This November, California voters will decide on 10 ballot propositions on issues relating to crime, health care, rent control, taxes and bonds.

What are all these measures really about and who supports and opposes them? The League will present unbiased background information on the Pros and Cons of measures that may be different from what you hear on TV ads.

Can't make it in person? Download the slides <u>here.</u>

HAWTHORNE CANDIDATE FORUM

2024 CANDIDATE FORUM



for Hawthorne Mayor and City Council Candidates

Hear what the candidates have to say on local issues.

Wednesday, October 2, 6pm Hollyglen Neighborhood Association

Hollyglen Elementary School 5309 W. 135th St., Hawthorne

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MANHATTAN BEACH CITY COUNCIL CANDIDATE FORUM



Join LWVBC for a forum with the six candidates

running for three seats on the Manhattan Beach City Council

Thursday October 17, 7:00pm

Mira Costa High School - Small Theater 1401 Artesia Blvd, Manhattan Beach, CA 90266

Co-sponsored by MB News & Manhattan Beach Chamber of Commerce

KEY VOTING DATES FOR LA COUNTY

Oct. 3-7: Vote by Mail (VBM) ballots mailed

Oct. 7: Ballot drop boxes open

Oct. 21: Last day to register and get Vote by Mail ballot

Oct. 26: Early Vote Centers Open 10am-7pm

Oct. 28: Last day to get replacement Vote by Mail ballot

Nov. 2: All Vote Centers open!

Nov. 5: Election Day

Event Calendar 2024

Please visit the website calendar and event pages for more information and registration links. lwvbeachcities.org.

September

9/29 Sun LA County District Attorney Candidate Forum 6:00pm Live on KABC TV. Hosted by LWV Greater Los Angeles, LWV Los Angeles County, ABC7 and Univision.

October

10/2 Wed Hawthorne Candidate Forum for City Council and Mayor, Hollyglen Elementary School, 6:00pm OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

10/9 Wed LWVBC Board Meeting 3-5pm, St. Cross Church Rm. 5, All members are welcome!

10/10 Thu No WIG meeting this month

10/13 Sun Ballot Proposition Pros & Cons Presentation 8:30-10:00am Manhattan Beach Community Church, OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

10/17 Thu Manhattan Beach Candidate Forum for City Council, 7:00pm At Mira Costa High School's Sma Theater.

10/22 Tue Health & Wellness Committee (HWC) 1:00pm - 2:30pm Click here for Zoom

10/22 Tue <u>Ballot Proposition Pros & Cons Presentation</u> 6:00-7:30pm Manhattan Beach Library, OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

November

11/5 Tue ELECTION DAY

11/6 Wed LWVBC Board Meeting 3-5pm, St. Cross Church Rm. 5, All members are welcome!

11/10 Sun "Pieces of My Heart" Play and LWVBC Mixer 2:00 pm, Manhattan Beach Community Church MB, More details soon!

11/14 Thu No WIG meeting this month



Carol Patterson's article about ther LWV Convention experience as printed in STROLL Magazine.

It is quite amazing when a bucket list item just pops up as a reality! I recently returned from beautiful Washington Dt after attending the 2024 National Convention of the League of Women Voters as a voting delegate. I am an unashamed political junkie and have been active for decades in this great non-partisan organization. Suddenly I have the opportunity to go, and I jumped aboard.

Before I could take it all in, I was in Washington. Upon entering the Washington Hilton I began meeting and getting to know members (1,279 attendees both in person and online) from all over the United States, Washington DC and the Virgin Islands. That was nonstop through the next 4 days and even on the flight home. The next day, 230 League members headed to Capitol Hill for Lobby Day to advocate for the John R Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act. Th voice of solidarity reached 20% of Congress in one day. Fatima Malik of the LA County League Board, and a new friend for me, suggested that we try to join the California Delegation visits to the Offices of Senators Alex Padilla and Lafansa Butler, then dash off to see if we could also manage to make it to the offices of Congressmen Adam Schiff and Ted Lieu. We did it all, with crazy sightseeing along the way. We made it back to the hotel in time for the officia Conference Reception in the beautiful International Ballroom, the very spot where the Washington Correspondents' dinner took place a few months ago. OK, I'm a hopeless tourist!

The business sessions of the League of Women Voters conference included the election of officers, the budget, and workshops on topics studied over the past two years and studies proposed for the next two. I was especially impressed with the in-depth workshops on Immigration, The Electoral College, and D.C. Statehood. The keynote address was made by Delegate Kim Teehee, director of governmental relations for the Cherokee Nation.

To say my four days in DC were inspiring is a great understatement. I came away with a greater appreciation and understanding of this organization I have belonged to for decades. The people met and the information shared will long be remembered. Oh yes, did I mention that I saw Pete Buttigieg at the DC airport! Thanks for the experience LWV Beach Cities!

Carol Patterson
First Vice President and Membership Chair

Read the LA County ILO Voter - September issue

Advocacy Interest Groups

Interested in joining a State Interest Group? Click here to check out the wide range of groups available.

What are Interest Groups? Interest Groups include members of multiple local Leagues who are interested in a specific topic. They provide a forum for members to support each other in exploring advocacy and educational work around their specific topic of interest, always in line with California League advocacy positions and the One Voice policy. Members of an interest group can find and share resources, discuss experiences, and best practices, and provide support across local Leagues.

Advocacy Interest Groups are growing in the areas of Criminal Justice Reform, Healthcare, Housing and Homelessness, Climate Change, Water, and Immigration.

Please send Chynell Freeman an email (<u>cfreeman@lwvc.org</u>) for assistance in joining a group.







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