



The Beach Voter

League of Women Voters of the Beach Cities

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

HOLIDAY CHEER AND REVIEW OF STATE POSITIONS A BUSINESS MEETING FOLLOWED BY POTLUCK

Save the Date: Saturday December 8, 10 AM to 1:30 PM
Home of Henrietta Mosley
436 First Street, Manhattan Beach

Please Bring: Last name A-L: Hot Dish
Last name M-Z: Salad

Recommended: i-Pad, tablet or laptop (to access
information on LWVC positions)



Now that the midterm election is over, and while we still have a priority for “Making Democracy Work” on the national level, our focus turns to the state program. In anticipation of the state convention in 2019, members throughout the state will be asked these questions: “What would you like to see as the focus of our program activity for 2019-2021 on the state level?” “What are the most important issues for advocacy?” “Where should our outreach be?” “Is there an issue of concern that our program does not cover?”

Program has been defined as education and advocacy. It includes study of numerous issues over almost 100 years. If consensus was reached at the local level and adopted at a state convention, then the League can take an active role in advocating for that position. It often results in legislation by our elected officials. Often it can make possible support of an initiative or referendum on the ballot, as you saw in this past election, or reaching out to the public through information and educational forums.

This year, at the holiday luncheon, we will review the League’s State positions and discuss whether we should retain, drop or update them. Since the positions are so numerous, we recommend you prepare for the meeting by accessing the brief summaries available on-line at <https://lwvc.org/our-work/positions> and selecting the issues of most interest to you for further review. Then you’ll be ready to raise your voice in response to the questions above and share your ideas and opinions.

Jan Nathanson, LWV-Beach Cities Program Co-Chair

rjnathanson@yahoo.com

INSIDE THIS ISSUE	PAGE
Holiday Cheer & Review of State Positions	1
Inside This Issue	2
From the LWV-Beach Cities Co-Presidents	3
Welcome New Members	3
The League Needs You!	3
Committee Reports	4
Mira Costa Prepares for Midterm Elections	5
Leuzinger Students Worked at the Polls	6
Member Survey	6
Homelessness Program in January	7
Food and Clothing Donations Needed	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 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.

The Beach Voter

Co-Presidents:
 Barbara Arlow
 Joan Le Sage

Editor:
 Henrietta Mosley

Copy Editor:
 Barbara Arlow

Production:
 Mignon Thiem-Murphy
 Peggy Bartlett
 Susan Grebe
 Sunhee Park

Circulation:
 Ann Martin

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 _____

From the LWV-Beach Cities Co-Presidents:

If you've wondered if we can make a difference, you can be assured that we do. Our Beach Cities League has been out there advocating for good government, an informed electorate, and a better society!

In the months preceding the recent election our League registered voters at Redondo Union High School, Jon's Market and the Manhattan Beach Hometown Fair. We moderated candidate forums for the City of Hawthorne and California State Assembly and State Senate. The Pros and Cons of the eleven state propositions and LA County Measure W were presented to over 400 people at eight venues. In the last week before the election, the League's recommendations were presented at the Manhattan Beach Library.

Thank you to all who volunteered and worked so hard over the last few months to provide this important community service.

While all this was happening we had new member get-togethers and our Communications Committee, Homelessness Committee, Education Committee, and Health and Wellness Committees all had meetings and started planning this year's activities. We had our first member survey to assess what our members want. To top it off, our Book Club had its initial meeting.

We are continually in awe of our dedicated volunteers who give countless hours in order to make our country a better place. And we are very excited that we have so many new members who already are actively engaged in our efforts.

With so much negativity in our society our League serves as a bright and hopeful beacon of light.

With sincere appreciation,

Barbara Arlow and Joan Le Sage

Welcome New Members!

This month we are happy to welcome Ashley Kruchdele of Torrance; Barbara Doss of Hawthorne; Dale Petrulis, Bev Morse and Jane Affonso of Redondo Beach; Vivian Rahe of Manhattan Beach; Sandra Smith and Jim Parkman of Hermosa Beach.

Ann Kuhns, Membership Chair

The League Needs You!

Early in 2019 the LWVBC's Nominating Committee, chaired by Ann Martin, will begin the process of considering a slate of Board members for the 2019-2020 program year. If you've ever considered taking a more active role in the League, we want to hear from you. After all, any organization is only as strong as its volunteers. If you're interested, contact Ann at (310) 372-2823 or jamartinca@earthlink.net.

Committee Reports

Education Committee — Jeanne Hamilton, Chair

The Education Committee has been meeting since summer to revise the LWV-Beach Cities position statement on Education, last revised in 1995. The committee reviewed the relevant national and state positions before identifying our list of priorities to include. We will interview local education stakeholders including superintendents, faculty, parents and students between now and February. Based on input from them, we will revise our statement as needed, then present it to the Board in March for review.

Members of the Education Committee include Penny Markey, Margaret Thelen, Karen Cull, Diane Wallace and Joan LeSage. Anyone interested in joining in their efforts should contact Jeanne Hamilton (jeannehamiltonclaremont@gmail.com).

Health & Wellness Committee — Harriet Chase, Co-Chair

We are in the process of contacting agencies in Hawthorne and Inglewood to find out how we can partner with them on an activity or in other ways.

The next committee meeting will be on Tuesday, December 11, 1:00 PM at Harriet's home. New members are welcome! If interested, contact Harriet: hzchase@roadrunner.com or 310-545-1026.

First LWV-Beach Cities Book Club Meeting — Debra Estroff, Chair

We believe it was a good start for our new project: LWVBC's Book Club. Twenty-three people signed up for notification and twelve attended on November 8th, 4:00 PM to 5:45 PM.

Decisions made: Our next meeting will be on January 31, a Thursday, from 7:00 PM to 8:30 PM. We meet at Saint Cross Episcopal Church in Hermosa Beach, usually in Rm 4.

The group came to consensus on all of the above issues. I think we will try to meet on the last Thursday of each month. All are welcome.

At this first meeting, each member cited causes and books that they thought would interest the group. A total of twenty-seven books were recommended. These ranged from poetry to non-fiction to fiction. The breadth of participants' backgrounds and interests will make for interesting and important discussions.

The group came to a unanimous decision to read *Evicted: Poverty and Profit in the American City* by Matthew Desmond. There are copies available from the library and many on Ebooks to download. For questions, contact Debra Estroff (dbestroff@mednet.ucla.edu).

Mira Costa Prepares for the Midterm Elections

By Claire DuMont, LWVBC Student Representative: Mira Costa High School

Even though a small percentage of students at Mira Costa are eligible to vote in the midterm elections, students are still trying to do their part to become active in the political climate.

Mira Costa senior Chase Pinkerton hosted and created a mock election for students to vote in last Friday during class. In the form of an online survey, 1,256 students (almost half of all students at Costa) voted on state offices as well as two propositions. Students were also given the opportunity to rank their approval of President Donald Trump's performance as well as which issue they consider to be the most important issue facing the country today.

"For me, there are two objectives of the mock election. First, is to give students the chance to let their views be heard and, second, is to give students experience with voting so that they will hopefully be inspired to vote when they are eligible," Pinkerton said.

The results of the mock election showed an overwhelming majority of Democratic candidates winning by large margins. Dianne Feinstein, the incumbent United States Senator won over Kevin De Leon, the opposing Democratic candidate. The position of Superintendent of Public Instruction was a tight race, with Marshall Tuck defeating Tony K. Thurmond by 12 points. Students also voted on Proposition 6 and Proposition 7 which dealt with the repeal of the Road Repair and Accountability Act and permanent Daylight Savings Time, respectively. For both propositions, the majority of students voted "no."

On the question about Donald Trump's performance, 75% of students disapproved, with 51% disapproving strongly, and 10% of students strongly approving. When asked about the most important issue in the country today, students could choose from gun violence, immigration, economy or jobs, health care, education, terrorism, and wars in other countries. Gun violence was chosen by 51% of students, a large margin. In the 2016 mock election, only 28% of students chose gun violence as the most important issue. Finally, of students surveyed, 48% said that they plan to register Democrat, 23% said they plan to register Republican, and 24% stated no party preference or independent.

"The finding that half of the students who took the survey said they are most concerned about gun violence stood out to me," Pinkerton said. "Students should get more chances to give their opinions like this so the adults who represent us with their votes can consider what we are concerned about."

Over the past few months, I have had the opportunity to attend events for the League of Women Voters as well as the Manhattan Beach Hometown Fair. Earlier in October, I attended a meeting at the Manhattan Beach City Council where the League of Women Voters was going over the Pros and Cons of the propositions on the ballot. Even though I am not old enough to vote yet, I still wanted to take advantage of the opportunity to be informed about the ballot to tell others and make sure other voters are informed.

Additionally, I volunteered at the League of Women Voters booth at the Hometown Fair in the beginning of October. Even though I was only able to register a few new voters, it still felt great to be there handing out information about the propositions and helping one of my friends register to vote. I am thankful for the opportunity to help out new voters in the midterm elections any way that I can.

Leuzinger Students Worked at the Polls

By Lilia Tena, LWVBC Student Representative: Leuzinger High School

Our generation is known for being more vocal about politics than previous generations. In recent years, more and more young people are starting to get involved and supporting their political views. While speaking up about controversial topics may be one way of getting involved, there are plenty of other ways, including becoming poll workers. In order to promote the next generation's involvement in government decisions, several students at Leuzinger High School decided to volunteer as poll workers on this year's election day.

Many of our school's students shared their reasons for volunteering at the polls. For one, students are interested in financial gain (even if it only means making a little over \$100). Students are also interested in helping bring change to whatever they believe is important. While reportedly poll workers are unable to voice their political opinions or attempt to sway voters in any way while volunteering, it certainly serves as an eye opener to the beliefs of those around them. More importantly, when students volunteer as poll workers, it inspires them to both become active voters and to push their fellow peers into registering to vote in the next set of elections.

All Leuzinger students who gave their time to the polls reportedly seem rather satisfied with their experiences. While it may have been a long and strenuous day for them, they promoted the significance of the public's involvement in our nation's decision making, had a realistic view of how much every voter counts, and received a few extra dollars along the way. At the end of the day, our students are working hard to get themselves and others involved in helping our country make important decisions that will affect our futures and the futures of the next generation.

THANK YOU . . .

for responding to our recent member survey! We had a terrific 30% response rate and confirmed that you fully support all things "League.": registering voters, supporting voter rights, getting out the vote, keeping track of and learning more about important League positions, as well as assisting with voter services and program events. Some of you cannot participate as much as you would like, but your membership shows your endorsement of what the LWV stands for — thank you!! With each member's help, LWV-Beach Cities empowers voters and defends democracy!

Teri Neustaedter,
for the Communications Coordinating Committee

FOR YOUR CALENDAR

Look forward to a LWV-Beach Cities program on Homelessness in late January. Get an overview of LA's current situation dealing with affordable housing and our neighbors who need a home. Find out a little more about them: One third have mental health issues, and these individuals are the ones we most often see. So many are hidden, maybe sleeping in a car in a parking lot, or couch surfing with family and friends until they wear out their welcome. Others became ill, lost their job, their apartment, and then were on the street. Being homeless is not a crime, but we are often quick to judge them. This program will help create an understanding of the homeless and their stories, as well as provide information about how our local outreach team assists those in need. (These individuals *do* want help, but often it takes multiple "touches" before someone trusts a contact enough to allow them to connect them with appropriate resources).

Teri Neustaedter, Chair of Homeless Committee

DONATIONS NEEDED

We will be collecting gently used (or new) clothing, and healthy cereal, tuna, peanut butter and jelly for the Project: NEEDS Food Pantry (St. Paul's United Methodist Church, Redondo Beach) at our December Pot Luck. The food pantry, open twice monthly for distribution, benefits nearly 400 homeless and hungry families each month in our local community.

<http://www.stpaulsrb.org/outreach.html>

(Faith is not the primary issue concerning this endeavor.)

The Beach Voter . . . on-line

If you are currently receiving our newsletter, *The Beach Voter*, via the post office and would like to receive it on-line, please email Barbara Arlow, gerbar92@msn.com.

CALENDAR

Page 8

Nov 12 Monday	6:45 PM-9:30 PM (Mtg begins promptly at 7:00)	Board Meeting	St. Cross Church 1818 Monterey Blvd. Hermosa Beach Rm. 5
Dec 8 Saturday	10:00 AM-1:30 PM	Holiday Potluck and Review of LWVC Positions	Home of Henrietta Mosley 436 First Street Manhattan Beach
Dec 11 Tuesday	1:00 PM	Health & Wellness Committee Meeting	Home of Harriet Chase 2151 N. Valley Drive Manhattan Beach
Jan 14 Monday	6:45 PM-9:30 PM (Mtg begins promptly at 7:00)	Board Meeting	St. Cross Church 1818 Monterey Blvd. Hermosa Beach Rm. 5
Jan 26 Saturday	9:30 AM-1:00 PM	Winter League Day — Diversity, Equity, Inclusion	Pasadena City College
Jan 31 Thursday	7:00 PM-8:30 PM	LWV Beach Cities Book Club	St. Cross Church 1818 Monterey Blvd. Hermosa Beach Rm. 4



League of Women Voters of the Beach Cities
629 19th Street
Manhattan Beach, CA 90266