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*Serving the people of El Segundo, Hawthorne, Hermosa Beach,
Inglewood, Manhattan Beach, and Redondo Beach*

THE VOTER

Fall 2023



Issue Highlights:

- [MANHATTAN BEACH HOMETOWN FAIR](#)
- [Register now for the Tri-League Brunch!](#)
- [LWV Takes Action](#)
- [Ranked Choice Voting](#)



Gather Us In

As I sit here in Pennsylvania with college friends watching the leaves fall, I am reminded of what Hallmark research taught me years ago: As school begins again and the temps cool, it is the start of a new year! And while our temps may not drop like they once did, LWV Beach Cities is gearing up for its new year. We gather together to catch up and get ready for activities beyond the sports that plaster our screens and calendars.

All of our cities are going through big changes: Redondo Beach is gearing up for its first ranked choice voting ballot

next year, Hermosa Beach might finally get its Housing Element approved by the state (only a few years late) and new e-bike regulations are simmering everywhere. The Blue Zones Concept continues to reach new audiences (check it out on Netflix and the Beach Cities Health District website) and we're getting ready to host October's Tri-League Brunch featuring AP Government Teacher Michael Henges leading an active LWV discussion via the Harvard Case Study Method on The Australian Ballot and how it eventually became the law of our land - Whew!

Our Voter Services Group is excited to register new voters in our local schools and the Health and Wellness Committee has evolved with new goals to pursue. Soon it'll be time for service projects to begin and talk will turn to the 2024 March Primary!

Here's hoping you had wonderful adventures over the summer - it's great to renew and refresh! But don't forget to rekindle your LWV interests and activities — there's so much to jump into. Check out our [website!](#)

Hope to see you soon —

Teri Neustadter -President

Fall 2023

LWV LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS[®]
OF LOS ANGELES COUNTY

*Fall League Day
Youth Justice*

FEATURING LA COUNTY EXPERTS
IN YOUTH ISSUES

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 30, 2023
9:30 AM TO 12:00 PM | ZOOM

OUR SPEAKERS

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES
PROBATION
Paul Vinetz, Bureau Chief
LA County Probation
Placement Services

youth law center
Erin Palacios,
Senior Attorney
Youth Law Center

Deadline to register is Thursday, September 28. Zoom link will be emailed prior to the event.

FALL LEAGUE DAY

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 30, 2023
9:30 AM TO 12:00 PM | ZOOM

Join this non-partisan event as the guest speakers share an insider's view of the youth justice system in Los Angeles County.

By League of Women Voters of Los Angeles County

[REGISTER HERE](#)



MANHATTAN BEACH HOMETOWN FAIR

October 7-8, 2023



Join us again this year for the Hometown Fair in Manhattan Beach! You can find our booth in the Community Place area at the north end of the fairgrounds (the "Free Speech" area)with other groups whose interest or cause involves public safety, public awareness, community awareness or local issues.

If you are interested in working a shift at the booth, please contact Chris Davis at chrisdavis.lvw@gmail.com

FREE PARKING and FREE SHUTTLE BUSES.

The 2023 Parking and Shuttle pick up location is: **Kinecta Rosecrans Parking Lot**. Located at 1440 Rosecrans Ave, Manhattan Beach, CA 90266.

Shuttle hours:

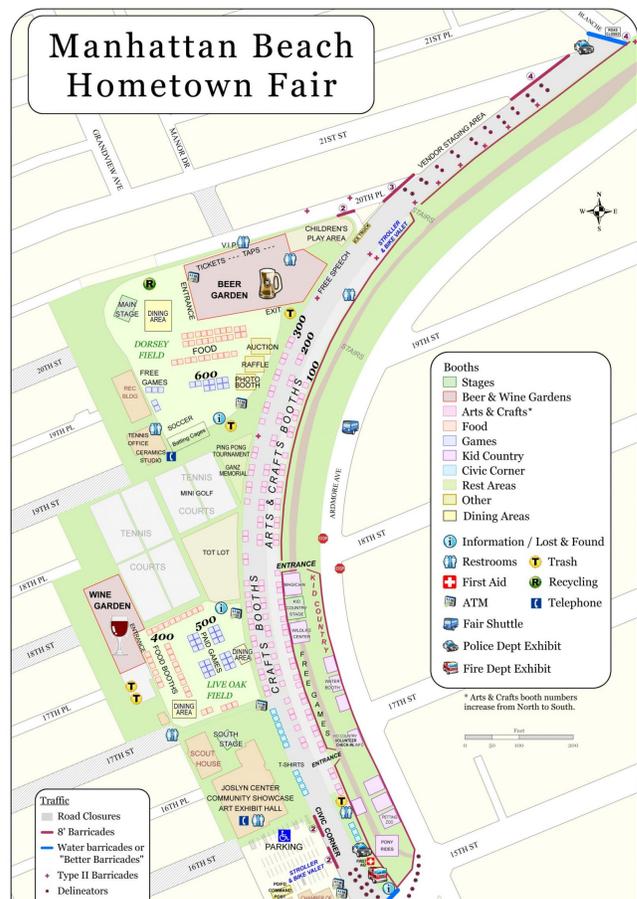
6:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Saturday*
8:00 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. Sunday

The shuttle will run approximately every 20 minutes throughout each day.

**On Saturday, one shuttle will run at 6:30am for vendors. The shuttle will then start operating again at about 8:00a.m. after the conclusion of the 10K Race.*

Disabled Parking

Disabled parking is available in the Civic Center Lot at 15th and Highland. Persons needing disabled parking may access these areas from the corner of Highland and 15th. Those entrance points will have blockades and officers will let you pass if there is available parking.





A BLAST FROM THE PAST! HOMETOWN FAIR 2004

Can you identify these hard-working members from 19 years ago?



Register now for the Tri-League Brunch!



Tri-League Buffet Brunch

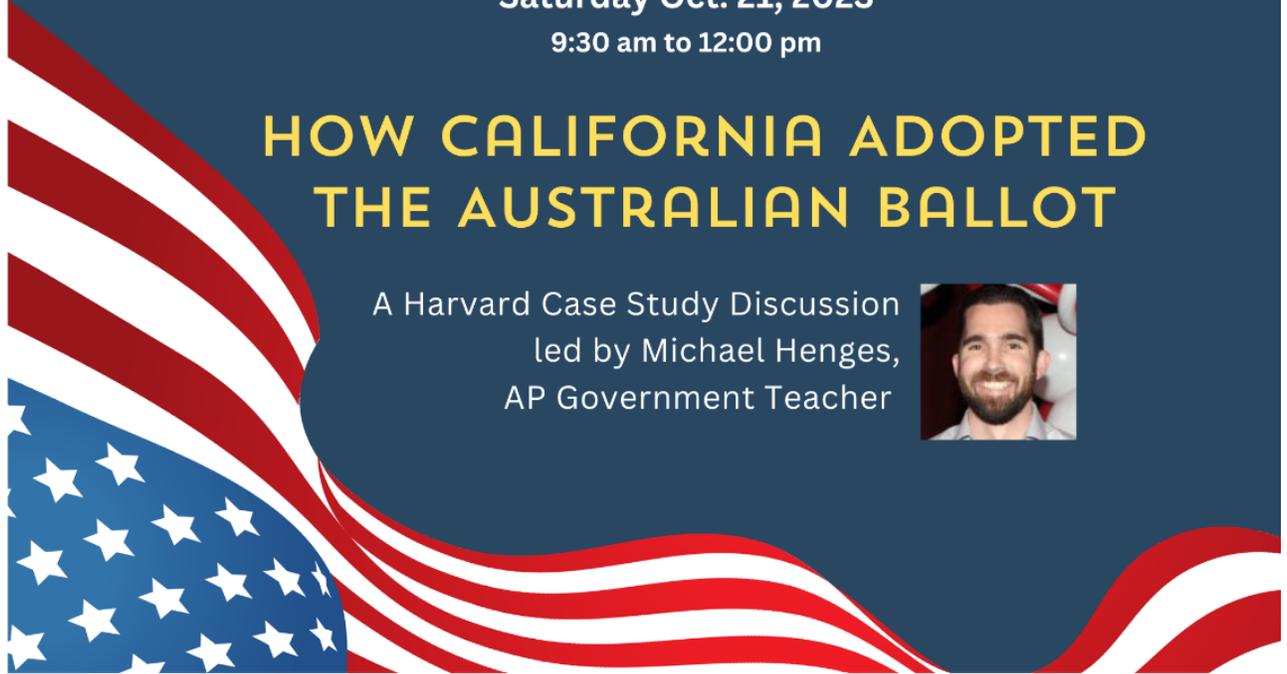
LWV of the Palos Verdes Peninsula/San Pedro,
LWV of the Beach Cities and LWV of the Torrance Area

Saturday Oct. 21, 2023

9:30 am to 12:00 pm

HOW CALIFORNIA ADOPTED THE AUSTRALIAN BALLOT

A Harvard Case Study Discussion
led by Michael Henges,
AP Government Teacher



LOCATION

Depot Restaurant/Kimono Room

1250 Cabrillo Avenue, Torrance

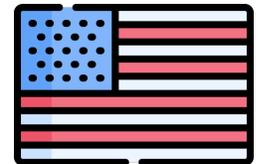
AGENDA

9:30 am - Registration

10:00 am - Buffet Brunch

11:00 am - Speaker Michael Henges

11:30 am - Questions, Answers & Updates



TICKETS

- \$35/per person in advance — Online with Paypal, Credit or Debit card
[Online payment - click here](#)
- \$35/per person in advance — Personal Check
- \$40/person at the door – cash or check only
- Presentation only - arrive at 11:00am - FREE (You must still register)

Please make checks payable to: LWVBC and mail to Susan Grebe. 629 19th street, Manhattan Beach 90266

PLEASE RSVP BY OCTOBER 16, 2023

You must RSVP so we can send you materials to read to prepare for the discussion.

Questions? Please contact Dale Petrulis, Dale.petrulis@gmail.com or 310 543 2974

The Australian voting method, which was eventually adopted by the US, reflects our current way of voting. We have an excellent teacher, Michael Henges, who has taken the Harvard Case Study professional development course. He has used the case method in his classroom for multiple years and will guide us through the lesson. As with his students, participant members will be able read the material beforehand and come ready for discussion.

What is the Case Study Method of Teaching?

Learn more about it here: <https://www.hbs.edu/case-method-project/about/Pages/case-method-teaching.aspx>

Our Speaker:

Michael Henges

*12th grade AP Government and Economics Instructor
at Redondo Union High School*



AN AUSTRALIAN BALLOT FOR CALIFORNIA?

ABSTRACT

In early 1891, California lawmakers were considering a plan to reform the state's elections through the introduction of an "Australian" ballot. Under this new system, candidates from all qualifying parties would appear on official ballots, which would be printed by county and municipal governments and which voters would ultimately fill out in secret. This would mark a substantial departure from the existing way in which votes were cast in California, or for that matter in most of the United States. Traditionally, political groups prepared and distributed party-line ballots, called "tickets," for voters to submit at the polls. Because each party ticket was visually distinctive (in most cases, distinguished by a particular color), it was easy for observers to determine how individual citizens had voted as they handed in their ballots. Closely monitoring the ballot boxes, representatives of the party "political machines" frequently paid supporters who voted for the machine ticket and sought to punish those who did not. Supporters of the Australian ballot promised it would end these abuses, bring greater secrecy and honesty to California's elections, and loosen the grip of party machines on the state and municipal governments.

Despite some opposition in Republican circles, the Republican-dominated Assembly and Senate both passed the ballot bill by large margins in early March and sent it on to the Republican governor, Henry Markham, for his signature. If Markham signed the bill into law, California would join a growing roster of U.S. states using the new, secret ballot, and reformers would claim another victory in their battle against political machines.



NEW MEMBERSHIP CELEBRATION

LWVBC invites you to attend our new member welcome event on November 4, 11:00 – 1:00 at the Rose Garden Gazebo in Polliwog Park, Manhattan Beach. Those who have joined since last years' welcome in early November will be our honored guests.

To our longer term members – PLEASE ATTEND. This is our chance to get to know the newer folks a little better. IF YOU ARE A MENTOR, please contact and encourage attendance of your assigned new members, maybe even arrange to attend with them. This is primarily a social event with light food and beverages served.

What else can you do to help:

- We will need about 3 people to arrange the food/beverages;
- If you chair or are active for one of our special interest groups come prepared to share what your group is working on;
- If you have a friend who has expressed interest, but not yet committed to League invite them to come along;
- if you have great printed materials about league, bring them along for guests to look at.

We are excited to get together in the beautiful Polliwog Park to share a bit of Autumn and to welcome our new members.

Please R.S.V.P. to carolpatterson7171@gmail.com if you think you can join us.

Event Calendar - Fall 2023

September

9/22 Fri **Coffee & Conversations with the League** Join LWVBC for our every other weekly chat 10:30am
[Zoom](#)

9/25 Mon **Evening Exchange with the League** Join LWVBC for our every other weekly chat at 7:00pm [Zoom](#)

9/26 Tue **Health & Wellness Committee (HWC) Meeting** 1:00-2:30pm [Zoom](#)

9/27 Wed **The Path to Citizenship** – LWV Immigration Interest Group 4:00pm [Zoom](#)

9/30 Sat **Fall League Day - Youth Justice** 9:30-noon *by League of Women Voters of Los Angeles County*
Zoom Meeting [Register Here](#)

October

10/4 Wed **LWVBC Board Meeting** 3:00-5:00pm St. Cross Room 5 - *All Members Welcome to attend*

10/6 Fri **Coffee & Conversations with the League** Join LWVBC for our every other weekly chat 10:30am
[Zoom](#)

10/7-8 Sat/Sun **Manhattan Beach Hometown Fair - Visit our booth!**

10/9 Mon **Evening Exchange with the League** Join LWVBC for our every other weekly chat at 7:00pm [Zoom](#)

10/12 Thu **Water & Infrastructure Group (WIG)** - 7:00-8:30pm [Register for Zoom Link](#)

10/20 Fri **Coffee & Conversations with the League** Join LWVBC for our every other weekly chat 10:30am
[Zoom](#)

10/21 Sat **Tri-League Brunch** - 9:30-12:00pm [How California adopted the Australian Ballot](#)
Registration begins October 1. [Get info here](#)

10/23 Mon **Evening Exchange with the League** Join LWVBC for our every other weekly catch-at 7:00pm [Zoom](#)

10/24 Tue **Health & Wellness Committee (HWC) Meeting** 1:00-2:30pm [Zoom](#)

November

11/1 Wed **LWVBC Board Meeting** 3:00-5:00pm St. Cross Room 5 - *All Members Welcome to attend*

11/4 Sat **New Member Welcome Celebration** 11:00-1:00 - *More information coming soon!*

11/3 Fri **Coffee & Conversations with the League** Join LWVBC for our every other weekly chat 10:30am [Zoom](#)

Standing Meetings and Events

Please note that some committees may not meet during the summer months. See the online calendar for the most current information.

Board of Directors - 1st Wed. of the month 3-5pm. Contact beachcitieslww@gmail.com for more information.

Water & Infrastructure Group (WIG) - 2nd Thursday of the month from 7:00-8:30pm on Zoom *For questions, contact [Grace Peng](#)*

Health & Wellness Committee (HWC) - 4th Tuesday of the month from 1:00-2:30pm on Zoom. No August meeting. *For questions, contact [Harriet Chase](#)*

Coffee & Conversation with the League every other Friday morning from 10:30 - 11:30am on Zoom [Get Zoom Link here](#)

Evening Exchange with the League every other Monday Evening 7:00- 8:00pm [Zoom](#)

LA County League Day last Saturday of Jan, Apr, July, & Sept 9:30am - 12:30pm Next one is September 30, 2023

LWV Takes Action

Our league joined the Torrance, Palos Verdes, and LA County ILO Leagues to sign a [letter addressing our support for the Metro C/Green Line extension](#) into the South Bay as a few of our cities waived in their support of it. How they will respond to the extension is still being discussed, but letters like this are key to LWV's advocacy arm in our communities.



California has sent out several Action Alerts on a variety of topics recently that you can find [here](#).

If you are not signed up to receive the state's action alerts, **sign up** [here](#) at the top right-side of the page where you see SIGN UP. These letters to our representatives amplify Our Voice — Use Yours!

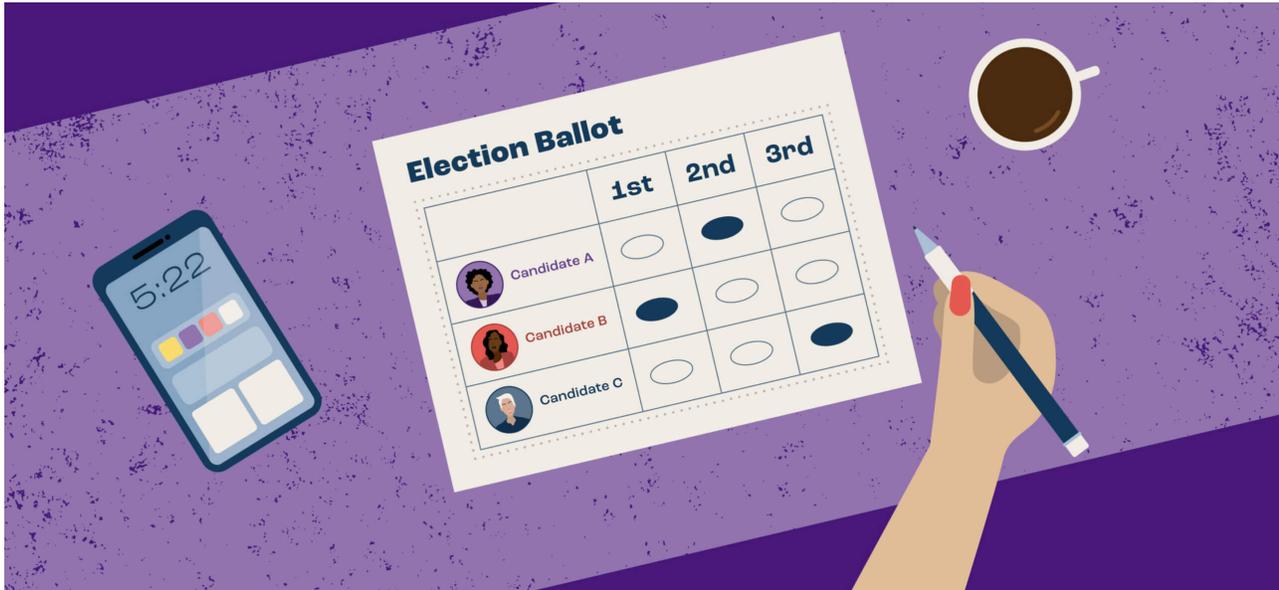
Would you like to live to 100 and be healthy and vibrant?

Longevity information seems to be everywhere we turn these days. Many LWV Beach City members are actively involved with our local Beach Cities Health District, which was one of the original Blue Zone partners who developed a community-wide approach to creating healthier and more productive citizens.

Sound intriguing? If you answered YES, get an introduction with the four-part series “*Live to 100: Secrets of the Blue Zones*,” streaming now on Netflix. Dan Buettner, the explorer and author, [has convincing insights](#) to help us lead a long and vibrant life!



Ranked Choice Voting



by *Jeanne Hamilton*

Redondo Beach and Ranked Choice Voting

In March of 2023, Redondo Beach became the first city in Los Angeles County to approve the use of instant runoff voting (IRV) for city elective offices. The measure amends the city charter to eliminate separate runoff elections and provides for an instant runoff voting system. Ranked choice voting (RCV) is one of several methods of IRV, but the only one allowed to date in California.

When there are more than two candidates for one position, RCV allows voters to rank candidates in their order of preference. All first place votes are then counted. If one candidate reaches the 50%+1 level, that candidate is elected. If no one reaches that level, the candidate with the fewest first place votes is eliminated, and his or her voters' second choice is counted. This process continues until someone reaches a majority.

According to City Clerk Eleanor Manzano, the issue was first brought up in the city council in 2010. The city charter requires a 50%+1 vote to win an election, so if no candidate reaches that level, they are required to have a runoff within 70 days. Runoffs are expensive, time-consuming, confusing and generally have lower voter turnout. An instant runoff would solve these problems. At the time, the computer systems to manage RCV were expensive, so they didn't move forward, but now the technology has evolved and is less expensive.

What are the Advantages and Disadvantages of Ranked Choice Voting?

In addition to saving time and money, supporters say that RCV encourages candidates to be less extreme in an effort to attract "second choice" votes. It also allows voters to vote for their preferred candidate rather than the candidate they think has the best chance of winning. Opponents say it is confusing and will discourage voting.

Are Other Cities in Our Area Considering RCV?

Ranked choice voting is only authorized in California for charter cities, not for general law cities or counties, school districts, community college districts or special districts. Los Angeles County has 88 cities, 25 of which are charter cities. In our LWV Beach Cities area, only Redondo Beach and Inglewood are charter cities. According to the city clerk's office in Inglewood, their city is not considering moving to RCV. A complicating factor is that Los Angeles County runs the elections for many cities, including Inglewood, and their elections system does not currently support RCV. Redondo Beach runs their own elections, and Hart, the company that provides the computers and software, is compatible with RCV. Another interesting note is that according to the Ranked Choice Voting Resource Center, 2021 edition, Los Angeles County and Lassen County are the only counties in California that still use software systems that are incompatible with RCV. A representative of the LA County registrar said that "adapting, modifying or enhancing

the voting systems to allow for RCV, would require authority, time and appropriate resources. Any changes to the voting system would be subject to testing and approval by the CA Secretary of State for system certification.”

In Northern California, RCV is in use in San Francisco, Oakland, San Leandro, Berkeley, Albany and Eureka. In Southern California, Palm Desert used it for elections in 2022, Ojai will use it in 2024, and Redondo will use it in 2025.

Why is RCV Only Available to Charter Cities?

Since 2006, there have been several bills to allow RCV beyond charter cities in California, but they have failed or been vetoed. Governor Brown vetoed SB 1288 in 2016 because it was “overly complicated and confusing.” Governor Newsom vetoed SB 212 (Allen) in 2019, stating that he feared that it led to confusion and that the state would benefit from learning more from charter cities who use RCV before broadly expanding the system.

The League of Women Voters supports ranked choice voting and other alternatives to plurality voting. [For a clear presentation on voting alternatives, see LWVBC \(Boulder County\) Voting Methods Presentation on YouTube.](#)



Hurricane Hilary was a test for stormwater systems throughout SoCal

by Grace Peng / September 2023

Hurricane Hilary was a test for stormwater systems throughout SoCal, but especially so in the inland deserts. It made national news when Interstate 10 was washed out and closed. I followed reports on social media, and that led me down a rabbit hole of learning how Palm Springs and other Coachella Valley cities were able to stabilize their groundwater basin through recharge investments.

I wrote a longer form article on my blog but it doesn't mention the water transfer for water nerds.

<https://badmomgoodmom.blogspot.com/2023/08/when-too-much-water-leads-to-water.html>

Palm Springs exists because of natural artesian wells that used to burst out of an aquifer that stored up water over geologic timescales. In just a few decades, white settlers, particularly farmers, drained the aquifer considerably. Valley residents and farmers realized that the 3" of average rainfall in the region could not recharge the aquifer naturally and that they would need to import water supplies. The Coachella Valley Water District (CVWD) website gives the history of the largely successful efforts.

<http://www.cvwd.org/162/Groundwater-Replenishment-Imported-Water>

In short, the CVWD and Desert Water Association (DWA) purchased water rights to the Colorado River Project (CRP) which supplies 2/3 of the water used by farmers in the valley. They also developed water recharge projects to direct rainfall and mountain runoff into percolation ponds. This stabilized the aquifer until the cities boomed & they needed additional water to keep up with the groundwater depletion.

CVWD & DWA purchased an additional 194,100 acre-feet/yr of State Water Project (SWP) water, making them the 3rd largest SWP rights holder. Since the Coachella Valley is already hooked up to the CRP, they swapped their SWP water with Metropolitan WD for the MWD's CRP allocation. However, SWP & CRP allocations are increasingly uncertain with climate change so they have been developing more groundwater recharge using natural flows where geology permits.

Groundwater recharge also becomes more difficult with climate change because storms are more intense and infrequent. Sediment-filled rain runoff had to be diverted from recharge areas during January storms to prevent clogging them. Hurricane Hilary dumped 3 times the average annual rainfall for the Coachella Valley, and they (again!) couldn't use it to replenish the aquifer. Recharge only works with sediment-free flows from light to moderate rains or imported water. The silver lining is that the recent heavy flows continued down the Whitewater River to the Salton Sea, eliminating the need (for now) to use CRP water to replenish it. (The Salton Sea exists because the fine silt underneath it is not conducive to percolation. Otherwise, it would be dry.)

Central Greece is experiencing a parallel double disaster where sediment-filled runoff poured off of mountainous forests (some recently burned), flooded farmland, and deposited fine silt and clay. 3 years worth of rain fell in 2 days, destroying 1/4 of Greece's farmland. Crops for not just this year, but for years to come, will be lost as farmers struggle to remove the clay.

[Continue reading the full article here.](#)

Join us Friday mornings and Monday evenings

Our League members and guests have informal conversations about what's going on in our League and in our world.

Check our [calendar page](#) for dates!

Get the Zoom Links here: <https://lwvbeachcities.org/events#coffee>



[Click on calendar images to enlarge](#)

OCTOBER 2023

NOVEMBER 2023

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1	2	3	4	5	10:30AM Coffee & Conversation with the League	7
8	Evening Exchange with the League	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	10:30AM Coffee & Conversation with the League	21
22	Evening Exchange with the League	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1	2	10:30AM Coffee & Conversation with the League	4
5	Evening Exchange with the League	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	10:30AM Coffee & Conversation with the League	18
19	Evening Exchange with the League	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

DECEMBER 2023

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					10:30AM Coffee & Conversation with the League	2
3	Evening Exchange with the League	4	5	6	7	8
10	11	12	13	14	10:30AM Coffee & Conversation with the League	16
17	Evening Exchange with the League	18	19	20	21	23
24	25	26	27	28	10:30AM Coffee & Conversation with the League	30
31						

Find us on YouTube!



We regularly post monthly committee meetings with guest speakers.
If you missed a meeting or event, catch up!

Visit our YouTube Channel here!



Welcome
NEW MEMBERS!



Please welcome new member
Samanaz Kapadia



Check out new content on our blog.

[They are coming for your tomatoes](#)

[Governor Newsom Signs Legislation 9.13.23](#)

Have an idea for something to include in our blog? Contact Chris chrisdavis.lwv@gmail.com



- \$60 for a regular renewing membership
- \$30 for a first year membership
- \$30 for a second member in the same household
- FREE for students enrolled in High School or college

You should have received a dues notice in the mail which is also a return envelope, so you can pay by check or on our website at lwvbeachcities.org/renew

Any questions about dues payments can be directed to our Treasurer, Susan Grebe at SCGREBE@GMAIL.COM or 310-546-7487.

<https://my.lvv.org/california/beach-cities/renew>

New to the League?
Need a refresher on all that we do?

[SEE OUR ORIENTATION PRESENTATION](#)



VOLUNTEER WITH US!



If you care about democracy as much as we do, we hope you'll consider joining our team! We are an all volunteer organization with "jobs" that range from once in a while tasks to full year positions.

Join our group of fun, passionate volunteers and help make a difference in your community!

Where do we stand?

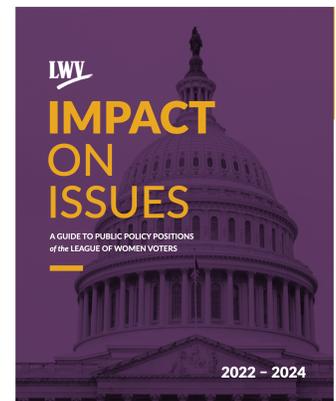
Impact on Issues

2022-2024:

**A Guide to Public Policy Positions
of the League of Women Voters**

The definitive publication on LWVUS positions and the history of their use. [Download now.](#) Available in paperback and kindle for \$5 from [Amazon](#).

Impact on Issues is an indispensable resource for League members. A clear understanding of LWVUS positions, how they interrelate, and how they can complement and reinforce state, local, and regional Inter-League Organization (ILO) positions, strengthens the League's impact on issues at all levels of government.



Having the print version allows you to quickly research League positions – which apply at all levels – and the history of how they’ve been used.

Who do I contact for information? **LWVBC BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2023–2024**



THE VOTER

League of Women Voters
of the Beach Cities

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