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

THE VOTER

Summer 2023

In this Issue

- [LWVBC 55th Annual Meeting, June 3, 2023](#)
- [2023 Scholarship Presentation](#)
- [Event Calendar 2023](#)
- [Find your local LWV on YouTube!](#)
- [Measure W: Expectations vs Reality](#)

LWVBC 55th Annual Meeting, June 3, 2023

League of Women Voters of the Beach Cities

LWV Beach Cities held its Annual Membership meeting at St. Cross Church in Hermosa Beach. Teri and Ann organized a wonderful gathering and delicious lunch for our attendees. [Read the full report here.](#)

Recapping last year's events, Teri mentioned that Mental Health, Housing, Climate Change and Transportation were important topics. We're preparing for the coming election year and looking forward to the summer mixer at Dale's home on 7/12.

Our Board members reported on their committees. Teri recommended that our priorities remain Defending Democracy, Mental Health, Gun Safety, Climate Change, Housing, Reproductive Rights, Criminal Justice Reform and Immigration (based on our January Survey of members). The adoption of the Recommended Program passed. The Board Retreat will take place in August.



Our speaker, Trisha Murakawa of Murakawa Communications, spoke on on Civil Discourse. Thank you to all of the members who pitched in to make it a successful day!

2023 Scholarship Presentation

At our Annual Meeting this year, we presented scholarships to three deserving students from Leuzinger High School, pictured below with Mary Dillon, our Scholarship Committee Chair.



Meet our Scholarship recipients:

Maria Mejia

Among her earliest memories is that of becoming a second mom to her younger sister. She learned leadership early

in her life as it pertains to contributing to the good of her family. Her example encouraged her sisters to follow in her footsteps. She started a small business making beaded jewelry and challenged herself by taking honors and AP classes and joining clubs. She takes pride in being the person that encourages and brings along others by her words and tutoring. She will leave a legacy at Leuzinger behind after having founded "Senior Support" which was organized to help older members of the community use technology. Maria Mejia will be attending UC San Diego this coming fall.

Ariel De La Torre

This senior will be the first in her family to attend college which has been her lifelong goal. Both of her parents have encouraged this dream especially her mom. She credits many of the college survival skills she has learned in high school to being part of the Environmental Careers Academy. These skills include making presentations, debating, research, and creative problem solving. She has been part of the Pride Club and Latino Association. Both clubs work towards supporting LGBTQ+ and the Hispanic and Latino cultures. Her dream is to become a Child Therapist. She will be attending Cal State Dominguez Hills in the fall.

Karla Lopez

Throughout her middle and high school career, this student has focused on giving back to her community. She takes pride in her ability to be a team leader while always working hard academically to achieve the highest grades possible. She has been on the yearbook staff and works on designing pages. She has been part of the Multimedia Careers Academy and loves photography. Graduating from the ESL program has been one of her proudest achievements. She is proud of the fact that she is bilingual but acknowledges that it has its challenges too. Her goal is to help her community and correct some of the injustices she has seen by studying law. She will be attending UC Santa Cruz this fall.

We also collected Disposable Diapers and Baby Wipes at the Annual Meeting for [South Bay Outreach Center](#).



THANK YOU to everyone that brought diapers and wipes or ordered on Amazon and sent them to Chris' house.

As you can see, she could barely fit them into her car!



Welcome 2023-2025 Officers & Directors

Officers:

President Teri Neustaedter; 1st Vice President Arnette Travis; 2nd VP Dale Petrulis;
3rd VP Grace Peng; Secretaries Amy Hanrahan/Sara Rowley; Treasurer Susan Grebe

Board of Directors - 2022-2024

Mary Dillon, Chris Davis, Frankie Gelbwachs, Joan LeSage, Carol Patterson

Board of Directors- 2023-2025

Debra Estroff, Jeanne Hamilton, Harriet Chase, Yvette Reiner

LWVC Convention 2023



LWVC CONVENTION

Our 69th Biennial Convention took place (in-person) May 19-21, 2023 in San Francisco. League members from across the state gathered to take care of League business and learn about the work of other Leagues and how the state League supports them.

Topics covered included Fair Redistricting, Engaging Young Voters, Building Stronger Local Leagues, DE&I, Getting Out the Vote in 2024, and more.

Attendees had the opportunity to meet other League leaders from around

California and share ideas and best practices. And speakers provided unique expertise that really informed the work of the League and inspired our members.

Materials from the speakers, caucuses, and workshops are now posted on our [LWVC Convention website](#) where they will be available until July 1, 2024.

LWVUS's 2024 Convention will take place June 27 - 30 in Washington, DC, and online. More information will be shared starting in the fall of 2023.



At the Convention

On May 20, 2023, the League of Women Voters of CA and the League of Women Voters of San Francisco co-hosted the wildly successful Drag for Democracy event. This event brought together diverse communities and community members and highlighted

people who are doing critical work on LGBTQ+ rights to build a more inclusive democracy and California.

Read more about this event at [DragforDemocracy.org](https://dragfordemocracy.org).

LWV LAC SUMMER LEAGUE DAY - LIVABLE COMMUNITIES



Saturday, July 29 · 9:30am - 12:30pm PDT Zoom Meeting

Learn about remodeling Los Angeles so that people of all ages, all physical abilities, and all incomes, can enjoy a 15-minute city life!

Two of our LWVBC Board members (Teri & Grace) are also on the LA County Board and will be hosting this presentation.

[REGISTER HERE](#)

Event Calendar 2023

July

7/12 Wed Board Meeting and Mixer Meeting 3:00pm - 5:00pm **Mixer** 5:30pm - 7:30pm at member's home in Redondo Beach. RSVP bonnieyatabe@yahoo.com

7/14 Thu WIG Meeting - Livable Communities Initiative: Building Code Reform to Re-Legalize Single Stair Buildings 7:00 pm [Register here](#)

7/29 Sat LWV LA County Summer League Day 9:30am - 12:30pm on Zoom **Topic:** [Livable Communities](#) [Register Here](#)

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 beachcitieslwv@gmail.com for more information. Note July date change. No August meeting.

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 *For questions, contact [Harriet Chase](#)*

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

CLICK HERE FOR THE MOST UPDATED CALENDAR ONLINE



• \$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 will receive a dues notice in the mail which is also a return envelope, so you can pay by check or on our website at lvvbeachcities.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>

Find your local LWV on YouTube!



DID YOU KNOW LWVBC HAS OUR OWN YOUTUBE CHANNEL?

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

[Visit our YouTube Channel here!](#)



And check out the LWVGLA's new YOUTUBE CHANNEL for their past Webinars

The San Fernando Valley Unit did an amazing job lining up incredible speakers over the course of 6 months. Topics included: Reproductive Rights after the Dobbs Decision, the Stakes of the 2024 Election, Immigration, SCOTUS and The Future of Water in our state.

If you weren't able to attend, not a problem because recordings of the virtual discussions have been made available at our [new YouTube channel](#) so you can view them anytime you'd like.

Subscribe and leave comments so they know what other kind of political educational content you'd like to see.



Measure W: Expectations vs Reality

by Grace Peng

In the recent rains, many lamented the water running into the ocean as “wasted”. In 2018, LA County voters approved a tax on impervious surfaces to fund stormwater capture. The [LA Times touched on a few of the reasons why progress is so slow](#).

Some environmental groups have added up the precipitation that falls in LA County, divided by consumption, and inferred that all we have to do is just catch it all. It’s not that simple. There’s a mismatch between what people thought they were voting for and what they are getting. The LA Times article laments that “only 30 acres of new green space have been added under the program, the report found. Los Angeles County spans about 3 million acres”.

We reached out to LA County to hear their side of the story. On May 11, 2023, Kirk Allen, Senior Civil Engineer, LA County Public Works Stormwater Planning Division, gave an overview and progress report on the Safe Clean Water Program (Measure W) to the Water & Infrastructure Group (monthly WIG Zoom meeting).

We learned the history of how Measure W was crafted to gain the broad political support necessary for passage. A key feature of Measure W is that multi-benefit projects that advance multiple aims score highest in funding priority. Nature-based solutions and projects in disadvantaged communities also score more highly.

View the video recording of the presentation here: <https://youtu.be/Lm0nhmdKidI>

You can also view the slide deck here: https://wvbeachcities.org/uploads/1/3/8/7/138751380/scw_sip_fy22-23_womenleaguevoters_2023.05.11.pdf

I poked around the [LA County Measure W accountability map](#) to learn more. I read the Project Descriptions for several projects to learn more and will highlight some of the difficulties for selected projects.

See the pictures after the jump for expectations vs reality. *Stormwater capture means catching, cleaning and storing precipitation; it is not a parks or green space program but projects include some greening wherever possible.*

Stormwater capture does not mean the water is saved for potable use. It means that it is held back for cleanup and eventual release either to the environment or to wastewater treatment plants capable of recycling it to potable standards. Treated wastewater can be safely stored in aquifers for eventual potable use.

[Click here to continue reading the full article.](#)



Every year Project Needs has a barbecue for it's pantry regulars - those in need or without homes. Can you supply any of the items listed here?

Please deliver them to Teri Neustaeder between July 12th and July 18th.

You can drop them off in person (or have Amazon deliver them) to Teri's house:
918 8th Street, Hermosa Beach, CA 90254

Please let Teri know if you can donate and drop off, and how many, so we don't end up with too many multiples of items:

- 125 Individual Bags of Chips
- 125 Hot Dog Buns
- 125 Hamburger Buns
- 5 Large Squeeze Bottles of Mayonnaise
- 5 Large Squeeze Bottles of Ketchup
- 5 Large Squeeze Bottles of Mustard
- 3 Large Squeeze Bottles of Relish
- 3 Large Jars of Sliced Dill Pickles
- 6 Large Chocolate Syrups
- 4 Large Caramel Syrups
- 3 24-Packs of Coke
- 3 24-Packs of Sprite or 7 Up
- 3 Cases of Water



**We need your help to make
the BBQ a success!**

PROJECT:NEEDS also has regular pantry needs in the summer

Items most needed are:

- Canned Tuna
- Canned Meat (Spam, Vienna Sausage)
- Canned Chili
- Canned Baked Beans or Pork & Beans

**SUMMER
FOOD
DRIVE**

- Crackers
- Cereal
- Thick Stews or Soups

Pop-top cans are preferred.

Drop them off to Teri or contact her to coordinate a pick-up.
Teri Neustaeder at tmufic@gmail.com or 913-568-5466
918 9th Street
Hermosa Beach, CA

Join us every Friday morning at 10:30am!

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

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





Check out new content on our blog.

[L.A. mayor reports that 14,000 homeless people have moved off the streets](#)

[Governor Newsom Proposes Historic 28th Amendment to the United States Constitution to End America's Gun Violence Crisis](#)

[The biggest survey of homeless Californians in decades shows why so many are on the streets](#)

[Driverless trucks on California highways? Legislators don't trust the DMV to ensure safety](#)

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

HEALTH & WELLNESS COMMITTEE UPDATE

[The Health & Wellness Committee will take a break in July & August and resume meeting in September.](#)

At our last meeting, we introduced the new HWC co-chair Bonnie Yatabe, who will be a wonderful addition to the committee. Bonnie has an extensive background in the health care field. Please visit the [HWC website page](#) for the revised Health & Wellness Committee goals, and information on upcoming and past meetings. We also have a [Senior Resources page](#) updated with local programs. Harriet Chase hzchase@roadrunner.com



HEALTH & WELLNESS PROJECT GOALS *(revised, 6/27/2023):*

- **GOAL ONE.** Identify unmet priority needs and gaps in resources specific to health and wellness needs of our Older Americans age 55+ and disabled individuals that

reside in our service area. Our service area is: El Segundo, Hermosa Beach, Manhattan Beach, Redondo Beach, Inglewood, and Hawthorne.

- **GOAL TWO.** Assist and facilitate with stakeholders and the communities they serve in developing a culturally responsive and sustainable wellness program to meet these needs and gaps.
- **GOAL THREE.** Continue to expand and enrich relationships and partnerships between the League of Women Voters of the Beach Cities-Health & Wellness Committee and the leadership, stakeholders, and residents of El Segundo, Hermosa Beach, Manhattan Beach, Redondo Beach, Inglewood, and Hawthorne

Welcome,
NEW MEMBERS!



Please welcome the following new members who have joined during May and June:

Trisha Murakawa of Redondo Beach
Matthew Lawrence of Torrance
Kyle Johnson of Redondo Beach

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

[SEE OUR ORIENTATION PRESENTATION](#)



**Member
Orientation**

LWV LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS'
OF THE BEACH CITIES

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

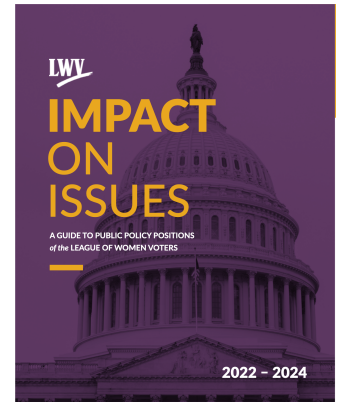
2022–2024:

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

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of the Beach Cities

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