



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®
OF VENTURA COUNTY

VOTER

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Dear Members and Friends of LWVVC:



The excitement of the election year is upon us. David Maron, politically astute member and frequent moderator at our Candidate Forums, came to our February Board meeting and shared his analysis of the upcoming June 7th Primary Season. We will be holding Candidates Forums for Senator Fran Pavley's District 27 replacement, for the Ventura County Supervisors District #1 (Now held by Steve Bennett), and the Ventura County Supervisors District #3 to replace Kathy Long. Since the Supervisor Districts cover such large areas we will be holding two forums for each district in different communities to

allow easier access for more people. LWVVC Board Member Helen LaMonte agreed to Chair Voter Services which oversees our Candidates Forums with the caveat that she will need help from all of us to pull off everything that we have planned. LWVVC member Melanie Ashen also offered to help as needed - I hope any of you with some time to give will get in touch with her and offer your help as well. Many hands make light work, plus more fun!

Help! We are looking for a few good people to help accomplish all that needs to get done before our Annual Meeting in June. Most immediately we need two people who are not currently on the Board to join Cheryl Collart on the Nominating Committee. Please consider offering to help. Your involvement will be simple and limited. You will probably only need to meet once and call members to help fill Board positions for next year. Also needed are a few good people to serve on the Budget Review Committee. This is a simple commitment of one meeting. The Committee is charged with coming up with a recommended budget plan for the next year. We are an amazing organization providing a valuable service but to continue we all need to work together.

Mark your calendars! Besides looking forward to Candidate Forums for the Primary Election, we look forward to the Transportation Forum on April 29. It will be a good chance to learn what needs to be done to bring our roads and bridges up to good repair to meet our present and future needs including ideas on how we are likely to bring that about. There may be a measure on the ballot in November having to do with funding infrastructure improvements, roads specifically, so our meeting is especially timely. Plan on attending so that you will feel informed and know how you want to vote.

And last but not least, Thanks to all of you who turned out for the Public Higher Education Forum and Consensus meeting on February 27, it was the League at its best.

Yours in League,
Pat Essick - President

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➤ SPECIAL EVENTS ◀



Friday, April 29 - LWVVC Public Forum on Transportation Infrastructure with invited panelists - We will gather at 9:30 am for coffee and the program will begin at 10:00 am. Location: Ventura County Office of Education, Salon C, 5100 Adolfo Road, Camarillo, 93012. A group of expert panelists will discuss the critical need to repair, maintain and improve our Ventura County roads and bridges including ideas on possible funding options. This Forum promises to be especially interesting and enlightening. **Invite friends and help us get the word out! We are lining up fantastic speakers and plan on a really terrific Forum.**



Thursday, May 19 - LWVVC Hosting Tour of Port of Hueneme. We will meet at 9:45am to be picked up by the tour bus at 10:00 am. Our tour will be led by Will Berg, the Port's Public Information Officer. Following the 2-hour tour, lunch will be available by pre-paying \$20. Reservations for the tour and lunch may be made by phone to Barbara Doyle (805)765-9302 or via email at gregnbarbara@yahoo.com no later than May 1. Your check for \$20 for the optional lunch must be received by May 5 at PO Box 6787, Ventura, CA 93006. Checks

should be payable to LWVVC and note that your payment is for the Port of Hueneme lunch. You MUST RSVP to ensure a space on the tour bus.

Looking For a Few Good People

Board of Directors:

President:

Patricia Essick

Vice President:

Barbara Doyle

Secretary:

Judith Murphy

Treasurer:

Pamela Pecarich

Directors at Large:

Pat Butler

Suzanne Harvey

Helen LaMonte

Steve Lattimore

Carol Lindberg

Jennifer Matos

Pat Murray

LWVVC Nominating Committee Wants To Hear From You!

The Nominating Committee invites and encourages every League member to consider serving on the LWVVC board of directors for 2016 - 2017. Participation would not only be an exciting and rewarding experience but a great contribution to the League.

- Will it be worth your while? Definitely, yes!
- Can you nominate yourself, as well as others? Yes!
- How Can I Nominate Myself or Someone Else?

You may nominate yourself or someone else by emailing the Nominating Committee at info@lwvventuracounty.org.

Please consider joining your Board for a year of service.

ABC's of Public Higher Education

• league program presentation & consensus •

A Hugely Complex Topic Got a Good Look at LWVVC Meeting

League members and members of the public met on February 27, for the Public Higher Education Seminar and Consensus meeting put on by the LWVVC Public Higher Education Committee and the Ventura Community College. Participants met at the Ventura County Community College District Office and listened to presentations by Committee members Judy Murphy, Betsy Patterson, Pat Essick, Steve Lattimore, and Steve Blum of the Ventura Community College Board. Following the public portion of the meeting League members stayed behind and worked their way through the consensus questions from LWVC.



Attendees listen in rapt attention

The study scope from LWVC was to examine access to quality public higher education including funding, affordability, preparedness, equity, and opportunities and barriers to student success. Among other things the study of Public Higher Education in California was chosen because the League has no study inclusive of California Community Colleges, California State Universities, and University of California systems.

The meeting began with an informative presentation on the history of public higher education in California and the establishment of the first land grant colleges (Berkeley, Riverside, Davis), followed by an explosion in building of new schools in

the 1950's, and succeeded by adoption in the 1960's of the Master Plan for Higher Education in California.

Steve Blum gave an interesting presentation on the impact of affirmative action policies on our educational system including certain demographic shifts in our state population. For example, from 1960 to 1975, 12% of high school students going to college were ethnic minorities versus 59% in 2009). Among other things there was discussion on the problem of barriers to entry including high tuition costs weighted against sharp cuts in spending by the state. Speakers also spent time outlining the serious problem of deficits in student preparedness.

All in all Committee members managed to convey a tremendous amount of material on a very complex topic in a very coherent and efficient way and it

certainly assisted those members who remained for the consensus portion of the meeting.



Dr. Bernard Luskin, Chancellor, VC Community College District notes successes within system

Infrastructure to be Topic of Forum

- lwvvc sponsoring public program •

“Critical Needs” Among Topics of Transportation Infrastructure Forum

State Senator Fran Pavley (D-27) is among those invited to a public forum “Aging Roads and Bridges: Ventura County’s Way Forward” being sponsored by LWVVC on April 29.

Sen. Pavley will offer introductory remarks and update attendees on the status of state actions to address infrastructure needs in our county, region, and statewide.

This event is designed to explore our county’s transportation infrastructure and the ‘critical needs’ for additional maintenance and improvements, and alternatives for filling the gap.

Panelists to address local and regional needs, priorities and funding will be:

- Keith Millhouse, Member, Moorpark City Council and Southern California Area Governments
- Darren Kettle, Executive Director, Ventura County Transportation Commission
- David Fleisch, Director, Transportation Department, Ventura County Public Works Agency

A question and answer period with the audience will follow the formal portion of the program.

Tour the Port of Hueneme

LWVVC Organizing Port of Hueneme Tour, Thursday, May 19

Whether you've lived in Ventura County for 1 year or 50, I bet most of us have never been to our local deep-water port, the Port of Hueneme. Here's your chance!

LWVVC will be hosting a free tour of the Port on Thursday, May 19. Although the tour is free, you **MUST** RSVP to ensure a space on the tour bus. We will meet at a to-be-determined location at the Port at 9:45am to be picked up by the tour bus at 10:00 am. Do **NOT** be late or we will have to leave without you!

Our tour will be led by Will Berg, the Port's Public Information Officer. Following the 2-hour tour, a lunch of sandwiches, salads, ice tea and cookies is available by pre-paying \$20.

Reservations for the tour and lunch may be made by phone to Barbara Doyle (805)765-9302 or via email at gregnbarbara@yahoo.com no later than May 1. Your check for \$20 for the optional lunch must be received by May 5 at PO Box 6787, Ventura, CA 93006. Make your check payable to LWVVC and note that your payment is for the Port of Hueneme lunch.

Please contact Barbara Doyle for further information. We hope to see many of you at the Port on May 19!

Submitted by Barbara Doyle, Vice President

Election Season is Fast Approaching

- voter services begins planning candidate forums •

Voter Services Preparing For a Busy Year

With the California Primary scheduled for June 7, and the general election scheduled for November, LWVVC is going to have a lot to do.

There will be Supervisors races in District 1 and 3, and a Congressional race in the 24th District. Our new head of Voter Service Helen LaMonte is already gearing up, with the help of League Members David Maron and Melanie Ashen, to organize Candidate Forums around the County but, they are going to need help. Please volunteer by contacting Helen directly or, send an email to info@lwvventuracounty.org and someone from Voter Service will follow-up.

Key Structures of Democracy

- lwvus program results in new positions •

Consensus Exercise on LWVUS Study Yields Results

There are 2 new positions as a result of LWVUS' national program on Key Structures of Democracy. The positions are based on consensus reached by the 246 local and state Leagues and ILOs who participated in the Constitutional Amendment Process study. We now have a position outlining considerations for evaluating constitutional amendment proposals and a position calling for safeguards that must be in place to govern the constitutional convention process of proposing amendments to the U.S. Constitution. Following are the new positions:

Considerations for Evaluating Constitutional Amendment Proposals

The League will only support a proposed amendment to the U.S. Constitution if it advances and conforms to an LWVUS position. In addition, the League believes the following should be considered in identifying an appropriate and well-crafted constitutional amendment:

- a) Whether the public policy objective addresses matters of such acute and abiding importance that the fundamental charter of our nation must be changed. Amendments are changes to a document that provides stability to our system and should be undertaken to address extreme problems or long-term needs.
- b) Whether the amendment as written would be effective in achieving its policy objective. Amendments that may be unenforceable, miss the objective, or have unintended consequences may not achieve the policy objective.
- c) Whether the amendment would either make our political system more democratic or protect individual rights. Most adopted amendments have sought to make our system more representative or to protect the rights of minorities.
- d) Whether the public policy objective can be achieved by a legislative or political approach that is less difficult than a constitutional amendment. In order to expend resources wisely, it is important to consider whether legislation or political action is more likely to succeed than an amendment.

e) Whether the public policy objective is more suited to a constitutional and general approach than to a statutory and detailed approach. It is important to consider whether the goal can best be achieved by an overall value statement, which will be interpreted by the courts, or with specific statutory detail to resolve important issues and reduce ambiguity.

Position on Constitutional Conventions under Article V of the U.S. Constitution

The League is concerned that there are many unresolved questions about the powers and processes of an Article V Constitutional Convention. The League believes such a convention should be called only if the following conditions are in place:

- a) The Constitutional Convention must be transparent and not conducted in secret. The public has a right to know what is being debated and voted on;
- b) Representation at the Constitutional Convention must be based on population rather than one state, one vote, and delegates should be elected rather than appointed. The delegates represent citizens, should be elected by them, and must be distributed by U.S. population;
- c) Voting at the Constitutional Convention must be by delegate, not by state. Delegates from one state can have varying views and should be able to express them by individual votes;
- d) The Constitutional Convention must be limited to a specific topic. It is important to guard against a “runaway convention” which considers multiple issues or topics that were not initiated by the states;
- e) Only state resolutions on a single topic count when determining if a Constitutional Convention should be called. Counting state requests by topic ensures that there is sufficient interest in a particular subject to call a Convention and enhances citizen interest and participation in the process; and
- f) The validity of state calls for an Article V Constitutional Convention must be determined by the most recent action of the state. If a state has enacted a rescission of its call, that rescission must be respected by Congress.

Charter Review Committee Issues Final Update

Ventura City Charter Review Process Wrapping Up

The Ventura City Council took action at its February 8, 2016 meeting to receive the year-long charter review report as presented by the Charter Review Committee (CRC).

The report, which is Agenda Item 7 and available from the City’s [website](#), was presented by the CRC Chair and City Attorney.

The Council's action included accepting several of the Committee’s recommendations but also moving in a new direction, to pursue an ordinance that would give the city council greater flexibility in setting up city election processes. The City Attorney was directed to draft such an ordinance as well as ballot language with the intent to return to a city council meeting in the near future for further discussion.

In light of the pending November election for city council members and possible charter revisions, LWV members living in the City of Ventura are encouraged to look for details on these issues as they appear on the city council agenda. The subject will likely be part of city council candidate campaigns that will be unfolding later this year.

LWV members with specific questions concerning the final report may contact LWVVC member Cheryl Collart who has been serving on the city's CRC.

Submitted by Cheryl Collart, Ventura

LWVVC BOARD DOINGS

All members are encouraged to attend monthly LWVVC Board meetings. See Calendar below for the when's and where's. Come and see what your Board is doing and learn about projects that are in the works.

Notes from February Board Meeting

Topics Covered and "To Do" List:

- 2016 Election Events - David Maron presented a summary of offices up for the primary election including current candidates and the filing schedule. The Board set out a plan for scheduling candidates forums.
- President's Report - Pat Essick reported on the Money in Politics consensus meeting and updated on progress being made by the Transportation/Infrastructure Committee on its April program.
- Helen LaMonte has agreed to chair the Voter Services Committee with Melanie Ashen assisting.
- Pat Murray reported on high school voter registration efforts in the Conejo Valley.
- The Board decided to do a "Who Am I?" skit with famous historical women at our membership meeting in September. Pat Butler will chair a planning committee during the summer.
- Port Hueneme Tour - Barbara Doyle updated on the tour scheduled for May 19 at 10 am.

Submitted by Judy Murphy, Secretary

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

New Members

We welcome our new member.

- Dorothy Jones - Oxnard
- Elizabeth Moore - Ojai
- Sage Essick Intner - Ojai

THINGS ARE HAPPENING!

- all league meetings are open to the public •

CALENDAR

- ▶ **Thursday, March 10** - LWVVC Board Meeting – 11:00 am to 1 pm (please be prompt). Location: Ventura College of Law, Classroom #1 located off the Courtyard, 4475 Market Street, Ventura (parking in the rear.). Open to all members.
- ▶ **Thursday, April 14** - LWVVC Board Meeting – 11:00 am to 1 pm (please be prompt). Location: Ventura College of Law, Classroom #1 located off the Courtyard, 4475 Market Street, Ventura (parking in the rear.). Open to all members.
- ▶ **Friday, April 29** - LWVVC Forum on Transportation Infrastructure with invited panelists - 9:30 am to 1 pm. Location: Ventura County Office of Education, Salon C, 5100 Adolfo Road, Camarillo, 93012. We will gather at 9:30 am with coffee and the program will begin at 10:00 am.
- ▶ **Thursday, May 12** - LWVVC Board Meeting – 11:00 am to 1 pm (please be prompt). Location: Ventura College of Law, Classroom #1 located off the Courtyard, 4475 Market Street, Ventura (parking in the rear.). Open to all members.
- ▶ **Thursday, May 19** - Tour of the port in Port Hueneme - 10 am to Noon. Location: TBA. Following the tour we have permission to use a room at the Port for a catered lunch (arrangements will be made after the March board meeting). Mr. Berg of Port Hueneme will be our guest at the luncheon and he will show a short power point presentation with additional information about the Port. We will need to RSVP to him with a **firm head count by May 5**. There is no charge for the tour, but the lunch will be about \$15-\$20 per person.
- ▶ **June 16 - 19** - LWVUS National Convention. Location: Washington DC. The 2016 LWVUS Convention will be held June 16-19, 2016 at the Washington Marriott Wardman Park Hotel, 2660 Woodley Rd NW, Washington, DC , 20008. Additional information can be found by clicking [National Convention](#).

