



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®
OF VENTURA COUNTY

VOTER

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PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE



Dear Members and Friends of LWVVC:

We look forward to the election soon to come. Candidate forums will begin to fill our time. With the Recall Election scheduled for May, Oxnard will hold the first election of the year in Ventura County. Thank you to David Maron and Cheryl Collart for their carefully planning the Oxnard Recall Forum. Thanks too to those members who attended and helped make it run smoothly.

Voter registration continues to be one of our biggest priorities. Please consider joining Carmen Hurd in registering Oxnard students this month (see Volunteers section below for details on how to get involved) - there are two opportunities to do so. I registered voters at the March for Our Lives event in Ventura last month and found it to be a very rewarding experience. LWVVC is frequently asked to provide voter registration services at different events. If you would like to help, please contact Carmen Hurd.

It is not too late to register to attend the national League of Women Voters Convention this June in Chicago. It will be a wonderful opportunity to meet and learn from League members from all over the country. Betsy Patterson and Pat Butler will be attending as our voting representatives and Matty Parks is also going and would enjoy another League member as company. See Calendar below or check our website for details.

LWV California is actively cooperating with a broad coalition of non-profit groups to help gather enough signatures to qualify the California Schools and Local Communities Funding Act of 2018 (Proposition 13 reform initiative) for inclusion on the ballot. If you would like to help, please let me know and I will get you started. The coalition hopes to gather 110,000 signatures by April 24.

And last but not least, we have an interesting speaker lined up for our LWVVC Annual Meeting on June 16 (see Calendar or our website for details) - please save the date. Come learn about community choice energy including what is being planned for Ventura County.

Yours in League,

Pat Essick
President

Inside This Issue...

- President’s Message
- Vote with the League
- California Voter Rights
- Committee Reports
- Board Meeting Notes
- Membership News
- Volunteer Opportunities
- Calendar of Events

June 5 is California Primary Election day!

- May 21, 2018 Last day to register to vote in this election.
- May 29, 2018 Last day to request a “vote by mail” ballot.

For information regarding this year's propositions, check out the League's [Voter Guide](#).

Vote with the League on June 5

LWV California Recommends

PROP 68 - California Drought, Water, Parks, Climate, Coastal Protection, and Outdoor Access for All Act **Vote YES**

This measure would authorize California to issue general obligation bonds, with the money used to finance state and local parks, water conservation measures, water reliability to disadvantaged communities, and flood protection projects. California parks provide open space and recreation, improving health and community well-being. The water projects funded by this bond are forward thinking and are a key part of our state response to climate change.

PROP 69 - Motor Vehicle Fees and Taxes **Vote YES**

If passed, this constitutional amendment would ensure that the existing transportation revenues we pay at the pump and when we register our vehicles can ONLY be used for road and transportation improvement projects. This amendment protects these transportation funds by prohibiting the state legislature from using these revenues for non-transportation purposes. Prop 69 protects existing taxes and fees we are already paying. It does not raise taxes one cent. The League supports measures to ensure adequate revenue to support needed services, including safe roads and good public transportation.

PROP 70 - Greenhouse Gas Reduction Reserve Fund **Vote NO**

This measure would add a requirement that two thirds of legislators approve the first appropriation of any money collected from the sale by CARB (California Air Resources Board) of cap-and-trade allowances after 2024. At a time that we need efficient and effective investments in climate change solutions, this requirement could lead to deadlocks, inefficiency, and poor decisions. Vote NO on Prop 70.

PROP 71 - Effective Date of Initiatives **Vote YES**

Currently, an initiative that is approved takes effect the day after the election unless the measure provides otherwise. Election results are not officially certified until five weeks after the election. While most election results are clear shortly after Election Day, that is not always the case. Prop 71 would provide that an initiative would take effect five days after the Secretary of State certifies the election results.

PROP 72 - Property taxation: new construction: rain water capture system **Vote YES**

This measure would allow an exclusion from additional property taxes for construction or installation of rain water capture systems. These systems capture, store, and use otherwise wasted rain water for landscape irrigation and similar uses, saving more conventional water for personal use. With traditional water sources becoming less dependable, this is one more way we can diversify sources of usable water.

Source: LWV California

California Voter Rights

Future of California Elections

On March 8, 250 election administrators, community representatives and election reform advocates met in Los Angeles to discuss the latest developments in the field of elections.

Speaking was California Secretary of State Alex Padilla who provided highlights in to where we are today with voter rights and access in California. He noted that while there is evidence that there was a cyber-attack to influence the 2016 elections however there is no evidence that there was a security breach nor is there any evidence of voter fraud - our election was secure. He went on to point out that there is evidence in various parts of the country of attempts to restrict voter access through such things as voter ID laws, decreasing early voting opportunities and making it easier for local registrars to purge voter rolls. So, REGISTER eligible citizens but also GET OUT THE VOTE in as many ways as possible. Secty. Padilla then outlined a series of upcoming initiatives and efforts impacting voter registration and participation.



Motor Voter: Automatic voter registration/Motor Voter will occur at the Department of Motor Vehicles beginning on April 16, 2018, with automatic registration and registration renewal for all eligible voters (citizenship, age 18 or older). Those ineligible to vote will not be reported. All eligible voters will be able to opt-out of automatic voter registration. Once registered, people will automatically receive voter information and a sample ballot and may even find themselves visited by campaign workers.

Voters Choice Act of 2016: This year, five counties in northern California (Madera, Napa, Nevada, Sacramento, San Mateo) will be implementing new changes outlined in the Act; voter centers instead of neighborhood polling places, early voting, verified vote-by-mail and same-day registration.

How will it work? Voters will receive their ballots in the mail a few weeks before the election. They will have 3 voting choices: vote by mail, ballot drop box, or voting center. Return the ballot by mail or drop it off (no postage required) at a secure ballot drop box. For those who want to vote in person there will be a

Board of Directors:

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number of vote centers that will be open at least four but potentially up to 11 days before Election Day where they can vote, register to vote and vote the same day, drop off completed ballots, vote using an accessible machine, pick up voting materials in multiple languages or receive help. Voters will be able to present their ballots at any vote center in the county and will be given the appropriate ballot based on their address. Vote centers will be located in central easily accessible locations. Some counties may even have mobile vote centers to help those living in rural, inaccessible places.

Same-Day Registration and Voting: Offers increased opportunity for more voters to exercise their right to vote. For example, Milwaukee has offered same-day registration since 1975. Today, with a population of 600,000, the City has 437,000 eligible voters. In 2016, 280,000 citizens voted in the presidential election - 64% of eligible voters. This was 2nd highest in the U.S. (Minnesota was #1). Currently, 14 states including the District of Columbia offer same-day registration and voting; it went into effect in California in 2017.

California DISCLOSE Act: After seven years of trying, last October, AB 249, the California Disclose Act, was finally voted into law. It goes in to affect this year. The law requires that all state and local campaign advertisements

identify the name of the organization paying for the advertisement. In addition, the names of the top 3 donors of \$50,000+ to the organizations will also be disclosed. Requirements for placement of the information, formatting criteria and identifying titles of true funders will also make measures easier to read and much more transparent. Also affected are radio, telephone, television, video, print and electronic media advertisements. Voters will be able to base their decisions on open and clear information. The Fair Political Practices Commission is currently working to respond to questions from campaigns regarding interpretation of the law. Click [here](#) for more information. California is a leader in this first step to shine light on “dark money”.

Redistricting: The U. S. Constitution mandates that every ten years, cities and counties review and redraw if necessary, their council and supervisorial districts in order to ensure that they remain substantially equal in population one to the other. In California, in response to local demand for fair redistricting, legislation was passed to authorize all counties and general-law cities to establish independent commissions to comply with the law beginning in 2017 - (cities may be organized under either the general laws of a State or under a charter adopted by the local voters).

Ventura County: Until this year, cities in Ventura County elected their councils at-large. This meant that all voters in a city, no matter where they lived, voted to elect all council members. This year, for the first time, voters in the cities of Ventura and Oxnard will vote for a single council member according to the district in which they live. Other cities in the County may decide to follow suit after approving maps that divide their cities into districts of equal population. It is recommended that a citizens’ independent redistricting commission be set up to assist in drawing district maps. Absent the creation of a commission, a demographic research company can be hired to recommend placement of district lines. Cities interested in starting their own redistricting commissions can visit www.localredistricting.org for help and guidance.

Upcoming National Census: The 2020 Census will be a big deal for California. The 14th Amendment to the Constitution mandates that “representatives shall be apportioned among the several states according to their respective numbers, counting the whole number of persons in each State, excluding Indians not taxed.” Today's Census includes a count of all individuals, not just legal citizens. As in years past, the challenge is making sure to include the homeless, the undocumented, people living in group and nursing homes, etc. people who often live "below the radar". Among other things, representation in Congress and federal funding to the states is based on Census data. Early “Get Out the Count” efforts will include outreach and education about the Census, on-the-ground and on-air messaging to the community, assuring Internet access to those without access in homes, and “goodwill ambassadors” within communities to encourage families and friends to complete the census.

As of March 31, 2018, the U.S. Census Bureau was required to submit to Congress the questions that will be included in the 2020 Census questionnaire. Much valuable information will be gleaned from responses to the questionnaire however there is concern that any question about citizenship status may intimidate some from completing the questionnaire. One idea being considered is to have “Census Sundays,” whereby census workers with iPads will post themselves outside churches. There is concern that recruiting census workers may be difficult due to an improved economy compared to 2010.

Oh, Well, Money: All election law changes require funding, something that is currently lacking in the current budget. The absence of funding in California's budget to pay for implementation of state-mandated election laws shows a lack of commitment by the state to support democratic participation. Question to candidates for governor: If elected, what will you do to ensure these election laws get the financial support needed to enact them?

Click [here](#) for more information.

Submitted by Carol Lindberg & Betsy Patterson, Directors

LWVVC Committee Reports

▶ **Advocacy Committee - Chelsea Sutula, Chair**

▶ **Budget Committee - Cheryl Collart, Chair**

The Budget Committee met to work up a proposed budget for 2018/2019 for presentation to the Board for discussion and, hopefully, approval. Once approved by the Board, the proposed budget will be submitted to LWVVC members at our Annual Meeting in June for adoption. - VOTER

▶ **Civil Discourse Committee - Betsy Patterson, Chair**



On March 29, LWVVC held its first Civil Discourse event produced with students in a Team Building communications class at CSU Channel Islands. The discussions were facilitated by six LWVVC members. The topic was “Politics in the Classroom: should professors and students be allowed to speak about their personal political opinions or social beliefs in class?” Participants discussed the benefits of each option, considered trade-offs and consequences of each position and looked for common

ground from which to develop an action or plan that was acceptable to all.

The goal of the event was not to find “the right answers” to this issue but rather to learn how to converse with people with different views —to listen respectfully, pay attention, ask questions for better understanding and be willing to reconsider and expand one’s own views. Unlike a debate, it was not about one side winning and the other losing. Unlike rhetoric, the goal was not to use persuasive language to influence others.

League members who participated in this event were: Betsy Patterson, Sharon Shou, Sharon Bushman, Pat Essick, Kay Armstrong, Karen Savitt; Judy Murphy had helped with a demonstration of civil discourse for our student team. - Betsy Patterson. Anyone interested in joining the Committee should contact [Betsy](#).

▶ **Program Committee - Steve Lattimore, Chair**

▶ **Scholarship Committee - Geri Loe, Chair**

▶ **Voter Registration Committee - Carmen Hurd, Chair**

The Committee has arranged for LWVVC to register students at two schools in the Oxnard Unified School District in April. See Volunteers section below if you would like to participate. - VOTER

LWVVC BOARD DOINGS

All members or anyone else interested in learning about the League 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 March Board Meeting

Topics Covered and "To Do" List:

- Voter Service Report – David Maron and Cheryl Collart are working on our forum for the Oxnard recall election
- Home Owner Association Election – Barbara Doyle updated the Board on a homeowner association that has contacted us for assistance managing its Director election in May.
- Program – Steve Lattimore suggested a “Me Too” themed public forum. He is researching how UCLA handled the issue and the idea was floated of including a labor lawyer and someone from a Human Resources department.
- Annual Meeting Preparations – Barbara outlined plans that have been made so far for our June annual meeting including location, potential speakers etc.
- President's Report – Pat E. updated the Board on a variety of topics including, among other things, the LWV United States annual convention and a potential fundraising effort.

Submitted by Judy Murphy, Secretary

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

New Members & Associate Members:

- Michelle Hickman-Aeh - Ventura

Donors – Thank you to our donors!!

- Mark and Terri Lisagor

LWVVC Scholarship Fund Donors – We thank you and so do the students

If you would like to donate to the LWVVC Scholarship Fund, please make your checks payable to “LWVVC with a notation “Scholarship Fund” on memo line of the check.

As a 501(c)(3) not-for profit organization, all contributions to LWVVC are tax deductible.

VOLUNTEER A LITTLE TIME

• lwvvc needs you! •

*If you have some time and are interested in volunteering a bit of it for the good of the League, following is a list of projects that could use your help. **If interested, send an email to info@lwvventuracounty.org and let us know what you would like to do, someone will follow-up.***

Why Volunteer?

We know you want to be a part of it. We know you want to make a difference; that's why you joined the League of Women Voters! Take the next step and volunteer.

▶ **Voter Registration Opportunities.** LWVVC has been invited to register students at two schools in the Oxnard Unified High School District. If you would like to participate, contact [Carmen Hurd](#). This is a lot of fun folks and extremely rewarding. Here are the specific dates and locations:

▶ Wednesday, April 18, from 8:00 pm to 3:00 at Channel Islands High School, 1400 Raider's Way, Oxnard. It is not necessary to commit to volunteering for the entire day, shifts are available. Contact [Carmen](#).

▶ Monday, April 30, from 8:00 am to 3:00 at Oxnard High School, 3400 West Gonzales Rd, Oxnard. Join other League members, meet and help anxious first-time voters. For additional details, call Carmen Hurd at (805) 889-7282 or send Carmen an email.

▶ Needed, a **Voter Service Chairperson** to work closely with League member David Maron, city government offices and volunteers to help oversee our candidates forums including arranging location sites, organizing volunteers to run the forums, and inviting candidates to participate. This is a very important job and an important role for the League, especially in election years. Usually the person who fills this position becomes a member of the Board. Interested? Questions? Please contact [Pat Essick](#).

▶ **VOTER Editor and Publisher.** We are looking for someone who would be interested in taking over putting together our monthly newsletter, the VOTER. We publish 9 to 10 times per year and copy is distributed to our members via email. Content is provided by others as well as resources provided by LWV California and LWV United States. Training is available so no worries about starting from scratch. If interested, send an email to [Suzanne Harvey](#).

▶ **LWVVC Webmaster.** We are in search of someone who would be interested in assuming responsibility for maintaining our website. Our website matrix allows for a fair amount of creativity should one be so inclined however at a minimum the position requires monthly posting of our newsletter and maintenance of our on-line Calendar. If interested, send an email to [Suzanne Harvey](#).

▶ **Climate Change Task Force.** Needed, a member to serve as LWVVC's liaison to the LWV California Climate Change Task Force. This job can be done by anyone who is concerned about Climate Change and is willing to get information and updates on what the Task Force is up to and report back to our membership via brief articles for the VOTER. Learn more by visiting the [Climate Task Force](#) website. Let us know if you're interested or would like to become more engaged in action. Contact [Pat Essick](#) if you are interested.

▶ Soon we will be laying the groundwork for a **possible forum on artificial intelligence and up-coming candidates forums**. Start thinking about whether this is something you could participate in.

▶ **Advocacy (e.g. Electoral College Reform), Voter Registration, Program, join a Committee and get active.** Send [us](#) an email and let us know if you'd like to get involved. Here's a list of current committees:

- Advocacy Committee
- Scholarship Committee
- Voter Registration Committee
- Program Committee

▶ **Articles for the VOTER.** We are always looking for articles to include in the VOTER. Anyone who has a piece they think would be of interest to our members can email it to [us](#). If needed we may edit your pieces for length or in instances where language is “un-league-like” - we’re all about civil discourse. **VOTER deadline is one week prior to ending of every month.**

CALENDAR

• all league meetings are open to the public •

(Calendar Can Also Be Found On Our Website)

▶ **Thursday, April 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 or anyone interested in learning more about the League. Board meetings are scheduled for the 2nd Thursday of every month. Following is the schedule for the 2018 League year:

- May, 10
- June, 14

▶ **Saturday, June 16 - LWVVC Annual Meeting & Luncheon** - 9:30 am to 11:45 followed by luncheon. Location: Marriott Courtyard, 600 E. Esplanade Dr., Oxnard. The meeting will be followed by a plated lunch (choices to be announced later) for the price of \$30 (the lunch includes dessert). RSVP date TBD. Send your checks to LWVVC at the address below and note "annual meeting" on the memo line of the check. *You may attend the meeting and listen to the speaker without purchasing lunch.* Following is the day’s agenda:

9:30 am	Coffee/tea/pastries
10:00 to Noon	Business Meeting.
Noon	Luncheon
12:40 to 1:30	Speaker: Linda Hillman and Don Dame on community choice energy

Community choice energy (CCE) is a new way to get cleaner electricity to consumers at competitive prices and with greater local control of how electricity is produced. Ms. Hillman and Mr. Dame will provide an update on current central coast and statewide trends in CCE. Linda is an attorney and CPA whose career includes federal and local public service including accounting, law and operational management as well as private sector financial management. Don spent nearly 40 years working in the natural gas, electricity and water utility industries. He currently consults on direct access, community choice power assessment and governance issues with cities and counties throughout California.

▶ **Thursday., June 28 thru Sunday, July 1- LWV United States 53rd National Convention.** Location: Hilton Hotel, 720 S. Michigan Avenue, Chicago, Illinois. National Convention is for members of LWV. Click [here](#) for further information.



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