



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®
OF VENTURA COUNTY

VOTER

May, 2017 Volume 59 No.9



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Dear Members and Friends of LWVVC:

The League of Women Voters needs you! If you ever thought that you might like to be more active in the League and have more impact, now is the time to nominate yourself for our Board. Or, say “yes” if someone on our Nominating Committee calls you and asks you to fill a position on the Board or to join a committee.

You are what makes the League a valuable, viable organization, standing up for good government and an educated electorate. Don't worry about not knowing everything there is to know, no one did when they first stepped in and got involved. Join a great team that supports each other. You will learn by doing and with the help and friendship of our more experienced League members.

In the meantime, we look forward to seeing you at the Climate Change Forum on May 6, and at our Annual Meeting in June.

Yours in League,

Betsy Patterson & Pat Essick
Co-Presidents

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➤ SPECIAL EVENTS ◀



Saturday, May 6 - Public Forum "Climate Change Is Here to Stay...So What's Next?" - 9:30 am to 12:00. Location: Ventura College, Applied Science Center Building Theater, 4667 Telegraph Road Ventura. Free campus parking in the West Lot. Enter from Loma Vista Road and Central Campus Drive. Look for signs to guide you. Click [here](#) for a map of the campus. The Applied Science Center is in the lower right hand corner of the map (find "ASC" and you've got it). LWVVC and Ventura College are co-sponsoring this program. Speakers will be:

- Dr. Lea, professor of climate change and an environmental geologist from UCSB will speak on the realities of climate change.
- Dr. Suh, professor at the Bren School of Environmental Science and Management at UCSB will address the economic implications of climate change.
- Jim Hines, President of the Los Padres chapter of the Sierra Club and Sierra Club Washington lobbyist will speak about local and state climate change issues and the work the Sierra Club is doing. Attendance is free and open to the public.

Click [here](#) to read LWV California's Climate Change action policy

Saturday, June 24 - LWVVC Annual Meeting, Luncheon & Speaker - 9:30 am to 1:30 pm. Location:



Marriott Courtyard, 600 E. Esplanade Dr. Oxnard. The meeting will be followed by a plated lunch with a menu choice of cobb salad, veggie sandwich with pasta salad, or club croissant with pasta salad. Lunch includes desert of "strawberry daiquiri cake" and coffee or iced tea. The cost for the lunch is \$30. Checks should be sent to LWVVC. RSVP by June 12, to Barbara Doyle gregnbarbara@yahoo.com.

You may attend the meeting and listen to the speaker without purchasing lunch.

9:30 am	Coffee/tea and assorted muffins and pastries
10:00 to Noon	Business Meeting followed by David Maron updating us on the "State of the Region Report 2017" published annually by the Civic Alliance
Noon	Luncheon
12:30 to 1:30	Speaker: Dr. Herb Gooch of California Lutheran University will talk about "California v. the Nation"

Stop Voter Suppression

- [lwwvs call to action](#) •

Call to Action on Voter Rights

Across the country, there has been a concerted effort in many states to stop some voters from voting, or to make it much harder for them to participate – and, there promises to be more to come in 2017. Legislators and election officials have purged existing voters from the rolls, made cuts to early voting, reduced polling places, put in place strict voter photo ID laws and levied onerous voter registration restrictions.

All of these actions have been made easier by the Supreme Court's decision to gut key provisions of the Voting Rights Act in 2013. The 2016 election was the first presidential election in 50 years without full protection of the right to vote.

The League remains committed to fighting suppression tactics that threaten our democracy and the right to vote. In addition, throughout 2016, the League worked to make sure voters impacted by new laws were aware of these restrictions. In Ohio, the League made thousands of phone calls to inform voters about that state's purge. In Virginia, the League conducted outreach so voters knew how the state's new voter photo ID law might affect them. In Kansas, the League fought tirelessly to protect the rights of voters caught in the crosshairs of the state's illegal and discriminatory attempts to restrict voter registration. Across the country, thousands of League volunteers served as non-partisan poll observers, staffed voter protection hotlines, and made sure get-out-the-vote phone banks reached as many voters as possible.



The League is gearing up to take a stand in Congress, statehouses and courtrooms nationwide to ensure no voters are left behind. Stand with the League in our fight to ensure our elections are always free, fair, and accessible.

LWVUS has issued this Action Alert: Sign our petition to stop voter suppression. Go to the web: <http://www.lwv.org> and click on "Get Involved"

Source: LWVUS

LWVC Responds - SB 54, California Values Act

(On April 16th, LWVVC member Pam Pecarich contacted LWV California regarding the League's support of SB 54, the California Values Act. Following is their response. We thought our members here in Ventura County might find it of interest)

I want to begin by thanking Pam for her April 16th communication regarding the League's support of SB 54 (de Leon)...I did have the chance to seek input from our Government Director, Director of Programs, and our Board President. The following response reflects our consensus.

- Melissa Breach, Executive Director, LWVC.



SB 54 - The California Values Act

The California Values Act would limit state and local law enforcement agencies involvement in immigration enforcement and would ensure individuals can still engage with state agencies (such as schools, libraries, medical clinics, and courts) without regard to their immigration status. This is critical to avoid any number of tragic situations including but not limited to: a battered woman being unable to seek a restraining order or an injured child going without medical treatment.

League Immigration Position

Our support of SB 54 is based on League positions that support a path to citizenship and does not support the deportation of those undocumented immigrants who are otherwise law-abiding members of our community.

Passage of SB 54 will reassure many in the League, and in the larger community, that we are serious about addressing the recent stepped-up deportation activity and failures to provide due process.

Public Safety

SB 54 was amended several times in response to concerns about public safety before it was passed by the Senate 27-12-1. The bill clearly includes provisions for the deportation of undocumented residents convicted of violent or serious crimes, including those previously deported for violent crimes.

It is also worth considering the roots of this public safety concern. Is our fear of dangerous criminal immigrants based in data? Current statistics indicate that immigrants do not have a higher propensity for crime. The research is actually pretty one-sided, concluding that immigrants are less likely to commit crimes than native-born persons—although I acknowledge that those studies do include both documented and undocumented immigrants.

Opposition Arguments

The arguments we are seeing from the opposition are sometimes difficult to respond to. For instance, the Ventura County sheriff's op-ed column that Pam (LWVVC Board Member Pam Pecarich) cited includes little in the way of specificity or data. Instead, it includes the kind of rhetoric that appeals to people's fears rather than the facts of the bill. As an example, the editorial claimed that the bill "prohibits ICE access to jail facilities. Criminal undocumented immigrants who are currently serving time in county jail for serious or violent crimes would simply be released back into our communities upon completion of their sentences." This is not accurate. Under SB 54, ICE is prohibited from unfettered access to the jails — meaning they can't go into the jails and start questioning detained people. The provisions for the deportation of those convicted of serious or violent crimes allow ICE to have access to exactly the people we all think should be deported, but not those who either have not yet been convicted or have committed less serious offenses.

Why is SB 54 a Priority?

Federal immigration policy and action is evolving quickly and we are seeing accelerated rates of deportations and reports of law enforcement targeting those with protected status and forgoing due process. In that environment, we are weighing the real human cost of our immigration policies and the corresponding impact on human and civil rights. Here is an anecdotal but very real world example of what is happening here in California.

Board of Directors:

Co-Presidents:

Patricia Essick
Betsy Patterson

Secretary:

Judith Murphy

Treasurer:

Robert Lowe

Directors at Large:

Pat Butler
Barbara Doyle
Suzanne Harvey
Helen LaMonte
Steve Lattimore
Carol Lindberg
Jennifer Matos
Pam Pecarich
Karen Savitt

Juan Manuel Montes is 23 and undocumented. He has lived in the United States since he was brought here at the age of 9. He suffers from a cognitive disability due to a brain injury he sustained as a child. Despite having minor criminal convictions for shoplifting and driving without a license, he has been protected from deportation by DACA (Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals). Earlier this month he was approached by ICE officers at a bus stop, could not immediately produce ID and was *immediately* deported without so much as a hearing. Despite the fact that he has the necessary paperwork (just not with him at the time) they put him on a bus and dropped him off on the other side of the border—where he was subsequently robbed and assaulted. When the story broke about his deportation (as the first DACA protected deportee), homeland security initially claimed they had never deported him. Only days later did they acknowledge that in fact, they **did** deport him and that, yes, his DACA status was current. They are still refusing to allow him to return to the US and his family. Why? Because after he was mugged, he tried to return to the US without permission. That was illegal, despite his having a lawful right to live and work in the US.

In Closing

While deportations are not new, the capricious implementation we are seeing now is new. SB 54 will help ensure local and state resources aren't used in a way that hurts California communities or our economy.

Thanks for giving me the opportunity to respond to some of your concerns. I'd be happy to continue this conversation with your league, just let me know. Also, at our Convention in June, we will feature a plenary speaker and a caucus on immigration—providing a good opportunity to talk about this issue with league members from across California.

Source: LWV California

Local Cannabis Regulatory Update

Ojai, Port Hueneme and Thousand Oaks See Movement

This is the most active year yet for California's emerging cannabis industry: there are currently 44 proposed bills in the California state legislature affecting and controlling the use and distribution of marijuana as permitted under both Proposition 215 and Proposition 64. In addition, Governor Brown recently introduced his budget bill which includes trailer legislation aimed at reconciling key differences between the existing medical and recreational frameworks.

Recently, the newly-formed Bureau of Medical Cannabis Regulation announced it was on track to meet the January 1, 2018, deadline to begin issuing state licenses for cannabis businesses.

Locally, although most jurisdictions in Ventura County have opted to reinforce bans on all cannabis businesses, here is a summary of what has been happening in the past month in the cities that are considering regulations:

Ojai: City Council met on April 11, to review the selection process and criteria for awarding permits for delivery services and non-storefront dispensaries in the City. It voted unanimously to include a requirement that applicants must have been residents of Ventura County for the past five years, and applicants may not own more than five cannabis licenses anywhere. The Mayor's motion to issue a single permit instead of the six provided for in the current ordinance did not receive a second. In the event there are more than three qualified applicants for each permit type, the Council voted to eliminate the proposed lottery system in favor of an interview process.

Port Hueneme: A revised draft ordinance to conditionally permit medical cannabis delivery, indoor cultivation, manufacturing and dispensaries was released on April 3. A special ad-hoc committee met on April 25, to consider how the City might move forward with cannabis regulations, and whether City Council should seek to get voter approval for a tax measure vs. other means of revenue generation. An update on a proposed workshop is expected at the May 1, City Council meeting. For more [information](#).

Thousand Oaks: City Council heard from a group of mostly supporters at a March 28, workshop to solicit residents' input on whether it should amend its policy banning commercial cannabis operations. The City is also considering opinions from residents via online [surveys](#).

Submitted by Chelsea Sutula, Ventura

LWVVC Nominations Committee Update

- calling all members •



We're Taking Nominations for LWVVC Board of Directors

Members who would like to pursue a greater involvement with the local League by serving on the Board or holding a specific office are invited to contact Cheryl Collart, chair of the Committee (805-746-0931).

The Nominations Committee will be contacting members in early May to determine their interest to serve.

The Board meets monthly (with a few exceptions) to manage the activities and advance plans of the membership. The meetings are timely and allow members to lend their time and leadership for the greater good. Those choosing to lend a hand and participate on the Board find their involvement with the League to be satisfying and worthwhile....and a great place to make a difference.

Please refer to the LWVVC [Bylaws](#) to review the duties of the officers, the board.

And, do not hesitate to contact Cheryl should you have questions, suggestions or interest in this committee.

Cheryl Collart, Chair Nominating Committee

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

New Members

- Pat Spence - Ventura

If you would like to donate to the LWVVC Scholarship Fund, please make your checks payable to "LWVVC Education Fund" with a notation "Scholarship Fund" on the memo line of the check. Send checks to LWVVC, P.O. Box 6786 Ventura, CA 93006. Contributions are tax deductible.

LWVVC BOARD DOINGS

All members are encouraged to attend monthly LWVVC Board meetings. See Calendar below or check out our web site 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 April Board Meeting

Topics Covered and "To Do" List:

- Treasurer's Report - Bob Lowe updated the Board on status of our application for non-profit status.

- President's Report and action items – Betsy Patterson ran through final plans for our upcoming Climate Change Forum and plans for LWVVC's annual meeting in June.
- LWVVC Scholarship - In the event our scholarship for this year has been awarded, we will extend an invitation to the recipient to join us at our annual meeting in June.
- Barbara Doyle reviewed the Annual Meeting schedule.

Submitted by Judy Murphy, Secretary

COME MEET LWVUS PRESIDENT CHRIS CARSON

Join us at our Garden Party. Refreshments and good conversation.
Buy your ticket now or sign up to be a sponsor

Don't miss your chance to hear from LWVUS President Chris Carson!



Location: A Beautiful Santa Barbara Garden

(address and directions will be provided to those who RSVP)

Price: \$50 (includes refreshments & two drink tickets) \$40 for early registration by April 1

RSVP: Write a check to LWV of Santa Barbara and note "Garden Party" in the memo line

League of Women Voters of Santa Barbara
328 E. Carrillo Street, Suite A
Santa Barbara, CA 93101
(For more information: [email](#) or call 805-881-3396)

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 in getting involved, send an email to info@lwvventuracounty.org and let us know what you would like to do, someone will follow-up.

- ▶ **Saturday, May 6, Program on Climate Change.** Anyone who would like to help with the forum (setting up, greeting, collecting questions, refreshments) Please send us an email (info@lwvventuracounty.org) or call or email Steve Lattimore to find out about our next meeting or to help at the Forum.
- ▶ **Wednesday, May 17, 5:30 - 7:30 pm - Home Owners Association Election at Cabrillo Cooperative.** Interested in helping earn \$\$ for our League? Consider volunteering as an election inspector for a Homeowner's Association located in east Ventura. Training will be provided! Skills needed: ability to read, count and open ballots! Yes, anyone can do it! Interested members are urged to contact LWVVC HOA Election Committee Chair Barbara Doyle, 805-765-9302 or gregnbarbara@yahoo.com.
- ▶ We're looking for people interested in joining LWVVC member Pat Spence in being part of a new committee to review and take action on the electoral college - **the Electoral College Committee**. Interested? Send [us](#) an email and Pat will contact you.
- ▶ **Advocacy, Voter Registration, Program Committee, join a committee and get active.** Send us an email and let us know if you'd like to get involved
- ▶ **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 should send it to info@lwvventuracounty.org. **VOTER deadline is one week prior to ending of every month.**

Working on a project for the LWVVC and need some help? Send an email to info@lwvventuracounty.org and tell us what you need and we'll include it in the next VOTER. Please include dates, location, time of day.

THINGS ARE HAPPENING!

• all league meetings are open to the public •

CALENDAR

- ▶ **Saturday, May 6 - Public Forum "Climate Change Is Here to Stay...So What's Next?"** - 9:30 am to 12:00. Location: Ventura College, Applied Science Center Building, 4667 Telegraph Road Ventura. Free campus parking - West Lot. Enter from Loma Vista Road and Central Campus Drive. Look for signs to guide you. Click [here](#) for a map of the campus. The Applied Science Center is in the lower right hand corner of the map (find "ASC" and you've got it). LWVVC and Ventura College are co-sponsoring this program on climate change. Attendance is free and open to the public.
- ▶ **Tuesday, May 9 - 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).

▶ **Wednesday, May 17** - LWVSB Community Forum: Education Santa Barbara - 12:00 to 2:00 pm. Location: Faulkner Gallery, 40 E. Anapamu Street, Santa Barbara. Speakers will include Kelli Choi, Director of the Academy for Success; Patricia Madrigal, Director of the Program for Effective Access to College (PEAC), students from these programs and Kate Parker, President of the Santa Barbara Board of Education. Click [here](#) for more information.

▶ **Thursday, June 1 thru 4** - 2017 LWVC Convention - Location: Sacramento. For California Leaguers, attending the state convention in our capitol city is not to be missed. And, the 2017 LWVC Convention will continue that tradition. See our Calendar on the LWVVC website for links to more information.

▶ **Saturday, June 24** - LWVVC Annual Meeting & Luncheon - 9:30 am to 1:30 pm. Location: Marriott Courtyard, 600 E. Esplanade Dr., Oxnard. The meeting will be followed by a plated lunch (Special Events above for details including where and when to RSVP). *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
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Noon	Luncheon
12:30 to 1:30	Speakers: Dr. Herb Gooch of California Lutheran University will speak on " <i>California v. the Nation</i> ".

