



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®  
OF VENTURA COUNTY

# VOTER

September, 2015 Volume 58 No.2

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Dear Members and Friends of LWVVC:

It is hard to believe that summer is almost over. I hope you have all had a chance to enjoy some free time and some lazy, relaxing days. Hopefully our summer's rest has prepared us for the busy League year ahead.



Our Membership meeting will be on Saturday, September 26, at noon at the Ojai Valley Women's Club in Ojai. For a change, we have decided that it will be a potluck lunch (less expensive and a fun change!). We look forward to catching up with all of you over lunch. For this year's meeting we have decided to try something new. Rather than having a speaker we thought it would be a nice change to spend the time discovering which of the many possible activities the League is/or could be involved with seem most important to you. We will give everyone a chance to share their opinions and weigh the pros and cons of each potential activity. It should be a lively, stimulating meeting. There is also a rumor that there may be some surprise entertainment as well. Please save the date and be thinking about what you want to bring to share and don't forget to invite a friend or acquaintance to join us, the more the merrier.

Locally, we recently conducted The Cabrillo Community Housing election. The Cabrillo residents were very appreciative of how transparent and fair the voting was handled. I was impressed at how very professionally Judy Murphy, Carol Lindberg, and Melanie Ashen conducted the election opening ballots and tallying the votes. It made me proud to part of the League. What a good way to raise funds for the League while practicing that for which we stand.

Speaking of raising funds for the League, by now you will have received your dues renewal notice in the mail - please send in your dues as soon as possible so that we can focus our undivided attention on programs for the upcoming year and so that your name will be in our new directory. Remember that you, the members, are what make the League the powerful and respected advocate and leader that it is. Help keep us strong by your renewal and vote of support. And, if you are in a position to do so, consider making an additional donation to LWVVC. Thank you!

Looking forward to seeing you at September's membership meeting, it should be fun.

Yours in League,  
Pat Essick - President

### Inside This Issue...

- President's Message
- Renew & Support LWVVC
- Membership Meeting
- Prop 13 Reform Effort
- Scholarship Fund
- LWVVC Works Election
- Board Doings
- Volunteer to LWVVC
- Calendar of Events
- LWVC & LWVUS Studies

# SUPPORT THE LEAGUE AND RENEW EARLY

- help us focus on the work of the league •

## Dues Renewal Notices Are in the Mail

By now you should have received our request to renew your dues. After several years of staying the same amounts, they've gone up this year. During the annual meeting that approved the increase, we learned that the per member payments we owe the state league would be increasing also this year and again next year after several years of no change. Next June the national league will be holding its convention and we rather expect an increase will be approved there as well. Over 80% of our dues go to support the state and national leagues; they support us in a myriad of ways but also do advocacy on our behalf at the State Legislature and in Washington. Our increase will help us meet those demands and support our local budget.

Please renew as quickly as you can to save us the cost of contacting you again.

Your grateful Treasurer, Pam Pecarich

## CALLING ALL MEMBERS

- upcoming membership meeting not to be missed •

### 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

## Kicking Off a New League Year

Your Board hopes to see you at our fall membership meeting, September 26<sup>th</sup>, 10:30 AM at the Ojai Valley Women's Club, 441 E. Ojai Ave in downtown Ojai. This year's gathering is planned to be an interactive, discussion type session that should be fun and interesting too. At noon we will break for a potluck lunch. **Please call or email Pam to let us know what dish you will bring and the Board members will fill in the rest.** If I can hear from you by Tuesday the 22<sup>nd</sup>, we'll have time to plan. Plates, paper goods and plastic glasses will be provided. Guests and all those who want to learn more about the League are invited to join us, dish free ☺. Contact me at 805-797-4757 or [ppecar@aol.com](mailto:ppecar@aol.com). Looking forward to seeing you then.

Submitted by Pam Pecarich, Treasurer

## PROP 13 GETS CHALLENGE

- bill working its way through legislature •

## Make It Fair California Campaign

The LWVC is whole heartedly embracing the Let's Make it Fair California campaign to reform California's current commercial property tax system. Legislation, SCA 5 (Senate Constitutional Amendment 5), is currently working its way through the legislature. If adopted the legislation would assess commercial properties at their fair market value, provide tax relief for businesses, and

protect homeowners and renters. Among other things the Make It Fair campaign addresses structural flaws on the commercial property tax side of Property 13 that have allowed a minority group of wealthy corporations and commercial property owners to dramatically lower their tax bills and shift that responsibility on to homeowners and renters. If passed by the legislature SCA 5 would appear on the ballot in November 2016.

Our homeowners are now being asked to pay the vast majority, 72%, of property taxes while the commercial side pays only 28%. In 1978 when Proposition 13 passed, commercial real estate owners each paid about 50%.

The impact of this tax inequity has been cuts to the services that create opportunity in our public schools, libraries, and health services. One example of the effects of these cuts is that California is now ranked 50th out of 50 states in our K-12 student-teacher ratio.

SCA 5 would phase in reassessed commercial and industrial property values at their fair market value. This would bring into line a minority group of property owners who have not had their property reassessed in decades. This group of property owners pay far less than the majority of businesses, including their competitors. SCA 5 would also provide significant tax relief for businesses by exempting the first \$500,000 in equipment and fixtures subject to business personal property taxes (beginning in 2019). This exemption would especially benefit small businesses by eliminating the tax for more than 90% of them, whether they rent or own the facilities in which their business operates.

The legislation also maintains existing constitutional protections for all residential property owners, both homeowners and renters, and also for agricultural land, and maintains existing constitutional provisions limiting property tax rates.

Former U.S. Secretary of Labor and political economist Robert Reich teamed up with Courage Campaign and Make It Fair California and released a very informative video on Proposition 13, click [here](#) to watch.

Submitted by Pat Essick, President

## LWVVC SCHOLARSHIP FUND

• scholarship committee needs volunteers •

### Our Scholarship Committee: An Update

Upon the initiative of several members, led by Jeri Andrews, our League established a scholarship for a community college student interested in government and civic affairs in 2014. We awarded our first scholarship this Spring and the Ventura College awardee attended our Annual meeting in June, expressing her gratitude for the financial assistance. Through donations and after awarding our first \$1,000 scholarship, we have sufficient funds on hand to award a second scholarship to a student at Oxnard College in Spring of 2016. However, the Scholarship Committee needs to make the arrangements with Oxnard College, and the existing Committee members are asking for other interested members to serve on the Committee. The Committee plans to meet this Fall and members will pick their chair for the year. So please help us continue this inspired initiative – contact Suzanne Harvey at [gray.harvey@att.net](mailto:gray.harvey@att.net) to join the committee and insure that you are informed of the committee meeting.

Also consider giving to the Scholarship Fund when you renew your dues this year. These donations need to be made to the LWV VC Education Fund with a notation "For the scholarship fund" on the memo line. We hope to raise enough money this year to provide for a full \$1,000 scholarship in 2017 to a student at Moorpark College.

Submitted by Pam Pecarich, Treasurer

## LWVVC WORKS LOCAL ELECTION

### **Cabrillo Cooperative Housing Corporation Election for Board of Directors**

Our League was asked once again to conduct an election for the Cabrillo Housing Cooperative. This housing complex is focused on serving farm workers and over the years, their elections have been problematic. In recent years, as we have been working with them, they have reformed their election practices with the help of attorneys and also have a Spanish speaker available to translate at their elections. Our team of volunteers rose to the occasion and conducted a problem free election on August 17<sup>th</sup>. These elections, and others for homeowner associations, are a welcome source of income for our League. This election will bring in over \$400. Thanks go to Judy Murphy, Pat Essick, Melanie Ashen, and Carol Lindberg with organizational assistance from Barbara Doyle.

Submitted by Pam Pecarich, Treasurer

## Ventura County Advisory Council

• education is topic of regular meeting •

### **July 31 Ventura County Advisory Council Meeting**

Senator Fran Pavley opened the meeting by reporting that on July 6 there was an Extraordinary Session for the State Legislature on transportation and infrastructure - further sessions are likely, everything is on the table for funding.

Discussion then moved to education, specifically funding and teacher training. It was noted that many states have successful financial aid programs and that over the past 12 years, California enrollment in teacher preparation programs has dropped from 77,700 to 19,933.

The first speaker was Stan Mantooth, Ventura County Superintendent of Schools. The California Career Pathways Trust (Trust) is a grant program established in 2013 involving the Ventura County Board of Education working together with various agencies and community colleges to prepare K-12 students for the workforce. One member of the Trust, Ventura County Innovates, was a grant recipient focusing on middle schools. The Office of Education operates the Gateway Community School at the Camarillo Airport providing high quality special education. Career connections are made directly with businesses.

Dr. Richard Rush, President of California State University Channel Islands (CSUCI) announced that CSUCI has received approval for its first doctoral program, in education. With help from Jacqui Irwin, CSUCI could soon start an engineering school, but funding is a problem (as it is with nursing). CSUCI will not receive any money from the state for a single building until 2030. As a

result, the university will have to sell some property to raise money; CSUCI is the only public university in the state mandated to pay its own way.

Luis Sanchez, the new president of Moorpark College, expressed his gratitude for state support which is making it possible for the school to re-add classes among other things. The student center needs updating and the College may add an outdoor auditorium. The College will have its 25<sup>th</sup> birthday in 2017.

Leanne Neilson, Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs at California Lutheran University (CLU) noted that her university has been experiencing lots of growth and has some new buildings. She also noted that the school has added a seminary. She called it a good college for veterans. According to Neilson, CLU currently has 4200 students many of them first generation, and a graduation rate that has recently risen from 61% to 69%. The school enjoys several major partnerships with the community, e.g. the swimming pool, radio station, and the counseling center.

Submitted by Steve Lattimore, Director

## LWVVC BOARD DOINGS

All members are encouraged to attend monthly LWVVC Board meetings. Come and see what your Board is doing and learn about projects that are in the works.

### Notes from August In/Out Board Meeting

#### Topics Covered and “To Do” List:

- President’s Report – Pat Essick introduced our new Board Members and appointed a new Executive Committee consisting of the President, Secretary, Treasurer, and two additional board members, Barbara Doyle and Carol Lindberg.
- Treasurer’s Report: LWVVC is on track except for increased spending on the Annual Meeting - but the year is still young.
- LWVUS has requested consensus on US Constitutional Amendment Study by December 1, and Money in Politics study by February 1. Consensus is due April 1, 2016 on LWVC Higher Education study. The Board discussed how much of this we could accomplish and decided to ask for input and volunteers at the September membership meeting.
- Steve Lattimore reported on the July 31 Ventura County Advisory Council meeting headed by Senator Fran Pavley (see summary of the meeting in this month’s VOTER). Barbara Doyle suggested a docent led tour of Port Hueneme. There was interest by the Board so she will investigate further.
- Potential meeting topics for the upcoming “League Year” were discussed including:
  - Community Choice Energy for the Central Coast,
  - Infrastructure/transportation
  - Speaker on the Arab Spring

- Possible webinar on “Make It Fair” to learn about Prop. 13 issues for CSA-5 (closing the commercial loophole in the property tax).
  - Ventura County may have a transit tax on the ballot which would allow us to receive more state or federal matching funds, another good meeting subject.
- LWVVC Scholarship Committee: Carol Lindberg reported that the committee will be meeting shortly to discuss plans for next year’s scholarship.
  - Voter Service: Although there are currently no elections scheduled for this year (September through June), the Board will begin recruiting for the position during the September Membership Meeting to ensure that we are ready for the 2016 election season.
  - LWVVC has been asked to run elections for the Resident Council Board, Housing Authority - we are waiting for further information.

Submitted by Judy Murphy, Secretary

## 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](mailto:info@lwvventuracounty.org) and let us know, someone will contact you to follow-up.*

▶ We are looking for a few good people who would be interested in **servicing on a committee that shares the load** of getting the jobs following jobs done:

- |                    |                         |
|--------------------|-------------------------|
| • Voter Service    | • Smart Voter           |
| • Program          | • Scholarship Committee |
| • VOTER Production |                         |

▶ We would like to hear from League members who would be interested in **working on a committee to plan a public forum** dealing with the interrelated topics of Ventura County transportation issues and infrastructure. If you have not served on the Program committee nor previously worked on a forum, welcome!! Contact Steve Lattimore 805-525-6088 if you have some time to give.

▶ It is time once again when Leagues around the country are asked to interview local politician and report back to state League on the results of those interviews. Interview questions are provided by LWVC. **We need a chairman ASAP to coordinate our interviews** with Hannah Beth Jackson, Julia Brownley, Jacqui Irwin, and Das Williams (shared with Santa Barbara).

▶ **Articles for the VOTER** from other websites: You don’t have to write it but if you are willing to check into state and national news, especially the state League’s website, for relevant stories to include in the VOTER, please contact Suzanne at [gray.harvey@att.net](mailto:gray.harvey@att.net). Do it for us each month or for one month – the help would be appreciated.

*Working on a project for the LWVVC and need some help? Send an email to [sharvey@cal.berkeley.edu](mailto:sharvey@cal.berkeley.edu) and tell us what you need- 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

### 2015

▶ **Tuesday, September 8** - LWVVC Education Committee Meeting (all are welcome to attend) - 2:00 pm. Location: The Coffee Bean and Tea Leaf, 3301 E. Main St., Ventura. Click [here](#) if interested in reading suggested reading material from LWV California's Higher Public Education Committee.

▶ **September 10** – LWVVC Board Meeting and Lunch – 11:00 am to 1 pm (please be prompt). Location: Marie Calender's Restaurant & Bakery, 1295 S. Victoria Ave., Ventura. Open to all members.

▶ **September 18 thru 27** - Planned Parenthood 41<sup>st</sup> Annual Book Sale - Week ends: 10:00 am to 8:00 pm except Sundays closed at 6:00 pm. Weekdays: Noon to 8:00 pm. Location: Earl Warren Showgrounds, Santa Barbara. Admission is free except for reception on Friday, September 17th, \$25. For more [information](#).

▶ **Saturday, September 26** - LWVVC Annual Membership Meeting & Potluck Lunch - 10:30 am to Noon. Location: Ojai Valley Woman's Club, 441 E. Ojai Avenue, Ojai - see article above for details. Open to the public including anyone interested in learning more about the League of Women Voters.

▶ **Saturday September 26** - 3rd Annual Ventura County Farm Day. Beginning in the morning at 10:00 am and running until 4:00 pm, tours will be offered at approximately 20 local farms, no registration required. Although there is no overall cost to participate, individual farms may elect to charge a fee. The day will conclude with a BBQ on the Limoneira Ranch in Santa Paula from 4:00 pm to 9:00 pm - tickets to the BBQ are \$35 for adults, \$15 for children under 12. For more information go to [www.venturacountyfarmday.com](http://www.venturacountyfarmday.com).

▶ **Thursday, October 8** - 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, November 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.

▶ **December** - LWVVC Board will not meet.

### 2016

▶ **Thursday, January 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.

▶ **Thursday, February 11** - 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, 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.

▶ **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, June 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.). Open to all members.

▶ **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 will be posted at <http://forum.lwv.org/member-resources/article/lwvus-convention-2016-june-16-19-washington-dc> later this year.

## CURRENT LEAGUE STUDIES

▶ LWVC study this term is *Public Higher Education: Access and Affordability*- study materials available [here](#). Consensus due April 1, 2016.

▶ LWVUS 2014-2016 program on Key Structures of Democracy includes two studies:

1. *U.S. Constitution*: Committee will study process by which the U.S. Constitution can be amended, including the constitutional convention method, and identifying

the gaps and challenges in those methods. Consensus due December 1, 2015 - preview questions [here](#).

2. *Money in Politics*: Committee is updating League's position on campaign finance in order to address the lack of member understanding and agreement as to whether financing a political campaign is protected speech under the First Amendment. Consensus due February 1, 2016.

Information on LWVUS studies can be found [here](#).

