



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®  
OF VENTURA COUNTY

# VOTER

November, 2017 Volume 60 No.4



## PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE



Dear Members and Friends of LWVVC:

October was a month full of voter registration events at area high schools in Oxnard and Ojai. Carmen Hurd, chair of our Voter Registration Committee, arranged with many of you to assist in the Oxnard High School District registrations and your help much much appreciated. Thanks to all of you who have given your time to assist in such an important part of our mission.

On another front, Civil Discourse practice sessions have begun under Betsy Patterson’s direction. Each session has involved inviting up to eight members and interested parties to come together to learn the ground rules of civil discourse while learning about controversial topics and discussing them and seeing what we can agree on, what we don’t agree upon, and whether there are any common take-aways. The meetings have been held at member’s homes and have been stimulating, enjoyable and a good learning experience. I encourage you to participate in November as new dates become available (check out our Calendar below for details). On January, 13, Betsy has arranged for students at California State University Channel Islands and the LWV to come together for a more formal Civil Discourse training session. Save the date, it should be very engaging!

And on the holiday front, keep an eye out in your mailbox for your invitation to our Annual Holiday Luncheon to be held in Ventura and thanks to Carol Lindberg for securing a lovely venue for us and Barbara Doyle for mailing out our invitations. Save December 16 and RSVP quickly as space is limited.

Yours in League,

Pat Essick  
President

### Inside This Issue...

- President’s Message
- Special Events - 12/16
- Redistricting in Ventura
- Cannabis Update
- LWVC Climate Change
- Leadership Presentation
- Committee Reports
- Board Meeting Notes
- Membership News
- Volunteer Opportunities
- Calendar of Events



# SPECIAL EVENTS



**Saturday, December 16 - LWVVC Holiday Luncheon** – Time: Noon. Location: Aloha Steakhouse, 364 S. California Street, Ventura 93001. Luncheon will include choice of 6 entrees. Cost is \$30 and includes beverage, dessert, and gratuity. Please RSVP by December 6, by calling Carol Lindberg (805.642.1682) or by [email](#) or mail a check payable to LWVVC for \$30 per person to the League’s PO Box 6786, Ventura 93006 so it will arrive in plenty of time.

## REDISTRICTING IN CITY OF VENTURA

### Ventura City Voting Districts

The manner in which Ventura city voters cast their ballots for city council representation will change one year from now. Effective with the November 2018 election, Ventura city voters will elect their council members by district.

The change has been under consideration by the city council for some time. As early as 2014 the city council discussed the concept and later appointed a Charter Review Committee of citizens that worked for over a year to review the entire city charter, including the election process.

In response to the recommendations, the city council placed a ballot measure before the voters to limit council members to three terms and allow the council itself to set the city’s voting process by ordinance. These changes to the city’s charter and election process was approved by the voters.

The subject of district voting was brought to the forefront of city council discussion in September of this year when the city was served with a letter challenging the at-large voting process and forcing the city to align with the California Voting Rights Act. As a result of the challenge, the city has 90 days to alter its election process or risk a lawsuit. The details of this letter and related actions for city council consideration are available from the city’s website, agendas for the October 9 and 23, 2017.

#### **Board of Directors:**

##### **President:**

Patricia Essick

##### **Vice President:**

Betsy Patterson

##### **Secretary:**

Judith Murphy

##### **Treasurer:**

Karen Savitt

##### **Directors at Large:**

Pat Butler

Barbara Doyle

Suzanne Harvey

Helen LaMonte

Steve Lattimore

Carol Lindberg

Rita Neumeister

Chelsea Sutula

The public is now invited to participate in the development of seven equally populated districts of approximately 15,000 +/- residents. The 2010 census is the basis for the population and related demographics. A consultant has been hired by the city to assist in the development of district maps for the 2018 election. (As a reminder, maps/district populations will be reviewed and up dated every 10 years with new census information.) These district maps will be matched against criteria required by the California Voting Rights Act. The maps and details are found at the city’s website and city hall so that residents can make suggestions about map configurations and communities of interest.

The change from at-large city elections to district elections has the potential to significantly change local politics. Under the district process, there is a close connection between candidates and voters; the newly elected candidate could serve from one to three terms in office.

In 2015, I served on the Ventura City Council's Charter Review Committee that considered how Ventura voters govern their city. The final report included recommendations for community education on local elections. Education starts with individuals contributing to the district process and attending pending public hearings. Beyond that, voters need to seek out neighbors who are willing and capable of community leadership, consider working on a campaign and recognize that in 2018, the city will undertake an election that will alter 'business as usual'. This change to district voting may also encourage the educational and outreach work of the LWV to advance a more informed electorate.

City Council will take formal action to finalize the election process in the first weeks of January 2018. Public hearings on this matter are scheduled October 26, November 6, December 4 and 11.

Submitted by Cheryl Collart, Ventura

## MEDICAL CANNABIS REGULATORY UPDATE

### Things Are Progressing

The Ventura City Council voted unanimously on October 9, to begin allowing medical cannabis deliveries into the city from other Ventura County-based dispensaries, though it stopped short of permitting any dispensaries within the city itself.

Thousand Oaks Planning Commission reviewed zoning requirements for a possible appointment-only dispensary in the city. November 14 the city council is tentatively scheduled to revisit the issue.

The City of Ojai, having already permitted 3 medical cannabis dispensary/delivery services, met on October 24, to approve additional security requirements and discuss possible changes to the existing ordinance. They will be looking into license categories such as lab testing, cultivation and microbusinesses.

Fillmore's City Council voted 4-1 at its October 10, meeting to keep its pre-existing ban on medical cannabis businesses in place.

On October 24, the Santa Paula Planning Commission voted to recommend that the City Council amend its municipal code prohibiting all commercial cannabis activities and cannabis cultivation in in all zones and imposing reasonable regulations, and establish permit requirements for the indoor personal cultivation of up to six cannabis plants as authorized under State law. This means that any adult wishing to grow their six allowed plants for medical OR recreational use could require a city permit to do so.

Ventura County Board of Supervisors is meeting November 7 to revisit adopting measures to potentially allow one cultivation permit, one manufacturing/processing/testing permit, and one dispensary/delivery permit for medical cannabis. November 14 the county will hold a public hearing regarding adoption of an ordinance prohibiting the operation of retailers, distributors, microbusinesses for, and the commercial cultivation and manufacturing of, cannabis for adult/recreational use as regulated under Proposition 64.

Port Hueneme held public hearings to approve two conditional use permits for cannabis development projects on October 16. The permits are expected to get final approval at the November 6 city council meeting.

Submitted by Chelsea Sutula, Director & Advocacy Committee Chair

# LWVC CLIMATE CHANGE TASK FORCE

## New Climate Change Task Force

The LWVC board approved the formation of a new state Climate Change Task Force to move our climate change effort forward ever faster. The team is chaired by Linda "Diz" Swift, LWVC Climate Change Program Director and a leader for the LWVUS *Price on Carbon* national team.

The task force will review state legislation and focus on continuing League education on issues around Greenhouse Gas reduction, climate change impacts, local actions, and trying to foster state level coordination of local Leagues. Let us know if your League (that's us) has a group or individuals interested in climate change - or would like to become more engaged in action.

LWVVC Members: If any of you are interested in participating in this new project of LWVC, send us an email and let us know and we'll put a group together.

## LEAD FROM WHEREVER YOU ARE

### Lead From Wherever You Are Event

A crowd of nearly 100 men and women attended Kathleen Shafer's talk, Leading from Wherever You Are, on October 15. The event was a collaborative effort of LWVVC, Ventura County Women's Political Caucus and the new regional chapter of N.O.W.

Shafer defined the difference in leadership models of men (top down) and women (collaborative) and spoke about why the collaborative, inclusive approach is needed, particularly in government. She pointed out the instead of wrapping ourselves in frustration and complaining about what is happening around us, we need to change our language to what each of us believes she can DO, and speak positively - change the focus of the dialogue to actionable change. How we speak about issues helps to frame them. She encouraged women not to put off taking on leadership functions until they feel as though they are "prepared", but to just jump in. They are prepared enough and capable now. She highlighted the importance of knowing what we believe in and then working towards achieving it.



L to R: Pat Butler/Zelig (inside joke), Carol Lindberg, Pat Essick, Karen Savitt and Judy Murphy. Formidable and Stylin.

Kathleen Shafer has had an illustrious career as a leadership coach, following her experiences as a legislature and executive staffer in Michigan, founder of the Political Leadership Program at Michigan State University and a 16-year stint as director of George Washington University's Political Leadership Program. She has also written two books on leadership.

Following Ms. Shafer's stressing the need for each leader to really know what they believe in and learning how to use that knowledge to lead through civil discussion, a number of those in attendance signed up to be included in our LWVVC's Civil Discourse training (go Betsey!) and have since participated in CD training sessions.

Submitted by Pat Essick, President

# LWVVC COMMITTEE REPORTS

## Advocacy Committee - Chelsea Sutula, Chair:

- Medical Cannabis Study Group Subcommittee

The cannabis study group met October 17, and discussed a timeline for planning a few structured forums in the spring. Stay tuned for details! The November and December meetings have been cancelled (check our website for updates on meetings) however study participants will continue to do research and formulate questions for the forums on their own.

## Civil Discourse Committee - Betsy Patterson, Chair:

We have hosted 2 practice civil discourse events to let several LWVVC members see what an event will look like. We had lively discussions, using the 1st Amendment and the 2nd Amendment as focal discussion points. We will try to have another event for the East Ventura County members before Thanksgiving for those who expressed an interest. [Contact](#) Betsy Patterson if you are interested.

# 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 October Board Meeting

**Note: LWVVC will NOT hold a Board Meeting in December**

### Topics Covered and "To Do" List:

- President's Report and action items – Pat Essick reported on a film, "Equal Means Equal" that will be shown at Ventura Community College, LWVVC will be a co-sponsor.
- Civil Discourse: Betsy Patterson reported on upcoming plans for her committee. Practice sessions are being planned. She is looking for discussion topic ideas.
- Advocacy Committee: Chelsea Sutula moved to allow our League to promote via Facebook CFROG action alerts and events as appropriate. The motion passed with one abstention. She also reported on activity around the county regarding regulation of medical cannabis and reported on League member Pat Spence's "One Person One Vote" rally early in October.
- Membership – Pat Butler reported on renewal progress. She will send reminder postcards to non-respondents.
- Helen LaMonte brought up idea of fundraising to cover expenses for candidates forums - we need funds to defray costs.

Submitted by Judy Murphy, Secretary

## WE HAVE TEE SHIRTS!



We have our very own T-Shirts! Ideal for representing the League at forums and other events. Be sure to get yours as supply is limited. These are good quality royal blue, 50/50 cotton/polyester shirts, S, M, L, XL. They wash beautifully and do not shrink. Suggested donation is \$20.00 per shirt. Contact [Karen Savitt](#) if you would like one or give her a call.

## MEMBERSHIP NEWS

### New Members

We are especially happy to have these members dispersed around the county.

- Kate Russell - Ojai
- June Lovell - Ventura
- Teresa Camarillo - Oak View
- Jane Spiller - Ojai

### Donors – Thank you to our donors !!

- Katie Fellows
- Frances Gagola
- Marian Totheroh

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

- Carmen Hurd
- Frances Gagola

*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.*

## 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 what you would like to do, someone will follow-up.*

**Help out with a single task or event, or sign on to something long term. Work remotely or in-person. We'll find the perfect fit for you.**

▶ November 15th. We need **volunteers to help register students at Channel Islands High School**. We will start at 8:00 AM and go through 3:00. Volunteers could offer to help in the AM, PM or all day. Please let us know when you're free and someone will follow-up with you to confirm. Send an email to [info@lwvventuracounty.org](mailto:info@lwvventuracounty.org).

▶ 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.

▶ Tired of the screaming heads, the insults without productive communications? **Join our Civil Discourse group** and learn how to recognize and participate in respectful communication to find solutions to contentious issues. Work with other members, reach out to college students, engage in small discussions. The long-range goal of the group will be to have frequent social hours with larger groups to discuss, civilly, issues that concern all of us, not to find THE solution but to practice listening and understanding other points of view. A program will be offered to LWV members who would like to participate on campus with students or would prefer to work with other LWV members in our communities, in small social hour groups and then larger community groups. If interested, email [Betsy Patterson](mailto:Betsy.Patterson@lwvventuracounty.org). See Calendar or check our website calendar for date and time of meetings.

▶ We are looking for members who might be interested in **joining the Study Committee on Local Medical Cannabis Regulation**. The Committee holds a STANDING meeting on the 3rd Tuesday of the month from 11:00 am - 12:30 pm at Panera Bread, 2720 Portico Way, Oxnard. Check out our website calendar for scheduled meetings.

▶ **Advocacy (Electoral College Reform etc.), Voter Registration, Program, Join a Committee and get active**. Send [us](mailto:us@lwvventuracounty.org) an email and let us know if you'd like to get involved. Following is a list of our current committees:

- Study Committee Local Medical Cannabis Regulation
- Advocacy Committee
- Scholarship Committee
- Budget Committee
- Voter Registration Committee
- Program Committee
- Nominating 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](mailto:us@lwvventuracounty.org). 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.**

▶ **LWV Nominations Committee has one opening for a general member**. The committee is composed of three general members and two board members. The committee meets in the spring for the purposes of putting together a slate of officers and board members to be adopted by the membership at the annual June meeting. Please send [us](mailto:us@lwvventuracounty.org) an email or contact Cheryl Collart if you are interested in serving or have further questions about the committee.

*Working on a project for the LWVVC and need some help? Send an email to [info@lwvventuracounty.org](mailto:info@lwvventuracounty.org) 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

► **Thursday, November 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 or anyone interested in learning more about the League. Board meetings are scheduled for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of every month. Following is the schedule for all Board meetings for the 2017 - 2018 League year:

- January, 11, 2018
- February, 8
- March, 8
- April, 12
- May, 10
- June, 14

► **Wednesday, November 14** - Planning Meeting for Equal Means Equal Committee - 6:00 pm. Location: 80 Wood Road, Ste. 206, Camarillo. Equal Means Equal Committee is actively promoting the passage of the ERA Amendment by showing the video *Equal Means Equal* produced by Kamala Lopez. LWVVC has agreed to collaborate with NOW, The Acorn Project, Justice for All, and Ventura College in this venture. The showing is scheduled for February 8 (see below).

► **Saturday, December 16** - LWVVC Holiday Luncheon - 11:30 am (lunch will be at Noon). Location: Aloha Steakhouse, 364 S. California Street, Ventura 93001. Cost is \$30. Please RSVP by December 12, by calling Carol Lindberg (check the membership directory for her number) or sending an email to [info@lwvventuracounty.org](mailto:info@lwvventuracounty.org). Mail check payable to LWVVC for \$30 per person to the League's PO Box 6786, Ventura 93006 so it will arrive by December 12.

### 2018

► **Saturday, January 13** - Facilitator Training for LWVVC Civil Discourse Project - 1:00 pm - 4:00. Location: California State University Channel Islands. LWVVC, in collaboration with California State University Channel Islands, will host a civil discourse facilitator training session. Presenters will be Martha Cox and Mary Thompson from the LWV San Diego and LWV North San Diego. They have been working on this for at least 6 years in collaboration with Carl Luna, PhD, Director of the Institute for Civil Civic Engagement at the University of San Diego. Contact Betsy Patterson if you are interested in attending.

► **Tuesday, January 16** - Study Committee on Local Medical Cannabis Regulation - 11:00 am - 12:30 pm. Location: Panera Bread, 2720 Portico Way, Oxnard. The Study Committee has a STANDING meeting scheduled the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of every month at Panera. Check our website for Committee meeting dates for 2018:

► **Thursday, February 8** - Showing of the video *Equal Means Equal* produced by Kamala Lopez - 6:00 pm. Location: Ventura Community College, Applied Sciences Building. LWVVC has agreed to collaborate with NOW, The Acorn Project, Justice for All, and Ventura College in this venture.

