



**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS  
OF PALOS VERDES PENINSULA/SAN PEDRO**

**NOVEMBER 2006**

**Voter**

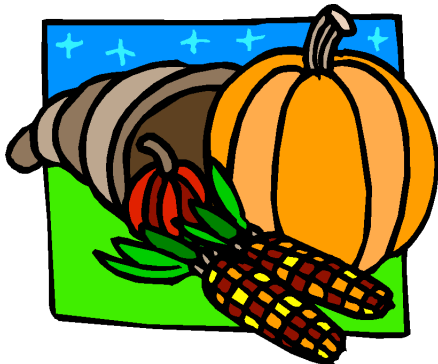
ARLENE BLOCK (CO-PRESIDENTS) 310-541-7176 <a href="mailto:goarlene@cox.net">goarlene@cox.net</a>	JUDITH WEBB 310-833-5864 <a href="mailto:jwebb@usc.edu">jwebb@usc.edu</a>
<a href="http://www.lwvpvp.org">LWV 310-784-7787</a>	<a href="http://www.lwvpvp.org">www.lwvpvp.org</a>

EDITOR:  
Toni Lubofsky  
310-541-2656  
[LWVoter-PVPSp@cox.net](mailto:LWVoter-PVPSp@cox.net)

**MARK YOUR CALENDAR:**

Nov 29, Wed	7:00 pm	5th Wednesday Health Care for All (SB 840), speakers TBA & compelling DVD, (for more info see pages 5 & 6), St. Luke's Presbyterian Church, 26825 Rolling Hills Road, (just north of PV Drive North), RHE
Dec 2, Sat	9:30 - 12 noon	Know Your County, Strategic Vision Plan for Orange County, Irvine Water District, see page 9 for details
Dec 13, Wed	12:00 noon	Board meeting, Joan Hogan's home
Jan 27, Sat	TBA	Winter League Day, Judicial Independence, County ILO
Mar 31, Sat	TBA	<b>LWV/LAC Convention, Speaker Geraldine Knatz, Executive Director of the Port of LA, South Coast Botanic Garden</b>

**TABLE OF CONTENTS:**



PAGE 1	CALENDAR
PAGE 2	CO-PRESIDENTS' LETTER
PAGE 3	ELECTED OFFICIALS PARTY
PAGE 4	HEALTHCARE EDITORIAL
PAGE 5	HEALTHCARE VETO RESPONSE
PAGE 6	HARBOR COLLEGE GOES SOLAR
PAGE 7	CURRENT ACTIVITIES
PAGE 8	WELCOME NEW MEMBERS
PAGE 9	ORANGE COUNTY PLANNING
PAGE 10	WEBSITE INFORMATION

*Happy Holidays!*

## CO-PRESIDENTS MESSAGE

Whew!!! Election Day has passed and by the time that you receive this, our Elected Officials Party will be imminent or over. What a month!! Happily, November is also the month of Thanksgiving so we have a chance to celebrate Pilgrims, religious freedom, bountiful harvests and the wonderful women who have made our League election activities so successful.

Voter Service activities began in earnest in August when Patsy Edwards, Voters Service Chair, contacted organizations and clubs all over the Palos Verdes Peninsula and San Pedro to let them know that there were going to be lots (we weren't sure how many) of propositions on this November ballot and did they want speakers on the ballot measures. Then the call went out for an ad hoc Speaker's Bureau to talk about the propositions. Seven of us jumped at the chance to educate ourselves, our friends and families and our community. Jo-Anne Waller, Nell Mirels, Linda Herman, Helen Coffey, Diana Halderman, Judith Webb and Arlene Block We spoke first at the Peninsula Center Library and then at The Canterbury Harbor College, YWCA, just to name a few of our speaking engagements. The audiences were engaged and interested and we certainly learned a great deal. Thank you all for sharing your time and knowledge so splendidly.

At the same time that many of us were learning the difference between an excise tax, a severance tax, and a parcel tax, many of the same women were planning our Local Elected Officials Party. We have usually had this party in December around the holidays and thought it might be a great idea to shift instead to Election time. Linda Herman, Lisa Erikson, Helen Coffey and Charlene Chang have planned and cooked and decorated the Pt. Vicente Interpretive Center for this party. We write this in advance to thank them for outstanding valor. In addition to honoring elected officials, we are honoring outstanding women in each of the official districts. Do you like the changes and the new venue? What do you think? Please e-mail your co-presidents or write to us and we'll have a "Letters to the League" column in the next Voter.

Finally, we want to thank all of you – our membership – for giving us this opportunity to eat, sleep and dream of speeches and polling

places. Did we forget to mention that many of us womanned election day polling places? Gloria Anderson, Judith Webb, Arlene Block, Helen Coffey, Mary Frangias, Ann Booth & Nell Mirels worked at the polls and contributed their salaries to the League. Hurrah for us!!

Judith Webb and Arlene Block,  
co-presidents



### STILL NOT OVER! CATCH THIS 'ELECTION FOLLOW-UP ALERT'

Election Day may be over but we'd like to hear about your voting experience. We've designed a [survey](#) to allow you to share your voting experience with the League. It is your personal story, League member, along with other statistics, that will provide the basis for Election Day 2006 follow-up. If you voted a provisional ballot, we want to remind you to follow-up with your local elections official because you may need to show ID or proof of registration in order for your provisional ballot to be counted. All states have a free access system for voters to use to find out if their provisional ballot was counted. For more information on provisional voting, please check the state specific information on [www.VOTE411.org](http://www.VOTE411.org) or call one of the free hotlines listed on our [5 Things You Need To Know On Election Day](#) cards.

We look forward to hearing from you and continuing our work to educate voters and improve the election system.

Sincerely,  
Mary G. Wilson  
President, League of Women Voters of the United States



## IN CELEBRATION OF VOLUNTEERISM

On November 10 members of our League will gather together to honor citizens of the Peninsula who have given of their time and their talent for the benefit of our community. The League's purpose has always been to encourage knowledge of governmental issues as well as significant involvement. What better way to advance that purpose than to volunteer as a member of a City Council or by serving on a local commission or committee.

We are therefore immensely pleased to honor at our Elected Officials Party the elected members of our four City Councils, the members of the Palos Verdes School Board as well as the Library Board of Trustees.

Realizing that there are so many citizen volunteers who have given of their time without previous acknowledgment we also thought it most appropriate to take this opportunity to recognize these individuals as well. We therefore asked each jurisdiction to nominate a woman to receive a Certificate of Commendation from the League of Women Voters honoring their devotion to the affairs within their province as demonstrated by their outstanding commitment and numerous contributions over time. The award will be presented by those who have made the nomination.

The honorees and the groups citing the awards are as follows:

Honored by	
LORE STOLPESTAD	The Palos Verdes Library Board of Trustees
ROSEMARY HUMPHREY	The City Council of Palos Verdes Estates
PEGGY MINOR	The City Council of Rolling Hills
BETTY RIEDMAN	The City Council of Rancho Palos Verdes
BARBARA RAUCH	The City Council of Rolling Hills Estates
GABRIELLA HOLT	The So. CA Regional Occupation Center (SCROC)

We congratulate them all for the countless hours they have contributed benefiting the community as a whole.

Linda Herman  
Co-Chair, LWV Elected Officials Party

# HEALTHCARE CODE BLUE

## Not only do Americans spend more than anyone else on health care, much of what we buy isn't the best stuff

LW Times Op-Ed, November 3, 2006 - By JOHN ABRAMSON, clinical instructor at Harvard Medical School, author of "Overdosed America."

**IF AMERICAN MEDICINE** were a patient, he would weigh 350 pounds and be gaining fast. Despite being repeatedly counseled about the dangers of morbid obesity, he would be making at best half-hearted attempts to mend his gluttonous ways. Meanwhile, his doctors, insurance company, politicians and regulators would remain in a deep state of denial, clutching the illusion that their patient, other than being a bit overweight, was in tip-top health.

Truth be told, the U.S. medical system is headed for multiple organ failure.

The spiraling cost of healthcare is well known: \$7,100 per person this year, projected to increase to \$12,000 in 2015 and compounding at more than double the rate of inflation. Already, medical care gobbles up one-sixth of the GDP. Even so, we ask ourselves, how better to spend our money than on the best healthcare in the world?

Not so fast. The facts show that these enormous expenditures may be buying us the best amenities in medical care — but not the best health.

For example, Canada spends only 60% as much per person on healthcare as the United States. Yet, since 1980, the longevity of all Canadians has improved more rapidly than that of only white Americans. (In other words, these statistics aren't skewed by the unconscionable racial and socioeconomic disparities in U.S. health and healthcare.) Yes, the "queues" in Canada can involve delays in nonemergency care. But these could be shortened with relatively small increases in funding. An article in the U.S. journal Health Affairs investigating the number of Canadians who come here to avoid these waits found the number so small that it asked, "A tip with no iceberg?"

Britain spends only 40% as much as we do on healthcare. But according to the Journal of the American Medical Assn., middle-class insured Americans "are much less healthy than their English counterparts" (who are insured because all Brits are insured).

In fact, although Americans spend twice as much per person on healthcare as the other 21 wealthiest countries, data from the World Health Organization show that we live the shortest amount of time in good health — 2 1/2 years less than the average in the other countries (69.3 versus 71.8 years).

Reviewing a Dartmouth Medical School study that found higher mortality rates in areas that spent the most on Medicare, professor Elliott Fisher concluded that "perhaps a third of medical spending is now devoted to services that don't appear to improve health or

the quality of care — and may make things worse." This means that the U.S. is wasting more than \$650 billion a year — half again more than the entire Defense Department will spend this year, including the cost of the war in Iraq — on unnecessary and often harmful care.

How can this be? One factor is specialists. Both U.S. and international studies show that the more a healthcare system relies on primary care, the better the outcomes and the lower the cost. But American medicine is heavy on specialists and getting heavier. In just the last eight years, the number of graduates of U.S. medical schools choosing careers in family practice and adult primary care has plummeted by more than half. Americans know they're paying more — and fear they're getting less. A Kaiser Family Foundation poll this month found that nine out of 10 consider the following issues important in determining their vote Nov. 7: problems with quality of their healthcare; the cost of health insurance and prescription drugs (the U.S. is the only industrialized country that lets drug companies charge whatever the market will bear); and the number of uninsured (47 million and growing by 1 million a year).

One would think that politicians would be eagerly tapping into these strong voter sentiments. So why are we hearing so little about healthcare as the election nears? Is this because politicians on both sides of the aisle are being influenced by the powerful medical industries? Certainly this plays a role. But there is an even more basic reason. Our government has become almost fundamentalist in its reliance on market-based, pro-business solutions to social problems. No politician wants to be tarred with the charge of promoting "socialized medicine."

The problem is, our healthcare system is exquisitely well designed to maximize profits but exquisitely poorly designed to provide the best healthcare most efficiently. And even our nonprofit medical institutions shape the care they offer based on their own bottom lines instead of the health needs of the communities they serve.

In Washington, we've got a Food and Drug Administration that's much better at protecting the interests of the drug and medical-device industries than those of patients.

And even in the midst of this pivotal congressional election campaign, few politicians are addressing the crisis in affordable, quality healthcare. Is this any way to run a democracy?

Back to our patient, American medicine. He'll probably end up getting stomach-shrinking surgery at a cost of \$27,000. Unless he's one of the unlucky 40% who develop complications, in which case it could cost \$65,000 or more. We all deserve better.

## Response to Governor's veto of SB 840: Kuehl Criticizes Governor's Official Veto of Universal Health Care, Citing Inaccuracies of Veto Message

State Senator Sheila Kuehl, (D-23), criticized Governor Schwarzenegger for his veto of SB 840, authored by Senator Kuehl to insure every Californian with comprehensive healthcare benefits; guarantee the right of patients to choose their own doctors; reduce the cost of prescription drugs; and control healthcare costs.

"The reasoning behind the Governor's opposition to universal health care is truly inaccurate, which is no surprise considering he has refused to meet to discuss the issue. If the Governor took a thoughtful look at SB 840 he would see that delivery of health care would remain exactly as it now is, public or private. The main difference is that under SB 840 every Californian would have been able to choose his/her own doctors and hospitals and there would have been no unreimbursed care."

Regarding the Governor's critique of the cost, Kuehl said, "The Governor makes a huge mistake in saying the bill would cost new money or there would be new taxes and no help to affordability. Such a statement shows that he has not read the bill, doesn't understand the bill, or is being completely misdirected by his handlers.

In truth, premiums to be paid by businesses and individuals under SP 840 would have taken the place of all premiums, co-pays and deductibles we now pay, saving every person who now pays for healthcare significant money. In addition, where there are no cost controls at all now, and enormous administrative overhead and profit for insurance companies, there would have been a transparent system that actually would succeed in making healthcare coverage affordable in California."

If the Governor took a closer look at SB 840 he would see that it embodies exactly the kind of system he purports to be seeking. In his own words: "I want to see a new paradigm that addresses affordability,

shared responsibility and the promotion of healthy living." Yet, after nearly three years in office, he has proposed no plan, and nothing has come out of his "health summit" that proposes anything to accomplish these goals.

Said Senator Kuehl, "It was a mistake for the Governor to reject the only concrete plan now on the table to reform healthcare coverage."

In his statement, the Governor says that he cares about 'affordability,' but SB 840 would make healthcare coverage affordable, while preserving quality. SB 840 would have protected, by law, the right of consumers to choose their own doctor, making healthcare more competitive than ever."

"Finally", says Kuehl, "by trying to distract readers of his veto messages with the fact that he supported a few small steps toward healthy living and minor expansions of coverage, the Governor reveals his real agenda: leave healthcare in the hands of private insurance companies and let working families lose coverage one family at a time, let them go bankrupt even when they have insurance, and let hospitals close one at a time."

The Governor's official veto message can be found at: [http://gov.ca.gov/pdf/press/sb\\_840\\_veto.pdf](http://gov.ca.gov/pdf/press/sb_840_veto.pdf)

*From LWV/LAC Voter Nov 06, page 4*  
<http://lacilo.ca.lwvnet.org/files/VoterNov2006.pdf>

**HELP US GET THIS INFORMATION TO  
MORE PEOPLE - DOWNLOAD THE  
SUPPORT PETITION FROM :**

<http://www.healthcareforall.org/petition.html>

**MORE INFORMATION AT:**

<http://www.healthcareforall.org/basics.html#why>

## L.A. COMMUNITY COLLEGE TO OUTSMART POWER GRID BY USING SUN

District says solar panels will result in zero-sum energy consumption at the community campus of Harbor College

Solar-energy panels will be built at Los Angeles Harbor College and the eight other Los Angeles Community College District campuses as part of an effort to generate enough electricity to make the colleges self-sufficient and take them "off the power grid," district officials announced Tuesday.

"Here in sunny Southern California, we are meeting our responsibility to generate as much solar energy as possible and (are) continuing to maintain our leadership in pursuing sustainability practices in higher education," said Larry Eisenberg, executive director of facilities planning and development for the community college district.

"We believe that what today may seem futuristic can soon be commonplace."

The district plans to build enough solar-energy cells to produce 1 megawatt of electricity at each of its colleges. One megawatt is enough to power 1,000 average California homes, according to the district. Each campus currently uses less than 1 megawatt of power during daytime hours.

At Harbor College, peak power usage occurs after 7 p.m., but because of a reverse system of metering of power, electricity used during the day will wind the power meter backward and move it forward at night, essentially creating a zero-sum scenario at the Wilmington campus.

In its initial design of a wide-ranging construction project in 2002, community college trustees agreed to

feed 10 percent of the campus's electrical power needs with solar power.

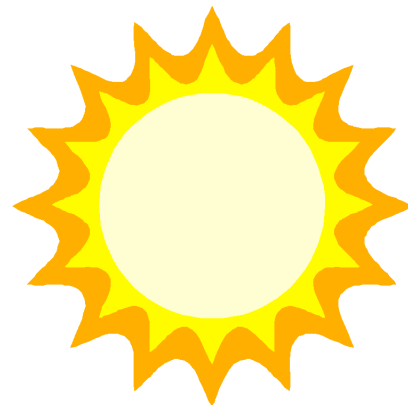
On Tuesday, Eisenberg said Harbor College would be moved to 100 percent solar power.

Installation of the solar panels at the college – set to be completed in 2008, Eisenberg said – would cost \$7 million to \$9 million.

Using a package of state and federal energy incentives, the sale of "green tags" (or air-quality credits), and depreciation, the district expects to pay about a fifth of that cost, Eisenberg said.

District officials said they plan to eventually use excess electricity to convert water into oxygen and hydrogen, with the hydrogen used at night to power campus fuel cells.

*From LWV/LAC November '06 Voter by Paul Clinton in the Daily Breeze, October 18, 2006*



## **TOWN HALL MEETING WITH JANE HARMAN — *FICTIONAL NUCLEAR TERRORISM THREAT***

On October 25 at the Port of Los Angeles Administration Building in San Pedro, Congresswoman Jane Harman convened a Town Hall Meeting featuring a gripping docudrama about the threats from loose nuclear weapons and materials around the world. "Last Best Chance" is fiction, but it is based on facts about inadequate security for nuclear weapons and materials. Some of this material is secured by nothing more than an underpaid guard and a chain link fence. One can imagine the scenario of someone stressed enough in their daily life to be bribed or risk detection to steal information or materials themselves... hence the plot of the story.

A panel discussion including the Congresswoman, L.A. Harbor Commissioner; Co-Founder and Board Member, Families of September 11; an expert on arms control and national security; Coast Guard; Los Angeles/Long Beach Sea Port Director, Customs & Border Protection; LA City Fire Dept.; Harbor Division; Chief, LA Port Police; Capt., LAPD Harbor Division – pointed up the importance of working together on these issues. An extraordinary effort has been made to address port security among many agencies, and the public is urged to join local groups that promote educating the community about next steps. The DVD "Last Best Chance" is available for viewing. Please contact me for further information.

Helen Coffey, 310-377-8637

## **VOTER SERVICE REPORT**

The following members of the Palos Verdes/San Pedro League of Women Voters performed outstanding successful workshops in presenting the pros and cons.

Members: Judith Webb, Arlene Block, Helen Coffey, Linda Herman, Nell Mirels, Jo-Anne Waller and Diana Halderman.

The first presentation was at the Palos Verdes Library in partnership with A.A.U.W. There were approximately 60 people present. (see below)

Other places were Harbor Interfaith Shelter in San Pedro, YWCA of San Pedro, the Canterbury, Pacific Unitarian Church, San Pedro Temple Beth El and Harbor College. Harbor College sent a letter of thanks and would like to work again with the League of Women Voters. The room was filled to "over capacity" with students and faculty who were interested and attentive.

November 7, 2006

The Palos Verdes Unified School District had a Mock Election on October 23, 2006. All of the schools participated – high schools, middle and elementary schools, totalling 8233 student votes. The students were supplied material by the State. The students voted on Proposition 1C and 84, 85, 86, 87 and 88. A report of the results of their election was sent to us for our records.

Patsy Edwards, Voter Service



LWV and AAUW present the ballot issues at Peninsula Center Library

## ABOUT PEOPLE

### Palos Verdes Library District News

The Trustees of the Library District have chosen Lore Stolpestad to be honored at the LWV elected officials party. Lore truly deserves this honor, for the thousands of hours she has devoted to the used book sales which support so many library services, including Sunday hours at Peninsula Center, all children's programs, and this year, the Youth Annex. To tell you how successful Lore, her husband John, and the many other book sale volunteers have been, on October 21 (the end of the eleventh year of Peninsula Center sales) the \$1,000,000 income mark was passed!

So, thanks to Lore and all the other book sale volunteers, and thanks to all LWV members and others who shop the sales, and donate the books, records, tapes, and DVDs which make up the sale's inventory.

Nell Mirels

**WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!**



#### **LATE FLASH! LEAGUERS AT THE POLLS**

League "Poll Cat"s were seen actively supporting the League's commitment to participatory government on November 7th. League poll workers and watchers included Helen Coffey, Arlene Block, Mary Frangias, Judith Webb, Nell Mirels and Gloria Anderson. Way to go, gals!



# STRATEGIC VISION PLAN FOR ORANGE COUNTY

*forwarded to all LWV/LAC Presidents & Board Members so info is out to interested members in plenty of time - Lola Ungar, LWV/LAC President*

The League of Women Voters of Orange County (ILO) would like to invite you to be our guest (and participant) in a program on Saturday, December 2, 2006 entitled, " Know Your County". The focus of this program is the Strategic Vision Plan for Harbors, Beaches and Parks requested by the Board of Supervisors in 2006.

Kevin Thomas, Director of the Harbors, Beaches and Parks/RDMD will present the Plan which was crafted by a Stakeholders Task Force of Orange County citizens and the HB&P staff this last year. This effort was in response to an Orange County Grand Jury Report on the state of affairs found in the HB&Ps.

The League of Women Voters of Orange County (ILO) urges you to come, learn and support efforts to restore one of Orange County's greatest assets - our Harbors, Beaches, Trails and Parks.

**Saturday, December 2, 2006 9:30 A.M. to 12:00 noon**  
**Irvine Water District, 15600 Sand Canyon, Irvine 92619 ( Between the 5 and 405)**

As seating is limited, please R.S.V.P. so that we can reserve a space for you by sending an e-mail to Joe Ross, Natural Resources Director at [JRoss231@cox.net](mailto:JRoss231@cox.net) - or Barbara Rosenbaum at [barbrosey@aol.com](mailto:barbrosey@aol.com)

Interested parties call Judith Webb: 310/833-5864 if interested in attending. We will plan to carpool



Join the League of Women Voters - *HELP MAKE GOVERNMENT WORK*  
Membership is open to all men and women of voting age who are U.S. citizens

MAIL THIS COUPON & CHECK TO: LWV/PVP/SP, P.O. BOX 2933, PVP, CA 90274

.....\$60 Individual  
.....\$90 Household  
\$.....Contribution

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

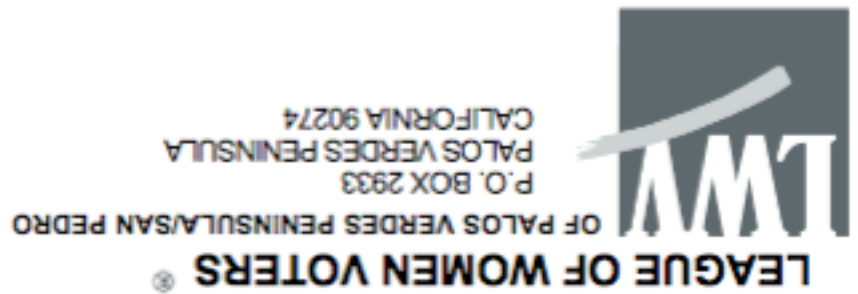
CITY/ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE \_\_\_\_\_ (H) \_\_\_\_\_ (W)

EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

*Note: Membership dues or contributions to the League of Women Voters are not tax deductible as charitable contributions for federal income tax purposes*



\* LWV/PVP/SP \*

has an excellent, informative website:  
[www.lwvpvp.org](http://www.lwvpvp.org)  
thanks to BETTY RIEDMAN  
& PALOS VERDES ON THE NET  
for providing & hosting this web site as  
a public service to our community  
*Please visit our website to see pages in color*