



## LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS

### OF PALOS VERDES PENINSULA

January/February 2011

# Voter

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### CALENDAR

Jan 22, Sat	9:30-12 noon	Jail Study Consensus Meeting #1, St. Luke's Presbyterian Church, 26825 Rolling Hills Road, RHE (see pg 3)
Jan 29, Sat	9:30-2 pm	County Winter League Day/State Budget, Rio Hondo Event Center, Downey
Feb 9, Wed	12 noon	Board Meeting, Joan Hogan's home
Feb 9, Wed	7-9:00 pm	Charter City Pro/Con Meeting, Hesse Park (see page 7)
Feb 19, Sat	9:30-12 noon	Jail Study Consensus Meeting #2, St. Luke's Presbyterian Church, 26825 Rolling Hills Rd., RHE (see page 3)
Mar 9, Wed	12 noon	Board Meeting, Joan Hogan's home

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Happy New Year!  
join us!

## **PRESIDENTS MESSAGES**

As we launch another year in League, we recognize that it will be a busy year ahead – the state budget, RPV's charter city measure, local elections, the County jail study consensus, several local land-use issues, new national studies, and more. I hope every member will make the effort to keep informed and to participate as much as possible in our League's programs and activities.

In December we held a lively program planning meeting and delicious Souper Supper. Special thanks to our excellent cooks! At the meeting, we agreed to recommend that we maintain our current positions and continue to put emphasis on land use and the port. The final decision on program will be made at our local Convention to be held on June 4.

On January 29, the County League's Winter League Day is focused on the state budget. Attendees will play the "Budget Game" in the morning and hear remarks from Jean Ross, Director of the State Budget Project, in the afternoon. I know several PV League members plan to attend this very timely and important program.

We are moving into the consensus phase of the County jail study. This will be done over two meetings, as it is a big topic to handle. Check the box in this *Voter* for dates and locations.

We will host a pro/con meeting on the RPV charter city measure. Again, check this *Voter* for date, time and location.

Thank you all for the work you do with and for the League of Women Voters. Our League is a respected organization on the Palos Verdes Peninsula, and you are the face of the League to Peninsula residents.

*Nancy*

### **PRESS STATEMENT FROM ELISABETH MACNAMARA, PRESIDENT, LWVUS:**

Washington, DC – "The League of Women Voters joins with all Americans in expressing our shock and dismay at the tragic shootings in Tucson last weekend. We express our deep sorrow to the families of the victims, and offer our sincere hopes for the recovery of Representative Giffords and the other survivors. We applaud the courage of the individuals, thinking they were just out for a Saturday conversation, who took immediate action to help the injured and end the rampage.

"What can we make of this madness, this senseless act of violence? And terrible though this event was for all of us now, what might the long term effects be? Will it make public figures - politicians, media figures, celebrities - more mindful of the potentially harmful impact of their angry words - or will everyone continue to put their own agendas first, without regard to the climate they create? Will it make the public more trusting of the patriotic motivations of their elected leaders - or will respect for them be further diminished? Will it make our elected leaders more willing to reach out to meet and hear from their constituents directly - or will it reinforce the growing gap between voters and those they put in office? Will it allow Americans to feel comfortable and welcome in the public space - or will they conclude that it is safer to stay home and drop out of the conversation? It is clearly time for each of us to consider these issues, individually and as a community.

# ONGOING ACTIVITIES

## SPEAKERS BUREAU

Members of our Speakers' Bureau worked very hard studying and presenting ballot propositions to the community. There were thirteen presentations, three of which were forums open to the public. The open forum at the P.V. Main Library was recorded by RPVTV and shown on TV channels 33 and 35. 1000 Pro's and Con's and 400 Easy Voters were distributed throughout the community. We give special thanks to our excellent speakers - Arlene Block, Linda Herman, Judith Webb, Katy Watkins, and Jo-Anne Waller. If you would like to be a member of our Speakers' Bureau, please call Jo-Anne Waller at (310)544-9263.

## GENERAL MEETING—COUNTY JAIL STUDY

On Saturday, Jan 22, the League will conduct the first of two meetings to come to consensus for the County Jail Study. This meeting will be at

St Luke's Presbyterian Church  
26825 Rolling Hill Road, Rolling Hills Estates  
9:30 AM- 12:00.

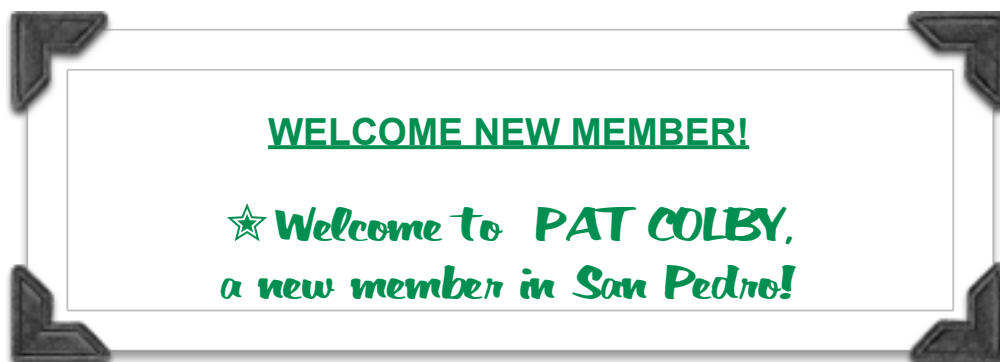
Handicapped parking is on the "up" side of the church and the meeting will take place in the large kitchen. Coffee and refreshments will be provided.

This study has been under preparation for the past two and a half years. The scope of the study is overcrowding with a focus on recidivism, educational programs, mental health issues and costs.

On Jan 22 the committee will address the first half of the consensus issues with the problems of overcrowding, oversight, health care and mental health/drug addiction issues. We will present and form consensus on these issues at this meeting. The second meeting on this topic will take place on February 19 and address the final questions of the consensus (educational/vocational and social programs, transitional services and costs).

We urge all members to attend both meetings and help us form our position on this important civic issue. Bring your concerns, opinions and questions to both these meetings. We hope to stimulate you, educate you and tap your wisdom in forming our stance.

*Vi Iungerich, Co-chair County Jail Study*



## DESALINATION - WATER SOURCE IN OUR FUTURE

On Dec 11, a group of about 20 League members and friends visited Sea Lab, a desalination (desal) demonstration facility in Redondo Beach operated by the West Basin Water District. This is a facility that combines research, testing, and public education. The facility is set up to process 100,000 gallons of sea water each day, and from this produces 50,000 gallons of drinkable water.

As this is a demonstration lab, the purpose is not to produce water for actual consumption at this time. The treated water is not used, but is returned to the ocean. But the process is tested and refined, and the lab helps the public understand the benefits of desalination as a viable water source.

First we walked through displays regarding water sources and water usage. Then our guide explained the desal process used at the facility and took us to view the complex system of pipes, filters, and motors that do the work.

At this time, desal has a higher cost than the cost of pumping the water down from northern California. However, the water from the north and from the Colorado River is likely to become less plentiful and more costly in the future. We need to develop alternate water sources. Recycled water is another alternate source that West Basin is exploring. Their water reclamation plant in El Segundo is currently producing water that is used for industrial purposes, such as cooling machinery. But the technology has the potential of producing water that could be used more broadly. That plant provides public tours on the weekends.

The desalinated water that Sea Lab produces is actually more pure than our tap water, which is itself of very high quality. The tour group did a blind taste test of desal water and tap water. All but one of the group chose the desal water as having the better taste. One reason for the taste difference is that tap water, by law, includes chlorine. The desal water, because it is not for public use, doesn't have to meet that requirement.

Sea Lab gets its power off the grid. Our guide said that if a desal plant were to be constructed in the South Bay area, it would likely use the grid as its power source. Nationally, many desal plants use natural gas for power.



# REQUEST FOR INPUT

On December 8th, we had our Program Planning/Souper Supper meeting at Peggy Pages palatial home. The soups were diverse and delicious and the State and Local program planning discussions were spirited and extensive.

There were about 25 of us in attendance, including a few non-members checking us out. For those of you who were not able to attend the meeting, we are enclosing a ballot for California State program planning. Please read the short summary of these positions in your roster and help us determine whether we should support a State study next year. We will be happy to send the information to Sacramento. Those of us in attendance at the meeting did not recommend a state study. We did decide to continue to monitor the Single Payer Health Care Initiative and follow the work of the Redistricting Committee.

Thank you to all who participated and to those of you who send us your thoughts and ideas.  
*Arlene and Elaine, Program Planning co-chairs.*

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## PROGRAM PLANNING RESPONSE FORM PLANNING THE 2011-2013 PROGRAM FOR THE LWVC

Send this sheet with your League's recommendations by FEBRUARY 11, 2011 to Helen Hutchison, 4292 Terrabella Way, Oakland, 94619; Fax 510-654-2216 (call first), or **fill it out online (preferred method for response)** at the Program Planning 2011-2013 section of [www.lwvc.org/lwvonly](http://www.lwvc.org/lwvonly).

_____	Name of League
_____	Total membership
_____	Date approved by local League board
_____	Number of members participating
_____	Method used to solicit responses

### PART I: RECOMMENDATIONS REGARDING EXISTING LWVC POSITIONS

**Circle** the positions you wish to retain; **draw a line through** those you wish to drop. IF UPDATING ONE OF THESE IS ONE OF YOUR PRIORITIES, PLEASE REMEMBER TO IDENTIFY IT AS A CHOICE IN PART II, BELOW.

<i>Government</i>	<i>Natural Resources</i>	<i>Social Policy</i>
Campaign Financing	Agriculture	Child Care
Constitution	Air Quality	Community College System
Election Systems	Energy	Education: Pre-K through 12
Initiative and Referendum Process	Hazardous Materials	Housing
Intergovernmental Relationships	Land Use	Juvenile Justice/Dependency
Public Libraries	Solid Waste	Legal Aid
Redistricting	Transportation	Mental Health Care
State and Local Finances	Water	
Voting Rights		

# REQUEST FOR INPUT

## PART II: RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE 2011-2013 PROGRAM EMPHASIS

### A. STATE STUDY

We recommend (if more than one, rank as 1, 2, 3):

\_\_\_\_\_ No state study

\_\_\_\_\_ New study on (topic) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Update position on \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Adopt by concurrence position on \_\_\_\_\_

Comment on need for a state study \_\_\_\_\_

Continue on another sheet if you need more room.

### B. ISSUES FOR EDUCATION AND ADVOCACY

List the top three choices, as indicated. Be as specific as you can in your recommendations; that is, **state both the issue you want the state League to focus on and what you want us to do.** Should the focus be on community education? Concerted action in the legislature or state agencies? Other? Continue on another sheet if you need more room. Who in your League would be willing to work on a statewide committee on the issue?

We ask for names because we are a grassroots organization; there is no group of other people out there willing to work on issues that you suggest. The state League is all of us, and the way things get done at the state level is by volunteers from local Leagues working together.

First Choice: \_\_\_\_\_

Who will work on this issue? \_\_\_\_\_

Second Choice: \_\_\_\_\_

Who will work on this issue? \_\_\_\_\_

Third Choice: \_\_\_\_\_

Who will work on this issue? \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Phone number \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail address \_\_\_\_\_

Fax number \_\_\_\_\_

# **To Charter or not to Charter - that is the RPV question.**

On March 8th, Rancho Palos Verdes voters will be asked to vote for Measure C - to change the method of governance from a General Law City to a Charter City. Most cities in California are General Law cities which essentially means that the Constitution of the State of California provides the rules under which the city operates. Charter cities have a greater control over municipal affairs such as election rules, rewarding development contracts, local police and fire departments, etc. Over 120 cities in California are Charter Cities (Los Angeles, Torrance, Redondo Beach, Buena Park and Bell among them).

The Palos Verdes Peninsula League of Women Voters is sponsoring a Forum to explore the pros and cons of Charter City conversion. The Forum will take place at Hesse Park multipurpose room on Wednesday, February 9th at 7:30 PM. We will have speakers from the RPV City's charter City Committee explaining the city's point of view and speakers from the community who oppose Measure C. Come and be informed!

*Arlene Block*

## **CHARTER CITIES VS. GENERAL LAW CITIES - THE BASICS**

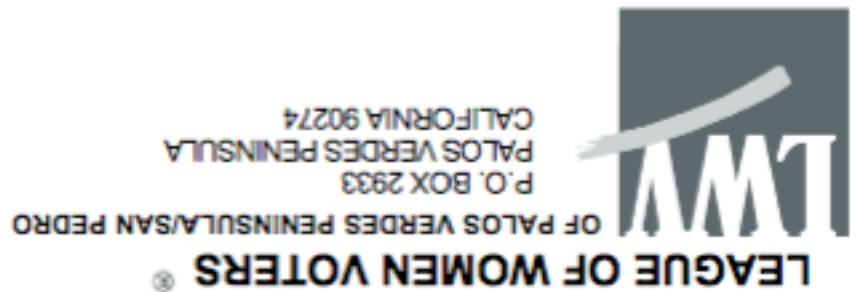
(This background summary was drafted by the League of California Cities' legal staff)

The California Constitution gives cities the power to become charter cities. The benefit of becoming a charter city is that charter cities have supreme authority over "municipal affairs". In other words, a charter city's law concerning a municipal affair will trump a state law governing the same topic.

Cities that have not adopted a charter are general law cities. General law cities are bound by the state's general law, even with respect to municipal affairs. Of California's 478 cities, 120 of them are charter cities.

The charter city provisions of the State Constitution, commonly referred to as the "home-rule" provision, is based on the principle that a city, rather than the state, is in the best position to know what it needs and how to satisfy those needs. The home-rule provision allows charter cities to conduct their own business and control their own affairs. A charter maximizes local control.

A city charter, in effect a city's constitution, need not set out every municipal affair the city would like to govern. So long as the charter contains a declaration that the city intends to avail itself of the full power provided by the California Constitution, any city ordinance that regulates a municipal affair will govern over a general law of the state.



\* 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 for more information*