



**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS
OF PALOS VERDES PENINSULA**

MARCH 2011

Voter

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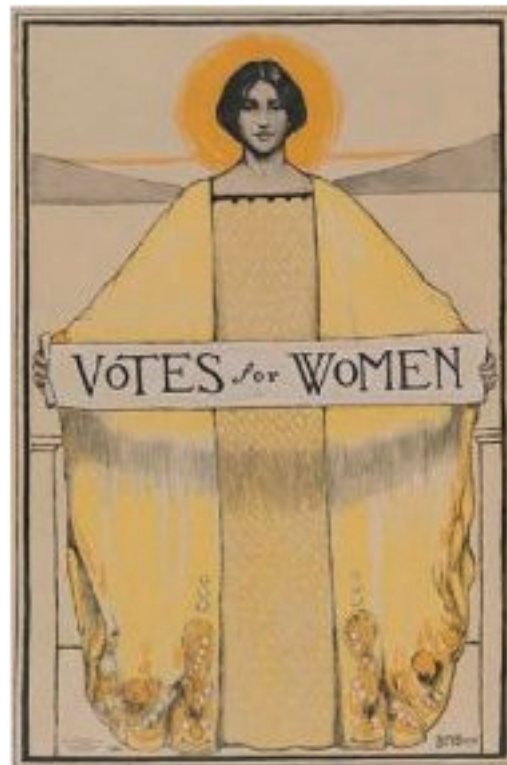
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CALENDAR

Mar 8, Tue		ELECTION DAY
Mar 9, Wed	12 noon	Board Meeting, Joan Hogan's home
Mar 16, Wed	11:30 am	Lunch with League, Red Onion (see page 4)
Mar 26, Sat	9am- noon	LWVLA County Convention, Park Golf Course, LB (see pg 5)
Apr 13, Wed	12 noon	Board Meeting, Joan Hogan's home
Apr 20, Wed	12 noon	Land Use Presentation on Annenberg Project, at Asaka Restaurant

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**California: 100 Years of
Women Voting**

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

A number of you attended the County League's Winter League Day on the State budget at the end of January. We played the Budget Game and realized that choices for balancing the budget are limited. We were pleased to have Jean Ross, Executive Director of the California Budget Project, as our main speaker. She noted that with several years of deficit budgets, all the easy fixes are gone. Read Jack Sullivan's remarks on Winter League Day in this Voter. You can follow budget developments on the California Budget Project website.

Thanks to all who came to the jail study consensus meetings. Kudos to Vi lungerich, study chair, and to Jo-Anne Waller for their excellent presentations.

We'll soon receive instructions relating to the LWVUS study on the role of the federal government in education. As we start gearing up for this important study, please check out the resources that EdSource provides. Most of the material is online. The coming EdSource conference is a good way to learn more about education issues (see box in this Voter with conference information). Our Education Director, Joan Hogan, is looking for people interested in being part of the study committee.

The League held a successful pro/con forum on the RPV Charter issue on the March 8 ballot. Two speakers from each side presented their arguments. There were many questions from the audience. At election time, please remember that LWVC has a wonderful election resource – Smart Voter : www.smartvoter.org

2011 marks the 100th year that women in California have had the vote. The measure granting women the right to vote in California was proposed by the State Legislature and approved by voters in a referendum held as part of a special election on 10 October 1911. It's on facebook! Leagues are posting cartoons, references to films and songs, and events they are holding to celebrate this anniversary.

Don't miss Lunch with the League on March 16. Details are in this Voter.

Mark your calendars for the County Convention on March 26, 2011. It will be in Long Beach at the Park Golf Course, 9 am to 12 noon. The flyer with the registration form is in this Voter.

Nancy

WINTER LEAGUE DAY John Sullivan, LWV/LAC

California continues to run significant budget deficits and balancing the state budget has been an on-going topic of discussion, analysis and conflict. To help League members keep abreast of this discussion, the LWV/LAC County League Day on January 29th was devoted to the state budget. During the morning session, Sally Seven and I facilitated an exploration of the California Budget Challenge developed by NEXT 10. The Budget Challenge is a game which allows players to work their way through budget choices as they attempt to reach a balanced budget. The game presents users with policy options both for state expenditures and for state revenue. Expenditures include education (both K-14 and the UC and CSU systems), health care, environment, human services, criminal justice, pensions, and jobs. Revenue options include the income tax, corporate tax, sales tax, car tax, and property tax.

We organized the play so that each table in the room had to select a policy choice from one of the options available. Our goal was to insure that the members of each table had an opportunity to make input into "our" state budget. At the start of the game, the group was faced with a \$22 billion deficit. By making judicious policy choices, the group got the deficit down to about \$2 billion. This was not at all bad for a morning's work by 80+ people! In the process of playing the game, the group also noted that it did not present them with options they would have liked to see. For example, on the health care sector, there was no option for the "single payer" approach which many argue would save a great deal in health care expenditures. There were a number of other interesting suggestions and much interesting discussion around those suggestions. All-in-all, the audience did get well engaged in the game and seemed to find it challenging.

The keynote speaker for the day was Jean Ross, Executive Director of the California Budget Project. She presented an overview of the budget situation and of newly elected governor Brown's proposed budget for 2011-2012. Governor Brown's budget is a combination of extending the 2009 tax increases and of the cutting of some programs. Child care is one area that would be cut. Brown also proposes to close corporate tax loopholes and to cut redevelopment agencies and enterprise zones. Many observers argue that neither of these options does much to help local economies. Of course, redevelopment agencies and enterprise zones have their supporters who argue that they facilitate cities getting rid of blighted areas, among other things.

As it currently stands, Gov Brown's budget proposal does have some significant implications for LA County (LA Times, 2/7/11). The County Supervisors are quite concerned about that part of Brown's proposal that involves transferring responsibility for programs such as mental health, child welfare services, and substance abuse programs from the state to the county. If the governor shifts both programs and funds, the supervisors wonder where the savings will be. If the governor does not shift funds along with the programs, it is likely that the County would not have the money to absorb those programs in the short run. In addition, Dist. Atty. Steve Cooley is concerned about the Governor's plan to send 37,000 non-violent offenders back to counties to serve their terms locally. Cooley feels that this would be a danger to public safety in L. A. County.

Jean Ross ended her remarks by noting that Governor Brown's budget looks a lot like Governor Pete Wilson's 1991 budget. That is, it is a combination of both cuts in programs and tax increases.

There will continue to be much discussion and debate on the Brown budget. It is important to remember that an important element of Brown's proposal is a vote by the electorate on extending the 2009 tax increases. It is not yet clear if the legislature will go along with the governor and approve such an election. You can keep informed on the budget debate by consulting the following:

WINTER LEAGUE DAY John Sullivan, LWV/LAC

1. The California Budget Challenge game can be found at the Next 10 website: <http://www.next10.org/>. The game is quite easy to play and contains a great deal of supplementary information on various budget issues. At this website you will also find various reports on the State's budget and economy. For example, Next 10 just published a report on increases in employment in green jobs in the State.
2. The California Budget Project can be found at <http://www.cbp.org/>. This site also has a number of reports and analyses on the State economy and budget. Recently CBP published a critical analysis of enterprise zones.
3. Legislative Analysts Office also contains relevant reports on the State budget. The LAO recently issued a report on governor brown's budget and will also issue a report on the so-called "May revise" of Brown's budget. You can find the LAO at <http://www.lao.ca.gov/laoapp/main.aspx>

ONGOING ACTIVITIES

LWV members are invited to a lunch meeting.....

Lunch and Munch

Crunch Ideas

Wed March 16, 11:30, The Red Onion, , 763 Silver Spur Road, RHE, 90274

*\$20.00 Send checks to Terry Arnush
6018 Via Sonoma*

All ideas are welcome

More Info?

Elaine Asch

310 378 7019, [easch@aol.com](mailto: easch@aol.com)

EDSOURCE CONFERENCE BOX:

34th Annual EdSource Forum on California Education Policy

The Future for Public Education in California

Friday, March 18, 2011 Hyatt Regency Irvine 8:30 am to 3:00 pm

\$80 for EdSource Annual Information Service subscribers \$95 for non-subscribers

Go to www.edsource.org to register, or call 650-917-9481



LWV/LA County

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS® LOS ANGELES COUNTY

An Inter-League Organization – Beach Cities • Claremont Area • East San Gabriel Valley • Glendale-Burbank • Long Beach Area
Los Angeles • Palos Verdes Peninsula • Pasadena Area • Santa Monica • Torrance Area • Whittier

49th Annual Convention

Saturday, March 26, 2011

9:00 AM - 12:00 NOON



Is Privatization a Useful Tool?

Santos H. Kreimann

Director of L.A. County Department of Beaches and Harbors

Recreation Park

Golf Course

5001 Deukmejian Drive
Long Beach, CA 90804
Phone: 562.494.5000

CONVENTION KITS for delegates will be mailed to Local League Presidents by the end of February. Additional copies will be available at the meeting.

All members are encouraged to attend.

Directions Heading 405 Southbound or 605 Southbound

Take 22 West/7th Street Exit, Turn Right On Park Ave, Turn Right On Deukmejian Drive, Continue Past Stop Sign Into the Golf Course.

Directions Heading 405 Northbound, Take 22 West/7th Street Exit, Turn Right On Park Ave., Turn Right On Deukmejian Drive, Continue Past Stop Sign into the Golf Course.

✂

Send form and check payable to **LWV/LAC**

Mail to Georganne Thomsen, 1259 Winchester Avenue, Glendale, CA 91201

League Name _____

Please highlight delegates names with a (D).

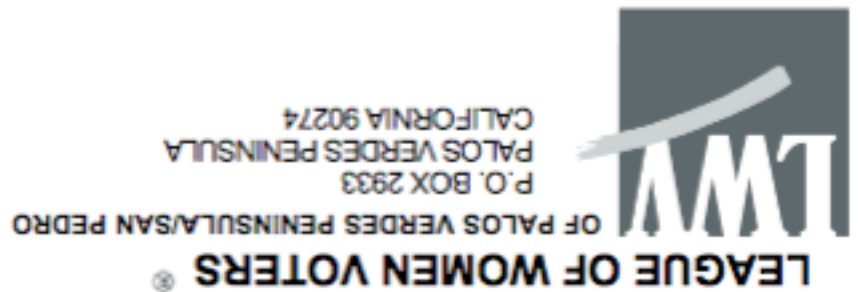
Name(s) _____

Deadline is March 18, 2011

Light Breakfast Reservations # _____ @ \$20.00 = Total \$ _____ Food Allergies # _____

If Postmarked After March 18th

Light Breakfast Reservations # _____ @ \$25.00 = Total _____



* LWV/PVP/SP *

has an excellent, informative website:
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