



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

**OCTOBER 2011**

**Voter**

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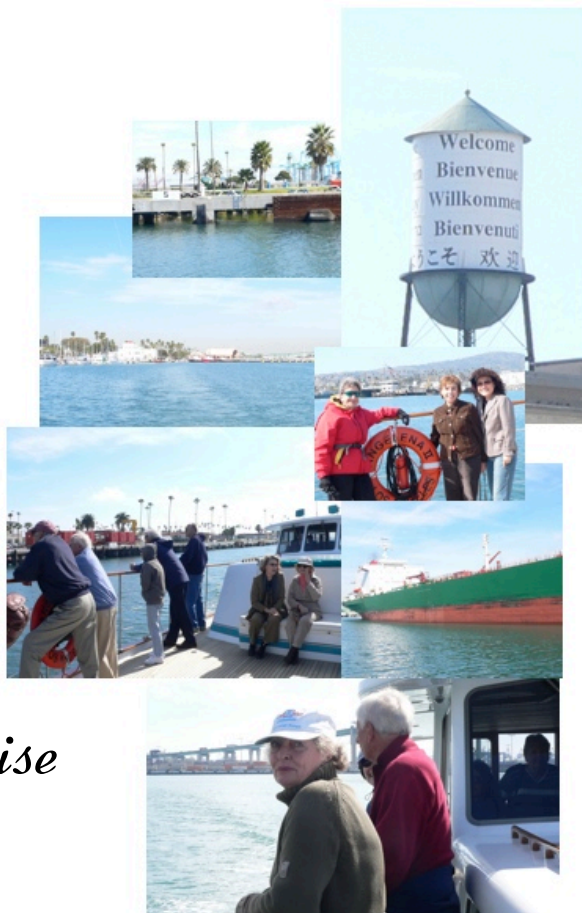
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**CALENDAR**

Oct 22 Sat	10:00 am - 2:00 pm	<b>County League Day: Redistricting Update</b> , Rio Hondo Country Club, Downey
Oct 29 Sat	9:15 am - 12 noon	<b>Education Study Consensus Meeting</b> , St. Luke's Presbyterian Church (see page 7)
Nov 8 Tues	7:00 am - 8:00 pm	<b>ELECTION DAY - VOTE!</b>
Nov 9 Wed	12 noon	<b>Board Meeting</b> , Joan Hogan's home
Nov 18 Fri	7:00 - 9:00 pm	<b>Elected Officials Party</b> , Pt. Vicente Interpretive Center
Nov 22 Tues	9:45 am - 2 pm	<b>Lunch with League - Port of Los Angeles cruise</b> , (see page 3)

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*Join us for lunch and cruise  
November 22nd!!*

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

A new League year of activities is underway. We have concluded our study of the County Jail System and are now working on national and state studies. November election activities are in progress. And Leagues have been hosting celebrations of the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of women receiving the right to vote in California. It is already a busy year.

This year we are on the road to the presidential election in November 2012. There are many issues to track and consider. Keep up with issues on the LWVUS website, [www.lwv.org](http://www.lwv.org). In September, the County League Board concluded the County Jail System study with the adoption of the final wording of our position (included in this Voter). Almost immediately, an opportunity to use the new position arose. Shirley Spencer, LWV Pasadena Area, was given permission to cite the position in her testimony to the Malibu City Council. Her article, from the Pasadena Voter is reprinted in this Voter. Our thanks to Shirley for taking action using our County position. This use was based on the County Board having approved the position (LWVUS "League Basics"); however, the position will be brought to Convention in March for reconfirmation.

Still on the action front, County League Action Director Lola Ungar and Natural Resources Director Jack Sullivan send a letter to the County voicing concerns over a proposed parcel tax related to water run-off. Read the article in this Voter that gives the details of our concerns. The County Board has planned some interesting and informative meetings. Our Fall League Day will present a redistricting review. Steve Napolitano from Supervisor Knabe's office and an alternate on the Boundary Review Committee will speak on the County process. State Citizens Commission member Jodie Filkins-Webber will address the state process.

January League Day will focus on initiative and referendum reform. It will be a great addition to your local studies.

We are very pleased to have our LWVC lobbyist, Trudy Schafer as our keynote speaker for County Convention. This will be in the middle of deliberations on the budget and various legislative issues, so it should be very exciting!

I invite members of our eleven County Local Leagues to take part in County League activities this year. Check the calendar for coming County League activities and save the dates!

*Nancy*

### **ELECTED OFFICIALS PARTY**

League members are invited to attend our annual party  
honoring our local elected officials.

Friday, November 18, 2011

5:30 pm to 7:30 pm – introductions at 6:30 pm

Pt. Vicente Interpretive Center

Cost: \$15 per person – send check to Terry Arnush, Treasurer

We will be serving hors d'oeuvres, desserts and beverages. Your special food item would be most welcome. *Please contact Nancy Mahr to confirm your food contribution in advance so that we can plan more effectively.* 310-377-0735,

[nlmahr@verizo.net](mailto:nlmahr@verizo.net)

# League of Women Voters/Palos Verdes Peninsula PORT OF LOS ANGELES CRUISE



## LUNCH WITH LEAGUE

**JOIN US FOR A TOUR OF THE EXCITING NEW PROJECTS  
HAPPENING AT THE PORT OF LOS ANGELES**

**LOCATION: LA PORT, BERTH 77**

**DATE: TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 22, 2011**

**TIME: 10 AM - 11:30 FOR CRUISE TOUR OF PORT - ARRIVE BY 9:45 AM!**

**SCHEDULE: 11:45 - 1:00 PM LUNCH AT PORTS OF CALL RESTAURANT, \$25  
1-2 PM CAR POOL FOR SITE INSPECTION OF NEW CRUISE TERMINAL,  
ARTS AND CRAFTS CENTER AND OTHER PROPOSED PROJECTS.**

***NO CHARGE FOR PORT TOUR. LUNCH AT YOUR EXPENSE.***

***SPACE IS LIMITED AND RESERVATIONS ARE REQUIRED - DEADLINE NOV 14TH.  
PLEASE INDICATE PORT TOUR ONLY, OR PORT TOUR AND LUNCH.***

***CONTACT PAT ROME @ (310) 952-0533***

***OR [pjwrome@yahoo.com](mailto:pjwrome@yahoo.com)***

**LWV Palos Verdes Peninsula**

**[www.lwvpvp.org](http://www.lwvpvp.org)**

**310-784-7787**

# COUNTY JAIL SYSTEM - NEW LEAGUE POSITION

## **(Brief statement of Position)**

Support for reducing overcrowding in the county jail system by improving jail computer systems, routing prisoners more efficiently, expediting pre-trial case management, and studying criminalization standards for possible modification. Oppose using private jails. Support for a variety of sentencing options for low-risk offenders. Support for providing comprehensive health care services for emergency, urgent, and on-going health problems, physical and mental, for all inmates; support for segregating mentally ill inmates. Support for offering basic educational and vocational training programs and social rehabilitation and re-entry programs to all inmates. Support for providing adequate public funding to maintain state standards. Support for effective, continual internal and external oversight of jail conditions and practices and for safe release practices.

## **(Elaborated Position)**

Support for the following measures:

- Reducing overcrowding in the County jails through justice-system-wide improvements such as updating jail computer systems to achieve compatibility with the court system, more efficient routing of prisoners, expediting pre-trial case movement through the courts, and studying criminalization standards for possible modification; however, the League opposes using private jails.
- Sentencing offenders convicted of non-violent crimes with no violent or no very serious convictions in their criminal histories to well monitored rehabilitation programs outside the public jail system [e.g., using drug courts and drug rehabilitation centers] or to probation, electronic monitoring, or work furlough programs with security arrangements for non-working periods.
- Early release of inmates convicted of non-violent crimes with no violent or no very serious convictions in their criminal histories.
- Providing appropriate medical services to all inmates in the county jail system, not only for emergency and urgent medical conditions, but also for non-urgent physical problems, including prompt evaluation and, when indicated, prompt resumption of prescription medication regimes in place prior to incarceration; hospitalization when medically necessary; prenatal care; arrangement for abortion when requested by an inmate; reasonable diagnostic procedures; and use of up-to-date technology to facilitate appropriate medical care.
- For inmates with severe mental illness, providing prompt evaluation and, when indicated, legally prescribed pharmacological treatment, case supervision, and group therapy provided by psychologists or other appropriately licensed therapists, and segregation in separate mental health units to prevent victimization.
- Offering inmates voluntary academic and/or vocational education programs, including basic skills [e.g., reading, writing, arithmetic], English language acquisition, secondary level courses leading to a high school diploma or a General Education Development [GED] certificate, vocational courses and certificates, and health education courses.
- Offering inmates social rehabilitation programs, including self-care and social skills, psychological help [e.g., therapy groups], parent education, substance-abuse rehabilitation, anger management and domestic violence rehabilitation, and other rehabilitation programs with demonstrable effectiveness.
- Offering all inmates re-entry or post-release planning services.
- Releasing inmates only during day-time hours unless arrangements adequately assuring safety have been made.
- Providing adequate public funding to maintain state standards for jail systems. Identifying sources of supplementary funding, such as taxes and philanthropic grants for special programs, in addition to maintaining state standards.

# COUNTY JAIL SYSTEM - NEW LEAGUE POSITION

- Effective and on-going internal and external oversight of the jail system by the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors, the Sheriff's Department, federal-court-appointed monitors, and reputable and experienced independent assessment agencies.

## ***COUNTY JAIL STUDY POSITION PUT TO USE!***

Why do Leaguers spend time studying issues and doing consensus and arriving at a position that they can use to advocate on an issue? A secondary question might be what motivates us with a passion to seek a stronger Democracy.

The Los Angeles County League of Women Voters (IGO) finished its two-year Los Angeles County Jail Study the first week of September this year. Of the consensus questions considered, one question was concerned with safe jail release and was finally adopted as "support for effective, continual internal and external oversight of jail conditions and practices and for safe release practices which means "Releasing inmates only during the day-time hours unless arrangements adequately assuring safety have been made."

My awareness of the dangers of releasing inmates at night from a Los Angeles County Sheriff's Station Jail was heightened in September 2009 when a beautiful twenty-four old woman named Mitrice Richardson was released shortly after midnight from the Malibu/Lost Hills Station without her cell phone, purse, and checkbook. Her car had been towed away from the Malibu restaurant with those items when she was arrested for not paying her \$89 bill. Her journals and booking cage video later revealed someone experiencing a mental breakdown having not slept for several days. Her remains were discovered 11 months later in Dark Canyon, eight miles from the Station. Mike Kessler wrote a comprehensive article for Los Angeles Magazine on September 1<sup>st</sup> "What Happened to Mitrice Richardson?" <http://www.lamag.com/features/story.aspx?ID=1515070>

After obtaining a green light from LWV/LA County President Nancy Mahr and LWV-PA President Sharon Mullenix, it was my honor to use the safe jail release position. I was one of nine who spoke in support of the recommendation to the Malibu City Council on Monday, September 26, 2011: "Request that the Sheriff's Department consider a change in policy to have local stations allow detainees to be released only between sunrise and sunset unless proper transportation has been secured."

The Malibu City Council also considered a second recommendation "that all arrestees be permitted to retain possession of their purse, wallet and/or cell phones" but I could only address the safe jail release recommendation.

While the hour was late – the agenda item came at 11:00 p.m. after a two hour discussion about views in Malibu and hearing the new Malibu City Song "I Love Malibu" – the reward was hearing a unanimous endorsement by the Malibu City Council to advise Sheriff Baca about their support for the two recommendations from the Malibu Public Safety Committee through a letter to Sheriff Baca as well as a meeting with him by representatives of the Malibu City Council.

It was a great night. It was the first use of the newly-minted Jail System Position and the response was very rewarding.

*Shirley Spencer, LWV Pasadena Area*

## **CLEAN WATER FEE PROPOSED**

California experienced a great deal of rain this past winter leading some to wonder if the drought that has plagued the southland is over. The drought might be over for now but water woes—and water wars—are not. There will be future droughts and there will be both population increase and economic growth which will increase demand for water. All of these factors point to a need for all of Southern Californians to be mindful in our water use.

Stormwater pollution is another threat to our water supply. As rainwater flows off roof tops and properties, it picks up pollutants that lie on the ground and carries them to streams, rivers, lakes and beaches. This rainwater picks up a variety of pollutants including solvents, animal and human waste, fertilizers, motor oil, and toxic heavy metals. As a result, rivers and ground water can become polluted, beaches must be closed, and the amount of clean water available locally is reduced.

L. A. County Flood Control District (FCD) is proposing a new Water Quality Improvement Program aimed at managing stormwater and urban runoff so as to reduce pollution and contamination of water. This program would also attempt to reduce flooding, add to existing groundwater and protect and restore habitat in the southland.

To fund this program, FCD has proposed a fee on property parcels. The program would provide 90% of the funds collected to Watershed Authority Groups in the southland and to municipalities to allow them to develop water quality improvement projects and programs. If this fee were to be collected, it could be matched with existing State and Federal funding for developing clean water.

The fee would be based on the amount of water a parcel sends into the storm drain system, which would be determined by the amount of impervious area (hard cover) each parcel has. The more impervious material on a parcel, the more runoff that parcel sends into the drain system. Owners of each parcel would be asked to vote on this proposal by mailed ballot.

It is clear that the southland has to protect and enlarge local sources of clean water. The program proposed by the FCS speaks to this need. The League of Women Voters position on water quality would suggest support for this program. However, there are problems that need to be addressed. First, LWVC has a position on State and Local Finance that says that “earmarked” taxes (that is, taxes collected for a restricted purpose) ought to be reviewed and ought to have a sunset date.

Second, there are environmental justice issues that need to be resolved. Will large property owners bear a disproportionately low share of this tax burden because it is based on the proportion of impervious land on each parcel? Or should we argue that the need for clean water outweighs the concern for “earmarked” funds and environmental justice?

*Lola Unger & Jack Sullivan*

## **100 YEARS AGO – LOS ANGELES COUNTY IN THE LEAD**

On October 11, 1911, a referendum granting suffrage to women passed in California by fewer than 4000 votes. Los Angeles County had voted to approve suffrage for women 15 years earlier, in 1896. However, at that time the negative vote in San Francisco and Alameda Counties was high enough to defeat the measure statewide.

Finally, in 1910 Los Angeles suffragists got the legislature to authorize another referendum, despite strong opposition by “The Women of Northern California Association Opposed to Woman Suffrage” who argued in a full-page ad in the *San Francisco Chronicle* that women “do not want to vote; they depend upon the manhood of California to protect them from the responsibility of the ballot.” On the other side, suffragists’ flyers listed “those who may vote: white men, black men, red men, drunken men, deaf men, dumb men...” and “those who may not vote: idiots, WOMEN, criminals.”

On October 10, 1911, California became the sixth state to enfranchise women, following Wyoming, Colorado, Washington, Utah, and Idaho. Over 80,000 Women in Los Angeles, including a handful of Chinese-American women, registered in the first weeks. For fascinating details, see [Votes for Women: A 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Album](#) by Ellen DuBois and Karen Kearns, published in 1995 by the Huntington Library.

*Sally Seven, Claremont League*

## **FINAL EDUCATION STUDY MEETING**

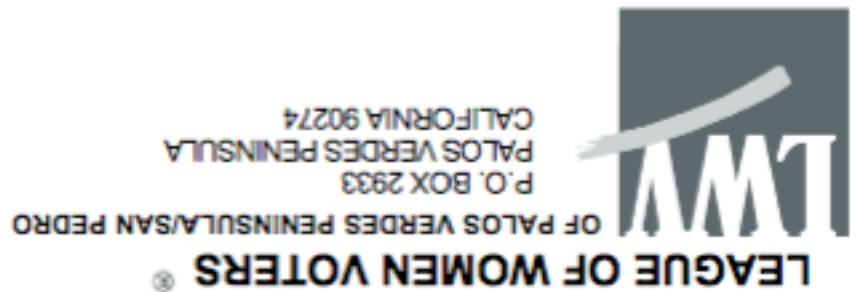
The Education Study Consensus meeting will be held on Saturday, October 29, 2011 at St Luke's Presbyterian Church, from 9:30 a.m. to noon. We encourage all active members to attend this important gathering to discuss the important educational issues of our time.

The 15 consensus questions will ask you to consider the following issues: What should be the degree of involvement of the federal government in education and what should that role be? Should common core standards be mandated in order to receive public funding and should there be a national assessment aligned with the core standards? What role should the national assessment consortia play in student evaluation and what information from the evaluation is most important? What should information from nationally required assessment data be used for? Should federal funding assist the most needy or should competitive grants also be included under federal funding? What is the "common good" and how shall it be expressed in educational terms? How is "equity" defined in public education? Should the federal government support early childhood education and to what degree? We need your great minds; please bring them to St. Luke's on October 29th. For LWV Ed Materials go to [www.lwv.org](http://www.lwv.org). Click on 'For Members.' Projects & Programs; then Public Education Study; then on Background Papers.

*Pat Colby, LWV/PVP*

## **LWVPVP SUPPORTS PROP M FOR SCHOOLS**

The PTA has asked LWV to support Proposition M, the PVPUSD Parcel tax measure on the November ballot. Prop M consolidates and extends the two existing parcel taxes which are due to expire in April. If passed (2/3 majority required) there will be no sunset date and a cost of living increase is permitted. There will be a yearly independent audit, and the current oversight committee will continue in office. Senior citizens may choose to opt out. Based on our position on education, the League board voted to take a support position on Proposition M.



\* 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*