



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS

OF PALOS VERDES PENINSULA

NOV/DECEMBER/2011

Voter

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CALENDAR

Dec 14 Wed	12:00 noon	Board Meeting: potluck and program planning, Joan Hogan's home
Jan 11 Wed	12:00 noon	Board Meeting, Joan Hogan's home
Jan 28 Sat	10:30 am - 2 pm	County Winter League Day, Taix Restaurant, LA

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*HAPPY
HOLIDAYS!*



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

2011

Local elections are over. I know you are all pleased with the role League has played in our community. Thanks go to Jo-Anne Waller, Mary Ellen Barnes, and Diana Halderman for organizing our two forums. Thanks to Patsy Edwards, Linda Elliot, and Krista Johnson for helping on the evening of the forums.

Thanks to Pat Rome, Land Use Committee, for organizing the boat tour of the Los Angeles Port and the lunch at Ports of Call Restaurant. The Port is changing and we need to keep up with the activities.

Our annual Elected Officials Party was once again a successful event. Thanks to those who worked on the event and who attended. Please read the article in this Voter for details and our list of donors.

County Winter League Day is coming up on January 28, 2012. We'll meet at Taix Restaurant in Los Angeles to hear comments on California's initiative and referendum presented by Bob Stern, President of the Center for Governmental Studies. If you've heard Bob before, you know that he is very knowledgeable – a true political expert. And he said that he loves speaking on this topic. You'll have a chance to ask your questions and get some answers. A reservation flyer is in this Voter.

Please read the article on Program Planning. This is your opportunity to give input into the work of the national and county Leagues, as well as your own Local League. Local program planning is a vital part of our grass roots process. You may want to recommend a new study – or even no new study – or the update of a current position, or an issue for education and advocacy. Think about what areas are important to your League.

We have completed the County jail study and the national study on the role of the federal government in education. We are about to begin the national study on the impact of privatization of public services on local communities. That study has a short time frame, with the due date this spring. We are also going into the state study of the initiative and referendum, which has a longer lead time. Materials on these two studies are on the national and state websites, respectively. Please email or call and let me know if you are interested in joining either one of these study committees.

As the holidays approach, I wish you all a very joyous holiday season with family and friends.

Nancy

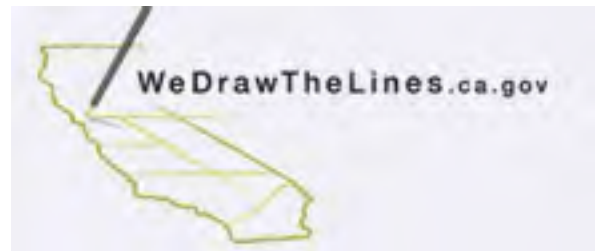
REDISTRICTING: BEHIND THE SCENES

A Report On LWV/LA County Winter League Day Program

Members of the LA County Leagues got an intimate look on October 22 at the redistricting process at the county and state levels from the point of view of the participants. Steve Napolitano, representing the Fourth District, shared the activities of the County Boundary Review Committee, including the review of 21 maps submitted by members of the public (19) and Supervisors (2). Attendance was sparse – but community input intense – at earlier hearings, but there were about 800 at each of the final 2 hearings and over 6 hours of public testimony. The County was following long-established procedures and was not bound by the requirements of Proposition 11, which did not affect local governments. One of the major concerns was keeping communities of interest intact, and the competing considerations of ethnic populations. The Voting Rights Act draws a fine line between making the minority vote too concentrated in one area or too diffused. The County adopted its map and plan on September 27; it went into effect one month later, after which, said Steve, “the legal challenges can begin.”

Following an excellent buffet lunch at the Rio Hondo Country Club, we heard from Jodie Filkins-Weber, a member of the statewide Citizens Redistricting Commission. As League members well know, this Commission was established by Proposition 11, which not only survived an initiative challenge on the 2010 ballot but saw its scope expanded to include US Congressional districts. The 14 Commissioners, survivors of a rigorous selection process, followed an equally rigorous process in creating districts (Assembly, State Senate, Board of Equalization and Congress) that met the criteria of Proposition 11. Jodie gave us a frank, humorous and detailed look at the workings of the Commission, which followed a grueling schedule to complete their complex task in the time allotted. And under budget!!

For the first month or so, the Commission had no staff and no budget; members were bringing in their own computers, and a big coup was when someone announced, “we have paper clips!” Selection of line-drawing consultants, choosing a legal representative, hiring of staff once funds became available—all of these essential activities had to happen before the Commission could begin its work in February,



while the inflexible August deadline loomed. Once the Commission was able to spring into action, they held 34 public hearings in 23 counties and heard from 2,700 people. Unlike the County Committee, which considered many criteria without necessarily prioritizing them, the CRC was bound by the law to follow a strict order of requirements, beginning with equal size, then Voting Rights Act compliance, contiguous districts, geographic integrity, geographic compactness, nesting. (Details at <http://wedrawthelines.ca.gov/>) Sometimes the last few criteria had to be compromised slightly to make sure the top priorities were met. CA Supreme Court challenges are expected, Jodie indicated. As a Republican, she ended up making decisions not based on party lines but on her own sense of what was logical, and in line with the Commission's mission.

By Phyllis O'Conner, LWV Long Beach Area

LOCAL ACTIVITIES - GET INVOLVED

PROGRAM PLANNING – TIME TO START THE PROCESS – DEC 14!

It's time to do program planning for the coming year! We will consider programs for our local League, the LA County League and for LWVUS.

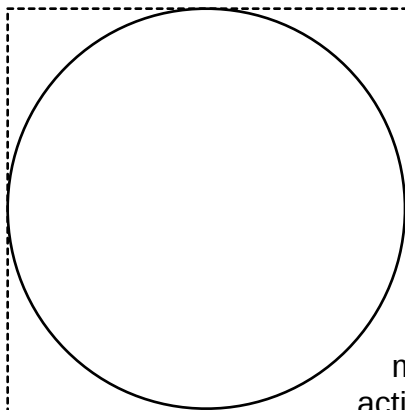
We may choose new studies, or “no new studies,” issues for education and/or advocacy (previously called “Issues for Emphasis”), and re-adoption of current positions. This is your opportunity to suggest issues you view as important to the League. Our positions give us the opportunity to give testimony and take action. We cannot do either if we do not have a position on which to base our actions.

The program planning meeting is in conjunction with the December board meeting on Wednesday, December 14, 12 to 3 p.m., at Joan Hogan's home, 4903 Rolling Meadows Road, RHE. We will begin with a salad lunch at 12. Program planning will begin at 1:00 p.m. The board meeting will follow program planning. Members may come for lunch and program planning, and are welcome, but not obligated, to stay for the board meeting.

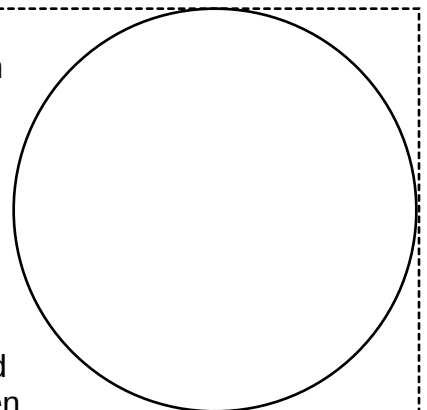
Please call or email me to let me know that you plan to attend. We want to be sure to have enough chairs and food for all.

Nancy Mahr 310-377-0735 nlmahr@verizon.net

WANTED: OBSERVERS



Here's a great opportunity to participate in an important League activity. We need observers for our local government meetings - each of the four city councils and the library board. The school board is already covered. An observer attends the meetings - or views them on cable - and gives a monthly report on the main council or board activities and decisions. Reports can be given



verbally to the League board or can be written and published in the Voter. This is a good way to track developments on the Peninsula, and if a hot issue comes up, the League is informed.

If you are interested in being a League observer, please notify Nancy Mahr (310-377-0735, nlmahr@verizon.net). Include the body you wish to observe.

ELECTED OFFICIALS PARTY – THANK YOU!

The annual Elected Officials Party owes its success to our League volunteers and to the local restaurants and markets that contributed food for the event. Many thanks to League members who worked on the event: Terry Arnush, Arlene Block, Shirley Borks, Pat Colby, Barbara Culver, Linda Herman, Joan Hogan, Diana Halderman, Joan Paulikas, Pat Rome, Katie Watkins, and Judith Webb. And thanks to some spouses who helped as well: Hal Culver, Bob Halderman, Marty Herman, and George Paulikas. We also thank the Assisteens who were great helpers in serving and clean up: Baylee Briles, Sierra Haase, and Nicole Kawakami.

We appreciate the tasty food donations from restaurants and markets. Please patronize these donors and thank them for their support: Admiral Risty, Asaka Japanese Cuisine, Bristol Farms, Chicago for Ribs, Maui Chicken, Marmalade Café, Original Red Onion, Pavilions, Raffaello Ristorante, Ralph's Market, Trader Joe's at Golden Cove, and Trusela's.

END THE DEATH PENALTY WITH SAFE CALIFORNIA INITIATIVE, SAYS LWVC

Volunteers gathering ballot-qualifying signatures

The League of Women Voters of California believes it's past time that we halt executions. That's why it endorses the SAFE California Initiative, which is presently being circulated to collect the necessary signatures to qualify it for the November 2012 ballot. (SAFE stands for Savings, Accountability & Full Enforcement). If it passes, the initiative will replace the death penalty with permanent imprisonment (life without the possibility of parole), including the conversion of existing death sentences to that alternative.

This endorsement is in accord with the LWVUS position supporting the end of the death penalty. The initiative is functionally equivalent to SB 490, a legislative bill endorsed by the California League.

Besides being ineffective and subject to error, the death penalty is a serious fiscal drain. Replacing it with permanent imprisonment would save the state a significant amount of money, estimated at \$1 billion over five years.

A study released in July 2011, by U.S. Appeals Court Judge Arthur Alarcon and Paula Mitchell, professor at Loyola Law School, found that death penalty cases, including legal costs and additional costs of housing inmates on death row, cost California taxpayers more than \$184 million every year. An average of \$308 million has been spent for each of the thirteen executions that have been carried out since the death penalty was reinstated in California in 1978.

While we waste millions on the death penalty, about half of serious violent crimes (homicides and rapes, at 46% and 56% respectively) go unsolved every year owing to limited law-enforcement resources. The SAFE California Act would use some of the savings from ending the death penalty to create a fund to increase the rate at which the serious crimes of homicide and rape are solved by funding additional law-enforcement capacity and would require that convicted murderers work behind bars and pay restitution into a victims' compensation fund.

The SAFE California Act and the campaign to gather qualifying signatures on its behalf are supported by a coalition of law-enforcement professionals, family members of murder victims, and individuals exonerated of wrongful conviction, as well as religious and civil rights groups.

Sign up for email alerts, make a donation, and find more ways to get involved on [the campaign site \(www.safecalifornia.org\)](http://www.safecalifornia.org).

NATURAL RESOURCES NOTES

State passes cap and trade: The California Air Resources Board (CARB) unanimously adopted cap-and-trade regulations on 10/20/11. These regulations put a price on heat-trapping pollution. Firms and utilities who get below the cap limits can sell permits to firms that are unable to lower their emissions. These regulations are the centerpiece of AB 32 passed by the Legislature in 2006. The goal of AB32 and these regulations is to reduce carbon pollution to 1990 levels by 2020.

Both business and environmental justice groups oppose aspects of this program. Business groups argue that the regulations will result in a loss of jobs. Some environmentalists argue that it will allow refineries and businesses to continue to pollute in poor neighborhoods by purchasing permits from firms that have reduced their emissions.

CARB will run the pollution trading market and firms will not be able to purchase off-sets from non-US sources. Many possible consequences of these regulations are not yet known. For example, will the regulations result in “leakage” of California jobs to other states? Will pollution shift to other states? In addition, the cost of energy is expected to rise but no one knows by what amount. Finally, some argue that any “leakage” of jobs to other states will be offset by the creation of “green” jobs in California.

AQMD RECLAIM Program: It is important to keep in mind that the Southern California Air Quality Resources Board has had a cap-and-trade program for volatile organic compounds for some time. More can be learned about the AQMD program at <http://www.aqmd.gov/reclaim/reclaim.html>.

San Diego-IID Water deal in peril (LAT 10/30/11): A few years ago, San Diego and Imperial Irrigation District (IID) signed an agreement in which IID agreed to fallow farmland and to transfer 200,000 acre feet of water to San Diego. In the original negotiations, the State of California agreed to find a way to deal with the consequences of the transfer for the Salton Sea. Reducing the amount of agriculture in IID meant that less water would seep in the direction of the Salton Sea and the Sea could shrink in size. The original agreement is now in peril because the State has failed to find a way to deal with Salton Sea problem. If the deal is undone by the courts, IID will lose the revenue from San Diego and San Diego will lose 200,000 acre feet of water. It is questionable whether San Diego would be able to get an additional 200,000AF of water from Northern California or from the Colorado River. In any event, the failure of the transfer deal will likely add fuel to the on-going water wars in California.

John Sullivan, LWV/LAC



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 Area - Palos Verdes Peninsula - Pasadena Area - Santa Monica - Torrance - Whittier

WINTER LEAGUE DAY

CALIFORNIA'S INITIATIVE AND REFERENDUM: ABOLISH, REFORM OR RETAIN AS IS?



BOB STERN, PRESIDENT
CENTER FOR GOVERNMENTAL STUDIES

SATURDAY, JANUARY 28, 2012

10:30 AM TO 2 PM

TAIX RESTAURANT

1911 W. SUNSET BLVD., LOS ANGELES, CA 90026

Conveniently located near the Hollywood Freeway and Alva

There is a \$2.50 valet fee so carpooling is recommended.

TEL. 213-484-1265

LUNCHEON - \$25

Questions: call Nancy Mahr at 310-377-0735



Please send form and check payable to **LWV/LACounty** by January 14, 2012

Mail to **LWV/LAC Treasurer, 3970 Sepulveda Blvd., Unit 201, Torrance, CA 90505**

League Name _____

Attendee Name(s) _____

Allergies _____

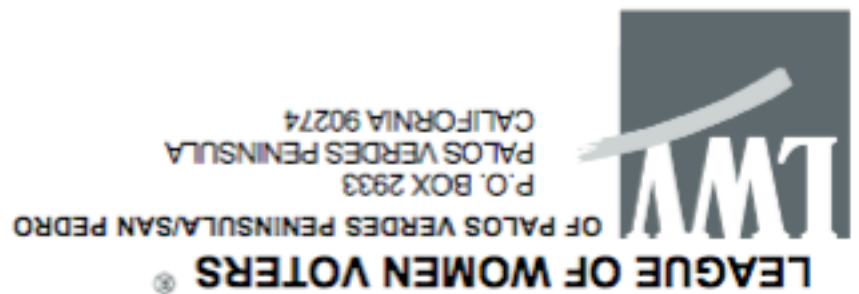
Deadline is January 14, 2012

Reservation(s) # _____ @\$25.00

Total Enclosed \$ _____

After Jan. 14, 2012, Reservation(s) # _____ @\$30.00

Total Enclosed \$ _____



✧ 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