



# LWV/LACounty

An Interleague Organization

# VOTER

## LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS® OF LOS ANGELES COUNTY

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

Editor: Mary Ellen Barnes Website: <http://lacilo.ca.lwvnet.org> Email: [LWVLACounty@msn.com](mailto:LWVLACounty@msn.com) Nov. 2011

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### Calendar 2011 -2012

- Friday, Dec. 2.....Holiday Lunch & Board Meeting at the home of Sally Seven
- Wed. Jan. 4.....County Board Meeting 10:00 - 1:00
- Sat. Jan. 28.....Winter League Day at Taix Restaurant, 10:30 AM- 2:00 PM
- Wed. Feb. 1.....County Board Meeting 10:00-1:00
- Wed. March 7.....County Board Meeting 10:00-1:00
- Sat. March 31.....County Convention, location TBA

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### **From the President's Desk...**

Local elections are over. I know you are all pleased with the role League has played in our many communities. As you move forward with programs that give information to the public, and later in the spring with voter service activities for the June election, please consider the communities around your League service area that do not have Leagues – the “orphan” areas. Residents of these areas may be interested in attending one of your programs – send out the publicity. Certainly voters would like to have candidate forums or have access to our election guides. Try to find a way to serve the people in these areas where there are no LWV units

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.

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

*Nancy Mahr*

### **LWVC President, Jennifer Waggoner is profiled as a “forward thinker” on the CALIFORNIA FORWARD Website - [cafwd.org](http://cafwd.org)**

*California Forward's* mission is to work with Californians to help create a "smart" government – one that's small enough to listen, big enough to tackle real problems, smart enough to spend our money wisely in good times and bad, and honest enough to be held accountable for results.

Click on Jenny's name to view her profile:

[Jennifer Waggoner](#)

## 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](http://www.safecalifornia.org) (www.safecalifornia.org).

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### **PROGRAM PLANNING: START THE PROCESS**

It's time to set your meetings for program planning! This year we are looking at programs for the LA County League and for LWVUS. The schedule and guidelines for LWVUS program planning will be coming from that office. County League program suggestions will be due from Local Leagues on January 27, 2012. The program will be voted on at the March 31 County Convention.

LWV/LACounty chooses new studies, or "no new studies," issues for education and/or advocacy (previously called "Issues for Emphasis"), and readopts its positions at the County convention in even numbered years – 2012! Now is your opportunity to suggest issues of importance to the League.

If you are considering a study and submit the topic to the County Board early, we will send the suggestion out to the other Leagues for their information and consideration. Keep in mind that a county study must focus on something that is within Los Angeles County. Also, please consider who will lead the study and who will form the study committee.

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.

So schedule your program planning meetings. Identify issues of interest and importance to your members. Weigh the pros and cons of each issue; assess possible support; consider viability. It is important to hold a program-planning meeting and have this discussion, whether or not your League selects an issue for study or emphasis.

A County program planning form will be emailed to each League president.

**Transportation and Environmental Justice.**  
**John Sullivan LWV/LAC**

The U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) has announced the kick-off of its effort to achieve Environmental Justice (EJ). The goals of this effort include the following: To avoid, minimize, or mitigate disproportionately high and adverse human health and environmental effects, including social and economic effects, on minority populations and low-income populations; To ensure the full and fair participation by all potentially affected communities in the transportation decision making process; To prevent the denial of, reduction in, or significant delay in the receipt of benefits by minority and low-income populations.

DOT encourages feedback and ideas from transportation and community stakeholders. DOT invites you to provide your insights, experiences, and ideas for enhancing environmental justice in transportation related activities.

The DOT press release indicated following ways to participate:

<http://ej.ideascale.com> Log on to the National On-Line Dialogue on Environmental Justice and Transportation. You can join colleagues from across the country in a public conversation about Environmental Justice and Transportation.

[http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/environment/environmental\\_justice/ej\\_at\\_dot/revised\\_strategy](http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/environment/environmental_justice/ej_at_dot/revised_strategy) Review the revised USDOT Environmental Justice Strategy and submit comments to: [EJ@dot.gov](mailto:EJ@dot.gov).

[DOTRSVP@dot.gov](mailto:DOTRSVP@dot.gov) RSVP for the National Public Meeting on Environmental Justice and Transportation, to hear from Senior Leadership at DOT on the Department's EJ work on November 21st at the US Department of Transportation in Washington, DC.

<http://www.fta.dot.gov/FTAInformationSessions> Sign up to participate in targeted sessions conducted by the Federal Transit Administration .

**NATURAL RESOURCES NOTES**  
**John Sullivan, LWV/LAC**

**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 [aqmd.gov/reclaim/reclaim.html](http://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.

## Redistricting: Behind the Scenes

by Phyllis O'Connor

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.



## State Budget – Triggered State Budget Reductions; County of Los Angeles Impact

As reported in the July 5, 2011 Sacramento Update, Governor Brown signed the \$86 billion FY 2011-12 State Budget Act, which redirected State sales tax and vehicle license fee revenue to counties to fund realignment, as well as addressed the State's remaining \$9.6 billion deficit through a number of expenditure reductions, revenue solutions and the assumption of \$4 billion in projected revenue the State may receive in FY 2011-12. The State Budget Act authorizes the Director of the Department of Finance to make up to \$2.46 billion in additional expenditure reductions beginning in January 2012 if the projected \$4.0 billion in revenue does not materialize this fall. State tax revenue through August lagged \$596 million behind the State's projections. However, the most important data — the state's fall economic forecast for example — are still yet to come.

### Estimated County Impact

**Based on a preliminary analysis, if the trigger cuts are enacted, the impact to the County would be approximately \$380,000. This is in addition to the \$363.3 million in reductions previously enacted in the FY 2011-12 State Budget Act, for a total estimated County loss of \$363.7 million in the budget year.**

### County Programs Impacted by the Trigger

Most of the trigger cuts would be imposed on K-12 education, community colleges and higher education. However, the following County programs would be impacted if Tier 1 trigger cuts are enacted.

**Medi-Cal Managed Care Plan.** Reduction of \$15.0 million for the Medi-Cal Managed Care Plan payments for counties. **The Department of Health Services estimates that this trigger cut would result in a County loss of \$1.0 million in FY 2011-12.**

**In-Home Supportive Services (IHSS) Anti-Fraud Initiatives.** Eliminates \$10.0 million for IHSS fraud prevention, detection, referral, and investigation activities. According to the Department of Public Social Services (DPSS), the trigger cut would result in a loss of \$8.5 million in State and Federal funding

currently supporting the County's IHSS Anti-Fraud initiatives. **DPSS indicates that the trigger cut also would eliminate the County's share of cost for IHSS fraud activities for a net County savings of approximately \$1.5 million in FY 2011-12.**

**Across-the-Board Reduction to IHSS Service Hours.** Reduction of 20 percent in assessed service hours for all IHSS recipients for a State General Fund (SGF) savings of \$100.0 million in FY 2011-12. The State has not yet developed the details on how this cut will be implemented; however, the State Budget Act establishes an IHSS Supplement application for recipients who may be at-risk of out-of-home placement due to the reduction in hours. According to DPSS, the County could lose receipt of an estimated \$37.4 million in SGFs and \$55.9 million in Federal funds for IHSS benefits. **DPSS estimates that this trigger cut could impact most of the 184,000 individuals who currently receive IHSS benefits here in Los Angeles County. Additionally, DPSS estimates that these reductions in funding would result in a net County savings of approximately**

**\$20.1 million in FY 2011-12, which represents the County's 17.5 percent share of IHSS provider payments.**

**Youthful Offenders.** Increase of \$72.1 million in county charges for youthful offender placements in Division of Juvenile Justice (DJJ). The provision shifting responsibility for supervision of all juvenile offenders was removed from the Public Safety Realignment legislation passed earlier this year. However, juvenile justice supervision was included as a Tier 1 trigger in the 2011-12 State Budget. If the trigger reductions are enacted, beginning January 1, 2012, the State would charge an annual rate of \$125,000 to house offenders committed from counties to a DJJ facility. This would be a significant increase in the amount currently charged to Los Angeles County to house youth in DJJ, which has averaged \$77,000 per month for approximately 300 youth over the previous six months. While the number of youth committed to DJJ is entirely under the jurisdiction of the court and is variable, under the

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trigger reductions, **the Probation Department would be charged between \$18.0 and \$20.0 million by the State in FY 2011-12 for the period January 1, 2012 through June 30, 2012.**

**Vertical Prosecution.** Elimination of Vertical Prosecution Grant managed by the California Emergency Management Agency with SGF savings of \$15.0 million. In Los Angeles, the District Attorney’s Office uses this grant to help support staffing for its Major Narcotics Vertical Prosecution Program and the Elder Abuse Vertical Prosecution Program. Together, the programs received an allocation of \$682,253 for FY 2010-11. The District Attorney’s Office indicates that the loss of this critical grant funding would eliminate fiscal support for six Deputy District Attorneys assigned to these vertical prosecution programs. **The District Attorney’s Office estimates that this trigger cut would result in an estimated County loss of approximately \$680,000 in FY 2011-12.**

**Public Library Grants.** Reduction of \$15.9 million statewide for local assistance programs for public libraries. **The Public Library indicates that this would result in an estimated County loss of approximately \$300,000 in the budget year to purchase books and other library materials.** This is in addition to the \$15.2 million in reductions previously enacted in the FY 2011-12 State Budget for local libraries, which the Public Library indicates resulted in an estimated County loss of approximately \$1.0 million in the budget year to purchase books and other library materials.

The reductions would be implemented in three tiers, as follows:

**Tier 0**

**There will be no reductions if the State receives \$3.0 to \$4.0 billion of the \$4.0 billion in projected revenues.**

**TOTAL TIER 0 TRIGGER CUTS: \$0**

**Tier 1**

**Reductions of approximately \$600.0 million to the following programs will be enacted if the State receives \$2.0 to \$3.0 billion of the projected revenues.**

Unallocated reduction to University of California: \$100.0 million

Unallocated reduction to California State University: \$100.0 million

20 percent reduction in authorized hours for In-Home Supportive Services recipients: \$100.0 million

Department of Developmental Services unallocated reduction: \$100.0 million

Juvenile Justice – increase charge to counties for youthful offenders sent to Division of Juvenile Justice \$72.1 million

\$10/unit fee hike for community colleges: \$30.0 million

Across-the-board cut to child care funding: \$23.0 million

Unallocated reduction to Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation: \$20.0 million

Reduction to California State Library for library grants: \$15.9 million

Medi-Cal Managed Care Plan payment reductions: \$15.0 million

Eliminate Vertical Prosecution grants: \$15.0 million

Eliminate anti-fraud grants provided to counties for the In-Home Supportive Services Program: \$10.0 million

**TOTAL TIER 1 TRIGGER CUTS: \$601.0 million**

*continued from pg. 7*

**Tier 2**

**Reductions of up to \$2.0 billion to the following programs, plus the Tier 1 reductions, will be enacted if the State receives \$0 to \$2.0 billion of the projected revenues.**

Reduction to K-12 schools that allows districts to drop seven classroom days. The school year would be reduced to 168 days – down from 180 days three years ago: **\$1.54 billion**

Elimination of school bus transportation: **\$248.0 million**

Reduction to community colleges: **\$72.0 million**

***TOTAL TIER 2 TRIGGER CUTS: \$1.86 billion***

From:  
Ryan J. Alsop  
Assistant Chief Executive Officer  
Intergovernmental and External Affairs  
County of Los Angeles







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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**

191 1 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



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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 \$ \_\_\_\_\_**

The League of Women Voters of Los Angeles County in both its values and practices affirms its belief and commitment to diversity, pluralism and affirmative action.

The League of Women Voters welcomes new members, both men and women, who are citizens of voting age. Associate membership is open to all others.

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**Internet Election Resources**

**Smart Voter** [www.smartvoter.org](http://www.smartvoter.org)

Statewide propositions plus local candidates & issues on your ballot, with extensive

Background materials and media links from LWV California Ed Fund

**LA County Registrar-Recorder** [www.lavote.net](http://www.lavote.net)

Election calendar, polling place look-up, absentee voting info, multilingual voting materials, Locations for Touchscreen early voting

**Easy Voter Guide** [www.easyvoter.org](http://www.easyvoter.org)

Concise facts on statewide propositions; Chinese, Korean, Spanish, Vietnamese, and English

**Secretary of State** [www.ss.ca.gov](http://www.ss.ca.gov)

Official text of ballot measures

**CA Legislative Analyst** [www.lao.ca.gov](http://www.lao.ca.gov)

Analysis of all ballot measures

**CA Voter Foundation** [www.calvoter.org](http://www.calvoter.org)

Data on campaign contributions to candidates and measures

**CA Budget Project** [www.cbp.org](http://www.cbp.org)

Analyzes the fiscal effects of statewide ballot measures

This **VOTER** is ready for viewing

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**Nancy Mahr, LWV/LA County President**  
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