



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

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May 2012

LWV / LACounty Board of Directors 2012

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Sally Seven
Jack Sullivan
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Calendar 2012

May 29-30	LWV/LACounty Board Retreat Mary and Joseph Retreat Center
June 8-12	LWVUS Convention - Washington DC
Sat, July 28	Popovers in Pasadena – Women’s City Club
Wed. Aug. 1	County Board Meeting - location TBA
Wed. Sept 5	County Board Meeting - location TBA
Sat. Sept 29	Ballot Briefng - location TBA

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From the President's Desk...

Every County Local League was represented at the County League's 2012 Convention on March 31. The event marked the end of the 2011-2012 year and the start of the new year for LWV/LACounty.

At convention, we learned a great deal from our LWVC Senior Director of Program Trudy Schaffer. Trudy's expertise and experience were highlighted as she reviewed current legislation and state budget issues. Evaluations by attendees confirmed: "Trudy is amazing!"

The past year saw strong Voter Service support with a special effort to provide information on the judicial candidates. We also completed the County Jail Study – and it has proved to be a timely addition to our positions.

Now the Local Leagues are holding their local conventions and board reorganization. As we move into summer, we'll be planning for the coming year and the important Voter Service activities for the November election.

And first, there is the June primary. I'm sure our Leagues will be important resources for voters who need help with the "top two" process.

Sandwiched among these activities are LWVC Council and LWVUS Convention. This should be an exciting year for both of these meetings.

Finally, we are looking forward to our annual County meeting in Pasadena – "Popovers." Save Saturday, July 28, 9:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. Remember, at Popovers we will be collecting food items and money for the Regional Food Bank.

Nancy Mahr

Popovers in Pasadena - The LWV/LACounty Summer League Day

**Saturday, July 28th
9:30 AM - 2:00 PM
Pasadena Women's City Club**

We will be collecting items and money for the Regional Food Bank

COUNTY LEAGUE BOARD ELECTED AT CONVENTION

Convention delegates elected several new officers and directors to the LWV/LA County board. Additional directors were appointed at the April meeting. Here is the County League Board for 2012-2013 (the asterisk* indicates that member was elected or appointed this year; those without an asterisk are in the second year of a two-year term).

President	Nancy Mahr *	Palos Verdes Peninsula
Secretary	Kay White	Torrance Area
Treasurer	Dorothy Stewart *	Torrance Area
1st Vice-President	Lola Ungar *	Torrance Area
2nd Vice President	Margo Reeg	Whittier
Directors [2 year terms]	Joan Arias	Beach Cities
	Linda Herman *	Palos Verdes
	Rebecca Johnson *	Long Beach Area
	Phyllis O'Connor	Long Beach Area
	Marie Palmeri *	East San Gabriel Valley
Director [1-Year Term]	Raquel Beltran *	Los Angeles
	Betsey Coffman *	Claremont Area
	Sally Seven *	Claremont Area
	Jack Sullivan *	Claremont Area
	Georganne Thomsen*	Glendale/Burbank
	Viola Iungerich •	Palos Verdes Peninsula
Nominating Committee 2012-14		
	Pat Kromka *	Torrance Area
	Shirley Spencer *	Pasadena Area
	Lois Ledger *	Long Beach

First 5 LA - How Cuts to Early Education Programs Impact School Readiness

By Joanne Leavitt

First 5 LA hosted an interesting and informative discussion Friday, April 20, entitled “How Cuts to Early Education Programs Impact School Readiness.” While the focus was on the proposed state budget and the suggested cuts many of us are familiar with, the newer information for many of us was L.A. County specific.

First a quick look at the proposed budget. Since 2008 early learning has been cut by \$1.2 billion in state funding resulting in 100,000 fewer spaces for young children who need them. Now, this year, the Governor is proposing an additional half-billion-dollar cut, which would deprive an additional 62,000 young children from the learning experiences they need. In addition, the budget recommends eliminating funding for Transitional Kindergarten, which would deny another 40,000 young children access to school.

Let’s bring this home to Los Angeles County. In the 2008-09 school year 104,000 children were served in Los Angeles County at a cost of \$846 million. Each succeeding year the funding, and the number of children served has dropped. The proposed 2012-13 budget would allow \$470 million to serve about 70,000 children. We all know the number of children is not dropping drastically and currently one out of four children in the county is living in poverty, higher than the rate of one in six in the state as a whole. Best numbers available indicate there are about 150,000 children under six in the county that are eligible but not being served.

As damaging as this is for the children concerned we must recognize that during this time teachers and aides serving over 30,000 children have lost their jobs, many of these in small, female owned businesses. Currently ECE provided 62-64,000 jobs in the county. A cut of 13,000 spaces in the next budget year will move many of these to the unemployment line. Parents of these 30,000 children have had to make a real “Sophie’s Choice.” Either they have been forced to quit their job and/or drop their educational program to stay home with their

young child or they have resorted to what care is available at little or no cost. This care, by its nature unstable, is not healthy for either parent or child, does not provide the stability young children need or provide the security needed for a productive, dependable employee

Each of us has our own idea where cuts could otherwise be made that we can communicate to our legislators. What we can do with a unified voice is state these cuts are not acceptable. We have positions at the County, State and National levels we can use. Los Angeles has a high percentage of the total legislature in Sacramento, 35 total. Each of them can hear from us. We also have a large delegation in Washington, 15 just from this county, some of them very powerful. We can use our unified voices across the aisle. These cuts are not acceptable, they are moving us back two generations, destroying programs that have been effective for many years, some since WWII.

Wanted – Rep for UN Org

League member to represent the County Leagues on the Southern California Regional Council of Organizations, which is affiliated with the Southern California Division, United Nations Association of the USA. The Council works to build awareness of United Nations principles and activities, and to encourage participation in local United Nations events. Our rep would attend the Council’s periodic meetings and report back through the County League Voter.

Please contact Nancy Mahr if you are interested: nlmahr@verizon.net

Natural Resources: The Problems with Fracking

John D. Sullivan, LWV/LAC

The process of hydraulic fracking, in which a mixture of water and chemicals is injected into the ground to force oil and natural gas to the surface, has become a contentious issue. The documentary "Gas" in which homeowners in Colorado are shown lighting their tap water on fire has been much cited. Some claim that the tap water ignited due to methane that had infiltrated the groundwater as a result of hydraulic fracking.

There are estimates that fracking has been done in California for the last thirty years, including in the Inglewood area in L. A. County. Since the State of California does not regulate hydraulic fracking in any way, it is difficult to determine where it is occurring and what its effects might be.

There is a bill before the State legislature, AB 591 which would define hydraulic fracturing and require persons using this process to provide a list of the chemical constituents used in the fracturing fluid and the amount of water and fracturing fluid recovered from the well. LWV of California supports this bill. In addition, the LWV of the United States Convention in 2010 agreed that fracking poses a threat to drinking water and other water resources.

The possible effects of fracking include groundwater pollution and earthquakes. In 2011, the EPA said that fracking was the likely cause of contaminated well water in Pavillion, Wyoming. The EPA announced that some samples of water contained toxic compounds used in oil and gas production, including benzene. In Ohio, the state issued tougher drilling rules after concluding that fracking probably induced earthquakes in the state. And there is the flaming tap water illustrated in the documentary "Gas".

With respect to the fracking in the Inglewood area, the Community Health Councils and the Natural Resources Defense Fund were among plaintiffs in a case regarding the process. The case was settled when the firm doing the fracking, PXP, agreed to conduct a study on the effects of its drilling. This study will be completed in August of 2012.

People in southern California need both clean water and a reliable supply of energy. Given the dangers that seem to be involved with fracking, it is important that we not let our search for energy pollute our water. LWV of L. A. County will continue to monitor this problem and take action at the appropriate time.

UNITED STATES POPULATION FACTS

- The United States, with 310 million people, is the third largest country in the world, and the fastest growing industrialized country.
- Americans comprise 4.4% of the world's people but consume 24% of the world's resources. If everyone (7 billion in 2011) consumed the way Americans do, we would need at least four more planet Earths to support us.
- U.S. population is projected to grow to approximately 500 million during the lifetime of a child born today.
- This growth amplifies every other social, economic, environmental and governmental problem that Americans face.

Provided by Blue Planet United

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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League _____

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Internet Election Resources

Smart Voter 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

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

Easy Voter Guide www.easyvoter.org

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

Secretary of State www.ss.ca.gov

Official text of ballot measures

CA Legislative Analyst www.lao.ca.gov

Analysis of all ballot measures

CA Voter Foundation www.calvoter.org

Data on campaign contributions to candidates and measures

CA Budget Project www.cbp.org

Analyzes the fiscal effects of statewide ballot measures

This **VOTER** is ready for viewing on our website: www.lacilo.ca.lwvnet.org



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