



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 November 2012

LWV / LACounty Board of Directors 2012 - 2013

Executive Board
Nancy Mahr
President

Lola Ungar
Vice President

Margo Reeg
Second Vice President

Kay White
Secretary

Dorothy Stewart
Treasurer

Directors

Joan Arias
Raquel Beltran
Betsey Coffman
Linda Herman
Vi Iungerich
Rebecca Johnson
Phyllis O'Connor
Marie Palmeri
Sally Seven
Jack Sullivan
Georganne Thomsen

Calendar 2012 - 2013

Wed. Dec. 5	Holiday Lunch and Board Meeting 10:00 AM at the home of Sally Seven
Wed, Jan 2	County Board Meeting 9:30 AM - 1:00 PM
Sat, Jan 26	Winter League Day
Wed, Feb 6	County Board Meeting 9:30 AM - 1:00 PM
Wed, March 6	County Board Meeting 9:30 AM - 1:00 PM
Sat, March 30	County Convention
Wed. April 3	County Board Meeting 9:30 AM - 1:00 PM
Fri-Sun, May 17-19	LWVC Convention in San Jose
Tues-Wed, May 14-15	Retreat/Board Meeting, Mary & Joseph Center. RPV
June 8 -12	LWVUS Council
Wed. July 3	County Board Meeting 9:30 AM - 1:00 PM
Sat. July 27	Popovers in Pasadena 9:30-2:00 Women's City Club

In this issue...

President's Message.....	page 2
Natural Resources.....	page 3
Final Voter Registration for Nov. 2012.....	page 4
LWVUS Board Adopts Scope for Agriculture Update	page 5

From the President's Desk... TIME FOR PRIDE

The League can stand proud in its work this election season – locally and nationally. Locally, we provided information on the ballot propositions with the publication of *Pros&Cons* – many thanks to the Claremont LWV for taking this on. We also distributed the Easy Voter Guide from LWVC. We responded to a multitude of calls for ballot measure pro/con presentations. SmartVoter helped people read about the ballot measurers and candidates, and helped many find their polling location. And we spoke out in our advocacy role on those propositions on which LWVC had taken a position. Candidate forums enabled the public to meet the candidates face-to-face.

Several state Leagues along with LWVUS have been working on serious voting issues in their states. I participated in a conference call with the LWVUS office during which President Elizabeth MacNamara, ED Nancy Tate, and Advocacy Director Lloyd Leonard reviewed some of these activities.

President MacNamara gave testimony to the Senate Judiciary Committee on voter suppression. Her testimony is on the LWVUS website. She visited many of the states fighting to block efforts at voter suppression – Ohio, Wisconsin, Florida, Minnesota, North Carolina, and Michigan – lending her support and that of LWVUS to their work. (Travel funding was provided by an outside source.)

Lloyd Leonard spoke on the lawsuits that state Leagues have filed on behalf of voters: Florida on the counting of provisional ballots and voter purges; Ohio on the processing of provisional ballots and early voting options; Pennsylvania on voter ID requirement; Wisconsin, again re voter ID; Colorado and Iowa on voter purges; Texas and South Carolina on voter ID laws; New Hampshire on the implementation of a domicile law. The courts upheld the League to varying degrees – some only for this election, with the issue to be deliberated further.

Mr. Leonard also noted issue coming up in the Supreme Court: a challenge to the constitutionality of the Voting Rights Act, which was reauthorized 2 years ago; Arizona's requirement of proof of citizenship to register to vote; affirmative action in Texas for university admissions. He also noted that in the lame duck session coming up following the election, Congress will likely be addressing the Bush tax cuts due to expire January 1, and the pending sequester (cuts) due to begin in January and totaling \$1.2 trillion over 8 years, with \$109 billion in 2013.

Nancy Tate spoke on the work of the LWVUS staff: Power the Vote initiative implemented by the state and local Leagues; best practices webinars as guidance for local action; NVRD coalition; Vote 411; Truth in Advertising for third-party ads. She also noted the global democracy work as part of the State Departments efforts to promote civil society in the broader Middle East and North Africa (BMENA).

California is moving forward to improve voter access, including the successful online voter registration available for the November 2012 election. We can be proud of our contribution to the dialog that has supported this direction. We can also be proud of the work of the Leagues in the states with major election challenges and the way in which these Leagues have stepped up to the plate on these issues. And we can be proud of the work of LWVUS to support state and local Leagues and continue to work on the federal level for voter rights.

Nancy Mahr

Natural Resources: Jack Sullivan, LWVLAC

Water continues to be an important policy issue with new developments and new problems. What follows is a brief overview of some current topics.

SUPPLY: Early predictions were that 2012-13 would be an *El Nino* year which would mean much rainfall for California. Now the National Weather Service (NWS) is offering a more cautious estimate suggesting that it might be a mild *El Nino*. The current prediction is ambiguous. The NWS has indicated that it could be another dry year or it could be a wet year. Only time will tell. It is important to keep in mind that the last manual survey of the Sierra snowpack for 2012 indicated that the snowpack was 40% of normal. In 2011, it was 190% of normal.

HUMAN RIGHT TO WATER: This fall, Governor Brown signed AB 685 which states that every human being has a right to clean and affordable water. The bill directs State entities to employ this directive as they develop regulations and fund activities. Thus, AB 685 could be a useful tool in evaluating state activities in the area of water resources.

RAINWATER CAPTURE: Governor Brown also signed AB 1750 which would allow Californians to capture rainwater off their roofs for non-potable purposes without obtaining a permit from the State Water Resources Control Board. The bill provides safeguards to protect public health and potable water systems and also authorizes landscape contractors to install such capture systems. This bill should allow for the development of another source of fresh water supply for people of California.

BAY DELTA: The Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta continues to present the state with a myriad of problems. The Delta is in decline and endangered species are threatened by the extraction of water from the Delta. The levees are fragile, and about 22 million people get at least some of their water from Delta. Governor Brown has proposed a solution in the form of two tunnels which would take water from the Sacramento River above the Delta and bring it underground to south of the Delta for export to the San Joaquin Valley and Southern California. This project will not necessarily provide additional water down south but it will make the current supply more reliable. The current plan calls for recipients of the water (farming interests and ratepayers in So Cal) to bear the costs of the system in increased water rates. By taking water from above the Delta, the State avoids a double problem: the threat of the Endangered Species Act halting the flow of water and the danger if fragile levees collapse and allow the intrusion of seawater into California's water supply. Some fear, however, that such a diversion of water will change the ecology of the Delta forever and have a negative effect on Delta farming and other activities.

More information about California water and the Delta can be obtained from <http://www.aquaforia.com/>.

Final Voter Registration for November 2012

Election: 18.2 Million, 76.7% of Eligible Californians

SACRAMENTO – Final statewide voter data published today by the California Secretary of State show that 18,245,970 Californians, or 76.7 percent of those eligible, are registered to vote in Tuesday’s presidential election. While the percentage of eligible Californians who are registered has remained relatively steady for more than a decade, the raw number of registrants is a record high in the state. California’s voting population has increased by 941,879 people since this time four years ago.

This year’s voter registration figures did not beat the dramatic registration surge in the 2008 presidential election season. Voter registration always increases significantly in the final weeks before a presidential election, but registration activity in September and October 2012 was less robust than in the 2008 election cycle. In the final 45 days before California’s voter registration deadline four years ago, nearly 1.2 million people registered to vote; this year 986,290 people registered to vote in that 45-day timeframe.

“Seeing a record number of Californians registered to vote is wonderful, but there are still too many eligible people skipping the electoral process altogether,” said Secretary of State Debra Bowen, California’s chief elections officer. “Registering to vote is easier now than it was four years ago, yet fewer people actually registered in this final 45-day window than did in 2008. This makes it clear that it’s not just a question of making voter registration easier; it’s really about what inspires people to care about their democracy and be part of the decision-making process.”

Twenty-one percent of all registered Californians have no party preference (known before 2011 as decline-to-state voters). “Registering is just the first step. Now it’s time for the next two important steps: getting informed and voting by Election Day,” Bowen added. The highest voter turnout for a presidential election in California was 88.4 percent in 1964.

The complete report, which includes voter registration data for a variety of political subdivisions, is at www.sos.ca.gov/elections/ror/ror-pages/15day-general-12.

The registration totals for the seven qualified political parties and voters who have no party preference follow.

<u>Political Party</u>	<u>October 20, 2008</u>		<u>October 22, 2012</u>	
	<u># Registered</u>	<u>% of Total</u>	<u># Registered</u>	<u>% of Total</u>
American Independent	370,405	2.14%	477,129	2.61%
Americans Elect	N/A	N/A	3,313	0.02%
Democratic	7,683,495	44.40%	7,966,422	43.66%
Green	118,416	0.68%	115,034	0.63%
Libertarian	83,574	0.48%	108,736	0.60%
Peace and Freedom	56,350	0.33%	61,987	0.34%
Republican	5,428,052	31.37%	5,356,608	29.36%
No Party Preference	3,444,923	19.91%	3,820,545	20.94%
Miscellaneous	118,876	0.69%	336,196	1.84%
TOTAL	17,304,091	100%	18,245,970	100%

California law requires statewide voter registration data updates 154, 60 and 15 days before each primary election, and 60 and 15 days before each general election. There is one “off-year” update released in February of years with no regularly scheduled statewide election.

Polls will be open on November 6 from 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. All ballots, including vote-by-mail ballots, must be received by county elections officials by 8:00 p.m. on Election Day.

Keep up with the latest California election news and trivia by following [@CASOSvote](https://twitter.com/CASOSvote) on Twitter. To subscribe to state election news via email, RSS feed or Twitter, go to www.sos.ca.gov/multimedia.

LWVUS Board Adopts Tentative Scope for Agriculture Update

The LWVUS Board has named the study passed by Convention 2012 as the Agriculture Update. Subject to review and recommendation by the Update Committee, the Board also adopted this scope for the update: “The Agriculture Update will focus narrowly on (1) current technology issues in agriculture including genetically modified organisms (GMOs), herbicides, pesticides, sustainable farming, agriculture water pollution, aquifer depletion, antibiotics in livestock, and accurate food labeling; and (2) current agriculture finance issues including consolidation in agriculture industries, crop subsidies and the federal agricultural regulatory process.” Further information and an online committee application form will be announced in subsequent Leaders' Updates.



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.

SUBSCRIBE to the VOTER

Send the information below to be notified of the latest VOTER posted on our website at:
<http://www.lacilo.ca.lwvnet.org>

For a hard copy subscription send \$10 to:

LWV/LA County Treasurer,
3970 Sepulveda Blvd. # 201, Torrance, CA 90505.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ Zip _____

League _____

E-mail Address _____

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



Nancy Mahr, LWV/LA County President
28028 Ella Road
Rancho Palos Verdes, CA 90275