



# 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  
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[www.lacilo.ca.lwvnet.org](http://www.lacilo.ca.lwvnet.org)

[LWVLACounty@msn.com](mailto:LWVLACounty@msn.com)

June/July 2013

### Calendar 2013

- |                     |  |
|---------------------|--|
| <b>Wed. July 3</b>  | County Board Meeting 9:30 - 1:30 LWVLA office                          |
| <b>Sat. July 27</b> | Popovers in Pasadena 9:30 - 2:00 Women's City Club ( Program at 10:00) |
| <b>Wed. Aug 7</b>   | County Board Meeting 9:30 - 1:30 TBA                                   |
| <b>Wed. Sept 4</b>  | County Board Meeting 9:30 - 1:30 TBA                                   |
| <b>Sat. Sept 28</b> | County Fall League Day TBA   |

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## From Our President's Desk...

The LWV/LACounty Board held its annual retreat in May. We welcomed new Board member Sandra Trutt (LWVLA). Our purpose was to review the past year and plan for the coming year. Summer League Day – alias Popovers in Pasadena - is our annual kick-off event. Dr. Rafael Sonenshein, Director of the Pat Brown Institute and a specialist in election analysis, is the keynote speaker. There will be several excellent workshops planned. It will be an informative day. A flyer with reservation form is in this Voter.

Mark your calendars! County League Days are tentatively scheduled for September 28 and January 25. We'll be working on the subjects of the days over the summer. We have a national study – agriculture – and a state study – higher education. These topics will be part of our deliberations. County Convention is set for March 29, 2014.

On the County front, we are looking at the County budget, Affordable Healthcare Act implementation, continuing water concerns, land use, and the supervisorial elections. It has been an eventful past year, and I'm looking forward to the coming year of study and action.

Have a restful and rejuvenating summer.

*Nancy Mahr*

### League of Women Voters of Los Angeles County Board of Directors, 2013-2014

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Marie Palmeri

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Pat Kromka ( Chair, Nominating Committee)

## Natural Resources

Jack Sullivan, LWV/LAC

Water continues to be an issue of policy debate, as the Southwest continues to experience drought conditions. Southern California is dependent on water from the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta and from the Colorado River. Both these ecosystems have been in the news and the upshot of this concern will be calls for more emphasis on utilizing local sources. Such sources will include conservation, recycling, storm water and desalination.

**The Delta:** The last chapters of the Bay Delta Conservation Plan (BDCP) have been issued. The emphasis continues to be on the two goals of the plan: ecosystem restoration in the Delta and a reliable supply of water to the San Joaquin Valley and Southern California. The specific focus of the BDCP is on the two tunnels Governor Brown has proposed to take water from the Sacramento River above the Delta and bring it around the Delta to the California Aqueduct. The cost of the overall plan (tunnels and Delta restoration) is currently estimated to be \$24.5 billion. This figure does not include the cost of borrowing the money. The current proposal calls for the beneficiaries—agriculture interests in the San Joaquin Valley and water rate payers in southern California-- to pay for most of the cost. The rest would be covered by future water bond issues and by the federal government.

An organization of environmental groups, water districts and business groups has proposed an alternative plan. This would involve a single, smaller tunnel, levee restoration in the Delta, additional storage south of the Delta and water conservation. These two proposals and variants of each will likely be debated over the coming months.

**Colorado River:** The Colorado River is an ecosystem that is experiencing great demand for its water, so much so, that very little water is left in the river where it enters the sea. The seven basin states and the federal government have begun a process that will lead to efforts to step up water conservation by Colorado River users. Three committees have been established to work

on this problem and they will likely focus on water reuse, water banking, desalination, and the sale of agriculture water to urban areas. The committees have been told to have their recommendations ready by the end of the year.

**Outcomes:** Our water system is currently stressed by the continuing drought, population growth, and economic growth. Efforts to deal with problems both in the Delta and on the Colorado will likely lead to increased calls for conservation, for additional water storage, and for desalination (both seawater and brackish water). It will likely be necessary for all of us to increase our consciousness of our own water consumption and to continue to devise ways to reduce our use of this precious and scarce resource. More information can be found at <http://aquaforia.com/>.

## LWVUS Study

### AGRICULTURE UPDATE

Information on the Agriculture Update is now on the LWVUS website. LWVUS Board Member Norman Turrill of Oregon will chair the committee.

**Scope:** The Agriculture Update will focus narrowly on:

- 1) current technology issues in agriculture including genetically modified organisms (GMOs), herbicides, pesticides, 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.

Study materials are scheduled to be available in the fall of 2013. Consensus reports are scheduled for April 2014.

There is an Agriculture Update group in the LWVUS Member Forums.

## LWVC Initiative and Referendum Study and Consensus - Summary

The League of Women Voters of California (LWVC) adopted a position on the Initiative and Referendum process in 1984. The position was updated in 1999. It has been updated again in 2013 and adopted at the annual LWVC Convention in June 2013.

Over the two years preceding the June 2013 Convention, a study committee prepared a scope of study and study materials to be used by the individual Local Leagues in California. The Local Leagues submitted the results of their study and consensus process to LWVC and the revisions to the position were formulated and approved by the LWVC Board of Directors.

The core element in the League's position has remained the same through all revisions: *Support for citizens' right of direct legislation through the initiative and referendum.* The update identifies specific changes in the various stages of the initiative/referendum process and includes a set of principles to be considered.

### Drafting:

Require a pre-circulation review by a designated impartial, nonpartisan official and public access to review results; limit a proposal to one subject; use clear, readable language; provide for an automatic review or expiration; specify sources of funding, if funds would be required.

### Title and Summary:

The title and summary of statewide measures should be written by an impartial, non-partisan official.

### Signature Gathering:

Consider electronic signature gathering if appropriately safeguarded.

### Qualification of the item:

Filing fee should reflect the cost of processing proposals. Solicitation of signatures and campaign funds in the same mailing should be allowed.

### The Campaign:

Impose realistic limits to campaign contributions and to expenditures by individuals and groups. There should be free time for radio and TV information programs on proposals.

Ballot pamphlet analysis should be written at the reading level of the average citizen. The effect of a YES or NO vote should be clear in the ballot pamphlet and ballot label.

### Disclosure:

Name disclosure of proposal sponsors, support/oppose committees, and principle contributors on ballot pamphlet, mailings and ads. Committee names should reflect the true economic or special interest of the group.

### Election:

Cannot provide for different outcomes depending on the number of votes cast in favor of a proposal.

### Post-Election

If two or more initiatives with conflicting provisions pass in the same election, the one with the greatest number of votes should be enacted. Initiatives that do not pass may appear on a subsequent ballot.

### Principles:

The following principles are included to be used in evaluating the stages of the initiative/referendum process:

- Accessibility
- Accountability
- Clarity
- Integrity
- Transparency
- Compromise
- Respect for Rights
- Deliberative Process
- Impartiality

The full position is on the LWVCA website. Go to:

- [ca.lwv.org/members only](http://ca.lwv.org/members_only)
- **click on : Managing Your League [LWVC Leaders UPDATES](#)**
- **Click on The [most recent \(June\) Board UPDATES.](#)**
- **Scroll down to Legislation and Advocacy**

You will see at the top: Updated Initiative and Referendum position. Click on that item and you will have the new position before you.

## STATE CONVENTION - Money in Politics

Phyllis O'Connor, LWVLB

At the Convention, the LWVC recognized the importance of this issue by presenting two approaches to Money in Politics.

The first was a luncheon speech to all attendees by Ann Ravel, Chair of the California Fair Political Practices Commission (FPPC). Her comments touched upon the effects of the Citizens United decision, which approved unlimited expenditures by PACs and Independent Expenditure Committees (IECs) and also (astonishingly) found that they can't be corrupting.

Often, many of the contributions to IECs are anonymous, and Ravel pointed out that disclosure really doesn't work when we're dealing with "dark money." IECs are prohibited from "coordinating" with candidate's campaigns, but the FEC doesn't have clear rules about what constitutes "coordinating". The FPPC has brought the first ever case to the FEC about clarification of the coordination prohibition.

Ravel quoted several pertinent statistics relating to peoples' attitudes toward civic engagement, noting that 65% of people said they trust government less than they used to because big donors to super PACs have more influence; only 28% of people have a high favorable rating of Congress; over the years, when surveys have asked, "Do you trust your government to do the right thing, most of the time?", positive responses used to be 50-60% but now they are below 20%!

Ravel takes a pragmatic point of view towards campaign finance reform: there may not be a perfect fix for the influence of big money in politics, but, she said, "let's get something done"; for example, "robust disclosure requirements will have a really big impact on restoring public trust." Disclosure needs to be accessible, understandable, and available for analysis (e.g., in a standardized digital format rather than scanned copies of submitted paper documents in many different formats.)

The second approach to "Money in Politics" was a Caucus, an open discussion chaired by LWVC Board members Helen Hutchinson and Chris Carson. LWVC has adopted this name for the issue rather than the more soporific "Campaign Finance Reform". This

is a problem which has broad consequences. "If you care about *any* issue", said Carson, "you need to pay attention to the money flow which stops what you want" as a supporter of that issue. Carson is developing educational materials to be made available to local leagues through the state League. The goal is to develop a simple and direct message, to be communicated through sample letters to the editor, op ed pieces and other means. Members present at the Caucus will have the opportunity to comment on drafts of the proposed materials before they're made available to all members.

All attendees contributed to the discussion; among the comments which struck me as especially helpful were these:

1) Although the problem of Big Money seems outrageous and very difficult to "fix", our approach shouldn't be all negative. It's not enough to educate the voters on the problems which unlimited campaign expenditures have caused and will continue to cause; we need to put forward a vision of how it should be. Our education of the public should try not to feed on and reinforce the general feeling of cynicism and powerlessness in the face of the big spenders; Instead, the mindset needs to be changed, to get people to think about alternate scenarios: What If ... campaigns weren't prohibitively expensive? ... the election period was much shorter? ... we could always trust politicians to do the right thing and not be influenced by contributors? and so on. Above all, we need to leave our audience or readers with the sense that ultimately, the problem can be fixed. The message that "this is a hopeless mess" won't inspire change.

2) We need to revitalize and reinvigorate our Speakers' Bureau if all it does is Pros & Cons. We should have presentations available on several key League topics, among them Money in Politics, and solicit presentations to a variety of community groups.

3) Among our resources should be a list of speakers on the topic; not necessarily politicians, but journalists, academics, former officeholders, campaign managers and lobbyists; what we need are speakers who can make their presentations engaging, succinct and challenging.

**Mental Health Update-Release of DSM- 5**

Vi Iungerich

In May, a new revision of the diagnostic handbook for mental health issues was released. The Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of mental Disorders, edition 5, known as DSM-5 replaces all earlier editions and impacts all mental health providers as well as insurance companies and courts that need information for insurance reimbursement or court decisions involving mental health issues.

The first edition of DSM-I was in 1952. At that time it was more of a tool to keep statistical records for the American Psychiatric Association and each edition is an update and reflection on the state of knowledge about mental disorders. In the first edition psychoanalytical theory was king and many mental illnesses were considered neuroses as defined by Freud. It was not used as much of a tool to diagnose or define conditions as to keep statistics for hospital use. DSM-II was the first edition to describe conditions and listed 182 conditions. It conformed with the ICD system which is a world-wide system. This manual was not widely influential because the written descriptions were not reliable and left too much discretion to the clinician for interpretation.

Six years later DSM-III was published and the manual now tried to have a diagnostic tool where everyone agreed on the signs and symptoms of a disorder. This brought mental health practitioners closer to scientific thought and reliability. DSM-III listed 265 categories. It was revised as DSM-III R, DSM-IV and DSM-IV TR but the basic format did not change in these editions. Instead conditions were expanded and refined. In these editions a patient was diagnosed on a set of AXIS as follows:

**AXIS I** Clinical Disorders (each with a code number that was defined)

**AXIS II** Personality Disorders and Mental Retardation (each with a code number)

**AXIS III** General Medical Conditions (with ICD-9-CM code numbers)

**AXIS IV** Psychosocial and Environmental Problems (commonly using a v-code)

**AXIS V** Global Assessment of Functioning (GAF scale of 1-100 with a time line)

In the new DSM-5 edition, there have been some major changes. DSM-5 tries to incorporate more of the new research and look forward to how the major researchers see mental disorders evolving in the future. The main difference is that the old Axis system has been dismantled and AXIS- I to III have been combined into one section. V codes are still used but placed in the main section of the manual.

Additional areas of evaluation now include patient self reporting, cultural factors, and crosscutting system measures. Many of these conform to the World Health Organization Disability Assessment Schedule and some assessment tools need to be accessed online.

Most diagnoses are coded twice. The first code is to be used through September 2014 and the second code after October 2014. The general grouping of disorders have been changed for some areas and now reflect areas of research and interest.

Areas of disagreement that did not have support for full inclusion in the main manual are listed at the back under "conditions for further study" and include such areas as "caffeine use disorder" or Internet Gaming Disorder".

In a further update in this Voter, the main areas of the new manual will be explained and criticism of the new manual will be presented.

## Statistical Portrait of Los Angeles County 2011

Compiled by Vi Iungerich

The following detailed statistics are the most recent available. The year 2011 was released in 2012. The statistics for 2012 will be released in 2013 but have not been released at this date. They may become available in July of 2012.

### Population:

Total population--- 9.9 million  
 Females 51%  
 Males 49 %

### Median age 35.0 years

24% 18 and under  
 11% 65 and older

### Nativity and Foreign Born

65 % native born  
 35 % foreign born (47% naturalized US citizens)  
 58.4% Latin American  
 34% Asian  
 4.5 European  
 1.6 African  
 0.8 North American  
 0.4 Oceania

### Language:

43% English  
 57% spoke a language other than English at home (46% reported they did not speak English "very well")  
 69.4 % Spanish  
 19% Asian and Pacific Islander  
 9.9% Indo-European  
 1.7% other

### Household and Families

3.2 million households with and average of 3 people  
 67% family households  
 44% married couples  
 22.8% other families  
 25.9% living alone  
 7.3% other nonfamilies  
 315,000 grandparents live with grandchildren under 18 years. Of these grandparents 27% (85,050) have financial responsibility for their grandchildren.

### Income:

Median Income of households \$52,280  
 13% of households are below \$15,000  
 11% of households are above \$150,000  
 82% of households have "regular" income  
 23% social security (average income \$15,554)  
 12% retirement income other than social security  
 Median income for males \$41,237  
 Median Income for females \$39,624

### Occupations:

78.5 % Private wage and salary workers  
 12% Federal, state or local government  
 9.3% Self-employed in their own not incorporated business  
 35.2% management, business, science and arts occupations  
 19.4% service occupations  
 24.7% sales and office occupations  
 7.9% natural resources, construction, and maintenance occupations  
 12.8% production, transportation and material moving occupations

### Education:

People over 25 years of age:  
 21% High School or equivalency  
 10.1% Graduate or professional degree  
 19.1% Bachelor's degree  
 6.9% Associates degree  
 19.4% Some college—no degree  
 23.7% Less than high school diploma

### School population - Total- 2.8 million

Nursery and kindergarten 292,000  
 Elementary-high school 1.6 million  
 College or graduate school 858,000

### Disability: 9% total of population

The likelihood of disability by age:  
 3% under 18 years  
 7% 18 to 64 years  
 38% 65 and over

**LWV California State Convention 2014**  
**MY LEAGUE – LEADING THE CHARGE FOR CHANGE**

Nancy Mahr

The 2014 LWVC Convention was held in San Jose May 17-19. Just under 280 delegates, non-voting members, guests, and staff gathered for the annual event. Over 50 Local Leagues were represented. The Convention adopted a budget, elected officers, amended the bylaws and determined program. The Convention included inspiring speakers, timely workshops, lively caucuses, and some exciting action in the plenary sessions.

**WORKSHOPS**

Workshops addressed a variety of subjects and interests. Technology was highlighted: Smart Voter “Next Generation,” websites, creating videos, voter service on the web, and using social media. Action was another emphasis: taking action locally, advocacy on state issues, and civic engagement. Social issues were represented with healthcare reform and the ACA. Finance included fundraising, and the state budget.

**SPEAKERS**

Speakers provided information and stimulation. Megan Farnsworth of the Center for Investigative Reporting described story collaborations that could be a part of Smart Voter’s Next Gen format. Noted fundraiser Kim Klein introduced the Building Movement Project with a focus on building the capacity of non-profits to lead in areas of social change and common good. Ann Ravel, Chair of the FPPC, commented on the current status of the Political Reform Act of 1974 and spoke in support of robust disclosure to boost public trust. California Budget Project Director Chris Hoene discussed the state budget and voiced concerns of income projections and new project expenses. Cheryl Graeve, Senior Director of Membership and Field Support for LWVUS was joined by Jenny Waggoner and LWVC Executive Director Melissa Breach and responded to questions from the members.

At a smaller gathering, John McManus - journalist, Stanford professor, and author – spoke on news and information in the digital age and warned of manipulation.

**ELECTION**

The following offices were elected:  
President, Jenny Waggoner;  
1<sup>st</sup> VP Admin, Kathy Armstrong;  
2<sup>nd</sup> VP Program and Advocacy, Helen Hutchison;  
LWVCEF 2<sup>nd</sup> VP Voter Service, Kathy Souza;  
Treasurer, Eleanor Gonzales;  
Secretary, Ellen Wheeler;

Elected Directors are:

Patrick Atwater, Sara Diefendorf (Natural Resources),  
Mony Flores-Bauer (Voter Service),  
Fatima Malik (Communications),  
Beth Pitton-August (Membership),  
Kay Ragan (Social Policy), and  
Syeda Reshma Inamdar (Community Outreach).  
Nominating Committee: Caroline deLlamas (Chair),  
Lottie Fox, and Ann Havlik.



Congratulations to Fatima Malik (center) (Beach Cities, LA County) on being elected to the State Board as Communications Director. She is introduced to the Convention.

*Continued on page*

LWV Convention Summary Continued from page 8

### PROGRAM: 2013-2015

The Convention voted to maintain the current program positions.

Two priority issues for education and advocacy were adopted:

- Money in Politics – There are several bills in the state Legislature on this issue. An LWVUS task force is developing materials that can be used by Local Leagues.
- Education – Focus on education finance early childhood through 12.

Two second-tier issues for education and advocacy were adopted:

- Health Care – ACA and single payer
- Water – Water measures are expected on the 2014 ballot.

The Convention adopted a new state study on Higher Education, including governance, the selection process and finance. A study committee will be formed to set the scope and prepare study materials.

The state Board announced its Legislative Priorities for the biennium. Money in Politics (Campaign Finance Reform) and State and Local Finance, including the state budget and education finance, are the two priority issues. Second-tier issues are Protection of CEQA, Election Reform, Fracking, and Water.

### BUDGET

A budget for 2013-2014 was adopted with no increase in PMP and an emphasis on donations and fundraising.

### BYLAWS

The Bylaws were amended to include a new standing committee – the Advancement Committee – focused on fund development and planning. A second amendment added the Executive Director to the Budget Committee.

This was an active convention with something happening every minute. The plans laid at Convention will produce a busy and productive year ahead for our Leagues in California.



At State Convention - Nancy Mahr, LWVLA County ILO President with County board members Dorothy Stewart (L) and Fatima Malik (R).





# L.A. VOTES: WHAT IT MEANS FOR THE COUNTY, THE REGION, THE STATE, AND THE NATION

## League of Women Voters/Los Angeles County

**SATURDAY, JULY 27, 2013**

**9:30 AM TO 2:00 PM**

**WOMEN'S CITY CLUB**

**160 N. OAKLAND AVE., PASADENA**

Parking is located in rear off N. Madison Avenue—  
Just 1-1/2 blocks north of Colorado Blvd.

**GUEST SPEAKER**  
**RAPHAEL J. SONENSHEIN**  
**PH.D**  
**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**  
**PAT BROWN INSTITUTE**



**WORKSHOPS**  
Presidents  
Agriculture  
Education  
Smart Voter

Dr. Sonenshein is the award winning Executive Director of the Pat Brown Institute of Public Affairs (PBI) that is dedicated to the quest for social justice, equality of opportunity, enlightened civic engagement and the improvement of the quality of life for all Californians. He is also the author of three books on Los Angeles politics and government.

Please send form and check payable to **LWV/LAC**

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

League Name \_\_\_\_\_

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Reservations # \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$30.00 Total enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Reservations # \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$35.00 Total enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_ if postmarked after July 15, 2013**

Fashion Chicken Salad # \_\_\_\_\_ Veggie Salad # \_\_\_\_\_ w/o NUTS or other allergens # \_\_\_\_\_  
(name food)

**PLEASE SIGN UP FOR A MORNING WORKSHOP**

- |                      |                      |
|----------------------|----------------------|
| 1. Presidents _____  | 3. Education _____   |
| 2. Agriculture _____ | 4. Smart Voter _____ |

## LWV/LA County VOTER

June/July 2013

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.

### SUBSCRIBE to the VOTER

Send your email address to the Voter editor to be notified of the latest VOTER posted on our website at: [www.lacilo.ca.lwvnet.org](http://www.lacilo.ca.lwvnet.org) and to be included on the email distribution list.

Send to: [mebarnes@aol.com](mailto:mebarnes@aol.com)

### Join Us

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. **Find a local League below :**

Beach Cities - [beachcities.ca.lwvnet.org](http://beachcities.ca.lwvnet.org)

Claremont Area- [claremont.ca.lwvnet.org](http://claremont.ca.lwvnet.org)

East San Gabriel Valley- [esgv.ca.lwvnet.org](http://esgv.ca.lwvnet.org)

Glendale-Burbank - [gb.ca.lwvnet.org](http://gb.ca.lwvnet.org)

Long Beach Area - [lba.ca.lwvnet.org](http://lba.ca.lwvnet.org)

Los Angeles - [lwvlosangeles.org](http://lwvlosangeles.org)

Palos Verdes Peninsula - [palosverdes.com/lwv](http://palosverdes.com/lwv)

Pasadena Area - [lwv-pa.org](http://lwv-pa.org)

Santa Monica - [lwvsantamonica.org](http://lwvsantamonica.org)

Torrance Area - [torrance.ca.lwvnet.org](http://torrance.ca.lwvnet.org)

Whittier - [whittier.ca.lwvnet.org](http://whittier.ca.lwvnet.org)

### 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

On our website: [www.lacilo.ca.lwvnet.org](http://www.lacilo.ca.lwvnet.org)



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