



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 • Whittier

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February 2009

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Nominations
Amy Bishop Dunbar

Calendar

- Tues, Feb 10** County Board Meeting, 9:30-1:30 at Georganne Thomsen's
- Mon, Feb 16** LWVLA League Day at Pickwick Gardens, Burbank
Topic: National Popular Vote
- Mon, Feb 23** Redistricting Hearing at the L.A. Central Library -
Mark Taper Auditorium 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.
- Tues, Mar 10** County Board Meeting, 9:30-1:30 at the LALWV Office
- Sat, Mar 28** Convention 2009, 9:00-12:00 at Pickwick Gardens, Burbank
- Tues, Apr. 14** County Board Meeting, 9:30-1:30 at the Pasadena Women's
City Club
- Sat. May 9** HealthCare4All Conference- Single Payer Health Care
at the Pasadena Presbyterian Church
- May 15-17** State Convention in Long Beach
- May 19-20** County Board Retreat at the Mary & Joseph Center, PVP
- June 13** National Council - Virtual Meeting
- Sat, July 25** Popovers, 9:30-2:00 at the Pasadena Women's City Club

County Convention 2009

March 28, 2009

9:00 a.m. to 12 noon

Pickwick Gardens

1001 Riverside Dr., Burbank, 91506

\$25 per person - \$30 after March 13

Watch for a flyer with registration information coming soon.

The flyer will be posted on the LWV/LACounty Web site.

From the President's Desk...

- Nancy Mahr

Thanks to our panelists and speaker for sharing their expertise on water issues with League members at the County Winter League Day, January 31. Special thanks to Jack Sullivan for putting together an interesting and informative event.

Local League discussions of the LWVUS National Popular Vote (NPV) study are coming up soon. Leagues have received information by mail and there is material on the LWVUS Web site. Another opportunity to learn more about the issue is offered by the LWVLA at a special League Day devoted to NPV – Monday, February 16, 2009, at Pickwick Gardens in Burbank. I hope many of you can participate and then share information with your local League members.

The State budget crisis continues. No matter what approach is finally agreed to by the Legislature and the Governor, there will be local impacts for Los Angeles County and all of our communities. Concerns have been voiced over possible reductions in many County-run social services, including health clinics. Keep abreast of the ways your communities may be impacted and contact your legislators regarding service losses.

The LWV/LACounty study of the County jail system is moving forward. The study committee continues to meet to establish the scope and develop resource materials and consensus questions. To date, committee members represent only 4 of our local Leagues. I know the committee would welcome more participants.

The LWV/LACounty Convention will take place on March 28, 2009. Save the date and plan to join League members throughout the County for the morning event at Pickwick Gardens in Burbank.

Nancy - nlmahr@cox.net

OK, Its Time for Plan B
John D. Sullivan, Natural Resources, LWV/LAC

It is always useful in life to have alternative strategies in case one's first plan of action does not work out. Many would argue that we have been, as a nation and a planet, in need of a "plan B" for some time. We are all familiar with the catalog of environmental problems: air unfit to breath, water unfit to drink, congested transportation systems, diminishing water supplies, suburban sprawl, etc. We already see the effects of global warming in melting glaciers and threatened coastal areas.

But what to do? Lester Brown in *Plan B 3.0: Mobilizing to Save Civilization* (New York: W. W. Norton, 2008), lays out a set of strategies to get us started on the job of rescuing the planet. Brown reminds us that much of what we now do in terms of consumption (energy, water, and other resources) involves externalities, that is, costs that are passed on to others. To take one example, it has been estimated that the external costs of consuming gasoline to power our autos amount to about \$12 a gallon. These costs include the polluted air that results from using fossil fuels to power autos. So, the true cost of a gallon of gasoline is the \$3 we pay at the pump plus the external costs of \$12 for a total of \$15. Keep in mind

that these external costs are shared by all people regardless of whether they drive a car or not.

Brown's book is replete with such examples of how our current consumption patterns create externalities and waste resources. Brown argues for Plan B which would have us redirect the way we generate energy. He proposes that we reduce our CO₂ emissions by 80%, from 9180 million tons to 1700 million tons, by 2020. He argues that we can do this by replacing fossil fuels with renewable energy for electricity and heat, sequester more carbon, reduce deforestation, and reduce the use of coal. We can achieve this goal, he suggests, by switching to wind power and geothermal energy.

Brown's book is a very worthwhile read and could form the basis for discussion for action by local leagues interested in working on environmental problems. The book can be downloaded for free (or purchased as a paperback) from the Earth Policy Institute site at <http://www.earth-policy.org>. There is a wealth of additional information and updates available at that site.

News from LWVCA

AQUAFORNIA, a Water News Blog

In addition to forums, tours and publications, the Water Education Foundation has developed Aquaforia, a water news blog for California - www.aquaforia.com. A quick reference to what's happening on water issues, the blog posts information about upcoming conferences and articles posted by contributors.

Sunshine Week: March 15–21, 2009

Plan to send a letter to your local paper, talk about Sunshine Week on Facebook, blog about it, or conduct a simple information audit and report to the public. It's an easy way to promote one of our core issues and raise your League's visibility in your community.

Pros and Cons Discontinued

After analyzing our voter service products and services to determine the most effective programs on which to focus our limited resources, we have decided to discontinue producing *Pros and Cons*. The Quick Reference Guide in the Secretary of State's *Official Voter Information Guide* adopted our best practices for succinct and clear voter information, and this publication is sent to every registered voter in California. The number of *Pros and Cons* distributed by local Leagues has been consistently shrinking in recent elections and, in addition, many Leagues find the cost prohibitive.

We believe that we can better meet local League needs by focusing our resources on the free *Easy Voter Guide*, improving the *In Depth*, and strengthening our online services:

www.SmartVoter.org

www.EasyVoter.org

www.ca.lwv.org

and our members only page:

www.ca.lwv.org/lwvonly

ENACT Revival

LWV/LACounty Natural Resources Director Jack Sullivan, is working with others to reactivate the LWV Environmental Action Committee known as ENACT. It has been a venue for discussion and action on environmental policy in southern California, primarily within the South Coast Air Basin, but more recently involving North San Diego County as well. In the past, ENACT generally went on tours and also held meetings at which members shared information and action items from their respective areas. Environmental issues of interest to ENACT participants include water, air, land use, transportation, solid waste, energy, and regional planning.

If you would like to be contacted about future meetings and tours, please send an email to Jack Sullivan or Margo Reeg – addresses below. We hope to have at least one contact person in each League so information on tours and events will reach all local Leagues.

Jack Sullivan: jack_sullivan@pitzer.edu

Margo Reeg: margoreeg@yahoo.com



**THE LEAGUE
OF WOMEN VOTERS®
OF LOS ANGELES**

A FREE forum

Water Crisis in Los Angeles

- *What is the current water supply for the City?*
- *What can I do to conserve water? Will incentives be offered?*
- *What will be the effects of climate change and increased population on water supply?*
- *What steps is DWP taking to address these problems?*
- *Will my family be safe drinking Recycled Water?*

KEYNOTE SPEAKER H. David Nahai, CEO and GM of LADWP

AGENCY EXPERTS Reina Pereira, PE, LA Bureau of Sanitation
 Andy Lipkis, TreePeople
 Ellen Mackey, Sr. Ecologist
 Alexia Mackey, Student Activist

Thurs., April 23, 2009

9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Tillman Water Reclamation Plant

6100 Woodley Ave.

Van Nuys

Bring your own lunch. Coffee and cookies provided.

Free Tour of Japanese Garden 1 - 2 p.m.

Reservations for free event: (213) 368-1616 or nima@lwvlosangeles.org

3250 Wilshire Boulevard, Suite 1005, Los Angeles CA 90010 •Tel. (213) 368-1616; Fax: (213) 368-1615
E-mail: info@lwvlosangeles.org • Website: www.lwvlosangeles.org

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> or for a hard copy subscription send \$10 to:
LWV/LACounty Treasurer,
427 E. Walnut Avenue, Burbank, CA 91501.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ Zip _____

Local 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: <http://www.lacilo.ca.lwvnet.org>



Nancy Mahr, LWV/LACounty President
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