



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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January 2009

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Amy Bishop Dunbar

Calendar

- | | |
|-----------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Tues, Jan 13 | County Board Meeting, 9:30-1:30 at the LA League Office |
| Sat, Jan 17 | County Jail Study Committee Meeting, 10:00 at the Pasadena League Office |
| Sat, Jan 31 | Winter League Day on Water at Taix Restaurant, LA, 9:30-2:00 |
| Tues, Feb 10 | County Board Meeting, 9:30-1:30 in Culver City or Whittier |
| Tues, Mar 10 | County Board Meeting, 9:30-1:30 LA League Office |
| Sat, Mar 28 | County Convention 2009 9:00-12:00 Pickwick Gardens, Burbank |
| Tues, April 14 | County Board Meeting, 9:30-1:30 Location TBA |

County Jail Study

The next meeting of the **Jail Study Committee** is on **Saturday, January 17, 2009**, at the Pasadena League Office.

The Committee needs a few more members. Join in and help shape this important study!

Call one of the co-chairs:
Betsey Coffman, 909-626-1540;
Vi Iungerich, 310-541-5092

From the President's Desk...**- Nancy Mahr**

Welcome 2009! As the new year begins, include LWV in your new year's resolutions. Plan time to participate in your local League's activities. Volunteer to serve on your board or on a committee – or on the County League board or committee. Whether large or small, commit some time to LWV.

The beginning of each new year is a time for League members to focus on program. Local Leagues will be setting up meetings to explore the LWVUS study on the National Popular Vote and to discuss LWVC program planning. Every voice and point of view is important to these efforts – participate. For background information, check out the online resources offered by the state and national Leagues: www.lwv.org, and www.ca.lwv.org.

We all worked hard in the past elections and, individually, we held strong views and preferences. Now the time to follow the outcomes is here. Keep track of the actions taken – or not taken – in Washington, Sacramento, LA County, and your city. Follow the news and be informed.

I want to thank the County League board members, the local Leagues, and all of our League members for outstanding work in 2008. I wish you all a happy, healthy, and productive 2009.

Nancy - nlmahr@cox.net

Water Woes**John Sullivan, Natural Resources, LWC/LAC**

As we start 2009, it seems that the news about California's water gets worse. A report on the last day of 2008 indicated that the water content of the snow in the Sierra Nevada Mountains is 83% of normal. This means less water for San Joaquin Valley farmers and less water for southern California residents and business. In 2007, a Federal judge ordered a reduction of pumping from the Sacramento-San Joaquin river Delta. The judge acted to protect an endangered species, the Delta smelt.

In addition, the Governor declared a state drought and asked Californians to reduce water use by 20%. All of this bodes ill for the future. It is important to keep in mind that the Sierra Nevada Mountains act as a water storage facility for the state. When precipitation falls as snow, it is held in the mountains until the spring melt begins. This water then flows down the mountain and can be used by farmers and others.

Continued global warming (GW) will likely disrupt that process. It is expected that there will be as much precipitation with GW but that more of it will be rain rather than snow. Thus it will run off the mountain during the winter which could cause flooding downstream. And, of course, there will be a smaller snow pack for the spring melt. All of this is happening while the state's population continues to grow; such growth will put additional demands on California's water system.

A major concern here for policy makers and citizens is the state of the Delta. A glance at a map of California will show the Delta is like the bottom of a basin with water from the surrounding mountains flowing into it.

The quality of the water flowing into the Delta and extractions from the Delta for transport south have led to a fear that the Delta could collapse as a viable ecosystem. Should this happen, water shipments to the south could be curtailed even more, perhaps by as much as 50%. It is safe to say that we are at the cusp of a water crisis, if not in the middle of one.

People who bought homes in a gated community on the outskirts of Lancaster are already living this crisis. The local water district is unable to provide water for the entire development and many of the homes and lots remain unsold. For those who did buy there, water is a major problem. During the day, water pressure is very low requiring some residents to bathe at 4 AM. Residents who thought they were moving into a luxury community now find that water supply for every day living is unreliable and that gardens and lawns are out of the question. The developer has stopped construction on additional homes. People who bought homes now find them impossible to sell. They are trapped in a difficult situation with insufficient water to create the lifestyle they had planned.

All Californians face many difficult choices in the coming years, not least of which is the allocation of the state's water resources. It is highly likely that southern Californians will have to rethink their lifestyles in light of growing water shortages. LWV/LAC will explore some of these issues at its winter League Day on January 31st. Please see the announcement in this VOTER.

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS
OF LOS ANGELES COUNTY

Got Water?

Or Where Has All the Water Gone?

Sat., January 31, 2009

9:30 to 2:00 PM
\$25 per person

Taix Restaurant
911 Sunset Boulevard
Los Angeles, CA 09926
213-484-1265

Reservations and
payment
to be sent to
LWV/LACounty
Treasurer
427 E. Walnut Ave.
Burbank, CA 91501

Deadline
Wed., January 21, 2009
Postmarks after Jan. 21 -
\$30



Panel discussion

Tim Blair, MWD Representative

Richard Nagel, West Basin Water District Representative

Wendy Phillips, LWVC

Convener and Moderator Jack Sullivan, LWV/LACounty

Luncheon Speaker

Susan Jett, Director of Horticulture

Rancho Santa Ana Garden



Send form & check by Wed. January 21, 2009 Mail to LWV/LACounty Treasurer, 427 E. Walnut Ave., Burbank, CA League _____ Name(s) _____		
Chicken Lunch _____	Vegetarian Lunch _____	Allergies _____
No. Reservations _____ @ \$25.00 = Total \$ _____ If Postmarked After January 21, 2009 No. Reservations _____ @ \$30.00 = Total \$ _____		

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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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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