



# LWV/LAC VOTER

## LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS® OF LOS ANGELES COUNTY

An Inter-League Organization — Beach Cities • Claremont Area • East San Gabriel Valley • Glendale-Burbank • Long Beach Area  
Los Angeles • Palos Verdes Peninsula • Pasadena Area • Santa Monica • Torrance ■ Whittier

ISSUE ELEVEN

E-mail [lwvlacounty@msn.org](mailto:lwvlacounty@msn.org)

FEBRUARY 2008



### Calendar

- Tues. Feb 5 Presidential Primary Election
- Thurs. Feb 7 Los Angeles Harbor Tour
- Tues. Feb 12 LWV/LAC Board Meeting, La Canada County Library, 9:30-1:30
- Tues. Mar 11 LWV/LAC Board Meeting, LWVLA Office, Wilshire Bl., 9:30-1:30
- Sat. Mar 29 46<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention at Almansor Court, Alhambra – L.A. County CEO William T Fujioka, 9:30-2:00
- Sat. April 26 LWV/LAC Ballot Briefing for *June Primary* at East Los Angeles Library, 9:30 – 2:30

### ***The first round of Voting Has Begun — Lola Ungar, President***

Welcome to this election year of 2008 when the League and its members have been and will continue to take part in the preparation and education of the public for a minimum of 3 elections. Perhaps, you have observed that cable stations showed our LWV/LAC DVD over and over again describing the 7 propositions and their pros and cons. This year, the public has become more aware of the importance of a single vote as never before. The issues are many: The wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, erratic spikes in the stock market and oil prices that affect job security, lack of affordable health care, a water crisis in our region and the southeast, along with global warming are just a few. Our citizens want to be heard and want to make a difference with their vote.

LWVC President Janis Hirohama says, “It is because voting is the practical stuff of which democracy is made. Voting is power. Voting gives you a voice. Voting enables you to hold institutions of power accountable. That is why the ‘powers that be’ through history and across many cultures have sought to exclude certain groups from the franchise, including women, blacks, immigrants, slaves, and non-property owners.”

Many of our forefathers came from countries where they could not move about freely, were not permitted to own their own land, were attacked repeatedly by waves of pogroms, could not vote and also happened to be born women. Most recently, the struggles of the American civil rights movement of the 1950’s and 1960’s gave us all a new understanding of the value and meaning of the right to vote and the need to do something about preserving that right.

Now, as League members, let us remember the special people that we honor this month, Presidents George Washington and Abraham Lincoln who represent these ideals and the preservation of our freedoms, and let us also remind ourselves that the work we do as League members will continue to prepare more and more people in the Los Angeles region to realize their power when they vote. —LMU

***Notice from your VOTER Editor—Did you know that your League can use articles from other Voters? You simply need to credit the source.***



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# 46<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention

## THE ROLE OF A STRONGER CEO

Los Angeles County Chief Executive Officer

### William T Fujioka



Mr. Fujioka will give us an update briefing since taking office in mid-2007 on his role as Los Angeles County's CEO with new authority and direction over most of the county departments, the changes that are currently taking place (i.e., personnel and expenditures), and the future changes that he foresees in the County's budget and operations.

**Saturday, March 29, 2008**

**9:30 AM – 2:00 PM**

**Almanson Court  
700 Almanson Street  
Alhambra, CA 91801  
626-570-4600**

Convention Kits for delegates will be mailed to Local League Presidents by the end of February. Additional copies will be available at the meeting.

All members are encouraged to attend.



Send form and check payable to LWV/LAC  
Mail to LWV/LAC Treasurer, 427 E. Walnut Ave., Burbank 91501

League \_\_\_\_\_

Please highlight delegates names with a (D).

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

**Deadline is March 21, 2008**

Reservations # \_\_\_\_\_ @\$25.00 = Total \$ \_\_\_\_\_

***If Postmarked After March 21st***  
Reservations # \_\_\_\_\_ @\$30.00 = Total \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Chicken Entrees # \_\_\_\_\_ Vegetarian Entrees # \_\_\_\_\_ Entrees **W/O NUTS** # \_\_\_\_\_

**Directions to Almansor Court Conference Center**

700 South Almansor Street  
Alhambra, California 91801  
626-570-4600

Fax: (626) 570-0268

<http://www.almansorcourt.com/>

**From the 10 Freeway, going EAST:**

Merge onto SOUTH GARFIELD AVENUE via Exit 23B toward Alhambra (1.2 miles).  
Turn RIGHT onto EAST LOS HIGOS STREET (0.3 miles).  
Turn LEFT onto SOUTH ALMANSOR STREET (0.2 miles).

**From the 10 Freeway, going WEST:**

Take the GARFIELD AVENUE exit- EXIT 23B- toward ALHAMBRA (0.1 miles).  
Merge onto SOUTH GARFIELD AVE via EXIT 24 toward ALHAMBRA (0.9 miles).  
Turn RIGHT onto EAST LOS HIGOS STREET (0.3 miles).  
Turn LEFT onto SOUTH ALMANSOR STREET (0.2 miles).

For specific directions from your starting point, please use MapQuest:  
<http://www.mapquest.com>  
Enter your address as the starting point and 700 South Almansor Street, Alhambra, California 91801 as the ending point.



## ***Child Care is Generating \$1.9 Billion for the Los Angeles County Economy***

***—by Joanne Levitt, Consultant***

The business of caring for and educating preschool children generates \$1.9 billion a year for the local economy and employs more than 65,000 people, according to a study released Monday by Los Angeles Universal Preschool, the Los Angeles County Child Care Planning Committee and the city of Los Angeles.

The study projects that early child care and education will create the sixth highest number of new jobs in Los Angeles County through 2016.

"That's more than is employed in computer and electronics manufacturing," said Jack Kyser, chief economist with the Los Angeles County Economic Development Corp. and a panelist at an event presenting the findings. "People think that child care is a net outflow, but it does recirculate money into the economy." — From REPORT: Economic impact of Early Care and Education industry in L.A.

## ***Will there be Less Water in the Near Future? (Part 1 of 2)*** ***Can We Set Limits to Growth?***

— *John D. Sullivan, Natural Resources, LWV/LAC*

Current projections indicate that the population of California will continue to grow in the coming years. At the same time, California's economy appears to be faltering and the State's budget is in very bad shape. There is much talk in Washington at present about the need for the federal government to provide a stimulus for the flagging U. S. economy. The likely approach will be a "tax rebate" to all taxpaying citizens which will happen in the spring if the president and congress can agree on the details. The hope is that those who receive the tax rebate will go out and buy new items such as cars and refrigerators and thereby stimulate growth in the economy. An increasing population should also have an effect on the economy in that more people lead to more demand for goods and service.



These two factors, population growth and economic growth, can place increasing pressures on the state's natural resources. In fact, a number of events in recent months indicate that the state may be reaching limits with respect to at least one natural resource, water (although there are indications of other limits such as clogged freeways and the unhealthy air we breathe). Some months ago, a federal judge ruled that less water must be pumped out of the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta to protect the Delta smelt (which is listed endangered under the Endangered Species Act). A number of political entities with some water management responsibilities have reacted to this in an effort to reduce demand for water.

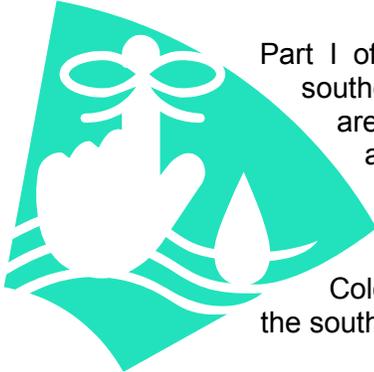
The city of Long Beach mandated that watering gardens outside of homes must be limited to night hours only. The Mayor of Los Angeles took a different approach by exhorting citizens of the city to reduce their consumption voluntarily. A water district near Hemet announced that a major commercial project had to be postponed because the district was uncertain about water supplies sufficient to meet the needs of this new development. The Southern California Metropolitan Water District (MWD) has announced that it is considering a shortage allocation plan that would reduce water deliveries to some member cities and agencies (adoption of the new plan will be considered in February). Finally, as a further sign of limits, the L. A. Times ran an article providing strategies for homeowners to use to reduce the flow of storm water from their property during rain storms. By keeping storm water upstream, so to speak, homeowners could use that water to irrigate their gardens and replenish local groundwater systems and reduce pollution flowing to the beach areas (storm water picks up all manner of waste from roadways and transports it to beach areas where it can make beaches unusable). Every drop of storm water used for garden irrigation reduces demand for imported water.

These are just some of the indicators of a growing crunch on the state's water resources. Each raises important policy issues and each has implications for the people of southern California. In Part II, we will look at some of the implications of these growing limits of our water resources.

# ***If there is Less Water in the Near Future, Will the Future Require Command and Control of Our Water Resources?***

*(Part 2 of 2)*

— *John D. Sullivan, Natural Resources, LWV/LAC*



Part I of this article (above) outlined the growing limits on water resources in southern California. The twin engines of population growth and economic growth are placing increasing stresses on water resources. It is important to note that about 50% of the water consumed in southern California is imported from the Colorado River and from the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta. Exports from the Delta have been reduced because of a threat to the Delta smelt. Diversions from the Colorado River could be limited because the Colorado River watershed is experiencing a serious drought (as is the rest of the southwest including southern California).

The cases mentioned in Part I all raise important public policy issues and bear further examination. To begin with, the efforts by Long Beach and L. A. to get citizens to reduce water consumption point to an important question: how do public entities such as cities get citizens to change their behavior? Long Beach took what might be called a “command and control” approach. The city mandated certain times when gardens could be watered. L. A. took a different approach relying on voluntary actions by citizens in response to the Mayor’s call. The results in each case are quite different. Long Beach saw about a 6% reduction in water consumption while water consumption in L. A. stayed almost flat (actually rising less than 1%). This strongly suggests that cities hoping to achieve reductions in water use cannot rely on the good will of citizens. It is not that the citizens of L. A. are in some sense “bad.” It is likely that a “let George do it” attitude prevailed. That is, many conscientious citizens probably thought that their own water consumption was already low (after all, they put in a low flow toilet last year) and that others would reduce enough to make a difference. It seems clear that “command and control” will need to be used more to get southern Californians to reduce water consumption.

The MWD announcement has generated some controversy because the proposed plan involves providing water to L. A. and communities experiencing growth while at the same time reducing supplies to older, more fully built-out communities. These latter communities are also home to minority groups which brings up questions of equity. Clearly, the proposed MWD plan bears watching and also raises important questions about who should bear the brunt of water shortages.

There is a third policy tool (in addition to command and control and voluntary compliance) that water managers could use and that is the price of water. That is, water could be priced using an increasing block structure in which small amounts are priced relatively low while increasing amounts are priced at increasingly high rates. The goal here is to get consumers to respond to price and reduce consumption.

The upshot of all this is that citizens will all have to increase their awareness of their own water consumption. Whether mandated to do so by a city or water district, or because there is simply less water in the pipeline, or to become part of the solution by altering gardens to keep some storm water from flowing away, citizens all will have to re-examine their relationship with water and make adjustments to their behavior.



Lola Ungar, LWV/LAC President  
 3903 Bluff Street  
 Torrance, CA 90505

## LWVC/LAC VOTER FEBRUARY 2008

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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 LWV/LAC VOTER**

Send the information below to be notified of the latest VOTER posted on our website at [lwvlacounty@msn.com](mailto:lwvlacounty@msn.com) or for a hard copy subscription send \$10 to LWV/LAC Treasurer, 427 E. Walnut Avenue, Burbank, CA 91501. Sign Up Today!!

Name \_\_\_\_\_

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City \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Local League \_\_\_\_\_

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### **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.cbproject.org](http://www.cbproject.org)  
 Analyzes the fiscal effects of statewide ballot measures

The FEBRUARY 2008 VOTER is ready for viewing on our website.  
<http://www.lacilo.ca.lwvnet.org>

  
**See Page 2 for  
 Your  
 Invitation to  
 the LWV/LAC  
 46<sup>th</sup> Annual  
 Convention  
 Saturday,  
 March 29,  
 2008**  
