



# LWV/LAC VOTER

## LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS® OF LOS ANGELES COUNTY

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

ISSUE TWO

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

July / August 2006

### CALENDAR

July 11-12, Tu&Wed LWV/LAC Retreat, Mary & Joseph Retreat Center  
Rancho Palos Verdes

July 29, Saturday Popovers in Pasadena, Women's City Club, 9:30-2:00 PM

Sept. 30, Saturday Ballot Briefing, Hollenbeck Home

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LOIS LEDGER

### **FROM THE PRESIDENT— Lola Ungar**

The 47<sup>th</sup> LWVUS national Convention in Minneapolis was truly exciting. As delegates, we elected a new LWVUS President Mary G. Wilson, a new Board of Directors and Nominating Committee. We passed the LWVUS 2006-07 budget with a raise in PMP of \$2.50 the first year and \$.50 the second year; \$26.30 in 2006-07 and \$26.80 in 2007-08. The delegates approved a 3-year study on Immigration and through concurrence agreed to work towards the abolition of the Death Penalty. A bylaw amendment was adopted to delete "of citizens" in the Purpose statement of the League, referring to active participation in government.

Delegates expressed their support for a new pilot membership recruitment initiative for those who are nearing retirement. Through the project, five Leagues will test messaging and recruitment materials, as well as receive technical assistance. A request for proposals will be announced by LWVUS.



The keynote speaker was Dr. Thomas Mann, co-author with Norman Ornstein, of *THE BROKEN BRANCH, How Congress is Failing America and How to Get It Back on Track*. The banquet speaker was one of Minneapolis' favorite sons, Garrison Keillor who managed to beguile us with memories of winning an LWV essay contest when he was ten years old and being awarded \$15 which gave him early career encouragement. He related other fond memories about Minneapolis comparing his life then with the vagaries of the young people of today (i.e., cell phones and numerous body piercings that make today's youth "look like they fell into a toolbox").

In a whirlwind of Caucuses & Workshops, I found myself staying up past my bedtime working with an outstanding group of Leaguers determined to pass a resolution on restoring our System of Checks and Balances and Separation of Powers to a top priority by adding it to our Democracy Agenda. Then, to our astonishment, when it came time to make our presentation, there was no opposition. The question was called and we were rewarded with overwhelming approval of the resolution by the delegates! Another resolution was approved to support voting systems that are designed to employ a voter-verifiable paper trail. I attended meetings on Sunshine Laws (the citizens right to know), New Presidents (preparing for July 29<sup>th</sup> Popovers workshop), and a workshop on Cross-Cultural Dialogues by Vivian Jenkins Nelsen.

There was an excellent Judicial Panel on "Understanding the System to Defend the Courts" with Moderator Bert Brandenburg, Executive Director, Justice at Stake Campaign and the following panelists: The Honorable Michael Wolff, Chief Justice, Missouri Supreme Court; Professor Charlie Geyh (pronounced "jay"), Indiana Law School; and Mary C. McQueen, President, National Center for State Courts. They defined the threats against the independence of the Courts and recommended the safeguarding of the Courts and the government's Checks & Balances.

LWVC received a Voter Education Award for SmartVoter.org. They can now market Smart Voter to Leagues in other states. Vice President Frances Talbott-White (Los Angeles League) reported that the Smart Voter booth was a big hit. There were also caucuses on green issues and electoral reform and a workshop on money matters. A resolution for priority action on health care was defeated.

I spent an exciting time with other ILO Presidents and delegates and afterwards met with my sister-Presidents of the San Diego & San Francisco ILOs. We three California ILOs have many issues in common and hope to keep in touch.

The LWVUS issued a press release about Convention action which can be found at [lww.org](http://lww.org).

Outside the hubbub of the Convention, some of my memorable experiences included the Minneapolis Sculpture Garden at the Walker Art Center featuring the enormous "Spoonbridge and Cherry" by Claes Oldenburg and Coosje van Bruggen, the American-Swedish Institute (a 33-room chateausque mansion built in the early 1900's that described the history of Swedish immigrants arriving in America in rooms with 15 exquisite rare Swedish tile stove fireplaces with matching decorative plaster sculpted ceilings), and the Mill (a General Mills living museum where we heard a dynamic portrayal by the "original engineer" about the harnessing of the Mississippi's water supply to power the mill, grind the flour, fill the flour sacks, etc., and also visited Betty Crocker's kitchen to taste fresh cookies and bread). The Minneapolis Hilton was a block away from Nicolett Avenue, the main drag. Let me emphasize that there is a wonderful public transportation system throughout the City proper though we walked to our dine-around experience with Minneapolis natives to the Tiburon (a Caribbean restaurant), breakfast at Hell's Kitchen (wait help wore shocking colored pajama/robe costumes), the Dakota (a jazz club), and stopped between buses at the Bad Waitress Coffee Shop where you had to write up your own order.

Though there was much to do and much to see at the Convention and in Minneapolis, the best part was meeting other open-minded women and men to talk about common interests and issues. It is difficult for me to express the good feeling and exhilaration of meeting old friends and getting to know others whom I have known only by phone or the internet.

Have I piqued your appetite about going to an LWV Convention? The next California Convention will be Presidents Council in Bakersfield in 2007, followed by the 48<sup>th</sup> LWVUS national Convention in Portland Oregon in 2008. Meanwhile, see you at Popovers in Pasadena on July 29<sup>th</sup>!

## **SUPERIOR COURT RUN-OFFS IN NOVEMBER**

Judicial candidates will be on the Los Angeles County ballot in November in four offices. Run-offs will be conducted in Office #8 between Deborah Sanchez, rated Well Qualified and Bob Henry, rated Qualified by the LA County Bar Association.

In Office #18, two Qualified candidates, Daviann L. Mitchell and John C. Gutierrez will face each other, having defeated a Well-Qualified candidate Richard Loomis and three candidates rated Not Qualified. For Office #102 Hayden Zacky, rated Well Qualified, will face George C. Montgomery, rated Not Qualified, by the Bar Assn. Finally, Janis Levart Barquist will run against David W. Stuart, both rated Well Qualified, for Office #144.

The LA County League of Women Voters intends to conduct some form of Candidates Forum or interviews of these judicial candidates to help the voters learn more about them before making their decisions.

## **VOTERS SERVICE — Margo Reeg**

### **ELECTION RESULTS--JUNE PRIMARY**

Voter apathy or voter fatigue seemed to be the attitude for the June Gubernatorial Primary in California. With only two statewide ballot measures, big issues were not a draw. Contests within the Democratic party for state level offices turned nasty in the Governor's race. Some Assembly and Senate races were fought via intense mail campaigns. But the voters must have been turned off by the barrage of ads because the statewide turnout was only 30.5%. Los Angeles County was even worse at 25%. The only county with respectable numbers of people voting was Sacramento with 56%.

This low turnout contributed to the defeat of the Library Construction and Renovation Bond, Prop. 81 and the Preschool for All measure, Prop. 82. However, the library measure did pass in Los Angeles County.

In Los Angeles County the Registrar-Recorder's Office reported 3,839,483 registered voters of whom 981,396 cast ballots. Of those, according to the LA TIMES analysis, 45% chose to vote Democratic tickets, 44% chose Republican ballots and 7% were Decline to State nonpartisan. Less than 2% voted 3rd party tickets. The final canvass will be completed by July 3 at which time all absentee and provisional ballots will have been counted.

Although there were 17 Touchscreen Early Voting locations available for 10 days of voting throughout the County, some open during business hours from 8:30 to 4:30 and others open library hours from 11 to 7, only about 10,500 voters chose to use the new Touchscreen machines. These machines print the voter's choices so the voter can verify that the machine is recording votes as cast. The printout is stored in the voting machine and later secured to be used in case of a recount or for the 1% manual count required for all elections.

We hope that voters will be more interested in the final election in November when they will choose the Governor and other Constitutional officers, Congress, Assembly, and Senate members, Superior Court judges as well as make choices on at least a dozen ballot measures.

### **FALL BALLOT WILL HAVE MANY PROPOSITIONS**

The Legislature will be placing four Infrastructure Bonds on the November Ballot. -These bonds will provide funding for construction of Education facilities, Housing and Emergency Shelter, Disaster Preparedness, Highway Safety and Port Security and Air Quality. In addition SCA 3, the Redistricting Plan by Senator Alan Lowenthal of Long Beach may be passed by the Legislature and placed on the ballot by the August deadline.

Several initiatives have also qualified through the petition process including a rerun of the Parental Notification for Termination of Minor Pregnancy, Prop. 73, from fall of 2005, and a new Cigarette Tax to fund Hospital Emergency Services. A parcel tax to fund Education needs has just qualified with the necessary number of signatures.

Two additional initiatives are a Water Quality, Safety, Supply, Flood Control and Parks Bond of \$5.388 Billion and an Alternative Energy measure that imposes an Oil Extraction Tax on California oil companies.

Explaining Pros and Cons of these ballot measures will keep the League busy this fall. Put Ballot Briefing on September 30 at Hollenbeck Home on your calendar so you will be prepared.

# **SOCIAL POLICY REPORT— Mary Ellen Barnes, Director**

## **Health Care**

### **ITEM 1**

Martin Luther King Jr./Drew Medical Center will face a crucial review by federal inspectors before the end of August. It will determine whether it survives in its present form. If the hospital fails any part of the federal review, it stands to lose \$200 million, nearly half its operating budget.

### **ITEM 2**

**Food Stamp Program Participation and Obesity Among Low Income Adults in Los Angeles County** has been published by the Los Angeles County Department of Health Services. This report examines the relationship among obesity, food stamp participation and other demographics for low-income adults in LA County using the 2005 Los Angeles County Health Interview Survey. Data is included on: *income/poverty level, race/ethnicity, gender, food insecurity status, education level, and household composition/size.*

### **SELECTED FINDINGS**

- ***The percentage of LA County adults who were obese rose from 14.3% in 1997 to 20.9% in 2005.***
- ***35.6% of food stamp participants in LA County are obese, compared to 27.2% of non-participating low income adults (below the federal poverty level).***
- ***31.9% of those without a high school diploma are obese, compared to 25.6% of those low-income adults with a high school education.***
- ***Low-income adults with children have a higher obesity rate than those without children (32.5% compared to 22.7%).***
- ***Among low-income adults, Asian/Pacific Islanders have the lowest rate of obesity (11.5%), followed by Whites (22.9%); African-Americans (29.8%); and Latinos (31.6%).***
- ***Obesity is nearly twice as prevalent in adults under 100% of the federal poverty level (FPL), as compared to adults at 200% or more of the FPL.***
- ***Obesity is most prevalent among those food insecure without hunger (35%), followed by those who were food secure (27.4%) and those food insecure with hunger (26.6%).***

### **ITEM 3**

**Overview of the Uninsured: Los Angeles County 1996-2004** has been published by the Insure the Uninsured Project.

This brief details trends in healthcare utilization, funding and demographics in LA County over the past decade using data from the California Department of Health Services and other sources. Data is included on: *insurance status (percentage uninsured, on Medi-Cal, on Medicare, Healthy Families, private insurance), health care and patient utilization (hospitals, clinics), hospital financing (sources of revenue, per capita funding), demographics (race/ethnicity, unemployment rates), and more.*

### **SELECTED FINDINGS**

- ***The percentage of LA County emergency department visits by Medi-Cal patients increased from 15% in 2000 to a little over 30% in 2004.***
- ***Medicare patients accounted for about 38% of total LA County hospital inpatient days in 2004, followed by about 30% for Medi-Cal patients and 20% by patients of private insurance.***
- ***"County spending on all services for the indigent began to decline in 2002 after several years of modest growth."***
- ***The percentage of people enrolled in Medi-Cal increased from 20% in 1996 to almost 25% in 2004, while the uninsured decreased from 30% to 24% during the same period.***
- ***The number of outpatient county health services for the uninsured increased by 2/3 from 1998 to 2003.***



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2006 Annual Summer League Day

## POPOVERS IN PASADENA

# Meeting The Challenge of **Health Care**

Keynote Speaker

**Representative from the  
Office of State Senator Sheila Kuehl**

**Women's City Club  
160 North Oakland, Pasadena**

Parking in rear off Madison,  
1-1/2 blocks north of Colorado Blvd.

**Saturday, July 29, 2006**

**9:30 AM to 2 PM**

**Meeting begins promptly at 10 AM**

**Land Use Consensus**

**Workshops**

**For Presidents  
Redistricting Action  
Social Policy Action  
Voters Service**

A unique opportunity  
to become acquainted with  
other Local League Members  
at our traditional luncheon

✂-----

Send form and check payable to **LWV/LAC**

Mail to LWV/LAC Treasurer, 427 E. Walnut Ave., Burbank 91501

League \_\_\_\_\_

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

**Deadline is July 20, 2006**

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

***If Postmarked After July 20<sup>th</sup>***

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

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

**+++  
SIGN UP FOR A WORKSHOP**

For Presidents # \_\_\_\_\_      Redistricting Action # \_\_\_\_\_

Social Policy Action # \_\_\_\_\_      Voters Service # \_\_\_\_\_

## **STATE HEALTH CARE — Sheila Hoff, Health Policy Consultant**

### **The Uninsured in LA County** UCLA Center for Health Policy Research has issued a new report

The League of Women Voters of Los Angeles County urges you to work to pass SB 840 (Kuehl), the California Health Insurance Reliability Act, now! It is the only viable and affordable solution for solving our health care crisis and providing comprehensive health care to all our residents. This landmark bill, passed by the Senate last year, is only a few votes away from being sent to the governor's desk this year. After SB 840 is passed by the Appropriations Committee, it will go to the Assembly floor for passage.

Passing SB 840 this year is a top priority for the LWVC. In August, SB 840 will be referred to the Assembly Appropriations Committee. Eight committee members are coauthors, and only 10 votes are needed for passage. Once it reaches the Assembly floor, activists must work to gain the 41 votes needed to send it to the governor's desk. SB 840 is currently supported by 26 Assembly coauthors. We are very close to achieving our objective!

According to the legislative calendar, the last day for the Assembly and the Senate to pass bills is August 31. Then, the legislators are on recess. The governor must sign or veto all bills by September 30. Soon a call to action will be sent out by the LWVC to all Leagues in California to lobby the full Assembly. We must not let this opportunity slip by. We must prevail!

**Los Angeles County League members are urged to contact their Assembly representatives** and to lobby by phone, letters or visit while they are on recess in July. Urge them to support and vote to pass SB 840.

Here are the names and contact information of targeted members of the Assembly Appropriations Committee from L.A. County:

Assembly Member Ronald Calderon District 58 400 N Montebello Blvd #100, Montebello, CA 90640 323 838 5858

Assembly Member Hector De La Torre District 50 8724 Garfield Ave, #104, South Gate, CA 90208 562 927 1200

Assembly Member Betty Karnette District 54 3722 Long Beach Blvd. #801, Long Beach, CA 90807

Assembly Member Sharon Runner District 36 Vice Chair 747 W Lancaster Blvd. Lancaster, 93534 661 723 3368

In addition please visit these Los Angeles County legislators whose votes aren't assured and ask them to please vote for SB 840t when it comes before them for a floor vote.

Assembly Member Carol Liu District 44 215 N Marengo Ave #115, Pasadena, CA 91101, 626 577 9944

Assembly Member Gloria Negrete McLeod District 61 4959 Palo Verde St #100B, Montclair 91763 909 621 2783

Assembly Member Ted Lieu District 53 1700 E Walnut Ave #601 El Segundo 90245 310 615 3515

Assembly Member Dario Frommer District 43 602 N Brand Blvd #403, Glendale 91203 818 240 6330

Assembly Member Keith Richman 10727 White Oak Ave #124 Granada Hills 91344 818 368 3838

Assembly Member Audra Strickland District 37 2659 Townsgate Rd #236, Westlake Village 91361 805 230 9167

Assembly Member Dennis Mountjoy District 59 135 Lemon #A, Monrovia 91016 626 359 8305

Assembly Member Robert Huff District 60 23355 E Golden Springs Dr, Diamond Bar 626 839 2000

Assembly Member Bill Emmerson District 63 10681 Foothill Blvd #325, Rancho Cucamonga 91730

# SPECIAL OPPORTUNITY - TRAINING MEETING FOR ALL ADVOCATES FOR HEALTH REFORM

## INFORMATION ON THE ONE CARE NOW CAMPAIGN

Forum Sponsors: Health Access California, Latino Issues Forum, Breast Action Cancer Network, Health Care for All California, California School Employees Association, League of Women Voters of California

### At the forum, you will:

- **MEET** others who share your concerns about health care
- **LEARN** about policies that will expand access to health care
- **PRACTICE** skills to become a more effective advocate for health care reform
- **PLAN** activities with others in your community to build support for health care reform

**TO RSVP Please Call: Bessie Mathew or Norma Martinez-HoSang, Health Access @ 213-748-5297**

<p><b>Saturday, July 8, 2006</b>  <b>El Monte</b>          10am-2pm, (lunch will be served)          CSEA Regional Training Center          4600 Santa Anita Avenue          El Monte, CA 91731-9912</p>	<p><b>July 22, 2006</b>  <b>Orange County</b>          8:30 am – 12:00 noon          1401 N Handy St          Orange, CA 92867          OUSD Board Room</p>
<p><b>South Bay/Long Beach</b>  <b>Carson Community Center</b>  <b>August 5, 2006</b>          10 am – 2:00 pm (lunch provided)          3 Civic Plaza Drive          Carson, CA 90745  <b>Must RSVP by July 21, 2006</b></p>	<p><b>Downtown Los Angeles</b>  <b>Tentative Date: Saturday,</b>  <b>August 26, 2006</b>  <b>Location to Be Announced Soon!</b>          10 am – 2:00 pm</p>

*Norma Martinez-HoSang, Southern CA Organizer  
 Health Access  
 3655 South Grand Avenue, Suite 220, Los Angeles, CA 90007, ph 213.748.5287*



LWV/LAC President  
3903 Bluff Street  
Torrance, CA 90505

# LWVC/LAC VOTER JULY/AUGUST 2006

## An Inter-League Organization

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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!!

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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, multi-lingual 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; state ballot pamphlet
- CA Legislative Analyst [www.lao.ca.gov/](http://www.lao.ca.gov/)  
Analyses 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)  
Analyses the fiscal effects of statewide ballot measures

The JULY/AUGUST VOTER is ready for viewing on our website.

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



