



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.org

September 2006

CALENDAR

Aug. 30, Wed.	Rally on Universal Health Care, Sacramento, 12 noon
Sept. 12, Tuesday	LWV/LAC Board Meeting, Virginia Park, Santa Monica 9:30-2 PM
Sept. 16, Saturday	Immigration, Cal. State Dominguez Hills, 9 to 11:30 A.M.
Sept. 28, Thursday	Ballot Briefing, 10497 Westwood Blvd. L.A. 5 – 9 P.M.
Sept. 30, Saturday	Ballot Briefing, Hollenbeck Home, 9:30 to 12 noon
Oct. 10, Tuesday	LWV/LAC Board Meeting, Torrance, 9:30-2 PM
Oct. 28, Saturday	Regional Workshop, Beverly Hills, 9:30 to 3 P.M.
Jan. 27, Saturday	Winter League Day, Taix Restaurant, L.A. 9:30 – 2 P.M.

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LOIS LEDGER

FROM THE PRESIDENT—Lola Ungar

We celebrated another Summer League Day with Popovers in Pasadena on July 29th. Sixty-one (61) members from Leagues all around Los Angeles County came together to talk about Meeting the Challenge of Health Care.

Workshops were held for **Presidents** who met to talk about their common concerns with **past LWV/LAC Presidents Sally Seven, Kay White** and me. **Redistricting Action** was led by **Chris Carson**, who it was reported was “Very informative and the subject well-handled.” The workshop on **Social Policy Action** with **Stephanie Welch** of the Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health discussed Nimbyism (*Not In My Backyard*) regarding new sites for County clinics and was described as “An excellent presentation.” The workshop on **Voter Service Action** was held with **Lois Ledger** who spoke about preparing for cable TV broadcasting, **Frances Talbott-White** on Smart Voter, and **Nelson Fernandez**, County Registrar’s Office, who gave us an opportunity for hands-on experience with new verifiable voting equipment. Those attending that workshop said, “Well done, good information about November election changes, and always new tidbits to learn.”

There were six discussion tables at the luncheon related to each of the four workshops above as well as two more; one for Working Party for Children and another for Webmasters/Smart Voter.

Spirited speakers were **Emily Gold**, Field Deputy for State Senator Sheila Kuehl, and **Dr. Ellin Lieberman**, President of So. Pasadena Health Care for All and Emeritus Professor of Pediatrics at the University of Southern California School of Medicine. Ms. Gold spoke about the current legislation SB840, the California Universal Healthcare Insurance Act (CHIREA), that is making its way through the California Senate. She predicted passage in the legislature but opposition by the Governor. Dr. Lieberman discussed SB840 from a doctor’s perspective; the current lack of health



Emily Gold and Dr. Ellin Lieberman

care for many ordinary citizens and how it affects patients and doctors; the proposed bill that will provide healthcare for all and how more people could be treated for less money. Both, she and Ms. Gold answered questions from the audience. It was commented that this was a great topic and that we received good answers to questions.

Many of those that attended the meeting said that taking part in a League Day gives you the opportunity to network with League friends too seldom seen. Another League member said about what she liked best about the day, "The knowledgeable audience at each program. Impressive women!"

The next County Board Meeting will be on Tuesday, September 12th at Santa Monica's Virginia Park Community Center. Local League Presidents or their representatives are invited to attend the meeting and view this innovative green building facility.

Then, on Saturday, September 30th, 9:30 to 12 noon, there will be the County Ballot Briefing on Pros & Cons and Advocacy Training at Hollenbeck Home.

Finally, mark your calendar for an extra special LWV/LAC Winter League Day on Saturday, January 27th, 2007. The program is still in the works and we promise you another exciting experience.

Meanwhile, enjoy the remaining days of summer!

What's Sludge? And Anyway, Why Should We Care?— Lola Ungar

I'm glad you asked about **sludge**. Sludge is actually a part of the sustainability of our communities. Many of you knowledgeable Leaguers know that all of us in Southern California rely heavily on imported water. And, you also understand what happens to this water after we use it. It doesn't just disappear down the drain. Rather, the resulting wastewater is collected, treated, and discharged in inland and coastal wastewater treatment plants. But, what about the wastes separated from the wastewater after it's treated? That's **sludge!** A great deal of money (billions of dollars) has been invested by cities, special districts, and the county - funded by taxes and fees - to remove wastes from sewage - but do you know how the resulting waste (**sludge**) is handled?

- | |
|--|
| <p>a. Sludge can be dried and sent to a municipal waste landfill - but - it is expensive to dry, and uses valuable space in our landfills.</p> <p>b. Sludge can be treated and then reused in agriculture.</p> |
|--|

Residents and businesses in the County of Los Angeles have invested substantial capital in technology to treat the sewage we generate in our daily lives. And, after undergoing treatment to clean up that sewage so that it is safe to discharge into our streams and ocean, **we are left with the same old sludge** - i.e., the solids that have been separated from the treated wastewater. As you might imagine, a humungous amount of sludge is generated in Los Angeles County. And many of our wastewater treatment plant operators are treating and recycling the sludge, creating "biosolids" that are suitable for reuse in agriculture.

By now, you are probably saying, "Yuck." But, federal and state agencies have long recognized the challenge of managing sludge (biosolids), and have developed regulations and guidance to encourage proper handling, reuse, and disposal of sludge. A lot of money (billions of dollars) has been invested by cities, special districts, and the county - funded by taxes and fees - to remove wastes from sewage - but do you know how the resulting waste (sludge) is handled? In the past, sludge, in a semi-solid state has been transported to Kern County by trucks. ***But, last spring, Kern County voters passed an initiative that rejects further exports of biosolids to Kern County. Now what?***

New ideas and approaches are needed to manage all the sludge generated by all of us in Los Angeles County. **One such idea is to inject sludge into old petroleum reservoirs under Terminal Island.** In fact, we have learned that the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has made a preliminary determination to approve a permit for a project, proposed by the City of Los Angeles, that will allow injection of treated sludge (i.e. biosolids) from several coastal wastewater treatment plants in the County of Los Angeles and County of Orange. The City proposes to mix the biosolids with treated wastewater to create a slurry, which would then be injected into formations at a depth of about 5,200 feet below ground

surface in the area of Terminal Island. Following degradation of the biosolids (which is expected to generate methane), the City plans to recover the methane for use at its power plants.

What are the requirements and risks of injecting treated sludge under Terminal Island?

- Permits

Has the City of Los Angeles thoroughly researched and mitigated any of the requirements and risks? And, has the City worked through the existing federal and state regulatory framework for the sustainable disposal and reuse of biosolids that may affect the region, not just the City of Los Angeles? Have any public hearings been held as required by the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA)? The Water Quality Control Board's Waste Discharge Requirements (WDRs) must be adhered to before a discharger can discharge wastes to a water of the state (including subsurface disposal on land, which may impact groundwater). To date, the City has not obtained WDRs for this proposed project. When will the region's citizens be notified of any *proposed action*?

- Groundwater Risks

How will the water table beneath Terminal Island be affected? This proposal aims to discharge wastes to the waters of Southern California that includes subsurface disposal on land and may impact groundwater in the region. Will the construction of wells be able to fully contain the injected material? What about improperly plugged or abandoned wells in the area that may serve as unintended conduits for leakage?

- Seismic Risks

What are the seismic risks of leakage when the project area is in, or near, active seismic zones (the Newport-Inglewood fault, Palos Verdes fault, and their offshoots)?

Based on these major concerns, we are watching and waiting to hear what the next steps being taken by the EPA and the City of Los Angeles for the disposal of the region's sludge, its requirements, remediation and risks. Now that you care, we will continue to keep you posted on this very yucky topic.



• THE LATEST NEWS

In a federal lawsuit filed on August 15, 2006, the City of Los Angeles challenged the recently passed Kern County law that bars the city from dumping some 250,000 tons of sewage sludge annually on farm fields near Bakersfield.

VOTERS SERVICE — by Frances Talbott-White

THERE WILL BE TWO OPPORTUNITIES TO BE BRIEFED ON THE STATEWIDE BALLOT MEASURES:

LWV/LAC

Saturday September 30, 9:30am to noon
-- Action Briefing held simultaneously
Hollenbeck Palms (formerly Hollenbeck Home)
573 South Boyle Avenue, L.A. 90033

LWV Los Angeles

Thursday September 28
-- 5:00pm training on how to prepare a Pros & Cons presentation
-- 6:30pm supper break
-- 7:00pm briefing on ballot measures content
Westwood United Methodist Church
10497 Wilshire Blvd., L.A. 90024

More info: Frances Talbott-White (talbwhite@yahoo.com; 310-397-4970); Margo Reeg (margoreeg@yahoo.com, 562-947-3634 after Labor Day)

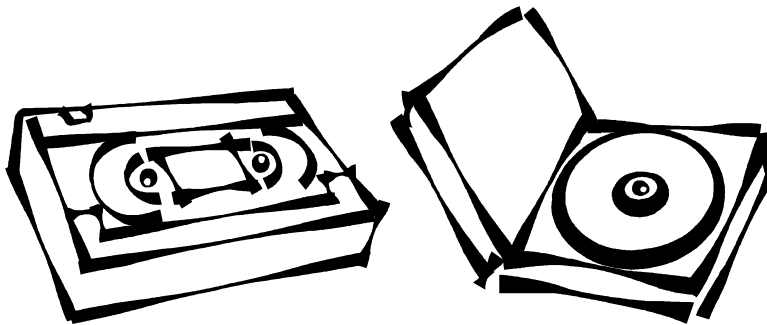
SUPERIOR COURT RUNOFF CANDIDATE VIDEOS/DVDS

All November ballots in L.A. County will include eight candidates for four Superior Court judgeships. This is a part of the ballot where many voters resort to coin flipping, random selection, or simply skipping the whole section.

Help is at hand in the form of a set of one-on-one television interviews. Margo Reeg, LWV/LAC Voter Service Director, is the > interviewer. Producer is LWV Long Beach Area's Lois Ledger, who has donated valuable time on her TV program 'View from Long Beach'.

How do you and voters in your area get to see these interviews? If you live in the Long Beach area, or in Lomita, you just kick back and watch your local cable channel. If you live elsewhere, however, you'll be relying on someone to work with your local public access channel. This could be your local Voter Service Director or PR/Publicity Director, or it could be YOU!

If you reserve by September 15, you may purchase DVDs of the judicial interviews at either LWV/LAC's or LWVLA's Ballot Measure Briefing (Hollenbeck or Wilshire United Methodist). A DVD is useful to show at meetings or loan to members who want to watch it at home and/or show it to friends. Please use the form below to place your order, or send an e-mail (to talbwhite@yahoo.com) including ALL the info requested in the form. Again, cost will depend upon the number of DVDs ordered.



If you need a format other than DVD, you MUST get in touch with Lois Ledger (lledger@starsinc.com or 562-427-6818 x244 or 562-432-5822) by September 8.

NOTE: Availability may depend on number of units ordered as well as practical considerations beyond our control.

Contact Frances Talbott-White (talbwhite@yahoo.com or 310-397-4970) for more information.

Your Name _____ Phone _____

E-Mail _____ Local League _____

Number of DVDs _____ Number of videos _____

E-mail to talbwhite@yahoo.com or print and mail to Frances Talbott-White, 4249 Coolidge Ave., Los Angeles, CA 90066.

**TRI-LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS
BEACH CITIES - PALOS VERDES - TORRANCE**

ANNUAL KICKOFF BREAKFAST BUFFET

IMMIGRATION

POLICIES AND ISSUES

SPEAKER

DR. IRENE VASQUEZ

**CHAIR, CHICANO-CHICANA STUDIES
CSU DOMINGUEZ HILLS**

**SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 16, 2006
9:00 A.M. – 11:30 A.M.**

**BLUEWATER GRILL
665 North Harbor Drive
Redondo Beach 90277
310/318-FISH (3474)**

**Make check payable to: Tri-League (Deadline - Sept. 8, 2006)
Send to Peggy Bartlett (310) 545-1087
701 13th Street
Manhattan Beach, CA 90266**

**Number of reservations _____ \$22.00 per person - Check enclosed for \$ _____
Name(s) _____ Phone _____ League _____**

LWVC REGIONAL WORKSHOP
 LOS ANGELES & VENTURA COUNTIES & SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY LEAGUES
 & ANYONE ELSE WHO WANTS TO ATTEND!
HOSTED BY LWV BEVERLY HILLS

Get charged up for the coming League year!
This workshop offers something of value for everyone-

Longtime members, new members, board officers & directors, as well as program chairs.

WHEN??

Saturday, October 28, 9:30 a.m to 3 p.m.

WHERE??

McCormick & Schmick's Restaurant
 Two Rodeo (northeast corner of Wilshire Blvd. & Rodeo Dr.)
Driving directions & parking hints on the reverse.

HOW MUCH??

\$25—covering morning coffee & nibbles, handouts for each workshop, and your choice of three salad lunches to be decided that morning. Sorry, no option for brown bag.

THE AGENDA

- 9:30-9:45—Registration, coffee, resource table shopping
- 9:45-10:00—Welcome—Dorothy Kaufman, President, LWVBH
- 10:00-11:00—*League 101, Everything You Want to Know About League,* LWVC President
Jackie Jacobberger
- 11:00-12:00—*How to Run a Local Election,*
LWVC Education Fund Director Robbie Davis
- 12:00-1:00—Lunch & Table Topics
- 1:00-1:45—*Recruiting & Keeping Your Members All Year Long,* MTA Program
Coordinator for California South, Lois Chaney
- 1:45-2:30—*Raising League Visibility in Your Community,* LWVC Presenter
TBA
- 2:30-3:00 Wrap-Up & Evaluations

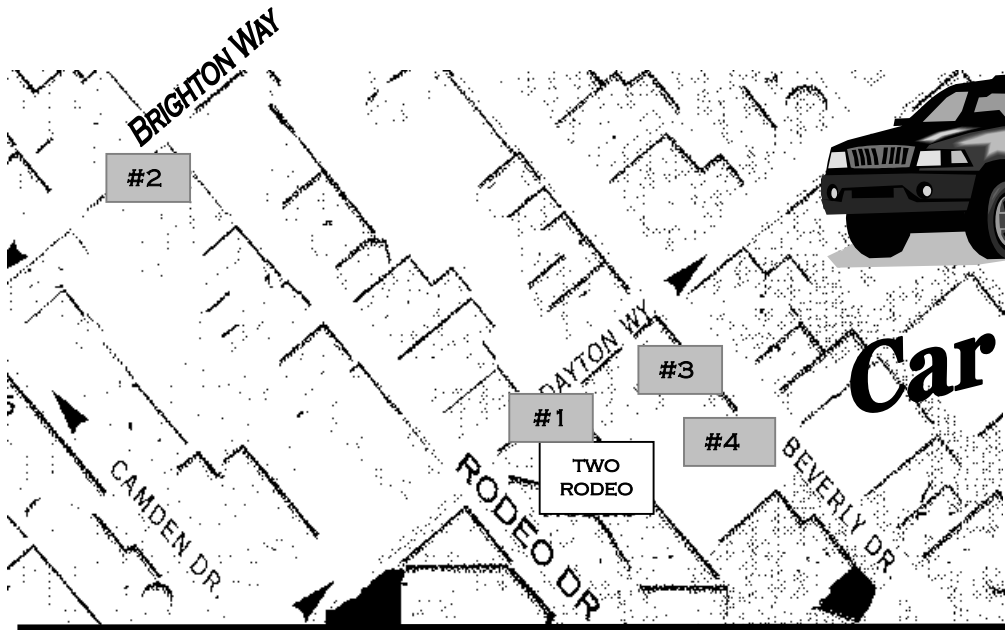


Registration due by October 23

Check(s) payable to LWVC
 Mail registration & check(s) to:
 Judy Borash, LWV Beverly Hills
 9611 Highridge Dr.
 Beverly Hills CA 90210
Questions: Call Judy: 310-275-6343

Name (s) _____

 League _____
 Number @\$25 per guest _____ Total \$ _____



Car Pool!

More fun . . . and share the costs.

WILSHIRE BLVD

GETTING THERE

If using the San Diego Freeway, exit Wilshire East. **DO NOT TAKE SANTA MONICA BLVD** due to construction between the 405 & Beverly Hills.

From the Ventura Freeway, the Coldwater Canyon exit will get you right into Beverly Hills.

PARKING

Ouch!! We're in heavy duty real estate here, folks, & nothing is free. But here are the options: priciest to best value:

#1 From Wilshire, n. on Rodeo Dr, turn r. on Dayton. Valet parking for Two Rodeo is underground. \$15 maximum.

#2 North on Rodeo Dr to Brighton (street above Dayton). Turn left (one-way street). Parking on south side at 9510 Brighton. \$13.50 maximum.

#3 North on Rodeo Dr to Dayton, turn right (one-way). Dayton to Beverly Dr. Turn r. Parking is past two buildings on the right. \$10 maximum.

#4 As for #3 but continue past Hugo Boss to 265 N Beverly Dr. \$8 maximum.

With gratitude to LWVBH for research on parking.

Problems on the day: Call McCormick & Schmick's 310-859-0434



Rally for Universal Health Care

SB 840 (KUEHL) IS ON THE MOVE!!

Please Join State Senator Sheila Kuehl

OneCareNow Campaign

Health Care for All (HCA)

California Nurses Association (CNA)

Other Health Care Advocates

TO RALLY FOR ENACTMENT OF SB 840!

**WHERE: SOUTH SIDE OF THE STATE CAPITOL
SACRAMENTO**

DATE: WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 30TH.

TIME: 12:00 NOON

SB 840 (Kuehl), the California Health Insurance Reliability Act (CHIRA), would provide fiscally sound, affordable health insurance coverage to all Californians, provide every Californian the right to choose his or her own physician and control health cost inflation. After SB 840 passes the legislature, it will go to Governor Schwarzenegger. No doubt his gatekeepers in the insurance industry and the Chamber of Commerce will tell him to veto the legislation. Let's send him a message of our own:

SIGN SB 840, GOVERNOR -- THE TIME FOR UNIVERSAL HEALTH CARE IS NOW!!

For additional information, please contact Sara Rogers, Senator Kuehl's office, at (916) 445-1353.

SMART VOTER TIPS — *Frances Talbott-White, Smart Voter SoCal Liaison*
(ca-south@smartvoter.org, 310/397-4970)

INTERACT WITH SMART VOTER

The basic instructions are easy, and probably familiar by now:

1. GO to www.SmartVoter.org.
2. TYPE in your address and zip code.
3. LEARN about the candidates and issues on your ballot.

In this election season, let's ADD a couple of steps:

4. INTERACT (this has at least three possible sub-steps)
 - a. If you see the name of a candidate who has not posted any info, contact him/her and ASK for it; constituent requests are the most convincing;
 - b. If you know of additional resource material (local news articles, etc.) on any of the candidates or issues, use the 'suggest a link' feature to pass it along to the Smart Voter team;
 - c. If you see a local ballot measure without crucial sections such as 'Impartial Analysis', 'Arguments', or contact info for the pro or con side, send a feedback message immediately.

5. REFER

- a-z. Tell all your friends to go to www.SmartVoter.org.

And, if you can be
in Sacramento
On August 30th





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

LWVC/LAC VOTER SEPTEMBER 2006

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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 or for a hard copy subscription send \$10 to LWV/LAC Treasurer, 427 E. Walnut Avenue, Burbank, CA 91501. Sign Up Today!!

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

The SEPTEMBER VOTER is ready for viewing on our website.

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