



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

Editor: Mary Ellen Barnes Website: <http://lacilo.ca.lwvnet.org> Email: LWVLACounty@msn.com January 2010

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Calendar 2010

- Sat, Jan 30.....Winter League Day, 9:30-2:00
- Wed, Feb 3.....County Board Meeting, 9:30-1:30
- Wed, Mar 3.....County Board Meeting, 9:30-1:30
- Sat, Mar 27.....Convention, 9:00-2:00
- Wed, April 7.....County Board Meeting, 9:30-1:30
- Sat, April 24.....Ballot Training, 9:30-12:00
- May 15-16.....State Council
- Tues/Wed May 25-26..Board Retreat and Board Meeting
- Wed, June 2.....County Board Meeting, 9:30-1:30
- Fri-Tue, June 11-15.....National Convention
- Wed, July 7.....County Board Meeting, 9:30-1:30
- Sat, July 31..... Popovers, 9:30-2:00

Inside this issue...

- President's Message.....Page 2
- Water Wars.....Page 3
- Announcements.....Page 4
- Winter League Day Flyer.....Page 5

From the President's Desk...

Happy 2010! I hope your holidays were merry and filled with family and friends.

January continues a busy year for our County Leagues. Many of you will be completing Program Planning – LWVUS, LWV/LACounty, and local. Program Planning is an important League activity, giving members the opportunity to identify issue priorities. Katherine Dunlap, our LWV/LACounty Program Director, provided some Program Planning information in the October issue of the County Voter (on the LWV/LACounty Web site if you need to review Katherine's comments). The LWVUS Web site has information on national program issues and process. The County League Board is recommending a continuation of the Jail Study, voted in at the 2008 Convention.

On January 30, we will take a look at Gangs in LA at our annual Winter League Day. The County League has teamed with LWVLA for this event, and Jean Thomsen has done an outstanding job of organizing intriguing speakers. It's not too late to sign up – see the flyer in this Voter.

Please review the calendar of County League activities posted in the Voter and mark your calendars to participate. County Convention is scheduled on March 27, with keynote speaker Supervisor Mark Ridley Thomas. This is our first opportunity to hear our newest County Supervisor. We will also determine program for the coming two years at this convention. Watch for the flyer.

The Voter includes an article by Natural Resources Director Jack Sullivan on the water bonds that will be on the June ballot. Water issues are gaining momentum in California. It is important to be informed and to build public awareness of water impacts. The County Board will be working on ways we can assist in spotlighting this issue.

Our County Leagues hold many interesting and informative programs. They can be included in our online County Calendar if you send the information to me and/or our Web master, Monica Marquez.

Best wishes to all for a terrific new year.

Nancy

Save The Date - March 27, 2010 **County League Convention!**

Circle March 27 on your calendars and plan to attend the LWV/LACounty Convention.

Our keynote speaker is our newest County Supervisor, the Honorable Mark Ridley-Thomas. Convention will be from 9:30 AM to 2:00 PM and includes lunch.

The location has not been set at this time.

Watch for a flyer with the details and a reservation form.

Are the Water Wars Over? By John Sullivan Natural Resources, LWV/LAC

The rains came in December but not enough to end the drought, so water continues to be a hot topic in California. Many would argue that water will always be a hot topic as long as population continues to grow and economic development continues in current forms. Many had hoped that *El Nino* would bring lots of rain to the south coast basin, but experts are still cautious about the amount of rain we will actually see. In addition, the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta continues to exhibit the symptoms of a dying ecosystem, in part due to water extractions sent south.

In this context of drought, increasing demand for water, and a declining Delta, the legislature passed a package of water bills at the end of 2009. It is important to note that this package did not go through the usual committee hearings process. Rather, it was crafted behind closed doors by the Senate and Assembly leadership and the governor. In many respects, these bills represent a major development in water policy for California. However, in order for the package to be implemented, it will be necessary for the electorate to approve an \$11 billion bond measure in November. We will take a brief look at these bills in this issue and bring you more information as the campaign for the water bond measure develops this spring and summer.

Delta Governance: The legislation reforms governance for the Delta by consolidating some of the current governance structures. The legislation establishes two twin goals for the Delta: ecosystem restoration and water supply reliability. These goals would be attained by the creation of a new Delta Stewardship council to create and implement a plan for the Delta. It would also create a Delta Conservancy that would be able to acquire lands and to work toward Delta ecosystem restoration.

Groundwater Monitoring: At the present time, California does not monitor or manage groundwater extractions, despite over pumping of many basins. The water package establishes a state-wide groundwater monitoring program but one

that is voluntary rather than compulsory. It appears that the legislature has established that groundwater monitoring would be a good thing but has not provided a requirement for monitoring or money to pay for it.

Water Conservation: Another part of the package deals with urban and agricultural water conservation. It establishes a goal of reducing urban per capita water use by 20% by 2020. It also requires that agricultural water users implement efficient water management practices that include measurement of water use and pricing structures. The bill also requires that the Department of Water Resources develop incentives for sustainable water management and also develop plans for alternative water supplies (e.g., brackish water desalination and storm water recovery).

Water Bond: In addition to the water package, the legislature passed a bill to place a water bond on the November 2010 ballot. The proposed bond initiative will total just over \$11 billion and will be used for a number of water related projects including the following: groundwater protection, water recycling/water conservation, Delta sustainability, water supply reliability, and drought relief.

As noted above, this package was essentially put together behind closed doors by the “Gang of Five” (the governor and the leaders in the assembly and the senate). The normal process of legislative hearings was circumvented. Nonetheless, the legislation is important and, in the minds of some, a big step forward for California. In order for any of the provisions of this legislation to move toward implementation, the voters will have to approve the \$11 billion bond measure in November.

Many will recall the battle for the Peripheral Canal, which was defeated by the voters in the early 1980’s. That particular battle pitted northern California against southern California with voters in the north overwhelmingly defeating the measure. It is likely that the battle

Water Wars - Continued from page 3

over this bond measure will be rather more complicated than the battle over the Peripheral Canal. This time around, there will be an element of a north-south split. But there will also likely be strong resistance to the bond measure from citizens, farming interests, and businesses in the Delta. Many in the Delta see this legislation and the bond measure as detrimental to the Delta ecosystem.

In addition, it is already clear that the environmental community will be split on the bond measure. Some large environmental groups have already come out in support of the measure while others have indicated their opposition. An unknown factor will be the state of California's economy as the year progresses. Last year's budget is already showing a deficit of more than \$18 billion which will have to be covered. It is

possible that voters will be wary of approving further indebtedness if the financial status of state government is precarious.

The take-away message of all of this is the following: the legislation passed in 2009 is important and provides a basis for further development of water policy in the state. However, almost every one can find fault with the water package and it is not clear at this point if the voters will vote for the bond measure. Thus, it is quite clear that the California water wars are far from over. An important part of the problem is that there is not enough water to meet all demands at current patterns of usage. At some point in the near future, we will be faced with hard choices and may have to decide about trade-offs among different kinds of water needs.

Announcements!!!

Gang Program – Register NOW

It's not too late to register for the joint LWV/LACounty - LWVLA Winter League Day on January 30.

The program, Gangs Around the Corner, will focus on gang activity in Los Angeles County and the work of law enforcement in the gang arena. LAPD's new Chief of Police, Charles Beck, is our keynote speaker.

See the flyer in this Voter.

League Studies Jail System

On Saturday, January 23, the League of Women Voters, Long Beach Area will review a wide variety of issues in connection with their ongoing study on the Los Angeles County Jail system. The meeting will be held at Los Altos Library: 5614 Britton Drive, Long Beach CA, from 10 am to 12 noon.

Issues discussed will include health care, including mental health, recidivism, evidence based practice, costs and alternative forms of dealing with criminals. The featured speaker will be Anne Ryder, a retired Orange County public defender, who will look at the incarceration process from the time of a suspect's first interaction with police and prosecutors.

Panelists will also include study co-chairs from the LA County InterLeague Organization, who recently visited the LA County Jail, including the mental health ward.

Prizes will be awarded for the best comments or questions from the audience on the L.A. County Custody Budget.

The public is welcome, admission is free and convenient street parking is available.
For more information, contact Lois Ledger at 562-432-5822.



LWV/LA County

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Palos Verdes Peninsula/San Pedro • Pasadena Area • Santa Monica • Torrance • Whittier

2010 WINTER LEAGUE DAY

GANGS AROUND THE CORNER **A Look at Street Gangs**

Keynote Speaker - LAPD's new Chief of Police, Charles Beck

Panelists include: Captain Pietrantonio, Supervisor of "Operation Safe Streets" LA Sheriff's Department,
Scott Gold, staff writer Los Angeles Times (series on "Promises & Perils of South LA"),
along with community activists.

UTLA BUILDING
3303 WILSHIRE BLVD.
2ND FLOOR
LOS ANGELES, CA

SATURDAY
JANUARY 30, 2010
9:30 AM TO 2 PM
BUFFET LUNCHEON



Carpooling recommended - Parking: UTLA Bldg. is at Wilshire & Berendo, accessed off Berendo. The cost is \$5.00/day if you arrive before 10 AM. or, approx. \$13.00/day after 10 AM. Special needs parking is under and through the building for those with displayed DMV placards. (Bring your vehicle close to the chain link gate). Elevators from both parking locations are available to enter the building. **Alternate parking** is located in an open lot on Berendo across Wilshire on east side of street for \$7.50/day. **The Red Line** stops just 1-1/2 blocks from the building at the Vermont station.

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Please send form and check payable to **LWV/LA County**.
Mail to **LWV/LA County Treasurer, 427 E. Walnut Ave., Burbank 91501**

League Name _____

Attendee Name(s) _____

Deadline is January 16, 2010

Reservations # _____ @\$25.00 Total enclosed \$ _____

If postmarked after January 16, 2010

Reservations # _____ @\$30.00 Total enclosed \$ _____

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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For a hard copy subscription send \$10 to:
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427 E. Walnut Avenue, Burbank, CA 91501.

Name _____

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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: www.lacilo.ca.lwvnet.org



Nancy Mahr, LWV/LACounty President
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