



LWV/LACounty

An Interleague Organization

VOTER

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS® OF LOS ANGELES COUNTY

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Calendar 2009 - 2010

December 2	Board Meeting and Holiday Lunch
January 6, 2010	Board Meeting
January 30, 2010	Winter League Day

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From the President's Desk...

We've had a busy time with our local elections – lots of candidates forums and a few local measurers. Everyone did a great job of convincing candidates to post information on SmartVoter. Of course, there are always a few candidates that don't cooperate. Special thanks to Frances Talbott-White for her work to track the candidates and keep local Leagues informed of posting progress.

In October, I attended the LWVC regional workshop held in Covina. The morning began with a presentation by Xandra Kayden (LWVLA and LWVC Board) on constitutional reform in California, reviewing past efforts and providing an update on current activities by various groups and on related LWV positions. Xandra also presented the second part of the workshop on our non-partisan policy. Then, LWVC Communications Director Jenny Waggoner walked the group through the LWVC Web site, including the members-only section. As we always point out, this is an excellent resource and we all need to keep up with the new postings as well as the basic materials. Following lunch, the North Orange County League made a presentation on engaging and retaining members. Overall, a most informative program.

This is the time that we are working on schedules for program planning. In the October issue of the County Voter, an article by LWVLA County Program Director Katherine Dunlap provided some guidelines for County program planning. LWVUS emailed League presidents information on national program planning, and there is information on the LWVUS Web site. Depending on your League's bylaws, you may also have local program planning. There is a lot to do by February or March.

Please note the "save the date" box in the Voter and mark you calendars to attend the County League Day on January 30, 2010. The County League is partnering with Jean Thomson of LWVLA on a program that looks at gangs in LA County. The event will be held an auditorium in the building in which the LWVLA's new office is located.

Have a happy Thanksgiving with family and friends.

Nancy

Save The Date - January 30, 2010

**Join the Los Angeles County LWV and the Los Angeles LWV on
Saturday January 30, 2010 for a joint program on Gangs in LA County.**

**Location: The auditorium at the UTLA Building on Wilshire Blvd.
(same building as the LWVLA office)**

Information about speakers, time and cost will be coming soon.

Watch for the flyer in December!

When Will the Water Wars End? By John Sullivan Natural Resources, LWV/LAC

Much has been happening with respect to water issues (or the water wars). On October 1st, the project to restore flows to the San Joaquin River began with releases from Friant dam. This effort results from legal suits and negotiations among farmers, environmentalists, fishermen, Bureau of Reclamation, etc. One important goal is an effort to restore salmon runs on the river.

Some in the eastern San Joaquin Valley hoped that some of the water would be pumped back via the California Aqueduct for irrigation purposes. However, as long as the federal court order limiting pumping from the Delta holds, that hope may not be met.

At the end of the recent legislative session, a package of five bills on water issues was introduced. They were aimed at Delta governance institutions and statewide conservation efforts. There was not time for the legislature to pass the package and Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger threatened to veto some 700 bills passed by the legislature if he was not presented with a comprehensive water package. The governor wants a package that includes a bond proposal for surface storage construction. The governor ultimately concluded that enough progress had been made that he did not need to veto all the bills.

George Skelton (LA Times, 10/22/09) suggests that the final package will likely include a groundwater monitoring program, some form of a Peripheral canal, additional dams, restoration of the Delta ecosystem, a new governance structure for the Delta and increased emphasis on conservation. The package will also likely include a bond proposal priced at \$9 billion plus. Although Skelton sees the package as a done deal, other observers point to opposition, much it from Delta and Northern California interests.

The take-away message here is a familiar one: The State's water resources are over committed. Not all users of water can expect to continue their activities (farming, lawns in gardens, etc) in their present forms. The key question that must be answered: how do we cope with this mess? The 5-bill water package was a possible solution, although many saw problems with that proposal. The legislature may be able to come up with a proposed solution in the next couple of weeks but one thing is clear: absent a very wet winter (and the experts are hedging their bets on that), we face additional calls for more conservation and recycling.

You can follow the water wars at the water blog Aquaformia at <http://aquaformia.com/>.

Jail Study - Recidivism by Betsey Coffman

Recidivism usually means a return to jail or prison. It is sometimes measured in re-arrests and sometimes in reconvictions. It is usually expressed as a percentage of those released from incarceration who are rearrested or reconvicted within three years after "getting out". In California, inmates who are released from state prison are often put on parole supervision and many are re-incarcerated for technical parole violations, such as failing to report to their parole officers. There is disagreement as to whether these individuals should be classified as parole violators returned to custody to complete their sentences, or as recidivists. Despite these difficulties in definition, recidivism percentages or rates can give us an idea of whether imprisonment can lead to rehabilitation – to crime-free lives – and, if so, what types of experiences in jail or prison might be helpful in achieving rehabilitation.

The L. A. County Jail System has a high recidivism rate – about 70% -- but persists in efforts to reduce this figure. Our County League Jail Study committee is surveying the education and rehabilitation programs offered, and will include a discussion of them in our study report. We find it fascinating to learn about what is offered and how inmates respond. We hope local Leagues will find all this of interest also. We are planning to distribute Jail Study packets at our March 2010 convention.

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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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



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