



# 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

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March 2009

### LWV / LACounty Board of Directors 2008

**Executive Board**  
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Gwen Cochran  
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Dorothy Larson  
Sally Seven  
Carol Slavin  
Jack Sullivan  
Georganne Thomsen  
Lola Ungar

#### Nominations

Amy Bishop Dunbar

### Calendar

<b>Tues, Mar 10</b>	County Board Meeting, at the LWVLA Office	9:30 -1:30
<b>Sat, Mar 28</b>	County Convention 2009, Pickwick Gardens, Burbank	9:00-12:00
<b>Sat. April 11</b>	Ballot Briefing, Hollenbeck Home	9:00 - 12:00
<b>Tues, April 14</b>	County Board Meeting, Pasadena Women's City Club	9:30-1:30
<b>Sat. May 2</b>	Presidents Meeting/Delegate Briefing 9:00 -12:00; Glendale Fire Station	
<b>Sat. May 9</b>	HealthCare4All Conference/Single Payer Health Care at the Pasadena Presbyterian Church	
<b>May 19</b>	Special Statewide Election - Ballot Measures	
<b>Tues, Wed May 19-20</b>	County Board Retreat Mary & Joseph Center, Rancho Palos Verdes	
<b>May 15-17</b>	LWVC State Convention in Long Beach	
<b>June 13</b>	National Council - Virtual Meeting	
<b>Sat, July 25</b>	Popovers Pasadena Women's City Club	9:30-2:00

## From the President's Desk...

- Nancy Mahr

The State finally has a budget – and a special election on May 19. The County Board is holding a ballot briefing session on the 7 items on the special election. It will be on April 11 at Hollenbeck Home. Voters will need accurate information on these measures, including a clear understanding of the consequences of passage or defeat. We can help them. Be sure to have delegates from your League at the briefing. We will be sending out a flyer on this. Also, check our website.

LWVC will not be publishing *Pros and Cons* this round, however they will continue to write *In Depth* and it will be posted on the LWVC Web site. Also, LWVC is still exploring the production of the *Easy Voter Guide*.

The State's budget woes have impacted Los Angeles County. The Supervisors are grappling with reduced revenues and increasing caseloads as they work on the County budget for FY 2009-2010. LWV/LACounty will be tracking the County budget development and the proposals under consideration by the Supervisors.

Informational meetings on the redistricting commission are being held throughout the state. Lola Unger, our Action Chair, presented testimony at the hearing in Los Angeles. She encouraged a transparent process, with due notice, and public hearings. She asked for a wide dissemination of application information and forms, with special attention to inclusion of women and minorities. Chris Carson, from LWVC, and Bertie Woods, from Torrance League, also testified. The key themes of the day were transparency, broad outreach, and diversity. Transcripts of all hearings will be posted on the Auditor General's Web site.

The 47<sup>th</sup> County Convention is coming up on Saturday, March 28. As we are not making program decisions this year, the Convention will be in the morning only, 9 a.m. to noon. We will be adopting a budget and electing officers and delegates. I hope to see you all at Pickwick Gardens in March.

With the LWVC Convention just around the corner, in May, the County Board will be hosting a briefing for delegates. This meeting will include a special session for local League presidents, in lieu of taking up another day with a luncheon. The date is May 2, at the Glendale Fire Station. Stay tuned for more on this.

It looks like this spring will be another busy time for our Leagues. Be sure to keep up with information posted on League Web sites - county, state, and national.

Nancy - [nlmahr@cox.net](mailto:nlmahr@cox.net)

## VOTER SERVICE

## Margo Reeg - Second Vice-President / Voter Service

## LWV/LAC Conducts Candidate Forum in the City of Commerce

The Commerce Industrial Council sponsored a Candidate Forum for Commerce City Council on Wednesday, February 18, 2009. With no local League currently covering the City of Commerce as part of its Voter Service area, LWV/LAC was called upon to organize and conduct the event, held at Stevens Steak House in Commerce.

Margo Reeg contacted the candidates and negotiated forum ground rules with Eddie Tafoya, Executive Director of the Commerce Industrial Council (a Chamber of Commerce). Local League members from Whittier, Los Angeles, and Long Beach staffed the event.

Nine out of ten candidates running for three City Council seats in Commerce's March 3 Municipal Election participated in the forum. Frances Talbott-White and Xandra Kayden co-moderated; Phyllis O'Connor and Dean Cress handled the question sorting while Ginny Holloway functioned as timer.

Although the forum was not televised, it did provide an opportunity for residents of Commerce to meet the candidates and hear them answer questions on a wide range of issues. This was the third candidate forum conducted by LWV/LAC in the City of Commerce in two years.

## Ballot Measures for May 19

There are six budget measures on the ballot:

**Proposition 1A:** Implements a spending cap based on the rate of growth from the last 10 years. If approved, it would extend the length of the taxes approved by the Legislature.

**Proposition 1B:** Changes the state's education funding law -- Proposition 98 -- for supplemental education payments to local districts due to recent budget cuts.

**Proposition 1C:** Borrows from future lottery Earnings.

**Proposition 1D:** Takes money from the First 5 Commissions -- aka Proposition 10 funds -- to help balance the budget.

**Proposition 1E:** Takes money from the Mental Health Services Act -- aka Proposition 63 funds -- to help balance the budget.

**Proposition 1F:** Prevents state-level elected officials from receiving pay raises in years when the state is running a deficit.

And there is one more proposition that had qualified earlier, but is not related to budget implementation:

**Proposition 13:** Deletes the following tax exclusions: 1) existing exclusion for structures constructed of un-reinforced masonry bearing wall construction, 2) and the existing grant of authority to the Legislature to exclude certain seismic retrofitting improvements or improvements utilizing earthquake hazard mitigation technologies.

At this time, LWVC has not taken positions on the ballot measures. Watch for further information on LWVC action. Also, watch for an LA County ballot briefing date and location. LWVC is not publishing *Pros and Cons*, and is exploring the production of the *Easy Voter Guide*.

**Hold the Green Water, Please.**  
**John D. Sullivan, Natural Resources, LWV/LAC**

So, the rains came and brought lots of water, some flooding and some mud slides. In their wake they left very clear blue skies and a feeling that the basin had been refreshed. It was as if all smog, traffic, and other woes had been washed away, at least for a while. During the rains, many watched as this sudden influx of water was washed down storm drains to the ocean. We know this left us with one problem: the pollution that lay on our streets and in our yards was washed down to the ocean.

Did the rains eliminate the effects of the drought? The consensus seems to be that we did need the rain but the effects of the drought persist in lowered reservoirs and water shortages. We still face the prospect of water rationing in the southland but perhaps later in the spring or summer.

Peter Gleick in his newest installment on water issues, *World's Water, 2008-2009* (Island Press, 2009) asks whether there might be a peak water problem analogous to the peak oil problem that many anticipate. Oil is a finite resource and we can imagine a point after which we will be on the "down-slope" side of production. That is, reserves will be shrinking and we will be able to anticipate a time when there is less and less oil available for extraction. No one knows for sure when we will hit that peak extraction rate and begin to see production declines.

Gleick compares oil and water as resources and concludes that they are not completely analogous. Oil is a non-renewable resource, at least in the short run. Water is a renewable resource and a flow resource, that is, water flows around the earth via the hydrologic cycle. In addition, there are many substitutes for oil (wind power, solar power, etc.) while there are no substitutes for water. Put another way, water is essential for life and if we run out of water, there is nothing we can substitute for it.

Gleick argues that there might be something called "peak ecological water" which is regional or local in nature. That is, as we extract more and more water

out of the hydrologic cycle for human uses, we may reach a point at which local or regional ecosystem go into decline. The water that once supported aquatic ecosystems may not be able to do so any longer.

Another writer who makes a similar distinction is Maria Falkenmark (*Environment*, March/April, 2008). Falkenmark distinguishes between "blue" water and "green" water. The former sustains aquatic ecosystems and is the source for the latter which is what humans use to grow crops, water residential gardens, manufacture products, etc. Falkenmark argues that increases in green water extractions will cause degradation of the aquatic ecosystems supported by blue water.

A contemporary example of this trade-off is the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta. The Delta is seen to be an ecosystem in decline and withdrawals from the Delta for export to southern California are seen as a major cause of that decline. The Delta smelt is a fish species that is near extinction and last year a federal judge ruled exports from the Delta had to be reduced by 30%. This reduction in water exports has had an impact on farming in the San Joaquin Valley and on water supplies in southern California. The drought has made the situation even worse as the over-all supply of water has been reduced.

Thus, we are faced with a difficult choice: continue exports from the Delta and run of risk of a collapse of the Delta ecosystem. It is not clear what such a collapse would do to our water supplies. However, there are calls for bypassing the endangered species act so that Delta water can be exported to farms and cities in the south. (Stockton Record, 2/10/09) Congressman George Radanovich (R, Mariposa) called the endangered Species Act a "horrendous law" and said that restrictions on water exports to save fish were a form of "economic eco-terrorism."

*Water Article continued from page 4*

Environmental groups responded with the argument that increased water conservation and recycling projects are what is needed to avoid a collapse of the Delta. We can frame the debate in Falkenmark's terms. Should we continue to extract "green" water even though this might result in the collapse of the aquatic systems supported by "blue" water? Or should we look at how we use "green" water and strive for additional conservation and recycling efforts?

The League of Women Voters has a number of positions that are relevant here (go to <http://ca.lwv.org/lwvc/issues/natres/water.html>). LWVC positions call for policies that "coordinate water resource planning with land use planning and provide for future needs without encouraging growth"; policies that "protect the natural environment in areas of both water origin and water use"; that "reserve stream flows for protection of fish and wildlife habitat and other in-stream uses"; and that "preserve wild and scenic rivers". The League also calls for policies that "encourage conservation by all categories of water users through pricing policies, technical assistance, metering, education, and changes in water rights law".

Thus, the League of Women Voters is clearly on the side of attempts to manage our use of "green" in such a way that we do not degrade the ecosystems supported by "blue" water. We have seen around the Southland the implementation of water conservation strategies and water recycling strategies. Given future population growth and economic growth, such strategies will expand and we will need to be more mindful of the trade-off between "blue" water and "green" water.

## COUNTY JAIL STUDY

### Study committee meeting

Saturday, March 7

10:00 a.m.

LWV Pasadena Office

1353 No. Hill Ave., Pasadena

626-798-0965

New members welcome!

Call Betsey Coffman (909-626-1540)

or Vi Iungerich (310-541-5092)

for information.

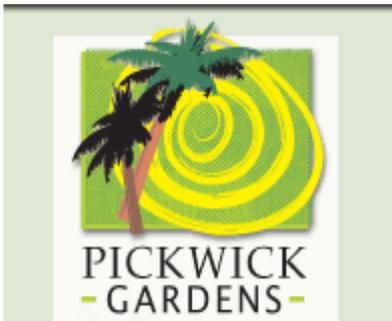


# LWV/LACounty

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/San Pedro Pasadena Area Santa Monica Torrance Whittier

## 47th Annual Convention



**Breakfast Buffet**  
in the Terrace Room  
1001 W. Riverside Drive  
Burbank, CA 91506  
818-845-5300  
Parking is free.

**SPEAKER ON  
GOVERNMENT  
TO BE ANNOUNCED**

**Saturday, March 28, 2009  
9:00 AM 12:00 PM**

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 \_\_\_\_\_

**Important:** Please indicate which members are delegates (D) and which are non-delegates (N).

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

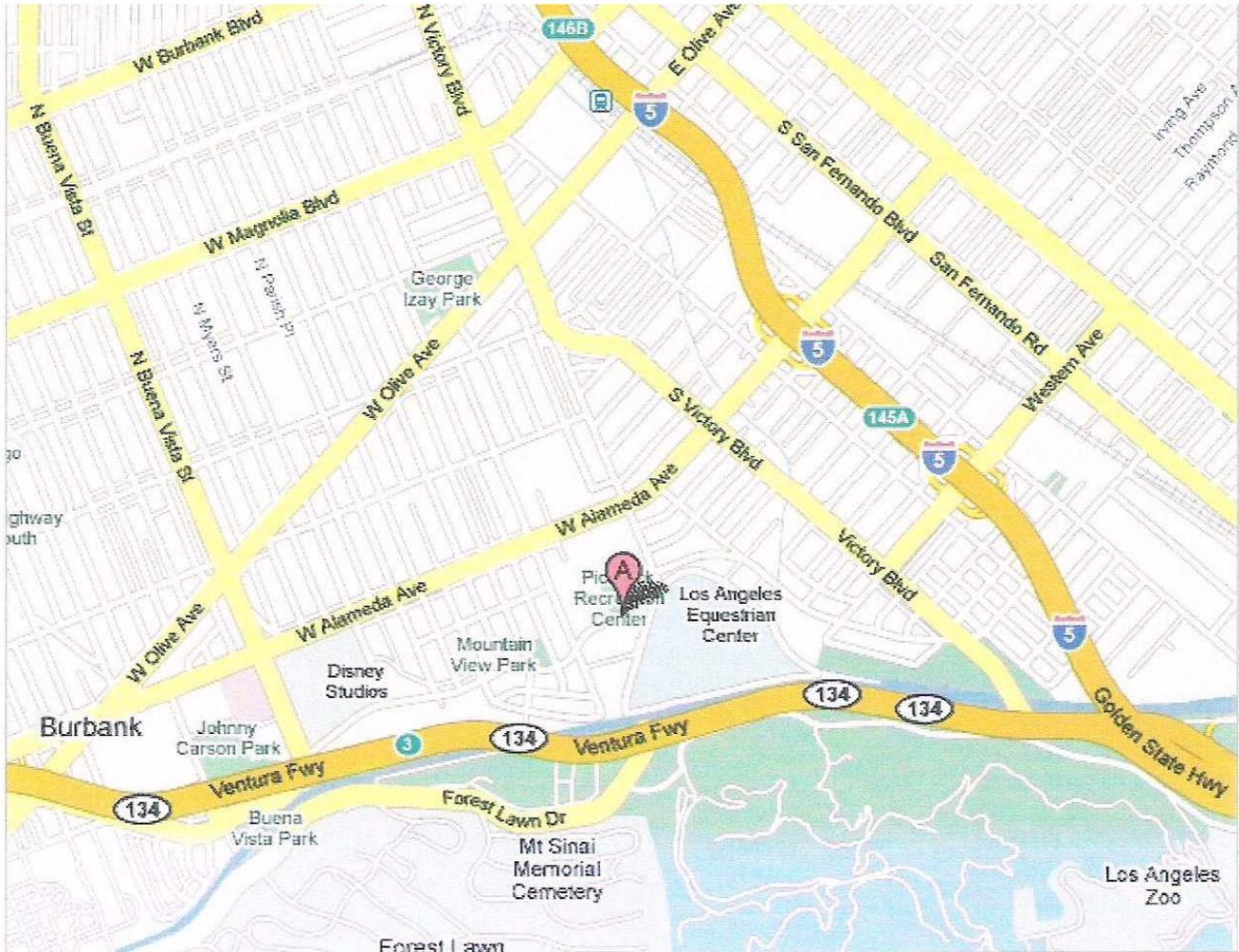
**Deadline is March 13, 2009**

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

If Postmarked After March 13, 2009 Reservations # _____ @\$30.00 = Total \$ _____
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Please remember to bring canned or boxed goods or a check for the L A Regional Food Bank

**Directions to Pickwick Gardens,  
1001 W. Riverside Drive, Burbank CA 91506**



**From I-5 (north or south) into Burbank:**

Exit Alameda (west) to Main St. and turn left; at Riverside Dr., turn right; go past Pickwick Bowling Alley to the second driveway and turn right into long driveway to garden parking.

**From the 134 (east) into Burbank:**

Exit Buena Vista off ramp, at the bottom of the ramp, make a right turn to the stoplight. Make a left turn on to Riverside Dr. and go approx. 1- 1/2 miles. Just past Mariposa Ave., make a left turn into Pickwick's first entrance and drive to back. Park near the garden entrance.

**From the 134 (west), go on to I-5 Sacramento lane:** See I-5 above.

**From the 405 (north), take 101 (east) to the 134 (east):** See 134 (east) above.

# IT TAKES A VILLAGE to Raise a Foster Child

## Foster Care Forum

Tuesday, April 21<sup>st</sup>

7:00 – 8:45 pm

Redondo Beach Main Library

(Park in lower level garage - take elevator to 2<sup>nd</sup> floor)

Speakers:

**Leslie Starr Heimov** –

Exec. Dir. Children's Law Center of L.A.

Young adults aged out of foster  
care system –

California Youth Connection



## Find out how you can make a difference

Agencies and organizations will provide information on volunteer activities from special one-time events to mentoring, advocacy and fostering

For more information, please call the Library (310) 318-0675 or email [harriet@beachvoter.org](mailto:harriet@beachvoter.org)



[www.beachvoter.org](http://www.beachvoter.org)

Light refreshments provided



**Children's Law Center**  
of Los Angeles

[www.clcla.org](http://www.clcla.org)



[www.redondo.org/library](http://www.redondo.org/library)

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 VOTER**

Send the information below to be notified of the latest VOTER posted on our website at: <http://www.lacilo.ca.lwvnet.org> or for a hard copy subscription send \$10 to:  
LWV/LACounty Treasurer,  
427 E. Walnut Avenue, Burbank, CA 91501.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

E-mail Address \_\_\_\_\_

**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.cbp.org](http://www.cbp.org)

Analyzes the fiscal effects of statewide ballot measures

This **VOTER** is ready for viewing on our website: <http://www.lacilo.ca.lwvnet.org>



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