



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 THREE

E-mail lwvlacounty.msn.org

OCTOBER 2006

Calendar

EXECUTIVE BOARD	Oct. 10	Next board meeting, home of Georganne Thomsen, Glendale
LOLA M. UNGAR PRESIDENT LWV/LAC	Oct 28	LWVC workshop, McCormick & Schmick's, Beverly Hills
	Nov. 7	Election Day
FRANCES TALBOTT-WHITE FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT	Nov. 14	LWV/LAC board meeting, Sally Seven's home, Claremont
	Dec. 15	Chanukah (starts at sundown)
MARGO REEG SECOND VICE-PRESIDENT	Dec. 25	Christmas
	Jan. 9	LWV/LAC board meeting
KAY WHITE SECRETARY	Jan. 27	Winter League Day, Judicial Independence, place TBA
	Mar. 31	LWV/LAC Convention, South Coast Botanic Garden, Palos Verdes Peninsula

GWEN COCHRAN
TREASURER

FROM THE PRESIDENT—Lola Ungar

DIRECTORS
MARY ELLEN BARNES
KATHERINE DUNLAP
DOROTHY LARSON
SALLY SEVEN
GEORGANNE THOMSEN
NOMINATIONS
LOIS LEDGER, CHAIR
VOTER Editor: Lois Ledger

The Election Season is upon us! Everyone should be in the midst of some aspect of the voting process for the **November 7th election**. Will you be a Pro and Con speaker, an advocate for a particular League position, support a candidate, write letters to your local newspaper, work at the polls, distribute Pros and Cons, or sign up new voters? Registration closes on October 23rd.



Go to www.smartvoter.org and review all the proposed ballot measures. Then, compare the League's position on each of those measures (LWVC recommendations are attached and at www.lwvc.org).

The LWV/LAC Board voted to support the City of Santa Clarita's **Measure M — College of the Canyons Measure To Add/Upgrade Local Classrooms -- Santa Clarita Community College District**, a \$160 million general obligation bond to fund construction, upgrades and repairs to community supported education facilities. (*School Bond - 55% Approval Required*). Has your League taken a stand?

Look at the qualifications of candidates and especially, the judges. This year, **Lois Ledger, Margo Reeg,** and **Frances Talbott-White** have worked together to produce interviews with all the judicial candidates. They created cassette tapes and DVDs for Local Leagues to distribute to all the cable stations in Los Angeles County.

Don't just sit on the sidelines soaking up those inane TV ads. Talk up www.smartvoter.org among your family, friends and co-workers. Do something! Call someone!

The 5 Things You Need to Know on Election Day

1. Go to the right place
2. Bring I.D.
3. Get a Ballot
4. Get Help
5. Stay and Vote

And, 3 Ways to Make Voting a Breeze

1. Check your Name – Are you registered?
2. Avoid the Crowds
3. Take a friend to vote.

LOS ANGELES COUNTY GRANTED CHILD WELFARE WAIVER TO ALLOW FOR MORE PREVENTION SERVICES FOR FAMILIES

—Harriet Chase, LWVC Foster Care Consultant

The Los Angeles County Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS), the County's child protective system, received a special waiver to use Title IV-E funds that were mostly used for out-of-home care (foster care) and administrative expenses to also be used for more prevention services to keep families out of the foster care system in Los Angeles County.

Dr. Sanders, recently departed Director of DCFS, was quoted as saying, "This is revolutionary. It completely changes the financial incentives within the child-welfare system for the state and county." The waiver will allow DCFS to use \$360 million to \$400 millions of its \$1.4 billion budget on services to prevent the placement of children in foster care. The money can be spent to help families improve parenting skills, control their anger, obtain mental health services and overcome addictions and homelessness.

DCFS staff has been preparing for approval of the waiver and implementation of the funding for several months. Half-day community training forums are taking place throughout the county to educate the Department that includes over 6,000 workers and the community stakeholders on implementing the new practices. The Plan for using the IVE Waiver will be presented to the Board of Supervisors when final funding information from the State is received and verified by DCFS.

The DCFS delivery system includes three key outcomes: 1) Decreased Timelines to Permanency; 2) Improved Safety; 3) Reduced Reliance on Out-of-Home Care.

The strategies for achieving the key three outcomes include: Structured Decision-Making (SDM), Concurrent Planning (CP), Points of Engagement (POE), Team Decision-Making and Permanency Partners Program (P3). Please contact me if you would like to have more information about these programs at (310) 545-1026 or go to www.healthycity.org, the largest social service database in Los Angeles County.

The results should provide family maintenance/preservation, family reunification or an alternate permanent plan of adoption/legal guardianship.

LOS ANGELES CHILD WELFARE DIRECTOR LEAVES; NEW DIRECTOR TAKES OVER DUTIES—Lois Ledger

Dr. David Sanders, Executive Director, Los Angeles County Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS), has been appointed executive vice president of systems improvement at Casey Family Programs in Seattle. Dr. Sanders left the Department at the end of July. Sanders' joins the nation's largest operating foundation dedicated solely to providing and improving—and ultimately preventing the need for foster care.

Trish Ploehn has been appointed the new Director of DCFS. She was sworn in September 20th at the Board of Supervisor's meeting. Ms. Ploehn is the first Director to be selected from within the Department. She began her career with the Department prior to its current structure in 1979 as a treatment counselor working with youth at the MacLaren Children's Center. She went on to work as a social worker until 1989 when she was promoted to an assistant regional administrator. After serving in various administrative positions, Ploehn took over as a Deputy Director of Permanency in 2003. From this position, she was instrumental in redesigning the Department to streamline timelines to permanency and she was the key author of the Resources Families initiative whereby newly recruited Licensed Foster Parents must complete the adoption homestudy process before Los Angeles County will place children with them. Ploehn has recently taken a strong position on the importance of FFA's adopting a similar recruitment and assessment model.

Ms. Ploehn will continue to work on implementing five goals for DCFS outlined by the Board of Supervisors: Safety, Permanence, Well-being, Performance Contracting, and Family-Centered, Neighborhood Based Services.

ONE CARE NOW CAMPAIGN—Sheila Hoff

The passage of SB840 in the State Legislature by 45-33 was a very historic vote. This is the first time this very detailed policy bill has passed both houses of the California legislature. It took a great deal of work. It's a very detailed bill and obviously some legislators were more reluctant than others. So the lobbying proved effective. But, there is more work ahead because the Governor vetoed the bill. We did get press coverage throughout the state. The plan is to continue to educate more and more people on this issue. The real truth and facts get pushed aside as the issue becomes politicized. It's up to all of us to learn the truth about this bill, what it will do for California, and that the health disparities and costs will continue to worsen.

We have a great tool in the One Care Now Campaign. Leagues throughout the state continue to carry the petition and the flyers. They are utilizing the film *The Healthcare Solution* to develop supporters and workers. Please make use of the websites to volunteer your League members, contribute to the campaign and learn more. The campaign website for volunteering and materials is www.onecarenow.org. The website to get information is www.healthcareforall.org.

The bill will be back with amendments in 2007, and we'll be stronger for this effort. We are working more in coalitions with many groups. And more of you have joined in to stand up for the justice of our health care system. Good work and thank you for the support.

Both sides will use SB 840 to some extent during the upcoming election. However, as you surmised, this is not our arena. Our arena is public education and legislative advocacy. This is how we will win single payer healthcare! We need to talk to as many people as possible about this bill, as soon as possible. We do this by getting petitions signed, asking individuals and groups to write letters to editors, local league participation in non-political public events, etc., and now working through the OCN Campaign.

The OCN DVD is a perfect education tool! We can urge local league members to share them with each other, their friends and co-workers-via one-on-one, or in groups with activities like small cheese and wine or coffee parties with family and friends. And, the DVD's producer has given advocates permission to duplicate the DVDs to give away.

State Senator Kuehl is using the campaign for passage of SB840 this year as a building tool to create public interest and involvement for the next legislative session. She, as well as the Democratic leadership, did not expect the Governor to sign this bill. Organizations and unions like the California Nurses Association will use passage of SB840 to galvanize their constituents against the opposition.

We need to keep our eyes on the ultimate number of votes needed for the final vote to secure single payer insurance in California. We need to win over both Democratic and Republican constituents to pass single payer healthcare. This is where the League can shine! Our credibility can make a difference in the final outcome.

It is incredibly important that members of this committee, as well as all local league members, maintain a non-partisan stance throughout the campaign for SB 840. Our non-partisanship plays a large part in our credibility with the public. We cannot afford to tarnish this valuable asset.

I know it's hard to read information in the press that is negative. And, you can count on even more now that the Governor has vetoed the bill. You have been doing great work in Oakland! My advice is to dig in and keep it up! LWVC publicly urged the Governor to support the bill to no avail. Now, let's put our energy into defending SB840 against the negative attacks and building the support we will need to pass it in the next session of the State Legislature. Education, Education, and more Education!

OPPOSITION TO PROPOSITION 85—Sheila Hoff, Reproductive Choice Program Director

The League of Women Voters strongly opposes Proposition 85, the Parental Notification Initiative. Current law doesn't protect the right of privacy and doesn't discourage family communication. The League supports family communication and we support reproductive choice. This initiative sidesteps both of these issues. One cannot legislate family communication and the initiative takes away the right of making one's decision within a safe context. We just defeated this measure and here it is back again. Please read the information and share with your Leagues. Make use of the website and their materials. Become a speaker for your League and write articles for the local press. We can't keep silent and allow this issue to hurt many teens' safety. No one has complained about the system in practice right now.

A TUNNEL UNDER THE CLEVELAND NATIONAL FOREST?— Lola Ungar

From an article by David Reyes, L.A. Times Staff Writer, Sept. 9, 2006 and the Southern Orange County Sierra Club Website www.angeles.sierraclub.org.

That's right. Transportation officials of Riverside and Orange counties are moving forward with testing on a most radical plan to ease the traffic problems of the Riverside Freeway — an 11-mile tunnel through the Santa Ana Mountains of the Cleveland National Forest.

Transportation boards from the two counties met on September 8th in Riverside and approved taking soil samples in the hills to determine whether the tunnel is a feasible alternative to the freeway, the main artery linking Riverside and Orange counties.

Although expensive, the tunnel, which could cost from \$5 billion to \$7 billion, hasn't been ruled out by officials who seek to make the best use of the region's transportation system, said Jeff Miller, a Corona councilman and chairman of a regional transportation committee.

"The tunnel is among a number of projects being worked on right now to alleviate traffic on the 91 Freeway," said Miller. He said building more lanes by widening or double-decking the freeway remains a planning priority in addition to the proposed tunnel.

The freeway is regarded as one of the most congested corridors in Southern California with 320,000 daily drivers. By 2025, the number is expected to reach 450,000 a day.

The most congested stretch of the Riverside Freeway is the Corona bottleneck, eight miles between I-15 in Riverside County and the Orange County line. At peak hours, the average speed is less than 14 mph.

Transportation engineers will seek permits from federal environmental agencies to bore five holes within the Cleveland National Forest to test for rock formations and groundwater levels, among other things. The tests will help determine whether the area can support a tunnel.

H. Tony Rahimian, a transportation consultant, says that information will be shared with the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California, which is conducting soil tests for a possible pipeline in the same area. Funding for the work will come from \$15.8 million that Congress allocated for tests in April.

The decision to drill the test holes comes amid growing support for the tunnel by Riverside County officials seeking to ease traffic congestion and increasing opposition by southern Orange County officials, who fear that a tunnel would fill their neighborhoods with more traffic.

Several south Orange County cities and the area's largest landowner, the Irvine Co., have formally opposed the tunnel. The Angeles and San Geronio Chapters of the Sierra Club of Southern Orange have joined together to form a new task force to work on conservation issues in the Cleveland National Forest. They oppose the push by Riverside County officials to select and build a highway or highway/tunnel through the Trabuco District. They support the Orange County Transportation Authority's recent decision to concentrate on maximizing use of the 91 Freeway and the concept of light rail between Orange County and Riverside County. They plan to work for widespread citizen and political support to oppose the Riverside plan.

The proposed tunnel would connect Interstate 15 in Corona to the Foothill-Eastern tollway in Irvine.

No funds to build a tunnel have been allocated. Environmental and feasibility studies are expected to take at least 10 years, and if construction is approved and the project funded, it could be built by 2023.

Improvements to the Riverside Freeway will remain a priority, transportation officials said.

More than \$1.5 billion to improve the freeway has been included in a sales tax measure in Riverside County and in the extension of Measure M, Orange County's half-cent-on-the-dollar sales tax used for road and transit projects. Measure M was approved by voters in 1990 and expires in 2011 but is up for renewal Nov. 7. The extension would continue the tax until 2041.

LWVUS SELECTS FIVE PILOT LEAGUES FOR INNOVATIVE MEMBERSHIP RECRUITMENT

An overwhelming response from member Leagues was received by LWVUS to participate in the pilot phase of a new membership recruitment initiative. Dozens of Leagues, representing twenty-two states and the District of Columbia, applied to be part of the pilot program that will examine new approaches to recruiting members. A rigorous review process was undertaken by a team of LWVUS Board members and staff, and five pilot Leagues were ultimately selected. They are the Leagues of Greater Omaha (NE); Oakland (CA); Palm Beach County (FL); Saginaw County (MI); and Spartanburg County (SC).

South Coast Air Quality Management Board Approves Revised Pollution Credit Policy — Much to Critics' Displeasure – *Lola Ungar*

A compilation of articles from the Daily Breeze, Los Angeles Times and Fox News.

On September 8, 2006, the South Coast Management District (SCAQMD) Board approved a revised pollution credit policy. The regional air regulators have backed a measure letting builders of major new power plants buy air pollution credits originally designated for hospitals, schools and other services.

The SCAQMD staff and energy company representatives said the measure could keep the air from getting dirtier by creating enough reliable electricity so that diesel backup generators would not have to be used because of power shortages. They argued that traffic lights and other items necessary for public health would be powered by the plants.

But critics worry the measure will open urban areas to a wave of construction of large new power plants. Ryan Perez, 17, who objected to a plant proposed in nearby Vernon said that, "As an asthmatic resident of Huntington Park, it's hard enough already breathing on the way to school. You guys are supposed to make our air cleaner, not dirtier."

In Carson, BP and Edison plan a \$1 billion hydrogen power plant. The BP Carson refinery hopes to open a hydrogen- fueled power plant by 2011 in partnership with Edison International to take aim at the environmental benefits of recycling spent chunks of petroleum coke while dramatically limiting emissions of carbon dioxide.

The BP-Edison project would consume about 5,000 tons per day, according to Ted Craver, CEO of the Edison Mission Group, the Edison subsidiary which will work on the project.

Six plants – that include Carson, Industry, Vernon, Palmdale, Romoland (between Perris and Sun City), and Victorville -- could be the first to benefit from the revised pollution credit plan.

The board refused community requests to deny the proposal or delay action on it. Either option could stall or end construction of plants in Victorville and other areas that want them.

But the board ordered staff to return in January with proposals that could set much higher prices for offsets if plants are planned in areas with existing high amounts of air pollution.

California Passes Nations's 1st Greenhouse Gas Cap—Jane Turnbull, LWVC

California became the first state in the nation to call for a cap on all greenhouse gas emissions when the state senate on August 30th voted 50-27 to pass **AB32**. Passage followed several weeks of intense negotiation between leading Democrats and the governor's office, which was under pressure from the state Chamber of Commerce and some business groups to veto the bill. The state **League of Women Voters** supported the legislation and lobbied for its passage, independently and with a coalition of business and environmental organizations.

In letters to Assembly Speaker Fabian Nunez and Assembly Member Fran Pavley, the League stated its position that "Global climate change poses enormous risks to our economy and to the health and well-being of the people of our state. If current trends for producing greenhouse gases continue, by 2020 total emissions will be 35 percent greater than they were in 1990.

"We are concerned about:

- Rising sea levels, particularly in the San Francisco Bay Area and the San Joaquin Delta,
- Increasingly frequent extreme-heat conditions,
- Increased morbidity and mortality resulting from respiratory problems caused by deteriorating air quality,
- Reduced snow pack and stream flow in the Sierra Nevada mountains,
- Increased variability in agricultural productivity,
- Changes in the distribution of vegetation and increases in high fire danger.

"A recent report from the California Climate Change Center at UC Berkeley predicts that policies directed toward reducing greenhouse gas emissions by just eight sectors would create 20,000 new jobs and an increase in the Gross State Product of about \$60 billion by 2020."

The bill calls for a 25-percent reduction in greenhouse gases over the next 14 years. The Air Resources Board is to have regulations for industry reporting and for adoption of a statewide emission limit in place by January 1, 2008. The limits on emissions are to be technologically feasible and cost-effective, and are to take effect January 1, 2011. A "cap and trade" market-based mechanism is allowed but not mandated.

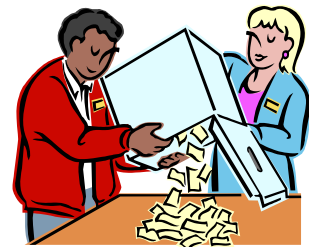
The analysis of the legislation by the Senate Committee on Environmental Quality noted that declarations from the world's leading climatologists indicate that "The effects of global warming are already observed in the decrease in snow water equivalent and in an earlier snowmelt and streamflow timing." The analysis noted that the increase in global sea levels threaten billions of dollars of commercial, industrial and residential structures in San Francisco Bay as well as the integrity of the levees in the Delta. An additional warming of just 2-3 degrees C° would mean "the potential for a continually unfolding planetary disaster of monstrous proportions."

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 SmartVoter.org.

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.

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

McCormick & Schmick's Restaurant

Two Rodeo (northeast corner of Wilshire Blvd. & Rodeo Dr.)

Driving directions & parking hints below.



\$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* —Jackie Jacobberger

LWVC President

—Robbie Davis

11:00-12:00—*How to Run a Local Election*

LWVC Education Fund Director

12:00-1:00—Lunch & Table Topics

1:00-1:45—*Recruiting & Keeping Your Members All Year Long*

—Lois Chaney

MTA Program Coordinator for California South

1:45-2:30—*Raising League Visibility in Your Community,*

—LWVC Presenter TBA

2:30-3:00 *Wrap-Up & Evaluations*

DIRECTIONS: The San Diego Freeway-Exit Wilshire East. DO NOT TAKE SANTA MONICA BLVD due to construction between the 405 & Beverly Hills. **Ventura Freeway**-Exit the Coldwater Canyon exit into Beverly Hills.

PARKING: #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 LWV Beverly Hills for research on parking.

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



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

Registration due by October 23

Name(s) _____

League _____

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



YES ON PROPOSITION 1B -- Highway Safety, Traffic Reduction, Air Quality, Port Security Bond Act of 2006. Part of the bond package developed to help rebuild California's infrastructure. This bond act would raise \$19 billion for transportation improvements.



YES ON PROPOSITION 1C -- Housing and Emergency Shelter Trust Fund Act of 2006. A bond measure to finance housing-related programs, brownfield cleanup, and parks related to infill development. The League has long been concerned about providing adequate housing.



YES ON PROPOSITION 1D -- Education Facilities: Kindergarten-University Public Education Facilities Bond Act of 2006. This bond measure would fund new school construction, modernization, relief of overcrowding, and other school infrastructure needs. The League supports improving California's educational infrastructure.



YES ON PROPOSITION 1E -- Disaster Preparedness and Flood Prevention Bond Act of 2006. This bond measure will provide funds for flood protection, levee protection in the San Francisco Delta, and storm water management. The League supports protecting our existing water supply infrastructure.



YES ON PROPOSITION 84 -- Water Quality, Safety and Supply. Flood Control. Natural Resource Protection. Park Improvements. Bonds. Initiative Statute. This initiative continues the League's past support of efforts to insure that California has adequate water supplies. This initiative would fund projects for safe drinking water, flood control, protection of rivers, lakes, streams, forest and wildlife conservation, and coastal protection and state parks.



NO ON PROPOSITION 85 -- Termination of Minor's Pregnancy. Waiting Period and Parental Notification. Parents rightfully want to be involved in their teenagers' lives, and all parents want what is best for their children. But good family communication can't be imposed by government. Mandatory notification laws may sound good, but in the real world, they just put teenagers in danger.



YES ON PROPOSITION 86 -- Tax on Cigarettes. This constitutional amendment imposes an additional 13-cent tax on each cigarette distributed and increases taxes on other tobacco products. The estimated \$2.1 billion in annual revenue will fund emergency services and nursing education for qualified hospitals, as well as tobacco-use prevention programs, research, and treatment of various tobacco-related illnesses. The League believes that the overwhelming social benefits of this measure greatly outweigh the potential downside of this earmarked tax.



NO ON PROPOSITION 88 -- Classroom Learning and Accountability Act. Real Property Parcel Tax. This measure would impose a \$50 tax on each real property parcel to create the Classroom Learning and Accountability Fund in the state treasury. While the League supports equitable access to quality education, this measure violates the League's State and Local Finance positions and is not real reform. It proposes to earmark funds via a constitutional amendment without providing sufficient funding to even bring education spending up to the national average. It also involves the state for the first time in taxing property.



YES ON PROPOSITION 89 -- California Nurses Clean Money and Fair Elections Act of 2006. Public Financing of Campaigns. Corporate Tax Increase. This measure would allow candidates running for office voluntarily to receive public campaign funding by meeting certain eligibility requirements. Funding would be provided for by a 0.2 percent increase in the corporate income tax. This measure also imposes new limits on campaign contributions, and places new restrictions on contributions by corporations and lobbyists. The League vigorously supports practices which will enable candidates to compete more equitably for public office, and which place realistic limits on campaign contributions and expenditures.



NO ON PROPOSITION 90 -- Government Acquisition, Regulation of Private Property. This measure redefines the eminent domain process in ways that will make it difficult for government to protect the environment. It will likely increase costs to taxpayers for implementation of environmental protection laws or new consumer protection laws. The measure is, in part, vaguely worded and will likely result in extensive litigation.

The League has no position on Proposition 83 (Sex Offenders, Sexually Violent Predators. Punishment, Residence Restrictions and Monitoring) and is neutral on Proposition 1A (Transportation Investment Fund) and Proposition 87 (Severance or Extraction Tax on California Oil Producers).

BE AN ADVOCATE FOR GOOD GOVERNMENT VOTE WITH THE LEAGUE ON NOVEMBER 7

[League of Women Voters of California](http://www.lwvc.org) 801 12th Street, Suite 220 Sacramento CA 95814
916-442-7215 FAX 916-442-7362 Email: lwvc@lwvc.org Website: <http://lwvc.org>

The League of Women Voters is always nonpartisan: It does not support or oppose candidates or political parties. However, we are political because we support and oppose legislation, lobby legislators and take stands on ballot measures.

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PHILIPPINES ASKS FOR HAIR, FEATHERS, RICE STRAW TO SOAK UP OIL SPILL—*Lola Ungar from articles in L.A. Times and the Daily Breeze*

Leo Solinap of Reuters Limited reported on Thursday, August 24, 2006, that the Philippine Coast Guard appealed for chicken feathers, human hair and rice straw to help sponge up the country's worst oil spill. A tanker chartered by refiner Petron Corp. sank in heavy seas on August 11, oozing about a 10th of its 2 million liter cargo of industrial fuel off the central island of Guimaras, affecting 40,000 people and 200 km (120 miles) of coastline. Petron, in which the Philippine government and Saudi state oil firm Saudi Aramco each have a 40 percent stake, said a fresh spill was spotted late on Wednesday.

"We are appealing for the supply of **indigenous absorbent materials like chicken feathers, human hair and rice straw**," Harold Jarder, head of the Coast Guard in Iloilo, a province north of Guimaras, told Reuters. Jarder said San Miguel Corp., Southeast Asia's largest food and beverage conglomerate, promised to donate one ton of chicken feathers a day from its plants in Iloilo and nearby Bacolod City. Officials at San Miguel, the Philippines largest seller of poultry products, confirmed the plan but said details were still being worked out.

Les Reyes, owner of one of the country's largest hairdressing chains, said his 200 shops had started collecting hair clippings on Tuesday. "This is in response to the call of Greenpeace," Reyes said, adding he had also asked other salons to donate hair to the Coast Guard. Jarder said chicken feathers and human hair will be placed in sacks tied to bamboo poles and placed along the coastlines of affected villages.

Some communities in Guimaras are already using rice straw in sacks to try to contain the spill, which has affected 27 coastal villages and a marine reserve and is spreading in a northeast direction toward the islands of Negros, Cebu and Masbate. In Concepcion town in Iloilo, residents said they were taking pre-emptive action before the floating bunker oil could hurt their livelihood. "Operators of fish pens and ponds not hit by the oil spill were forced to harvest fish," town mayor Raul Baniyas said.

Petron said it was employing 869 people per day in Guimaras, paying them 200 pesos each, to clean the beaches and mangrove trees of the black sludge. "We are doing everything humanly possible to assist those affected," Nicasio Alcantara, chairman of Petron, told a news conference. Petron said the owner of the 998-ton tanker, local firm Sunshine Maritime Development Corp., is insured for up to \$6.7 million to cover this sort of accident. If the insurance cover is not enough, Petron and the owner of the tanker can tap up to \$301 million from the International Oil Pollution Compensation Fund. Oil companies worldwide contribute to the fund to cover oil spills, Mario Lucas, executive director at Petron, said.



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

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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 OCTOBER VOTER is ready for viewing on our website.

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