



LWV/LACounty

An Interleague Organization

VOTER

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS® OF LOS ANGELES COUNTY

An Interleague Organization — Antelope Valley • 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 Area • Whittier

www.lacilo.ca.lwvnet.org

LWVLACounty@msn.com

January/February 2016

Calendar 2016

Tuesday	Feb 23	Convention Kits Mailed
Wednesday	Mar 2	LWV LACounty Board meeting
Saturday	Mar 26	LWV LACounty Convention 9:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Carson Center, 801 E. Carson St., Carson 90745
Wednesday	May 4	LWV LACounty Board meeting
Monday	May 23	LWV LACounty Board Planning Retreat
Wednesday	June 1	LWV LACounty Board meeting
Thursday - Sunday	June 16 – 19	LWVUS Convention – Washington DC
Saturday	July 30	Summer League Day – “Popovers in Pasadena”

LWV LACounty will not be holding a spring Ballot Briefing as there are only two measures on the June ballot.

LWVC will not be holding Leadership Council this year.

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From the President's Desk...

We had a great Winter League Day with good attendance and excellent presenters. Many thanks to **Dora Rose** from LWVC and **Dean Logan**, the County Registrar Recorder, for giving us timely information as we move into Voter Service activities for the 2106 elections.

Sportsmen's Lodge was a new venue for County League programs. It was a bit far for some, but closer for others. We try to hold County programs in different parts of the County as well as in central locations. Special thank you to **Sandra Trutt** (LAC Board and LA) for handling registration and organizing the venue and lunch. And thanks to **Linda Herman** (PV), **Margo Reeg** (Whittier), and **Roz Tyson** (LA) for help with the program.

As we move toward the June primary election, check the LWVC website for information and guidance on voter service activities. There will be two propositions on the June ballot, both placed there by the legislature. Neither is particularly complex. The County League will not be holding a ballot measure briefing for these two items. We will be working with LWVLA to produce a County-issue election guide. This supplements the Easy Voter Guide that has a state focus.

I want to remind the Local Leagues that the County Board of Supervisors is the responsibility of the County League. However, the County Board will not be holding candidate events for the three Supervisorial seats up this year. If a Local League – or a group of LLs – would like to hold a forum for a County Supervisor race, you will need to request permission and co-sponsorship from the County League. Contact me to do this.

In planning for the Count Convention 2016, the County Board reviewed the program planning reports submitted by the Local Leagues. I had hoped for a more robust response. We are an organization that promotes civic participation. That should apply to our own governance as well. However, the board worked with what we had and the proposed program will be presented in the Convention Kit and at the Convention.

The LWV/LACounty Convention will take place on March 26, 2016, at the Carson Convention Center. Save the date and plan to join League members throughout the County for event.

Nancy

Nancy Mahr
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Dean Logan, LA County Registrar Recorder/County Clerk, addresses the County League Day audience on voter outreach.



Dora Rose (front row center), LWVC Senior Director of Civic Engagement, spoke at County League Day on voter service strategies and Voter's Edge.

WINTER LEAGUE SPEAKERS CELEBRATE NEW VOTER STRATEGIES

Pat Colby, LWV Palos Verdes Peninsula

California is in the bottom 10 states for voter representation, which disproportionately affects the poor, people of color and English language learners. To engage all Californians in civic life, new voter strategies are needed. Dora Rose, Senior Director of Civic Engagement for the LWVC Education Fund and Dean Logan, L.A. County Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk presented new strategies to over 60 County Winter League Day attendees at the Sportsmen's Lodge Event Center on January 30, 2016.

Dora Rose believes the LWV is in position to tackle inequities in voter turn-out by striving to make voters representative of California's population, developing new leaders, incorporating a younger demographic and partnering with diverse community groups. Rose cited an interesting statistic from Paul Mitchell Data Inc.: "In California an 18-19 year old is more likely to be arrested than to actually vote in one of our statewide elections." Why, she asked, is voter turn-out so low? The reasons include lack of engagement (the feeling that government is ineffective, broken, out-of-touch); information deficits (ballots are so long and complicated); institutional barriers (lack of access for limited English speakers/low literacy individuals); lack of access for people with disabilities. Rose spoke of additional actions that have recently expanded voter involvement.

Scott vs Bowen (2015): Tens of thousands of Californians who served sentences for non-violent felonies will be allowed to vote after their release under an agreement announced by current Secretary of State, Alex Padilla, who dropped an appeal by former Secretary of State, Debra Bowman. Bowman was sued after declaring the former inmates ineligible to vote in December 2011. Bowen had appealed a judge's ruling in favor of the plaintiffs in the suit. In dropping that appeal, Padilla said he wanted to ensure that lower-level felons (who were sent under Governor Jerry Brown's "realignment" program to county jail as a way to remedy state prison overcrowding) retain their voting rights.

New California Motor Voter Law (October, 2015): This governor-approved legislation will automatically register citizens to vote when they obtain or renew driver's licenses or state I.D. cards. Rose says this law makes our democracy stronger by removing a key barrier to voting for millions of Californians. Approximately 6.6 Californians are eligible to vote but are not registered. The new law was scheduled to go into effect in January 2016, but the automated registration in ten languages won't be offered until work is finished on a state-wide data base which may not be completed until the summer of 2016. Congress enacted the National Voter Registration Act (NVRA, 1993), popularly known as the "Motor Voter Act," to enhance voting opportunities for every U.S. citizen.

Changes in California's Voter Bill of Rights: The LWVC and the Center for Civic Design say their research showed the California Voter Bill of Rights contains some awkward phrasing and confusing language. For the past year they have presented proposed language changes (plain language with clear visual story telling features) to people across the state. The Secretary of State's office has approved the language for all state voter pamphlets by February 2016. The changes to the language are the result of Senate Bill 505 by Senator Tony Mendoza which was signed into law by Governor Brown in 2015. One manifestation of the approved pamphlet language changes will be the Easy Voter, which will be available in five languages beginning with a Spanish language pilot.

Smart Voter and Voter's Edge launch a comprehensive nonpartisan online voter guide for California voters. "MapLight and the LWVC Educational Fund have launched Voter's Edge, a comprehensive nonpartisan online voting guide to the California elections. A personalized look-feature allows voters to make selections

Continued from page 3

and share ballot choices via social media.”

Best Practices Manual for Official Voter Information Guides. These guides are specifically developed as an easy-to-use resource for election officials and community groups working to enfranchise and educate California voters. They include recommendations that bridge civic literacy gaps, make information easy to read, and are written in a language voters can understand. Webinar recordings and downloads are available on line. Six counties have already issued the improved guides.

Use of Mobile Technology: LWV is working to provide voter information at the highest moment of need. Mobile technology is currently, and in future, a means to expand outreach to a wider California demographic, including pre-registration of 16 and 17 year olds.

Other Connections: The LWVC Education Fund is presenting news and videos of voter event happenings; touting the newly revised Guide to California Government, and forming a speakers’ bureau through Univision (the popular Spanish T.V. station).

Dean C. Logan, Registrar-Recorder/L.A. County Clerk, has responsibility for registering voters, maintaining voter files, administering federal, state, local and special elections and verifying initiatives, referenda and recall petitions. L.A. County with more than 500 political districts and 4.8 million registered voters, is the largest and most complex county election jurisdiction in the country. According to the Registrar’s quarterly newsletter, his office is progressing toward the final design of the Ballot Marking Device (BMD) and continues to define the tally system and other voting system components. “The final product will be the result of extensive qualitative research to identify voters’ preferences and address the needs of a large and complex

electorate. Logan provided power point visuals of the Voting Systems Assessment Project (VSAP) activities and developments in the last quarter. His VSAP staff has conducted Vote By Mail user testing to diverse pool of participants: experienced Vote By Mail voters, new Vote By Mail voters, senior citizens, young voters ages 18-25*, Spanish speakers, Korean speakers, and people with minimal formal education. VSAP reached out to partner organizations and non-profits to ensure all communities were well represented in this research. The LWV/LAC, National Association of Latino Elected Officials Education Fund, United Cerebral Palsy of Los Angeles and the Korean Resource Center assisted in the recruitment of participants. The VSAP seeks to create a human-centered design which will provide an improved voting experience for L.A. County. Extensive quality research has been conducted throughout the course of the project to identify the needs and preferences of the diverse L.A. County electorate. To date, VSAP has engaged over 3,000 voters, pole workers and election administrators through surveys, focus groups, workshops, community discussions and user testing to gather their feedback and input into the voting system design.”

*2015 examples of how VSAP involved youth, one of the largest growing voter segments in L.A. County, showcases the group’s efforts to go where these potential voters are. For high schoolers, VSAP teams made youth aware of the historic struggle for the women’s vote, the 19th Amendment (1920), passed out voter registration kits written in simple language combined with a power point presentation on the impact of an individual’s vote, and showed the film “Selma”—about the epic march from Selma to Montgomery, Alabama and the resulting efforts that led to President Johnson’s signing of the Voting Rights Act of 1965.

At Homeboy Industries—an organization providing training and support to formerly gang-involved youth and previously incarcerated men and women—VSAP explained that Scott vs. Bowen gave them the right to vote. The perception amongst youth at Homeboys was that they had lost the right to vote based on their prior history. For many this information offered a change to reboot their involvement in civic life.

TRUST RE-IMAGINED: LAPD & COMMUNITY

by

Marjorie B. Green, Co-Chair, Committee on Community Policing

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Last year some members of the LWV/LA found themselves struggling with reports of shootings by police officers of unarmed men of color occurring across the country (Ferguson, Baltimore, Albuquerque, etc.) The police were seen less as protectors than as an occupying force in many low-income communities.

The issue was brought closer to home when Ezell Ford was shot by LAPD officers in August 2014. Was this death a legitimate use of force? The LA Board of Police Commissioners, in a unanimous vote, found one of the officers acted against policy. Riots did not follow in Los Angeles.

Is it possible that our City might become a beacon for a better, more constitutional type of criminal justice system? The LAPD has been reviewed and revamped by the Christopher Commission, overseen by the Justice Department through a Consent Decree, and had several reform-minded chiefs. But the chasm of distrust is huge in some parts of the City.

Concerned that these tensions could cause a greater loss of faith in our social construct, LWV/LA members created a new Committee on Community Policing this past summer to explore ways to foster trust, mutual respect and accountability. Using a current League study (Education and Advocacy), the Committee's focus is on LAPD/community relationships. It is researching challenging issues, effective practices and proposed legislation.

People who have gone into law enforcement risk their lives to protect ours. But when the community's faith is eroded, police work is impaired because mistrust by community members makes them unwilling to report crime, turn to police for protection or cooperate in investigations.

The need to enhance communication now is greater than ever. This is the time to explore police tactics, culture, and accountability. It is also the time to remember that our community's safety net is eroded and the ills afflicting low-income community members (from homelessness to mental illness) were never intended to be resolved by the police.

The Committee has decided that the most effective way to promote trust is to identify what stakeholders believe to be the optimum solutions, and to uncover common ground and build allies to achieve these goals. To that end, we have been gathering data from the President's 21st Century Policing Report, the Ferguson Commission Report, and policy recommendations from Black Lives Matter. We have been interviewing top level members of the LAPD; Police Commission presidents and members; the Inspector General; legislators and leaders of organizations from the NAACP to the LA Chamber of Commerce.

Once potential solutions have been identified, we plan to share the proposals to which both the LAPD and the community are committed perhaps via a videotape will be distributed at no charge, with a live panel in attendance, to non-profit groups and congregations who would like to learn more about the issues and ways in which they can become part of the solution.

As you prepare for your upcoming elections, please be mindful that sponsoring debates and forums requires careful decision-making by your entire board in adopting clear, objective candidate participation criteria before each election season gets underway and before the candidates are known. Criteria may include: a public announcement of candidacy; a determination of each candidate's constitutional eligibility to be on the ballot; and/or evidence that a formal campaign is underway as well as

CANDIDATE DEBATES AND FORUMS

As you prepare for your upcoming elections, please be mindful that sponsoring debates and forums requires careful decision-making by your entire board in adopting clear, objective candidate participation criteria before each election season gets underway and before the candidates are known.

Criteria may include: a public announcement of candidacy; a determination of each candidate's constitutional eligibility to be on the ballot; and/or evidence that a formal campaign is underway as well as other clear and objective criteria.

Leagues are strongly advised to publish their criteria broadly. Leagues can then use these criteria to determine which candidates are invited to participate in the debate, should the League choose not to invite all candidates.

For more planning information, please consult [Frequently Asked Questions \(FAQ's\) about Candidate Debates and Forums](#) on the LWV website and/or contact LWVUS Director Judy Davis at judithsdavis@gmail.com.

Good planning will allow your League to maintain an excellent reputation for providing the public with unbiased and nonpartisan candidate forums and debates.

OUR ATMOSPHERE: From around the Globe to Los Angeles

Saturday March 19, 2016

9:00 am–Noon

Neighborhood Church, Ross Chapel

301 N. Orange Grove, Pasadena, CA 91103

The Paris Climate Talks and What They Mean

Speaker: John Odell, Professor Emeritus of International Relations, University of Southern California, and Senior Fellow, Centre for International Governance Innovation, Waterloo, Canada

The Fate of the Terrestrial Biosphere

Speaker: Dr. Josh Fisher, Climate Scientist, NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL), California Institute of Technology (Caltech); Science Lead, ECOSTRESS Mission

Now Trending: Air Quality Measurements, Challenges, and Climate Change

Speaker: Jason Low, Manager, Atmospheric Measurements, South Coast Air Quality Management District.

Co-Sponsors:

- Arroyos and Foothills Conservancy
- Arroyo Interfaith Environmental Coalition
- Arroyo Seco Foundation
- Citizens Climate Lobby
- Climate Resolve
- EDEN (the environmental ministry of All Saints Church)
- Neighborhood Church Green Council
- Sierra Club - Pasadena Group of the Angeles Chapter
- Transition Pasadena



The League of Women Voters, a nonpartisan political organization, encourages informed and active participation in government and influences public policy through education and advocacy. 626-798-0965 E-mail: office@lww-pa.org website: www.lww-pa.org

Pasadena Media, LWV-PA's Media Partner, 150 S Los Robles Ave #101, Pasadena, CA 91101, 626-794-8585 info@pasadenamedia.org

League of Women Voters

Beach Cities, Torrance, and Palos Verdes

PRESENT THE

HIGHER EDUCATION **Consensus Meeting**

Who: All League Members

When: Monday, February 22nd from 6-8:30pm

Where: Manhattan Beach Library meeting room
1320 Highland Avenue, Manhattan Beach

What: A consensus meeting on higher education
that will focus on: Equitable Access,
Preparedness, Funding/Affordability, and
Opportunities/Barriers to Success

The logo for the League of Women Voters (LWV) features the letters "LWV" in a bold, blue, sans-serif font. A thick, red, brush-stroke-like line curves underneath the letters, starting from the bottom left and ending at the bottom right.

LA County Leagues On Social Media



AntelopeValley

Facebook: League of Women Voters Antelope Valley
Twitter: @LWVAV

Beach Cities:

Facebook: League of Women Voters of the Beach Cities
Twitter: @LWVBC

Claremont Area:

Facebook: League of Women Voters of the
Claremont Area.

Glendale-Burbank:

Facebook: League of Women Voters of Glendale/Burbank

Long Beach Area:

Facebook: League of Women Voters – Long Beach Area

Los Angeles:

Facebook: League of Women Voters of Los Angeles

Palos Verdes Peninsula:

Facebook: League of Women Voters of
Palos Verdes Peninsula

Pasadena Area:

Facebook: League of Women Voters Pasadena Area
Twitter: @LWV_PA

Santa Monica:

Facebook: League of Women Voters of Santa Monica
Twitter: @LWVSM

Torrance Area:

Facebook: League of Women Voters of Torrance
Twitter: @LWVTA

Whittier:

Facebook: League of Women Voters of Whittier

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LWV/LA County VOTER

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.

SUBSCRIBE to the VOTER

Send your email address to the Voter editor to be notified of the latest VOTER posted on our website at: www.lacilo.ca.lwvnet.org and to be included on the email distribution list.

Send to: mebarnes@aol.com

Join Us

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. **Find a local League below :**

Antelope Valley - lwvav.org

Beach Cities - beachcities.ca.lwvnet.org

Claremont Area- claremont.ca.lwvnet.org

East San Gabriel Valley- esgv.ca.lwvnet.org

Glendale-Burbank - gb.ca.lwvnet.org

Long Beach Area - lba.ca.lwvnet.org

Los Angeles - lwvlosangeles.org

Palos Verdes Peninsula - lwvpalosverdes.org

Pasadena Area - lwv-pa.org

Santa Monica - lwvsantamonica.org

Torrance Area - lwvtorrancearea.org

Whittier - whittier.ca.lwvnet.org

January/February 2016

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

LWVC Election website www.cavotes.org. Lots of good information plus the Pros & Cons and InDepths at election time.

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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