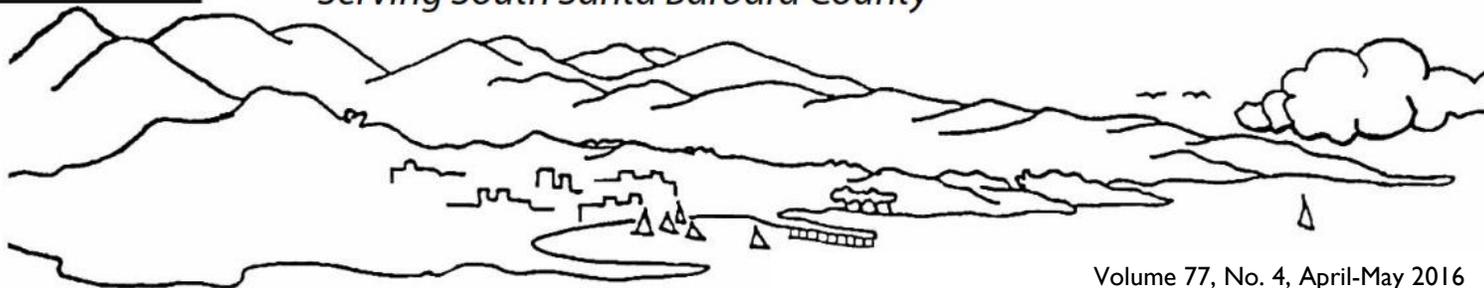




CHANNEL VOTER

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF SANTA BARBARA

Serving South Santa Barbara County



Volume 77, No. 4, April-May 2016

Hot Topics

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April Community Forum

Pre-Kindergarten: A Vital Investment In Our Future

Wednesday, April 20

Since the 2013 annual meeting of the League of Women Voters of California, when Pre-K or Pre-School was chosen as an official “issue for education and advocacy,” Leagues around the state have been focused on promoting public awareness of the prodigious learning abilities of pre-school age children. The original impetus behind the Pre-K movement was breakthrough advancement in brain science. More recently, the demonstrated educational and social benefits of Pre-K, both short and long term, have given rise to efforts in a number of communities, including New York and San Francisco, which guarantee universal Pre-School for all four year olds.

Moderated by Bill Marks, the April forum will be addressed by five speakers including: Ben Romo, Executive Director of First 5 Santa Barbara County; Michelle Robertson, Pre-School Coordinator for the Santa Barbara Unified School District; Dr. Maria Fisk, Director of the Carpinteria Children’s Project; Erika Ronchietto, owner/operator of the Learning Den Pre-School, and Professor Matt Quirk of UCSB’s Education Department. The forum is co-sponsored by First 5 Santa Barbara County. See the page eight calendar for details.

Bill Marks, Chair, Education Committee

May Community Forum

Should California Raise The Minimum Wage?

Wednesday, May 18

In the League's November Discussion Units, our members agreed that the minimum wage on the South Coast should be raised to \$15. This followed a large local rally on Labor Day, 2015, when CAUSE and the Fund for Santa Barbara began a community effort to raise our minimum wage. Two leaders from that rally will speak at our May Forum. They are Lucas Zucker from the CAUSE organization, and Marcos Vargas, executive director of the Fund for Santa Barbara. Since the fall they have been joined by many other organizations which also support the change locally and representatives from these organizations will speak at the Forum as well. (Con’t on Page 6)

Community Forums are held the third Wednesday of the month at the Louise Lowry Davis Center, 1232 De la Vina St., noon to 2 p.m. They are always free and open to the public. You are encouraged to bring a brown bag lunch and your friends. Parking behind the Center is free during the forums.

Message from Co-President Amanda Pelch

It is hard to believe that our League year will be over soon. It always seems to go so fast!

The 2016 Directory was mailed in February and we hope everyone is using it to reach out to your League cohorts and friends. Joanie Jones and Denise Frey worked tirelessly to see that the data was up to date, Jennifer Holland put the data and information into the Directory format and SB Printers printed them. To our staff of Joanie, Denise and Jennifer thank you for your dedication and perseverance, we appreciate all your efforts.

There are a few mistakes and new information; through emails to members, only those mistakes have been noted. If you see any errors please email OffMgr@lwvsantabarbara.org. The intention is to send out emails every few months with the changes and additions of new members. Through these emailed messages, members only will be notified. For those of you without email, you will receive the information in the mail.

The League's Annual Meeting is June 11. Annual Meeting Kits will be mailed out in early May. The new slate of Directors and Officers will be presented along with the Annual Budget and the many reports detailing all active aspects of the League. It is going to be an exciting League year for 2016-17. The June primary will be over and the Fall Election will be approaching.

The Summer and Fall seasons will be very busy for Voter Service. Susan Shank, Voter Service Chair, has stepped down due to health issues. We wish her well and thank her for her service. Lots of help will be needed from our members to reach our goals of



Co-Presidents Amanda Pelch and Lindsey Baker

election education, candidate forums, pros & cons education, voter registration and loading the new Voter's Edge with local candidate information.

Voter's Edge is the new state of the art voter information website that has been developed by LWVC and Maplight. It replaces Smart Voter. You can reach Voter's Edge at www.votersedge.org. Anyone

who is interested in assisting Voter Service please email me at the address below.

We need more volunteers at Earth Day on April 16! The League will have our usual table at the festival for one day, Saturday. We still need more volunteers for the day so please email me if you can help.

We need volunteers in many areas so now is the time to step up and get involved! Our League activities rely on volunteers who are actively dedicated to our mission to educate, inform and advocate on behalf of our democracy and political structure. Contact me and see how you can make a difference: CoPresCommEd@lwvsantabarbara.org, or call 965-2422.

Amanda Pelch, Co-President, Community Education, Membership & Administration



Local League Leaders:

**Make a difference!
Challenge yourself or others!
Step up and seek LWVC Board Office!**

The LWVC Nominating Committee (NC) is looking for proven leaders for the LWVC Officers and Board of Directors slate for the 2017-2019 term of office. Nominate yourself or nominate another League member before the October 3, 2016 deadline.

The nomination form is available for completion online on the members only web site, or contact NC Chair Kathy Souza at kathysouza2003@yahoo.com for information and/or forms. The NC may also be reached at nominating@lwvc.org.

Nominating Committee Members:
Kathy Souza, Jeanne Brown, Robbie Davis, Ann Havlik, and Gloria Chun Hoo

*The Channel Voter is published four times a year (in September, November, February and April) by the League of Women Voters of Santa Barbara, 328 East Carrillo Street, Suite A, Santa Barbara CA 93101
email: league@lwvsantabarbara.org; Web: lwvsantabarbara.org*

April Discussion Units: Goleta Foothills Development

On January 27 the League was invited to UCSB to join in the formation of a new Coalition dealing with the Shelby Project. That project will convert 14 acres of land in Goleta currently zoned for agriculture into a residentially zoned area, in order to build 60 market rate houses. The property is located on the west and north sides of the Glen Annie Golf Course, on Cathedral Oaks Road.



Environmental Studies, the Goodland Coalition and the Westside Goleta Coalition. The groups would like the League to join them in a coalition to fight this project. They are calling the coalition the Shelby Foothills Coalition

In 2012, when Goleta passed Measure G protecting the historical agricultural properties in the city, the Shelby property was excluded because there was already a permit application in to develop the property. Now the developers are pressing for a General Plan change to alter the zoning to residential. Changing this parcel would again increase the pressure to convert the Glen Annie Golf Course to luxury housing. The City of Goleta has a great deal of newly built high priced housing, but what is really needed is more affordable rental housing.

The Sustainable Communities Committee has been concerned about the 1,500 houses that Goleta has permitted, and is building, along with many new hotel rooms and other development projects. Other groups that have been concerned about it as well include Santa Barbara Audubon Society, UCSB

to emphasize their concern for all the foothill natural areas. Groups like the Audubon Society are very interested in protecting the foothill areas because of their extreme importance to the watershed, and the habitat for birds and animals.

The coalition believes that there are legal ways to pursue their opposition, and are therefore asking for large contributions to explore that possibility. While we have explained that the League cannot help much financially due to its many other involvements, the coalition is eager to have us work with them. The League has approved a contribution, granted permission to raise money from our members and those attending Earth Day, and the League has officially joined the Coalition. The topic was introduced at our March 16 Forum, and will be discussed further with our members during the April Discussion Unit meetings. For meeting times and dates, please see the calendar section on page 8.

Connie Hannah, Chair, Sustainable Communities Committee

May Discussion Units: Let's Clip And Share!

At our March Discussion Unit in Carpinteria members pointed out that we have not done a news clippings Unit for a long time and it is a favorite so for May we are bringing it back! Every member should bring a newspaper or magazine article they would like to discuss with the group. This makes sure everyone

gets a chance to talk about a favorite concern that fits in with the League program. But, since there is such a contentious atmosphere this year, let's not get into politics!

Connie Hannah, Vice-President for Program and Action

[Click here to Subscribe to the LWVSB YouTube Channel!](#)

Making A Killing: Guns, Greed and the NRA

The League is co-sponsoring a presentation of the film Making a Killing: Guns, Greed, and The NRA. The film tells the stories of how guns, and the billions made off of them, affect the lives of everyday Americans.

It features personal stories from people across the country who have been affected by gun violence, including survivors and victims' families. The film exposes how the powerful gun companies and the NRA are resisting responsible legislation for the sake of profit - and thereby putting people in danger.

The film looks into gun tragedies and things we can do to put an end to this profit-driven crisis.

a ROBERT GREENWALD film
MAKING A KILLING
GUNS, GREED, AND THE NRA

Thursday, April 7, 2016 – 7pm

Film will be followed by a town hall with panelists
Robert Greenwald, Brave New Films
Sen. Hannah Beth Jackson, CA State Senate
Assemblyman Das Williams, CA State Assembly
Mayor Helene Schneider, Mayor of Santa Barbara
Bob Weiss, Father of Veronika Weiss
Toni Wellen, Coalition Against Gun Violence

Marjorie Luke Theatre Tickets: \$12
721 East Cota St. Tickets available at the door: 6pm
Free parking available Or online: brownpapertickets.com/event/2513009

See the film trailer at:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LtQdjFIZFhM>

LWVC's Higher Education Study

Voted as an issue for education and advocacy by the League of Women Voters of California in 2013, a follow-up study on higher education was put together by five working groups from around the state and published on the LWVC website in August 2015. Key to this issue is the increased demand by employers for employees with degrees beyond high school.

The Study's general conclusion is that the California Master Plan's three-tiered structure of Community Colleges (CCCs), State Universities (CSUs) and University of California campuses (UCs) cannot meet this demand and must be overhauled. A telling statistic is that from 1999 to 2011 California spending on higher education dropped by 20% while K-12 enrollment went up by 20%. The consequent imbalance of demand over supply has predictably resulted in the unsustainably high price of college degrees we are now witnessing. As a result, most High School students are struggling to afford Community Colleges which are inadequately funded to keep up with massively growing enrollments they cannot control.

Not all college degrees are equal. Graduates with engineering degrees make five times more income over a lifetime than their classmates with education degrees make. But an obstacle in the way of the aspiring young techie is that colleges cannot afford to

offer Career Technical Education or CTE courses, usually involving small labs, which are funded at the same per unit level as less costly large lecture classes. Another problem is that degree unit credits have never been lined up so students can move easily up the three tiers of the Master Plan.

The study data shows that some of the overall cost problem can be traced back to K-12. Sixty eight percent of CSU entrants and 70-90% of CCC entrants to UCs require remediation, which costs the UC system one billion dollars per year. One recommendation to unclog this logjam is to allow CCCs to grant four year bachelor degrees. Noting that only five percent of high tech workers use calculus, one recommendation is to drop washout algebra and calculus courses as absolute degree requirements. Another idea for lowering the dropout rate is to beef up student counseling.

Overall per capita support for education dropped from 18% to 12.4% of general fund appropriations between 1999 and 2011 and unless this trend continues to be reversed it is hard to see how any of the needed reforms of the Master Plan can be realized. Whether Common Core will meet its promise of a brighter future for education is another open question.

Bill Marks, Chair, Education Committee

League Advocacy

Many of our League members are concerned and interested in the legislative priorities and actions of our State and National Leagues. To keep you informed we have the following recap from a recent LWVUS update:

League Files Motion for Temporary Restraining Order and Preliminary Injunction Against EAC

The League filed a Temporary Restraining order (TRO) and injunction enjoining the Election Assistance Commission (EAC) and its Executive Director Brian Newby from enforcing the decision granting state requests to amend the national uniform mail-in voter registration form to require documentary proof of citizenship. This is part of a suit filed in federal district court to stop the recent illegal action by the Executive Director of the U.S. EAC that allows these states to restrict voter registration. For additional background and information, please see the [League's press release](#).

League Opposes SENSE Act and BRICK Act in U.S. House

The League joined other partner organizations on a letter to the House Energy and Commerce Committee. The SENSE Act (H.R. 3797) and the BRICK Act (H.R. 4557) would weaken health safeguards for Americans on behalf of special interests and result in more air pollution and health hazards.

League Joins Amicus in *Zubik v. Burwell*

The League of Women Voters joined an amicus brief in the case of *Zubik v. Burwell*, a challenge to the contraception accommodation in the Affordable Care Act. The amicus brief argues that the contraception accommodation for employers who object to providing contraceptive coverage is the least restrictive means of advancing the government's compelling interest in protecting women's health and promoting women's equality. The League has long standing positions in support of equal access to healthcare and equal rights for women as well as the

right to privacy in reproductive choices. The Supreme Court heard arguments in the case on March 23.

Reminder: LWVUS Board Sets 2016 Legislative Priorities

The LWVUS Board set federal legislative priorities for the second session of the 114th Congress at its January board meeting. The League has many positions from which to take action but establishing a focus for our national advocacy is a critical responsibility of the LWVUS Board as it is for every League Board. In setting priorities, the Board considers a number of factors, the most important of which is focusing League effort where it can have the greatest impact. For 2016, the LWVUS legislative priorities are ranked in two tiers. The first tier priority is Representative Democracy, which includes voting rights and election administration, money in politics, redistricting reform and work on a constitutional convention. The second tier is Climate Change. We also continue to watch action on several issues including immigration, health care, reproductive rights and environmental protection.

League of Women Voters of California Update:

Concern for Coastal Commission Activity

The LWVC sent a letter to the Coastal Commission reflecting our continuing support for their protection of our coastline and stating that, while we are not privy to personnel matters and cannot comment on them, we do want to see strong protections maintained and are concerned about current news. A copy of the full letter is here:

<https://lwvc.org/statement/2016/feb/coastal-commissions-executive-director>

Linda Phillips, Chair, State and National Action

Schedule of LWVSB Candidate Forums: Primary Election, June 7

24th Congressional District

Sunday, April 24, 2-4 pm
Faulkner Gallery, SB Public Library

3rd District Supervisorial

Wednesday, April 27, 7-9 pm
Isla Vista School, 6875 El Colegio Rd, Goleta

1st District Supervisorial

Saturday, April 30, 2-3:30 pm
Franklin Elementary School Multipurpose Room,
1111 E. Mason St., Santa Barbara

3rd District Supervisorial

Monday, May 2, 7-9 pm
St. Mark's-in-the-Valley Episcopal Church, Los Olivos
Co-sponsored with WE Watch and Santa Ynez Valley
Board of Realtors

Should California Raise The Minimum Wage? (Con't from page 1)

Following the Labor Day rally the state of California added a statewide measure to the November 2016 ballot that would raise the State's minimum wage to \$15 over several years. Many other states including New York and Oregon are doing the same, and about 270 cities have been raising theirs as well. The local coalition has decided to work with the State's 2016 measure, so that will be on our fall ballots.

It is important to note that after a careful study, the City of Santa Barbara decided that a Living Wage for their employees should be \$16.70 per hour, if no benefits were paid. The City ruled that all City contracts would use that wage. This indicates that

locally \$15 would be a floor and it will probably need to be raised in the future.

Raising the minimum wage in some states does not help in the 21 states that have no minimum, and use only the \$7.25 minimum wage set by the federal government. Therefore, there is now a great deal of pressure for a national minimum wage of \$15 and so we will continue to hear this discussed frequently in the future. If you have questions, our Forum will be a good place to get them answered. We look forward to seeing you there.

Connie Hannah, Vice President for Program and Action



Lois Capps speaking at the February Forum on Gun Violence



LWVSB Co-President Amanda Pelch with Linda Krop, Environmental Defense Center attorney, honored as "woman of the year." The League is a coalition partner of the EDC.



March Forum Speakers Cherie Topper, Executive Director of the SB Audubon Society, and George Relles, of the Goodland Coalition

Membership News

Membership Form to Join League of Women Voters of Santa Barbara

- Here's my annual membership dues of \$70 Second member in same household \$35
 Please send me more information about League \$35 Student
 I can't join right now; here is my contribution of \$_____ to support the League

Make check payable to: League of Women Voters of Santa Barbara
328 East Carrillo Street, Suite A, Santa Barbara, CA 93101
You may also pay online through PayPal at lwvsantabarbara.org

Discounted dues are available for special circumstances: Beverly King, 687-1124

- I am committed--sign me up to: Register Voters Join the League of Women Voters
 Invite a friend to join the League Pledge financial support in the amount of \$_____

Name _____ Address _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Fax _____ Email _____

Welcoming Our New Members!

The February Coffee for New and Prospective Members was very well attended. Joining LWVSB at that meeting were Pamela Romani, Lucia Trujillo and Mary Thompson. Also in attendance were recent members Elaine Rudin, Julie Mercer, and Barbara Huemer, who all wanted more information on our activities and how they could participate. We welcome new February member Mary Thompson and Coleen Van Nostrand, who joined in early March, and welcome back former members Mike Wondolowski and Judith Bennett.

Beverly King, Membership Development Director

This will be the last Channel Voter until September. The printed newsletter is sent to members without email. The online version is posted on our website lwvsantabarbara.org.

The League also sends out twice-a-month e-mail messages as a way to keep you up to date while saving money and paper. If you would like to receive our LWVSB news updates by email, please let us know. You can send your email address to OffMgr@lwvsantabarbara.org. If you do get email but aren't receiving these, be sure to look at your spam or (with gmail) the "promotions" above your inbox and make sure you move them to your primary inbox. Be assured that we will never share your email address with anyone.

Vicki Allen, Communications Coordinator



**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®
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Co-Presidents: Amanda Pelch, Lindsey Baker

The League of Women Voters, a nonpartisan political organization of women and men, encourages informed and active participation in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy.

Printed on recycled paper.

Calendar

APRIL	MAY
5 Tuesday: Supper Discussion Unit , 5:30 pm, Madame Lu's Restaurant, 3524 State St., Contact Karen Bunker or Jane Honikman	2 Monday: Third District Supervisorial Candidate Forum , 7-9 pm St. Mark's-in-the-Valley Episcopal Church, Los Olivos
7 Thursday: Making A Killing: Guns, Greed and the NRA , Movie co-sponsored by LWVSB, 7 pm, Marjorie Luke Theatre, 712 East Cota	3 Tuesday: Supper Discussion Unit , 5:30 pm, Madame Lu's Restaurant, 3524 State St., Contact Karen Bunker or Jane Honikman
9 Saturday: LWVSB Board Meeting , 10 am, League Office, 328 East Carillo	9 Monday: Valle Verde Discussion Unit , noon-2 pm, private dining room off breezeway (park in front lot), 900 Calle de los Amigos. Brown bag lunch. Contact Juliane Heyman
11 Monday: Valle Verde Discussion Unit , noon-2 pm, private dining room off breezeway (park in front lot), 900 Calle de los Amigos. Brown bag lunch. Contact Juliane Heyman	11 Wednesday: Carpinteria Discussion Unit 10 am, Carpinteria Women's Club, 1059 Vallecito Rd., Contact Jane Benefield
13 Wednesday: Carpinteria Discussion Unit , 10 am, Carpinteria Women's Club, 1059 Vallecito Rd., Contact Jane Benefield	14 Saturday: LWVSB Board Meeting , 10 am, League Office, 328 East Carillo
20 Wednesday: Community Forum, Education , Louise Lowry Davis Center, 1232 De la Vina Street, noon - 2 pm	18 Wednesday: Community Forum, Minimum Wage , Louise Lowry Davis Center, 1232 De la Vina Street, noon-2 pm
24 Sunday: 24th Congressional District Candidate Forum , 2-4 pm, Faulkner Gallery, Santa Barbara Public Library	<div style="background-color: #4a90e2; color: white; padding: 10px; border-radius: 10px; text-align: center;"> <p>Discussion Units Topics</p> <p>April: Goleta Foothills Development</p> <p>May: News Clippings</p> </div>
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