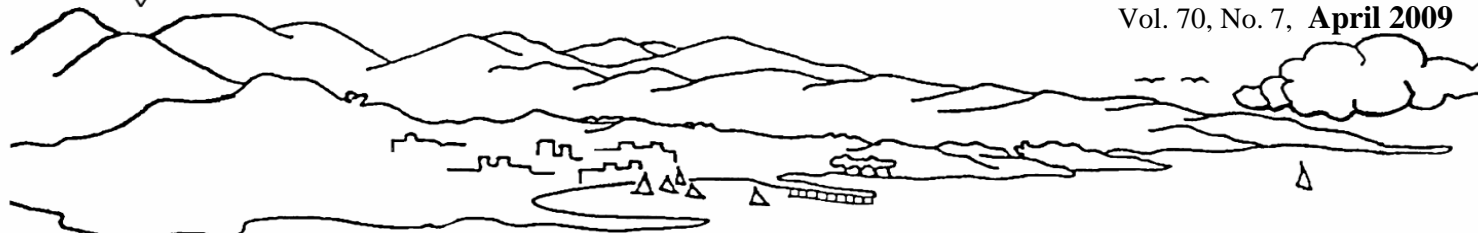


# Channel VOTER

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF SANTA BARBARA, INC. • 328 A East Carrillo St., Santa Barbara, CA 93101

Serving South Santa Barbara County

Vol. 70, No. 7, April 2009



League Phone/Fax: 965-2422

Email: [info@lwvsantabarbara.org](mailto:info@lwvsantabarbara.org) <http://www.lwvsantabarbara.org>

## APRIL COMMUNITY FORUM CLOSING THE ACHIEVEMENT GAP: EFFECTIVE PROGRAMS IN THE SECONDARY SCHOOLS

Wednesday, April 15, 2009, 12:00 to 2 p.m.

Louise Lowry Davis Community Center - De La Vina & Victoria Streets

### OFFICERS

President  
Linda Phillips (2009)  
First Vice-President  
Local Action  
Connie Hannah (2009)  
Second Vice-President  
Administration  
Carole Marks (2009)  
Third Vice-President  
Community Education  
Stacy Shepherd (2010)  
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Community Service  
Carmela Galvez (2010)  
Water  
Pat Shewczyk (2009)  
Channel Voter Editor  
Anne Heck (2009)

### Presenters and Topics:

**Mark Capritto**, Principal, Santa Barbara High School — California High School Exit Exam (CAHSEE)

**Susan Salcido**, County Office of Education, Secondary Support Services — Professional Learning Communities (PLCs)

**John Becchio**, Principal, Santa Barbara Junior High School — Pyramid of Interventions

**Mark Swanitz**, Principal, Dos Pueblos High School — Achievement Via Individual Determination (AVID)

*What the best and wisest parent wants for his own child, that must the community want for all its children*

— John Dewey

With this forum, your Education Committee brings to you some of the very competent, compassionate, and dedicated professionals with whom we have spoken over the last few months. They will present programs that show great promise in bringing our children up to the high standards we have set for them.

We hope to fill the room to full and overflowing. Given the importance of education to a thriving society, we hope to see many of you coming to hear these speakers, and bring your friends to share great hopes for our children's future. Our forums are always free and open to the public. Brown bag lunch.

*Marge Gordon, Chair, Education Committee*

## APRIL DISCUSSION UNITS - SHOULD THE LEAGUE SUPPORT THE NATIONAL POPULAR VOTE COMPACT?

At our April units, our local League will take consensus on whether we want to support this new approach to electing the President and Vice President of the United States.

Since 1970, the League has had a policy position that reads: "The League of Women Voters of the United States believes that the direct-popular-vote method of electing the President and Vice President is essential to representative government. The League of Women Voters believes, therefore, that the Electoral College should be abolished. The League also supports uniform voting qualifications and procedures for

presidential elections." In 1971 the League testified and lobbied for legislation to amend the Constitution to replace the Electoral College with direct election of the President, and it has been revived in every congress since then. Over 700 attempts to remove the Electoral College have failed. Polls taken since November 2008 find that 70% of Californians would support a popular vote of the president. High percentages support the popular vote in many other states.

The League is not considering changing its basic

*Continued on page 2*

# From the President's Desk...

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## HELP THE LEAGUE TAKE POSITIONS NATIONAL

Last month, I explained how the League takes positions and makes decisions. This month, at our discussion units, **you'll help us decide** whether LWV should support the National Popular Vote Compact - a decision which will be made after member input from local Leagues all over the country. If there's an overall consensus that the NPV Compact fits - or conflicts - with our long-time goal of abolishing the Electoral College and electing the president by popular vote, then the LWVUS board will add this to our national positions. Only then would state Leagues be able to support or oppose (depending on the new national position) legislation for their states to join the Compact.

## STATE

Our January discussion units focused on our input to the League of Women Voters of California for statewide program planning (whether to keep our current positions, possible studies or updates, and priorities). In May, delegates to the LWVC Convention will use that member input, local as well as results from around the state, to help determine our course for the next year. Along with electing the state League board, we'll decide if there will be new studies and which of our Positions will be Issues for Emphasis for the next two years.

Convention is an intense experience. Often we're busy



from breakfast till late at night, with plenaries, workshops, and caucuses. Hundreds of diverse Leaguers, often vigorously disagreeing (in a League-like way, of course), but always sharing League's goals, learn from each other and from outstanding speakers, work together, make new friends and catch up with old ones.

LWVSB can have seven delegates, and other members are welcome to attend for the whole convention or just for a day. Since it's nearby, I really hope that many of you will take advantage of this opportunity. The Convention is in Long Beach, on May 15-17, with a couple of pre-convention workshops on May 14. Please let Carole Marks (682-1228 or [carolemarks@cox.net](mailto:carolemarks@cox.net)) know if you're interested in going, and whether you'd like to serve as a delegate.

## LOCAL

Please look at your LWVSB Directory. Our local positions are listed on pages 5-10. Do you see any that need to be dropped, or updated, or re-worded? Is there a new issue that you want us to study, so that we can take future action on it? If you ask for a new study or an update, we hope you'll be prepared to volunteer for the study committee!

**We won't have discussion units on local program planning this year. Instead, please send your suggestions by April 25** to me. Email is best, but you may also call or write.

*Linda Phillips, President*

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## APRIL DISCUSSION UNITS *(Continued from page 1)*

position at all. The National Popular Vote Compact would work with the Electoral College to make sure that the winner of the national popular vote would win the presidency. This would be achieved by forming a legal compact among the states to cast all of their Electoral College votes for whoever wins the national popular vote. To date, the Compact has passed in 22 legislatures, but only four states, with 50 electoral votes, have actually signed it. The California legislature has passed it twice in both houses, and the governor has vetoed it each time. If the League decides to take a position on the Compact, it could be very influential all over the country.

When constitutional questions are raised, it is key to understand that the U.S. Constitution gives the states the exclusive and plenary control over the manner of awarding their electoral votes. The winner-take-all rule is not in the Constitution, so states could change the way they award their votes. And interstate compacts are binding on the states that sign them for a specific period of time; so this method might be tried, and changed if it needed to be.

Your attendance at the April Discussion Units will help the League decide whether we will support the Compact or not. The dates and places of the four units are given in the calendar, and all League members are urged to attend one of them. **The consensus questions can be found on p. 6.** Please bring them to your unit. The text of the National Popular Vote Compact and a wealth of other resources on the subject are available on the LWVUS Web site, [www.lwv.org](http://www.lwv.org). Go to the "For members" page, then click on the National Popular Vote Compact Study in the "Task Forces and Studies" listing. If you have questions about these meetings or the consensus you may call either of the co-chairs of our local committee. They are Claire Van Blaricum and Connie Hannah.

*Connie Hannah, Second Vice President*

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*The Channel Voter is published eight times a year, monthly except for January, June, July, and August, by the League of Women Voters of Santa Barbara, 328A E. Carrillo St., Santa Barbara, CA 93101.*

# MAY 19 ELECTION

Californians will vote on six propositions related to the state budget passed in February 2009. A brief summary of the six propositions follows.

- 1A. State Finance/Budgeting. A budget process would increase "rainy day" reserve fund. Higher state taxes passed in February of 2009 would be extended for up to 2 years.
- 1B. Education Funding. State would make supplemental payments to schools and colleges beginning in 2011-12.
- 1C. California State Lottery. The State would be allowed to borrow \$1.5 billion from future lottery profits to help balance the 2009-10 State budget.
- 1D. California Children and Families Act. A portion of funds previously approved by voters to support early childhood development programs will be redirected over the next several years to achieve General Fund budget savings.
- 1E. Mental Health Services Act. A portion of funds previously approved by voters under Proposition 63 to support community mental health programs will be redirected over the next 2 years to achieve General Fund savings.
- 1F. Elected Officials' Salaries. Prevents salary increases when State General Fund is expected to end a year with a deficit.

To learn more, come to our forum. See box below.

*Susan Shank, Voters Service*

## ELECTION FORUM

**Wednesday, April 22, 7:30 – 9:30 p.m.**  
**Goleta Valley Community Center**  
**5679 Hollister Ave.**

This public forum will help voters understand the propositions listed above, some of which are complicated. **Shane Stark**, the retired Santa Barbara County Counsel, will explain the propositions and their history. League members will present arguments in support of and in opposition to the six propositions.

This is an important forum. Please put the date on your calendar, and attend.



Caption: Dr. John Woolley, from UCSB's Department of Political Science, and Gail Dryden, a member of the National Popular Vote Compact study of LWVUS, addressed the March Community Forum. *Photo credit: Thomas Heck*

## OFFICE HELP NEEDED

May 19 is Election Day. Once again we will staff the office from 10:00 to noon starting the end of April until May 19. If you have time and can volunteer to answer voter questions, please let me know. Either phone the office and leave a message; phone me.

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# LEAGUE ANNOUNCES OPPOSITION TO MAY BALLOT MEASURES

The League of Women Voters of California has announced its opposition to Propositions 1A, 1C, 1D and 1E on the May 19 Special Election ballot and urged voters to reject them. The League is neutral on Proposition 1B.

“We oppose these measures because they are NOT the solution to our long term financial crisis, with the continuing structural deficit in the state budget and flawed budget process,” said Janis R. Hirohama, president of the state League. “We make this decision with regret. We would support real reform to make the state budget process more accountable and give the Legislature and Governor effective tools to advance state priorities. However, these hurriedly drafted propositions, produced at the end of a flawed process that kept both the public and most legislators in the dark, will only make our fiscal situation worse.”



## LEGISLATIVE INTERVIEW: ASSEMBLYMAN PEDRO NAVA

On March 6, Connie Hannah, Steve Lattimore of the Ventura County League, and I met with Assemblyman Nava, to discuss some critical issues that will face the Legislature this year. The questions come from our state League.

The first question was about the **budget crisis and possible budget reforms**, with concerns

about both the budget process and the popular use of ballot propositions that reduce the flexibility of that process. Nava responded that the 2/3 votes requirement is the "single most important obstacle to the budget process." He also feels that the initiative process needs reform. There is extensive fraud in the signature-gathering process; most petition circulators are paid, with too little oversight. Signature gatherers should be required to read a prescribed text describing the measure, and also to disclose if they are being paid.

On more specific issues, Nava said that "there is some wisdom" in a spending cap with a "rainy day fund," which could level out state spending. He also discussed several initiatives that have tied the Legislature's hands when dealing with the budget, either by limiting taxes or spending, or by requiring expenditures for certain purposes. He noted that this is ironic, because the initiatives were passed by voters who then become angry with the Legislature for not being able to pass a budget.

Question #2 dealt with **education**- the best way to approach both short- and long-term solutions for funding and reform of our education system. In the short term, Nava said that state high school graduation rates were not tracked until last year, but now we will be able to see how many students never graduate. Categorical programs need more local flexibility but shouldn't be completely eliminated. Special needs programs need to be maintained; for instance, there has been a large increase in the diagnosis of autism. Career education

needs to be revived; it is as important as the college track. It should begin in high school, and in addition, career courses taken in community colleges should be transferable to state universities. There is a severe shortage of skilled workers in many fields, so this would benefit both the students and the economy.

Question #3 was on **health care reform**. Nava is a "firm believer" in a single-payer health care system as the "only *real* answer," and he is a co-author of the newly reintroduced single-payer bill, SB 810, although Nava thinks Governor Schwarzenegger is unlikely ever to sign it.

Nava says he thinks that he final question was on **his personal priorities**. As Chair of the Assembly Banking and Finance Committee during a fiscal crisis, Nava's priorities this year dealt with his committee's issues; he has introduced several related bills. California is the only state where you can become a lender through three separate and uncoordinated agencies, leading to "cherry picking" depending on the type of lending planned. Nava would consolidate the three into one (AB 33, Nava) with better controls. The "SAFE Act" (AB 34, Nava) is a companion to the federal reform of mortgage lending. AB 1156 (Nava) would prioritize the investments of state funds into California community banks, which would keep the deposits within the state and strengthen local banks. Finally, AB 1075 (Nava), the Corporate Responsibility Act, would prevent state-chartered banks from using any bailout funds for lobbying (or jets, parties, etc.).

On other issues, AB 566 (Nava), mobile home park conversions, would provide local governments with the option to deny a mobile home park conversion application where there is evidence that park residents are opposed. And AB 359 (Nava) would require digital mammography screening to be covered by MediCal when analog mammography is not available. Currently, women in Santa Maria must travel to Santa Barbara for their mammograms.

*Linda K. Phillips, President*

## JOIN THE LEAGUE IN CELEBRATING EARTH DAY ON APRIL 19!

This year, as usual, the League is planning to have a table at the big South Coast Earth Day Festival on Sunday, April 19 from 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. This year's celebration will be at a new location: Alameda Park between Garden and Anacapa Streets, crossed by Micheltorena. The organizing committee chose this park, with the bandstand, because they needed more space. Earth Day becomes more popular each year, and the exhibits are outstanding. This year's theme will be "Reduce Your Eco-Footprint."

At the League table we will have information about the League and the projects we are working on, including Climate Change, the May 19 special election, and other state and national action. We want to have League members there to answer any questions. For local action we will feature the Citizens' Height Initiative to protect El Pueblo Viejo historic district, which qualified

for the November 2009 Santa Barbara City ballot with over 11,000 signatures. We expect to have flyers and bumper stickers for the public, and any information that is needed about that ballot measure. The League will want two people to stay at the table in two-hour shifts. You may call Linda Phillips to work on League information and climate change, or Connie Hannah to work on the Height Initiative and Local Action.

Most people take time either before or after their shift to visit the other booths and collect some excellent samples and materials that they always have.

Santa Barbara founded Earth Day and has celebrated it wonderfully ever since!

*Connie Hannah, Sustainable Communities Committee Chair*

## APRIL 18 AT SBCC - THIRST FOR SECURITY: GLOBAL WATER AND TOMORROW'S ARMED CONFLICTS

The Santa Barbara Coalition for Global Dialogue and the SBCC Adult Education Program will cosponsor a major policy forum on dwindling global water resources and the likelihood that increasing competition for safe water will lead to military conflict. The event, free and open to the public, will take place at the Fe Bland auditorium on the SBCC campus, 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., on Saturday, April 18, 2009.

Mark Twain's quip, "Whiskey's for drinking; water's for fighting over," has proven to be prophetic. Here in California, conflicts over water use are historical and ongoing. Globally, more than 260 river basins are shared by two 20 or more countries. Many current wars and

hundreds of thousands of deaths can be traced to disputes over water, Darfur being one of the most lethal examples. A lack of strong multinational institutions and agreements about fair water use handicaps settlement of disputes, as does a shortage of trained mediators.

Urgent questions that Forum speakers will address include: Is there enough water to sustain us, and how will it be shared?

The panel will include: **Jerome Delli Priscoli**, senior advisor at the Institute for Water Resources of the US Army Corps of Engineers, whose latest book is *Managing and Transforming Water Conflicts (International Hydrology Series)*; **Engin Koncagul**, Program Specialist and Coordinator responsible for country studies at the World Water Assessment Program of UNESCO; UCSB Distinguished Visiting Professor **Hilal Elver**, environmental law specialist and author of *Peaceful Uses of International Rivers: Case of Euphrates and Tigris Rivers*; and Professor **Jeff Dozier**, a snow hydrologist and founding dean of UCSB's Bren School of Environmental Science and Management. The Coalition for Global Dialogue, of which LWVSB is a member, fosters nonpartisan discussion of challenging global issues.

*Lessie Nixon*

*United Nations/International Relations*



LWVC CONVENTION 2009  
Long Beach, CA

# Catch the Wave to the Future

Friday, May 15 through Sunday, May 17

LWV League of Women Voters of California ©  
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save the date

# NATIONAL POPULAR VOTE COMPACT CONSENSUS QUESTIONS

## AMENDING THE CONSTITUTION

### 1. Which statement best reflects the consensus of the group? Select one.

- a. Action to alter a basic element of the Constitutional framework, which is achievable by amendment to the Constitution, should be accomplished by amendment to the Constitution.
- b. Action by states through a compact process is an acceptable way to alter the method for electing the President and Vice-President.
- c. The group could not reach consensus.

### 2. Which statement best reflects the consensus of the group? Select one.

- a. Because a compact has never before been used to address a fundamental constitutional issue such as voting, the chance that it might set a precedent for the future leads to the conclusion that it is better that the League continue to work for an amendment to the Constitution to establish the direct popular election of the President and the abolition of the Electoral College.
- b. Despite the novelty of the use of the compact approach to address a fundamental constitutional issue such as voting, the League should support the NPV Compact as a way of achieving an important goal.
- c. The group could not reach consensus.

## CONGRESSIONAL CONSENT

### 3. Which statement best reflects the consensus of the group? Select one.

- a. The possibility that the NPV Compact will require congressional consent is not of sufficient concern to block the implementation of the plan.
- b. The possibility that the NPV Compact will require congressional consent is sufficient to conclude that the plan should not be implemented without obtaining such consent.
- c. The group could not reach consensus.

## ENFORCEMENT

### 4. Which statement best reflects the consensus of the group? Select one.

- a. The NPV Compact contains sufficient enforcement provisions to assure smooth operation of the plan.
- b. Although it is not possible to determine whether the enforcement provisions will be sufficient to assure smooth operation of the plan, the plan

should be passed anyway

- c. Enforcement of the plan is likely to add uncertainty and bring the courts into the presidential election in ways that raise substantial concerns.
- d. The lack of adequate enforcement provisions is sufficient to conclude that the NPV is not a viable plan.
- e. The group could not reach consensus.

## UNIFORMITY

### 5. Which statement best reflects the consensus of the group? Select one.

- a. The uniformity of voting systems is more important to American democracy than the possibility that the NPV Compact can be adopted.
- b. The NPV Compact is more important than uniformity of voting systems because it would succeed in achieving the popular election of the President.

The group could not reach consensus.

## POPULAR ELECTION OF THE PRESIDENT

### 6. Which statement best reflects the consensus of the group? Select one.

- a. It is more important to achieve the goal of national popular election of the President than it is to achieve the goal of abolition of the electoral college.
- b. It is more important to amend the Constitution to abolish the Electoral College than it is to achieve the goal of popular election of the President by alternative methods, such as the NPV Compact.
- c. The group could not reach consensus.

## ACHIEVABILITY

### 7. Which statements reflect the views of the group?

- a. The NPV Compact will have problems being passed because of the need for congressional consideration and the need for action by so many states.

Agree                      Disagree                      No Consensus

- b. A constitutional amendment to establish the direct popular election of the President and the abolition of the Electoral College will continue to have problems being passed.

Agree                      Disagree                      No Consensus

*League of Women Voters of the United States*  
[www.lwv.org](http://www.lwv.org)

# MEMBERSHIP NEWS

Susan Ehrlich  
Elaine Jacobs  
Vivien LaFrance  
Fran M. MacMillan

Changes to the Directory:  
Address:  
Carole L. Clarke  
  
Chauncey and Dorris Goodrich

All members are encouraged to extend a warm welcome to the our guests as they attend the noon time Community Forums at the Louise Lowry Davis Center. Please help by picking up your name tag, introducing yourself to someone you don't know, and helping new people find a place to sit with other members. Our guests may pick up a temporary name tag at the membership table and sign in on the Visitor Clipboard. This way each League member is part of the hospitality of Santa Barbara League and is helping our membership.

*Joanie Jones, Membership Development*

## REMEMBER THESE DATES

**APRIL 19 - EARTH DAY**, Alameda Park, Sunday, 10 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.

**MAY 9 - LWVSB SPRING GARDEN PARTY**, Saturday afternoon

**MAY 15 - 17 - LWVC CONVENTION**, Long Beach - Friday through Sunday

**JUNE 6 - LWVSB ANNUAL MEETING**, Holiday Inn, Goleta - Saturday, 9:30 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

**Silent auction donations needed; call Pat Shewzyck**

*Carole Marks, Second Vice President (Administration)*

*If you know someone who might be interested in the League, please pass along this form:*

### MEMBERSHIP FORM to join LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF SANTA BARBARA

- Here's my annual membership dues of \$60\*
- Second member in same household \$30
- Student \$30
- Please send me more information about League
- I can't join right now; here is my contribution of \$\_\_\_\_\_ to support the League.

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\_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

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*\*Discounted dues are available for special circumstances. Contact Joanie Jones - 683-1937.*

## CALENDAR – APRIL 2009

### Discussion Units: National Popular Vote Compact Consensus

(Members may attend any unit.)

- 1 Wednesday** **Carpinteria Unit:** 10:00-11:30 a.m. Carpinteria Woman's Club, 1059 Vallecito Rd., Carpinteria, 684-6086. Contact: Joan Hebert.
- 1 Wednesday** **Evening Unit:** 7:30 p.m. Home of Sheila Kamhi.
- 3 Friday** **South Central Coast Environmental Task Force:** 9:45 - ca. 12:00, League office.  
Members of the tri-counties Leagues will discuss and exchange ideas about coastal environmental topics. All interested persons are welcome. For more information, contact Jean Holmes.
- 7 Tuesday** **Dinner Unit:** 5:30 p.m. Madam Lu's Café, 3542 State St. Contact: Lolly Quackenbush.
- 8 Wednesday** **Afternoon Unit:** 2 p.m. Maravilla Clubhouse, 5486 Calle Real, between Patterson and Kellogg. Contact: Marjorie Nefstead.
- 10 Friday** **Board Meeting:** 10 a.m., League office, 328 E. Carrillo, Suite A. Open to all members.
- 15 Wednesday** **Community Forum; "Closing the Achievement Gap: Effective Programs in the Secondary Schools."** 12-2 p.m. [earlier starting time!] Louise Lowry Davis Center, corner of De La Vina and Victoria Streets. Speakers: **Mark Capritto, Susan Salcido, John Becchio, and Mark Swanitz.** Brown bag lunch.
- 18 Saturday** **Coalition for Global Dialogue: "Thirst for Security: Global Water and Tomorrow's Armed Conflicts."** 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Fe Bland Auditorium, SBCC West Campus. See page 5.
- 19 Sunday** **South Coast Earth Day Festival:** 10 a.m.-5:30 p.m. **Alameda Park** [new location], See page 5.
- 20 Monday** *Channel Voter* deadline for May issue.
- 22 Wednesday** **Election Forum:** 7:30-9:30 p.m. Goleta Valley Community Center, 5679 Hollister. **Shane Stark**, retired County Counsel, will explain the ballot measures for the May 19 Special Election. See page 3.

## LOOKING FORWARD TO MAY 2009

### Discussion Units: May 19 Special Election Measures—League Recommendations

- 1 Friday** **Board Meeting [Note change of date!]:** 10 a.m., League office, 328 E. Carrillo. Open to all members.
- 5 Tuesday** **Dinner Unit:** 5:30 p.m. Madam Lu's Café, 3542 State St. Contact: Lolly Quackenbush.
- 6 Wednesday** **Carpinteria Unit:** 10:00-11:30 a.m. Carpinteria Woman's Club, 1059 Vallecito Rd., Carpinteria. Contact: Barbara Godley.
- 6 Wednesday** **Evening Unit:** 7:30 p.m. Home of Pat Shewczyk..
- 13 Wednesday** **Afternoon Unit:** 2 p.m. Maravilla Clubhouse, 5486 Calle Real. Contact: Marjorie Nefstead.



**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS  
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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. If you would like to join the local League, send in the form on pg. 7 or call the League office at 965-2422.

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