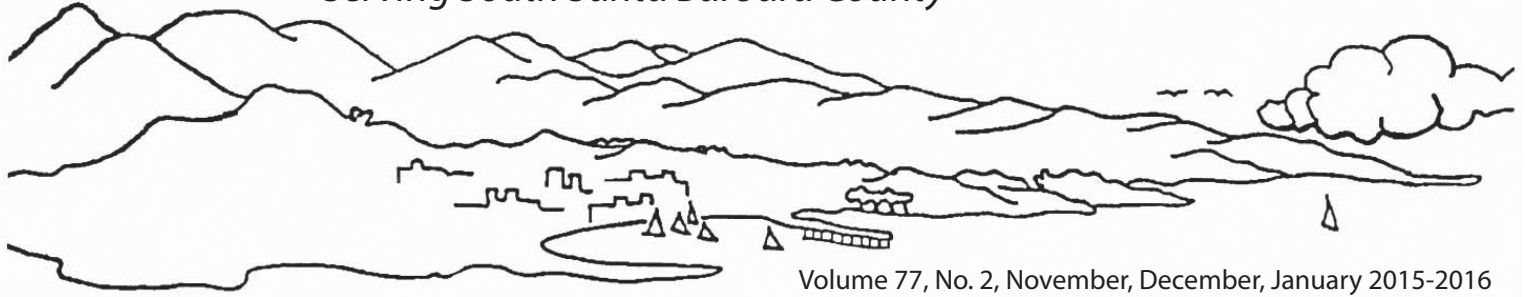




CHANNEL VOTER

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF SANTA BARBARA

Serving South Santa Barbara County



Volume 77, No. 2, November, December, January 2015-2016

Hot Topics

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Wednesday, November 18:

November Community Forum

Physical Health, Mental Health and Housing: A Prescription for Better Health

At the November Community Forum representatives from Alcohol, Drug and Mental Health Services (ADMHS), Public Health, local non-profits and a research company will discuss the current situation of healthcare and what lies ahead. Panelists will also explore how the expansion of Medi-Cal has increased enrollment in health care and potentially access to healthcare, including mental health and substance use disorder treatment.

Here in our community, Alice Gleghorn, the new Director of the Santa Barbara County Alcohol, Drug and Mental Health Services (ADMHS) has recently launched crisis housing and appointed a Housing Development Coordinator. Research indicates that:

"Effectively managing a chronic health condition involves a myriad of tasks for anyone, ranging from scheduling and getting to frequent doctor

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Wednesday, December 16:

December Community Forum

There will be no Community Forum in December. Instead, the LWVSB will be hosting its annual Holiday Party, Wednesday, December 16! See page 2 and the Calendar section for details.

Wednesday, January 20:

January Community Forum

Finding More Water

Changing weather patterns, climate change, and drought have forced us to face the need for sustainable water supplies.

What are the various resources available to the City of Santa Barbara, Montecito, and other water districts in our Central Coast Region? What is the current state of those resources? Will there be regional solutions? What sources of water could we utilize in the future?

The City of Santa Barbara Water Resources Department representative, Kelly Dyer, will be address-

ing desalinization and the City of Santa Barbara's water resources and current supplies. Tom Evans, Engineer with the Montecito Water District will be addressing the regional aspect of water resources. Potable reuse will be presented by James O. Hawkins, a Policy Analyst from Heal the Ocean. Managing ground water will be presented by Ryan C. Drake, the Water Supply and Conservation Manager for the Goleta Water District. Please bring your questions and lunches.

Lindsey Baker, Co-President

Community Forums are held the third Wednesday of the month at the Louise Lowry Davis Center, 1232 De la Vina Street, from 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

The office remodel is substantially completed and we are operational! Our September and October Board Meetings were held in the new office. To date we have not yet put anything on our walls; instead, we are enjoying the clean and updated space. The tile floors and new paint keep the office feeling cool and looking fresh. In early October we hosted a small gathering for our Coalition Partners who were delighted to see the new space. We are planning to have an Open House for our members this spring - stay tuned for event details.



various organizations, the League was the only organization to hold its Candidate Forums in each of the respective districts. Read the article later in this newsletter for a complete recap of the Forums.

Each year our League partners with The Pro-Choice Coalition to honor the Roe v. Wade anniversary. This year is no different. We will join the Coalition to present the play "A is for Abortion" by Cassandra Hume. It will be presented on Saturday, Jan. 23 at 8 p.m. and Sunday, Jan. 24 at 2 p.m. at the Center Stage Theater in Paseo Nuevo. The play consists of 5 women actors representing 15 characters and one dirty little secret. Further details will be provided in our Constant Contact semi-monthly updates.

November marks the start of our Discussion Units. We delayed them one month while we held one large Discussion Meeting in October to discuss the LWVUS Constitutional Amendment Study. Our upcoming Community Forums have changed positions over the summer and into the fall and we appreciate everyone's flexibility. There are many interesting topics slated for these Forums so be sure to consult our website www.lwvsantabarbara.org to view the calendar and look for semimonthly League emails for updates. I look forward to seeing many of you at our interesting and educational Community Forums!



The remodel took a tremendous amount of time during July, August and September. Many thanks to Bonnie Lassen who was instrumental in the organization of the process. My Co-President Lindsey Baker and I are very grateful for all the extra work and we want to thank Committee Chairs and others that lent their time and assistance: Beverly King, Joanie Jones, David Landecker and Carole Marks.

The first City of Santa Barbara District Elections Candidate Forums were held in late September and early October. Our League sponsored three separate Candidate Forums, one in each of the new districts. Of the various Forums sponsored by

LWVSB Holiday Party

Every December we have a festive social gathering at our regular third Wednesday Forum time, with a buffet lunch and special guests and speakers. This year we are inviting all of the newly elected and continuing Santa Barbara City Council members, and we will introduce several newer City officials to our members. We have invited Paul Casey, the current City Administrator to come and introduce his new assistant, Pamela Antil. Most of our members remember Paul from his years as Community Development Director, and we will be glad to welcome him in the new job. We will also be introducing George Buell, the new Community Development Director. He will be seeing a lot of us at City meetings in the future.

No need to bring a brown bag lunch this time – a buffet will be provided, and we will try to have a lot more time for talking with your friends. The City officials and the new and continuing Council Members will circulate among the tables, giving many people the chance to meet them. As always, parking is free in the Louise Lowry Davis Center lot during monthly meetings.

Connie Hannah, Vice-President, Local Program and Action



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email: league@lwvsantabarbara.org; Web: www.lwvsantabarbara.org

Discussion Units

Discussion Units are the heart of our League. Small discussion groups meet monthly (October-May) to study issues in comfortable informal groups. You may choose any one that fits your location and schedule, or you may make the rounds of all units during the course of the year. These groups are a great opportunity to learn more about important issues affecting your community and to take part in the discussion! See the calendar section for a complete listing of dates, times and locations.

November Discussion Units

Understanding the Minimum Wage

The League's Discussion Units will return to their normal schedule in November with a fascinating topic in need of our attention. Increasing the Minimum Wage is an important issue both nationally and locally. Our National League has asked that we be thinking about what is appropriate for our area, and if we would like to join local coalitions that are working on this issue. During August CAUSE held a rally to push for a \$15 Minimum Wage in the City of Santa Barbara. The City itself has a very good Living Wage, but that only affects City contractors and has no effect on local businesses. Most local businesses are required only to meet the state Minimum Wage, currently the Minimum Wage in California is \$9.00 per hour and it will be increased to \$10 on January 1, 2016.

The League Study Group, which will lead the units, has information that will help us understand the many issues involved in achieving a Living Wage. Comparisons with other countries and other states will give participants a new perspective. There may be initiatives on next year's ballot regarding this topic, so it is important to be educated prior to a casting vote.

Connie Hannah, Vice-President for Program and Action

December Discussion Units

There will be no Discussion Units In December

January Discussion Units

Bring your best ideas!

National and Local Program Planning and Priorities

Every two years local Leagues participate in the LWVUS Program Planning process - this is how we remain a grassroots organization. In odd-numbered years, we participate in LWVC Program Planning. And every year, we need to decide our local program. "Program," in League terms, means the issues we work on through advocacy, education or study.

In our January units, we'll consider what recommendations we should make to our national League Board and at the LWVUS Convention. Have you seen issues that we can't act on because we've never studied them? Do some of our positions need to be reviewed and updated or dropped? Is there a state or local position that you think LWVUS should adopt? Or, should we concentrate on advocacy and education using our current national positions?

During the spring, we continue the process by discussing these ideas with Leaguers around the country, usually in an email discussion group. The best and most widely supported proposals may be taken to the National Convention. There, delegates may vote to conduct a study leading to a new or updated position, or adopt a state or local position nationally ("concurrence"); or they may decide that the current positions meet our needs.

We will also likely be asked for our input on national legislative priorities for 2016. These are the urgent issues that we expect the League will need to watch most closely and act upon through Congress, regulations, and increasingly, court cases. These priorities guide next year's practical applications of the positions we have established over the years.

We'll also discuss which LWVUS positions we have used to act on local issues, and review our local positions. To get ready for the January units, the best resource is the LWVUS publication "Impact on Issues," available online at lww.org/content/impact-issues. A few printed copies are also available in the LWVSB office. Bring your copy of our LWVSB Directory and Local Positions for Program Action to the meeting.

Linda Phillips, Director, State & Local Action

PUBLIC STATEMENTS

It is important that our members know the various issues and subjects that the League has been working on, and to be aware of public statements that we have made before various government agencies. To keep members informed of League positions, we have added this new section, Public Statements, to this issue and future issues of the Channel Voter. In this section we will summarize recent statements made by the LWVSB, including new statements made by the League. You can read the full text of all LWVSB public statements on our website, www.lwvsantabarbara.org.

Safe Drug Disposal: Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors, October 6

Finding that the sheriff's department was unhappy with handling the unused drugs that are dropped off at their office, the League supported an ordinance proposed by the Public Health Department for an extended producer responsibility (EPR) drug disposal program. The League's statement noted that the United States Supreme Court had just denied a challenge by pharmaceutical companies to an Alameda County EPR program, thus making it much more feasible for other counties to institute such programs.

Old Town Village Project: City of Goleta City Council, October 20
The League urged the City not to approve the Old Town Village Project, which would build 175 residences on a property

zoned for visitor serving uses in the General Plan. Most of these housing units would be market rate housing at a time when the League has already expressed concern about excessive use of water and the impacts of more traffic. Only a few of the units would be affordable to working people.

Eastern Goleta Valley Comm. Plan: Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors, October 20

The League supported the original Alternative E in the Eastern Goleta Valley Community Plan because it better protected the open land on a former farm, and would prevent the clear cutting of chaparral and oak woodlands. We opposed reducing the 100-foot setback from the creek, as we have on other Goleta properties.

Veronica Meadows Purchase: Santa Barbara City Council, October 22

The League strongly recommended using the City's Creeks Restoration Fund for the purchase of the former Veronica Meadows project site. The protection of the Arroyo Burro, which leads to so many public lands, will be very important to the health of the City's watershed. This property will also provide additional open space, and contains sensitive riparian, aquatic and avian habitats. LWVSB joined the Parks and Recreation Commission and the Creeks Advisory Committee in recommending this purchase.



Consensus Meeting on How Could We Amend the U.S. Constitution?

Don't forget to renew your membership!

You can use the form on Page 7, renew online at:

www.lwvsantabarbara.org

or return the form you received in the mail

appointments to regularly taking and refilling numerous medications and eating a healthy diet. Being homeless makes these basic tasks even more overwhelming, particularly if combined with additional chronic health and/or behavioral health conditions, which so many homeless individuals have.¹

This research indicates that integrated health is essential for improving health care outcomes for people with complex needs. Research from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration shows that:

“People with mental and substance abuse disorders may die decades earlier than the average person — mostly from untreated and preventable chronic illnesses like hypertension, diabetes, obesity, and cardiovascular disease that are aggravated by poor health habits such as inadequate physical activity, poor nutrition, smoking, and substance abuse. Barriers to primary care — coupled with challenges in navigating complex health-care systems — have been a major obstacle to care. At the same

time, primary care settings have become the gateway to the behavioral health system, and primary care providers need support and resources to screen and treat individuals with behavioral and general healthcare needs. The solution lies in integrated care, the systematic coordination of general and behavioral healthcare. Integrating mental health, substance abuse, and primary care services produces the best outcomes and proves the most effective approach to caring for people with multiple healthcare needs.²”

This is an exciting time for improving our system of care. Attend the Forum to learn:

- How the Medi-Cal expansion has impacted enrollment and use.
- How we are integrating health care and housing in Santa Barbara County.
- What can we do at the local, state and federal level to improve healthcare outcomes?

Emily Allen, Social Policy Committee Co-Chair

¹“Housing Is A Prescription For Better Health” Health Affairs Blog Kathy Moses and Rachel Davis July 22, 2015.

² What is Integrated Care? SAMHSA HRSA Center for Integrated Health Solutions at www.integration.samhsa.gov/about-us/what-is-integrated-care

September and October Community Forums



Jessica Grant



Rob Dayton



Mike Becker



Susan Horne

The Transportation Forum featured speakers Jessica Grant, transportation project planner for the City of Santa Barbara, public works traffic department; Rob Dayton, principal transportation planner for the city; and Mike Becker, regional Santa Barbara County Association of Governments (SB-CAG). The moderator was Susan Horne, Health Educator, member of the SB City Transportation and Circulation Committee, COAST and LWVSB.

The US League asked local Leagues to establish a new position about when and how to amend the United States constitution and that was the focus of the October Community Forum. The League asked two legal experts, Joseph Allen and Shane Stark, to give us background about when and how such amendments have been accomplished in the past, and what the problems are in trying to do it. The Forum was moderated by Marty Blum, government consultant for our local League, past League President and Former Mayor of the City of Santa Barbara.



Joe Allen, Marty Blum and Shane Stark

DISTRICT ELECTION CANDIDATE FORUMS

For the first time since 1968, the City of Santa Barbara is holding District Elections for City Council. Three of the six City Council seats will be decided in the Nov 3, 2015 election. This is a mail-in only election and the City began mailing ballots on Oct 5.

In the 2014-2015 League year, our District Election Study Committee worked hard to educate our membership and the public and to help them understand the complex reasons why these elections are happening. As many of you know, the California Voting Rights Act of 2001 mandated that if racially polarized voting could be proven in the Courts, then District Elections would be required. Because of this mandate, the City of Santa Barbara was compelled to go to District Elections beginning in Nov 2015.

The 2015-2016 LWVSB Board of Directors made the decision to hold Candidate Forums in each of the respective Districts. The Forums took place at Washington Elementary, Franklin Elementary and Harding Elementary. Ours was the only local organization that videotaped each Forum and translated them into Spanish. Overall attendance was good; more than 100 voters attended. During the process, we learned many lessons - one of those lessons was the expense involved in putting on and



recording Candidate Forums. Upwards of \$2,000 was spent to accomplish our goal of educating the voters in the districts in which they live.

Thank you to Voter Service Chairperson Susan Shank and her committee. Committee members were Joie Mckay, Shane Stark, Vicki Allen, Lindsey Baker, Janice Rorick and Amanda Pelch. The three Forum moderators were Claire Van Blaricum, Irene Stone and Shane Stark. We encourage all of you to view these Forums - from our home page at www.lwvsantabarbara.org click on LWV Santa Barbara Youtube Channel link. This will take you to our main YouTube page where you can see the videos from all three forums in English and Spanish.

Our success in bringing these Candidate Forums to each district, ensuring that all voters have the opportunity to hear the various Candidates address questions that are relevant to the City and to their specific districts was well worth the effort and expense that went in to making it happen. We appreciate your continuing contributions to make this and other important activities happen in 2016 and 2017.

Amanda Pelch, Co President



District 1 Candidates Forum participants

Subscribe to the LWV YouTube Channel!

View our Forum Program Videos on Clean Energy, Immigration, Violence Against Women and many more. Watch the videos and subscribe to our channel at:

www.youtube.com/channel/UCex75_yal_YCcojaLQN6Kfw/feed

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

**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 _____

Renew Your Memberships Now

Don't let your membership lapse! Our bylaws (Article VIII Sec.2) decree that once a member's dues are 60 days late, that person is no longer a member. You received a letter in August reminding you that your dues are due and payable. You joined for a reason... to make your voice heard in South Santa Barbara County and City governments, to make your voice heard by our legislators in Sacramento and to make your voice heard in the halls of Congress. Our issues are your issues. We are a grassroots organization and both our stands and the studies in which we decide to participate are determined by you. Your voice makes a difference!

Send your check along with the Membership Form printed above or pay online through PayPal at www.lwvsantabarbara.org. A click on Donate will take you to the donations page. The secure PayPal website will give you all the payment details and you do not need a PayPal account in order to contribute. Your contribution is not tax deductible. You will receive a written receipt from both LWVSB and PayPal. Remember, if you have any questions about your membership, I can be reached at (805) 687-1124 or beverlyhking@cox.net.

Beverly King, Membership Development Director

Keep up With the Latest League News!

Our Channel Voter is now being mailed only to members without email addresses. Twice-monthly email messages provide a link to the complete newsletter that is posted on our website. If you aren't receiving these emails and would like to stay up to date, please send your email address to league@lwvsantabarbara.org. (We never share our email list.) And visit www.lwvsantabarbara.org anytime for League events and all the latest information.

Vicki Allen, Communications Coordinator



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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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

November

- 3 Tuesday: Supper Discussion Unit - 5:30 p.m., Madame Lu's Restaurant, 3524 State St., Contact Karen Bunker or Jane Honikman**
- 9 Monday: Valle Verde Discussion Unit – noon - 2 p.m. in private dining room off breezway (parking in front lot), 900 Calle de los Amigos. Brown bag lunch. Contact Juliane Heyman**
- 11 Wednesday: Carpinteria Discussion Unit – 10 a.m., Carpinteria Women's Club, 1059 Vallecito Rd. Contact Jane Benefield**
- 14 Saturday: LWVSB Board Meeting, 10 a.m. League Office, 328 East Carrillo St., Suite A**
- 18 Wednesday: Community Forum: Physical Health, Mental Health and Housing: A Prescription for Better Health, noon to 2 p.m., Louis Lowry Davis Center, 1232 De la Vina St.**

December

- 12 Saturday: LWVSB Board Meeting, 10 a.m. League Office, 328 East Carrillo St., Suite A**
- 16 Wednesday: LWVSB Holiday Party noon to 2 p.m., Louis Lowry Davis Center, 1232 De la Vina St.**

January

- 5 Tuesday: Supper Discussion Unit - 5:30 p.m., Madame Lu's Restaurant, 3524 State St., Contact Karen Bunker or Jane Honikman**
- 11 Monday: Valle Verde Discussion Unit – noon - 2 p.m. in private dining room off breezway (parking in front lot), 900 Calle de los Amigos. Brown bag lunch. Contact Juliane Heyman**
- 13 Wednesday: Carpinteria Discussion Unit – 10 a.m., Carpinteria Women's Club, 1059 Vallecito Rd. Contact Jane Benefield**
- 20 Wednesday, Community Forum, Finding More Water Noon to 2 p.m., 1232 De la Vina Street**
- 23 Saturday, A is for Abortion, 8:00 – 10:30 p.m., Center Stage Theater, 751 Paseo Nuevo**
- 24 Sunday, A is for Abortion, 2 p.m. – 4:30 p.m., Center Stage Theater, 751 Paseo Nuevo**