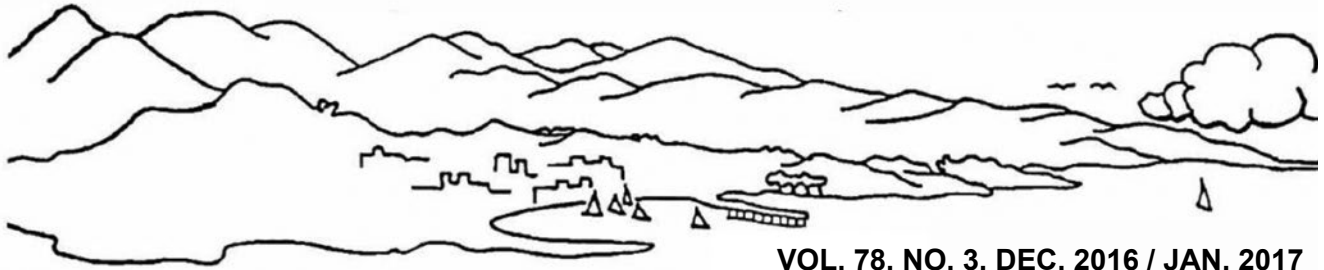




CHANNEL VOTER

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF SANTA BARBARA

Serving South Santa Barbara County



VOL. 78, NO. 3, DEC. 2016 / JAN. 2017

HOT TOPICS:

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Amanda Pelch (2017)

Program & Action

Lindsey Baker (2018)

CO-VICE PRESIDENTS

Local Action & Program
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Beverly King (2017)

State & National Action

Linda Phillips (2017)

Voter Service

Claire Van Blaricum (2017)

Nominating Committee

Joanie Jones (2017)

December Forum

League Holiday Party: Meet Our Newly Elected Officials

Wednesday, December 21, 2016. noon to 2 p.m. Louise Lowry Davis Center

The League of Women Voters of Santa Barbara will hold its annual Holiday Party this year and meet with some of our newly elected officials. Joan Hartman, supervisor from the Third District who will replace Doreen Farr, will discuss her future plans.

Das Williams, newly elected to take Salud Carbajal's seat in the First District will send his representative, Darcel Elliott, to speak for him. The two City Council members from Carpinteria who have just been reelected will also speak. Kyle Richards, newly elected City Councilman in Goleta, will be attending. They will also meet with all of us informally at the festive tables.

Bring your questions and a dish to share at our Potluck table to be enjoyed by all.

Lindsey Baker, Co-President for Program and Action

January Forum

Discovering Our Modern Libraries

Wednesday, Jan. 18, 2017

noon to 2 p.m. Louise Lowry Davis Center

The League's January Forum will explain the many new programs of a modern library, and the people who make them happen. The Santa Barbara County Library System has a new director, Jessica Cadiente, and she will be introduced by this Forum. She is an experienced professional, who understands how the libraries are evolving, with the times, and the new technologies. She will be joined by several members of her staff including a Children's Librarian, who will explain some of the new children's programs the library has developed.

This Forum will be moderated by League member Janice Rorick, who is a retired Santa Barbara Senior Youth Librarian and is well acquainted with both the older programs, and the new ones. Our recent Discussion Units found so much that was new and exciting that they wanted to share it with all our members and the public.

Connie Hannah, Vice-President for Program and Action

photo by Gina Potthoff / Noozhawk.com



*Jessica Cadiente,
Director, Santa Barbara
County Library System*

Community Forums are held the third Wednesday of the month at the Louise Lowry Davis Center, 1232 De la Vina St. noon to 2:00pm. 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 forum.



From Co-Presidents Amanda Pelch and Lindsey Baker

We wanted to write to our members assuring all that the League of Women Voters in Santa Barbara will continue to remain vigilant to our goals. Then we found that the president of our national league released the following statement on Tuesday night's election results and said it all:

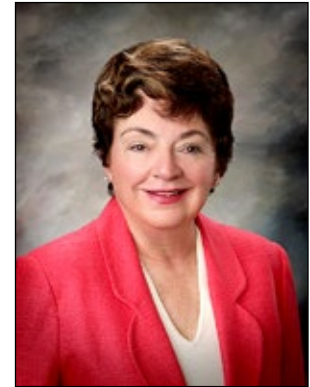
“The League of Women Voters congratulates the American people for turning out to participate in our democracy.

“Unfortunately, in too many cases, voters had to overcome significant barriers that were erected by elected officials and other political operatives. These ongoing threats to voters’ rights are unacceptable.

“This is the first presidential election in 50 years without the full protection of the Voting Rights Act. Thousands of eligible voters were purged from the rolls. Onerous voter ID laws prevented eligible voters from casting their ballots. We saw cases of misinformation and intimidation at the polls.

“We can and must do better. All year the League has worked in more than 700 communities, in every state, to register and help eligible Americans get ready to vote. In the 2016 election, more than 4 million people used our digital voter resource, VOTE411.org (in California, we use Voter’s Edge instead) to find the election information they needed.

“The League of Women Voters will continue our work to expand participation in the election process and work to give a voice to all Americans.”



*The League of Women Voters
president Chris Carson*

Topic for January Units

January Units - State and Local Program Planning – What does League need to work on most urgently in 2017

Every January, we begin to plan what the League should work on in the near future. “Program” has a specific meaning here – not just what our Community Forums and discussion units should feature, but what issues we should study, advocate on, and/or educate the community about. This year?, we will discuss what LWVSB should suggest for the LWVC program, as well as our own local program.

This year, more than ever, this planning is crucial. How do we protect the progress we have made towards League’s goals? Can we accomplish more, at least on the state and local levels? Can California be a model for other states? The League’s work must continue.

Even LWV can’t do everything – we need to figure out what we should concentrate our efforts on, and also what the most effective ways are for LWVSB to help LWVC and LWVUS. Should we form an advocacy committee? Would you be willing to work on the committee? Do you, or are you willing to, respond to Calls to Action or Action Alerts? Do you have other suggestions?

Please attend one of our January discussion units, and participate in these important decisions. The schedule for units is in the Calendar on page 8.

*Linda Phillips,
State & National Action Director
action@lwvsantabarbara.org*

Voters Got It Mostly Right on California Propositions

Public statement from the League of Women Voters of California, 11/10/2016

Posted on LWVC website at: <https://lwvc.org/news/voters-get-it-mostly-right-california-propositions>

On Tuesday millions of Californians finally had their say on 17 state ballot measures. The voters stood up for transparency in government, better schools, safer communities, and environmental protection.

✓ “Voters spoke loud and clear when they **passed Proposition 54, demanding transparency, accountability, and the right of all Californians to participate fully in crafting the laws we live under,**” said Helen Hutchison, LWVC President.

✓ Across the state, California voters affirmed their willingness to **improve and invest in public education by passing Props 51, 55, and 58.** “With Prop 55 in place, the wealthiest taxpayers will continue to pay their fair share and California can continue moving toward financial stability,” added Hutchison. “The work to restore adequate funding for schools and health care will continue, but today was a big win!”



Read all of the League’s ballot recommendations at: <https://lwvc.org/vote/elections/ballot-recommendations>

✓ **Californians sided with the environment** by **passing Prop 67** to retain a plastic bag ban statewide. “We’re pleased that voters saw through the plastics industry’s slick attempt to end the bag ban and turned down the manipulative Prop 65,” continued Hutchison.

✓ **Criminal justice and public safety measure** results were less consistent. Californians got it right on common-sense gun safety and much-needed sentencing reform by **passing Propositions 63 and 57, respectively.** However, the League is deeply disappointed in the **failure of Prop 62.** “We had the opportunity to replace our death penalty with life without possibility of parole,” said Hutchison, “but despite the moral and financial imperatives, voters rejected that measure. Instead, California passed Prop 66, an ill-conceived, irresponsible, and expensive measure that increases the chances we will execute an innocent person.” Prop 66 will likely be tied up in court challenges for quite some time.

How Voters Decided Local Ballot Measures

✓ **LWVSB endorsed four local measures, three of which passed** (see below)

✓ **The Santa Barbara Unified School District** proposed two bond measures to repair and upgrade its elementary schools (Measure J) and its junior high and high schools (Measure J). Both measures passed.

✓ **Isla Vista will finally have its own local government,** a Community Services District tailored to its needs (Measure E), which passed overwhelmingly. However, the utility user tax (Measure F) to fund the IVCSD needed a 2/3 vote (66.67%); it only received about 62%. A utility user tax must be approved by the voters by January 1, 2023, or the district will be dissolved. Meanwhile, UCSB has pledged \$200,000 a year for seven years - enough for the newly-elected IVCSD board to start meeting, but not enough to do very much.

Linda Phillips, Director, State and National Action

League of Women Voters of Santa Barbara

The election of 2016 is over and I for one am relieved. Your Voter Service Committee did their jobs well. The Committee members were Betsy Cramer, Susan Shank, Jean Holmes, Shane Stark; Claire Van Blaricum was to chair but she became seriously ill in late July and was unable to participate. Those who stepped up to assist were Jane Benefield, Linda Phillips, Vicki Allen, Joanie Jones, Lindsey Baker and me. Everyone pitched in and made the Forums and small group meetings a success. Bonnie Lassen was in charge of Voters Edge reaching out to 117 candidates in our County; the candidates with Bonnie's help used the new Voters Edge. We educated and informed many locals; that is our goal. Thank you Team!

Current figures indicated that approximately 63% of eligible voters cast their ballots in Santa Barbara County. Nationwide about 58% voted. The final numbers will be fully verified by the first of the year. Locally we vote and our League educates our local voters.

In the Fall Elections we ran Candidate Forums for the Third District Supervisors Run Off, Goleta Water Board and Goleta City Council. We had hoped to have a Forum for the 24th Congressional District but we were never able to get an agreed upon date and time. All Candidates were busy campaigning. We also held seven Pro & Con Forums; Linda Phillips addressed our September Community Forum discussing the 11 Propositions LWVC had recommendations on and the four local measures LWVSB made recommendations on. Shane Stark did three Education Forums on all the state Propositions and local measures. Joanie Jones did one Pros & Cons presentation at a Goleta Church potluck. I did three smaller group P&C presentations.

The most fun I had was talking with a group of girls at Girls Inc of Santa Barbara. I talked with approximately 50 girls from kindergarten through 6th grade. They were well informed, knowing that the election was underway. I talked about the importance of voting,

As we of the League know, we never support or oppose any candidates or parties. In our 96 year history this has never happened. Our choice is to remain nonpartisan. Of course as individuals we vote and often belong to various parties and support individual candidates. It is our dedication to the nonpartisanship of LWV that makes us a strong and clear voice for balanced and concise information.

There is one activity that we missed this year—Poll Watching. Some problems had been reported in our local area. Vicki and Joe Allen and Linda Phillips answered this call as individuals; they were trained and did do Poll Watching. No problems were reported locally in this cycle. Poll Watching is a perfect activity for LWVSB. Locally we do not have major problems but keeping a sharp eye out and letting voters know we are diligent in our activity to protect everyone's right to vote is important.

The 2016 Presidential Election was the first time a woman ran as the nominee of a major political party. At our June 2016 National Convention in Washington D.C. LWVUS made it clear that we would maintain our nonpartisan position. LWVUS stated: "This historic achievement is not about a particular woman or party. Rather it is a reflection of the fact that our country, the world's greatest democracy, has realized a momentous goal of which we all can be proud." "The League was founded on a belief in the power of women and the equality of their political voice. Achieving the Presidential nomination of a major political party is another important milestone in that journey to full democratic equality." ... "The League has always believed in the power of women to create a more perfect democracy and the empowerment of all voters so that American democracy reflects the true diversity of our nation."

*Amanda Pelch, Co-President Community Education,
Voter Service & Administration
Interim Voter Service Chair*



Amanda gets a vote of hands at the Girls Club, Inc. in talking about the importance of voting.

A League Letter... New Plans For Venoco's Platform Holly

LWVSB has submitted comments on the draft EIR for the proposed expansion of operations at Platform Holly which sit not far offshore at Ellwood. The oil company, Venoco, wants to drill into an area outside their current lease which we have considered to be in the California Coastal Sanctuary and therefore off limits. The project would increase the volume of oil passing through Platform Holly and the onshore processing facility, and probably add years to the end date for their operations. These aspects of Venoco's proposal will be the subject of LWVSB comments later in the State Lands Commission process. Comments on the DEIR follow:

Contact: Jean Holmes, Energy Director
Energy@lwvsantabarbara.org

Dear Mr. Gilles

The League of Women Voters of Santa Barbara has been following issue related to the proposed project for many years. That includes the submission of comments on the DEIR of the 2008 version of full field development. One of those comments is repeated in this letter.

We note in the Project Description that the lease area to be quitclaimed will be placed in the California Coastal Sanctuary. On the other hand, the area proposed to be added is apparently not considered to be in the sanctuary even though it was quitclaimed by Arco in 1991 when that company exchanged drilling rights there for a lease off Long Beach. What is the reason for the difference? The question should be addressed in the EIR.

The possible impacts of an oil spill are classified as significant and unavoidable, which is not surprising. Since the platform is close to sensitive areas on land and shares the ocean with research and educational activities of the university, an extra degree of caution is warranted. Maintenance of equipment and training of personnel are important in this regard. The League suggests unannounced drills be specified in the list of mitigations.

Finally, a request for consistency. When discussing greenhouse gases the DEIR uses a variety of terms to quantify the gases: million cubic feet (for gas collected in seep tents), tons per day (for possible reductions) and million metric tons CO₂e per year (in the Climate Change sect). The reader is left unable to make comparisons, such as between seep reductions and historical tent capture.

Jean Holmes, Energy Director
Lindsey Baker, Co-President for Program and Action

With Your Help, Education Fund Has 95 Years of Service & Counting!

November 15, 2016

Dear Friends,

The League of Women Voters® of Santa Barbara Education Fund finances and supports the voter service and citizen education activities of the League of Women Voters of Santa Barbara. ***More than ever, the voting public needs this balanced information on candidates and ballot measures as well as community education and discussion of locally important issues.*** The League has reliably provided these services for over 95 years. With your support, we will continue to do so.

In 2016 we provided these services:

- Funded community forums on healthcare, housing, and community-law enforcement relations.
- Hosted candidate forums and ballot measure programs filmed and posted on the Internet in English and Spanish.
- Published information on LWVSB and Voter's Edge websites, Facebook, Channel Voter, and in regular e-mail messages.
- Distributed Pros and Cons on state propositions.
- Presented ballot measure pros/cons to community groups.
- Distributed Easy Voter guides in multiple languages.

We will continue to provide voter services in 2017. We await elections for Santa Barbara Mayor and three district council seats and will provide forums for education and discussion of emerging issues.

Financial support is critical. With your help we will continue to provide these nonpartisan public education resources and activities. We know you value transparent politics and reasoned, dispassionate analyses of issues. Please support our work with a generous tax-deductible contribution to the "LWVSB Education Fund" this year.

Remember you can always make a "perpetual gift" by naming the LWVSB Education Fund in your will or trust. Gifts of appreciated stock at this time, with the market at an all-time high, will also be appreciated. (Consult a lawyer, estate planner or accountant.)

Yours for an informed electorate,

Shane Stark, President, LWVSB Education Fund

Social Policy Committee Report

The Social Policy Committee (SPC) focuses on issues related to Social Policy such as gun violence, health care, behavioral health, homelessness, or pro-choice. The SPC has been meeting regularly every month since September and now has a new time. The SPC will now meet on the first Monday of every month at 3 pm at the League Office and our next meeting is on December 5, 2016. If you would like to join us, please send us an email at SocialPolicy@lwvsantabarbara.org or leave a message at the office at 965-2422.

On October 19, the Community Forum on Santa Barbara rental housing and renters, organized by Emily Allen, was very well attended. The videotape of the forum is available on the LWVSB website and YouTube under “*What is our community doing to help provide more housing for low income people?*”

The Social Policy Committee met on **November 8, 2016** under Co-chairs Vijaya Jammalamadaka and Emily Allen. Also in attendance were Lindsey Baker, Amanda Pelch, Beverly Herbert, Carole Marks, Susan Horne and Gail Osherenko. In addition to other agenda discussions, the SPC debriefed on the October 19 forum and discussed what went right and what we can do better. Our ideas will be used in the November 16 Community Forum on “*Law Enforcement and Community Relations*”. If you have input on these community forums, please email Vijaya.

Vijaya Jammalamadaka
SocialPolicy@lwvsantabarbara.org

Announcing The Sustainable Communities Committee Schedule

Sustainable Communities will not meet during December, but will resume with our usual meeting on **Friday, January 13** at 10 a.m at the Encina Royale Clubhouse. We have invited Lauren Hanson, Goleta Water District Board Member to return then to talk with us about the water outlook for 2017, and to help answer some of our questions about the wheeling of water into Goleta and other issues.

Connie Hannah, Chair,
Sustainable Communities Committee
SusComm@lwvsantabarbara.org

Take Action For Clean Oceans

From LWVUS: President Obama finalized a five year drilling plan which takes drilling in the Arctic and Atlantic Oceans off the table! This is an important victory, but we still need **PERMANENT** protections for our oceans.

Tell President Obama to use his existing authority to permanently protect the Arctic and Atlantic oceans from oil drilling.”

This Action Alert omits the West Coast because it was already excluded from the five year plan, but we do not have permanent protection. So, we should add:

Tell President Obama to permanently protect the West Coast as well.

For more information and a sample letter, lwv.org/our-work/environment/more



MEMBERSHIP FORM - LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS, SANTA BARBARA

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Here is my annual membership dues - \$70.00 | <input type="checkbox"/> Student - \$35.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Second member in same household - \$35.00 | <input type="checkbox"/> Please send me more information about the League |
| <input type="checkbox"/> I can't join right now: here is my contribution of \$_____ to support the League | |

Total submitted \$ _____ *Make check payable to:* League of Women Voters of Santa Barbara
328 East Carrillo Street, Suite A, Santa Barbara, CA 9310
You may also pay online through PayPal at www.lwvsantabarbara.org

I am committed to / Sign me up to:

- Register voters Join the League of Women Voters Invite a friend to join Pledge \$_____ support

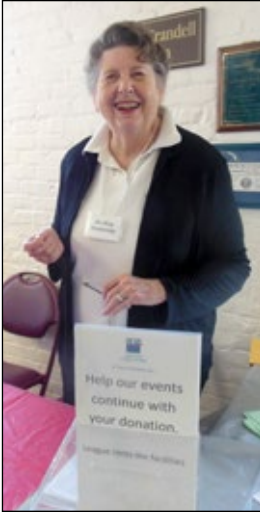
Name: _____ Title: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Fax: _____ Email: _____



Membership in the League



Are You A Delinquent?

First the good news! Let us welcome new members Diane Siegel, Catherine Woodford, and Lindsay Ervin who joined in October and November. And we welcome back Marilyn Ulvaeus, who has returned to us after living for several years in Oregon. Here's the bad news! Anyone who did

not pay his or her dues by September 30th is now no longer a member of League. According to our Bylaws, "Any member who fails to pay dues within 60 days after they become payable shall no longer be a Member of the League". Those members who paid between March 2016 and September 30, 2016 are members in good standing for 2016/2017 as are those who have responded to reminders. However there are a fair number of you who have put things aside and fall into the delinquent category. We know that it is not because you don't support League and all that we do. The number of you attending our outstanding Community Forums and Voter Service presentations has been a testament to your appreciation of the League. Now show your appreciation by renewing your lapsed membership and respond to the drop notice you will receive. If you have any questions about your status you can phone me at 805-687-1124 or email. Thank you,

Bev King, Membership Director
Membership@lwvsantabarbara.org.

In Memorium

George Solinas, December 2015

Helen Peteler, September 2016

Sue Burrows, November 2016
PAST PRESIDENT LWVSB 1995-1997

Robert Anderson, November 11, 2016

What You Can Do in the League?

In the coming months the LWVSB Nominating Committee will be recruiting new candidates to our LWVSB board. Please contact Joanie Jones, Nominating Committee Chair with your interests or suggestions, Nominating@lwvsantabarbara.org. (683-1937). Other Nominating Committee members are: Barbara Godley, Beverly King, Jean Reiche.

Can you help in our League activities?

- **Are you interested in Communications?** Please connect with Vicki via ComCoordinator@lwvsantabarbara.org or 965-2422.
- **How about Membership Committee?** Call Bev King or email at membership@lwvsantabarbara.org.
- **Concerned about sustainability on the South Coast**, you could join SusComm by contacting Sustainable Communities, SusComm@lwvsantabarbara.org, or Connie Hannah by phone, 967-4720.

If you are interested in other LWVSB committees such as **Water, Education, and Social Policy** or **one time activities** such as tabling or representing the League at coalition events (Earth Day, the Great American Write-In, U.N. Day), event planning (Annual Meeting, parties), community forums and units, mailing crew, or fund development, please contact the League office at league@lwvsantabarbara.org or by accessing our CONTACT US list on our website,

Your talents are appreciated and also a mystery to us until you share them. Please do join in the learning process and engage in your League. As a friend recently commented "Individually, we will tire and falter and lose hope, but together we cannot be deterred."

Joanie Jones,
Nominating Committee Chair
Nominating@lwvsantabarbara.org
or by phone, 965-2422

For information about all the committees you can join, ask for our new Opportunity is Knocking brochure or go to our website at www.lwvsantabarbara.org





**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS
OF SANTA BARBARA, INC**
328 East Carrillo Street, Suite A
Santa Barbara, California 93101
Phone/Fax: (805) 965-2422
Email: league@lwvsantabarbara.org
Web: www.lwvsantabarbara.org

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 for DEC. 2016 & JAN. 2017

DECEMBER 2016	JANUARY 2017
10 SAT: LWVSB Board Meeting - 10:00AM League Office - 328 East Carrillo	3 TUES: Supper Unit - 5:30PM Madam Lu's Restaurant, 3524 State Street. Contact Karen Bunker or Jane Honikman
21 WED: Community Forum - HOLIDAY PARTY & MEET & GREET OUR NEWLY ELECTED OFFICIALS - Noon-2:00PM. Louise Lowry Davis Center, 1232 De la Vina Street. Bring bag lunch	9 MON: Valle Verde Unit - Noon to 2:00PM in private dining room off breezeway (parking in front lot.) 900 Calle de los Amigos. Brown bag lunch. Contact: Juliane Heyman
<div style="border: 2px solid red; padding: 10px; width: fit-content; margin: auto;"> <p>UNIT DISCUSSION TOPICS DECEMBER NO units this month</p> <p>JANUARY PLANNING is CRUCIAL!</p> </div>	11 WED: Carpinteria Unit, - 10:00AM. Carpinteria Women's Club. 1059 Vallecito Rd. Contact Jane Benefield
	14 SAT: LWVSB Board Meeting - 10:00AM League Office - 328 East Carrillo
	18 WED. NOON: Community Forum - Discovering Our Modern Libraries - Noon-2:00PM. Louise Lowry Davis Center, 1232 De la Vina Street. Bring bag lunch
	18 WED. EVENING: Pro Choice Coalition - Roe vs. Wade Celebration - 6:00-9:00PM. Amelia Bonow New Vic - 33 W. Victoria Street.