



CHANNEL VOTER

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF SANTA BARBARA

Serving South Santa Barbara County



VOL. 78, NO. 1, SEPTEMBER 2016

HOT TOPICS:

NEW Water Committee
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Recommendations**
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Membership & Administration
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Program & Action
Lindsey Baker (2018)

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Nominating Committee
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September Community Forum

Ballot Measures: What the League Recommends - and Why

Wednesday, September 21, noon to 2 p.m.

Louise Lowry Davis Center, 1232 De La Vina St.

The League of Women Voters never supports or opposes candidates or political parties. But the League often makes recommendations on ballot measures.

At our September Community Forum, we will explain LWV's recommendations on 11 of the 17 state propositions, and on several of the 7 local (county, city, or school district) measures that will be on South Coast ballots this fall. League members and speakers from other organizations that are working with us will present information on the ballot measures.

Some of the propositions are very confusing - in one case, intentionally so. And this will be an incredibly long ballot. So come learn more about it!

LWVC's "[Vote with the League](#)" flyer is included with this Channel Voter. You may want to read it first, and bring it with you.

Remember, this is an advocacy forum. The LWVSB Education Fund will also host an impartial Voter Service forum on the Pros and Cons, in early October.

Linda Phillips, State and National Action

October Discussion Unit

Need Help with All Those Ballot Measures?

By early October you will receive your ballot for the November 8 election. Looking at those 21 plus ballot measures can be daunting, and you may want to talk about them with someone. Our October Discussion Units will be dealing with all the ones that the League has taken positions on, which will include 11 statewide measures, and 3 or 4 local ones. These are the measures that the League has thoroughly studied, and has positions on. League members and guests will present the chief arguments about them at our Community Forum in September, but you may want to continue that discussion especially if you still have questions. You will find the dates and times for the three Units on our Calendar page, and you are welcome to attend any one that is convenient for you. Come and get acquainted!

Connie Hannah, Vice-President for Program and Action

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.

Co-Presidents' Message

Message from Co-President Amanda Pelch

I am grateful for a quieter League Summer this year. Summer 2015 was filled with our office remodel and all the attending upheaval and reorganization of our space. Of course now the office is neat, clean and more efficient. Maintaining an office requires equipment and furnishings to facilitate our mission. Happily our old equipment continues to operate satisfactorily.

The summer started out with a bang. The LWVUS Convention June 16 through 19 was a smashing success. The theme was Making Democracy Work and this continues to be the vision all Leagues are working toward. LWVSB sent 4 delegates, Lindsey Baker, Jane Benefield, Linda Phillips and me Amanda Pelch. Susan Shank also attended on her own. The highlight was our very own MTA and first ever CA resident Chris Carson being elected unanimously as LWVUS President. It was so exciting! More info following.

Over the summer our League does not have any Community Forums or Discussion Units. Your Board and Committees continue to work on planning and organizing for the coming year 2016-2017. In July both the Joint Board Meeting (New & Old Board) and Program Planning took place. I'm happy to say that all will be pleased with the great line up of topics for Community Forums including September. League recommended positions on 11 of the Ballot Measures are on pages 5 & 6 for your own printed copy. Please share this information with your family and friends.

Our new Voter Service Committee started out with new Chair Claire Van Blaricum holding a productive and inspiring first meeting. She left on a long planned European vacation. Unfortunately Claire was stricken seriously ill in Amsterdam; this required emergency surgery and a long hospital stay. The dedicated Voter Service Committee has rallied and continues the work of educating local voters.

Tuesday 9/27 - will be the District 3 Supervisors Candidate Forum at I.V. School, 7:00pm
Sunday 10/2 - 24th Congressional District Candidate Forum at Faulkner Gallery, 2:30pm
Sunday 10/9 - Voter Service Forum on Pros & Cons for ballot measures at Faulkner Gallery, 2:30pm



Co-Presidents Amanda Pelch and Lindsey Baker in Washington DC at the June National Convention

We are working on several cosponsored events with other groups including WEWatch and other local presentations. Details to follow.

Many of our committees both Administration and Advocacy have continued to diligently work on various projects. Co-President Lindsey continues to make many public statements, coordinate and network in our local community to promote League mission, vision and our policy positions.

There were two neglected areas in 2015-16: Fundraising and updating our Bylaws and Procedures. Both will be addressed this year. Our Oct/Nov Channel Voter will have more information on our financial situation, coming fundraising efforts and updating Bylaws and Procedures.

As some of you know our Channel Voter Editor Danielle Kent resigned in late July; she received an exciting offer of full employment. We are thankful for all her work over the last year and wish only the best. Thank you Dani!

Happily we are announcing the contracting of our new Editor, Anna Lafferty of Lafferty Design Plus. Anna comes with an extensive background in graphics and publication design, editing and education. Welcome Anna, we are privileged to have you as our Editor.

Amanda Pelch
CoPresCommEd@lwvsantabarbara.org
Membership & Administration



The Channel Voter is published five times a year (in Sept; Oct/Nov; Dec/Jan; Feb/March & Apr/May) by the League of Women Voters of Santa Barbara, 328 East Carrillo Street, Suite A, Santa Barbara, CA 93101

Join a Committee

Sustainable Communities Committee

If you feel concerned about all the development you see around you, you should consider joining our permanent League group that tries to influence governments to consider the long range implications of actions they are taking. The long range problems, like water shortages and traffic congestion, are often too easy to ignore when the flow of money increases, and budgets are the focus. In the past, the South Coast had done a good job of planning for the future, and we want to continue that tradition. We meet every second Friday all year long, at Encina Royale clubhouse near Fairview at 10 a.m. If you are interested in land use planning, energy development and the related subjects, we will be happy to have you join us. Call me if you need information.

Connie Hannah, Chair, Sustainable Communities, League office, 965-2422, SusComm@lwvsantabarbara.org

Social Policy Committee

LWV Santa Barbara's Social Policy Committee met for the first time under the Co-chair of Vijaya Jammalamadaka along with Co-chair Emily Allen. Also in attendance were Lindsey Baker, Amanda Pelch, Beverly Herbert, and Carole Marks. The committee developed the three forums that came out of the Calendar/Program Planning meeting of July for 2016-2017 related to Social Policy: Landlord vs Renter Relations, Law Enforcement and Community Relations, and Behavioral Health-Mental Illness in the Jails.

At the National Convention for the League of Women Voters in Washington D.C. in June, the delegates voted to add a Behavioral Health position to Social Policy. This gives more impetus to our work under the Health position of the League of Women Voters.

Anyone interested in issues related to Social Policy such as gun violence, health care, behavioral health, homelessness, or pro-choice please contact Vijaya or Emily Allen at SocialPolicy@lwvsantabarbara.org or leave a message at the office at 965-2422. The Social Policy Committee meets the first Friday of the month at the League Office 12:00-1:30.

*Emily Allen or Vijaya Jammalamadaka
SocialPolicy@lwvsantabarbara.org
or call the office at 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 <http://www.lwvsantabarbara.com>

Water is the New Gold

It has been some time since the LWV Santa Barbara Water Committee has met and we miss it. The Water Resources Manager of the City of Santa Barbara has declared our area the center of the drought in California. With Lake Cachuma at 8% of capacity, the cost of water from Lake Cachuma now being the most costly source of water to the City of Santa Barbara, and the desalinization plant delayed until possibly January 2017 because of the need for custom-made parts from Germany, it is time that our League activate our Water Committee. The City of Santa Barbara is developing an agreement with the Montecito Water District for them to purchase water from Santa Barbara's desalinization plant. The issues of sub-surface intake for the plant and the development of potable water reuse are also being studied at this time. This is a challenging and exciting time to study and take positions on these matters.

Water affects agriculture, housing development, health, and safety. It behooves us to become involved.

If you are interested in serving on the Water Committee please contact:

*Lindsey Baker at the League office, 965-2422,
or CoPresAction@lwvsantabarbara.org*

SAVE THE DATE:

Sunday, October 16, @ 2:00 p.m.
Faulkner Gallery, Santa Barbara Main Public
Library, 40 East Anapumu St.

"FIX IT: Healthcare at the Tipping Point"
*Co-sponsored by Health Care for All - Santa Barbara
& LWV Santa Barbara*

The movie will be followed by discussion, a Q and A period and light refreshments. FIX IT shows the growing support for an expanded and improved "Medicare for all" solution, with positive testimony from business owners and conservative politicians. The movie discusses how single payer can provide good coverage for all while saving money for individuals, families, businesses and public employers.

For information phone: (805) 682-5183.
<http://fixithehealthcare.com/> and <http://www.healthcareforall.org/chapters/santa-barbara-county>

Inside The League

Big Day on Capitol Hill

by Jane L. Benefield



Storming the Hill the day before the convention included a stop-and-chat at our Congresswoman Lois Capps's office

At the 2016 League of Women Voters US Convention in Washington, DC hundreds of League members from around the country “stormed Capitol Hill” June 16; bringing with them a tough message on voting rights for their U.S. Senators and Representatives.

“2016 will mark the first presidential election in 50 years without the vital protections for voters found in the Voting Rights Act (VRA),” said Elisabeth MacNamara, former League president. “It has been three years since the disastrous U.S. Supreme Court decision in *Shelby County v. Holder* gutted key provisions of the VRA and left voters and their rights at risk of discrimination.”

Only strong action from Congress can fix the Court’s mistake, and that is exactly what we are advocating.

California being more progressive than many states, required little prodding of our representatives who see the importance of reinstating the VRA.

Intrepid Leaguers Linda Phillips, Lindsey Baker, Amanda Pelch and Jane Benefield laced up their kick butt boots and trudged up the hill. OK there were shuttle buses. Along with SLO league members, we all visited Lois Capps who has always been a big VRA supporter, thus we had a lively discussion about gun violence, her sunseting days in the House and her undying support for the League.

“Our members are fanning out across the Capitol today to tell their elected representatives that it is well past time to right this wrong. We need them to pass the Voting Rights Advancement Act (VRAA), legislation that will put protections back into place to ensure that Americans have equal opportunity to access the polls,” MacNamara said.

Recently the Supreme Court and some higher courts have been reinstating voting rights piece-meal in some particularly restrictive states like North Carolina, Wisconsin and Texas. LWV has participated in some of these cases. “Their rulings are loud and clear. Politicians do not control our democracy; voters do,” Chris Carson, League of Women Voters President said.

Best laid plans however..... As we approached Senator Dianne Feinstein’s office she was bustling out the door.... TO TAKE PART IN THE NOW FAMOUS SENATE GUN VIOLENCE FILIBUSTER...galvanized by Senator Chris Murphy, Connecticut (think Sandy Hook.) fifteen hours later, the Senate leadership agreed to allow a vote on legislation from Sen. Feinstein that would let the government bar sales of guns and explosives to people it suspects of being terrorists.

The place was buzzing with excitementnot five days later the House made its sit-in stand against gun violence, mesmerizing the American public. More than 170 Democrats took part in the sit in over the 24 hours.

Result: We all lived to fight another day.



A new National Board for the League of Women Voters is elected and introduced. LWV National Convention in Washington DC, June 2016.



THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS

RECOMMENDS

November 8, 2016 GENERAL ELECTION

More info: bit.ly/LWVCBallotRecs

PROP 51 School Bonds: K-12 and Community College YES

All California's schoolchildren deserve school facilities in good repair and equipped to provide all students a 21st century education. In a perfect world with adequate funding, we wouldn't need to borrow to build. However, this is not a perfect world, and our facilities needs are massive and require a large infusion of funding. It has been eight years since the last statewide bond measure was passed. Chronic underfunding from the state leaves most public school communities unable to adequately address their needs, increasing the danger of greater disparities among them. Many have passed local bonds but due to insufficient state matching funds, that money remains unspent—a situation this bond measure will help remedy.

PROP 54 California Legislature Transparency Act YES

Prop 54 will make our state government more open, honest, and accountable. With this common-sense reform, every bill must be in print and posted online for at least 72 hours before it may pass out of either house—preventing last-minute, closed-door changes. A video recording of every public meeting of the Legislature must be posted online in a timely way. Our democracy is stronger when more people participate, and this measure empowers all people to review, debate, and contribute to the laws that impact us all.

PROP 55 Children's Education and Health Care Protection Act YES

Proposition 55 is key in maintaining economic recovery and growth in California by continuing the current income tax rates on the wealthiest two percent of Californians, established by the voters in 2012. That measure, Prop 30, has moved California toward financial stability and adequate funding for education and other services we depend on like health care. Without Prop 55 we will be back to the days of pink slips for teachers, overcrowded classrooms, and community college students waiting years for the classes they need.

PROP 57 Public Safety and Rehabilitation Act YES

This measure restores the authority of judges, not prosecutors, to decide if juveniles as young as 14 should be tried in adult court, a right judges had until 2000. The prosecution may file a motion, but the court decides. Proposition 57 will also reduce the state prison population and costs by allowing earlier parole of nonviolent felons, with sentence credits for good behavior and rehabilitation or education. This measure could save tens of millions of dollars.

PROP 58 English Proficiency. Multilingual Education YES

Proposition 58 repeals the most restrictive parts of Proposition 227, a 1998 initiative that limited the methods California schools can use to teach English to students who are not native English speakers. This measure addresses the inequity of Prop 227 and frees parents and their schools to provide the best educational opportunities for all California children regardless of their first language. The League opposed Prop 227 nearly 20 years ago and urges your support for this change.

PROP 59 Constitutional Amendment Advisory Measure NO

Eliminating the corrupting influence of money in our democracy is a vital concern. Unfortunately, this vague, poorly drafted ballot measure is not the solution. A constitutional amendment to overturn *Citizens United* may have appeal as a quick fix, but in reality it is a slow, laborious, costly, and potentially unsuccessful strategy. A poorly written amendment could have significant unintended consequences—not the least of which is squelching actual political speech. Voters deserve a fair election system today, not years or decades from now. Instead of looking to an imagined silver bullet, we need to take broad action now, including fixing our Federal Elections Commission, expanding disclosure laws, overturning California's ban on public financing of elections, and asking a new Supreme Court to revisit the ruling.

VOTE WITH THE LEAGUE ON NOVEMBER 8!

8/8/2016

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF CALIFORNIA • 1107 9th Street, Suite 300 • Sacramento, CA 95814
916-442-7215/916-442-7362 Fax/888-870-VOTE Toll-free • lwvc@lwvc.org • www.lwvc.org

PROP 62 Justice That Works: Death Penalty Abolition YES

Proposition 62 will **abolish** the death penalty, replacing it with life without possibility of parole. It will ensure time in prison is spent in work, with an increased portion of wages going to restitution to victims' families. Families deserve restitution, not endless legal appeals, and closure through knowing these worst criminals will never be released. California has spent more than \$5 billion to execute 13 people since 1978. Nothing indicates this has been effective in reducing crime, while the risk of executing the innocent remains.

PROP 66 Shortening Death Penalty Appeals NO

This poorly written measure would greatly increase California's risk of executing an innocent person by shortening the time for appeals and limiting the prisoner's ability to present new evidence of their innocence. Raising significant constitutional issues, this could cause more delays, increase taxpayers' costs, and add layers of bureaucracy. It is estimated the state would need as many as 400 new taxpayer-funded attorneys to meet the demand. The wise choice is **NO on 66** and **YES on 62** to save costs, provide restitution, and prevent executing innocent people.

PROP 63 Safety for All Act YES

The facts are sobering. From 2002 to 2013, 38,576 Californians died from gun violence, including 2,258 children. In the U.S., more than 300 Americans are shot **each day**, more than 80 of them **fatally**. Prop 63 helps counter those statistics by strengthening background check systems and ensuring that California law enforcement shares data about dangerous people with the FBI. It ensures that dangerous criminals and domestic abusers sell or transfer their firearms after they're convicted. This measure requires businesses that sell ammunition to report lost or stolen ammunition, requires people to notify law enforcement if their guns are lost or stolen, and ensures that people convicted of gun theft are ineligible to own guns.

PROP 65 Sowing Confusion about the Plastic Bag Ban NO

Don't be confused by this deceptive measure—vote NO. Large players in the plastic bag industry spent millions to put this disingenuous initiative on the ballot, creating a distraction that could thwart California's efforts to rein in plastic bag waste and litter. The plastic bag industry wants to use this measure to damage the hard-won agreement between environmentalists and grocers that made the plastic bag ban possible. This is not about helping fund environmental programs but is simply intended to cause enough voter confusion that the more significant environmental measure, Proposition 67, fails. Don't be confused; **Vote NO on 65** and **Vote YES on 67**.

PROP 67 Protect California's Plastic Bag Ban YES

The League urges a YES vote on Proposition 67 to retain California's plastic bag ban. The question on a referendum is not intuitive; you are being asked if you want to retain the new law. Vote YES to keep the 2014 statewide law prohibiting single-use carryout bags. These plastic film bags pollute our oceans, pose a deadly threat to marine wildlife, clutter our landscapes, create toxic byproducts when manufactured, and are very difficult to recycle. California grocers and other retailers support the ban, and many cities and counties have local measures that are working. Don't let out-of-state plastic bag industry players stop our progress!

NO RECOMMENDATION ON THE OTHER MEASURES ON THIS BALLOT

PROP 56 Cigarette Tax NEUTRAL

Proposition 56 establishes an increased tax on cigarettes, with the money collected from this tax earmarked for health care and tobacco use prevention. The League does not generally support earmarks but is **neutral** on this measure because of the benefits from reducing smoking and the increased funding for health care.

Because League positions do not cover the issues in the following measures, the LWVC is taking **no stand** on **Prop 52** (State Fees on Hospitals. Federal Medi-Cal Matching Funds), **Prop 53** (Revenue Bonds. Statewide Voter Approval), **Prop 60** (Adult Films. Condoms. Health Requirements), **Prop 61** (State Prescription Drug Purchases. Pricing Standards), and **Prop 64** (Marijuana Legalization).

VOTE WITH THE LEAGUE ON NOVEMBER 8!

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Membership

Membership Renewal: It's Time!

August is a busy time for the membership committee. On August 9th membership renewal letters with a new Membership Survey, Opportunity is Knocking brochure and a renewal envelope enclosed were mailed to 226 League members, former members and friends. If you have not received your letter, please contact me at (805) 687- 1124 or at membership@lwvsantabarbara.org and I will see that you get one. Your 2016/2017 dues are payable now, I urge you to remit them as soon as possible. Reminder phone calls will begin in September.

Celebrate! Betty Johnson, a member of our League

since June 1994, has informed us that she joined the League of Women Voters in 1955 in Richmond Indiana. It was only by reading the renewal letter that she realized that she too was a 50 year plus member and no longer responsible for dues. She said she has been a proud member for all of these years and made a gift to LWVSB in place of dues.

Bev King, Membership Director

In Memorium
Robert Stites June 2016

MEMBERSHIP FORM - LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS, SANTA BARBARA

- Here is my annual membership dues - \$70.00 Student - \$35.00
 Second member in same household - \$35.00 Please send me more information about the League
 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 93101
You may also pay online through PayPal at: 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: _____ Address: _____ Zip: _____
Phone: _____ Fax: _____ Email: _____



Public Statement Letter

NOTE: All public statements and letters are on our website (lwvsantabarbara.org)

The campaign to rid the Goleta shoreline of Venoco's dangerous and unsightly oil processing facility resumes. Letters and phone calls to members of the city council are needed to send the clear message that the public wants this site to be available for its zoned use as recreation serving. LWVSB sent the following letter:

August 10, 2016

To: Goleta City Council

Re: Hearing on Baker and O'Brien Report

The local League of Women Voters has followed issues related to the Ellwood Onshore Facility (EOF) for many years. Our concerns have focused on risks it presents to the environment and to the public. Now we are urging you to hold the long awaited hearing on the updated amortization study from Baker and O'Brien. It is only proper for the city to act in conformance with its ordinance on the termination of non-conforming land uses.

You will find great interest on the part of the public in the possibility of removing this old oil facility from Goleta's shoreline. The location may not have seemed a problem when it was built but today, with the build-out of the city and greater environmental awareness it is clearly inappropriate. We also note that that it is a violation of Goleta's general plan.

The League urges you to take the next step toward removing the EOF, an industrial facility, from its present location in a coastal area zoned for recreation.

Lindsey Baker, Co-President for Program and Action

Contact: Jean Holmes, jeanholmes@earthlink.net



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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

SEPTEMBER	8 SAT: LWVSB Board Meeting - 10:00am League Office - 328 East Carrillo
10 SAT: LWVSB Board Meeting - 10:00am League Office - 328 East Carrillo	9 SUN: Voter Service Forum on Pros & Cons for Ballot Measures 2:30pm. Faulkner Gallery, Santa Barbara Public Library
21 WED: Community Forum About Ballot Measures, What the League Recommends Noon-2:00pm. Louise Lowry Davis Center, 1232 De la Vina Street.	10 MON: Valle Verde Discussion Unit - Noon-2:00pm in private dining room off breezeway (parking in front lot.) 900 Calle de los Amigos. Brown bag lunch. Contact: Juliane Heymann
27 TUES: District 3 Supervisorial Candidates' Forum - 7:00pm Isla Vista School, 6857 El Colegio Road, Isla Vista	12 WED: Carpinteria Discussion Unit, - 10:00am. Carpinteria Women's Club. 1059 Vallecito Rd. Contact Jane Benefield
OCTOBER	16 SUN: Movie & Q&As: "FIX IT: Healthcare at the Tipping Point"- 2:00pm. Faulkner Gallery, Santa Barbara Main Public Library, 40 East Anapamu Street.
2 SUN: 24th Congressional Candidates' Forum 2:30pm. Faulkner Gallery, Santa Barbara Public Library	19 WED: Community Forum About Landlords & Renters' Relations - Noon-2:00pm. Louise Lowry Davis Center, 1232 De la Vina Street.
4 TUES: Supper Discussion Unit - 5:30pm Madam Lu's Restaurant, 3524 State Street Contact Karen Bunker or Jane Honikman	DISCUSSION UNIT TOPICS SEPTEMBER - NO units in Sept. OCTOBER - Ballot Measures