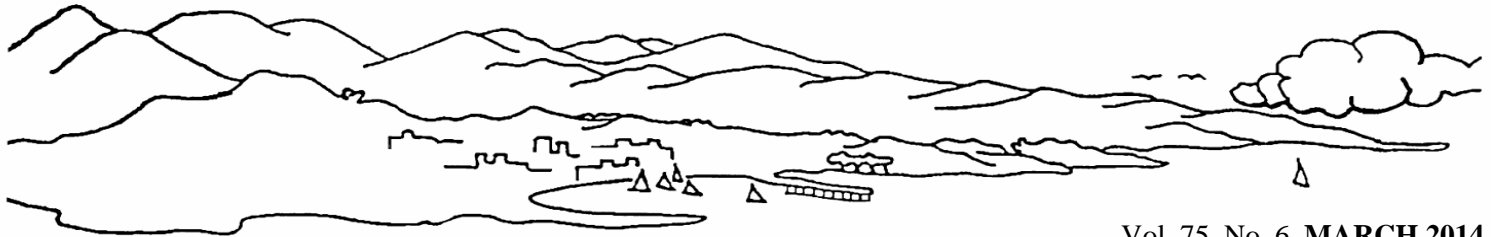




# CHANNEL VOTER

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF SANTA BARBARA

Serving South Santa Barbara County



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## March Community Forum: Transforming Our Schools The Common Core and Local Control Funding

Wednesday, March 19, noon-2 p.m.—Louise Lowry Davis Center, 1232 De la Vina St.

David Cash, Superintendent of Santa Barbara Unified School District, and Paul Cordeiro, Superintendent of Carpinteria Unified School District, will describe the important changes in funding and standards that have taken place in education since 2007.

The League’s Education Committee has been concerned about the lack of opportunity for students in high poverty schools and/or those with large numbers of English learners. With the new Local Control Funding Formula, more resources will be available to these students, but it will also put greater responsibility on our local districts and communities to plan for quality K-12 education and to make these low opportunity schools more effective.

Thirty-five of the state mandated categorical funds have been eliminated and the money is now available locally to use in more targeted ways. A three-year budget funds a three-year plan with clear performance measures. Such a plan was drawn up in October of 2012.

Even more important is the coming of the Common Core standards to our schools.

These standards are rigorous, internationally benchmarked, research and evidence based to produce students who are college and career ready and provide teachers and parents with a

common understanding of what students are expected to learn wherever they live.

Common Core replaces 50 different state standards with a single national standard. Forty-four of the states have adopted these standards. This will allow for an ever greater sharing of successful curricula within the teaching profession.

Additionally, a new Common Core assessment system is being developed. It is different from the previous testing in that it allows the teacher to measure current school achievement and also growth over time to be sure that individual students are not falling behind and to determine what instruction is most successful. All of the testing is done on computers and requires fewer multiple choice, “fill in the bubble” questions and more writing and fact-based answers.

We hope you will want to hear more about the Common Core and the new system that funds it. Our superintendents will have so much to tell us about its impact on our local communities. We hope to see you there on March 19. Forums are free and open to the public. Bring your own brown bag lunch, and cookies and beverages will be provided. Parking at the center is free during our forum.

*Marge Gordon, Education Committee Chair*

## March Discussion Units and April 5 Consensus Meeting Agricultural Study Update 2014

The February Forum started our journey to understanding all things agriculture for the coming Agricultural Study Consensus Meeting. That Forum was an important introduction. During March our Discussion Units will focus on refining and deepening each member’s understanding of the issues.

You can read the National League’s extensive information, and the articles in this Channel Voter for more detail.

*(Continued on page 2)*

## Message From Your Co-President: Joanie Jones

The spring months are always filled with "not to be missed" League activities. In March and early April we will have studying and training opportunities in two important areas--taxes and agriculture.

**Tax Policy:** We welcome all League members and the community to participate in the "Talking Taxes" day-long event we are hosting on Friday, March 21. With the co-sponsorship of the LWV Ventura County, our State League, Fund for Santa Barbara, Santa Barbara Foundation, and the Unitarian Society of Santa Barbara we will participate in a 4 1/2 hour workshop with Kim Klein, one of the best trainers in the country. Sign up now so that you reserve your space in this exciting shared learning experience. Lunch will be served and then League and other community members will be trained to be trainers in this important area of discussion. (see page 9 for full article). It is easier than it sounds. I have experienced Kim Klein's presentations in Sacramento and San Jose and highly recommend your participation.

**Nominating:** Joan Kerns and her Nominating Committee are at work preparing a slate for next year's LWVSB leadership. Please let her know if you have an interest in serving or if you know of someone who you believe would be a good candidate. Contact the office or Joan with any suggestions.

**The Agriculture Study** will call us together for discussion in our three unit meetings in March and then again on Saturday, April 5 for consensus.

**Earth Day:** The League will also be active again at Santa



Barbara Earth Day on April 26 and April 27. Join other League members tabling and learn more about the League's environmental positions. Be a table volunteer by calling the office or sign up at the March and April Community Forums.

**League Support:** For many years, LWVSB hosted an annual Garden Party. Last year, we tried something different, a "Together Campaign" that inspired new members to join and netted \$8,000. One new member said, "I am doubling my membership fee to support this vibrant organization." This year, we hope to inspire you again to make a financial contribution to your League at whatever level you can afford. Your gift will help cover LWVSB operating costs, including our Community Forums, office expenses, leader development, scholarships, and co-sponsored programs on critical community issues such as the Bridges Out of Poverty and Coalition Against Gun Violence events.

Your LWVSB Board asks you to join us in giving financial support to the League. When you receive a letter and/or phone call about the importance of supporting our mission to promote political responsibility through informed and active participation in government, please say yes and give. We need your talents in many areas of the League and we also need your treasure to continue coming "together again and again" with coalition partners and our whole Santa Barbara community to make a difference through civic engagement.

*Joanie Jones, Co-President, Membership, Administration & Community Education*

### March Discussion Units and April 5 Consensus Meeting *(Continued from page 1)*

Our current Ag Policy came into existence in 1988 after two years of study. At that time it covered 1. Sustainable Agriculture. 2. Research & Development. 3. Agriculture Prices. 4. Agriculture & Trade. 5. Farm Credit.

The current areas under study are: 1. Economic Health of the Agricultural Sector. 2. Animal Management. 3. Food Safety. 4. Food Labeling. Within each of these four major areas there is a myriad of questions to reach consensus on. It is within these questions that one finds the direction of study. There are two overriding topics that are guiding the questions: current technology issues in agriculture, and current agriculture finance issues. In today's world technology and finance hover over the agriculture sector.

We are helping determine how the League will set its new policies and update the existing policy.

Please begin your review as soon as possible. Local contacts for the Ag Study Committee are Joanie Jones at [cjones@cox.net](mailto:cjones@cox.net) or Amanda Pelch at [apelch@yahoo.com](mailto:apelch@yahoo.com).

For unit meeting dates, see Calendar on page 12. We will be meeting on Saturday, April 5 at the Marmalade Café in La Cumbre Plaza to consider the Agriculture Study Questions and come to consensus. Our Board of Directors voted to support this event by subsidizing the cost. The \$20 fee will include a buffet lunch of salads and pasta, and beverages will be provided throughout the day. Scholarships are available on request.

*Amanda Pelch, Agriculture Committee member*

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People crowded into Louise Lowry Davis Center on Feb. 19 to hear panelists answer the question: "How Can Farm Policy Make Us Healthy?"  
For more photos of the League's Community Forum on agriculture see page 11.

## Agriculture Study 2014

### U.S. and Santa Barbara County Agriculture

The number of farms in the US and farming as a share of the total economy have decreased steadily over the past century. Nevertheless, agriculture remains a strong and rapidly growing segment of the US economy. The strength of US agriculture is due in large part to substantial productivity growth and to increased demand for American agricultural exports. Today, agricultural exports account for nearly one-third of total farm cash income. Farm productivity roughly tripled between 1948 and 2010. As an example, the average dairy cow produced about 5,300 pounds of milk in 1950, compared to 22,000 pounds in 2013.

The structure of farming continues to move toward fewer, but larger commercial operations. Small family farms make up 90 percent of all US farms. The other 10 percent of agriculture, however, accounts for 83 percent of the value of US production. The growth of farm size, called farm consolidation, reflects a shift to four crops (corn, soybeans, wheat and hay). Over time, there has been a shift away from cotton, tobacco and oats. Three high value categories (vegetables/ fruit, nuts and berries/ and greenhouse and nursery crops) now account for more than one-third of all cash receipts from crops.

There are advantages to large-scale farms such as increased efficiency and decreased labor hours per acre of output. However, intensification of agriculture also has disadvantages, such as degradation of soil and water. Overuse of

nitrogen fertilizer has negative effects on the environment—especially downstream of treated fields. Other impacts of intensive agriculture include soil erosion, health problems from pesticides and herbicides and greater reliance on irrigation.

The Union of Concerned Scientists recommends four strategies to make agriculture more sustainable and friendly to the environment. These are: 1. Take a landscape approach (conserve uncultivated areas on or near farms), 2. Grow and rotate more crops, 3. Reintegrate livestock and crops and 4. Use more cover crops to reduce erosion and hold soil nutrients.

#### Santa Barbara County Overview

Agriculture plays a key role in sustaining a healthy local economy. The sector contributes \$1.8 billion in direct economic output and provides about 16,000 jobs in the county. Strawberries is the biggest cash crop, followed by broccoli, lettuce, wine grapes and avocados.

County agricultural land also provides scenic beauty, carbon sequestration and other "ecosystem" services. For example, farms and ranches help slow and stop forest fires; forests absorb excess carbon dioxide, and insects and bacteria break down animal waste. Also, county agricultural lands provide wildlife habitats as well as recreational, educational and tourist activities.

*Susan Shank, Agriculture Committee member*

### Where to Get Information

If you have access to a computer, go to our website! [www.lwvsantabarbara.org](http://www.lwvsantabarbara.org) has all the links you'll need for the agriculture study. You will be able to go directly from there to the national league website. Most of the information in these articles came from the national committee's Agriculture Update reference materials, which can be linked from our website.

The consensus questions are on pages 7 and 8. Please bring this newsletter to the March Discussion Units and the April 5 meeting.

## Crop Insurance

There are many risks in the practice of agriculture, such as the weather, variability in the costs of labor or fuel or ultimate market price. Federal crop insurance is designed to mitigate such losses. It is also often a requirement to obtain credit, vital for most farm operations.

The farmer pays a discounted premium for a federal crop insurance policy because the government pays part of the premium. In 2012 total premiums of \$11 billion were charged for the federal crop insurance program. The farmers paid \$4 billion as their share of the crop insurance. The charge has been made that too much of the cost of crop insurance is being borne by the taxpayer through the federal subsidy.

The new farm bill provides what amounts to a 65 percent premium discount by the federal government. Much of the money that used to go to the much criticized and now abandoned Direct Payment program has been shifted to crop insurance. The bill imposes a cap on overall payments to any individual farmer of \$250,000.

In a Jan. 19, 2014 News-Press article about the drought, the head of the California Department of Food and Agriculture commented that only 30 out of California's 400 different crops are eligible for financial aid. Among the eligible crops are corn, cotton, citrus, almonds, tomatoes and avocados.

One suggested reform to crop insurance is to expand the program to smaller farms, to more crops and to new growing methods, such as organic farming. The farm bill does encourage the development of new insurance policies with improved coverage that yield additional government reimbursement to insurance companies which sell policies for specialty (fruit and vegetable) crops. Other suggested changes include, to incorporate more conservation requirements or to save money by reducing payments made to the insurance companies for administering the federal insurance programs.

*Jean Holmes, Agriculture Committee member*

## Where Are Agriculture Subsidies Focused?

Set every five years by the federal Farm Bill, subsidies for agriculture come in diverse forms such as loans and insurances, and are intended to lower the inherent risks to farming. These include extreme weather, shortages of farm laborers to harvest crops, and the price of energy to fuel equipment and transport crops to market.

Farm businesses also can't control market forces. Prices are set on huge trading exchanges for commodities. In agriculture, commodities are goods with a set price for the entire category such as corn, soybeans, sugar beets, wheat, rice, cotton, coffee, milk and other livestock products. Some subsidies are criticized for supporting poor health. Selected commodity crops such as corn, soybeans and sugar beets are ingredients in many high calorie processed foods.

Reform of subsidy programs is advocated by the non-profit Food & Water Watch. They argue that low prices of commodities should not be made up by taxpayer/government subsidies since this ends up subsidizing the food processors, factory farms, and meat-packers. Corn is used for animal feed and for high fructose corn syrup.

At the same time that commodity crops can receive subsidies, crops that are key to health and prevention of chronic diseases get low/no subsidies. These are the fruits, vegetables and nuts that are called Specialty Crops (in ag-speak). The funding focus of subsidies has overwhelmingly been on commodities and not specialty crops. One source notes that from 1995 to 2012, ten percent of farms

collected 75 percent of all subsidies and 62 percent of farms did not receive any subsidies.

### Research and Development Subsidies – Government R&D Declines

One of the most important functions of subsidies is funding Research and Development to increase productivity and economic growth. Government/public R&D funding has been declining--spending declined seven percent between 2004 and 2009.

About half of the long-term benefits go to farmers while about half are shared by landlords and consumers. The benefits of R&D may take decades but research shows that the return is great for personal and community health, nutrition, food processing, the ag work force, food safety and more.

There is concern that long-term basic and applied R&D by public funding will further decline and be dominated by private companies in such fields as bio-technology, chemicals and animal health. Private companies, according to a study by the National Science Foundation, spend about two-thirds of their R&D funds on short-term commercial product development. Some areas of R&D are now dominated by just a few corporations. For example, five chemical companies spent 76 percent of all the R&D funding in that sector. Public funding has a broader scope and is a long-term investment with a high return for public and community health.

*Susan Horne, Agriculture Committee member*



## Pesticides: Not In My Back Yard!

*LWV Agriculture Consensus Questions Food Safety (8 h and i), Economic Health of Agriculture (1e), are all dependent on continued Research and Development (7c, d, f, g ) as well as enforcement of pesticide regulations.*

Like many people we don't use pesticides in our garden and we buy organic food. I have thought that farming approaches such as the Integrated Pest Management Principles would dramatically reduce pesticides and all would be fine. However, with the appearance of traps for the Asian citrus psyllid in neighborhood citrus trees we are reminded how necessary effective pesticides are for agriculture. Research/development of new pesticides as well as regulations governing the use of existing pesticides need to be supported. Agriculture accounts for about 80 percent of the pesticides use in the U.S.

At a national level The Environmental Protection (EPA) agency regulates pesticide use. To register pesticide with the EPA applicants need to comply with the requirements of the Federal Insecticide Fungicide and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA). The EPA has a scientific and rigorous process to follow before a pesticide is approved for use.

However, the National Resources Defense Council asserts that the EPA has allowed many pesticides onto the market

without a public and transparent process and in some cases without a full set of toxicity tests using a loophole called Conditional Registration. Some of these conditional approvals have lasted as long as 15 years.

The NRDC has recommended six corrective actions. The EPA needs support improving the pesticide registration process. This will require additional staffing and training. Pesticide research by private and public institutions is necessary to better protect public health, the environment and agriculture.

In Santa Barbara County the Commissioner of Agriculture is responsible for pesticide use reporting and enforcing EPA and other regulations. This office is also responsible for enforcing quarantines, and detecting, managing and trapping insect pests. Now this includes the Asian citrus psyllid traps in some of our yards.

*Eleanor York, Agriculture Committee member*

## NanoFood: The Use of Nanotechnology in Food Production

One of the technological advances that is now being utilized in our food system is nanotechnology. Nanotechnology is the practice of developing particles at the atomic or molecular scale. For reference, a sheet of paper is 100,000 nanometers thick; and, at 300 nanometers (larger than most nanoparticles), a particle is able to cross into the placenta.

According to policy analyst Jaydee Hanson, nanofood is "food which has been cultivated, produced, processed, or packaged using nanotechnology techniques or tools or to which manufactured nanomaterials have been added."

Among the nano-ingredients commonly used are iron, zinc, silver, nanoclays, and nanocapsules. These nanoparticles are used to make food smell, taste, and look better to the consumer (Hanson). Scientists have expressed concern as the properties of a bulk material change when the ingredient is taken to the nanoscale.

Nanometals are of particular concern for scientists. Titanium dioxide is currently being used in familiar brands of candy, food, and beverages. In one case, it is used to make powdered donuts whiter. However, it is more prominently used to make hard candy look shinier. These particles in hard candy have been found to be within 100 to 300 nanometers. Big food producers are considering using nano-

silver to coat cereal with flavor and to add an anti-microbial layer to packaged meats.

Despite the particles small size, research has shown that there may be reasons to be concerned. When titanium dioxide on the nanoscale was studied in rats, scientists found a positive association with Crohn's disease and tumors in offspring. Additionally, scientists found that the particles pass into lymph tissues where they can cause tumors.

Currently, the FDA has failed to provide mandatory regulations for nanomaterials but have acknowledged that there may be new risks associated with them. Individuals from the Center for Food Safety have suggested that substances of any size should be labeled for consumer awareness. Additionally, they are urging for more study of these nanomaterials across a being's lifespan to help determine the impact of long-term exposure.

Hanson, Jaydee. "Nano Technology in Our Food." *Agricultural Nanotechnology and the Future of Food*. 14 May 2013. Lecture.

"Overview of Nanotechnology and Other Technologies." [www.lwv.org](http://www.lwv.org).

*Donna Cairns, Agriculture Committee member*

## Food Labeling Issues

Food labeling is primarily a means for consumer protection and transparency of information. A food label must include name of product, ingredient list, nutritional information, net quantity, allergy information, and contact information. In recent years labeling concerns have increased with the exploding changes in the food industry.

People are paying more attention to food labels because of concern about nutrition, genetic modification, pesticide use, additives, irradiation, identification of known allergens, product origin disclosure, tracking recalls, sustainability, and more. How do we get needed information across for people to pick better diets with respect to diabetes and heart disease? These are not food purity, genetic modification or country of origin issues.

**Funding Concerns:** An FDA Science board study concluded that the FDA is underfunded and unable to keep up with new products and technologies. It is using obsolete scientific information, regulations, and testing. It has inadequate information systems, and lacks trained scientists to meet its current and emerging regulatory responsibilities. It needs to identify and adopt clear, accepted definitions of terms that are used to market food products. The European Union defines a product with more than 0.9 percent new technologically engineered ingredients (GMOs) as requiring a Genetically Engineered label.

**Legislation:** The FDA also lacks the needed legal authority to act effectively. Recent legislation efforts have not been

successful in improving labeling information. National bills introduced in 2013 to improve food labeling information are dead in committee. State ballot measures in California and Washington on genetically modified labeling failed by substantial margins. Connecticut and Maine have passed labeling requirements on genetically modified content, but four New England states must pass label changes in order to make it financially feasible before it goes into effect.

How do we get subtle, detailed information out in a useful form on space limited labels? How do we determine that a bioengineered food is basically the same or is a new product that needs to be tested for safety, allergy, and nutritional changes? If it is materially changed, it is a new product and should not be marketed with the same name. Who investigates this, the industry or the government, and when, before introduction or after problems? Do we pay for this with higher food prices or with taxes or with the problems of neglect?

The debate over food labeling shows no signs of abating. Consumer groups, the health industry, and niche agricultural groups are mounting pressure on the FDA and state legislators to bring a cleaner, less confusing, labeling system to the American public.

The Ag Study Update has three multi-part questions on Food Labeling.

*Pat Shewczyk, Agriculture Committee member  
and Colin Jones, LWVSB member*

## Water Quality and Agriculture



Water is an essential component of all agricultural production, both in growing crops and in cleaning farming equipment. Worldwide, 70 percent of water is used in agriculture. In the United States, agriculture accounts for approximately 80 percent of the nation's consumptive water use and

over 90 percent in many Western States.

In our county agriculture is the largest user of water, per LWVSB Water Committee Co-chair Joan Kerns. Agriculture is also one of the major polluters of the American water supply, and, as yet, no consistent nationwide approach to addressing agricultural pollution exists. One contributor is

the use of bio-solids as fertilizer.

There is an interesting connection in our area between agriculture and water quality that we may not think about. We treat all of our wastewater; a major byproduct of this treatment is bio solids. Bio-solids are placed onto agricultural lands as fertilizer. When a field is irrigated, the nutrients (and possibly heavy metal elements, drugs, and drug-resistant bacteria) in the bio-solids leach out and can contaminate the ground water.

In addition, our Ag update study considers carefully three topics on water management: Water Usage and Rights, Irrigation and Water Quality.

*Dr. John Ackerman and Amanda Pelch,  
Agriculture Committee members*

## Agriculture Study Consensus Questions

These questions in this format are for your information only. The questions are also online for Leagues to input their consensus reports.

### Economic Health of the Agricultural Sector

#### 1. *Should government financial support for agriculture be directed to:*

- Subsidized agricultural credit (loans) (Yes, No, No Consensus)
- Disaster assistance (Yes, No, No Consensus)
- Crop insurance (Yes, No, No Consensus)
- Farms that supply local and regional markets (Yes, No, No Consensus)
- Subsidized implementation of best management practices (Yes, No, No Consensus)
- Commodity crop programs, e.g., corn, soybeans, sugar, cotton, wheat (Yes, No, No Consensus)
- Commodity livestock program (Yes, No, No Consensus)
- Commodity dairy program (Yes, No, No Consensus)
- Specialty crops, e.g. fruits, vegetables, nuts, etc. (Yes, No, No Consensus)
- Other production methods, e.g. organic, hydroponic, urban, etc. farms (Yes, No, No Consensus)

#### 2. *What changes should government make regarding direct payment programs to farm operators?*

Note: Farm operators can be anything between family farms to huge corporations.

- Eliminate* direct payments to farm operators (Yes, No, No Consensus)
- Update* the rules for direct payments to farm operators to support sustainability (Yes, No, No Consensus)
- Broaden* the types of farms that are eligible (Yes, No, No Consensus)
- Broaden* the types of crops that are eligible (Yes, No, No Consensus)
- Effectively *enforce* existing rules (Yes, No, No Consensus)

#### 3. *What changes to current crop insurance programs should government make?*

- Extend to more types of crops (Yes, No, No Consensus)
- Link to the use of conservation practices (Yes, No, No Consensus)
- Limit insurance for the cultivation of marginal and environmentally sensitive land (Yes, No, No Consensus)
- Cap amount of premium subsidy to a single farm operator (see note in question 2) (Yes, No, No Consensus)

#### 4. *Should government act on any of the following?*

- Revise anti-trust legislation to ensure competitive agricultural markets (Yes, No, No Consensus)
- Enforce anti-trust laws as they relate to agriculture (Yes, No, No Consensus)
- Promote alternative marketing systems, including regional hub markets, farmer cooperatives, farm markets, etc. (Yes, No, No Consensus)

### Animal Management

#### 5. *Which of the following approaches to animal management should government achieve?*

- Transparently collect and disclose data about regulated animal feeding operations (AFOs) or aquaculture operations and about the health of animals in such regulated operations (Yes, No, No Consensus)
- Apply and enforce existing clean air and clean water regulations to animal or seafood management facilities (Yes, No, No Consensus)

#### 6. *Which of the following approaches to animal waste management should government require or bring about?*

- Treat animal waste with environmentally sound technologies for all regulated AFOs (Yes, No, No Consensus)
- Prioritize federal funds to mitigate existing environmental challenges (such as Environmental Quality Incentives Program, cost share, loans, etc.) rather than construction of new facilities (Yes, No, No Consensus)

### Research and Development

#### 7. *Which of the following approaches to research and development (R&D) should government fund or accomplish?*

Note: For the purpose of these questions and some questions below, “developed using any new technology” or “new technologies” refer to any of many scientific processes for developing new crops or animals with genetic engineering, nanotechnology or other new techniques, which are not the traditional breeding or hybridization techniques.

- Basic research (Yes, No, No Consensus)
- Independent third-party (such as an academic institution) risk assessment of products developed using any new

(Continued on page 8)

## Agriculture Study Consensus Questions (Continued from page 7)

- technology (Yes, No, No Consensus)
- c) Research to assess the impacts of new technologies on human health and the environment, prior to their widespread adoption (Yes, No, No Consensus)
- d) Research that advances the continuation of diversified and sustainable agricultural systems (Yes, No, No Consensus)
- e) Seed banking, research, and other means that promote and preserve genetic diversity (Yes, No, No Consensus)
- f) Both transparency in the reporting of research studies related to approval of new products **and** respect for intellectual property rights of private enterprises engaged in research (Yes, No, No Consensus)
- g) Research on long-term effects of new crops, products and processes (Yes, No, No Consensus)
- h) Development of new practices and technologies to promote conservation for all types of farms (Yes, No, No Consensus)

**Food Safety****8. Which of the following approaches to food safety should government perform or fund?**

- a) Clarify and enforce pre-market testing requirements for new foods and food additives developed using any new technology (see note below question 7) (Yes, No, No Consensus)
- b) Require developers to monitor all food products developed using any new technology after releasing to the market (Yes, No, No Consensus)
- c) Withdraw marketing approval if products are shown to be unsafe (Yes, No, No Consensus)
- d) Require post-market monitoring of approved pharmaceutical applications in animal production for human health and environmental impacts (Yes, No, No Consensus)
- e) Require developers of new products to provide data and other materials to independent third-parties (such as academic institutions) for pre- and post-market safety assessment as appropriate (Yes, No, No Consensus)
- f) Limit use of antibiotics in animal production to treat and control disease (Yes, No, No Consensus)
- g) Fund independent third-party (such as academic institutions) risk assessment of long-term and multiple exposures from foods on human health and the environment (Yes, No, No Consensus)
- h) Promote crop management practices that decrease dependency on added chemicals (pesticides, herbicides, and synthetic fertilizers) (Yes, No, No Consensus)
- i) Fund, train and add personnel for assessment and compliance functions of regulatory agencies (Yes, No, No Consensus)

**Food Labeling****9. How sufficient are the following regarding current food labeling?**

- a) Nutrition Facts on food labels (Insufficient, Sufficient, Too much, No Consensus)
- b) Nutrition Facts on food labels as a means of consumer education (Insufficient, Sufficient, Too much, No Consensus)
- c) Common allergen labeling (Insufficient, Sufficient, Too much, No Consensus)
- d) Health and ingredient claims that consumers can understand (Insufficient, Sufficient, Too much, No Consensus)

**10. Which of the following should government achieve regarding marketing and ingredient claims on food labels?**

- a) Define (and approve for use) health and safety marketing terms (e.g. immunity support, humane, pasture-raised, natural, etc.) (Yes, No, No Consensus)
- b) Regulate the use of images or other sensory advertising (Yes, No, No Consensus)
- c) Require that ingredient marketing claims accurately represent what is in the required ingredient list (Yes, No, No Consensus)

**11. Recognizing that each food developed using any new technology can be unique, and assuming that required food labeling should be useful to consumers, should the following generalized information relating to how products or components are developed be presented on food labels?**

See note below question 7. All these questions also assume some percentage threshold of new technology ingredients, such as the 0.9% used in the European Union.

- a) Contains ingredients developed using any new technology stating which technologies are involved (Not Recommended, Voluntary, Mandatory, No consensus)
- b) Does **not** contain ingredients developed using any new technology (Not Recommended, Voluntary, Mandatory, No consensus)
- c) If meat, fish, eggs, or dairy products are from animals that have consumed feed developed using any new technology stating which technologies are involved (Not Recommended, Voluntary, Mandatory, No consensus)



**“Talking Taxes: Conversations for the Common Good” with Kim Klein**  
Friday, March 21, 10 a.m.-3:30 p.m., Unitarian Society of Santa Barbara Parish Hall

The past two years have brought to the forefront of our awareness something that has been going on for at least a decade: nonprofits and social justice organizations that rely on government funding to provide needed services and address social ills are watching funding being cut again and again, while both the cost of doing business and the need for services increases.

This has reached crisis proportions, with thousands of nonprofits laying off staff, cutting programs and even going out of business altogether. Nonprofits now compete with schools and other public entities for a limited pool of funding. What does that mean for activists? Fundamentally, there is not enough money to do the work communities need.

The **“Talking About Taxes,”** project inspires activists and nonprofits to become engaged in the reform efforts to overhaul California’s tax and budget structure. Organizers believe an important first step is for all Californians to understand California’s tax and budget structure and the various reforms that are being proposed to fix it. By working together we can create a state which reflects Californian’s shared values and a commitment to the common good.

Workshop leader Kim Klein is an internationally known fundraising trainer and has worked in all aspects of fundraising, as staff, as volunteer, as board member, and as consultant. She is the author of five books including her most recent, *Reliable Fundraising in Unreliable Times*. Her classic text, *Fundraising for Social Change*, now in its fifth edition, is widely used in the field and in university degree programs. She also wrote *Fundraising for the Long Haul*, *Ask and You Shall Receive*, and *Fundraising in Times of Crisis*, which was a runner up for the Terry McAdam Book Award.

The March 21 event is organized by LWV Santa Barbara and co-sponsored by the LWV Ventura County, League of Women Voters of California, the Fund for Santa Barbara, Santa Barbara Foundation and the Unitarian Society of Santa Barbara. A \$40 fee will include the full day’s program and lunch. Half-day rates are also available. Doors will open at 9:30 a.m. To register go to <http://talkingtaxeswithkimklein.eventbrite.com>.

**The morning session will be a fast-paced workshop** for those who are seeking ways to talk about solutions to state and local budget issues. The initial two-hour

workshop is designed to help people discuss difficult and potentially controversial issues such as tax policy, ballot initiatives, and legislation without rancor.

The overall goal of the workshop is to promote the idea that the values implied in the phrase “the common good” could give us direction as individuals and as society, but it is not always obvious what is “the common good.” Organizers believe that people need time and a safe welcoming space to hear what others think and to form their own opinions. This workshop is designed to create that space.

**After a lunch break, 12-12:45 p.m.,** will be a session on **“Talking Taxes: Conversations for the Common Good -- Train the Trainer.”**

Are you energized about nonprofits and California Budget issues? Are you troubled by the lack of robust, welcoming and thoughtful conversation about policies that affect our everyday lives? If you can talk and listen to another person, you’re well qualified to lead this workshop. That’s what common good conversations are all about. Since the common good is about creating a world that is beneficial for all living things, we all need to be part of the conversation.

“Does Measure X on our state’s ballot contribute to the common good?” “How can we advocate for the best tax policy?” The workshop will help you discuss these questions (and others) in a way that fosters collaboration (not competition, arguments, or discord).

This workshop is tailored for nonprofits seeking other solutions to our state’s fiscal crisis besides more budget cuts. Economists tell us that taxes are a mirror of community values. Poor schools, inadequate health care, a degraded environment are all reflections on our current tax and budget structure. But these structures can change to reflect the common good. Learn how to be a trainer. Learn what you can do. It is easier than you think!



## Sustainable Communities Sets Priorities For 2014

At our January meeting, the Sustainable Communities Committee set its priorities for the new year. Since, as many of you have realized, almost everything contributes to sustainability, the League is very grateful that we have separate committees that work on Water, Education, Social Policy, Communications and Voting! That allows us to concentrate on issues like land use, development patterns, energy and climate change.

After many years of following land use in the City of Santa Barbara, the committee decided this year that we should turn more attention to development in Goleta. Because there was much open space in that city, when the development money began to flow again, it concentrated heavily on Goleta. Many large projects have already been approved, and more are in the pipeline. The League has not

been very active in following those, and we now realize that the cumulative effects may be very serious. Karen Bunker has agreed to attend meetings and report to us, and we will consider new statements when they are needed.

In addition, the committee wants to continue our work on climate change, and all the issues around energy development, which Jean Holmes follows. That will include a continuing interest in fracking, other forms of well stimulation, conservation and alternative energy projects. Because coastal areas will be most impacted by climate change, we feel that we want to continue to inform our members about new developments.

*Connie Hannah, Vice President, Local Action & Program*

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## State Action

The League of Women Voters of California encourages its members and the public to be cautious during this period of circulation of initiative and referendum petitions.

Voters are often asked to sign a petition “just to get it on the ballot so people can vote on it.” The League says to voters, “Your signature is valuable, perhaps even more valuable than your vote. Why? Because far fewer signatures are required to qualify a measure for the ballot than votes needed to pass it once it’s on the ballot. Only sign a petition for an initiative or referendum that you believe belongs on the ballot.”

### **League Opposes Death Penalty: Beware The Initiative Being Circulated**

The death penalty initiative currently in circulation is backed by *supporters* of the death penalty, not opponents.

### **Do You See Signature Gathering for Voter ID or Parental Notification?**

Please let us know if you see signatures being gathered for either a *voter identification initiative* or a *parental notification initiative*.

*Linda Phillips, Director, State & National Action*

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## National Action

### **National Freedom of Information Day Conference**

Friday, March 14, 2014, 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

at the Newseum or available online ([LWVSantaBarbara.org](http://LWVSantaBarbara.org) will announce time and link for the panel traditionally co-sponsored by LWVUS)

The 16th annual National Freedom of Information Day conference, hosted by the Newseum Institute’s First Amendment Center in partnership with [OpenTheGovernment.org](http://OpenTheGovernment.org), brings together groups from all areas concerned with freedom of information and open records, including FOI advocates, government officials, lawyers, librarians, journalists and educators.

The annual conference, which also commemorates the March 16 birth date of President James Madison, author of the First Amendment, is conducted in partnership with the American Library Association, [OpenTheGovernment.org](http://OpenTheGovernment.org) (LWVUS is a member of this coalition and has co-hosted a panel at this conference for the last several years) and the Reporters Committee for Freedom of the Press. The event also is part of the annual Sunshine Week initiative sponsored by the American Society of News Editors and the Reporters Committee.

**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.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

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

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Fax \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

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. Amanda Pelch, 452-5804.

- 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      Amount \$ \_\_\_\_\_



**Bridges Out of Poverty: Strategies for Professionals and Communities**  
 Thursday, March 13, 7 p.m., Santa Barbara Public Library's Faulkner Gallery

The Santa Barbara-Goleta Valley Branch of the American Association of University Women (AAUW) and League of Women Voters of Santa Barbara (LWV) are co-sponsoring a community meeting to introduce the Bridges concept. Dianne Owens, President of the Lompoc-Vandenberg Branch of AAUW, will present an overview and discuss the plans to establish Santa Barbara as a "Bridges Sustainable Community."

A certified Bridges Community Trainer, she will explain the differences in economic cultures and how these differences affect opportunities for success, the hidden rules among classes, the role of language and story, building an accurate mental model of poverty and developing an action plan to improve services to clients and improving retention rates for new hires from poverty.

*Jane Honikman, Social Policy Co-Chair*

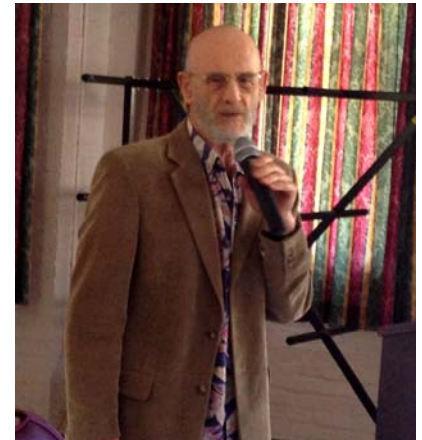
**Panelists at Feb. 19 League Community Forum offer food for thought.**



**Rep. Lois Capps** and panelists



**John Givens**  
Longtime local farmer



**Dr. David Cleveland**  
UCSB professor & author



**Guy Tingos** (right)  
Assistant Agricultural  
Commissioner of Santa  
Barbara County



**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.

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## CALENDAR

### MARCH 2014 DISCUSSION UNITS: Agriculture Study Update

- 4 Tuesday: Supper Unit, 5:30 p.m., Madame Lu's Restaurant, 3524 State St., Contact Karen Bunker.**
- 8 Saturday: LWVSB Board meeting, 10 a.m., League Office at 328 A East Carrillo, Suite A.**
- 10 Monday: Valle Verde Unit, noon-2 p.m. in private dining room off breezeway (parking in front lot), 900 Calle de los Amigos. Brown bag lunch. Contact Joan Kerns.**
- 12 Wednesday: Carpinteria Unit, 10 a.m., Carpinteria Women's Club, 1059 Vallecito Rd. Contact Barbara Godley.**
- 13 Thursday: "Bridges Out of Poverty: Strategies for Professionals and Communities," 7 p.m. Faulkner Gallery of main Santa Barbara Library. Speaker: Bridges Community Trainer Dianne Owens. AAUW and LWVSB are co-sponsors. Free and open to the public.**
- 19 Wednesday: K-12 Education Forum: Transforming Our Schools: The Common Core Curriculum and Local Control Funding Formula; LWVSB Education Committee. Dave Cash, Supt. of Santa Barbara Unified School District, and Paul Cordeiro, Supt. of Carpinteria Unified School District. 12-2 p.m., Louise Lowry Davis Center, 1232 De la Vina St.; brown bag lunch; free and open to the public.**
- 21 Friday: "Talking Taxes: Conversations for the Common Good," 10 a.m.-3:30 p.m., Unitarian Society Parish Hall. Doors open at 9:30 a.m. Led by internationally-known speaker and author Kim Klein. Ticket price of \$35 includes lunch.**

### APRIL 2014: NO DISCUSSION UNITS

- 5 Saturday: Single Special Unit: Agricultural Update Study Consensus, 9:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m., Marmalade Café, La Cumbre Plaza. \$20 includes morning coffee or tea and lunch (scholarships available on request).**
- 12 Saturday: LWVSB Board meeting, 10 a.m., League Office at 328 A East Carrillo, Suite A.**
- 16 Wednesday: Community Forum: Continuing Threats to Voting Rights, 12-2 p.m., Louise Lowry Davis Center, 1232 De la Vina St.; brown bag lunch; free and open to the public.**
- 26 Saturday: Santa Barbara Earth Day Festival, 11 a.m.-7 p.m.**
- 27 Sunday: Santa Barbara Earth Day Festival, 11 a.m.-6 p.m., LWVSB will have a booth; to volunteer on either day, call the League office.**

### SAVE THE DATE:

**Saturday, June 14: Annual Meeting**

9:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m.

Trinity Lutheran Church meeting room.

**Speakers:** Lori Gaskin, President of Santa Barbara City College, and Nancy Leffert, President of Antioch University.