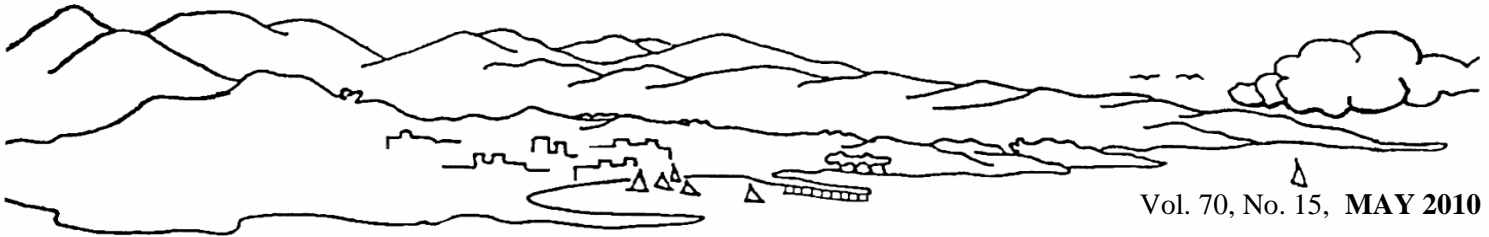




CHANNEL VOTER

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF SANTA BARBARA

Serving South Santa Barbara County



Vol. 70, No. 15, MAY 2010

MAY COMMUNITY FORUM UNDERSTANDING THE STATE BALLOT PROPOSITIONS

Wednesday, May 19, 2010, 12 to 2 p.m., Louise Lowry Davis Community Center
De La Vina & Victoria Streets - Free and open to the public.

Confused about the state propositions in the June election? Don't vote till you learn about them in our May Community Forum! We'll cover all five, but focus especially on the government reform proposals.

Our guest speaker, Molly Milligan, is a senior fellow at the Center for Governmental Studies in Los Angeles. She analyzes campaign finance and governance issues for CGS, which just published a report of her study on how Proposition 14, the "top two" open primary, might affect the state. If you've been wondering about just this question, as I have, this is a unique opportunity to gain an understanding of Prop. 14.

CGS' award-winning Video Voter project has produced "Voter Minutes" on all the propositions, in partnership with the League's Easy Voter Guide. We'll have a chance to view this new tool for voter education.

The five propositions are:

Prop. 13 - *Limits on Property Tax Assessment. Seismic Retrofitting of Existing Buildings.* A constitutional amendment to exempt earthquake safety improvements of existing buildings from increased property taxes.

Prop. 14 - *Top-Two Candidate Open Primary.* Assemblyman Maldonado's proposal, also a constitutional amendment. The top two candidates (regardless of party) would advance to the general election.

Prop. 15 - *California Fair Elections Act.* This would establish a pilot program of public funding for Secretary of

State campaigns. It would also allow the Legislature to create public funding for other campaigns in the future.

Prop. 16 - *Imposes New Two-Thirds Majority Voter Approval Requirements for Local Public Electricity Providers.* This would amend the state Constitution to require an election before local governments can start or expand a publicly-owned electric utility or start a community choice aggregation program - an arrangement whereby a community can select the sources of the electric power that a private utility distributes in the community.

Prop. 17 - *Allows auto Insurance Companies to Base Their Prices in Part on a Driver's History of Insurance Coverage.*

If you want to do some homework before the Community Forum, try the LWVC Education Fund's brand-new website, <http://www.cavotes.org/>. You can print out a custom version of the Pros & Cons, and find updated information as the election draws closer. We'll send the traditional Pros & Cons via e-mail if we have your address; if you want the printed version, please call the office. We'll also bring copies to the Community Forum.

Literature detailing the pros and cons of both state and local propositions on the June ballot is available online at www.smartvoter.org/ca/sba or <http://lwvsantabarbara.org>. If you'd like printed copy mailed to you, call the League office at 965-2422.

Linda Phillips, President

MAY DISCUSSION UNITS: LWV BALLOT RECOMMENDA-

At the discussion units this month we'll talk about LWV's recommendations on the state propositions and local ballot measures. The enclosed flyer explains our stands on the measures.

LWVC has taken the unusual step of recommending

whether we should sign several initiatives now in circulation, and we'll discuss those too. **The general rule this year is to be extra cautious about signing initiative petitions.** One would dismantle SB 32, our climate

(Continued on page 5)

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The banner of the League was prominent in a huge photograph on the front page of the April 20 News Press, showing the District Attorney Candidates Forum. The forum was co-sponsored by the League, Santa Barbara Women Lawyers and the Bar Association.



At Earth Day, many people came up to our booth and said - as they often do elsewhere - "I always look at SmartVoter or the *Pros & Cons* to help me figure out how to vote," or "I usually vote with your recommendations," or simply "What do you guys do?" Comments like the first two always give me a thrill; there's nothing quite like hearing that you're appreciated.

In response to the last question, I explain that League does both education and advocacy, and how we keep the two functions separate. As you know, this separation is an essential part of the League's character. It's not always easy, but it's vital to our credibility. And it's not always easy for non-members to grasp, but important for us to communicate.

We get similar comments at our candidate forums, with the additional question that even our knowledgeable friends ask: "Which candidate do you support?" We then have to explain that, unlike so many other organizations, we

never endorse candidates.

This month we'll have programs on the ballot measures - both an impartial Voter Service presentation at our Community Forum, and at our units, a discussion of our recommendations on current and pending measures.

Last issue till September

This will be our last *Channel Voter* till September. We know that we can't take a summer-long vacation, though! June will be busy with the election June 8, national Convention mid-month, and our Annual Meeting on the 19th. July - well, the Fourth, of course. We always hold board meetings every month, with the July meeting a joint meeting with old and new boards. And in August usually there are training sessions for the board and other interested members, plus the Great American Write-In.

Since the Voter will be on vacation, we'll send you occasional emails (unless you tell us you don't want them) announcing upcoming events and action alerts. Check our website, and "like" our Facebook page too. Hopefully this will help us keep in touch with you.

Have a relaxing but productive summer!

Linda Phillips, President



**THE PERILS OF GLOBAL POVERTY:
WHOSE PROBLEM IS IT?**

Global Poverty, a timely and important issue, will be the topic of discussion at a luncheon meeting sponsored by the Santa Barbara Coalition for Global Dialogue at 11:30 a.m. on Thursday, May 20, at the University Club, 1332 Santa Barbara St. LWVSB is a member of the Coalition.

The Coalition has invited two distinguished speakers: Dr. Ananya Roy, professor in the department of City and Regional Planning and Education, and Director of the Blum Center for Developing Economies at UC Berkeley; and Thomas Tighe, chief of staff and CEO of Direct Relief International in Goleta.

Reservations may be made by sending a check for \$26 to the Coalition for Global Dialogue, PO Box 41512, Santa Barbara, CA 93140. Seating is limited.

Anne Heck, 692-1969

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

Email: info@lwvsantabarbara.org • **Web:** <http://lwvsantabarbara.org>

LEAGUE OPPOSES
“COMPREHENSIVE DESTRUCTION OF GUN SAFETY LAWS”

Linking D.C. Voting Rights to Diminished Gun Safety Laws is “Not Acceptable”

Mary G. Wilson, president of the League of Women Voters of the United States, and Billie Day, president of the League of Women Voters of the District of Columbia, recently released a joint statement concerning the linking of the D.C. Voting Rights Act with amendments overturning gun safety laws that protect District residents:

“As an organization that has supported voting rights for the citizens of the District of Columbia for more than 50 years, the League of Women Voters believes that destruction of D.C.’s gun safety laws is too high a price to pay for passage of the D.C. Voting Rights Act, which would provide a single voting representative for D.C. in the House of Representatives.”

“As a leading proponent of the D.C. Voting Rights Act as it was developed in recent Congresses, the League reaches this conclusion reluctantly and sadly, but firmly. No one should be under any illusions about how comprehensive and destructive the gun amendments could be if they are adopted as part of final legislation. They not only wipe out D.C. laws designed to protect lives, they also change federal law to allow purchase of weapons across state lines in Virginia and Maryland.”

“There are two fundamental responsibilities that all elected officials must fulfill: protecting our democratic rights as Americans and protecting our lives and safety. Asking citizens to sacrifice their safety in order to have representation in Congress is unacceptable.”

“The League of Women Voters has long championed full voting rights for D.C. citizens. The League worked hard for the constitutional amendment providing for full D.C. participation in the election of the President through the Electoral College. The League also worked throughout the country for many years in the battle for a constitutional amendment to provide full voting rights in both houses of Congress, which was passed by Congress but ultimately blocked in the state ratification process. And the U.S. and D.C. Leagues supported and have always fought for self-determination and home rule.”

“Our congressional advocates must continue to fight to pass the D.C. House Voting Rights Act and oppose all amendments. It compromises the integrity of the legislation to include these gun amendments. The voting rights of American citizens deserve a clean bill in the U.S. Congress.”

“Asking citizens to sacrifice their safety in order to have representation in Congress is unacceptable.”

Mary Wilson, President of the League of Women Voters of the U.S., on D.C. Voting Rights legislation.

LWVC LEADERSHIP COUNCIL 2010

Workshops, networking and the work of the League will all be a part of the State Leadership Council Saturday and Sunday, May 15-16, in Sacramento. Special pre-Council events will take place on Friday, May 14. Workshops will address Fearless Fundraising, Hot Topics in California, Member Attraction and Retention, Tips for Presidents and Treasurers and Voter Service.

Zaida Arguedas, deputy executive director of LWVUS and director of its Global Democracy Program, will be keynote speaker. For more information, go to <http://ca.lwv.org>.

If you’re interested in attending Leadership Council, contact Linda Phillips at president@lwvsantabarbara.org.

**NATIONAL LEAGUE
CONVENTION
ATLANTA, GEORGIA
JUNE 11-15**

The League’s National Convention, “90 Years of Making Democracy Work,” will take place in Atlanta June 11-15.

For additional information about the convention, go to <http://www.lwv.org>. Contact Linda Phillips, or president@lwvsantabarbara.org if you are interested in attending the National Convention.

VOTER SERVICE

GEARING UP FOR THE JUNE 8 PRIMARY ELECTION

The League held two candidate forums on April 13 at the Goleta Valley Community Center - one for Treasurer-Tax Collector-Public Administrator-Public Guardian candidates, and one for candidates for the 2nd

District seat on the County Board of Supervisors. The League also co-sponsored a forum for District Attorney candidates with the Santa Barbara Women Lawyers and the County Bar Association on April 19 at the downtown library. The forums were videotaped by Larry Nimmer, and will be shown on Santa Barbara Channels. Dates and times of the broadcasts were not available for inclusion in this newsletter. Check www.smartvoter.org or Santa Barbara Channels programming for more information.



Dan Secord and Janet Wolf, candidates for 2nd District Supervisor, participated in a League-sponsored community forum, answering a variety of questions for the approximately 75 people in attendance at the Goleta Valley Community Center. At left is Stacy Shepherd, League facilitator for the forum.

The Easy Voter Guide, in English and Spanish, is now available in the League Office and will be distributed community-wide as soon as possible. **If you can help deliver the guide, please pick up as many booklets as you can distribute and let us know where you are taking them.**

League volunteers registered voters at the Earth day celebration April 17 and 18; at the Y.E.S. (Youth Empowerment for Safety) Fair on April 17; and at Carpinteria High School April 21.

Sandy Stites, Voter Service Chair

HELP WANTED

Volunteers are needed to staff the League office one or more mornings or afternoons during the month of May and the few days in June that are before the election on the 8th. We would like to have someone in the office to respond to phone questions about the June 8 election. Information will be provided to answer caller questions. If you are able to volunteer, please call for more information and to schedule a time. *Sheila Kamhi, Office Manager*



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The forum for candidates for the office of county Treasurer-Tax Collector-Public Administrator featured candidates Greg Gandrud and Harry Hagen with League's Stacy Shepherd facilitating.

PLAN SANTA BARBARA

The League's Sustainable Communities Committee wants to thank all the League members who helped with our input on the city's Plan Santa Barbara and the Environmental Impact Report for it. Different individuals studied separate parts of the documents, and everyone fared pretty well except for Bill Marks. Bill had the Transportation section, which turned out to have volumes of studies and reports in the appendix section!

Additional documents and reports on the whole Plan were released on April 15, making it difficult to keep everyone who was working on it informed.

The League submitted a letter in advance of the April 28 preliminary hearing, and presented a League statement at the hearing.

We continue to be concerned about plans to increase the density in the city of Santa Barbara, and we questioned how much of the so-called "affordable" housing proposed in the Plan would actually be affordable for working people. Recently, we have not seen private developers able to produce affordability without major subsidies or raising the price of the market units unacceptably.

The city's Planning Commission has scheduled another meeting to discuss public input on Plan Santa Barbara on May 6, sometime after 1 p.m., Everyone concerned about the future of the city is encouraged to attend the hearing or watch it on television.

Connie Hannah, Sustainable Communities Chair

MAY DISCUSSION UNITS - *Continued from page 1*

change law, which is a model for other states, and another would invalidate the redistricting process that we worked so hard to establish. On the other hand, another would give the new redistricting commission authority to set Congressional districts, expanding its power. League is in favor of this proposed initiative, but there seem to be at least two versions of it!

Come to whichever unit you prefer, bring your questions and, if you wish, pertinent clippings, and we'll have lively discussions!

PROP 15 PROGRAM

A discussion about Proposition 15, the CA Fair Elections Act, will take place at 7 p.m. on Thursday, May 6, at the Unitarian Society, 1535 Santa Barbara St. The ballot measure, an innovative approach to campaign financing, is designed to get big money out of elections. Linda Phillips, president of our local League, will be a member of the panel, as will Mike Hackett and Robin Gilbert of Californians for Fair Elections.

The League of Women Voters of California is co-chair of the state-wide Fair Elections (Yes on 15) campaign committee. For more information, contact Mike Hackett at mikehackett@cox.net.

SAVE THE NEW DATE: ANNUAL MEETING – JUNE 19

LWVSB Annual Meeting on June 19th at the Holiday Inn in Goleta

The League's Annual Meeting will take place on Saturday, June 19, rather than June 26, as publicized earlier. The original date was in conflict with the local Summer Solstice Parade and Festival.

The event will take place from 9:30 a.m. – 2 p.m. at the Holiday Inn, 5650 Calle Real in Goleta. An "Annual Meeting Kit," which includes information related to the meeting, will be mailed to members in mid-May.

A panel of League members who have served in elected office will discuss their experiences in office.

Call or email Margaret Roff mlroff@yahoo.com, with questions. For help arranging transportation to the meeting, call Jean Bauman at 687-1688.

SEEKING TREASURES

Do you have treasures you want to pass on to a new owner? The Silent Auction at the League's Annual Meeting is the perfect opportunity. Contribute an item or find a surprise treasure you just *must* have.

Call Sheila Kamhi for pickup; a suggested opening price would be appreciated.

SUSTAINABILITY

From the UCSB Climate Change Conference

Some startling new information came from the *Our Planet, Our Problem: Approaches to a Climate Change Solution* conference. The event, held on April 9 at the university, was inspired by 23 students who attended the Copenhagen conference in December. The students did an outstanding job of organizing the program, and showed a fascinating film they made about going to Copenhagen.

In the afternoon business section, a variety of subjects were discussed, all relating to innovation.

For example, there is new technology being developed that could convert CO₂ emissions from power plants into concrete for buildings. Brent Constantz, CEO of Calera Corporation, said that we will have to continue using fossil fuels for a long time. Eliminating their serious carbon dioxide emissions would reduce greenhouse gases and also reduce the need to mine and haul rock for concrete over enormous distances.

State Senator Fran Pavley, keynote speaker, emphasized the importance of preserving AB 32, the

Global Warming Solutions bill of 2006 that she authored, and that has already been signed into law. AB32 put California in the forefront of states facing the climate change challenge.

Two Texas oil companies are funding a new initiative to suspend the implementation of AB 32 until the state unemployment rate is 5.5 percent or lower for four consecutive quarters. According to Pavley, that goal has seldom been reached in the past, and is even less likely to be met now.

The League of Women Voters of California strongly opposes the oil company's initiative, which is currently in circulation, and urges members and the public not to sign it.

The local League co-sponsored the conference at UCSB, and many members attended all or part of the day. Community Environmental Council and the Environmental Studies Department were also among sponsors.

Connie Hannah, Sustainable Communities Chair

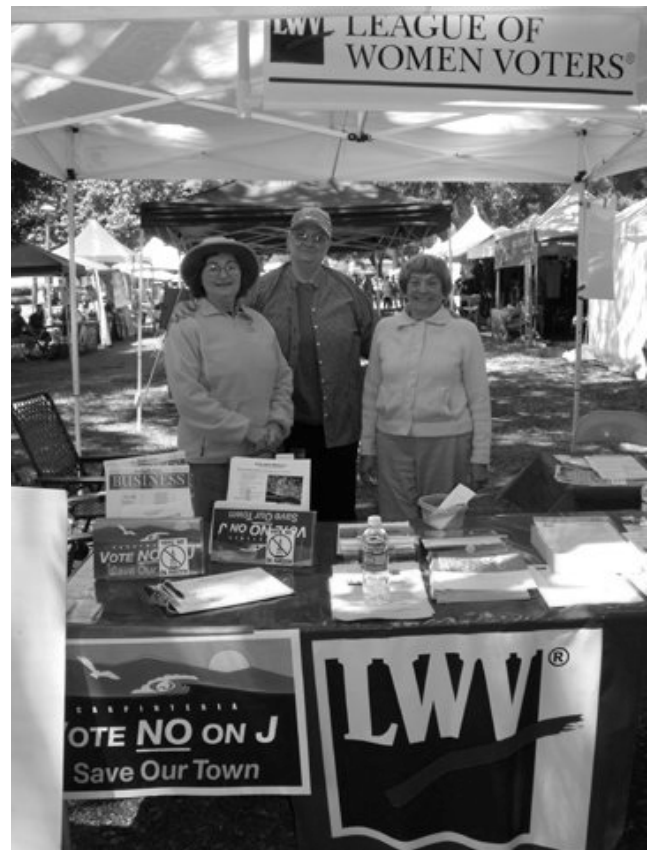
EARTH DAY

An energetic contingent of Santa Barbara Leaguers worked at the 40th Annual Earth Day celebration at Alameda Park April 17 and 18. Members of the League discussed a variety of issues with visitors, including League's opposition to Measure J, the Pardon initiative, in the city of Carpinteria. If passed, this initiative would remove many of the city's existing planning and regulatory requirements for Venoco's oil-drilling project at the city's shores. It could also lead to a lessening of government controls over many types of development, and is therefore being watched by observers around the country.

We had some quality conversations with those who dropped by our table at Earth Day. There was a good deal of interest in the Pardon initiative, in the League's recommendations on state ballot propositions (especially Prop. 16, that would hinder efforts to provide energy for communities), in League's work nationally on climate change, on our partnership with Oxfam, and in the League itself. It was an exhausting two days for those in the booth for long hours, but it was worth it!

Bev Herbert and Jane Benefield coordinated the Earth Day volunteer schedule and President Linda Phillips supervised tabling activities. Other leaguers participating in Earth Day included Carole and Bill Marks, Marika Davidek, Bev King, Linda Anderson, Charlene Little, Bonnie and Dick Jensen, Jane Benefield, Donna Jordan, Pat Ward, Jennifer Holland, Susan Shank, and Margaret Roff.

Beverly Herbert, State and National Action Director



Linda Phillips, Jane Benefield, and Pat Ward at the League's Earth Day booth.

(Photo by Kazu Furuta)

New Members:

- Bill Elliott
- Peter Merkl
- Susan Horne
- Valerie Williams
- Joanie Jones, Membership Director

News:

Julie White, a longtime member of our local league, moved recently to 11300 Warner Ave. Apt. G331, Fountain Valley, CA 92708, to be near her family. The Central Orange County Area (COCA) League has given her a warm welcome.

MEMBERSHIP STORY BANK

Years ago when our family was young, a business opportunity came along which would occasion a move to a city about 80 miles away. We were eager to take advantage of the opportunity, but a little in the dark about the new small city – we knew no one there to ask about schools, city policies, community groups, land use controls, and community organizations. What to do?????

As a long time member of the League of Women Voters, I knew where those answers would lie.

A quick call to our sister League in Santa Barbara and I had an invitation to a meeting of their “watchdog” committee where members were assigned to attend and report on the regular meetings of various boards and commissions and gave their timely comments. It wasn’t difficult to get a snapshot of what was going on in our proposed new home and it was a comfort to know I had some new acquaintances in our new town.

Within a year, our family, pets and possessions had moved to our new home in the Santa Barbara area, confident that we had chosen well. I soon became a member of a committee studying a proposed curb on city growth. Ironically, we had happily contributed to the growth whose increase was under study.

And, we’re not one bit repentant!

Dorothy C. Campbell, March 2, 2010



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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 A E. Carrillo St, Santa Barbara, CA 93101

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

CALENDAR

MAY 2010

Discussion Unit Topic: League Recommendations for State & Local Measures on the June Ballot.

- 4 Tuesday: Supper Unit Meeting:** 5:30 p.m., Madame Lu's Restaurant, 3524 State St. Lolly Quackenbush.
- 5 Wednesday Evening Unit:** 7:30 p.m., Pat Shewczyk's home. co-chairs: Sheila Kamhi and Pat Shewczyk (964-7506).
- 7 Friday: League Board Meeting:** 10 a.m., League Office, 328A E. Carrillo St. **NEW DATE**
- 12 Wednesday: Carpinteria Unit:** 10 a.m., Carpinteria Women's Club, 1059 Vallecito Rd. Chair: Barbara Godley
- 12 Wednesday: Afternoon Unit:** Maravilla Clubhouse, 5486 Calle Real. Contact Harriet Phillips
- 19 Wednesday: Community Forum, Understanding the State Ballot Propositions:** 12 - 2 p.m., Louise Lowry Davis Center, De La Vina & Victoria Streets. Guest speaker Molly Milligan, Center for Governmental Studies in L.A. Bring a brown bag lunch; beverage and cookies provided. Free and open to the public.

MAY

14th - 16th

LWVC Leadership Council, in Sacramento.
For more information call Linda Phillips.

JUNE 2010

19 Saturday: LWVSB Annual Meeting: 9:30 - 2 p.m., Holiday Inn, Goleta **NEW DATE**

**Remember to check the
LWVSB website
(www.lwvsantabarbara.org)
for the latest event information.**

11th - 15th

LWV National Convention in Atlanta, GA.
For more information call Linda Phillips.



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF SANTA BARBARA, INC.

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The League of Women Voters, a nonpartisan political organization of women and men, encourages informed and active participation in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy. If you would like to join the local League, send in the form on pg. 7 or call the League office at 965-2422.

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