

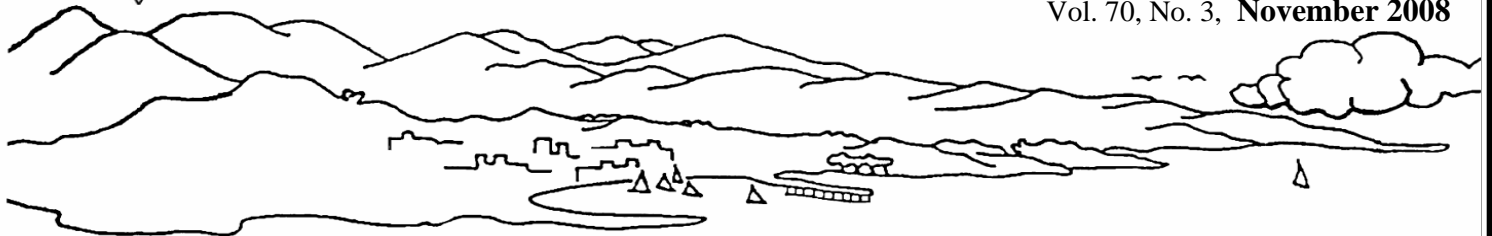


# Channel *VOTER*

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF SANTA BARBARA, INC. • 328 A East Carrillo St., Santa Barbara, CA 93101

*Serving South Santa Barbara County*

Vol. 70, No. 3, November 2008



League Phone/Fax: 965-2422

Email: [info@lwvsantabarbara.org](mailto:info@lwvsantabarbara.org) <http://www.lwvsantabarbara.org>

## NOVEMBER COMMUNITY FORUM:

### Vision of League's Future and Membership Involvement

Wednesday, November 19, 12:15-2 p.m.

Louise Lowry Davis Community Center - De La Vina & Victoria Streets

#### OFFICERS

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**Linda Phillips (2009)**  
First Vice-President  
Local Action  
**Connie Hannah (2009)**  
Second Vice-President  
Administration  
**Carole Marks (2009)**  
Third Vice-President  
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**Pat Shewczyk (2009)**  
Channel Voter Editor  
**Anne Heck (2009)**

The League of Women Voters is a well-seasoned, three-tier grassroots organization - national, state, and local - committed to promoting political responsibility through informed and active participation in government.

At the November Santa Barbara League forum, we will hear from **LWVC Vice President Trudy Jarratt** about the vision for the future of the League in California. Over the past year, the LWVC board undertook an examination of their organizational capacity and strategy for the future. As part of this process, statewide delegates at the 2008 Leadership Council participated in a survey about the LWVC/LWVC Ed Fund and general League strengths and challenges. Vice President Jarratt will present the results of that survey, which can serve to

inspire discussion during the months ahead leading up to the LWVC Convention in May 2009, and beyond.

The forum will follow up with **League committee orientations** that will let our members know how you can be involved at the local level to fulfill League vision. You'll receive an updated copy of "Opportunity Knocking" about League committees. As expressed by LWV Bakersfield in their "MEANING OF MEMBERSHIP" brochure for new members:

*Your participation in League will expose you to a breadth of experiences and issues that will not only inform you but create greater possibilities for civic engagement than you might imagine.*

*(Continued on page 2)*

## NOVEMBER DISCUSSION UNITS:

### Highlights from National Convention/CA Leadership Council

At this month's unit meetings (See calendar on back page for times and places), our local League delegates to the June, 2008 National Convention will share their exciting times there. Almost 2,000 delegates decided on the selection of programs for advocacy, education, study, and organizational development that the National League will support.

In addition, our delegates to the state Leadership Council in May will discuss how they have benefited from receiving training in key California issues and League organizational skills. At both events our delegates found that the networking and camaraderie strengthened their commitment to the League.

Seven members attended the national convention in Portland, Oregon and they will lead these units. They will talk about their overall impressions of the city and the meetings, the specific issues that they became involved in, and how these will relate to our own programs and activities. Because conventions have become very expensive, all the delegates were pleased that our local League was able to give them financial help to attend. We thank all our supporters for making that happen!

*Carole Marks, Administrative Vice President*

## From the President's Desk...

**O**ur meetings this month will be unusual - instead of focusing only on issues, we'll discuss LWV itself - how the three levels of League work together, visions of the future of LWV California (and a chance for you all to meet one of the reasons that future is so bright), and plenty of opportunities for you to be involved in our work, learn a lot, and even have fun!



In this spirit, my own history is a microcosm of such opportunities. My mother was a member of LWV, back home in Kentucky. I don't recall hearing much about it, except for one anecdote: A local judge used to call them the "Legal Women Voters." But it impressed me enough that when my husband, David, and I moved here in 1966, fresh out of grad school, LWV was one of the very first organizations I joined.

At first, I served as a unit discussion leader, for the Goleta unit - a job I gave up when my first son was born. I believe the meetings were held during the day, and we even had babysitting. Many of our members were young, and one of the goals for our current board is to encourage more young members once again.

One of my next "jobs" was being LWV's observer to the Goleta Sanitary District and also to the Goleta Water District. The Water District was in a crisis situation, and eventually I decided to run for office. When I asked David for his reaction, he said, "You're already going to all their meetings; you might as well be making the decisions." I felt from the beginning that my experience with the League was the equivalent of another college degree, it prepared me so well for public office. I served for 8 years

(two terms) and since then have always been on one or another appointive body, at the state, regional, or local level, and often serving as a representative of LWV. Observer Corps was both an education and a springboard to lifelong public service.

In those long-ago days, I was also on the local committee for the electoral college study - an issue that has returned this year as the National Popular Vote study. While

on the state League's water committee in the early 80s, I testified, just once, before a legislative committee. A legislator accused LWV of being partisan because we were supporting redistricting reform - another issue that keeps returning.

Also in the 80s, I represented LWVSB or LWVC on countywide and regional hazardous waste and hazardous materials committees - some of which have been ongoing for over 20 years. LWV is sometimes the only voice of the public in these meetings - usually most or all of the other participants are representatives of either government or regulated facilities and businesses. As such, one of my primary concerns has been "community right to know" - the open government and freedom of information concerns that led to one of my most recent hats: co-moderating the LWVUS e-mail discussion group on civil liberties.

To round out the tale, I even served on the LWVC staff for a year or so, as coordinator of their Sustainability Project. With that exception, these activities have been voluntary - pay was nothing or only reimbursement for expenses - but I've really felt I was making a difference, and that has been a great reward.

*Linda Phillips, President*

### NOVEMBER COMMUNITY FORUM - *continued from page 1*

***You can spend as much or as little time as you wish— but we promise there will always be a League opportunity you won't want to say no to. Whether you aspire to leadership or are keen to follow the lead of experienced members, the League will excite, use, and nurture your civic curiosity, ideals, or desire for action.***

Please come and help us welcome two state League guests from San Luis Obispo, our speaker **Trudy Jarratt**, and also **Sara Horne**, the new LWVC Management Training Advisor (MTA) to our Santa Barbara League. This membership-focused forum offers us an excellent opportunity to get acquainted with Sara, who will be providing us with board training and ongoing management support.

Bring your friends – the better to introduce prospective members to our Santa Barbara League of Women Voters!

*Carole Marks, Administrative Vice President*



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## MEET TRUDY JARRAT AT OUR NOVEMBER COMMUNITY FORUM



Trudy Jarratt and her husband moved to the Central Coast in 1989, retiring early from their professions in the aerospace electronics field to enjoy the SLO County life style. They currently live in the unincorporated area of the county on three oak-filled acres, just east of the village of Arroyo Grande.

Ms. Jarratt serves as Vice President of the League of Women Voters of California and is the immediate past president of the League of Women Voters of San Luis Obispo County. She co-producers the LWVSLOCO TV shows, “*SLO Democracy*” and “*Public Issues*”. She is a past chair of the LWVUS Nominating Committee and led a two-year nation-wide search for LWVUS officers and directors. She has served on her local board as vice president in charge of development, and has held the publicity and special projects portfolios. She has also served on our Tri-Counties Environmental Task Force.

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## IT IS TIME TO RISE ABOVE PARTISAN POLITICS League of Women Voters Urges People to Vote

“It is time for politicians, advocates and the media to stop attacking our nation’s election process and start encouraging people to go to the polls,” Mary G. Wilson, president of the League of Women Voters of the United States, said. “Our process may not be perfect, but people all over the country – election officials, grassroots political workers and ordinary citizens – are doing the best they can to ensure that all Americans can participate in a fair election this fall.

“We are 15 days away from Election Day. It is time to rise above partisan politics and ensure that every eligible voter participates in this election -- by going to the polls, casting an absentee ballot or participating in early voting,” she said.

“This election is too important for anyone to feel they must stand on the sidelines because harbingers of doom who have a vested interest in attacking our election system continue to barrage voters with daily doses of fear about our electoral process. Intimidation tactics such as those that have been used recently in an effort to discredit the third party voter registration efforts of ACORN have no place in the American political

process,” Wilson stated.

With respect to this specific scare tactic, Wilson noted that according to the Bureau of the Census approximately 8.5 percent of all new voter registrants were registered by “third party” organizations in 2004, the last year for which statistics are available. Such registration has been even more important in reaching prospective African-American, Hispanic, and low income voters. “The facts clearly show that voter registration efforts by “third party registrants” are key to building a more representative democracy,” she said.

Long before the term “third party registration” was coined, the League was working to assure that EVERY voter, regardless of background, has fair access to voter registration. “It is a testament to the good work of the voting rights community that there is an increased energy, and a rise in new voter registrations, this election year,” Wilson said. “I encourage every eligible voter in the United States to take the one step that will show the world that Americans stand firmly against the political fear mongers who are the real threat to our democracy: Stand firm by exercising your right to vote.”

The League of Women Voters encourages everyone to get prepared by visiting [www.VOTE411.org](http://www.VOTE411.org) for polling locations and information about voting in your state.” (In CA, use [www.smartvoter.org](http://www.smartvoter.org))

The League of Women Voters, a nonpartisan political organization, encourages informed and active participation in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy. Membership in the League is open to men and women of all ages.

*October 20, 2008 Press Release from LWVUS*

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## **DESPITE COMMUNITY PROTESTS SUPERVISORS APPROVE NAPLES PROJECT 3 TO**

The October 13 special meeting of the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors on the Santa Barbara Ranch (Naples) Project featured prolonged and extensive testimony, and by the end of the day the supervisors without deliberation continued the matter to October 21.

### October 13

The public engagement and involvement at the supervisors' hearing, and the noontime rally in the Sunken Garden, were exceptional. The hearing room was standing room only through most of the day. Nearly 100 slips were submitted in opposition to the project and, with one or two exceptions, everyone who spoke was in opposition to the project. The message to county supervisors, staff, the applicant, and the next Third District Supervisor, was loud, clear, and unequivocally stated: Save Naples and the Gaviota Coast!

Supervisors Wolf and Carbajal were well prepared and asked numerous excellent questions throughout the day. Supervisor Wolf started the hearing with the observation that the amended Memorandum of Understanding that the board approved in closed session on a 3-2 vote last week had not yet been signed by all of the landowners. She moved to have the hearing continued. Public testimony was given, then that motion was rejected on a 3-2 vote. The board proceeded to hear staff's report, during which Supervisors Wolf and Carbajal peppered the county's consultant planner, Tom Figg, with questions. Both candidates for Third District Supervisor, Doreen Farr and Steve Pappas, addressed the board, as did former Supervisor Gail Marshall and Santa Barbara City Councilmember Grant House. The hearing finally concluded around 5:45 in the evening.

### The Amended Memorandum of Understanding

This project has gotten extraordinarily complicated, and the North County supervisors are trying to push the project through before Supervisor Firestone's term ends. This is why the supervisors met in closed session to amend the Memorandum of Understanding to allow the developer to bifurcate the project. He wants approval now to build 10 houses on the inland portion of the project and do the rest later. The major problems with this approach are that the EIR addressed the project as a whole, while the community benefits, mitigations to the environmental impacts, coastal access, and a coastal trail are in the coastal part of the project. The League and others raised the issue of the Brown Act, as major policy or land use decisions are supposed to be made in public and not in closed session. Other key issues raised at the October 13 hearing include the inadequacy of the EIR because of major changes to the project, the issues

involved with phasing the project, violations of county policies, coastal access, the coastal trail, and the preservation of agriculture.

### Will there be a Compromise Proposal?

Near the end of the meeting, Supervisor Centeno, considered by some to be the swing vote, asked pointed questions about a coastal trail on the bluffs and urged the applicant to meet with Naples Coalition representatives to try to find a compromise project or proposal. Representatives of the Naples Coalition, the Environmental Defense Council (EDC), and the Surfrider Foundation have now started to meet with Osgood and his team to see if anything can be worked out.

### October 21

Despite hundreds of e-mails and letters, including a very well reasoned one from the Naples Coalition's attorney, Marc Chytilo, and over the objections of Supervisors Salud Carbajal and Janet Wolf, the majority of the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors voted 3 to 2 to approve the Santa Barbara Ranch Project. Since this was a continuation of the October 13 hearing, there was no public comment. After the supervisors heard from the developer and his attorney, they spent about three hours discussing the project. Once again Salud Carbajal and Janet Wolf distinguished themselves by asking many very pertinent questions of the staff and the developer. It was clear from looking at the audience that this issue has hit a responsive chord with all ages, and it was sad to see many of the young volunteers who were standing in the back holding up signs look so disappointed. We later assured them that there is more to come and we will need them at the Coastal Commission Hearings.

While negotiations between the Naples Coalition, EDC, and the developer and his attorney continue, approval of the project set the stage for appeals to the Coastal Commission of the Coastal Development Permits and Local Coastal Plan Amendments, and possible litigation on violations of CEQA, the County General Plan, the Local Coastal Plan, the Coastal Act, and the Brown Act. For more information, or to make a contribution to the Naples Coalition, contact: [www.savenaples.org](http://www.savenaples.org) or Naples Coalition c/o Gaviota Coast Conservancy, P.O. Box 1099, Goleta, CA 93116.

I will keep you posted on future developments. Will any agreement be reached? Will there be litigation? Then what happens to Phase 2 and Phase 3 of the project? We all have to just wait and see.

*Cathie McCammon, Land Use Consultant*

## **STATE HOUSING MANDATES CONTINUE TO CREATE LOCAL PLANNING PROBLEMS**

**N**ow the City of Santa Barbara's General Plan Update has run into trouble because of the state's Regional Housing Needs Assessment (RHNA) numbers, just as Santa Barbara County and the City of Goleta have done before. On September 25, the city staff reported that it would recommend 1.5 million square feet of commercial space and 2000 dwelling units as the preferred project for the next twenty years of development here. They believed that would enable us to live within our available water, sewer, and traffic resources. However, the city attorney told them that they would have trouble getting their Housing Element approved by the state if they did so, because the most recent RHNA numbers assigned to Santa Barbara City are 4388 for the next seven years!

The city had already appealed those numbers to the Santa Barbara County Association of Governments (SBCAG), who must assign the numbers, but had failed to win support because no other city wants more numbers either. The county had been assigned 11,300 dwelling units and found it very difficult to find anyone who needed them. In the past, SBCAG had tried to explain to the state that huge parts of this county are not suitable for housing, because they are in agriculture, mountainous terrain, national forest lands, Vandenberg Air Force Base, or owned by the University of California. This has made no difference in the numbers assigned to us every seven years.

LWVSB has been concerned about these assigned units for more than six years. The units must be zoned for, and that is of course no guarantee that they will be built. But in a highly desirable area like the South Coast, until the recent market collapse, they have been eagerly taken up by developers wanting to build million dollar condominiums. The trouble with that is that none of the people needing to work here can afford a one or two million dollar condominium, so our commuting problem gets progressively worse. The state requires that a percentage of the units be affordable, but they do nothing to encourage or force that, so no low or moderate income housing is being built. In Santa Barbara, the city only requires that 15% of every housing project be priced for workforce housing, which means for families making up to \$120,000 a year.

The League is strongly supportive of low and moderate income housing, but none is being produced here on the open market. The only really affordable units being constructed are built by the cities or the county with very large subsidies. Since funding will be very tight in the future, probably only a few units will be built that could help our jobs/housing imbalance. Now the RHNA numbers threaten to dictate what Plan Santa Barbara will look like, and guarantee that the City will not be able to live within its resources. The League regards that as very serious.

*Connie Hannah, First Vice President (Action)*

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## **WHAT WILL BE THE IMPACT OF UCSB'S NEW DEVELOPMENT PLAN?**

**I**n 2007, UCSB introduced its 2025 Long Range Development Plan (LRDP) to the local community in a great many different meetings. At one of them, Kathy Gebhardt read the League statement, asking whether even 1% growth every year for twenty years was too much. We proposed at that time that the numbers should be evaluated every five years to consider the expected impacts to traffic, housing, water, and air quality.

In that statement, we reminded them that the League had participated actively in 1990 in encouraging the 20,000 student cap on population at the university, because of a widespread consensus that 20,000 was about as big a student body as the area could support. Now the university is proposing to raise that limit to 25,000, and that will require about 1800 new faculty and staff to support the program. The Environmental Impact Report (EIR) was released in March 2008, and has shown that there will be a major impact on water. There simply will not be enough water available to support this much growth. And, if any other sectors of Goleta grow and use water, the deficit may be more than predicted.

The League recognizes the special advantages that UCSB brings to the South Coast, and we are always supportive of education. However, we are also concerned about living within our resources, which has been a LWVSB position for over thirty years. It appears that on the basis of water usage alone, this plan should be reconsidered. The League has a representative attending a local coalition of civic groups that are considering how this should be approached, now that the EIR has shown that there will, indeed, be serious impacts on housing, traffic, and water demand.

*Connie Hannah, First Vice President (Action)*



Stacy Shepherd, LWVSB's Third Vice President (Community Education) organized October's Community Forum on "Internet Neutrality."

Fred Baker, a Cisco Fellow and long-time participant in Internet standardization and public policy discussions, gave the audience an orientation to the complex issues surrounding this topic. LWVUS has been concerned about net neutrality because of its implications for freedom of speech and right to know.

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## LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF CALIFORNIA DECRIES BUDGET DEAL

### September 23, 2008

The Legislature and Governor have enacted a budget deal that is dishonest and irresponsible. It not only fails to set priorities and address serious problems at a time when we face economic uncertainties, but also sets the stage for further and deeper budget problems in coming years.

This is a dishonest budget. It relies on an assortment of gimmicks—including accounting tricks, early collection of tax revenue, and speculative borrowing—to obscure the fact that the money to support the budget really isn't there. As one example, although the claim is made that the plan does not rely on borrowing, in fact it counts on borrowing, through the future issuance of bonds to be repaid from lottery revenue. This speculative scheme depends on voter approval of changes to the lottery system, the hope of increased lottery sales, and the cooperation of skeptical financial markets in tough economic times.

The budget is also irresponsible. By including the Governor's plan to build up the reserve, it reduces flexibility and makes it far more difficult for future legislatures and governors to adjust priorities within limited resources. Moreover, including this provision requires a constitutional amendment that must be approved by the voters. Passage of a future ballot measure should never be the premise on which a budget is based.

The budget deal calls for reducing the reserve fund for this year to less than a billion dollars, shifting this year's shortfall into next year through a variety of accounting changes, and opening major new loopholes in the corporate tax that businesses will pay in future years. Meanwhile, it does nothing to address the continuing structural deficit caused by previous tax reductions and spending decisions.

The budget also includes a proposal giving the Governor

new authority to make unilateral midyear budget cuts. Mid-budget adjustments should only be made through joint action of the executive and legislative branches so that our system of checks and balances—an essential component of responsible government—is maintained.

Still, despite these serious defects and the painful impact of the severe cuts it makes to essential services, a budget had to be passed. Without a budget, many important programs were jeopardized because they were not receiving the funding they depend on. The budget impasse deprived schools, medical providers, nursing homes, and child care providers of the money they need to continue to provide vital services.

The state also faced cash flow problems that could mean borrowing at a time when money is less available than usual, and likely to be more expensive. The state could not wait any longer for a budget, especially when the minority in the legislature had made it clear that they would not budge from their pledge not to raise any taxes. That pledge has once again enabled a minority to hold the entire budget process hostage to their wishes. This is not responsible representative government.

While there is plenty of blame to go around, there is a silver lining to the mess in Sacramento. The voters will be able to pass judgment on at least two components of the budget deal in a special election. More important, many people are now saying that it's time to look at *real* budget reform, particularly at eliminating the two-thirds vote requirement to pass a budget. Now that the people of our state have been treated to a stark example of the utter dysfunction in the budget process, we hope they will join us in fixing this broken system and replacing it with a process that really works. The people of California deserve no less.

*LWVC Statement, September 23, 2008*



# MEMBERSHIP NEWS

## In Memoriam

On June 12 Eileen Anton passed away. Eileen had recently renewed her membership with the League in 2007.

On October 16, at Valle Verde's health center, past board member Dolores Wagner died from complications after a long struggle with emphysema.

We honor their lives.

## Please welcome new member:

**Betty M. Chapman**

PO Box 5817  
Santa Barbara, CA 93150

## And transfer member from Colorado:

**Anne Gonski**

5510 Calle Real 326-B (in Maravilla)  
Santa Barbara 93111  
845-7434

## Short Term Volunteer Needs:

Our all volunteer group often needs a helping hand. If you are proficient in proof reading, data entry, or stuffing some new directories into envelopes, please call in to the office and leave your name and number. We may find a short term project for you. Call Joanie at 683-1937 or the office 965-2422, or email, [lwvsb@verizon.net](mailto:lwvsb@verizon.net).

## VETO OF HEALTH CARE FOR ALL

**October 1, 2008** — Governor Schwarzenegger has vetoed Senator Sheila Kuehl's SB 840, the League-supported bill proposing comprehensive single payer health care coverage for Californians.

Assembly Member Mark Leno, who is expected to be elected to the state senate in November, will reintroduce the bill in the 2009-2010 legislative session. The League will continue to educate Californians and gather support for this crucial reform as the fight continues into 2009!

*League of Women Voters of California*

## VICTORY FOR THE CALIFORNIA CLEAN MONEY CAMPAIGN

On the plus side, also on October 1, Governor Schwarzenegger signed AB 583, the California Fair Elections Act, which the League supports. This puts the measure on the June 8, 2010 ballot, where it must be approved by the voters of California. If so approved, a pilot project would be established for public financing of candidates for Secretary of State in 2014 and 2018. This model has been used successfully in Arizona and Maine and has recently been adopted in Connecticut.

*If you know someone who might be interested in the League, please pass along this form:*

### 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.

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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 - NOVEMBER 2008

### Discussion Units: Highlights from National Convention and CA Leadership Council

- 4 Tuesday **Dinner Unit:** 5:30 p.m. Madam Lu's Café, 3542 State St. Contact: Lolly Quackenbush, 879-5537.
- 5 Wednesday **Carpinteria Unit:** 10:00-11:30 a.m. (REMEMBER CHANGE OF TIME!) at the Carpinteria Woman's Club, 1059 Vallecito Rd., Carpinteria. Contact: Barbara Godley, 969-9942.
- 5 Wednesday **Evening Unit:** 7:30 p.m. Home of Sheila Kamhi, 1040 Portesuello Ave., 682-0757.
- 12 Wednesday **Afternoon Unit:** 2 p.m. Maravilla Clubhouse, 5486 Calle Real, between Patterson and Kellogg. Contact: Marjorie Nefstead, 964-0886.
- 14 Friday **Board Meeting:** 10 a.m., League office, 328 E. Carrillo, Suite A. Open to all members.
- 17 Monday **Channel Voter deadline for December/January issue**
- 19 Wednesday **Community Forum: "Vision of League's Future and Membership Involvement"** 12:15 - 2 p.m. Louise Lowry Davis Center, corner of De La Vina and Victoria Streets. Brown bag lunch. Drinks and cookies provided.
- 21 Friday **South Central Coast Environmental Task Force:** Discussion of items of interest to coastal Leagues, San Luis Obispo to Santa Monica; guest Greg Helms from Ocean Conservancy to talk about marine reserves. League office, 9:45 to 12:00, then out to lunch together. Confirm time with Jean Holmes, 687-8260.

### LOOKING AHEAD TO DECEMBER

#### Discussion Units: No discussion units this month

- 17 Wednesday **Holiday Party:** 12:15 - 2 p.m. Louise Lowry Davis Center, corner of De La Vina and Victoria Streets. Lunch provided.
- 12 Friday **Board Meeting:** 10 a.m., League office, 328 E. Carrillo, Suite A. Open to all members.



**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS  
OF SANTA BARBARA, INC.  
328 A East Carrillo Street  
Santa Barbara, California 93101**

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The League of Women Voters, a nonpartisan political organization, 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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