

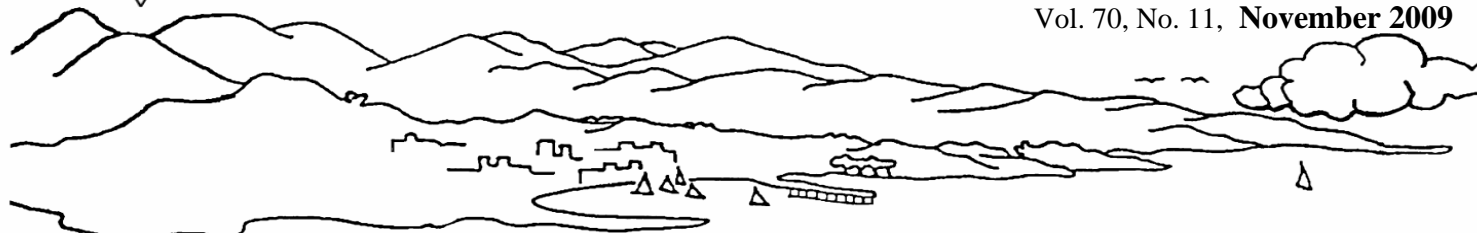


Channel VOTER

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. 11, November 2009



League Phone/Fax: 965-2422

Email: info@lwvsantabarbara.org <http://www.lwvsantabarbara.org>

NOVEMBER COMMUNITY FORUM

How Budget Cuts will Impact Local Social Services

Wednesday, November 18, 2009, 12:00 to 2 p.m.

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

Brown bag lunch, coffee and cookies provided.

OFFICERS

- President
Linda Phillips (2011)
- First Vice-President
Local Action
Connie Hannah (2011)
- Vice-President
Community Education
Stacy Shepherd (2010)
- Secretary
Beth Pitton-August (2010)
- Treasurer
Joanie Jones

DIRECTORS

- Voters Service
Sandy Stites (2011)
- Membership Development
Joanie Jones (2010)
- Social Policy
Toni Schultheis (2010)
- Water
Pat Shewczyk (2010)
- Office Manager
Sheila Kamhi
- Channel Voter Co-Editors
Martha Lannan (2011)
Jean Phillips (off board)

The recession and the health care reform debate have thrown national social policy issues into sharp relief. Budget cuts have trickled down to affect us here in Santa Barbara County.

A forum on Nov. 18 will feature local leaders and their perspectives on the ways broad budget cuts are affecting the people they serve. Included on the panel will be **Nancy Lapolla**, MPH, director, Emergency Medical Services Agency, SB County Public Health; **Cynder Sinclair**, executive director, Santa Barbara Neighborhood Clinics; **David Selberg**, executive director, Pacific Pride Foundation; and **Kathleen Riel**, Program Manager, the Independent Living Resource Center. Social Services Agency Director **Kathy Gallagher** will be our special guest at the forum.

The statement below about equal opportunity for all is from the LWVUS website:

The League of Women Voters has long worked to secure equal rights and equal opportunity for all, promote social and economic justice, and the health and safety of all Americans.

The League was one of the first organizations to address such issues as child welfare, maternal and child health programs, child labor protection and laws that discriminated against women.

In the 1960s, with the nation's unrest over civil rights, the League began to build a foundation of support for equal access to education, employment and housing.

(Continued on page 4)

NOVEMBER DISCUSSION UNITS: STATE GOVERNMENT REFORM

At the October Community forum we heard about the challenges and decisions ahead for our State. Now we will have an opportunity to discuss these problems and see how we would like to resolve them. Your unit leaders will briefly present advantages and disadvantages of some of those proposals. We are certain you have your own concerns and information to add to the discussion. We are not looking for consensus, but do want to know what you think we can and should do. League has strong positions on the issues, and as you heard at the community forum, is actively participating in discussions about constitutional reform.

By mid-October there were two propositions approved for the June election. One of these concerns Fair Elections (the League is working with the California Clean Money Campaign and others to support this measure to establish public funding of campaigns for the office of Secretary of State) and the second is for Open Primaries. It is time to also start thinking about those propositions currently in circulation. There are for instance, proposals for a part time legislature; to change two-thirds to three-fifths for budget and taxes; calls for a constitutional convention; and raising taxes on higher incomes.

Sheila Kamhi, Office Manager

From the President's Desk...

An appalling amount of money has been spent in this election. Negative and misleading advertising, most of it sent on behalf of an independent committee or PAC, has distorted the democratic process.

This shows the need for unbiased information such as that on SmartVoter.org, as well as our "Touring with the Candidates" and candidate forums. It also highlights the need for campaign finance reform. Unfortunately, it's very difficult to limit independent expenditures; the Supreme Court has ruled that money equals speech. One reform that has been in effect for some time is the requirement to disclose campaign expenditures, so that voters can "follow the money".

One of the misleading campaign pieces sent out targeted LWVSB. This slate mailer appeared to come from League



or at least have our blessing. We sent a cease-and-desist letter (see below) to the producers of the mailer.

Unfortunately, some of League's own efforts were unintentionally confusing. Our September Community Forum on Measure B was taped for broadcast. Since it was advocacy, we tried to make sure that it would be clearly distinguished and on a different channel from our Voter Service programs. However, space limitations on Channel 21 and an inadvertent mislabeling of the advocacy program meant that all programs were on the same channel, and some viewers expected all of them to be impartial. It took quite awhile to catch the error and correct the listing. We pride ourselves on separating advocacy from voter service, and are taking steps to make sure this never happens again.

Linda Phillips, President

October 20, 2009

Official Non-Partisan Voter Guide
Gilliard Blanning Wysocki & Associates
921 11th Street, Suite 400
Sacramento, CA 95814

fax: 916/444.0128

To Whom it May Concern:

It has come to our attention that you have made unauthorized use of the League of Women Voters copyrighted logo and an erroneous link to the League of Women Voters of Santa Barbara Web site on your slate mailer. This misleadingly titled "Official Nonpartisan Voter Guide" was distributed and/or caused to be distributed by you throughout Santa Barbara.

You make it appear to readers that the League of Women Voters has sanctioned inclusion on your slate mailer, and we have received numerous complaints from both our members and the general public. Despite your fine-print disclaimers, many recipients had the impression that we endorsed the listed candidates, and that appears to have been your intent. Since our founding, the League of Women Voters has **never** endorsed or opposed candidates for any office.

You did not ask our permission to include us and were never authorized to use our logo or name in any way. You have also attempted to make your Web site look "nonpartisan" and "official" by linking to our Web site (the correct URL this time) along with government Web sites.

We demand that you immediately cease the use and distribution of all infringing works and never include the League of Women Voters logo or the name of the League of Women Voters of Santa Barbara in any further mailings without express written consent. Furthermore, we demand you remove the link on your Web site to our Web site immediately, and take all action necessary to correct the misimpression you caused that any candidate was endorsed by the League.

This is without waiving any right, and with a reservation of all legal rights.

You may contact us via mail with any questions.

Sincerely,

Linda K. Phillips, Ph.D.

President, League of Women Voters of Santa Barbara

cc: President, League of Women Voters of California, Janis R. Hirohama
Preserve Our Santa Barbara

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.

UN DAY 2009 “COOL SOLUTIONS TO GLOBAL WARMING”

This event, in celebration of UN Day, is being presented by the United Nations Association, Santa Barbara and Tri-County Chapter, and its coalition of sister non-profit organizations, including LWVSB. This event is part of the SBCC Adult Ed Program and will be held Saturday, November 7, 2009 from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at the Fe Bland Auditorium at SBCC West Campus. Admission is Free.

The UN considers Climate Change to be one of the biggest threats to mankind on this planet. Desertification is caused by climatic variations and human actions. It affects one-third of the Earth's surface and more than 1 billion people and growing. This program is intended to present the challenges before us as well as viable solutions to combat this potentially catastrophic problem. In December 2009, delegates from 182 countries will meet in Copenhagen to try to forge a new global accord on climate change.



The United Nations has many projects underway intended to counter the effects of climate change. Some of the many projects include providing solar

ovens to inhabitants near Rain Forests and The Billion Tree campaign to fight climate change through reforestation which has now blossomed into a woodland of over 3 billion trees. A new target of 7 billion trees has been set to be planted in time for the UN Climate Change December Conference. (Photo shows volunteers planting trees on former rain forest land.)

Featured Speakers:

- Ms. Ann Kelly, Director of Corporate Governance and Climate Policy at the Coalition for Environmentally Responsible Economics (CERES).
- Mr. Adam Green, Environmental Studies Program Coordinator and Director for the Center for Sustainability at SBCC.
- Dr. John Bowers, Fred Kavli Chair in Nanotechnology and Director of the Institute for Energy Efficiency and a Professor in the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering at UCSB.
- Ms. Lauren Selman, Producer and Environmental Consultant, and Founder of Reel Green Media.
- Mr. Paul Lynch, Founder and CEO of Cage Free Enterprise, Inc.
- Ms. Bonnie Vien, 2009 UNA Essay Contest winner.
- Mr. Alec Looz, Founder of Kids vs. Global Warming.
- Dr. Peter Haslund, Moderator.

THE LEAGUE'S UNITED NATIONS OBSERVERS

For more than 50 years the League of Women Voters has been one of the leading supporters of the United Nations in the United States. The League has official NGO (Nongovernmental Organization) status at the UN and is represented by two official UN Observers. Among other duties, the League's UN Observers keep LWV members informed and aware of UN activities throughout the year.

LWV recently secured its official Observer status for the United Nations Framework Climate Change Conference (UNFCCC) in Copenhagen this December. Seven League members were selected to serve as delegates to the conference. All of these delegates have taken an active role in working on climate change issues both for the LWV and in their professional work; they are making this trip at their own expense as representatives of the LWV. We are proud to have our own delegation on the ground keeping us informed!



Speakers from the October Forum

Jerry Roberts, Xandra Kayden, and Tracy Westen spoke on government reform. What's needed and how it might be accomplished.

NOVEMBER COMMUNITY FORUM *(Continued from page 1)*

Building on work in the 1970s aimed at combating poverty and discrimination, a two-year study ending in 1988 evaluated public and private responsibilities for providing food, shelter and a basic income level culminating in a position on Meeting Basic Human Needs.

That position begins, “The League of Women Voters of the United States believes that one of the goals of social policy in the United States should be to promote self-sufficiency for individuals and families and that the most effective social programs are those designed to prevent or reduce poverty.

The League’s complete Statement of Position on Meeting Basic Human Needs is at lwv.org. Contact us at info@lwvsantabarbara.org with any questions you may have.

We look forward to seeing you at the November 18 forum.

Beth Pitton-August, Secretary and Toni Schultheis, Social Policy Director



SAVE THE DATE: HOLIDAY GARDEN PARTY DEC. 16

After our annual Garden Party was cancelled due to the Jesusita Fire, we decided to combine it with our holiday party in December. It will be held on December 16, 12 noon to 2 pm. As planned for the original date in May, we will honor three of our most dedicated members, Anne and Tom Heck and Herb Linville, who have given their talents and energy to serve the League and this community in a multitude of ways. Those who made reservations in May will all be invited as our guests. More details to come, but do plan to join us for a very special holiday Garden Party!

HEALTH CARE DISCUSSION MEETING:

Our October Units helped us get our bearings on **national health care reform legislation**, but this critical fast moving target will be needing the continued attention of us all for the next couple of months. Come for a Discussion Update and a Light Lunch at the League office on Thursday, November 12, 11:30 - 1:00 p.m. (see Calendar). You don’t need to bring lunch. Hosted by Carole Marks (RSVP), Beverly Herbert, and Dorothy Campbell.

OPERATION MEDICINE CABINET

The Santa Barbara Sheriff’s Department has kicked off *Operation Medicine Cabinet*, a two-month effort to collect outdated or unused prescription medication, part of an effort to reduce abuse by young people and prevent drug-related medical emergencies in the county.

The sheriff’s department has organized several collection events, the next of which will take place at the Goleta police headquarters in the Camino Real Marketplace from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Nov. 7 In addition, each county sheriff substation will have secure drop boxes available by November for disposal of prescription medication.

When disposing of your medications, keep them in their original containers. More information is available at www.sbsheriff.org. Also see County Public Works’ site lessismore.org. Don’t flush drugs down the drain; Dispose of them properly!

Santa Barbara City Residents—Get your ballots to City Hall by November 3!

SYMPOSIUM: CRAFTING CALIFORNIA'S NEW SCHOOL FINANCE

California's fiscal crisis has focused attention on the budget cuts public education faces. But the problem of how to finance the state's schools equitably and efficiently runs much deeper than the current funding shortfall. At this free community symposium, policymakers and school finance experts will discuss the roots of the problem, and some possible remedies.

Wednesday, November 11, 2009

8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

Victoria Hall

33 West Victoria Street, Santa Barbara

Featured panelists will include:

Professor Jacob Adams (Claremont), CA State Assemblywoman Julie Brownley, Professor Leo Estrada (UCLA), Former CA State Senator Gary

Hart, Senior Policy Analyst, Education Sector, Robert Manwaring, Assoc. Exec. Director of Governmental Relations for CTA, Joe Nunez, Deputy Superintendent of the SB School District, Eric Smith and Professor Jon Sonstelie (UCSB).

Please RSVP By Wednesday, November 4 to Suzanne Oliver, Director of Community Relations, soliver@education.ucsb.edu or 805-893-2460.

For more information see education.ucsb.edu. Please notify of any special needs. Presented by UC Santa Barbara's Gevirtz School, the California Teachers Association, the Santa Barbara Teachers Association and the League of Women Voters of Santa Barbara.

Nancy Harter, Chair, Education Committee

VOTER SERVICES GEARED UP FOR CITY ELECTION

LWVSB held two candidate forums on September 26, for City Council candidates, and on September 29, a forum was held for Mayoral candidates. Both forums were well attended, with approximately 50 interested voters at each. Stacy Shepherd moderated the Council candidate forum, and Irene Stone moderated the Mayoral forum. Many League members assisted at the forums, including Margaret Gordon, Jean Holmes, Ann Lorimer, Linda Phillips, and Beth Pitton-August. Janet Graham was invaluable as co-organizer of the forums. We also received help in setting up for the September 26 Forum from Diego Torres-Santos, a member of the Santa Barbara Youth Council.



Irene Stone moderates our Santa Barbara Mayoral Candidate forum, held on September 29th.

Check sbchannels.tv for schedules of broadcast of the forums and *Touring with the Candidates*. And SmartVoter.org provides a great deal of useful information.

Linda Phillips prepared a small pamphlet, in collaboration with the City Clerk's office, that contains both information from the City web page and a series of "frequently asked questions" about the mail-in vote which was in last month's *Voter*. This has been distributed throughout the city, with the help of Jessica Dean and Jean Reiche, with an emphasis on distribution to senior voters. Linda also presented this information at a meeting of the Santa Barbara Activity Directors Association, whose members serve the various retirement communities in our city. Her presentation was very well received, and we will work with this group in future election-based activities.

Sandy Stites, Voter Service Chair

INCREASING DENSITY DOWNTOWN IN “PLAN SANTA BARBARA”

One section of the new Santa Barbara General Plan Updates has created concern on the part of the League: the section calling for new Mobility-Oriented Development Areas (MODAs) for corridors that currently have bus service. This section of “Plan Santa Barbara” proposes increased density along these corridors on the theory that the people who are housed there can take bus transportation. Proposed at the same time is reduced parking for those new units. Our concern is that no provision is being made for increased MTD service, and in fact, bus services have been cut here recently. In addition, studies done in Los Angeles indicate that even if units are built along bus lines, most residents of them still use their cars for most everyday purposes.

Our second concern about this proposal is that there are no definitions of “increasing density in the MODA.” How much of an increase are they considering?

The public has reason to be concerned about this issue because the city recently hired a San Francisco consulting firm to tell them how to build affordable market rate units in new downtown buildings. The consultant has said that a project meeting this goal

would require 62 units per acre in order to produce 38 so-called “standard” units at a cost of \$1 million each, and 18 so-called “work force” units at a cost of \$800,000 each. The project could include six units at a lower cost. Such a project would be twice the size of Chapala One, and would triple the normal density now permitted in the city of Santa Barbara.

Citizens groups, including the League, have repeatedly said that such projects would not be affordable to most of the people who work here and need housing. The League has suggested that smaller units located on less expensive land in the R3 and R4 multi-family zones could produce more affordable units without bringing so many new people to the city. Such smaller developments, similar to many already built, could protect the views of and general small town feel of Santa Barbara. Within the next year, the city will have to decide whether to endorse experimentation with such large projects in “Plan Santa Barbara,” and the result could be critical for the future of the city. The outcome of the vote on Measure B will be important here.

Connie Hannah, First Vice President, Action

UPPER STATE STREET DESIGN GUIDELINES

The new guidelines for Upper State Street development were recently released, and the League is concerned about aspects of it that would weaken the height and setback requirements and encourage more modifications.

League supports the special overlay zone, S-D-2, a designation applied to this area in 1979 in an effort to control increases in traffic volume. The zone has controlled heights and setbacks, controlled traffic, protected views of the mountains and made the area shopper-friendly.

While acknowledging the importance of the S-D-2 overlay zone, the new guidelines introduce a number of sections that would weaken both the height and setback requirements and encourage more modifications.

Connie Hannah, First Vice President

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AFGHANISTAN & PAKISTAN – ANOTHER VIETNAM?

On Thursday, November 5 2009, the Santa Barbara Coalition for Global Dialogue will present a discussion of one of the most debated issues on our country's foreign policy agenda. The presentation will take place at 11:30 AM at the University Club, 1332 Santa Barbara Street. Speakers will be John Arquilla – Naval Postgraduate School, Monterey, and Richard Falk – Global & International Studies, UC Santa Barbara. Both are excellent speakers, and are widely known for their publications and analyses of international issues.

Reservations include lunch - \$25. Send to Coalition for Global Dialogue, PO Box 41512, SB, CA 93140. If you intend to reserve, call 453-2004 to check to see if there are seats remaining before doing so.

LessieNixon

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL DEADLINE WAS SEPTEMBER 1st

If you have not yet put our pink Interest Survey and your membership check in the mail, please do so ASAP. As an all-volunteer organization, it helps us greatly to know, as early as possible, your interests and level of availability.

Send your membership dues (\$60 for an individual and \$90 for two in the same household) to LWV of Santa Barbara, 328 E. Carrillo St. Suite A, Santa Barbara, CA 93101. It is past time to renew and unless you joined or rejoined quite recently, or are a life member, you will soon be receiving a letter that your membership has expired.

Also, please review your personal information listed in the green Member Directory and make sure it is correct. Your updated addresses are essential to us, as well as dates that you are available at each address; your correct email address is equally important. Thank you!

Joanie Jones, Membership Development and Data Administrator

New Members

Henrietta Sparks
Linda K. Taylor
Marion Abrams
Ken Mueller

Directory Changes

Barbara Lindemann - remove Apt #209

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.*

CALENDAR – NOVEMBER 2009

Discussion Units: State Government Reform

- 3 Tuesday **ELECTION DAY** City of Santa Barbara. Return ballots before 8 p.m. See SmartVoter.org.
- 3 Tuesday **Supper Unit:** 5:30 p.m., Madame Lu's Restaurant. Contact Lesley Alexander or Bev King.
- 4 Wednesday **Carpinteria Unit:** 10 a.m., Carpinteria Women's Club, 1059 Vallecito Rd. Contact Barbara Godley.
- 4 Wednesday **Evening Unit:** **State Government Reform.** 7:30 p.m., at the home of Sheila Kamhi.
- 11 Wednesday **Maravilla Unit:** 2 p.m., 5481 Calle Real. Contact Marge Nefstead.
- 12 Thursday **"Health Care Reform Update & Lunch"**, 11:30 - 1:00 p.m. at the LWV Office. 328 #A East Carrillo. RSVP Carole Marks.
- 18 Wednesday **Community Forum:** **How Budget Cuts Will Impact Local Social Services**, 12 - 2 p.m. at at Louise Lowry Davis Community Center - De La Vina & Victoria Streets. Speakers **Nancy Lapolla** (S.B. County Public Health), **Cynder Sinclair** (Santa Barbara Neighborhood Clinics), **David Selberg** (Pacific Pride Foundation), and **Kathleen Riel**, (Independent Living Resource Center). Social Services Agency Director **Kathy Gallagher** will be our special guest at the forum. Bring a brown bag lunch; coffee and cookies will be provided.

LOOKING AHEAD TO DECEMBER

(No Units in December)

- 16 Wednesday **Holiday Party:** 12 - 2 p.m. The Spring Garden Party program at last!



**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 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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