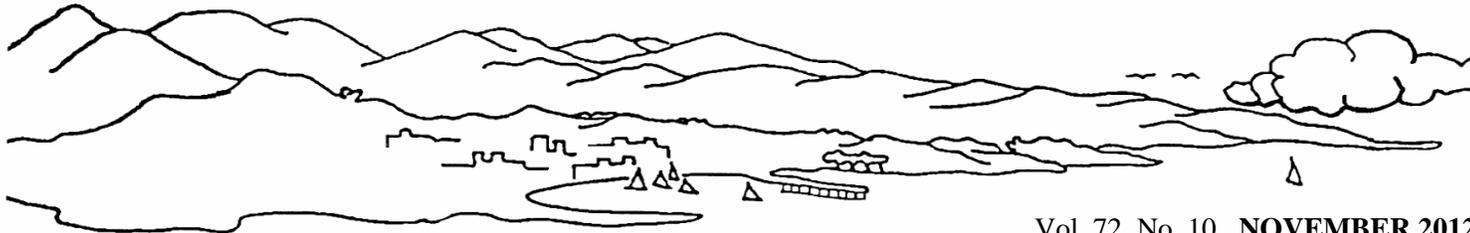




CHANNEL VOTER

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF SANTA BARBARA

Serving South Santa Barbara County



Vol. 72, No. 10, **NOVEMBER 2012**

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**November Community Forum:
Election Post-Mortem and What's Next**
 Wednesday, Nov. 14, noon - 2 p.m. Free and open to the public
 Louise Lowry Davis Community Center, 1232 De La Vina St.
Note: date changed due to Thanksgiving

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Administration &
Community Education
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Program & Action
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Publicity
Vicki Allen (2013)

The results of the Nov. 6 election - and what's next - will be examined at our November Community Forum. Helen Hutchison, LWV California Vice President for Program and Advocacy, will lead the discussion on state ballot measures.

The ballot included 11 state propositions, local measures, and candidates for office at virtually all levels of government from the Santa Barbara Unified School District to the President of the United States.

Helen Hutchison has been a League member since 1969. She is married, with two adult children. She and her family have moved around the country, providing many opportunities to join Leagues in different cities: Claremont, California; Newton, Massachusetts; Los Angeles; Claremont (again); Clackamas County, Oregon; DeKalb County, Georgia; and Oakland. She served on the Boards

of the Claremont, Clackamas County and Oakland Leagues in a variety of portfolios. Each League has provided new areas to learn about and get active in.

Helen was the president of the LWV Oakland from 2003 to 2007. Prior to that, she has served in a variety of portfolios on the Oakland Board including VOTER editor and Vice President for Action.

Professionally Helen is a retired computer systems analyst. She is an active member of Montclair Presbyterian Church in Oakland, where she chaired the Building Renovation Committee.

Join us for this important discussion and bring your friends. Also, bring your own bag lunch; cookies and beverages will be provided. Parking is free.

Beth Pitton-August, Co-President, Program & Action

Focus of November Discussion Units: Transportation Plan Update

Why was one Regional Transportation Plan chosen over the others? What other plans were considered? How will the plan be implemented? To learn the answers to these questions, join us at the November discussion units.

In the October Voter I wrote about the November units and the series of countywide meetings being held by Santa Barbara County Association of Governments (SBCAG). The goal of the meetings was to devise a Regional Transportation Plan (RTP), prioritizing transportation projects that would eliminate greenhouse gasses from cars and trucks to zero by the year 2040.

Future population growth is taken into account in the plan. Federal law requires that we have an RTP. The greenhouse gas plan developed by the state legislature in AB32 and SB375 requires the county to show how its greenhouse gas emissions

can meet the mandatory targets.

The four public meetings held by SBCAG to choose the best plan from eight proposals resulted in a solution called Transit Oriented Development/Infill. This involves developing more public transit and increased zoning for housing near transportation. It includes the creation of more low-income housing and consideration of the jobs/housing balance.

The Regional Housing Needs Assessment (RHNA) numbers for future housing—as projected by the state and as zoned in each of the county's geographical entities—must take the RTP into account when housing numbers are allocated every eight years.

It is all very complex, but it's a plan designed to respond to climate change in California.

Sheila Kamhi, Transportation Chair

Message from your Co-Presidents

As the Nov. 6 election drew near, your local League's commitment to the LWV value of building citizen participation in the democratic process held strong. With the leadership of Voter Service Co-Chairs Janice Rorick and Sandy Stites, the LWVSB participated in National Voter Registration Day and distributed dozens and dozens of EasyVoter Guides (in both English and Spanish), Pros & Cons, and SmartVoter bookmarks (directing people to the Smart Voter.org website).



The LWVSB also hosted four local candidate forums, including co-sponsorship of the Santa Barbara School District forum with the Youth Council and co-sponsorship of the Montecito Fire District forum with the Montecito Association. We also co-sponsored a major Pros & Cons forum with the American Association of University Women (AAUW); the presenter was Shane Stark, LWV Education Fund President.

Lesley Alexander, Martha Lannan, Pat Hiles and Janice Rorick worked tirelessly to post local SmartVoter information and Jane Benefield made sure that LWVSB Voter Service forums were announced in local newspapers and other media outlets. Office Manager Sheila Kahmi made sure the phone was covered to help answer voters' questions and direct them to needed resources.

In addition, Susan Shank took on the role of Speakers

Bureau chair to meet the many requests for Pros & Cons presentations, with Barbara Lindemann, Jennifer Holland, and Jean Reiche also serving as speakers. This group provided Pros & Cons presentations to local organizations as diverse as Gay Seniors of the First Congregational Church, Casa Dorinda, and Rancho Santa Barbara Mobile Home Park.

On the advocacy side, State & National Action Chair, Linda Phillips presented the League's recommendations on ballot measures at the invitation of other local groups.

Many heartfelt thanks go to these dedicated League members, the LWVSB Education Fund, and many other volunteers who helped make these efforts possible. As a result, our fellow citizens are more informed and better prepared to participate in that most sacred of democratic processes – casting their vote.

But practicing democracy doesn't stop there. Be sure to join the League of Women Voters at the Nov. 14 Community Forum (one week early due to Thanksgiving) and invite your friends. LWV California Vice President of Program and Advocacy Helen Hutchison will discuss the results of the election and next steps in keeping democracy and our communities fair, vibrant, and strong.

*Beth Pitton-August, Co-President Program & Action
Joanie Jones, Co-President Membership, Administration & Community Education*



Explaining the Affordable Care Act at October Community Forum: Candis Driscoll, Tara Dooley, Cynder Sinclair and moderator Linda Phillips

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

Sustainability is the Talk of the Town

Everyone in California seems to be talking about Sustainability these days. UCSB hosted the Central Coast Sustainability Summit on Oct. 25, and four members of the League's Sustainable Communities Committee were invited to attend. Topics included water efficiency, climate action plans and best practices in renewable energy and land use planning. This coalition is anxious to promote partnerships between non-profit groups, government bodies, campuses and private industry to create more sustainable communities.

Our Committee is also following the County discussions about implementing state legislation requiring the reduction of greenhouse gases. Santa Barbara Council of Governments (SBCAG) has been holding hearings to discuss the various scenarios they have developed for meeting those requirements. Two members of our group attended those hearings. SBCAG is preparing a Sustainable Communities Strategy (SCS) to integrate transportation, land use and housing policies to meet the emissions target.

We have also heard discussion of the new Regional Housing Assessment Numbers (RHNA), which have just been released. This County will be required to rezone for 11,030 new residences in the next eight years. As overwhelming as that may sound, it is the smallest number the county has ever been allotted, and SBCAG has divided it into about half to the North and half to the South County, because no area is asking for more assigned numbers.

During September, the League attended the City of Santa

Barbara's hearing on their Climate Action Plan, and in our statement praised the city for all the efforts they have already begun, since 2005, to reduce their carbon footprint and to use alternative sources of energy. They must certainly be among the leading cities in taking action to deal with climate change and the new Plan continues those efforts.

In our October committee meeting Bill Shelor, Goleta Planning Commissioner, talked about the many efforts that Goleta is making to produce more affordable housing, especially near job sites and public transportation. One of the most recent was the approval of the Westar project that will build 274 rental units near Hollister and Storke roads. Goleta's General Plan provides controls to prevent rental units being converted to condos unless the rental market exceeds 5 percent vacancy. (At present the vacancy rate in Goleta is one and a half percent.) Another important project is the Mariposa development of 100 homes for rentals for elderly and handicapped persons.

The Sustainability Committee is also discussing the return of the Entrada project in the City of Santa Barbara waterfront. An effort is now being made by the current developer to change the original permit, which is 10 years old. The League's only lawsuit concerned that project, so we will want to consider seriously any changes that are proposed.

*Connie Hannah
Sustainable Communities Committee Chair*

Over 200 Attend Pros & Cons Forums in October

Our League presented information about the 11 State propositions and what their supporters and opponents said about them at seven different forums in October.

The audiences varied widely including churches, retirement homes, homeowners associations, etc. Attendance ranged from 10-12 to more than 50 people at the largest meetings.

Susan Shank was the lead speaker and was joined by Barbara Lindemann three times and by Jean Reiche and Jennifer Holland once each. Twice Susan went solo.

On average the presentations (including audience questions) took slightly more than one hour. One moderator requested that the talk be held to 10 minutes—for 11 complex propositions! At press time that forum has not been held so it's uncertain how that will work.

Susan Shank, Vice President Local Action & Program



School Board Candidates Forum,
co-sponsored by LWVSB and Youth Council.

What the LWVUS Has Been Doing

Democracy only works as well as its elections processes. Right now voting rights are under attack and money in elections has never been higher. The League is fighting back against restrictive voter id laws and voter registration systems, and shorter early voting periods. All eligible voters should have an equal ability to vote.

That statement from the website of the League of Women Voters US (www.lwv.org) is a good introduction to what the League has been doing all across the country this election year. You've probably read news articles or seen television interviews about the League's work, but to

understand the scope of that work, here are some excerpts from LWVUS press releases:

Right to Vote Under Attack

(May 17, 2012) – The League of Women Voters supports the goals of the new Voter Empowerment Act introduced today in the U.S. House of Representatives.

“The right to vote is under attack in too many states across the country,” said Elisabeth MacNamara, national President of the League of Women Voters. “For example, in Florida there have been cutbacks in early voting and

(Continued on page 5)

What You Can Do

There are so many opportunities to get involved with your League. You can decide what you are interested in and how much time you have to give.

If you would like to search newspapers, clip articles about the League and put them into our publicity scrapbook, contact Sheila Kamhi (682-0757). Let Joanie Jones (683-1937) know if you can help us with mailings (addressing, stamping, delivering to post office) or if you can help keep our website updated. If you'd like to volunteer at events, the annual garden party or monthly community forums, find out more from Beth Pitton-August (453-8266).

Do you like taking photos? Help Channel Voter Editor Vicki Allen (564-4951) by snapping pictures at League events. Find out what's happening in the community by attending government meetings as part of the League's Observer Corps (contact Jane Benefield, 684-6086). Join one of our many interesting committees. Two committees will soon be beginning work: ask Beth about the Bylaws Committee or Linda Phillips (451-7830) about how to get involved in the statewide Initiative and Referendum Study.

The Combat Veteran In The Criminal Justice System: Echoes Of War Thursday, November 15, 5 - 6:30 P.M.

Because of the League's long-standing policies on homeless issues, we thought our members would be interested in this program. The event, which is free and open to the public, is sponsored by Santa Barbara Women Lawyers and will be in the Santa Barbara Jury Assembly Room, 1108 Santa Barbara St.

Forty years after the Vietnam War, hundreds of thousands of psychologically-injured veterans are incarcerated, chronically addicted and homeless. This program will explore the history of PTSD and its ties to criminal behavior, the lessons to be learned by those involved in the administration of criminal justice and demonstrate how criminal charges can serve as an opportunity to intervene with troubled veterans and help them return to their communities as assets and not liabilities.

The speaker, Brockton D. Hunter, attorney and former Army Scout, has represented veterans in many high-profile cases. He drafted Minnesota's landmark Veterans Sentencing legislation and has been recognized throughout the United States for his work on behalf of veterans in criminal courts.

Post-traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) has been recognized as a common side effect of war, and more than 2.6 million

Americans have served in Iraq and Afghanistan. A recently released government study reported that up to 20 percent (more than one-half million) veterans are suffering from the effects of PTSD. Between one-third and one-half of Vietnam veterans have suffered some long-term psychiatric issues related to their service. Research also reveals that crimes committed by veterans follow every American military conflict.

Many veterans have not been diagnosed and treated, and have been treated harshly in the criminal justice system. But one alternate to incarceration has been the establishment of Veterans Treatment Courts, which provide intervention and treatment. Veterans receive the help they need and, at the same time, public safety is enhanced.

Since space is limited if you are interested in attending the event, please RSVP (sbwl.admin@gmail.com or 451-5604.) The program is made possible by the support of the Fielding Graduate University, the Fund for Santa Barbara, the Santa Barbara County Bar Association and Common Ground Santa Barbara.

*Jane Honikman and Emily Allen
Co-chairs Social Policy*

rigid new restrictions on community-based voter registration drives have been imposed,” she said.

“We believe every eligible citizen should be able to register to vote. Every voter should be able to cast a ballot,” MacNamara said.

“The Voter Empowerment Act takes important steps to protect voters, including a new system for online voter registration and improvements in the provisional balloting system to ensure that all eligible citizens have their votes counted,” according to MacNamara.

“We are facing an assault on voters that is one of the greatest self-inflicted threats to our democracy in our lifetimes. They threaten to silence the voices of those least heard and rarely listened to in this country – the poor, the elderly, racial and ethnic minorities, the young and persons with disabilities,” MacNamara said. “It is important for members of Congress to stand up against assaults on our voting rights,” she added.

“The League of Women Voters has fought for voting rights for all citizens for the past 92 years and will continue the fight as long as this most fundamental right is under attack,” MacNamara stated. “We are hopeful that the wave of voter suppression laws will be struck down in each and every state and come November every eligible citizen will be able to exercise their right to vote and have their vote counted without additional, unnecessary and costly barriers. We stand ready to continue our efforts to defend voters and their right to vote and look forward to working with members of Congress in doing this,” concluded MacNamara.

Court agrees Voter Photo ID is Discriminatory

(August 30, 2012) Today, a U.S. Federal District Court has agreed with the League of Women Voters and the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) that the Texas voter photo identification law violates Section 5 of the Voting Rights Act, in that the law does have a discriminatory effect.

The federal three-judge panel rejected the state of Texas’

arguments seeking to overturn a Department of Justice decision to deny pre-clearance of Texas’ photo voter ID law. The League of Women Voters of Texas (LWVTX) joined the lawsuit in support of the DOJ decision.

“The importance of this case cannot be overstated: It is a landmark decision for voting rights in America,” said Elisabeth MacNamara. The League in Texas and other states around the country will continue to fight against these restrictive voting laws. This decision helps us ensure America’s elections treat all citizens equally, and are free, fair and accessible.”

League President Testifies on Restrictive Voting Laws

(Sept. 12, 2012) Elisabeth MacNamara testified today before the Senate Judiciary Committee at a hearing on the continuing importance of the Voting Rights Act, and the importance of keeping our voting system free, fair and accessible to all eligible Americans.

In her written testimony, MacNamara points out that, “Since 2011 we have seen a huge increase in the number of new restrictive voting laws enacted at the state level... These new laws and practices require restrictive forms of photo ID and/or proof of citizenship in order to vote, they restrict independent voter registration drives, decrease early voting, wrongfully purge eligible voters and eliminate Election Day registration. And they create confusion for voters and poll workers alike.

“What is especially disappointing is that politicians too often are imposing these restrictions on voting rights in order to manipulate the electorate for their own political gain. This is wrong. This is the real threat to the integrity of our elections.

“There is remarkably little evidence of voter-impersonation fraud, which an ID requirement might block,” MacNamara continues. “The greater threat to the integrity of our elections is that restrictive requirements block eligible voters from voting. And there is clear evidence of that problem.”

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“Today we are experiencing an unprecedented attack on voting rights. This assault on voters is sweeping across the country, state by state, and is one of the greatest self-inflicted threats to our democracy in our lifetimes. These new laws threaten to silence the voices of those least listened to...”

Elisabeth MacNamara, July 12, commenting about a lawsuit against Texas’ photo voter ID law.

Election 2012: (Continued from page 5)

"These voter suppression measures are costly, unnecessary and undemocratic. If the states are unable or unwilling to protect the rights of every eligible citizen to vote, the federal government must step in to ensure these rights are protected," MacNamara concludes.

Photo ID Will Not Be Required on November 6

(Oct. 2, 2012) - Today is a good day for democracy with yet another victory for voting rights. A Pennsylvania Commonwealth Court Judge ruled that photo ID will not be required at the polls on November 6th.

"This is an important victory for all Pennsylvanians," said Elisabeth MacNamara. "A significant barrier to voting has been removed for this important general election."

"Hundreds of thousands of eligible voters will now have access to the polls without any unnecessary barriers," said Olivia Thorne, PA State League President. "Now we can focus our work on registering and informing the state's voters."

"We live in the world's greatest democracy and our voting systems should remain free, fair and accessible. Today's decision helps us guarantee that right for all voters," concluded MacNamara.

Three-Judge Panel Blocks South Carolina Photo ID Law

(October 10, 2012) Today, a U.S. Federal District Court blocked implementation of South Carolina's new voter photo identification law for the November 6th general election, giving South Carolina voters a big victory.

The federal three-judge panel approved the law for elections thereafter, but did so under an expansive interpretation of the law. Specifically, in future elections, voters who do not have a required form of photo ID will still be able to vote so long as they sign an affidavit stating the reason for not having obtained a photo ID.



Elisabeth MacNamara
League of Women Voters
President

"We are pleased that this court has applied common sense and blocked the state of South Carolina from requiring photo ID from all eligible voters on November 6th. We believe it would have caused too much confusion at the polls for voters and poll workers alike," said Elisabeth MacNamara. "In addition, the court has interpreted the law in such a way that voters will not absolutely be required to show a photo ID in order to vote in later elections, in 2013 and beyond. This is a victory for voting rights."

How to Contact Your Elected Officials

County Board of Supervisors

Salud Carbajal, 1st District: 568-2186;
SupervisorCarbjal@sbcbos1.org
Janet Wolf, 2nd District: 568-2191 | jwolf@sbcbos2.org
Doreen Farr, 3rd District: 568-2191 | dfarr@countyofsb.org
Joni Gray, 4th District: 737-7700 | jgray@co.santa-barbara.ca.us
Steve Lavagnino, 5th District:
346-8400 | steve.lavagnino@countyofSB.org

Santa Barbara City Council

Mayor, Helene Schneider: 564-5323
HSchneider@SantaBarbaraCA.gov
Frank Hotchkiss: 564-5320 | FHotchkiss@SantaBarbaraCA.gov
Grant House: 564-5319 | GHouse@SantaBarbaraCA.gov
Dale Francisco: 564-5324 | DFrancisco@SantaBarbaraCA.gov
Harwood "Bendy" White: 564-5321 |
HWhite@SantaBarbaraCA.gov
Cathy Murillo: 564-5322 | CMurillo@SantaBarbaraCA.gov
Randy Rowse: 564-5325 | RRowse@SantaBarbaraCA.gov

Goleta City Council

Mayor, Ed Easton: 961-7537 | eeaston@cityofgoleta.org
Roger Aceves: 961-7538 | raceves@cityofgoleta.org
Margaret Connell: 961-7539 | mconnell@cityofgoleta.org
Michael Bennett: 961-7535 | mbennett@cityofgoleta.org
Paula Perotte: 961-7536 | pperotte@cityofgoleta.org

Carpinteria City Council

Mayor, Al Clark: AlClark@ci.carpinteria.co.us
Brad Stein, Vice Mayor: BradStein@ci.carpinteria.co.us
Gregg Carty: GreggCarty@ci.carpinteria.co.us
Kathleen Reddington: KathleenReddington@ci.carpinteria.co.us
Main City Phone: 864-5405

Assembly, District 35

Das Williams: 564-1649 (Capitol Office: 916-319-2035)
<http://asmdc.org/members/a35/>

State Senate, District 19

Tony Strickland: 965-0862 (Capitol Office: 916-651-4019)
cssrc.us/web/19/contact-me

U.S. Congress, District 23

Lois Capps: 730-1710 (DC Office: 202-225-3601)
<http://capps.house.gov/contact-me>

Note: All phone numbers unless otherwise noted are area code 805.



Membership News

Thank you to all members who have renewed their memberships for 2012 – 2013. The Annual Membership Renewal period was officially over Nov. 1. For those who did not renew, letters are being sent explaining that they are no longer members of LWV. We are sorry to lose you, and hope you will reconsider rejoining soon. Your membership is appreciated.

Please consider sharing your email address with the League. We are doing more and more via email. The League does not and will not share your address with any other groups.

To those who participated in the League Orientation on Oct. 20, thank you. We hope you learned some interesting and fun facts and information about the League. There will be

another League Orientation in the Spring. Stay tuned for the date after the first of the year.

Thank you for your continued support of the League.

Amanda Pelch, Membership Development Director

Welcome New Members:

George Solinas, Karen Bunker, Charlotte Gullop-Moore



Amanda Pelch with new members
Marcia Tobocman, Charlotte Gullop-Moore
and Eugene Johnsen

In Memoriam
Minna Stone
Marion Abrams
Elizabeth Newcomb – 50+ year member
Debra Isaacs Robertson
Robert Holmes
husband of long-time member Jean Holmes

Don't Forget the League When Making Year-End Donations

The Education Fund of the LWVSB is our tax-deductible arm, whose goal is "to provide non-partisan information about issues and governmental processes and services to enable citizens to become active and informed voters, and to help every citizen participate in the democratic process." With several elections this year, the Ed Fund is funding many projects -- such as candidates forums, "Touring with the Candidates," voters guides, the Speakers Bureau, the SmartVoter Web site, and Pros & Cons on ballot measures---to help local citizens get to know their candidates and understand the ballot measures.

You should soon receive our annual mailing requesting your support to help us carry on this important work. Checks should be made payable to "LWVSB Education Fund."

✂

MEMBERSHIP FORM to join LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF SANTA BARBARA

<input type="checkbox"/> Here's my annual membership dues of \$60*	Name _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Second member in same household \$30	Address _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Student \$30	_____ Zip _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Please send me more information about League	Phone _____ Fax _____
<input type="checkbox"/> I can't join right now; here is my contribution of \$_____ to support the League.	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. Amanda Pelch, 452-5804.*

✂

CALENDAR

NOVEMBER DISCUSSION UNITS: COUNTY TRANSPORTATION PLAN TO ELIMINATE GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS

- 6 **Tuesday: Supper Unit - 5:30 p.m., Madame Lu's Restaurant, 3524 State St., Contact Karen Bunker, 967-0838.**
- 7 **Wednesday: *date change for Nov. only* Carpinteria Unit – 10 a.m., Carpinteria Women's Club, 1059 Vallecito Rd. Contact Barbara Godley, 969-9942.**
- 7 **Wednesday: Evening Unit - 7:30 p.m, Pat Shewczyk's house, 5044 Walnut Park Dr., Contact Pat Shewczyk, 964-7506, and Sheila Kamhi, 682-0757.**
- 12 **Valle Verde Unit – noon-2 p.m. new location in private dining room off breezeway (parking in front lot), 900 Calle de los Amigos. Brown bag lunch. Contact Joan Kerns, 687-7035.**
- 10 **Saturday: LWVSB Board meeting, 10 a.m., League Office at 328 A East Carrillo, Suite A.**
- 14 **Wednesday: Note: *date changed due to Thanksgiving-Community Forum: "Election Post-Mortem and What's Next," 12-2 p.m., Louise Lowry Davis Center, with Helen Hutchinson, LWVC vice president for program & advocacy; 1232 De la Vina St.; brown bag lunch; free and open to the public.***

LOOKING AHEAD NO DISCUSSION UNITS IN DECEMBER

- 8 **Saturday: LWVSB Board meeting, 10 a.m., League Office at 328 A East Carrillo, Suite A.**
- 12 **Wednesday Annual Holiday Party, 12-2 p.m., Louise Lowry Davis Center, 1232 De la Vina St.; free and open to the public. Public officials invited.**

*Remember to check the LWVSB web site
(<http://lwvsantabarbara.org>)
for the latest event information.*

Concerning Email Communications

Those of you who do not and will not have an email address, or prefer not to share it with us, please know that we will continue good old fashioned mail and phone calls to keep you informed.



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Beth Pitton-August, 453-8266
Voter Editor: Vicki Allen, 564-4951
Production: Wordesigns, 689-9583
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.

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



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