



# Channel **VOTER**

serving South Santa Barbara County

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

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

Vol. 70, No. 2, **October 2007**



League Ph/Fax: 965-2422 • Membership Director, Joanie Jones • President, Linda Phillips

## OCTOBER COMMUNITY FORUM: HOMELESSNESS AND POLICY

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"On the issue of homelessness, partnership trumps partisanship. There is no Democrat or Republican or independent or Green on this issue. We are all Americans working together to end a social disgrace."

- Philip Mangano, Executive Director,  
Interagency Council on Homelessness

**Janet Wolf**, Second District Supervisor and Co-Chair, South Coast Homeless Advisory Committee.

**Roger Heroux**, former Director of the Public Health Department of Santa Barbara County and author, "A Report on Homelessness Services in the County of Santa Barbara." Mr. Heroux is currently working as a consultant to the Santa Barbara County 10-Year Plan to End Chronic Homelessness.

**Mike Foley**, Executive Director of the Casa Esperanza Shelter. Mr. Foley serves on the Governing Board of the Santa Barbara County 10-Year Plan to End Chronic Homelessness.

**Emily Allen**, LWVSB member of the Social

Policy Committee and homelessness legal advocate, will moderate.

Please join us for a discussion about Homelessness and Policy. The 10-Year Plan is about local planning to end chronic homelessness. Each year "more than 6,300 people experience homelessness within Santa Barbara County. On any given night, over 4,000 people are homeless. Within Santa Barbara County spending on homelessness now surpasses \$36 million per year."

Based on nationwide research, it has been estimated that 10-15% of the homeless population is chronically homeless, and that they consume 50% to 65% of the resources directed towards aiding homeless people. Hundreds of communities have committed to ending chronic homelessness by dramatically transforming their systems. Each community commitment starts with a plan. These plans are a critical to efforts to prevent and reduce homelessness nationwide.

(Continued on page 2)

## OCTOBER UNITS: IMMIGRATION

By now you have attended our public forum on Immigration, and you will have received your special edition of the *Channel Voter* devoted entirely to immigration issues. This edition also provided you with copies of the consensus questions, which you must bring to units this month and next month, as we will be using these as our springboard to a full discussion and a hoped-for consensus.

Your Immigration Study Committee also encourages you, indeed urges you, to use your newly or not-so-newly acquired computer skills to download the very valuable **IMMIGRATION STUDY BRIEFS** on the LWVUS Web site: [www.lwv.org](http://www.lwv.org). You can also find the discussion questions provided by LWVUS at this same site.

Meanwhile, if you have not yet attended one of our discussion units, please check the schedule on the back page and join us in helping the League, here and around the nation, come to a consensus on this very important issue of immigration policy.

Jessica Dean, Chair, Immigration Study Committee

## From the President's Desk...

It is election season in the City of Santa Barbara, and as in every election, LWV's Voters Service arm is working hard to make sure voters have the information they need about the candidates for city council. We will hold a candidates forum on October 11, and also invite each candidate to provide information on our SmartVoter website. We also expect once again to produce the popular "Touring with the Candidates" for public access television.



At its September meeting, our board decided to support Measure A as well, because we have long-standing positions on voting and elections that we believe agree with the measure.

How can we do both? One of League's distinguishing characteristics is that we have two arms - voters service and advocacy - and take great care to keep them separate. We are well aware that we have an extra obligation in a local election,

to make sure that our "pros and cons" are truly non-biased. At the same time, we feel an obligation to express our views on important issues, and intend to do so through our advocacy efforts.

*Linda Phillips, President*

We will be providing impartial "pros and cons" on the City of Santa Barbara's Measure A, which would move the city council's election dates to even-numbered years, to coincide with other election schedules. You are all familiar with "pros and cons" for statewide ballot measures, but we rarely are called upon to write them for local elections.

### **VOLUNTEERS NEEDED TO STAFF OFFICE DURING ELECTION PERIOD**

November 6 is the first of three elections scheduled for this year, which means we need help answering citizens' questions about voting!

Beginning the first week in October, the League office should be staffed from 9:30 to 12:00, Monday through Friday. There is printed information in the office, and Sheila Kamhi will provide training if you need it. This is the one time in the year when people will phone asking questions.

Please phone the office at 965-2422 or Sheila at 692-0757 to volunteer your time. This is an important service our League provides to the public.

### **S.B. CITY COUNCIL CANDIDATES FORUM ON OCTOBER 11**

Our Santa Barbara City Council Candidates Forum will take place on Thursday, October 11, at the Faulkner Gallery of the Santa Barbara Public Library (40 E. Anapamu) from 7 to 9 p.m. Eight candidates are running, three incumbents and five challengers, and all have said that they will attend. The candidates will respond to questions from the moderator, Jean Reiche, and to written questions collected from the audience. This is an excellent opportunity to see and hear the candidates in person.

### **OCTOBER COMMUNITY FORUM** *(Continued from page 1)*

Here in Santa Barbara, "Ending chronic homelessness is now possible: we have successful programs upon which to build; we have clear analysis of the waste in resources as well as human potential that will continue if we do nothing; we have the experience of our agencies and peers around the nation participating in a paradigm shift on this issue; and we have the will and motivation to see this plan implemented." Information cited above is adapted from *Bringing Our Community Home: Santa Barbara County-Wide 10-Year Plan to End Chronic Homelessness, 2006*. An outline of the key elements of the plan is on page 3 of this issue of *Channel Voter*.

Join us on October 17 for an important and lively discussion of homelessness in Santa Barbara and about action now underway to respond to it.

*Emily Allen, Member, Social Policy Committee*

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

# KEY ELEMENTS OF THE 10-YEAR PLAN TO END HOMELESSNESS IN SANTA BARBARA COUNTY

## Prevention

Fundamental to ending chronic homelessness is “preventing homelessness. Prevention of homelessness includes discharge planning from public institutions such as jails, prisons, hospitals, foster care, and inpatient mental health and substance abuse treatment facilities. Prevention also includes interventions to retain housing, including emergency rental assistance, behavior-related eviction defense, and landlord-tenant mediation.”

## Housing with Supportive Services

A “spectrum of housing opportunities connected to supportive services needs to be available to people who have been homeless for a long time and likely have co-occurring disorders. Permanent supportive housing is permanent housing with voluntary services provided, usually on-site. This and all other forms of housing that are needed, including permanent affordable housing, emergency shelters, safe havens, and transitional housing, will be analyzed in order to ensure an appropriate continuum of housing opportunities.”

## Outreach, Engagement & Services

Outreach and engagement brings homeless people into housing and helps them maintain their housing. A client-centered approach to ending homelessness includes “effective models of outreach, including street outreach, as well as ‘in-reach’ - ensuring that clients already connected to services and housing remain so as they move between components of the Continuum. Integrated services bring multiple services (such as health, mental health, and outreach) together in order to more effectively support the whole person. An array of supportive services are needed throughout the system, including health, mental health, substance abuse treatment, counseling, family reunification, and legal services.”

## Increasing Incomes

People who are homeless generally have no or extremely low incomes, inadequate to pay for housing and other basic necessities. Customized employment is one model of

individualized employment training and placement that has proven successful for people with barriers to employment. Ensuring that jobs that are available pay a living wage is another way to increase incomes. Further, accessing benefits is critical in order to leverage all means available for support. This Committee will explore increasing client access to federal, state, and local benefits programs, including Food Stamps, SSI/SSP, Veterans Benefits, and General Assistance.”

## References

Heroux, Roger. *A Report on Homelessness Services in the County of Santa Barbara* (2006).

Bringing Our Community Home Website at <http://www.bringsbcohome.org>

*Bringing Our Community Home: Santa Barbara County-Wide 10-Year Plan to End Chronic Homelessness* (2006).

Santa Barbara County Homeless Services Website at <http://www.sbhomelesservices.org>.

## LWV SANTA BARBARA & HOMELESSNESS

The League of Women Voters of Santa Barbara has advocated for better coordination and support of solutions for decades. In 1986 the League of Women Voters of Santa Barbara took a Homeless position that calls for “support of joint planning and coordination by federal, state, and city government entities with the private sector, including nonprofit and private organizations, the business community and private citizens.” The League also supports “appropriate solutions with adequate financing, to respond to both short term and long term needs of homeless people,” including “the provision of better access to existing social services, emphasis on affordable housing, including subsidized rentals, and establishment of criteria for shelter services to include counseling and referral of those with special needs.”

## LWV VENTURA COUNTY MEETING ON IMMIGRATION

Sat., October 6 ~ 10:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.

Residence Inn by Marriott at River Edge  
2101 West Vineyard, Oxnard

Reservations for lunch: call 379-2768 by October 2

Open to the public.

No charge if attending the program only.

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## MONITORING THE AMENDMENTS TO THE GOLETA GENERAL PLAN

The League has been involved with the Goleta General Plan for a number of years. We attended many of the meetings devoted to writing it, and we know how carefully every word was considered, and how many really expert opinions went into preparing it. Now the new Goleta City Council has embarked on a course of considering 80 amendments to it, involving many different Elements, and more to come in the case of the Housing Element.

The League has been especially concerned because 33 of these 80 amendments were initiated by the Bacara Resort. We have told the city council that this gives the clear impression that various development interests are rewriting the Goleta General Plan to suit their own financial goals. We believe that this sets a very bad precedent and will encourage future developers to believe that they, too, can force the city to rewrite the plan for their benefit.

At the city's September 15 workshop to discuss these

changes, many citizens who had worked on the original plan came out to offer their opinions about these amendments. In many cases they strongly supported retaining the word "shall" in the text, which is an unequivocal direction, instead of the replacement "should," which is a directive to be honored "if at all possible." The Goleta City Council has wanted to change most instances of "shall" in order to have more "flexibility." The public seemed to be apprehensive about that. The public was also strongly supportive of continued protections for trees, creeks, beaches, habitats for endangered species, and other environmental areas. The city will continue to take public input on the amendments for the next month.

Similar public workshops will be held on Thursday, September 27 at 6 p.m. and on Wednesday, October 17 at 6 p.m. All the workshops are held at Goleta City Hall, and we encourage anyone concerned to attend.

*Connie Hannah, First Vice-President for Action*

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### LEAGUE FOLLOWS "PLAN SANTA BARBARA"

The City of Santa Barbara held its quarterly joint meeting of the City Council and Planning Commission on September 10. The staff reported on the community workshops and the initial responses to Plan Santa Barbara (the process leading to the General Plan Update). They also met with many organizations, including League's Sustainable Communities Committee (See YourPlanSB.org for a synopsis of this meeting).

A report was also given about the July joint workshop of the City Council, Planning Commission, Architectural Board of Review, and the Historic Landmarks Commission. The latter two design boards will work towards requiring findings based on the Urban Design Guidelines.



They seem to be responding to the public's concerns about height, size, bulk, and scale. This new attitude was demonstrated several weeks ago in the HLC's discussion of a proposed project next to the Arlington Theater.

The city is preparing for the next phase of Plan Santa Barbara. We were able to get the city to agree to discuss the Mixed-Use Ordinance and possibly make some changes to bring it up to date. While we don't oppose mixed-use, we think that some of the incentives that were needed years ago should receive another look, in light of what we are now seeing: tall, bulky buildings like the ones on Chapala Street. The original idea was that these would provide affordable housing, but instead they are providing condos in the million-dollar plus range.

We will keep you posted on forthcoming Plan Santa Barbara meetings.

*Cathie McCammon, Land Use Consultant*

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Chris Carson, a member of the Immigration Study Committee of LWVUS and Government Director on the LWV California board, and member of the Glendale-Burbank League was one of the presenters at the September Community Forum, along with Jessica Dean, Chair of our local Immigration Study Committee. Other members of the panel (not shown) were Beverly King and Janet Graham.

*(Photo credit: Tom Heck)*

## NEW ISSUE: CITY OF SANTA BARBARA ZONING ORDINANCE

If the list of land use topics in last month's *Channel Voter* wasn't enough, we just discovered that the City of Santa Barbara has been working on a number of zoning ordinance changes outside of the General Plan Update/Plan Santa Barbara process. These came before the city's Ordinance Committee on September 11. The plan was that these changes would come to the Ordinance Committee for a final hearing and then go to the city council for final adoption.

The League and a number of concerned citizens and organizations, including the Citizens Planning Association and the Allied Neighborhoods Association, questioned the process of making changes to Santa Barbara's municipal code before the General Plan Update. We had been told that the changes dealing with modifications for reducing open space would be part of the Update. Little did we know that the city had in mind a different approach: to amend the regulations, so that modifications wouldn't be necessary.

Over the years, the League and others have voiced our opposition to the number of modifications that have been granted. We are particularly concerned about those dealing with open space, outdoor living space, and setbacks. We think that the proposed changes are going in the wrong direction, as they would require less open space. Our concern is not just with aesthetics, but with the increased need for useable open space for people, for privacy, and for noise reduction, as Santa Barbara becomes more dense.

As a result of all of the input, the Ordinance Committee granted a continuance of these items until October 2. This will at least give people a chance to read and study the proposed changes. We know that at least one of the proposals dealing with mixed use is off the table. As to the others, we are not sure of the outcome. We will let you know what happens next month.

*Cathie McCammon, Land Use Consultant*

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## RENEWING MEASURE D: SOUTH COAST SUBREGIONAL PLANNING COMMITTEE

### Background

The South Coast Renewal Policy Development Committee is composed of: two county supervisors (the third does not come); city council representatives from Carpinteria, Goleta, and Santa Barbara; public members; three local Chambers of Commerce; and other groups, including the PTA, Auto Club, P.U.E.B.L.O, Bicycle Coalition, UCSB Association of Students, Coastal Rail, and the Coalition for Sustainable Transportation (COAST). The committee has been meeting with the staff of the Santa Barbara County Association of Governments (SBCAG) for several months. The goal is to reach a plan by **consensus** to put before SBCAG and the public with the aim of presenting a ballot measure that will pass by 2/3 in November 2008. A similar mix of people is meeting up north to present their plan. Once SBCAG, which is composed of all the supervisors and a representative from each city, accepts a plan, each governing body must vote to accept it. Then the measure will be submitted to voters.

### September 12 Meeting of the Renewal Policy Development Committee

According to the current plan, the funds (\$1.05 billion over 30 years) are to be divided so that \$140 million comes off the top to support the widening of Highway 101 along the South Coast. The balance will be halved, with \$455 million going to the North County and \$455 million to the South County. A portion of this sum will be allocated to city and county governments to spend as each sees fit, and a portion will go to the region. At the

meeting, members voted to start treating the Metropolitan Transit District (MTD – a Special District) as a local entity. Until now MTD has had to go “hat in hand” to the local governments of the South Coast to ask for funding. Although MTD does usually get its requests funded, the District is never sure how much money they have for their yearly budget.

Tentative plans are for \$90.35 million in funds for regional use, including \$15 million for commuter and passenger rail planning and for service improvements. Other sums will go to Traffic Demand Reduction, the Bicycle and Pedestrian Program, Goleta Overpass Improvement, Safe Routes to Schools, specialized transit for the elderly, etc., and the bus companies, Coastal Express, Valley Express, and Clean Air Express.

### Questions and Issues for Upcoming Meetings.

If we give money to MTD, are we chiseling away at the sum the local entities receive to the point where there is nothing left? On the other hand, counties have transportation (bus) companies managed and funded by county agencies. MTD is a special district.

Some members of the South Coast Subregional Planning Committee want more money allocated for alternative transportation including rail. They feel that the Highway 101 widening project was for “a lane and a train,” which was what the voters who voted for the 2006 measure wanted. There are, they feel, other funds for Highway 101, but not for the rail, so the rail should have a larger

*(Continued on page 6)*

## RENEWING MEASURE D:

(Continued from page 5)

share of the 101 money. On the other hand, North County voters may have voted against Measure D 2006 because they didn't want to pay for rail. This is an issue sure to be negotiated and decided at the next meeting.

On the ballot, would it be better to have the local sums designated by what each city or county government plans to do with its allocation over the 30 years, or is it better to let them use their own judgment? In other words, are funds distributed geographically or by project? Is it possible to predict over a 30-year period what the needs are going to be? On the other hand, don't voters prefer to vote when they know the details?

Sheila Kamhi, Office Manager



## ÉLECTIONS À LA FRANÇAISE

The League has long agonized about how to encourage informed and active participation of the electorate. How many voters do not vote because they do not understand the issues presented to them? At what point does the complexity of the ballot undermine the democratic process? How can we inspire confidence in the administration of our elections? These are fundamental questions asked not only within the United States, but around the world. As a League member, frequent Los Angeles County poll worker, and all-my-life adherent of civic engagement, I was almost automatically analyzing the similarities and contrasts of the election process during my recent visit to France. ...

Noticeably absent from all the campaigns were incessant television ads. Official campaign video is run at designated times on television (about ten minutes per total installment for several parties/candidates) during the last week or two before the election. Ad quality ranges from extremely slick to homespun. Platform is the focus...

Financing of campaigns is done via both public and private/party coffers. Individuals have contribution limits and corporate interests are not allowed to contribute. Although the most recent presidential campaigns are the most expensive in French history, they pale in comparison to American campaigns. ...

In addition to finding out about a multitude of elements that propelled the French elections process during my visit, I answered questions about American elections and showed my November 7, 2006 General Election sample ballot to many. The French were uniformly struck by the ballot length (nine pages) and its complexity. They wondered how far in advance of the election did the voter receive the ballot, how the voter obtained information to be an informed voter, the amount of time that would be required to study the ballot, how many

voters would even want to study the ballot, and the length of time spent in the voting booth to complete the ballot. Almost everyone was bothered by our voting for or against judges. Even though California ballots can be very complex, I explained that there are reliable, easy-to-access resources for becoming an informed voter.

League members are well aware that detailed elections information, including profiles of judicial candidates, can be found on League Web sites. Looking ahead to local elections in November 2007 and three major elections in 2008, we know that we can expect lengthy, complex ballots. Making sure that as many voters as possible know about the League's election information Web sites is crucial for promoting an informed, participating electorate. Promoting Smart Voter and Easy Voter could help to mobilize record high turnout by voters. League voter education tools truly make a difference in ensuring that voters:

1. know when and where to vote;
2. know what is on their ballot;
3. have a balanced, trustworthy source for information;
4. and find simple, clear explanations of issues in multiple languages.

Sally Rivera, League of Women Voters of Whittier  
Complete article at <http://ca/lwv.org/lwvonly>

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## MEMBERSHIP NEWS

### Please welcome our new members:

**Ada-Marie Bowers**

**Pat Manning**

**Paul Petrich Jr.**

### Corrections:

Last month's *Voter* listed Allyn and George Gaynes as new members. **Allyn Ann McLerie** and her husband **George Gaynes** are long-term members.

### New e-mail

**Beverly King**  
beverlyhking@cox.net

## SAVE NOVEMBER 10: YOUTH VIOLENCE FORUM SCHEDULED



Linda Phillips, President, Stacy Shepherd, LWVSB representative on the Pro Choice Coalition and Dorothy Semmel, Social Policy Director staffed a League table at the Great American Write-in on August 25.

*(Photo credit: Linda Tuomi)*

On **Saturday, November 10**, the Coalition for Global Dialogue, of which LWVSB is a member, will be holding its 2007 Fall Forum in collaboration with the SBCC Adult Education Program. The topic will be “**Creating a Safer World: Empowering Communities to Address Youth Violence on a Local and Global Scale.**” The event will take place at the Garvin Theatre at SBCC. Watch for details in the November *Voter*.

This morning program, with optional afternoon break-out sessions for further discussion, will address the various forms of youth violence, both local and global, seeking effective ways to break the cycles that lure children into gangs, recruit them as soldiers, or force them into slavery and prostitution. The keynote speaker will be **Kimmie Weeks**, who, at age ten, survived the Liberian civil war and has now become an acclaimed international youth activist, working to disarm and rehabilitate child soldiers. There will also be a panel discussion with a representative of UNICEF; former Santa Barbara City Council member **Babatunde Folayemi**; and **Mary Jo Terrill**, a nurse and social worker at Cottage Hospital experienced with trauma victims and genocide survivors in Rwanda.

*Anne Heck, International Relations Committee*

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

### APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP in the LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS, SANTA BARBARA

- Here's my annual membership dues of \$60\*
- Second member in same household \$30
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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. Contract Joanie Jones - 683-1937.*

## CALENDAR - OCTOBER 2007

### Discussion Units: Immigration

- 2 **Tuesday** **Dinner Unit:** 5:30 p.m. Madam Lu's Café, 3542 State St. Contact: Lolly Quackenbush.
- 3 **Wednesday** **Carpinteria Unit:** 12:30-2:00 at the Carpinteria Women's Club at 1059 Vallecito Rd., Carpinteria. **NOTE CHANGE OF VENUE!** Take the Linden Avenue offramp toward the ocean and turn left on Carpinteria Avejue. Vallecito Rd. is the second street to the left. Potluck salad luncheon. Contact: Barbara Godley.
- 3 **Wednesday** **Evening Unit:** 7:30 p.m. Home of Sheila Kamhi, 1040 Portesuello.
- 10 **Wednesday** **Afternoon Unit:** 2 p.m. Maravilla Clubhouse, 5486 Calle Real, between Patterson and Kellogg. Contact: Marjorie Nefstead.
- 11 **Thursday** **Santa Barbara City Council Candidates Forum:** 7-9 p.m. Faulkner Gallery, Santa Barbara Public Library Main Branch, 40 E. Anapamu.
- 12 **Friday** **Board Meeting:** 10:00 a.m., League office, 328 E. Carrillo, Suite A. Open to all members.
- 16 **Tuesday** **Mental Health Committee:** 2 p.m. Coffee and discussion at the I-Hop at Turnpike. Open to all members. Call Dorothy Semmel.
- 17 **Wednesday** **Community Forum: "Homelessness"** 12:15-2 p.m. Louise Lowry Davis Center, corner of De La Vina and Victoria Streets. Brown bag lunch. Cookies and drinks provided.
- 22 **Monday** **November Channel Voter deadline.**

### LOOKING AHEAD TO NOVEMBER

#### Discussion Units: Immigration

- 6 **Tuesday** **Dinner Unit:** 5:30 p.m. Madam Lu's Café, 3542 State St. Contact: Lolly Quackenbush.
- 7 **Wednesday** **Carpinteria Unit:** 12:30-2 p.m. at the Carpinteria Women's Club at 1059 Vallecito Rd., Carpinteria. Brown bag lunch. Contact: Barbara Godley.
- 7 **Wednesday** **Evening Unit:** 7:30 p.m. Home of Pat Shewczyk, 5044 Walnut Park Dr..
- 10 **Saturday** **Coalition for Global Dialogue Fall Forum** on youth and violence.
- 14 **Wednesday** **Afternoon Unit:** 2 p.m. Maravilla Clubhouse, 5486 Calle Real, between Patterson and Kellogg. Contact: Marjorie Nefstead.



**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS  
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Santa Barbara, California 93101**

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President: Linda Phillips  
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Production: Wordesigns, 963-4883  
314 E. Carrillo, #7  
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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, call the League office at 965-2422.

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