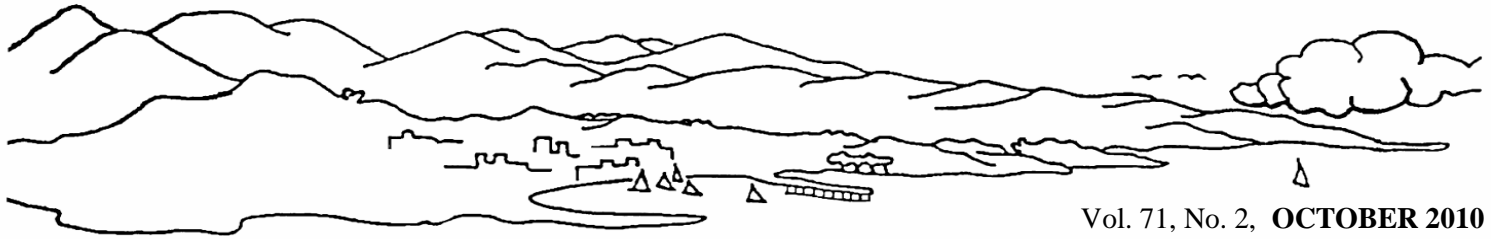




CHANNEL VOTER

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF SANTA BARBARA

Serving South Santa Barbara County



Vol. 71, No. 2, **OCTOBER 2010**

OCTOBER COMMUNITY FORUM

Understanding the Barriers to Building Affordable Housing

Wednesday, October 20, 2010, 12 to 2 p.m., Louise Lowry Davis Community Center
De La Vina & Victoria Streets - Free and open to the public.

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- First Vice-President
Local Action
Connie Hannah (2011)
- Vice-President
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- Office Manager
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- Channel Voter Co-Editors
Martha Lannan (2011)
Jean Phillips (off board)

After five long years of hard work, Plan Santa Barbara, which charts the city's course for the next 20 years, is nearing final approvals. One of its principal goals is to create more affordable housing for the workforce. This is a longtime goal of the local League as well, and we support the city's concern about the lack of housing available to people who work here. City leaders particularly want to support rental housing and employer-sponsored housing projects, and are offering large incentives - perhaps too large - to try to get some built. However, we have questions about how this can be achieved, and whether or not only market-rate housing will be built instead.

At this month's forum, three experienced experts will explain the problems associated with building affordable housing, and what can be done about them. Steven Faulstich, longtime Housing Program Supervisor for the city of Santa Barbara, will explain what is meant by "affordable," and the kinds of problems the city faces in providing it.

John Campanella, president of Bermant Homes, will talk about issues that make it hard for private developers to meet this need. Mr. Campanella has

worked closely with area cities and the county for many years, and is familiar with the issues that make affordability difficult to achieve here.

Jennifer McGovern, president and CEO of the Housing Trust Fund of Santa Barbara County, will offer some hope for solutions to the affordable housing problems. Ms. McGovern has also worked with local governments for years trying to find some positive ways to deal with the area-wide shortage of affordable housing.

The Planning Commission of the city of Santa Barbara will be asked to certify the Final Environmental Impact Report for Plan Santa Barbara on Sept. 29 and 30. The League's Sustainable Communities Committee has been studying the document since it was released on Sept. 16. Over the last five years we have been particularly interested in questions of water availability, traffic congestion, population growth and the ever-present jobs/housing imbalance.

Come join us at the Forum on Oct. 20 to consider these pressing affordable housing issues.

*Connie Hannah, Chair,
Sustainable Communities Committee*

LEAGUE WELCOMES A NEW VALLE VERDE DISCUSSION UNIT

This month, the Valle Verde Retirement Community will launch its own monthly Discussion Unit. The unit will meet on the second Wednesday of the month, Oct. 13, at 2 p.m. in the North Gazebo of the community at 900 Calle de Los Amigos. All members are welcome.

Valle Verde has many active members living there, and a lively discussion group is expected. This will replace the Maravilla Unit, and we hope that members who attended the former Maravilla discussion group will join us at Valle Verde. Check the Calendar for the dates and times of all four of our Units.

To ask for directions call the Valle Verde office or contact Joan Kerns.

This month in our units we will be celebrating International Climate Action Day on 10/10/10. See the article on page 4 about the many events that will take place around that day.

Pat Shewczyk, Discussion Unit Coordinator

LWV Resources for Voters - Spread the Word!

The League of Women Voters is probably best known for our impartial, "no-spin" information for voters. This year we have even more resources than usual. Please help us get the word out; tell your friends and neighbors, pick up copies of printed materials at the League office for yourselves and to distribute, and encourage people to check often at our local and statewide Voter Service websites.

Easy Voter Guides will be available for members and the public at our office, 328-A E. Carrillo, in English and Spanish. They will also be available at our forums. Call 965-2422 to arrange for pick-up. The Guides are available online in five languages at www.easylvoter.org. The EVGs include information on statewide candidates, parties, and how to register and vote - all in a very compact format, for new and busy voters. One important but easy-to-miss section of the online site is "Fast Facts" for voters, which can be accessed under the "education tools" tab at the top of the EVG page.

Many of us complained when the *Pros & Cons* publication was discontinued, and this fall, it's b-a-a-ck! Copies are available at the office and at our forums, and online at cavotes.org/lwvcef_print_view.

For those who want even more information on the



propositions, look at each measure on cavotes.org. At the end of the page, click on "For more In Depth content..."

If cavotes.org sounds new to you, you're right. It is the LWVCEF's new website for voter information and other policy news. It's frequently updated, so check back often.

Last but not least, as I write this, we are getting our local SmartVoter.org page set up. Smartvoter.org is our

premier site for election information, including state and local contests and ballot measures. All candidates are invited to participate by adding their own information. We'll include updates about Voter Service forums and broadcast times or web access for those that are filmed. You will be able to look up the candidates and measures on your local ballot. Again, check back for updates!

And of course, come to our live candidate forums, which are listed in the Calendar, or watch the rebroadcasts of those and the Pros & Cons forum (held in September), or ask about our several Pros & Cons presentations in the community.

As you can tell, we're incredibly busy this election season! If you want to help with Voter Service, send an email to info@lwvsantabarbara.org, or call the office at 965-2422 and tell us.

Linda Phillips, President

GET YOUR FEET WET!



California Water Plan Highlights will be discussed at the next meeting of the Water Committee at noon on Tuesday, Oct. 26 in the League office. Copies of the document, the basis for discussion, are available from the League. It is also available online at waterplan.water.ca.gov/cwpu2009/index.cfm. Participants are encouraged to bring a recent article about water – local, state or national – to the discussion as well.

If you'd like to be added to the call list when there is a meeting, contact one of the co-chairs listed below.

Pat Shewczyk or Joan Kerns

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

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

SEE HOW THE LEAGUE DOES IT: REGIONAL WORKSHOP IN SLO

The San Luis Obispo County League will host a Regional Training Workshop for League members in the tri-counties, on Saturday, Oct. 30, from 9:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m. at the Ludwick Community Center, 864 Santa Rosa Street, San Luis Obispo.

Every year the League of Women Voters of California (LWVC) presents several workshops around the state. You may remember that we hosted last year's regional workshop.

This year, there will be an all-star cast of speakers - four state board members, plus our redistricting program director. I'm excited that you will be able to learn from and network with Bonnie Hamlin, Member Services Director; Helen Hutchison, Advocacy; Jenny Waggoner, Communications; Linda Davis, 2nd VP, Voter Service; and Chris Carson, off-board redistricting guru. Trudy Jarratt, 1st VP, a member of LWVSLO, will probably be there too. We don't often get an opportunity to interact with so many statewide League leaders together, so I hope you'll take advantage of the opportunity.

The following subjects will be addressed:

- "Advocacy - When, Where & How Does the League Do It?"
- "Redistricting - Tracking and Mapping"
- "Being Visible in Your Community"
- "Political, Yes; Partisan, No! Walking the Fine Line"

The Redistricting topic may sound obscure, but it's extremely important. This will be training for the redistricting Observer Corps and media watch. The Observer Corps is a powerful tool the League uses to help ensure transparency in government activities. This training will show you how to observe and report on the activities of California's first Citizens Redistricting Commission. Voting to create this commission - and in the coming election, to preserve it - was only the first step. It's essential that it operates openly, listens to citizen input, and creates districts properly.

After the workshop, we'll have a short meeting of those interested in helping plan next May's LWVC Convention, and we encourage you to join us for this as well.

To register for the workshop, go to www.lwvc.org by Oct. 22 and register online, or write a check payable to LWVC and mail it with the form below to P.O. Box 4210, San Luis Obispo CA 93403, *attn. Regional Training*.

This training event is open to all League members, and is valuable for newcomers as well as veterans. If you have questions about the workshop, contact Margery Johnson at slmom@hotmail.com.

We encourage carpooling to this event. Call the office if you are interested in sharing a ride.

Linda Phillips, President



REGIONAL TRAINING IN SLO

October 30, 2010

_____ I will attend & buy lunch \$25 (\$30 after 10/22)

_____ I will attend & bring lunch \$15

Name _____ League _____

Phone and/or Email _____

Enclosed is my check to LWVC for \$ _____

Reservations will be held at the door.

CELEBRATE INTERNATIONAL CLIMATE ACTION DAY ON 10/10/10!

A series of community events is being planned around the date selected to encourage action that will slow global climate change. League members can participate by attending any of the events listed below, and by attending one of our Discussion Units.

One of the things we will talk about at Units is the critical importance of voting No on Proposition 23 on the ballot. California passed laws four years ago to respond to the threat of global climate change by taking concrete actions to cut our greenhouse gases. Two Texas oil companies placed Prop 23 on the ballot in an attempt to invalidate this landmark legislation. The

League supports those California laws, and so is opposing Prop 23 statewide.

We encourage members to bring copies of articles or stories about climate actions we can all take, or need to know about, and bring them to the Units. Jean Holmes and Connie Hannah of the Energy Committee will be leading these discussions.

Below is a partial list of special events planned for the Celebration between October 6 and the official International Climate Action Day on 10/10/10.

Connie Hannah, Chair, Energy Committee

Events focusing on 10/10/10, International Climate Action Day, include:

- October 7: **Annie Leonard lecture**, 7 p.m., Marjorie Luke Auditorium, SB Junior High School. Leonard is an environmental activist and creator of the documentary "The Story of Stuff." Information: www.SustainabilityProject.org, a sponsor of the event.
- October 9: **Green Homes Tour**, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Sponsored by Habitat for Humanity. Self-guided tour highlighting six area homes, a sustainable garden in Goleta and a Habitat for Humanity affordable housing site. Information: 692-2226. Tickets available at www.sbhabitat.org.
- October 10: **Carrot Mob** for 10/10/10, 1 - 4 p.m. The Community Environmental Council and partners are hosting a Carrot Mob of a local business that promises to dedicate profits above the norm from the day to making its business more energy efficient. It's the opposite of a boycott; think of it as a "buy-cott." Location will be revealed 72 hours before the event. Hint: Fight Global Warming – Support Global Chilling. Watch the CEC's website – www.CECSB.org - to learn who will be mobbed.
-

UN Day 2010

UN - Empowering Women & Children Globally"

Saturday, October 23, 9 a.m.-1 p.m.

SBCC West Campus - Fe Bland Auditorium, 721 Cliff Dr.

LWV has supported the United Nations since its earliest days, and also continues to work actively on our Global Democracy program to increase political participation by women and to advance democracy around the world. We're pleased to once again co-sponsor the local UN Day program, especially since the topic is high on our list!

This year's UN Day, Saturday, October 23, will focus on the successful programs and efforts of the UN in empowering women and children around the globe.

Kathy Ireland, actress, model and strong supporter of women's rights, will be a guest speaker, while panelists

will include Eve Blossom, founder of Lulan Textiles; Anna Di Stefano, of Fielding Graduate University and founding member of the Worldwide Network for Gender Empowerment; and Joan Roberts, co-founder of 34 Million Friends of the United Nations Population Fund. Mary Jo Terrill, RN, MSW, and board member of Network for Africa (www.network4africa.org) will moderate the panel.

The UN Day program will begin at 9 a.m. with organizational exhibits, including our League's. The program starts at 10 a.m.. Please join us at this important community event!

THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS RECOMMENDS**PROP 20 Redistricting of Congressional Districts - OPPOSE**

The League **opposes** Proposition 20, which we believe is well-intentioned but premature. California is in the midst of a major reform of our redistricting process, with a new independent Citizens Redistricting Commission drawing the lines for state Senate and Assembly districts. Proposition 20 would significantly increase the commission's workload by adding Congressional redistricting and shortening the time it would have to do its work. We believe the commission should draw Congressional district lines in the future, but the new process should be fully implemented before the commission's responsibilities are expanded so dramatically. In addition, a new definition in this measure could make it harder for the commission to respect California's diverse neighborhoods and communities as it draws district maps. Let's give redistricting reform a chance to work the way the voters intended before we take the next step and add Congressional redistricting.

PROP 23 Suspends Clean Energy and Air Pollution Standards - OPPOSE

The LWVC vigorously **opposes** this Dirty Energy Proposition, funded by out-of-state oil companies, because it would virtually kill AB 32, the landmark Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006. Proposition 23 would suspend the implementation of AB 32 until the state unemployment rate is 5.5 percent or lower for four consecutive calendar quarters. That has happened only three times in the last four decades! This dangerous proposition would get rid of clean energy standards that will cut air pollution and protect the public health. Proponents say this measure is needed to preserve jobs, but in fact it will jeopardize hundreds of thousands of clean-energy jobs. We must promote California's role as an innovator and investor in a clean-tech economy.

PROP 24 Tax Fairness Act - SUPPORT

Proposition 24 would repeal the corporate tax cuts that were passed in closed-door budget deals of 2008-09. These tax breaks cost approximately \$1.3 billion in revenue to the state, while benefiting only two percent of California's businesses. There is no requirement that they actually result in the creation of private-sector jobs. Proposition 24 will make big multi-state corporations pay their fair share and put \$1.3 billion back into the treasury to help our schools, health care, and other essential services that have suffered severe budget cuts in recent years. The League **supports** repealing these tax cuts because this budget crisis cannot be solved by expenditure cuts alone, let alone expenditure cuts combined with tax cuts with no demonstrated value to the economy.

PROP 25 Simple Majority Vote for Budget - SUPPORT

The LWVC **supports** this measure, which would change the vote required for the Legislature to pass a budget from the current two-thirds to a simple majority. Majority rule is a fundamental part of democracy. The majority should set priorities for spending and take responsibility for them. This measure will change the negotiations over the budget and reduce the stranglehold the minority now exercises over the process. Under Proposition 25, legislators will forfeit salary if they fail to meet the deadline for passing a budget. Budgets that are late and full of gimmicks harm all Californians, damage our economy, and hurt the state's credit rating.

PROP 26 "Polluter Protection" - OPPOSE

Proposition 26 would redefine regulatory fees imposed on companies for harm done to the environment or public health as taxes. Since taxes, unlike fees, require a two-thirds vote for approval, it would be much harder for state and local governments to seek such payments from those making harmful products or creating public nuisances. The likely result is that the fiscal burden of the harm to the environment or public health will fall on the public rather than the businesses involved. The League **opposes** Proposition 26 because we believe that decisions on all revenue measures should be made by a simple majority vote.

PROP 27 Eliminates State Commission on Redistricting - STRONG OPPOSE

This measure would kill the major redistricting reform voters just approved in 2008 and return the authority for redistricting to the backrooms of the Legislature. Proposition 27 would allow politicians to draw their own districts to protect their jobs. It would take us back to the days when bizarrely shaped districts were drawn in secret, carving up neighborhoods and communities to keep incumbents safely in office. **Vote NO** to keep the power with voters and the voter-approved independent Citizens Redistricting Commission.

NO RECOMMENDATION ON THE OTHER PROPOSITIONS ON THIS BALLOT

REMOVED FROM THE BALLOT Proposition 18:
Water Bond Measure

NO POSITION Proposition 19: Legalize and Regulate Marijuana

NEUTRAL Proposition 21: \$18 Vehicle License Fee for State Parks and Wildlife Programs

NEUTRAL Proposition 22: State Government Prohibited from Taking Local Funds

(Local Measures on page 6)

“TELLING THE LEAGUE STORY”

The League of Women Voters of Santa Barbara is pleased to announce a video project underway titled, “Telling the League Story.” The purpose of the project is to introduce the League of Women Voters to new and diverse audiences, and investigate the impact of the League’s engagement in voter service and advocacy at the local Santa Barbara level.

“Story Bank” interviews of individual League members, brief interviews similar to those conducted at the 90th Birthday Celebration, and edited segments of archival and new footage of forums will be utilized. In some cases, longer interviews or discussions between several League members may be recorded. Segments will be made available to League members and the general public online, via The Santa Barbara Channels, and on DVDs. A mini-documentary will also be produced and will premier in May 2011.

The LWVSB recently submitted a grant request to the Fund for Santa Barbara for support of this project. If funded, grant money will help cover the costs of recording and editing video segments, production of the documentary, and administrative and office work associated with the project.

The project will present oral histories that describe ways in which individuals and groups, working in coalition,

have created positive change for the community. In the initial set of 10 interviews of 50-year members, recorded as part of our celebration of the League’s 90th birthday, members discussed their involvement in county government, schools, mental health, water issues, open primaries, civil liberties, and immigration.

They described the League as “a place to learn,” “where you meet others with a common cause,” as “a training ground for public office,” and “a place where you can learn how to improve the system.” The interviews are available for viewing on the LWVSB’s website at lwvsantabarbara.org.

These stories are vital parts of our collective history. They are also crucial as examples that will encourage others to be actively involved in issues they care about in order to make a difference.

You can support “Telling the League Story” by helping to review the LWVSB’s large video archive of voter service and community forums in order to identify relevant segments. Librarians and others with experience in cataloging are particularly needed.

Contact Beth Pitton-August bpitton@gmail.com or Joanie Jones cnjjones@cox.net to learn more.

Beth Pitton-August, Communications Committee Co-Chair

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS RECOMMENDS *(Continued from page 5)*

LOCAL MEASURES

SUPPORT Measures Q-2010 and R-2010: School bonds, Santa Barbara High School District (Q) and Elementary School District (R). LWV supports adequate funding for schools, with the flexibility to meet local needs.

SUPPORT Measure S-2010: A Safer Santa Barbara County! Both LWVSB and the League of Women Voters of Santa Maria Valley support Measure S. The revenue from the half percent sales tax will pay for the construction and operation of a new North County Jail, fund programs and alternatives-to-incarceration designed to reduce inmate recidivism, and support public safety agencies throughout the County and the incorporated cities. Measure S allows the County to accept \$56.3 million in State jail construction funding.

VOTE WITH THE LEAGUE ON NOVEMBER 2!



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New Members

Patricia Hiles

Barbara Huemer

Lorraine Cass

**THE NEW LWVSB MEMBERSHIP
YEAR BEGAN SEPT. 1**

Remember to renew your LWVSB membership as soon as possible.

Welcome to new members Pat Hiles, Barbara Huemer & Lorraine Cass!

Amanda Pelch, Membership Director, 452-5804

In Memoriam: Our sympathy goes out to the family and friends of longtime member Bettine Wallin, who died June 5 and whose life was celebrated on September 19th.

Save the Date!

LWVSB to Co-host State Convention, May 2011 in Ventura

The state convention for League of Women Voters will take place in Ventura next May at the Crowne Plaza Hotel, 450 Harbor Blvd. Not only will we conduct the state League's biennial meeting, but there will be top-notch speakers, instructive workshops, caucus discussions of hot topics, an enticing marketplace, entertaining social events and a host of networking opportunities.

As valued members of the League, convention delegates have the opportunity and responsibility to indicate the issues they believe the state League and local and regional Leagues in California should focus their time, talent, money and reputation on for the following two years. In addition to voting on issues for emphasis and study, delegates also elect the board, approve resolutions and give advice to the board.

While each League has a limited number of official delegates, all members are invited to participate in most

convention activities. Members of the local League have a rare opportunity in May because Convention has never before been so close to us. It will be easy to attend for a single day or the entire weekend. If you volunteer to help, you can attend a session at no charge.

Convention allows participants to see how the hands-on work of League members leads to real change in the organization and in the state.

Volunteers from our Santa Barbara League are needed to help make the convention in Ventura successful, relevant, interesting and fun. Contact Linda Phillips at 451-7830 or president@lwvsantabarbara.org to "volunteer to volunteer." We need committee members and a committee chair from our League to help with convention planning and associated events, and volunteers who can help at the convention itself.

Linda Phillips, President

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. Amanda Pelch, 452-5804.*

CALENDAR

SEPTEMBER 2010

30 Thursday; Candidate Forum: Santa Barbara School District Board of Trustees, 6:30 p.m., La Cumbre Junior High School, 2255 Modoc Rd., Santa Barbara 93101

OCTOBER 2010

Discussion Units: Climate Action Day

- 2 Saturday: Candidate Forum: Santa Barbara Community College Board of Trustees**, 2 p.m., Faulkner Gallery, downtown library, 40 E. Anapamu St.
- 4 Monday: Candidate Forum: Goleta City Council**, 7 p.m., Goleta Valley Community Center, 5679 Hollister Ave.
- 5 Tuesday: Supper Unit**, 5:30 p.m., Madame Lu's Restaurant, 3524 State St. Contact Lolly Quackenbush.
- 6 Wednesday: Evening Unit**, 7:30 p.m., Sheila Kamhi's home. Co-chairs Sheila Kamhi, and Pat Shewczyk.
- 7 Thursday: Candidate Forum: State Assembly**, 7 p.m., Goleta Valley Community Center, 5679 Hollister Ave.
- 8 Friday: League Board Meeting**, 10 a.m., League office, 328-A E. Carrillo St.
- 10 Sunday: Climate Action Day**
- 12 Tuesday: Candidate Forum, Board of Trustees, Montecito Union School District**, 6:30 p.m. Montecito Union School auditorium, 385 San Ysidro Rd.

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

13 Wednesday: Community Forum: Understanding the Barriers to Building Affordable Housing, 12 - 2 p.m., Louise Lowry Davis Center - De La Vina & Victoria streets. Speakers: **Steven Faulstich**, Housing Program Supervisor for the city of Santa Barbara; **John Campanella**, president of Bermant Homes; and **Jennifer McGovern**, president and CEO of the Housing Trust Fund of Santa Barbara County. Bring a brown bag lunch; beverage and cookies provided. Public welcome, free.

13 Wednesday: Carpinteria Unit, 10 a.m., Carpinteria Women's Club, 1059 Vallecito Rd. Chair Barbara Godley.

13 Wednesday: Valle Verde Unit, 2 p.m., North Gazebo, 900 Calle de los Amigos. Contact Joan Kerns.

23 Saturday: UN Day, 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. Fe Bland Forum, S.B. City College. (See Page 4)

Looking Ahead to November

2 Tuesday: Supper Unit: 5:30 p.m., Madame Lu's Restaurant. Contact Lesley Alexander, or Bev King, 687-1124.

3 Wednesday: Carpinteria Unit: 10 a.m., Carpinteria Women's Club, 1059 Vallecito Rd. Contact Barbara Godley.

9 Tuesday: Valle Verde Unit: 2 p.m., North Gazebo of Valle Verde 900 Calle de los Amigos. Contact Joan Kerns.

10 Wednesday Evening Unit: 7:30 p.m. at Pat Shewczyk's.



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF SANTA BARBARA, INC.

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

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