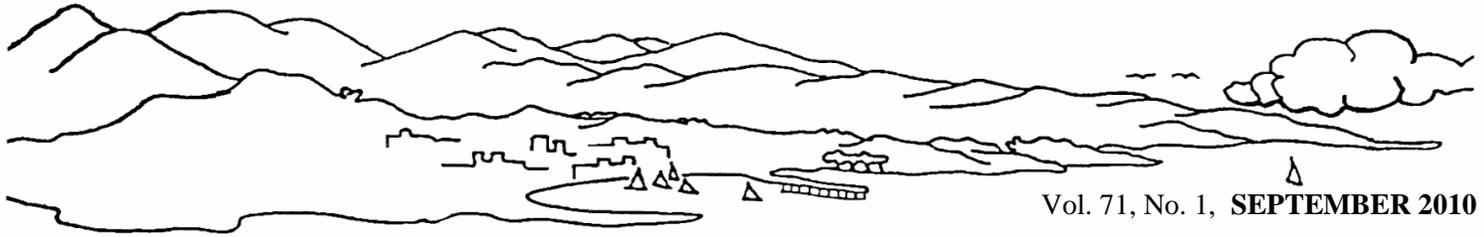




CHANNEL VOTER

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF SANTA BARBARA

Serving South Santa Barbara County



Vol. 71, No. 1, SEPTEMBER 2010

SEPTEMBER COMMUNITY FORUM BALLOT MEASURES - VOTE WITH THE LEAGUE!

Wednesday, September 15, 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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It's election time again! There is a ballot full of state propositions and local measures, and the League has recommendations on most of them. At our September Community Forum, these will be presented.

On the local level, the county is proposing a sales tax to support a new North County jail and associated programs. Both our League and LWV Santa Maria Valley endorse Measure S. The Santa Barbara School Districts are asking voters to approve an extension of their bonds (separate measures for the Elementary and High School Districts); we support Measures Q and R. There is also a City of Santa Barbara measure on medical marijuana dispensaries; because League's positions do not cover the issues in this measure, we cannot take any stand on it.

As you can see from the enclosed flyer from our state League, there are numerous propositions that would affect (for better or worse) government, fiscal reform and the environment. Please read the flyer for brief explanations of League's recommendations, then come to the forum to learn more about why, this year, our advocacy is even more important than usual.

The LWVC has taken stands on six of the nine measures on the November ballot, is neutral on two, and has no position on one.

- **Oppose** Proposition 20, Redistricting of Congressional Districts
- **Oppose** Proposition 23, Suspends Clean Energy and Air Pollution Standards
- **Support** Proposition 24, Tax Fairness Act
- **Support** Proposition 25, Simple Majority Vote for Budget
- **Oppose** Proposition 26, Polluter Protection Act
- **Strongly oppose** Proposition 27, Eliminates State Commission on Redistricting
- **Neutral** on Proposition 21, \$18 Vehicle License Fee for State Parks and Wildlife Programs
- **Neutral** on Proposition 22, State Government Prohibited from Taking Local Funds
- **No applicable League position** on Proposition 19, Legalize and Regulate Marijuana.

Join us on September 15! Bring your own brown bag lunch; beverages and cookies will be provided. Visitors are always welcome.

In addition to this advocacy forum, we look forward to Voter Service presentations on the state propositions. See the article on Voter Service on page 3 in this VOTER for details.

Linda K. Phillips, President

DISCUSSION UNITS

As usual, there will be no unit meetings in September; they will resume in October with discussions on climate action.

At the last board meeting of LWVSB, it was decided to close the Maravilla unit because of the recent drop in attendance. The League thanks Maravilla for its cooperation and warm reception in the past.

Pat Shewczyk, Discussion Unit Coordinator

As the November election approaches, I'm concerned by the tone of several campaigns in recent elections. More and more campaigns, for both candidates and ballot measures, have been negative, misleading, and unethical. Of special concern have been well-funded independent committees and slate mailers. Deceptive and unscrupulous campaign materials have inundated mailboxes and flooded the airwaves. Some of this fall's campaigns are already following this destructive pattern. I hope that others will resist the temptation to go negative.

The League has been working for many years to create a more civil climate for local elections, and to give every candidate a chance to be heard. Our Education Fund produces the popular "Touring with the Candidates" in video and presents candidate forums, as well as *SmartVoter.org*, a website providing extensive information online to help voters make informed decisions. We will work extra hard this year to ensure that all of these adhere to our high standards.

We will make sure that all candidates understand that they must speak about themselves and what they will do if elected rather than about their opponents, and that they are not permitted to edit or use excerpts of our forums or "Touring" for campaign purposes. Also, no candidate is allowed to use the LWV or SmartVoter logo in campaign materials, since that could imply that League endorses them. Ballot measures may use our name or the LWV logo only



with permission.

Please let us know right away if you see possible misuse of League's materials, services or name in campaigns.

As for negative campaigns in general, we have some advice from LWV Marin County, which last year launched a major grass-roots effort to change the culture and return civility to their local elections. Their recommendations

to the public include:

- Critically examine campaign mailing pieces, door hangers, emails and handouts to see if they contain personal attacks, scare tactics or statements that can't be verified.
- Check to see who sent the material: did it come from the candidates or an official committee, or from a committee with a fictitious name or from outside the county?
- Pay special attention to any phone calls that pretend to be legitimate polls but ask negative questions about a specific candidate.
- Most important, watch for last-minute hit pieces that do not allow time for a response by the candidate.

I call on you not only to be vigilant, but also to urge candidates you support to avoid negative campaigning. It's time to return civility to our elections here!

Linda Phillips, President

Help Wanted/Needed!

The dirty carpets in the office will be cleaned on Tuesday, Sept. 21. Many volunteers will be needed at the office on Monday, Sept 20, to remove furniture, and return it on the Wednesday, the 22nd. Furniture does not mean the big pieces, but does mean chairs, some boxes, the shredder, tables, cleaning tools, a large flag, etc. These will fit in cars or vans.

Please, please call me at home, or leave a message at the League office, 965-2422, to let me know you can help out, and put the "event" on your calendar!

Sheila Kamhi, Office Manager

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>

WHAT HEALTH REFORM MEANS TO YOU

Monday, September 13, 5:30 – 7 p.m.

Franklin Neighborhood Center, 1136 E. Montecito St. - Free and open to the public.

Join us on Sept. 13 for a community education forum clarifying key provisions of the federal Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, passed by Congress in March. The Children's Health Initiative of Santa Barbara and LWVSB will host the event. Children's Health Initiatives across California work to enroll eligible children into public health insurance programs funded at the federal, state and local levels.

The program will feature three panelists: Lucien Wulsin Jr. and Ashley Cohen from the Insure the Uninsured Project (ITUP), and Herb Schultz from the San Francisco office of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. ITUP is a non-partisan health policy organization in Santa Monica. Their mission is to work with state policy makers, counties, health plans, employers, unions, community groups, providers, and others to increase coverage to California's uninsured.

This forum will provide an excellent opportunity for League members and the public to clear up the confusion about the new national health reform legislation. The panelists will provide accurate information about the bill's implementation and what it will mean to people in Santa Barbara County.

As LWVUS notes on its website, www.lwv.org, the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act is a first step to achieving reform of the health care system and it will take many years to be fully implemented with legislative and regulatory fixes along the way – at least through the year 2020. It is important for citizens to be educated on the changes that will impact them and their communities.

Refreshments will be served. For carpooling and program questions, call Carole Marks .

COME TO LEAGUE'S VOTER SERVICE FORUMS

The League will be sponsoring the following forums, providing information to the public about ballot measures and candidates running for office in the November 2 election.

- Sept. 25, Saturday: 2-4 p.m.
Pros and Cons of Statewide Ballot Measures
Faulkner Gallery, main library, 40 E. Anapamu St.
Featured speaker: Shane Stark
- Oct. 2, Saturday: 2-4 p.m.
Candidate Forum for Santa Barbara City College Board of Trustees
Faulkner Gallery, main library, 40 E. Anapamu St.
- Oct. 4, Monday: 7-9 p.m.
Candidate Forum for Goleta City Council
Goleta Valley Community Center
5679 Hollister Ave.
- Oct. 7, Thursday: 7-9 p.m.
Candidate Forum for State Assembly District 35
Goleta Valley Community Center
5679 Hollister Ave.
- Oct. 12, Tuesday: 6:30 p.m.
Candidate Forum for Board of Trustees, Montecito Union School District
Montecito Union School auditorium
385 San Ysidro Rd.,
co-sponsored with the school's PTA.

For updated information see www.smartvoter.org

Sandy Stites, Voter Service Director



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PLAN SANTA BARBARA: WHAT'S HAPPENING NOW?

The Santa Barbara City Council held a long meeting Aug. 3 to discuss about a dozen critical issues relating to Plan Santa Barbara (Plan SB). At that time there appeared to be very little consensus about what should be included in the Plan. Five votes (out of seven possible) will be needed for approval of Plan SB, which will guide the city's future for twenty years.

Although no further Council meetings are planned on the subject, a final draft is scheduled for presentation to the Council on Wednesday, Sept. 29, and Thurs., Sept. 30. There are serious questions about what will happen then. We encourage all League members to put these two dates on their calendars. The meetings, expected to start at 1 p.m., will be televised. Check the Plan SB website (www.youplansb.org) for the staff report and meeting location.

The Final Environmental Impact Report and a rewritten Plan Santa Barbara are expected to be released on Thursday, Sept. 16.

The city of Santa Barbara is overdue for an update of

their General Plan. Yet at this point, the Council has not even considered the Housing Element, a subsection of the General Plan, for which the state is requiring an update this year. The Council also has not agreed upon how much increased density they want to see downtown, a critical factor in the Plan. The current draft of the Plan contains a provision for creating more affordable housing by increasing the density in the downtown area. However, the League is concerned that anything built by private developers on the most expensive land in the city will not be affordable for most of the people who work in Santa Barbara.

In addition, an increased population would require more water, more waste removal and more of all the expensive city resources and services including fire and police protection. The League has steadily, over the past five years, urged the city to choose to live within its resources. We have long had a position supporting this principle, and the City Charter requires it.

Connie Hannah, Sustainable Communities Committee Chair

Great American Write-In and Stand Up For Choice

Stacy Shepherd, left, and Beth Pitton-August represented the League at the annual Great American Write-In at the Faulkner Gallery on Saturday August 28. Approximately 20 organizations in the Pro-Choice Coalition presented letters or petitions for members of the public to sign, which will be sent to legislators, Governor Schwarzenegger, President Obama, and other officials. The Coalition works to educate and mobilize the community in support of reproductive freedom.

Another facet of the event was a "Stand Up for Choice!" demonstration on State Street. Both the Santa Barbara League and the Santa Maria League participated, as did members of the public.

Also celebrated was the fact that August 26 was the 90th anniversary of the 19th Amendment, finally giving women in this country the right to vote. The 26th of August was designated Women's Equality Day by Congress in 1971.

"This Women's Equality Day, we take time to recognize not only the historic 19th Amendment, but the tremendous progress we've made over the last 90 years in expanding and protecting voting rights," wrote LWVUS President Elisabeth MacNamara. "Ninety-one years ago, as victory seemed imminent for the 19th Amendment, Carrie Chapman Catt proposed the founding of the League of Women Voters to 'finish the fight.' For 90 years, the League has kept that promise alive for each coming generation."



LEAGUE SUPPORTS MEASURE S FUNDING FOR NORTH COUNTY

The League of Women Voters of Santa Barbara supports Measure S, a proposed half-cent sales tax on the November 2 ballot, to pay for a new North County jail and related services. The LWV Santa Maria Valley also supports the measure. Measure S provides for a new 304-bed jail facility, which would increase community safety, and allow extended implementation of programs proven to reduce the rate of recidivism.

The measure would be funded by a dedicated half-cent sales tax beginning July 1, 2011, the same date the state's temporary 1 per cent sales tax expires. This would result in a net half-cent reduction in what we are currently paying in the county - from 8.75 to 8.25

percent. Measure S funds would be overseen by independent advisory committees, would sunset in 14 years, and all monies would be kept in Santa Barbara County.

Provisions of Measure S would also allow the county to accept \$56.3 million in state jail construction funds, which would boost the local economy with new construction and jobs, and would be funded by those who spend money in Santa Barbara County, including shoppers and tourists from out of the county.

In the October edition of the Channel Voter there will be an update on additional benefits connected with Measure S.

Toni Schultheis, Social Policy Director

LEAGUE ENDORSES SCHOOL BONDS: MEASURES Q AND R

The League has endorsed two Santa Barbara School Districts bond measures on the November ballot. Measure Q is a \$75 million facilities bond for the secondary district that includes 10,000 students from Goleta, Santa Barbara and Montecito. Measure R is a \$35 million facilities bond for the elementary district that includes 5,700 students in the city of Santa Barbara.

The proposed Measure Q (secondary schools) includes the following partial list of priorities:

- Repair or replace aging infrastructure like roofs and electrical, heating/ventilation and plumbing systems
- Improve energy efficiency including installation of solar energy systems
- Upgrade science and technology classrooms and labs
- Replace portable classrooms where needed
- Repair, replace or construct school kitchens where needed
- Improve security and safety systems.

In addition to the above priorities, the proposed Measure R (elementary schools) also includes the following priorities:

- Provide adequate libraries at all elementary schools
- Provide safe playground surfaces and equipment

At a time when state funding for school capital projects is nonexistent, the bonds raise local dollars for local school projects based on local priorities. No funding will be used for administrative salaries. The bond requires a 55% vote to pass. Current law requires the appointment of a citizens' oversight committee, and an annual independent financial audit will be conducted.

The proposed bond measures won't increase the current annual assessed tax rate being paid by voters who reside in the Santa Barbara School Districts. (The current rate in the secondary district is \$12.48 per \$100,000 of assessed value; and in the elementary district, \$13.98 per \$100,000 of assessed value.) The length of time of the current assessment will be extended to pay for the proposed projects.

This recommendation aligns with the LWV California Position on Education "...responsibility at the district level for utilizing available flexibility of funds to meet local priorities."

Nancy Harter, Chair, Education Committee

ED FUND NEWS

At its annual meeting, the LWVSB Education Fund Board of Directors reelected the following officers for the 2010-2011 year: Irene Stone, President; Connie Hannah, Vice-President; Janet Graham, Secretary; and Dawn Kirchner, Treasurer. Directors Connie Hannah, Tom Heck, and Stacy Shepherd were elected to another 2-year term to serve with Jean Holmes, Barbara Lindemann, Ann Lorimer, and Shane Stark.

As the election season approaches, the Board reaffirmed its support of the Voter Service activities currently being organized, including candidate forums, "Touring with the Candidates" videos, and

the www.SmartVoter.org website.

The Board also expressed its appreciation of those members who included contributions with their membership forms as well as a special vote of gratitude to Ecco Ochoa, who designated the Ed Fund as a recipient of gifts in honor of her 90th birthday. Thank you again, Ecco, for such a thoughtful gesture.

Please feel free to contact me any time with questions or comments about the Ed Fund. (Reminder: all gifts are tax-deductible to the full extent of the law.)

Irene Stone, President, LWVSB EF
famstone5@gmail.com

COASTAL ISSUES

The League's South Central Coast Environmental Task Force (SCCETF) had an interesting meeting last month. There were nine members in attendance, including three from the LVW San Luis Obispo.

We talked about legislation, both federal and state, noting proposals related to offshore oil, prohibition of plastic bags, coordination of ocean resource conservation programs and once-through cooling water at power plants. We heard that SLO County is working on an ordinance to protect their coastal viewshed, and has yet to achieve a plan to satisfy new state regulations on non-point source water pollution.

Julie Bursek of the Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary talked about their program to combat ocean

acidification, a serious problem caused by the increase in carbon dioxide in the atmosphere. A report generated locally, under the auspices of the sanctuary, has led to the adoption by all 13 national marine sanctuaries of some form of action in this regard. As part of its research function, the Sanctuary will build baseline data sets and monitor changes. In their educational capacity, they will present the information to the public in a variety of ways.

If this Task Force sounds like something you would like to participate in, I would be happy to put you on my e-mail/telephone list.

Jean Holmes, Chair, SCCETF
jeanholmes@earthlink.net



Several members of the League who have belonged for 50 years and longer attended the Annual Meeting at the Holiday Inn. Pictured are, from left, Harriett Phillips, Ecco Ochoa, Eileen Clark, Carnzu Clark and Ann Baird.

Photo by Bonnie Jensen

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

As the new Membership Chair, I am happy to say hello to all members. Since 2010 is a busy election year, I see many new members coming our way. There is nothing like a complicated group of propositions to spark interest in clear, concise and accurate information. And, no organization does a better job of presenting information in this way than the League of Women Voters of Santa Barbara.

I want to thank Joanie Jones for the excellent job she did as the previous membership chair. This past year Suzanne Brothen assisted Joanie. Together they have kept all membership activities humming along. Herb Linville and his team have been stuffing membership mailings as well. Thank you to all of you for a wonderful job. The best news for me is that the whole team is continuing to work together this year.

The first of August we mailed out 277 renewal letters. Happily, we have received about 100 responses with

payments at this point. Thank you to all who have already sent in renewal payments. It is these payments that pay the bills and keep our league functioning. Membership in our League renews each September.

I encourage those who have not yet put that envelope in the mail to do so. As my letter said, "It is that TIME AGAIN!" Please send your renewal of membership, \$60, or \$90 for 2 in a household, to LWV of Santa Barbara, 328 E. Carrillo St, Suite A, Santa Barbara, CA 93101.

If you have any changes in your mailing, email address or phone numbers please let us know ASAP. Using your renewal payment envelope is an excellent way to do this. We merge the information on your renewal envelope with local and national databases.

Thank you all for your cooperation!

Amanda Pelch, Membership Director, 452-5804

New Members:

- Eleanor York
- Gary Atkins
- Galen Stucky
- Kent Hodgetts
- Irene Parris Cunningham
- Harriett Rogers
- Robert Anderson

Member Changes:

- Carmela Galvez Carreño
- Amanda Pelch
- Arlene Russin
- Kathy Snow
- Darlena Moore
- Ruth & John Ackerman
- Joan Hebert

In Memoriam: Two longtime League members have passed away recently, Beatrice Rosales and May Saxe. Our sympathy goes out to their families and friends.

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. Contact Joanie Jones - 683-1937.*

CALENDAR

SEPTEMBER 2010

- 10th Friday: League Board meeting, 10 a.m.**
League Office, 328 A East Carrillo St.
- 13th Monday: What Health Reform Means to You, 5:30 - 7 p.m., Franklin Neighborhood Center,**
1136 East Montecito St. A community educational forum sponsored by The Children's Health Initiative of Santa Barbara County and by LWVB. (See page 3 for details) Contact Carole Marks.
- 15th Wednesday: Community Forum, Ballot Measures - Vote with the League! 12 - 2 p.m.**
Louise Lowry Davis Center - De La Vina & Victoria streets. Bring a brown bag lunch; beverage and cookies provided. Public welcome, free.
- 25th Saturday: Pros and Cons of Statewide Ballot Measures, 2 - 4 p.m.** Faulkner Gallery, main library, 40 E. Anapamu St.

There will be no units in September.

OCTOBER 2010

- 2nd Saturday, Candidate Forum: Board of Trustees, Santa Barbara City College, 2 - 4 p.m., Faulkner Gallery, main library, 40 E. Anapamu St.**
- 4th Monday, Candidate Forum: Goleta City Council, 7 - 9 p.m., Goleta Valley Community Center, 5679 Hollister Ave.**
- 5th Tuesday, Supper Unit, 5:30 p.m., Madam Lu's Restaurant, 3524 State St.**
- 6th Wednesday, Carpinteria Unit, 10 a.m.**
Carpinteria Women's Club, 1059 Vallecito Rd.
Chair: Barbara Godley.
- 6th Wednesday, Evening Unit, 7:30 p.m., Sheila Kamhi's home, 1040 Portesuello Ave., Co-chairs,**
Pat Shewczyk and Sheila Kamhi.
- 7th Thursday, Candidate Forum for State Assembly District 35, 7 - 9 p.m., Goleta Valley Community Center, 5679 Hollister Ave.**

Remember to check <http://lwvsantabarbara.org> for latest event information, and <http://smartvoter.org> for Voter Service Forums.



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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