



CHANNEL VOTER

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF SANTA BARBARA

Serving South Santa Barbara County



Vol. 72, No. 9, SEPTEMBER 2012

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September Community Forum: What the League Recommends for the November Election - and Why

Wednesday, Sept. 19, noon - 2 p.m. Free and open to the public.

Louise Lowry Davis Community Center, 1232 De La Vina St.

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This fall's election will have a long ballot, and as usual, the League has taken stands on several of the statewide and local ballot measures. Come learn about the issues and the reasons for our recommendations.

We are pleased to announce that our featured speakers on the state propositions will be **Tom Carson**, treasurer of the League of Women Voters of California, and **Chris Carson**, campaign finance/redistricting program director for LWVC. Chris is also our local League's management training advisor - our liaison from the state League - so many of you may have met her and Tom at trainings and other events.

State Propositions

Of the 11 state propositions, we support two, oppose three, and are either neutral or have no positions on the rest.

We recommend a YES vote on Proposition 30 (schools and local public safety protection), Proposition 34 (SAFE California), and Proposition 40 (referendum on redistricting).

We recommend a NO vote on Proposition 31 (government performance and accountability) and Proposition 32 (special exemptions).

Wait! *We support two and oppose three, but recommend YES on three and NO on two?* How can that be? See the "League Recommends" on page 5, and look at Prop. 40. To *keep* the state Senate districts as drawn by the Citizens Redistricting Commission (which we support), you must vote YES on the referendum (which we oppose)! It's counter-intuitive, but that's how it works for referenda.

The League occasionally takes a neutral position on ballot measures that deal with issues we have studied, either because there are conflicting League positions or because there are aspects to a measure which in our judgment make our support or opposition inappropriate.

The League remains neutral on Propositions 38 and 39. Because Prop. 38 involves many of the same issues as Prop. 30—which we support—we will explain it at our forum.

The League has not studied the issues in the following measures, and so has no recommendation on Proposi-

tion 33 (Auto Insurance Rates), Proposition 35 (Human Trafficking), Proposition 36 (Three Strikes Reform), and Proposition 37 (Genetically Engineered Foods).

Local Ballot Measures

LWVSB supports Goleta Agricultural Land Protection Initiative, Measure G2012, City of Goleta.

Cynthia Brock, former Goleta City Council member and League member, will explain what the Goodland Coalition's initiative on the Goleta ballot is designed to accomplish. Cynthia is on the Coalition's steering committee. See additional information on page 7.

LWVSB supports School Parcel Tax Measures, A and B2012.

The Santa Barbara Unified School District needs passage of two ballot measures, Measures A2012 (secondary schools, the entire district) and B2012 (elementary, SB City residents only), to continue classroom programs funded by similar taxes that expire next year. The League supported the 2008 measures, which were passed overwhelmingly and have greatly benefitted students. The tax rates for these have been reduced since they narrowly failed to pass in June (as Measures W and X), with a two-thirds vote required.

Tish Gainey, Santa Barbara Education Foundation board member, will explain how this funding will be used. (See complete details on page 7. The schools badly need a more stable source of local funding because of continuing cuts in state funding. Because the measures require a two-thirds vote, we will want to campaign actively for them.

Bring your own brown bag lunch; cookies and beverages will be provided. The forum is free and open to the public. Parking is also free.

*Linda Phillips, State and National Action
Connie Hannah, Sustainable Communities
Committee Chair*

**Coming in October:
A Unit Near You
Details on Page 4**

Message from your Co-Presidents

Joanie Jones

It is my pleasure to join Beth Pitton-August as Co-President of the LWVSB for **Membership, Administration and Community Education** during this 2012-2013 fiscal year. In mentioning the following activities, I want you to know that if your interest is piqued, we welcome your involvement.

Your participation is vital. You fill the Discussion Unit meetings with lively and thoughtful conversation; you attend the monthly Community Forums to keep informed; you utilize and share Voter Service resources to cast an informed vote. You are the members, who make up the committees, who present information that will help us find consensus on the LWVC "Initiative and Referendum Study."

Our teams have used the summer months well. Voter Service is busy scheduling voter registration, Election Forums and Ballot Measure information sessions. In addition, they trained for SmartVoter.org work at the local level with Frances Talbot-White, LWVC SmartVoter liaison for Leagues in Southern California.

Our membership team mailed out member renewal letters. And thanks to V.P. Janice Rorick, you have received an updated Member Interest Survey and *Opportunity Is Knocking* brochure which both include some of our newest topics of study.

We include in this newsletter a summary of events that occurred since the last newsletter--our May 6 annual fundraising event, The Garden Party, and our Annual Meeting. The many members involved in these events deserve bouquets of Thank You's.

The Annual Meeting, which is planned at the same time as the Garden Party, involved research work on the Bylaws, elections of officers, adoption of our budget and a concurrence on a new local position on the Criminal Justice System, as well as a fine speaker, Mary Watkins. The June 16 Annual Meeting/luncheon was fun and accomplished much for our new League year. Our new board, with our off-board chairs, has been busy planning the initial calendar for this semester.

You are invited to share in planning and participating in all events and forums. Our Nominating Committee members Ann Lorimer, Margaret Roff, Mary Rose and Amanda Pelch are ready to hear from you about how you want to be involved.

In this new and exciting General Election year I want to thank you for helping in all those little and big ways that



Beth Pitton-August

Joanie Jones

you do as members. We are in this together and your participation is appreciated and needed. I extend a welcome and encourage you to join in active participation and hope you will jump into the new League year with gusto... and invite a friend!

Remember to return your Interest Survey whether or not you have a specific interest at this time. Please note on the top part of the survey that you have time to help; or call the office to volunteer throughout the year.

Beth Pitton-August

As Co-President for **Program and Action**, I welcome you to a New League Year! At the 2012 Annual Meeting I was pleased to report LWVSB progress on three key areas, the 3Ms:

- Membership
- Media
- Money

In 2011-2012, we made progress in building our membership, expanding media attention, and raising money. For example, as of April 16 our membership had increased 17.6% over last year – with 35 new members and five renewals of inactive members. Your LWVSB Board will continue to focus on each of these three areas in 2012-2013, and we need your help to do it. That means inviting your friends to join, getting involved in League events and programs, and promoting League Voter Service resources such as candidate forums, voter registration (National Voter Registration Day is Sept. 25), Vote411 and Smart Voter. Also, remember to “like” us on Facebook and “share” links with friends. Your help can

(Continued on page 3)

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Message from your Co-Presidents *(Continued)*

also mean getting engaged on a deeper level in LWVSB policy-making. Toward that end, we are forming a Bylaws Committee and a Long-term Planning Task Force focused on the 3Ms. The first meeting on Long-Term Planning will take place in October. The work of this group will compliment our new Finance Committee, which met for the first time on Aug. 1. The Finance Committee currently consists of Board members from both the LWVSB and LWVSB Ed Fund. This committee was formed to consider a number of issues, including Advisement to the Board. For example, Connie Hannah advised that we consider very carefully before we convert LWVSB to 501 (c) 3 status, as had been presented as an option by LWVC Treasurer Tom Carson.

With that, and after careful due diligence, the Finance Committee recommended against such a conversion. The LWVSB Board, at its August 2012 meeting, agreed. Also, the Finance Committee is reviewing Barbara Margerum's Advisement to the Board that we consider offering two or more levels of membership to help raise income. There is much more to discuss! If you are interested in participating in the Bylaws Committee, Long-term Planning Task Force or the Finance Committee, please contact me at bbpitt@ gmail.com.

In addition to these discussions, I am looking forward to an exciting 2012-2013 League Program that includes Community Forums this fall on Ballot Measures, Ethics Codes in Government (in response to Marty Blum's Advisement to the Board that League consider

advocating for an ethics code for the city of Santa Barbara), and the Affordable Care Act, with the Children's Health Initiative of Santa Barbara (CHISB) co-sponsoring.

Also, in the wake of major shootings across the United States and in response to Dorie Kirtman's Advisement to the Board that we promote League's position on Gun Control, LWVSB will co-sponsor a special forum on "GUNS IN AMERICA – Easy Access to Deadly Weapons – AT WHAT COST," with the Coalition Against Gun Violence (date in early 2013 TBD).

One more thing, I would like to extend a heartfelt thanks to our sponsors and volunteers for the 2012 Garden Party. Your dedication and support helped the LWVSB recognize our strong and growing contingency of "Men of the League" and celebrate our core belief that, "we are all in this together." The message resonated; three new members joined at the Garden Party!

With so many issues at stake today, and with such divisive discourse in the public sphere, "together" continues to resonate for me when I think about the difference League can make. Every day I see how fragile our democracy is, yet how strong when we work and learn together – and exercise our rights together. The League of Women Voters is a place where hands-on work to safeguard democracy leads to civic improvement. Thank you for your commitment to make the LWV a trustworthy safeguard of our democracy. I look forward to working with each of you this year.



Men of the League honored at Garden Party



*Speaker Mary Watkins
at the Annual Meeting*

Coming in October: A Unit Near You

One of the goals of this year's League Board is to increase attendance at unit meetings. We have scheduled four units at different locations and different times—morning, noon, supertime and in the evening. LWV members can attend whatever unit's time and location suits them.

There are no units in September or December, but there will be meetings again in October and November, then resuming in January.

Evening Unit: first Wednesday of the month, 7:30 p.m., rotating between Pat Shewczyk's and Sheila Kamhi's homes. Contact Pat, or Sheila.

Supper Unit: Madame Lu's Restaurant, first Tuesday of the month, 5:30 p.m. Contact Karen Bunker, 967-0838.

Carpinteria Unit: second Wednesday of the month, 10 a.m., Carpinteria Women's Club, 1059 Vallecito Road. Contact Barbara Godley, 969-9942.

Valle Verde Unit, second Monday of the month, noon to 2 p.m., new location in private dining room off breezeway (parking in front parking lot), 900 Calle de los Amigos. Contact Joan Kerns.

Pat Shewczyk, Unit Coordinator

Education Fund Board Elected

At its July 19 annual meeting, the Education Fund elected this slate of officers: Shane Stark, president; Irene Stone, vice-president; Ann Heck, secretary, and Dawn Kirchner, treasurer. Dick Jensen was elected to the board, and joins continuing members Janet Graham, Tom Heck, Jean Holmes, Joanie Jones and Ann Lorimer.

The board expressed its thanks to Barbara Lindemann, who is leaving the board, and to Irene Stone for her leadership as Ed Fund president. We are looking forward to a busy election season and hope there will be good attendance and participation in the candidate forums and ballot measure programs.

Shane Stark, Education Fund president

Thank You to League Friends

Garden Party supporters and volunteers: Jane Benefield, found Lions Park; Vicki Allen, Deborah Slaght, Alice Edwards, Bonnie & Dick Jensen, Charlene Little and Janice Rorick prepared the bulk mailing; Erin Jensen designed event logo; Patron thank yous, Bonnie Jensen and Joanie Jones; others on the day of event were Amanda Pelch, welcome table, Tom Heck & Bill Marks on music, Linda Gardy, Sojourner Kincaid-Rolle, Rod Rolle (photo), Joanie Jones, Janice Rorick, Berry Man (dessert); Phyllis Brocato, Dorothy Campbell and Donna Jordan on the Mini Farmers Market; Patricia Reilly Stark, Bonnie Jensen; Janice Rorick on set up and cleanup and flowers; Dorothy Campbell for procuring the flowers, and Janice Rorick on program and invitation design.

Donors: Roxana Anson, Virginia Baker, Gene and Sandra Baum, Mary & Gary Becker, Patricia Bennett, Jude & Mary Blau, Marty & Joe Blum, Cynthia Brock, Roy & Charlotte Buchman, Dorothy & Foster Campbell, Claire Chytilo, Carnzu Clark, Betty Gerig, Ghita Ginberg, Barbara Godley, Judy & Jim Graves, Connie & Bob Hannah, Joan Hebert, Anne & Tom Heck, Julianne Heyman, Carol Hiestand Jean Holmes, Jane Honikman, Elaine Iddings, Bonnie & Dick Jensen, Joanie & Colin Jones, Virginia Jones, Sheila Kamhi, Joan & George Kerns, Deirdre Kieckhefer, Beverly & Hartley King, Linda Krop, Martha Lannan, Charlene Little, Sheila Lodge, Ann Lorimer, Barbara & Don Margerum, William & Carole Marks, Gail Marshall, Linda Mayo, Charleen Mee, Joanne & Paul Nay, Lessie Nixon, Janet & Donald O'Dowd, Amanda Pelch, Linda Phillips, Beth Pitton-August, Lolly Quackenbush, Jean Reiche, Patricia & Shane Stark, Reilly Stark, Harriett Rogers, SB Women's Political Committee, Susan Shank, Stacy Shepherd, Pat Shewczyk, Andrea Smith, Ted & Kay Stern, Sandy & Robert Stites, Irene & Robert Stone, Lawrence Wallin, Deborah Winant, Heidi Jensen Winston, and Chuck & Deborah Wolfe.

Co-Presidents Joanie Jones and Beth Pitton-August

Your New Electronic Messages

If you have an email address, you should have gotten your first electronic message from your League via Constant Contact. If you get email but didn't see it, maybe we got your address wrong or it went into your spam box.

Let us know about any corrections (League@lwvsantabarbara.org) and be sure to let your email provider know this is not spam. Of course, if you don't want to get these emails, go to the bottom of the message and opt out. But we hope you'll want to continue getting these messages.

This new form of communication will not be replacing the Channel Voter, membership renewal letters and other forms of printed materials that you will continue to receive by regular mail. But you will also be getting the Voter electronically so you can have the information sooner.

Emailed messages allow you to find out what's happening right away—which is especially important when you need to know about events or calls for action. This format will also allow you to easily share information with your friends, by just forwarding the message. Of course we are hoping that will help convince them to join the League if they aren't already members. If you are on Facebook or Twitter, you can also share information by clicking on the links at the top of the message.

So keep an eye out for these periodic communications. Hopefully you will appreciate the useful and timely information you are getting from your League.

Vicki Allen, Channel Voter Editor/Publicity



PROP 30 Schools and Local Public Safety Protection Act YES

Proposition 30 begins to move California toward financial stability and adequate funding for all the services we want from our government; we can't continue to cut vital public services like schools and public safety. This measure will provide some much needed income from a temporary increase in income tax rates for the wealthy and a modest temporary sales tax increase. The plan is a part of a balanced approach to eliminating our deficit that includes \$8 billion in cuts, \$6 billion in new revenues, and \$2.5 billion in loans, deferrals, etc., this year. Proposition 30 also guarantees a stable source of funding for counties to pay for their new public safety responsibilities such as housing low-level prisoners and providing substance abuse treatment.

PROP 31 Government Performance and Accountability Act NO

Proposition 31 is based on good intentions and has some pieces that, taken alone, the League could support. However, Prop 31 has several significant flaws. There are questions about whether or not the provisions allow local governments to suspend state environmental requirements. What is clear is that there will be significant legal uncertainty, and years of litigation. In addition, the measure prescribes the specific manner of state and local government budgeting and puts this process into the state constitution. Prop 31 has other questionable provisions, such as establishing a significant shift of power over appropriations to the governor at times of fiscal emergency.

PROP 32 Special Exemptions Act NO

This measure is not the campaign finance reform measure its proponents say it is. Proposition 32 promises "political reform" but is really designed by special interests to help themselves and harm their opponents. It looks like a campaign finance reform measure but unfairly targets one set of large campaign donors while giving other donors unlimited power. Its ban on payroll deductions for political giving will affect unions but not corporations, and even the restriction it places on contributions to candidates by corporations is full of loophole exemptions. It does not fix the problem of money in politics; Super PACs and independent expenditure committees will continue to spend without limitation.

PROP 34 SAFE California Act YES

The SAFE California Act will replace the death penalty in California with a sentence of life in prison without the possibility of parole. Convicted killers will stay in prison for the rest of their lives, eliminating the possibility of executing an innocent person in California. This will save over \$100 million every year—because the court and incarceration costs are so much higher for prisoners at risk for a death penalty. \$100 million of these savings will be allocated over the next four years to pay for increased investigation of unsolved rape and murder cases. Convicted killers will be required to work and pay restitution into a victims' compensation fund.

PROP 40 Referendum on Redistricting YES

We strongly urge a "YES" vote on this referendum on the state Senate maps drawn by the independent Citizens Redistricting Commission. The question on a referendum is not intuitive; it asks if you want to retain the new law, or in this case, the maps drawn by the Citizens Redistricting Commission. So vote YES to affirm the maps drawn by the Citizens Redistricting Commission, YES—in support of the Commission, YES—to validate the open, transparent process, YES—to retain fair districts.

VOTE WITH THE LEAGUE ON NOVEMBER 6!

Adequate revenue to provide for the public good is critically needed. The League supports Prop 30 on this ballot as the best way to provide some relief from the endless cutting of vital government services. We see some merit in the following two measures, Props 38 and 39, but have taken a neutral position on them because of their earmarking of revenues.

PROP 38 Tax for Education and Early Childhood Programs NEUTRAL

We are neutral on Our Children, Our Future, the measure supported by the California State PTA and activist Molly Munger. It provides significant funding for education and early childhood programs. In addition, for the first four years, this measure provides money to help the other underfunded government services. However, in the longer term, it earmarks essentially all the new money for education and early childhood programs. These programs definitely deserve to be adequately funded, but so do all of the government programs we support, from mental health programs to the court system to childcare.

PROP 39 Tax Treatment for Multistate Businesses NEUTRAL

This measure will close a tax loophole for multistate businesses, generating revenues of about \$1 billion per year—a good thing. However, it earmarks about half the new revenue for the first five years, so that portion can only be used for energy efficiency and alternative energy projects. We are neutral on this proposition because we believe new revenue for the state should be available for all of the programs funded by state revenue—schools, law enforcement, health care, jobs programs, the judiciary system.

The League has not studied the issues in the following measures, and so has **no recommendation** on **Proposition 33** (Auto Insurance Rates), **Proposition 35** (Human Trafficking), **Proposition 36** (Three Strikes Reform), and **Proposition 37** (Genetically Engineered Foods).

VOTE WITH THE LEAGUE ON NOVEMBER 6!

LOCAL MEASURES

**The League of Women Voters
of Santa Barbara RECOMMENDS:**

Goleta Agricultural Land Protection Initiative Measure G2012, City of Goleta
Yes on School Parcel Tax Measures, A2012 and B2012

The League Recommends

Two Santa Barbara Schools Measures on Ballot

At the general election on November 6, 2012, voters will be asked to approve two educational parcel tax measures, A2012 and B2012.

Measure A2012

Residents of the entire Santa Barbara Unified School District (SBUSD) will be asked to vote on whether to approve a secondary education parcel tax for the purpose of providing quality education programs to nearly 10,000 students attending local junior and senior high schools. Under Measure A2012, if passed by two-thirds of the voters, each parcel of real property in the district will be assessed \$45 per year for four years, beginning July 1, 2013. An exemption is available for seniors 65 years and older.

Measure B2012

Residents in the City of Santa Barbara will be asked to vote on whether to approve an elementary education parcel tax for the purpose of continuing quality education programs to more than 5,500 students served by SBUSD elementary schools. Under Measure B2012, if passed by two-thirds of the voters, each parcel of real property in the elementary school service area (comprising the former elementary district prior to unification) will be assessed \$48 per year for four years, beginning July 1, 2013. An exemption is available for seniors 65 years and older.

The current measures will replace the funding provided by previously approved Measures H & I, overwhelmingly supported by the voters in 2008 and scheduled to expire in June 2013. Measures H & I funded critical programs at both the elementary and secondary levels that have provided a quality comprehensive education to Santa Barbara area students.

Local support for public education is necessary for valuable programs to continue and improve. Faced with increasingly severe cuts to state funding, SBUSD needs a stable source of local funding to continue and enhance

valuable elementary and secondary education programs critical to student success.

Measure A2012 (secondary) will continue essential math, science and technology programs; music, art and theatre programs; vital foreign language courses; and provide updated computer and educational technologies plus added career skill courses for job readiness.

Measure B2012 (elementary) will continue essential math and science programs; standards based music education for all elementary students; maintenance of class sizes that foster academic success; updated computer and educational technologies and the retention of quality teachers.

Measures A2012 and B2012 provide local funding with local control and oversight. The funds cannot be taken by the state and cannot be spent on administrator salaries and benefits. Passage of the measures requires that an independent citizen oversight committee be formed to monitor how the funds are spent.

Without the passage of Measures A2012 and B2012, the successful programs initially funded by Measures H & I will cease to exist. Our children are our future and they deserve high quality schools that will provide a comprehensive education that will prepare them for college and career and ultimately success in life.

In the June primary election, two similar parcel tax measures, W and X, came very close to passing, just missing the two-thirds threshold. The current measures, A and B, will continue the same educational program funding as W and X, but the School Board agreed to lower the per parcel tax rate from those stated in W and X and they did this by removing the cost of some class size reduction.

*Tish Gainey,
Santa Barbara Education Foundation Board Member
Marge Gordon, Education Chair*

The Goleta Agricultural Initiative

At its August meeting, the League Board voted to support the Goleta Agricultural Land Protection Initiative, Measure G 2012, City of Goleta, on the November Goleta ballot. The League's long standing position calls for "Preservation, to the maximum extent possible, of the special character of the South Coast area and its existing quality of life, including prime agricultural lands, which should be protected."

This initiative identifies the affected lands as heritage farmlands over 10 acres in size. The Goodland Coalition campaign collected 2100 signatures and then was supported by a \$10,000 grant from the Fund for Santa Barbara. It has been endorsed by the Sierra Club, Citizens Planning Association and the Environmental Defense Center.

The measure provides that whenever the Goleta City Council approves a project that requires a rezoning of agricultural land, it will need to be approved by a vote of the people. This measure is very similar to the SOAR Initiative which passed in Ventura County. That law successfully protected many large farms from development. In that county about half of the rezones were approved and about half were rejected.

Connie Hannah, Sustainable Communities Committee Chair

Voter Service

Ballot Information

If you belong to a group that would like our Speakers' Bureau make a presentation of Pros & Cons on the November ballot measures, please call Susan Shank or Sandy Stites.

The printed Pros & Cons should be available shortly, and a supply will be in the League Office. Your help in distributing these booklets will be much appreciated. Just sign the sheet in the League office indicating how many booklets you are taking, and where you are delivering them.

Other public forums—all starting at 2 p.m. at the Faulkner Gallery of the Santa Barbara Central Library—are:

Santa Barbara City College Board of Trustees: Brian Fay and Craig Nielsen--Saturday, Sept. 15.

State Assembly 37th District: Rob Walter and Das Williams – Saturday, Sept. 22.

19th District State Senate: Hannah-Beth Jackson and Mike Stoker – Saturday, Sept. 29.

Santa Barbara Unified School District: Ed Heron, Lou Segal, Gayle Eidelson, and Pedro Paz--date to be determined.

Your participation in these public forums is very helpful. Volunteers are always needed: as timers, for handing out programs, and collecting audience questions. Please let me know what you can do!

Sandy Stites, Voter Service Co-Chair

What You Can Do

Help Register People on National Voter Registration Day: Sept. 25

National Voter Registration Day—on Sept. 25—is a nationwide initiative to register eligible voters. LWVSB is inviting you and your friends to help in this crucial effort. Please let me know if you will be able to volunteer at least three hours on that day to help register local voters.

Training will be provided for those who have never before registered voters. E-mail - janror@aol.com, phone - 962-7961, or send a Facebook message to Janice Mayfield Rorick. LWVSB will be cooperating with AAUW and other local organizations in this effort.

In 2008, six million Americans didn't vote because they missed a registration deadline or didn't know how to register. In 2012, we want to make sure no one is left out. Civic groups and organizations from all over the country will "hit the streets" on Sept. 25. We hope that this single day of coordinated field, technology and media efforts will create pervasive awareness of voter registration opportunities - allowing us to reach tens of thousands of voters or more who we could not reach otherwise.

Learn more at the website: nationalvoterregistrationday.org

Janice Rorick, Voter Service Co-Chair

Answer Questions From Voters

From now until the Nov. 6 election, voters with questions will be calling the League office. If you can volunteer for even short periods of time to answer the office phone, call Sheila or leave a message at 965-2422. Since the office has a wireless network, you can work on your laptop while waiting for the phone to ring.

Sheila Kamhi, Office Manager



Learn About the Regional Transportation Plan

Would you like to join a group learning about the Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) and about how you can impact its progress?

The RTP is “ a long-range planning document that defines how the region plans to invest in its transportation over the next 20 years.” According to California law (SB375), a component of this Plan will be a development pattern for the region to reduce greenhouse gases. This strategy will have the goal of integrating transportation, housing and land use to meet the state required reduction. This is a statewide measure to reduce California greenhouse gas emissions.

We would follow current decisions made by county transportation staffs during meetings. There is material available to assimilate as this RTP has been in effect for a while. We would meet to discuss these materials at a time and place convenient to committee members. If you have time, there will be some SBCAG Board and transportation committee meetings you can attend. There is a draft analysis online if you want to look at it (32 pages).

The goal of our committee is to be able to inform our members about what is happening, through our discussion units and Voter articles, to inform the public through letters, and to add our input to the county’s proposals.

Please let me know if you have questions or are interested: sckamhi@cox.net; 682-0757.

Sheila Kamhi, Transportation Chair

Volunteer for Initiative and Referendum Study

Volunteers are needed for our local participation in the League's statewide study on reform of the initiative and referendum process. Being on a study committee is a fun and worthwhile way for new members to learn about the League, and a great way for long-time members to make a difference using their skills.

We will be updating our old position so that we will be able to act on new problems. The scope: a study of the initiative and referendum processes in California, including a review of the current system and proposals for reform. The study will include:

- a review of the current LWVC position on the Initiative and Referendum Process
- the history of initiative and referendum, with a focus on

California

- how the initiative and referendum processes have changed and are changing
- identification of key issues for California
- ideas for change and reform of the initiative and referendum processes

The study guide and consensus questions have already been developed by the state League's study committee, and consensus is due the end of March. So our local committee needs to begin its work this fall, probably shortly after the election, and we'll have a Community Forum and consensus discussion units in the spring.

Linda Phillips, State and National Action Chair

Sorry, No More Summer Vacations

The Sustainable Communities Committee thought things would be pretty slow in July, so we decided not to meet that month. Wrong! As it turned out, we needed three League statements that month, had four major meetings to attend, and one fall initiative to discuss.

League's first statement was written for a state hearing on fracking regulations held in Santa Maria. The Santa Maria League signed onto our statement and it was read by a Santa Maria League member. In addition, Linda Phillips made the state League comments at the same hearing. Many north county residents attended and testified about their concerns. Los Alamos is where the first known horizontal fracking occurred in our county and that led to the Board of Supervisors including fracking in its permitting process.

Linda reported that as a result of the Environmental Defense Center comments, and those of LWVC, the state agency's presentation at this hearing was much better than the one at the Ventura hearing earlier. We will wait to see whether all the good testimony will help us get statewide regulations to make sure any fracking that is permitted in California is done without damage to the environment.

At the City of Santa Barbara's hearing on its Climate Action Plan, the League had a chance to congratulate the city on all efforts they have already made to reduce their carbon footprint, and encouraged them to continue with their planned future efforts.

The Planning Commission of the City of Santa Barbara also held a long discussion about the density increases the city will give to builders of small rental units or employer sponsored housing. The League statement had raised several questions in advance, and these were included in the discussion. Final conclusions about inclusionary units and open space requirements will be discussed further by the Commission in September.

At a meeting of the Cities/County Affordable Housing Task Force, the county presented the results from the 2010 Census Report. Probably the most important change was that north county has grown by 26 percent, and the south county by one percent. The League understands that this affects the distribution of federal funds that is based on population, as well as other issues.

Sustainable Communities also discussed the Goleta Agricultural Land Protection Initiative, City of Goleta which will be on the fall ballot, and decided that we could recommend supporting it to the League Board. The Board voted to support it at its August meeting.

We will continue to follow these issues, and have a substantial list of other issues that will be coming soon. If you would like to participate in those discussions, we will be meeting on Friday, Sept 14 in the Encina Royale Clubhouse at 10 a.m. and you are welcome to join us.

Connie Hannah, Sustainable Communities Committee Chair

LWV National Convention - 2012

The LWV national convention was held June 8 – 12 this year in Washington DC. Our local co-presidents, Beth Piton-August and Joanie Jones, and State and National Action Director Linda Phillips attended. The convention is split between topic informational caucuses, formal LWV governance sessions, and social fun, but it runs full bore from 7:30 in the morning to 10:30 at night for five days.

As you might expect a major issue this year was campaign PAC money and the Supreme Court Citizens United decision. Caucuses discussed the League support of laws for full disclosure of large donors to PACs and whether a constitutional amendment was the only way to limit corporate political financial influence. The governance meetings got involved in whether immediate action could be taken nationally now under former action studies or whether several years of local league studies were needed.

The LWVUS has been actively working to defend the voters against state laws that will disenfranchise them with voter ID laws.



A guest speaker was Kathleen Hall Jamieson, professor of communication and director of the Annenberg Public Policy Center at the University of Pennsylvania, who discussed slanted and false political ads and their effect. She said one thing citizens can do is to ask local stations to stop airing strongly false, non-candidate, political ads. She helped find two web sites to check the validity of ads, FactCheck.org for factuality and FlackCheck.org for excessive slant. TV and radio stations cannot censor or refuse official candidate ads – "I, so and so, approve this ad"-- but they can refuse to play political party ads and third party (PAC) ads. She asked us to fact check ads that bother us, and e-mail the station the results and the link to the rules allowing them to refuse to play false third party ads.

The caucuses were topic meetings set up by state Leagues. They provided information for conducting your own local studies, got you up to date on developments, and gave you contacts for more help. But, there were so many that they ran in parallel from early morning to late at night. We hit topics like campaign finance reform, global warming (sponsored by the California delegation), the farm bill, food safety, leadership training, local meetings for consensus positions....

You could get overwhelmed until it hits you again that these are all real issues that we need to learn about or review our positions on and act on responsibly to preserve our democracy.

Colin Jones, League Member

How to Contact Your Elected Officials

County Board of Supervisors

Salud Carbajal, 1st District: 568-2186; SupervisorCarbajal@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

Joe Armendariz: JoeArmendariz@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 dues letters were mailed to renewing members in early August 2012. The payments of dues have been coming in steadily. Thank you for your prompt attention. Please be sure to send in your Member Survey; this helps our leadership know what each of you can do to assist our League. Thank you to those who helped fold, stuff and label renewal letters: Joanie Jones, Herb Linville, Vicki Allen, Lorraine Cass, Alice Edwards and Ginny Crane. Many hands make light work!

Everyone should know that our dues are what fund LWVSB's operations. Our local League then pays dues to the California League and to the National League. These payments are based on the number of members we have. We currently have 267 members. Every few years the State and National Leagues have increased their cost per member. We on the other hand, have not increased our dues in over seven years. Today we keep only \$5 of the \$60 annual dues cost per member. In these current economic times no one wants to raise our dues. **We ask all members who are able to please put in a few extra dollars for our general operating costs.**

To refresh everyone's memory we have four different types of members: Regular members who pay \$60 annual dues; Family Members who pay an additional \$30 for each additional householder; Student members who pay \$30 annual dues, and Life members who may pay no dues. Life members are those who have been members 50 years or more. Scholarships are available; they must be requested and approved. We require anyone who receives a scholarship to be participating regularly in League activities. Under consideration is making a nominal charge for scholarships.

The question is: where do we get our money to operate? The answer: dues, fundraising activities, donations, income reimbursement from the Education Fund and drawing monies from our investments. Prudent financial management requires that we look at how long we will be able to fund our operations in

perpetuity. If you are interested in these issues, please join our finance committee or long-term planning task force (see article on page 2 or 3).

Our next New Member Orientation is scheduled for Saturday Oct. 20 from 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. All new members and any current members who would like to learn the basics about our League, California League and National League are welcome. More information will follow.

Amanda Pelch, Membership Development

In Memoriam:
 Naomi Schwartz Ann Wright
 Robert F. Nelson Lolly Quackenbush
 Micki K. Stern



*Linda Phillips and Janice Rorick
at Great-American Write-In*

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

NO SEPTEMBER DISCUSSION UNITS

- 15 **Saturday: Forum for Board of Santa Barbara Community College District candidates, 2 p.m., Faulkner Gallery at Santa Barbara Central Library.** Free and open to the public.
- 19 **Wednesday: Community Forum: What the League Recommends for the November Election and Why, 12-2 p.m., Louise Lowry Davis Center, 1232 De La Vina St.** Panelists: **Tom Carson**, LWVC treasurer; **Chris Carson**, LWVC campaign finance/redistricting director; **Cynthia Brock**, former Goleta City Council member; **Tish Gainey**, Santa Barbara Education Foundation board member; brown bag lunch; free and open to the public.
- 20 **Thursday: Social Policy Interest Group—noon, LWV office;** brown bag lunch.
- 22 **Saturday: Forum for State Assembly, 37th District candidates, 2 p.m., Faulkner Gallery at Santa Barbara Central Library.** Free and open to the public.
- 25 **Tuesday: National Voter Registration Day.** LWVSB will participate along with AAUW and other organizations. To volunteer, contact Janice Rorick, Voter Service Co-Chair; janror@aol.com; or send Facebook message to Janice Mayfield Rorick.
- 29 **Saturday: Forum for State Senate, 19th District candidates, 2 p.m., Faulkner Gallery at Santa Barbara Central Library.** Free and open to the public.

LOOKING AHEAD TO OCTOBER

DISCUSSION UNITS: CALIFORNIA WATER ISSUES

- 2 **Tuesday: Supper Unit - 5:30 p.m., Madame Lu's Restaurant, 3524 State St.,** Contact Karen Bunker.
- 3 **Wednesday: Evening Unit - 7:30 p.m., Sheila Kahmi's house,** Contact Pat Shewczyk, and Sheila Kamhi.
- 8 **Monday: 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.
- 10 **Wednesday: Carpinteria Unit – 10 a.m., Carpinteria Women's Club,** 1059 Vallecito Rd. Contact Barbara Godley.
- 13 **Saturday: LWVSB Board meeting, 10 a.m., League Office** at 328 A East Carrillo.

Save The Date: Tuesday, Nov. 6 Election Day. Don't forget to vote and be sure to remind your friends.

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



Printed on recycled paper.

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.

Co-Presidents: Joanie Jones
Beth Pitton-August/Voter Editor: Vicki Allen

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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Santa Barbara, California 93101
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Email: league@lwvsantabarbara.org
Web: <http://www.lwvsantabarbara.org>



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