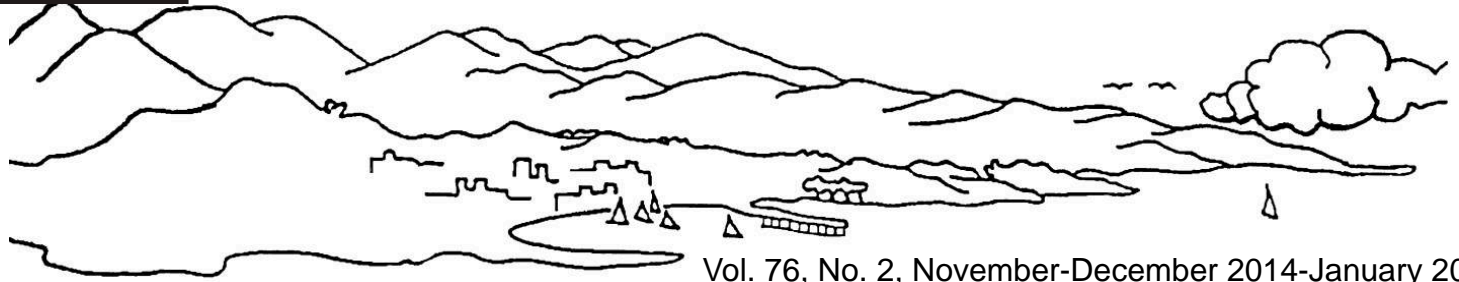




CHANNEL VOTER

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF SANTA BARBARA

Serving South Santa Barbara County



Vol. 76, No. 2, November-December 2014-January 2015

Save the Dates:

Holiday Party:
Dec. 17

Santa Barbara Elections Forum:
Jan. 21

Nov. Units on Isla Vista and Jan. Units on League Future

Isla Vista, a Holiday Party and Santa Barbara Elections

This may have been one of the busiest fall seasons ever for the League. The photos inside capture some of the activity—voter registration, a standing-room-only forum on fracking, a panel on League ballot positions, and a Pros and Cons meeting. We also participated in the Pro-Choice Coalition’s Great American Write-in and joined the United Nations Association as a co-sponsor of a UN Day program on Youth in Peril: Exploring Solutions.

But there’s a lot to put on your calendar for the months ahead too. The topics don’t get any hotter than the future of Isla Vista in the aftermath of tragedy and the future of elections in the City of Santa Barbara. See our Calendar on the back for events and dates. And to make sure you don’t miss anything, keep checking our website, www.lwvsantabarbara.org, for the latest information.



Community Forums are held the third Wednesday of the month at the Louise Lowry Davis Center, 1232 De La Vina Street, from noon to 2 p.m. They are always free and open to the public. You are encouraged to bring a brown bag lunch and your friends. Parking behind the center, off Victoria Street, is free during the meetings.

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& Community Education
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Janice Rorick (2015)
Bonnie Lassen (2015)

November Community Forum: Wednesday, Nov. 19

The Future of Isla Vista--An Ongoing Conversation

The idea for this forum came in the aftermath of the terrible shooting last spring. When six people were killed and seven more injured during a shooting rampage on the evening of May 23, Isla Vista was in the news around the world. But while the media moved on to the next big story, local attention remained on the community surrounding UCSB.

The forum will take a look at major Isla Vista issues – governance, relations with the University, student activities and community development. Panelists will include: Katya Armistead, UCSB Dean of Student Life and Activities, who is on the Chancellor’s new Coordinating Committee for Isla Vista; and Rodney Gould, general manager of the IV Recreation and Park District, which is the primary government in the community. They will be joined by representatives from the sheriff’s department and others involved in community life. Students will be invited to join the November Discussion Units.

Holiday Party: Wednesday, Dec. 17

We always have a special event for the holiday season, and we welcome all our members. This year Santa Barbara County Registrar of Voters Joe Holland will be the speaker, and will talk about the election just past, and our local voting history. You will have a chance to ask questions. We will serve a festive lunch--thanks to some of our members who volunteer to bring delicious dishes to share.

A Message from Co-President Joanie Jones

Leading up to the Nov. 4 election, our Voter Service volunteers worked hard to support our League's commitment to the education and registration of voters. Voter Service Directors Janice Rorick and Bonnie Lassen, joined by several other members, participated in National Voter Registration Day. And volunteers Shane Stark and Claire Van Blaricum shared excellent background on the Pros and Cons of our ballot measures to a standing room only crowd one Sunday afternoon at the First Methodist Church. Other volunteers distributed voting information in the form of EasyVoter Guides, Pros & Cons and links to CAVotes.org and SmartVoter.org. Publicity for all our Voter Service events was handled by Jane Benefield and helpers. Thank you to all our volunteers, state and local, who continued their efforts right up to the election.



On the advocacy side, our October Forum featured three excellent presenters who shared background information on the ballot measures that the League recommends. Thanks to our members Linda Phillips and Ted Anagnoson for historical and supportive information on Prop 2. Member and Environmental Defense Center Chief Counsel Linda Krop gave us valuable information about the legal aspects of local measure P2014 and answered questions about the what the measure actually does. Local attorney Catherine Swysen gave us a clear description of the laws surrounding Prop 47 and why it would be helpful to us locally.

Events in November-January: Looking ahead to our November and December events, we are concerned about our local community and will hold a Community Forum on What's Next for Isla Vista. Our Holiday Party will be Dec. 17, with delicious dishes and wonderful guests. The featured speaker will be Joe Holland, our local Santa Barbara County Registrar of Voters. We look forward to the information he will share on the election and our local voting history. We always welcome volunteers to help plan this festive event. If you'd like to help, call the office at 965-2422 or sign up at the November Community Forum.

We look forward to the information that the local Study Committee on At Large/District or other Elections will bring to us in the January Community Forum. Join us in our units to discuss what our state priorities should be in the coming two years and contribute to what we send to the state League board for possible guidance for consideration at the May 2015 State LWV Convention.

Finally, save the LWVC Convention date, May 15 - 17, 2015 In San Diego: Mark Your Calendars and let others know about the dates. See Page 6 for more details.



League Training with LWVC Management Training Advisor Chris Carson



Goleta Water District Candidate Forum Timers

The Channel Voter is published four times a year, in September, November (for November, December and January), February and April by the League of Women Voters of Santa Barbara, 328 East Carrillo Street, Suite A, Santa Barbara, CA 93101.

Email: league@lwvsantabarbara.org • Web: www.lwvsantabarbara.org

January Community Forum: Wednesday, Jan. 21, 2015

At-Large vs District Elections in Santa Barbara--League Committee Reports on Its Study

Members attending the June Annual Meeting asked the League to study our position in support of at-large elections. There have been court challenges to at-large elections in other cities, and a lawsuit was filed against the City of Santa Barbara, asking for a return to district elections.

As the LWVSB Committee was studying the arguments on both sides, the City Council on Oct. 28 unanimously decided to put the issue to the voters at the November 2016 city election. League Co-President Susan Shank spoke at the council meeting, explaining that the LWV study will consider "demographic changes, election financing problems and the need to remedy voting rights violations."

She also expressed the hope that the council "create a full public process with consideration of all the ways to enhance electoral opportunities, with a carefully crafted proposed charter amendment to be voted on by the people."

The Community Forum will include panelists speaking for district elections and for continuation of the at-large system, as well as members from the League study committee, who will report what they have learned. The chair of the committee is Amanda Pelch, Secretary of the local League and the current Membership Director. To date the committee has had important input about the legal issues from Shane Stark, former County Counsel and current president of our Education Fund.

Since the League has long favored the at-large election of city council members and the mayor in Santa Barbara, it was decided that we need to study whether there is new information or changed circumstances that would require us to change that position. At the Annual Meeting next June, members will be asked for a consensus on whether to update our current position.

The forum, which is open to the public, will be at the Louise Lowry Davis Center, 1232 De La Vina St. from noon to 2 p.m. Parking is free during the event. Bring a brown-bag lunch; beverages and desserts will be provided.

Connie Hannah, Vice-President Local Action & Program

January Discussion Units: Time to Make Your Voice Heard

The 2014 election season may be over, but through the League, you can make your voice heard about important policy issues between elections too. The January 2015 discussion units on State Program Planning will be your chance to talk about what you think the state League should be doing in the future. This is the first step in the process that ends with the adoption of the program by delegates to the LWVC Convention in San Diego in May 2015.

Issues that we decide should be a priority for study, education, or advocacy will be recommended to the LWVC in preparation for the convention. We usually also give our local League's recommendations for this year's LWVC legislative priorities. Using the League's current positions, what hot issues should we be focusing on in the next two years?

If the League doesn't have a position on something you think is important, should we suggest a new statewide study? Is there a need to update an old position? What are the statewide issues we care most about on the Central Coast? (See Calendar on the back page for January unit dates).

LWVC President Helen Hutchison invites all members to help determine the agenda for the League for the next two years. "As a valued member of this grassroots organization, you have the opportunity and the responsibility to indicate the issues on which you believe the state League and all local Leagues in California should focus their time, talent, money, and reputation."

She also said: "We hope you use the program planning process as an opportunity to think strategically about the work of the League on the state level. Consider where there is the most need, where we will be most effective, and what activities best serve our mission.

"There is only so much we all can do with our limited human and financial resources. The state League is spread wide and far by the numerous policy positions we have and the many voter service and community education projects we undertake. We also deeply respect grassroots member interest in any issue. We believe in the will of the Convention to set priorities from both a policy and a budgetary standpoint."

Linda Phillips, Director, State & National Action

Inside the League

Sustainable Communities Committee Continuing Schedule

Several issues that we have been working on will be followed in the next three months. We have been fortunate to have input from a number of well-informed members. Some of the principal issues that we will continue to work on are:

Tajiguas Landfill LWVSB in October wrote a letter to the County Public Works Department, agreeing with the Environmental Impact Report that no better site on the south coast had been found for their Resource Recovery Project. It therefore appears that the Materials Recovery Facility (MRF) for sorting trash, and the Anaerobic Digestion Facility (ADF) for organic materials will have to be placed at the landfill site. These facilities are urgently needed to reduce the amount of trash being put into the landfill and to reduce the amounts of greenhouse gases created by organic matter in our garbage. Now the four cities that use Tajiguas will have to sign agreements to pay for the needed improvements at the landfill. League will continue to support the project, based on long standing League positions urging reduction of solid waste.

Goleta Development Sustainable Communities has been concerned that so many very large new developments have been approved in Goleta without adequate regard for their impact on future water supplies and regional traffic. At this time the City is also rewriting their zoning ordinances, and we have been aware that the public cannot yet see what kinds of changes are being made. We will continue to follow the zoning and approvals, and urge that Goleta follow other south coast cities in managing their growth carefully.

Energy Issues With the help of Jean Holmes, we follow all kinds of energy issues. Committee members will attend the Central Coast Sustainability Summit on Nov. 13 because it is a regional clearinghouse for innovative ideas about energy alternatives. We remain involved in countywide oil issues at all times, and Jean serves as League's representative on the Environmental Defense Center's oil coalition meetings.

Affordable Housing The League will continue to support affordable housing projects on the south coast, with particular emphasis on needed rentals. Every year rents are going higher, with fewer and fewer vacancies available. This is making it prohibitive for working people to find housing, and negatively impacts our economy.

Water Supply Like everyone else on the south coast, we worry that developments may have outrun our supplies of water all over the area. Pat Shewczyk, co-chair of the League's Water Committee, keeps us updated. The League will be prepared to support the reopening of the Santa Barbara desalination plant if it can be done safely, and we will support all efforts to control and conserve groundwater supplies and the recycling of water whenever possible.

Connie Hannah, Chair, Sustainable Communities Committee



Goleta Water District Candidate Forum

UN Day, Co-sponsored by LWVSB

It's That Time Again!

The League Nominating Committee is back to work. The three members you elected at Annual Meeting in June, Beverly King, Cheryl Rogers and Beverly Herbert, as well as the two members appointed from the Board, Jane Benefield and Bonnie Lassen, comprise the five-member nominating committee.

All League members are encouraged to contact committee members with suggestions of names of persons for board membership. Remember--self-referral is also encouraged, so don't be shy. The committee can be reached at Nominating@lwvsantabarbara.org.

Beverly King, Nominating Committee Chair

Pro-Choice Coalition News

LWVSB belongs to several local coalitions. Each coalition supports various League positions. Working with other like-minded organizations helps all of us be more effective in our efforts. One example is the Pro-Choice Coalition, which is a partnership of many local organizations spearheaded by Planned Parenthood.

In late August the League joined with these groups for the Great American Write-in. At this event we wrote letters to all levels of government and elected officials to support a woman's right to choice and other important issues. More than 1500 letters were mailed from this event.

In January 2015 this coalition will celebrate the Roe v. Wade Supreme Court Decision—the 42nd anniversary of this landmark decision. The Coalition is deciding between a film called "Vessel" and a play. Either will make an exciting presentation and will demonstrate the importance of choice for women. Please stay tuned for more information about this event.

Amanda Pelch, Pro Choice Coalition Liaison

Volunteers Needed! Vulnerability Index Survey 2015

When addressing homelessness the LWVSB supports the joint planning and coordination by federal, state, county and city government entities with the private sector, including non-profit and private organizations, the business community and private citizens. The magnitude and diversity of the needs of the homeless require active participation at every level of government and with the private sector in Santa Barbara.

Common Ground Santa Barbara County, in partnership with the Central Coast Collaborative on Homelessness, is dedicated to housing the most vulnerable individuals and families in Santa Barbara

County. They are currently recruiting volunteers to help with Registry Week, which is coming up on **Wednesday, Jan. 28 and Thursday, Jan. 29, 2015.**

This is when volunteers survey homeless individuals using the Vulnerability Index and the Point in Time Count to discover how many friends we have on the streets throughout Santa Barbara County.

Volunteers are needed to survey, staff logistics centers, conduct sock and cereal bar drives in advance of the survey and help recruit additional volunteers. As a member of the Common Ground coalition, the League would like to help, and we also appreciate donations to fund this work. You may donate by mail or in person (301 E. Canon Perdido St, Santa Barbara, CA 93101). Please make checks payable to: Legal Aid Foundation of Santa Barbara County and include "Common Ground Santa Barbara County" (or CGSBC) in the memo line of the check.



How to Get Involved: Please fill out the online registration form at www.commongrounds.org. For more information contact the volunteer coordinator by phone 805-451-5604 or by email: cgvolunteers@gmail.com. Common Ground is a coalition partner of LWVSB.

The State League

Make Plans Now for LWVC Convention 2015 in San Diego

For delegates who arrive a day early, there will be an exciting and informative border tour on **Thursday, May 14**. The tour will focus on immigration with a panel presentation, lunch across the border, and some time in Tijuana. Registered attendees for the Convention will be given first choice for tickets.

Members will want to register early, as space is limited. Watch LWVC.org for information as the plans unfold.

Silent Auction items are needed now! Silent auctions are suspenseful and the better the items, the more suspenseful they get. We'd like to make our Silent Auction at the 2015 State Convention a real nail-biter. But we need your donations of sought-after items to pull it off. Remember, proceeds go to support all the important work we do.

Do you own time at a vacation home, fine art, or a really special piece of jewelry? Are you a member of a wine club? Help us gather silent auction items that would cause bidders to keep checking back until the winner is announced. Your donation will make LWVC Convention a sure winner. Please contact LottieFox@verizon.net about your valuable donation.
Kay Ragan, LWVC Director, (kragan@lwvc.org)



Top, Ballot Measure Pros & Cons. Bottom, Community Forum on Measure P



Membership Form to Join League of Women Voters of Santa Barbara

Here's my annual membership dues of \$70 Second member in same household \$35 Student \$35

Please send me more information about League I can't join right now; here is my contribution of \$_____ to support the League.

Make check payable to: League of Women Voters of Santa Barbara, 328 East Carrillo Street, Suite A, Santa Barbara, CA 93101
*Discounted dues are available for special circumstances: Amanda Pelch, 452-5804.

I am committed--sign me up to: Register Voters Join the League of Women Voters

Invite a friend to join the League Pledge financial support Amount \$_____

Name _____ Address _____ Zip _____
Phone _____ Fax _____ Email _____

Membership News: November 2014

Effective Sep 30, 2014 all members who did not pay their dues are no longer members in the League of Women Voters of Santa Barbara. We will be notifying those who are no longer members. You can rejoin at any time! There is much work to be done here at the local level and we will miss each of you. And we suspect you will miss working with informed and knowledgeable Leaguers, building camaraderie and friendships.

We continue to look for a volunteer or two to take over Membership Development. In an effort to accomplish this we are dividing up the work. We need help processing new members and keeping up the nametags and staffing the membership table at Community Forums, as well as volunteers to attend Voter Service Forums and distribute membership information, to process dues renewals and assist with mailings. Data Administration, though a separate portfolio, now is an integral part of membership. We have two new volunteers, but need a few more. Please think about spending an hour every week or two to help in any of these areas. We need you! And we hope to see many of you at our next Member Orientation in the Spring.

Amanda Pelch, Acting Membership Development Director

New Members: Pamela and Dennis Holst, Penn Borden.

Support the Ed Fund--Informed Democracy Needs Help

As we approach critical national, state and local elections, the need to inform the voters with objective, unbiased analysis and vigorous debate on candidates and issues continues. With a slowly recovering economy, a society fraught with danger and delicate social issues, and a fragile, imperiled environment, the need for effective government and an informed, engaged electorate is paramount. Candidate and ballot measure campaigns increasingly feature inflammatory misleading advertising protected as free speech. The internet and social media allow virtually unlimited publication of anonymous unchecked claims. More than ever, fair, impartial, and well-balanced information on candidates and ballot measures must be available to the voting public.

The League has reliably provided such services for more than 90 years and with your support will continue to do so. The LWVSB Education Fund is dedicated to funding voter service and education through impartial, nonpartisan activity. For the 2015 Santa Barbara city election (possibly including a measure on district elections) and the 2016 primary and general elections, we plan to provide the following continued services:

Publish information online and through social media, including the improved LWVSB and Smart Voter websites, Facebook and other platforms; distribute the Pros and Cons publication describing state propositions; host candidate forums and ballot measure explanation programs for public access television in both English and Spanish, and produce "Touring with the Candidates" for public access television (possibly); distribute Easy Voter guides in multiple languages to the community; support SmartVoter.org website to provide online information to voters; and present pro and con panels on ballot measures to community groups.

Financial support of these activities is critical. With your help we will continue to provide these nonpartisan public education resources and activities. We know that you value reasoned and dispassionate analyses of issues. Please support our work with a generous tax - deductible contribution to the "LWVSB Education Fund" this year and consider a "Legacy Gift" (consult a lawyer, estate planner or accountant).

Shane Stark, President, LWVSB Education Fund



**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®
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Joanie Jones
Voter Editor and Production: Vicki Allen

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.

Printed on recycled paper.

CALENDAR

NOVEMBER 2014 Discussion Units: The Future of Isla Vista

- 4 Tuesday: Madame Lu's Restaurant Unit**, 3524 State St., 5:30 p.m. Contact Karen Bunker, 967-0838.
- 8 Saturday: LWVSB Board Meeting, 10 a.m., League Office**, 328 East Carrillo St., Suite A.
- 12 Wednesday, Carpinteria Unit, 10 a.m. Carpinteria Women' Club**, 1059 Vallecito Rd. Contact Jane Benefield, 684-6086, or Charlene Little, 969-2956.
- 17 Monday: Valle Verde Unit, noon-2 p.m.**, Community Room, 900 Calle de los Amigos. Brown bag lunch. Contact Joan Kerns, 678-7035, for directions. **Note: date change.**
- 19 Wednesday: Community Forum: The Future of Isla Vista—An Ongoing Conversation, noon-2 p.m., Louise Lowry Davis Center**, 1232 De La Vina St. Brown bag lunch; free and open to the public.

DECEMBER 2014: Holiday Party (No Units)

- 13 Saturday: LWVSB Board Meeting, 10 a.m., League Office**, 328 East Carrillo St., Suite A.
- 17 Wednesday: Holiday Party, noon-2 p.m., Louise Lowry Davis Center**, 1232 De La Vina St. Guest speaker: **County Registrar of Voters Joe Holland.**

JANUARY 2015 Discussion Units: Time to Make Your Voice Heard

- 6 Tuesday: Madame Lu's Restaurant Unit**, 3524 State St., 5:30 p.m. Contact Karen Bunker, 967-0838.
- 10 Saturday: LWVSB Board Meeting, 10 a.m., League Office**, 328 East Carrillo St., Suite A.
- 12 Monday: Valle Verde Unit, noon-2 p.m.**, Community Room, 900 Calle de los Amigos. Brown bag lunch. Contact Joan Kerns, 678-7035, for directions.
- 14 Wednesday, Carpinteria Unit, 10 a.m. Carpinteria Women's Club**, 1059 Vallecito Rd. Contact Jane Benefield, 684-6086, or Charlene Little, 969-2956
- 21 Wednesday: Community Forum: At-Large v District Elections in Santa Barbara—League Committee Reports on its Study, noon-2 p.m., Louise Lowry Davis Center**, 1232 De La Vina St. Brown bag lunch; free and open to the public.

Remember to check the LWVSB website (www.lwvsantabarbara.org) for the latest event information.