

Date Sent May 1, 2023

From League of Women Voters of Santa Barbara

Subject Subject: Plains Pipeline Forum Date Correction



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**Empowering Voters. Defending Democracy.**

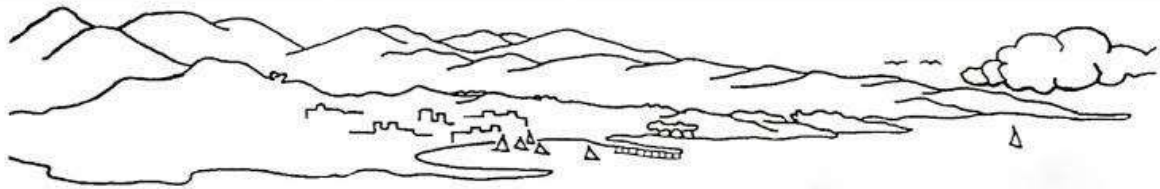
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**CHANNEL VOTER**

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF SANTA BARBARA

*Serving South Santa Barbara County*



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**May 1, 2023**

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## What's Up with the Plains Oil Pipeline?

***Correction: The Channel Voter sent earlier today had the correct date, but the wrong day of the week for this Community Forum.***

The forum will be on **TUESDAY, May 16**, beginning with the screening of a 56 minute documentary film by Gail Osherenko, **BROKE: THE SANTA BARBARA OIL PIPELINE SPILL OF 2015**, followed by a panel discussion of three applications by Pacific Pipeline Corp. (the current owner of the pipeline) and efforts to restart Exxon's platforms off the Gaviota Coast. On April 26, the Santa Barbara Planning Commission rejected--on a 3-2 vote--the pipeline company's application to install 16 new automated safety valves. The applicants are likely to appeal that decision to the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors.

The forum will be held from noon to 2pm at Direct Relief Headquarters, 6100 Wallace -Becknell Road, Santa Barbara. Bring your brown bag lunch and a reusable cup or bottle for water.

Confirmed panelists include:

John Zorovich, Deputy Director, SB County Planning & Development Department

Linda Krop, Chief Counsel, Environmental Defense Center (EDC)

Ana Citron, Attorney for the Gaviota Coast Conservancy (GCC)

League board member Claire Van Blaricum will moderate.

A representative from Exxon has been invited to join the panel but is not yet confirmed.

View the film trailer [here](#)

One of the permit applications would authorize Plains to transfer ownership of the pipeline to Exxon. Exxon plans to transfer the pipeline to a company that has stated that it plans to reopen the pipeline. That permit has been approved by the Planning Director, but the decision has been appealed by the Environmental Defense Center (EDC) on behalf of Get Oil Out! (GOO!) and Santa Barbara Community Action Network (SBCAN). Another application is for a smaller diameter replacement pipeline, and the third is for adding safety valves to the still damaged and severely corroded pipelines 901 and 903.

The League's Sustainable Communities Committee is sponsoring the forum, along with SBCAN, Gaviota Coast Conservancy and EDC. The pipeline applications were the topic of concern at the recent SusComm meeting on April 7, focusing on why the proposal is being made to add valves to an already corroded pipeline.

I highly recommend seeing Gail's excellent film because it provides a very strong case against and broadens the suspicions of this Plains proposal to possibly reestablish the defective pipeline to deliver oil again. Since this will be our first in person forum this year, we are hoping for a large turnout by League members and guests.

Sandy Grasso-Boyd

Chair Sustainable Communities Committee

SusComm@lwvsantabarbara.org

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## The League at Earth Day



**For Your Calendar**





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***For more information, registration and contact information, click on the event in the website calendar [here](#). Most meetings are via Zoom.***

*Community Forums are livestreamed on Facebook (@LWVSB) and on our YouTube Channel (link at bottom of this newsletter). Some events are featured in separate articles.*

Tuesday, May 9 - 1-2pm - **Communications Committee**

Friday, May 5 - 10:30-noon - **Sustainable Communities Committee**

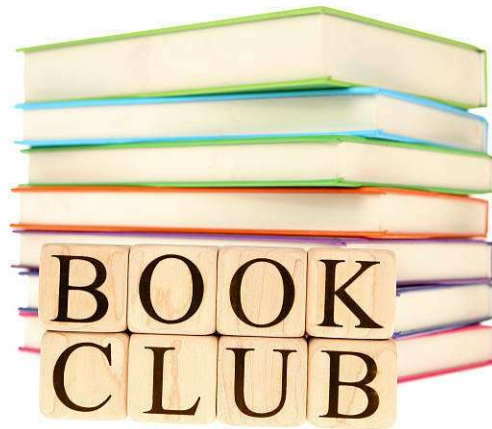
Saturday, May 13 - 10-noon - **Board Meeting**

Tuesday, May 16 - noon-2pm - Direct Relief Headquarters - **Community Forum: What's Up with the Plains Pipeline?**

Friday, May 19 - noon-1:30pm - **Housing Committee**

Thursday, May 25- 1:30-3pm - **Book Club**

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**TITLE:** *Poverty, by America*

**AUTHOR:** Matthew Desmond

**DATE:** Thursday, May 25 at 1:30pm via Zoom

"The Pulitzer Prize-winning author of *Evicted* reimagines the debate on poverty making a 'provocative and compelling' argument about why it persists in America: because the rest of us benefit from it."

Contact Book Club Chair Elaine Rudin, [bookclub@lwvsantabarbara.org](mailto:bookclub@lwvsantabarbara.org) for Zoom links.

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## **It's Our Birthday! Time to Celebrate**

On Saturday, June 17 LWVSB will hold its annual business meeting in the morning, followed by an 85th birthday celebration at Tucker's Grove Park.

At the meeting, board members will be elected, and there will be a treasurer's report and the "State of the League." All members are eligible to vote. When that meeting adjourns, the party will begin, with a luncheon, and recognition of long-time Leaguers and past presidents, community leaders, and other friends of the League.

Look for the meeting agenda and the party details in mid-May.

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## **For Your Information**

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### **The League Goes to County Budget Hearings**

Last week hearings were held with the Santa Barbara County Supervisors for next year's budget. These occur over several days with department heads and staff addressing the supervisors and citizens with nicely designed slide presentations of their departments' recent accomplishments and their plans for the future providing that the supervisors will assure that they have funding to make change happen. The presentations end with a meaningful quote selected by each department—actually it's a nice touch to serious business.

Our League committees were especially interested in the reports presented by Behavioral Wellness, Public Safety (Sheriff and Public Defender), and Planning and Development. We prepared letters for some of these departments and made public comments. The hearings are televised and “Zoomed” and are available again a week or so later as a recorded video through the Board of Supervisors’ website. The slides used by each department are also available on the County’s website.

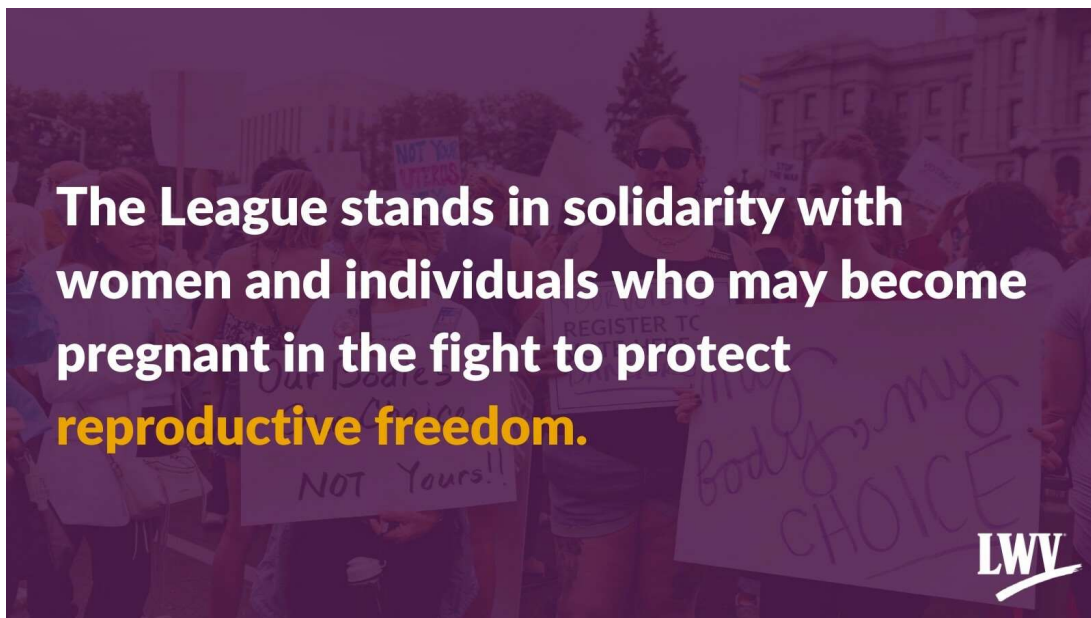
This year our League collaborated with CLUE-SB (Clergy and Laity United for Economic Justice) and NAMI (National Alliance on Mental Illness) in making comments for behavioral wellness. After a very moving public comment period by families of persons who have mental illnesses and have been affected by our Public Safety and Behavioral Wellness departments, the League/CLUE Workgroup supported those families who want help, not jail time for their family members. Housing, therapy or care without traumatic incarceration are tops on the list of needs this community has.

We sent a letter to the supervisors and also made public comments at both the hearing for Behavioral Wellness and for the Public Safety budgets which include the Sheriff and the Public Defender. We also participated in the hearings for Community Resources and Public Facilities, which include Planning and Development (otherwise known as Housing), and Community Services (which includes some services for housing).

We recommended a “permanent, steady source of funds for affordable housing, prioritizing county-owned property for lower income housing, and tenant protection and fair housing services.” And, we thanked the supervisors for their recent work in passing future protections for tenants after the massive eviction of hundreds of tenants in Isla Vista in March.

Budgets may not be published until early summer, so stay tuned. We’ll be interested in seeing how they are decided and whether or not their decisions line up with our recommendations.

Pam Flynt Tambo, VP Social Policy



League of Women Voters of the United States President Dr. Deborah Turner issued this statement (above) after the Supreme Court issued a stay of lower court decisions that limited access to the abortion drug mifepristone while the issue is heard on appeal.

Dr. Turner also said, "Women and those who may become pregnant deserve access to quality healthcare, including abortion and the privacy to make their own reproductive choices. Democracy depends on equal



rights for all people."

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**A strong democracy doesn't discriminate against women but empowers women. We will keep fighting, and we will keep showing up to hold our legislators accountable. Equality is essential to our democracy.**

**LWV**

LWVUS issues statement after senate fails to pass legislation to address the ERA.

## Inside the League



## Voter Service Team Looks Ahead

The LWVSB Voter Service Team met on April 26 via Zoom to discuss what we will do in 2024. We discussed the following topics:

- **Voter Registration and Voter Turnout**

Because such a high percentage of eligible voters in Santa Barbara County are already registered to vote, we will concentrate next year on increasing voter turnout and pre-registering high school students.

We have a new partnership with the Future Leaders of America, a group of Latinx high school students. Daniel Gonzalez, their Outreach Coordinator, and student members of their group will help us pre-register students who have just turned 16 at high schools in Santa Barbara, Goleta, and Carpinteria.

We also will set up a table at the Farmers Market on Saturdays close to the elections – the Primary in March 2024 and the Presidential Election in November – to have people check their voter registration status (to make sure it's up to date), answer questions people have about their ballots, and encourage people to vote.

- **Voters Edge**

Bonnie Lassen, Marian Slater and other members of the Voter Service team will contact candidates running for office to encourage them to put information about themselves in Voters Edge. We got very high participation by candidates running for office in the midterm elections.

- **Candidate Forums**

We will go back to having Candidate Forums in person in 2024 prior to the Primary in March and the Presidential Election in November. We will try to have them in a prominent place in SB, such as the Woman's Club. We also will have TVSB cover the meetings and record them so that we can livestream them on our Facebook page and post the recordings (in both English and Spanish) on our YouTube channel for later viewing.

- **Pros and Cons Forum**

Early indications are that there will be a LOT propositions and ballot measures on the ballot in November 2024, so we will plan to have a Pros and Cons Forum in September 2024 to help voters sort them out and discover who is supporting them.

- **Easy Voter Guides**

Members of the Voter Service Team will help us distribute these guides (versions in both English and Spanish) to many locations throughout the county prior to the Presidential Election in November 2024.

- **National Voter Registration Day**

The focus on Tuesday, Sept. 26, 2023 (and again in 2024) will be on our new program to pre-register high school students.

Revae Moran, Voter Service Director

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## Information for Members

For members who are interested in advocacy there is an update for the League of Women Voters of the United States policies handbook. You may order "Impact on Issues 2022-2024, A Guide to Policy Positions" from Amazon or view the new publication of Impact on Issues [here](#).

Future LWVUS webinar schedule, registration, and past webinar slides and recordings are available on the League Management Site [here](#).

Members who are interested in becoming more involved in the League, sign up for League Updates from our LWVUS President Deborah Ann Turner.

[Contact](#) your Nominating Committee or any board member for mentoring. If you are not yet a member, please consider joining today!



## **Keep Up to Date on Action Alerts From the State and National Leagues**

For LWV, [click here](#).

For LWVC, [click here](#).

LWVC has several different interest groups, including Advocacy, Communications, Voter Service, Climate Change, Criminal Justice Reform, Healthcare, Homeless, Immigration, Money in Politics, Program Planning, Redistricting, Schools and Communities First, and Water. For details, [click here](#).

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## **Videos**

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Watch the latest video--of the housing forum--as well as recordings of election and community forums in both English and Spanish on our YouTube Channel--[watch here](#). Subscribe to the channel to be notified of future videos.

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## **Videos are on TVSB**

Tune in: TVSB Channels League of Women Voters of Santa Barbara Show.

LWVSB Show - Weekly Spots

League of Women Voters of Santa Barbara Show - English version:

Channel 17, "Voice": on Tuesdays 9:00 p.m. and on Fridays 2:00 a.m.

Channel 71, "Culture": on Wednesdays 9:00 p.m., on Thursdays 7:00 p.m., on Fridays 5:00 a.m., and on Saturdays 10:00 a.m.

League of Women Voters of Santa Barbara Show - Spanish version:

Channel 17, "Voice": on Wednesdays 9:00 p.m. and on Saturdays 3:00 a.m.

Channel 71, "Culture": on Mondays 7:30 p.m., on Thursdays 3:30 a.m., on Fridays 3:30 p.m., and on Saturdays 2:00 a.m.

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## Help Us Celebrate LWVSB's 85th Birthday

Make sure our all-volunteer organization can continue Making Democracy Work for everyone.

You will soon get an invitation to our birthday party, but you don't have to wait for June 17.

Please celebrate with a donation **TODAY!**

[Donate](#)

[Join](#)



[Done](#)