



League of Women Voters of Torrance

Serving Carson, Gardena, Harbor City, Lomita and Torrance

<http://torrance.ca.lwvnet.org>

Tel. 310-618-8711

LWVT Voter

September 2009

Diversity Policy

The League of Women Voters of Torrance, in both its values and practices, affirms its belief and commitment to diversity and pluralism. This means that there shall be no barriers to participation in any activity on the basis of gender, race, creed, age, sexual orientation, national origin or disability.

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The *LWVT Voter* is published monthly except July and December. All LWVT members are encouraged to provide relevant articles and calendar events for publication in the *LWVT Voter*. Articles must be nonpartisan and are subject to editing. Email submissions to wuertzvoter@earthlink.net before the first weekend of each month. The editor is not responsible for verifying the accuracy of the information reported.

Editor: LaVonne Wuertz

President's Message

I hope to see everyone at the Tri-League Kickoff meeting on Saturday, September 26th. Robert Stern, President, Center for Governmental Studies, has spoken to the League before and he is an outstanding speaker. We are all aware that there is a need for governmental reform, especially during the last few years when the legislature could not agree on the passage of California's budget. Now is the time to educate ourselves on this hot-button subject.

LWVT is sponsoring a Candidates Forum Wednesday, October 14 for The City of Lomita City Council Election November 3rd. The Candidates Forum is a great way to get involved in helping our League. Even if you don't live in the City of Lomita, it will be an educational experience. You will learn what our neighboring cities are encountering and what they see as a problem or a plus to live in that city. If you can help, please call Pat Kromka, Voter Service Chair.

Do you have any suggestions for future programs and speakers? The Board is always interested in finding out about your special interests. Just call or e-mail me.

Linda Brown, Co-President

Health Care Update

By Barbara Barker

While there has been no LWVT activity, the Palos Verdes League is hosting a program on Wednesday, September 23rd from 1:30 to 3:30 in the afternoon at the Point Vicente Interpretive Center. They have invited League members Doris Nelson, Irma Strantz and Sally Seven as speakers. Their focus will be on the proposed federal plan, single payer here in CA, and health care plans in other countries.

The LWVC has been a long-time member of the California One Care Coalition, which has a new campaign starting this year. The 365 Ad Campaign is an exciting new online program designed to draw attention to the only real solution to the health care crisis: single payer universal health care. The 365 Ad Campaign will feature a new 30-second spot every day on the California OneCare website for a full year. Each spot will emphasize a different aspect of single payer universal health care. The campaign will begin on November 1, 2009, and end one year later, the day before the 2010 elections when we will be voting for a new governor in California. More information is available at www.californiaonecare.org.

At the National level, LWVUS is supporting the HR3200 and Obama noting that the public option is an important inclusion. In response to opposition ads
(Continued on page 2, Health Care)

League of Women Voters of Torrance News

Health Care *Continued from page 1)*

by the League of American Voters, Mary Wilson sent a letter asking them to desist in using a name so similar to the LWV's name. The response has not been positive and both organizations are using the incident to raise funds for fighting for their cause. Members may join listserves at the LWVUS site on specific subjects such as healthcare, the upcoming convention, general leadership, etc. to stay in tune with current events. Once you join, you receive emails whenever any member writes and you are free to enter into the conversation.

Natural Resources Report

By *Andrea Wagner*

The following article from the *Fresno Bee* (Sept. 2, 2009) provides an overview of California's water problems.

Water panel starts key legislative talks; State lawmakers scramble on bills

By E.J. Schultz, *Bee* Capitol Bureau

With the clock ticking and the odds against them, a panel of legislators began meeting Wednesday in search of solutions to the state's water problems.

The 14-member Assembly-Senate committee said it would meet through Labor Day weekend as it seeks consensus on bills that must be approved before the Legislature ends its regular session Sept. 11.

Democrats control the conference committee and could pass a plan without Republican support. But GOP votes would be needed on the Senate and Assembly floors for key elements of the package, potentially including a multibillion-dollar bond to pay for water projects such as dams.

The state faces a plethora of water problems.

A three-year drought has lowered water supplies for cities and farms. The shortage is compounded by environmental problems in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta -- the state's water hub -- which have led to water pumping cutbacks to protect fish. Meantime, underground aquifers

(Continued on p. 3, Water)

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Public Libraries: Judi Gerber
Water and Agriculture: Judi Gerber
Webmaster: Barbara Barker

Committees

Budget: Dorothy Stewart
Executive: Noted by asterisks
Nominating: Celeste Bailey

Tri-League Liaison: Linda Brown



League of Women Voters of Torrance News (cont'd)

Water *(Continued from p. 2)*

are polluted, tainting drinking water for communities, including rural Valley towns.

But consensus on water legislation is hard to find because of simmering political and regional conflicts.

Farmers and environmentalists have long clashed over ecosystem protections. In the north, home to most of the state's water, residents fear a water grab by southern cities and San Joaquin Valley farms.

Sen. Sam Aanestad, a Republican from Penn Valley in Northern California, highlighted the conflict in his opening remarks: "I am not going to for one minute forget that the area that I represent ... has very different problems than the southern part of the state."

These tensions underlie 14 open issues Senate Leader Darrell Steinberg, D-Sacramento, identified Wednesday.

For instance, lawmakers must decide how to pay for water upgrades. Republicans, especially those in the Valley, have pushed for a bond that would be paid back from the state's general fund. Democrats say they are open to a bond, but want to balance it with new water user fees.

Lawmakers also will consider changes in ground-water-use monitoring. Environmentalists want stronger reporting requirements, but farm groups fear big changes could lead to expensive fees.

Some farm groups have sought relief from delta pumping restrictions by asking Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger to call for a federal panel, or "God Squad," that could potentially override environmental protections.

The governor's administration has resisted the call and completely ruled it out Wednesday. State Department of Water Resources Director Lester Snow told reporters that such a call would "provide false hopes." Rather, the administration is asking the federal government to

make changes to new rules aimed at protecting endangered delta fish.

Steve Evans, of the environmental group Friends of the River, said the governor's administration wants to increase water exports "to their corporate agribusiness cronies and Southern California developers."#

For links to related articles, see

<http://www.fresnobee.com/1072/story/1624765.html>

51st Assembly District Elects Bradford

The Honorable Steven Bradford officially takes office as a member of the California State Assembly, 51st District following 12 ½ years of service as a member of the Gardena City Council. Assemblyman Bradford was elected in a special election September 1.

Meet the Candidates for Lomita City Council

There will be a Candidates Forum to meet and hear the candidates for Lomita City Council October 14, from 7 pm-9 pm in the Lomita City Council Chambers at 24300 Narbonne Avenue. Light refreshments will be served.

City of Carson Unity Day

Join the citizens of Carson at the City's 10th Annual Unity Day Celebration, a citywide celebraton showcasing the City's cultural diversity. It will take place September 26 from 11:30 am to 7 pm in the East parking Lot of the Congresswoman Juanita Millender-McDonald Community Center. For more information, contact the Carson Parks and Recreation Department at 310-837-2570.

League of Women Voters of Torrance News (cont'd)

PUBLIC INVITED

TRI-LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS
BEACH CITIES - PALOS VERDES - TORRANCE

ANNUAL KICKOFF BREAKFAST BUFFET

REFORMING STATE GOVERNMENT

SPEAKER

Robert M. Stern
President, Center for Governmental Studies

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 26, 2009
9:00 A.M. – 11:00 A.M.

MARIE CALLENDER'S
21211 Hawthorne Blvd.
(off Torrance Blvd.)
Torrance, CA 90503
310/540-9696

Make check payable to: Tri-League (Deadline – Sept. 19, 2009)
Send to Peggy Bartlett (310) 545-1087
701 13th Street
Manhattan Beach, CA 90266

Number of reservations _____ \$20.00 per person
Check enclosed for \$ _____

Name(s) _____

Phone _____

League _____

Note change in speaker and topic from previous announcement.

Late reservations: Call Peggy Bartlett and pay at door.

League of Women Voters of Los Angeles County News

Call for Consultants From Nancy Mahr, LWV/LAC President

(email dated Aug. 18, 2009 to Lola Ungar *et al*)

Hello all. I am recruiting resource people for the County Board - the consultants on whom we can call if we have questions in their specified areas. Our Land Use, Housing, and Mental Health consultant slots are open. We do have some board members with special interest in these areas, but would also like to have off-board consultants to assist if needed. Do you have people in your Leagues who have some background in any of these three areas, and who you might suggest I contact? Maybe that person is you!

Please let me know [\[mailto:nlmahr@cox.net\]](mailto:nlmahr@cox.net)
Thanks for your help.

About the League

The League of Women Voters, a nonpartisan political organization, encourages the informed and active participation in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy.

The League has two separate and distinct roles. The League of Women Voters of California Education Fund, which conducts our voters' service and civic education activities, is a 501(c)(3) corporation, a nonprofit educational organization.

The League of Women Voters of Torrance, a membership organization, conducts action and advocacy and is a nonprofit 501(c)(4) corporation. The League never supports or opposes any political party or candidate. We advocate only on issues that members have studied and on which they have come to consensus. In an era of proliferating and powerful special interests, the League's advocacy in the public interest is increasingly recognized as an essential voice of democracy.

Health Care Reform and YOU

For the first time in a number of years, there is ongoing discussion at several levels regarding a possible healthcare overhaul. Please join us for this extraordinary meeting where we will hear presentations from League experts on health care issues, including health care plans in other countries.



Wednesday, Sept. 23, 2009

1:30 – 3:30 p.m.

Pt. Vicente Interpretive Center
31501 Palos Verdes Drive West
Rancho Palos Verdes

Federal Healthcare Plan

Doris Isolini Nelson

Member of LWVUS Health Care Task Force

Single Payer Plan

Irma Strantz, Action Chair

Pasadena League of Women Voters

Healthcare in Other Countries

Sally Seven, Government Director

L.A. County League of Women Voters

Refreshments will be served and much information will be available about Palos Verdes and San Pedro League activities for the coming year. Reservations are not required.

League of Women Voters of California News

Comments on Draft Redistricting Procedures

In a September 14, 2009, letter to the California State Auditor, LWVC President Janice Hirohama and officers of the organizations listed below commended the Auditor's draft regulations for the Citizens Redistricting Commission required by the recently passed Voters FIRST Act. The draft regulations set up procedures for application and selection of commissioners. The signatories presented their concerns with specific sections of the regulations ranging from substantive changes to language clarification and suggested ways to address those concerns. The entire letter is available on the LWVC website. The groups with whom LWVC collaborated were:

California State NAACP
 California Voter Foundation
 Center for Governmental Studies
 Rose Institute for State and Local Government, Claremont McKenna College
 California Common Cause
 National Association of Latino Elected and Appointed Officials (NALEO) Educational Fund
 California Forward
 Asian Pacific American Legal Center
 And Steven J. Reyes, Associate Attorney, Kaufman Legal Group, APC, Former Voting Rights Attorney, MALDEF

By the time this Voter is published, the draft application will have been posted on the Auditor's website, public comment received and a hearing held. Changes will be made, and the regulations will become effective October 28. The application period for the position of commissioner begins December 15 and ends February 12, 2010.



LWVC REGIONAL WORKSHOP

The East San Gabriel Valley League invites you to learn what the League does and how it does it!

Date & Time: Saturday, October 10 - 9:30 am-2:30 pm

Location: Covina Woman's Club

128 S. San Jose Avenue

Covina CA 91723

Just off E. Badillo St, between S. Citrus & S. Barranca Avenues

Price: \$25/person; \$30 after October 2 (\$15 if bringing own lunch)

Topics

“Constitutional Reform: What's Happening and What You Can Do to Make It Happen”

“Political, YES; Partisan, NO! Walking the Fine Line”

“Tools You Can Use: A Guided Tour of the League's Members' Only Web Page”

“The Welcoming League: Engaging and Retaining Your Members”

Please register (and pay by credit card) at the LWVC members only website, www.lwvc.org by October 2 or write check payable to LWVC & mail with form to LWV East San Gabriel Valley, P.O. Box 4242, Covina CA 91723

If you have questions or need additional information please contact

Rosie Fabian rfabian2000@msn.com

or Caroline deLlamas cdellamas@cs.com

 Name _____

League _____

Phone _____

Email _____

League of Women Voters of the United States News

League of Women Voters Vs. League of American Voters

In a September 3 press release and hand-delivered letter, LWVUS President Mary G. Wilson “called on the League of American Voters (LAV) to ‘cease and desist’ from using a name clearly designed to be confused with the League’s in order to disseminate misleading information and block health care reform.” Apparently, the League had been hearing from individuals who confused the conservative group with LWV.

In an article dated September 14 in the *National Journal Magazine*, Eliza Newlin Carney, columnist and contributing editor, noted that the League of American Voters is a conservative nonprofit launched less than two months ago. Its purpose appears to be to raise money for ads opposing health care reform. Conservative political strategist Dick Morris is credited with designing the website which presents a brief negative video and format to contribute money to fight President Obama’s health care plan. There is no mention of who finances the organization.

Morris’s articles are also available on Newsmax.com, a conservative website. View Carney’s article and the LWVUS press release on www.lwv.org and the League of American Voters website at www.leagueofamericanvoters.com. A description of the League of American Voters is available at www.sourcewatch.org.

Constitution Day

September 17 marked the 222nd anniversary of the signing of the US Constitution.



Urge Your Senators to Support CEDAW

The Convention to Eliminate All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) is the most comprehensive international treaty promoting the advancement of women worldwide. It establishes a legal framework to which all governments must adhere, to ensure the equality of women in various areas of life including politics, law, employment, education, health care, commerce and domestic relations. The United States remains the only democracy in the world that has not ratified the CEDAW Treaty, putting our country in the dishonorable company of states such as Iran, Somalia and Sudan.

(Source: LWVUS website)

JOIN THE LEAGUE Yes! I want to make a difference!

I want to make a difference in the decisions that affect my life. I know every new member makes the League more effective in influencing public policy on issues I care about.

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

City: _____ Zip _____

Telephone: (Day) _____

(Evening) _____

Email: _____

Individual \$60

Household \$90

Student \$30

Please make checks payable to: League of Women Voters of Torrance

Mail to: League of Women Voters of Torrance
Post Office Box 964, Torrance, CA 90508

Membership in the League of Women Voters is open to all men and women of voting age who are U.S. citizens. Others are welcome to join the League as associate members.

Keep up to date with important League of Women Voters communications. Check out national, state and county issues on-line at:

National: www.lwv.org

State: ca.lwv.org

County: www.lacilo.ca.lwvnet.org

Torrance: <http://torrance.ca.lwvnet.org>

2009 Calendar

Sept 3, 7-9 pm	Board Meeting (Call for location)
Sept. 23, 1:30-3:30 pm	Health Care Reform and You, Pt. Vicente Interpretive Center
Sept. 26, 9-11 am	Tri-League Kickoff Marie Callender's, Torrance & Hawthorne
Oct. 1, 7-9 pm	Board Meeting (Call for location)
Oct. 10, 9:30-2:30 pm	LWVC workshops, Covina Woman's Club
Oct. 14, 7-9 pm	Lomita City Council Candidates Forum, Lomita City Hall
Nov. 3	Election Day, Lomita City Council, TUSD, El Camino College District
Nov. 5, 7-9 pm	Board Meeting (Call for location)

For protection of privacy, when sending emails that include anyone outside this membership, please address the names on the Blind CC (BCC) line so that the addresses do not show.

Board Meetings are open to all members and held on the first Thursday of each Month except May.



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Torrance, CA 90508

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