



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

August 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](mailto: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

How are you enjoying the summer? Have you read any good books lately? Gone on any great trips? Linda and I have not had the opportunity just yet. We are planning a busy season of League work though we won't have any pros & cons for a November ballot. Yippee! I'll bet you can see us smiling from where you are sitting.

LWV/LACounty President

Nancy Mahr welcomed us to our annual Popovers in Pasadena Luncheon at the Women's City Club on Saturday July 25 where the Keynote Speaker was Los Angeles County Sheriff Lee Baca. [See photos on p. 5.] The sheriff spoke glowingly about Justice Sandra Day O'Connor whose book, "The Majesty of the Law," he has been reading, the women's movement and about his respect for our organization. He also talked about the need for education and rehabilitation in the jails and his belief in public trust policing along with support for human dignity and transparency. He gave many statistics about those who are incarcerated in our L.A. County jails. For now, I will just relate that 20,000 people maximum are allowed to reside in the jails and that these inmates may stay as long as a year awaiting trial. The jails have a 70% recidivism rate and 10% are in jail for domestic violence. The County spends \$700 million for the jails. It

costs \$32,000 per person a year for each inmate or \$60 to \$70 per day. Alarmingly, costs rise to \$600 to \$700 per day for those with medical problems.

Another special event at Popovers was honoring Dorothy Larson who has served the County League for 33 years, many of those years as LWV/LACounty Secretary! We gave her an Appreciation Certificate and a bouquet of yellow roses, a tradition of honor among the County League members. Morning workshops for Presidents, Education, Redistricting, and Natural Resources were especially interesting. If you couldn't make it this year, perhaps, next year you can join us.

In the meantime, don't miss out on our annual Tri-League Kickoff on Saturday, September 26<sup>th</sup> at Marie Callender's, southwest corner of Torrance Blvd. & Hawthorne Blvd., 9:00 to 11:00 AM at a cost of \$20. State Assemblyman Ted Lieu will be the speaker and you will also be able to network with our closest local League members (Beach Cities and Palos Verdes Peninsula Area) on what is happening in local, county and state government. It is always very special when all of us get together for this yearly event.

This month, be sure to write and call everyone you know in support of Healthcare including House Representative Jane Harman, and Senators Barbara Boxer and Diane Feinstein. The naysayers are scaring the public.

*Lola Ungar, Co-President*

## League of Women Voters of Torrance News

### Directors' Reports

#### Health—Barbara Barker

When the Governor shaved an additional \$489 million dollars from the budget he signed, \$250 million of the cuts took the programs in the arena of Health and Human Services into newly dangerous and anemic waters.

He took nearly \$80 million dollars more from the fund that pays for workers who deal with abused and neglected children. This cut could not come at a worse time, since so many counties are experiencing the tragic consequences of their inability to field sufficient workers to identify children at risk. He cut \$60.6 million from funds used to pay for MediCal eligibility workers at the county level.

He took an additional \$50 million dollars from the Healthy Families program, further devastating the one program that allows poor parents to get any kind of health care for their children (\$179 million had already been cut in the budget amends and, with this additional cut, more than 900,000 children could be affected, statewide). The Managed Risk Medical Insurance Board is meeting to figure out how to deal with these cuts and may begin disenrolling tens of thousands of kids each month.

He slashed an additional \$50 million (\$284 million was already gone in the budget amends) from services to developmentally delayed children under the age of three, the best time to get services to these kids for a lifetime of functionality.

The budget changes virtually killed a number of domestic violence shelters around the state, especially in poor, rural areas, by cutting an additional \$20.4 million dollars from 94 domestic violence shelters and services centers, putting women and children all over the state in even greater risk of harm. Many shelters are making plans to close. He took an additional \$6.3 million dollars from services to our poorest senior citizens.

He devastated AIDS/HIV services in the state by completely eliminating local assistance funding, slashing \$52 million from the state Office of AIDS budget, in addition to the \$30 million reduction in the budget amends. This means an 80% cut in HIV-related educational services, an 80% cut in prevention services, a 70% cut in counseling services, a 70% cut in testing services, a 50% cut in primary medical care, a 50% cut in home

*(Continued on p. 3, Directors' Reports)*

### Board of Directors 2009-10

President of Record: Lola Ungar\*  
Co-President: Linda Brown  
1<sup>st</sup> Vice President: Pat Kromka\*  
2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President: Sue Herbers  
Secretary: Kay White\*  
Treasurer: Sandra Strong\*

#### Directors

Advocacy: Lola Ungar  
Communications: Sydne Morrison  
Education/Social Policy: Gerry Rische  
Juvenile Justice: Vacant  
Government/Elections: Sue Herbers  
Membership: Linda Brown  
Natural Resources: Andrea Wagner  
Observers: Vacant  
Program: Vacant  
Public Relations: Lola Ungar  
Social Policy: Gerry Rische  
Speakers Bureau/Pros & Cons: Emma Simmons  
Voter Editor: LaVonne Wuertz\*  
Voter Service/Smart Voter: Pat Kromka

#### Off-Board Portfolios

Children & Family Issues: Sandra Strong  
Coastal Issues: Andrea Wagner  
Education/Social Policy: Tom Rische  
Energy: Andrea Wagner  
Financial Development: Sandra Strong  
Health Care: Barbara Barker  
Land Use: Lola Ungar  
Mental Health: Carol Adams Smith  
Open Government: Dee Hardison  
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)*

### **Directors' Reports** *(Continued from page 2)*

care and a 20% cut in housing aid. He terminated every dollar of the office of AIDS' therapeutic monitoring program, leaving 35,000 working and middle class people with AIDS with no payments for viral load testing and drug resistance testing.

On the national front, a health plan does look likely this year, although it's form is still an unknown. This week, the only single-payer bill was moved from "off the table" to being brought forward to go to the floor of the House for debate and vote. LWVUS has not yet given the go-ahead to support this bill as an LWV member.

All members are encouraged to listen to reports on the health care front with a discerning ear. Rumors are flying in print and emails. We suggest following sources you trust and speaking out by contacting your representatives. This is a crucial time for them to hear from their constituents.

[Data is from ex-State Senator Sheila Kuehl's "Budget Essay 13" published in her newsletter.]

### **Natural Resources—Andrea Wagner**

Natural Resources is an active topic locally, nationally, and worldwide as interest in curbing global warming meshes more firmly with the international energy crunch and unusual weather patterns. While concern about a severe water shortage continues in California, local governments appear to be resorting to education vs. legislation in reducing water usage by posting conservation tips on city websites.

Coming events of interest:

- August 10-13, Plug-In 2009 at the Long Beach Convention Center. Public Night Tuesday, August 11. 5:30-7:30 p.m. 7:30-9:00 p.m. panel discussion on plug-in hybrid and electric vehicles.
- August 19, TeachingGreen Workshop: Household Toxics

- & Hazardous Waste, 7:00 p.m.-8:30 p.m., Whole Foods Market, 2655 Pacific Coast Highway, Torrance. Discussion will cover toxic chemicals in the home and universal waste, including e-waste.
- October 10, Advanced Composting Workshop, 9:30 AM - 11:30 a.m., Columbia Park, 4045 190th St., northwest corner of 190th St. and Prairie Ave., Torrance. Topics include organic gardening, the art and science of good soil, environmentally responsible ways to control pests, conserving water around the garden, and using native and drought-tolerant plants.
- October 24, International Day of Action to raise public awareness about global warming in an effort to influence world leaders on the need for an international climate treaty to control and reduce carbon dioxide in the atmosphere. A coalition of local organizations, led by the Environmental Priorities Network, is planning activities in the South Bay. This is a potential opportunity for LWV as well.

### **Torrance Centennial**

The City of Torrance is forming a thirty-member Torrance Centennial Committee to plan for the 2012 celebration. Individuals wishing to be a part of the committee should apply by August 26 online at [www.torranceca.gov/centennial](http://www.torranceca.gov/centennial) or at the City Clerk's office. Appointments will be made September 1.

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

### LWVT Raises \$425 at 4<sup>th</sup> of July Celebration in Wilson Park

With the help and generosity of Wok and Grill BBQ, LWVT shared profits of \$381. Char, the owner added a donation to make it an even \$500. Our expenses for the booth were \$125, of which Barbara Barker donated \$50 so we



netted \$425 for the treasury! We had volunteers available to help out in the booth but Char and crew did it all without our help. Thank you, Wok and Grill BBQ!

### Global Climate Change and Us

By Andrea Wagner

Responding to heightened concerns, an international day of climate action is planned on October 24 to raise awareness about the critical climate situation and its profound global economic and social impacts. Preliminary plans are for all of the participants to hold hands all along the Pacific tideline. This effort is being led by 350.org, a Web-based organization that seeks to inspire the world to unite around solutions to the climate crisis. "350" refers to what many scientists consider the "safe" upper limit for carbon dioxide in the atmosphere—350 parts per million—which is well below the current concentration of approximately 390 parts per million and much higher than the average of 275 parts per million that existed up until 200 years ago. While the situation is serious, it is not yet irreversible and can be corrected if we work together to implement real solutions.

Global climate change is one of the most serious threats to the global environment, health and economy. While currently one of the "hot topics" under debate, concerns about global warming are not new. Warnings about increased warming of the earth's average temperature were circulating more than 30 years ago, as were calls for corrective action. What has changed is the sense of urgency as recent studies indicate an increase in the pace of warming that is as much as three times previous estimates.

As world leaders prepare to meet on a new global climate treaty in December 2009, it is hoped that enough international interest can be generated to convince political leaders to sign a strong treaty to reduce emissions and effect reduction of CO<sub>2</sub> concentrations. A coalition of local organizations is planning activities in the South Bay on October 24 to raise awareness and inform people about the immediacy of, and their role in solving the challenge of global warming. If an international grassroots movement holds leaders accountable to the latest climate science, the global transformation so desperately needed can begin. Information about 350.org and how to be a part of the global change action is available at [www.350.org](http://www.350.org). The League of Women Voters provides opinion pieces and resources related to global climate change on its national site at [www.lwv.org](http://www.lwv.org).

We will keep you informed about the progress of the plans for this international day of climate action on October 24th.

### Election Reminder

Elections and related events coming up in the area served by LWV Torrance include a Special Primary Election September 1 for State Assembly Member, District 51, which includes Gardena. On August 25, there will be a Candidate Forum from 9-10:30 am at 4437 W. Slauson Ave., LA 90043.

There will be a Candidate Forum October 14 at 7 pm, Lomita City Hall, for the Lomita City Council election. The election on November 3<sup>rd</sup> will include the Lomita City Council, Torrance Unified School District and El Camino College trustees.

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

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

**ANNUAL KICKOFF BREAKFAST BUFFET**

**THE BUDGET CRISIS AND GOVERNMENT REFORM**

**SPEAKER**

**ASSEMBLYMEMBER TED LIEU  
53<sup>RD</sup> ASSEMBLY DISTRICT**

**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**

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**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\_\_\_\_\_**

**EARLY RESERVATIONS ADVISED**

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

Information from a flyer from the Office of State Senator Jenny Oropeza:

### **Senator Jenny Oropeza Presents**

### **A Day of Remembrance and Service: "Remembering the victims and families of the September 11<sup>th</sup> terrorist attacks through community service."**

Food drives will collect food for organizations serving individuals and families in need. Blood drives will collect blood for emergencies and to help people who have cancer, blood disorders, sickle cell, anemia and other illnesses.

#### **Food drive locations in areas served by LWVT**

Please drop off non-perishable foods at fire stations in Carson, Harbor City, and Lomita from September 1-13, 2009, between 8 am and 5 pm seven days a week.

#### **Blood drive locations in areas served by LWVT**

##### Carson

Carson City Hall  
701 E. Carson St.

Wednesday, September 9, 8 am-1 pm

For more information: Ruth Rodriguez, 310-952-1758

##### Lomita

St. Margaret Mary Church  
25511 Eshelman Ave.

Sunday, September 27, 7 am-1 pm

For more information: John Rajock, 424-653-0000

##### Torrance

Torrance Memorial Medical Center  
Blood Donor Center  
3330 Lomita Blvd.

Month of September, Monday-Friday, 8am-4:30 pm, appointment preferred

For more information: 310-517-4647

**All blood donors will receive a free admission ticket to the Aquarium of the Pacific in Long Beach.**

For more information, including additional locations, call Senator Oropeza's office at 310-318-6994 or visit her website at [www.senate.ca.gov/oropeza](http://www.senate.ca.gov/oropeza)

## League of Women Voters of Los Angeles County News

### Popovers in Pasadena

Once again, LWV/LAC presented a successful Popovers in Pasadena event Saturday, July 25, at the Pasadena Women's City Club. Los Angeles County Sheriff Lee Baca, addressed the group, and President Nancy Mahr presented Dorothy Larson with an



Appreciation Certificate and bouquet recognizing her thirty-three years service to County League. For a discussion of the event, and Sheriff Baca's comments, turn to LWVT's President's Message on page 1 of this



LWVTVoter.

### RR/CC now on Facebook

Los Angeles County Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk (RR/CC) Dean Logan is pleased to announce that the RR/CC has expanded its outreach to the media and Los Angeles County residents by launching a page on Facebook.

Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk Dean Logan and the RR/CC will be posting links to press releases, election updates, upcoming events and other news of interest to Los Angeles County Residents and media outlets. We invite you to follow us on Facebook!

The RR/CC's Facebook address is

<http://www.facebook.com/home.php?#/pages/Norwalk-CA/Los-Angeles-County-Registrar-RecorderCounty-Clerk/227778385157>

### 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 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.

### Startling Facts!

From Joanne Leavitt's report in the June LWV/LACounty *Voter* on The Los Angeles County Education Coordinating Council . . .

- About three-quarters of children in foster care perform below grade level.
- Nearly half fail to complete high school, and only about two percent ever earn a bachelor's degree.
- Over 35 percent of foster and probation youth receive special education services.
- The average reading level of probation youth in grades 9 through 12 is below grade 5.

This achievement gap is due in part to the abuse and neglect or exposure to violence that these youth experience before entering the dependency or probation systems. The rest can be largely explained by administrative problems they encounter once in these systems. Once they leave the public system at age 18, about half of these youth are unemployed, more than a quarter are homeless, and one third require public assistance.

Los Angeles County has 60,000 foster and probation youth.

# League of Women Voters of California News

## League Urges Majority Vote!

In a letter dated July 15 to Gerald Parsky, Chair of the Commission on the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Economy, a bi-partisan commission established by Governor Schwarzenegger “to re-examine and modernize California’s out-of-date revenue laws,” League president Janice Hirohama outlined points the League believes the commission should consider:

- Progressive system of state and local revenues
- Broadened tax base
- Taxation of internet sales
- “Split roll” property tax
- Reconsideration of tax expenditures (i.e., tax breaks), and
- Majority vote

“In order to ensure flexible government processes, the League believes that adoption of budgets, appropriations, taxes, other revenue sources, and changes in rates and schedules should all be done by a simple majority vote. The two-thirds vote requirement has been a major factor in bringing our state to nearly complete budget dysfunction.”

Read the full text at [www.ca.lwv.org](http://www.ca.lwv.org).

## LWVC Online Communications

Sign up for LWVC online communications such as action alerts at the LWVC website, [www.ca.lwv.org](http://www.ca.lwv.org). Be sure to add [Lwvc@lwvc.org](mailto:Lwvc@lwvc.org) and [Advocacy@lwvc.org](mailto:Advocacy@lwvc.org) to your address book to ensure delivery.

**Keep Up to Date on Coming Elections**  
Visit [www.smartvoter.org](http://www.smartvoter.org)



## 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 bring 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 website: [www.lwvc.org](http://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](mailto:rfabian2000@msn.com) or Caroline deLlamas [cdellamas@cs.com](mailto:cdellamas@cs.com)

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 Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 League \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
 Email \_\_\_\_\_

## *League of Women Voters of the United States News*

### **Wilson Seeks Quick Action**

In a letter to members of the House of Representatives, LWVUS President Mary G. Wilson stated, "The League of Women Voters welcomes the introduction of America's Affordable Health Choices Act of 2009 in the House of Representatives and we urge you to support quick action on the essential legislation. We believe it is imperative for Congress to send real health care reform to the President for his signature as soon as possible."

Read a summary of the act, HR 3200, prepared by the House Committees on Ways and Means, Energy and Commerce, and Education and Labor, dated July 14, 2009 at [www.lwv.org](http://www.lwv.org). You also can express your opinion of HR 3200 by sending an email via the LWVUS website to your representative and senators.

### **Supreme Court Considers Overturning Protections for Democracy**

A LWVUS August 3 press release stated "The League of Women Voters of the United States today submitted a "friend of the court" brief with the U.S. Supreme Court in the case of Citizens United v. the Federal Election Commission (FEC). The League and the Constitutional Accountability Center filed the brief to help put the case in historical context and to call attention to the pernicious and corrupting effects on American democracy if the Court were to overturn existing federal and state limits on corporate expenditures in candidate elections."

According to League President Mary G. Wilson, "This case will decide whether corporate wealth will be allowed to dominate our elections in years to come." ... In the Citizens United case, the Court is considering whether to overturn the precedents established in Austin and McConnell, two cases that upheld restrictions on corporate campaign expenditures.

As it happens, this case will be one of newly appointed Sonia Sotomayor's first as a Supreme Court justice. Liz Halloran, in a LWVUS web article dated August 6, 2009, quoted Rick Hasen of Loyola Law School, "She is the only one on the court who has experience as a campaign finance regulator." Although League President Wilson believes Sotomayor's "experience and personality will help advance arguments" in favor of current controls, Halloran said "her presence on the court won't wrest control of the issue from the court's majority conservative wing."

### **Equality Day**

August 26 is Women's Equality Day, the 89<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the day that the US constitution was amended to grant women the right to vote.

**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](http://www.lwv.org)

State: [ca.lwv.org](http://ca.lwv.org)

County: [www.lacilo.ca.lwvnet.org](http://www.lacilo.ca.lwvnet.org)

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

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.

## 2009 Calendar

Aug. 6, 7-9 pm	Board Meeting (Call for location)
Sept. 1	Primary election, 51 <sup>st</sup> State Assembly District
Sept. 3, 7-9 pm	Board Meeting (Call for location)
Sept. 26, 9-11 am	Tri-League Kickoff, Marie Callender's, Torrance & Hawthorne Blvds.
Oct. 1, 7-9 pm	Board Meeting (Call for location)
Oct. 10, 9:30-2:30 pm	LWVC Regional Workshop, Covina Woman's Club
Oct. 14, 7-9 pm	Lomita City Council Candidate 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)



**League of Women Voters of Torrance**

*Serving Carson, Gardena, Harbor City, Lomita and Torrance*

*Post Office Box 964*

*Torrance, CA 90508*

Address Service Requested

Time Dated