



# League of Women Voters

## North Coast San Diego County

# VOTER

The League of Women Voters, a nonpartisan political organization, encourages informed and active participation in government and influences public policy through education and advocacy.

Volume XXXVIII No. 7 September 2010  
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## Calendar September 2010

- Thursday, 9/2 12 Noon Sustainability Issues Group  
Leucadia Wastewater District  
Office (LWD)
- Tuesday, 9/7 9:30 AM Health Care Issues Group  
at the home of Vicki Beck
- Tuesday, 9/7 1:30 PM Pro/Con Speaker Training  
at the home of Roni Seay
- Wed., 9/8 10 AM General Voter Service Training  
at the home of Roni Seay
- Thursday, 9/9 9:15 AM Board Meeting—all welcome  
U.S. Bank, El Camino Real,
- Monday, 9/13 11:30 AM Oceanside/Vista Unit Meeting  
Buena Vista Audubon Nature  
Center, Oceanside
- Wed., 9/15 1:30 PM San Dieguito Unit Meeting  
Belmont Village, Cardiff
- Thurs., 9/16 10 AM Carlsbad Unit Meeting  
Leucadia Wastewater Office
- Friday, 9/17 9:30 AM Women's Issues Group  
LWD Office, Carlsbad
- Monday, 9/20 1:15 PM Book Group at the home of  
Naomi Marblestone
- Wed., 9/22 6:30 PM General Meeting  
"How County Government Works"**
- Wed., 9/29 6:30 PM General Meeting Pro/Con at  
Carlsbad by the Sea**

### Inside Pages:

- 2 "View" & Editor's Note & New members
- 3 Dr. Haynes & General Meeting
- 4 Voter Service & Smart Voter
- 5 Bulletin Board of September Events
- 6 State & National LWV
- 7 Observers vs. the City of Bell
- 8 I-5 Widening Proposal

## League Throws a Party Will You Be There?

### Founders Luncheon Saturday, October 2, 2010

We have extended invitations to more than 30 San Diego County area non-profit organizations and their members to come and help us celebrate the League's 90th anniversary. This will be a true community event.

**But the faces we most want to see in the crowd are our own League members.** Don't miss this chance to celebrate our 90 years of successful women's leadership in citizen education and advocacy. It's going to be an exciting event that you won't want to miss.

Committee members were working this summer to make this an enjoyable and memorable day. We have successfully recruited sponsors for our event and we are seeking more. KOCT, Oceanside's community television station, will air an interview with committee member Jackie Stone in September to publicize the event.

Plan to come at 11:00 to visit with old and new friends, bid on the wonderful prizes at the silent auction, enjoy refreshments from the no-host bar, and see a few surprises. Call your friends, family, and neighbors and put together a table for four or more—make it a party!

**The reservation flyer is included in this Voter and we urge you to fill it out and send it in today.**

## The View From Here

by Peggy Dornish

If you are a reader of the North County Times Opinion page, I trust you were amused to see Roni and me condemned by one local subscriber as “pied pipers” leading you, the “lemmings,” over the “precipice of reason,” whatever or wherever that is. The subject of his dismay is our right to vote, the founding principle of League. Oh well. . . .

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## What It Means To Be a Leaguer And Not A Lemming

The League is not, nor has it ever been, a club for the like-minded. Rather it is an integrated local, county, state, and national organization which for 90 years has advocated and acted in order to instantiate our nation’s democratic principles and ensure that they are the common property of all our citizens. Hence, the League’s fundamental tasks of monitoring our government and advocating for needed actions and programs which serve the public interest. Hence also our various educational and voter service activities. Furthermore, the League has never been a single-issue group--we are, or aim to be, inclusive in our concerns and in our membership.

That is who we are. And how are we who we are? The key word here is nonpartisan. At the League’s official founding in 1920, the choice was made neither to support nor oppose any political party or candidate for public office, and this affirmation has ensured ever since that the League’s voice is both heard above the din of political posturing and infighting and listened to with respect by citizens of every political persuasion. At the same time, the League encourages members to be active in the party of their choice so long as they participate as individuals, not as agents of the League. Historically, we have welcomed both activists and advocates who subscribe to our affirmation of nonpartisanship and inclusivity.

These core principles are the basis of our hard-earned, deserved reputation as every citizen’s ”go to people” on issues of government and policy. The role we play is indispensable in a functioning democracy in which individuals agree to subordinate their special interests in order to work for the common good in our society.

Let me conclude by asking you to renew your League membership for the coming year and urging you to consider pledging at a higher level of giving. We need you, and we like to think that you need the League.

## Editor’s Note

You will notice that almost every article in this VOTER ends with a call to do something—go to a meeting, party, help with voter service, become more informed, vote wisely, or promote SmartVoter’s website. This is why you belong to the League, a grassroots organization. Staff and boards don’t do all the work or have all the satisfaction. It is truly your League to make effective.

Roni



## Welcome New Members

Eileen Bennett  
San Diego

Margaret Gooding  
Rancho Santa Fe



**Karen S. Haynes  
Community Leader  
Founders Day  
Luncheon Speaker**

The first annual Founders Day Luncheon, to be held on Saturday, October 2, 2010, will celebrate Women as Leaders: Past, Present, and Future. The Founders Day Luncheon Committee is thrilled to welcome an outstanding leader in our community, Dr. Karen S. Haynes, president of California State University San Marcos, as our guest speaker.

Dr. Haynes has served as the third president of California State University San Marcos since 2004. She has overseen tremendous growth at Cal State San Marcos, including a 25 percent increase in student population, a nearly 50 percent increase in the number of students of color, and the physical expansion of the campus.

She is trail blazing a new path for CSUSM, one that is paved with regional partnerships and creative solutions to regional challenges. Among her many pioneering initiatives, Dr. Haynes has partnered with school districts, businesses, non-profits, and Native tribes to create pathways to CSUSM for underserved student populations.

Dr. Haynes' thirty-year career in higher education includes academic leadership roles at the University of Houston-Victoria where she served as president for nine years and dean of the Graduate School of Social Work for ten years. She holds a doctorate in social work from the University of Texas in Austin and a MSW from McGill University in Montreal, Quebec, Canada. She is the Presidential Sponsor for the American Council on Education's Southern California Network of Women in Higher Education, and she serves on the regional board of the San Diego Economic Development Corporation. She and her husband Jim Mickelson co-authored the landmark text, "Affecting Change: Social Workers in the Political Arena," now in its seventh edition.

**General Meeting  
County Government  
Wednesday  
September 22  
Carlsbad by the Sea  
2855 Carlsbad Blvd.  
6:30 PM**

*Please note: Carlsbad by the Sea, for security reasons, asks all visitors to sign in at the reception desk and wear a guest sticker while there.*

**General Meeting  
County Government  
What You Need To  
Know**

San Diego County Government is big, and it provides services which affect every resident in the county. These services range from public safety to public health, from courts to county roads, from senior centers to parks.

The County also provides state-directed services at the county level as well as municipal services for the unincorporated areas. The County is more than 4,200 square miles in size with a population of 3.2 million. Within its boundaries are 18 incorporated cities, 19 Indian reservations, large tracts of national and state lands, military and naval installations, and extensive unincorporated areas. The presentation will outline county services and programs, raise issues concerning governance, and invite questions and further discussion.

Our presenter is Nan Valerio, well known to us from her leading role in the recent Fire Protection Study. Nan currently serves as Director for Regional Governance in the County League. She was employed at SANDAG as a senior transportation and land use planner for twenty-seven years until her retirement in 2004. She holds a Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of Iowa and a Master of Public Administration degree from SDSU. No one is more qualified than she to discuss the complexities--and problems--of San Diego County Government.

## Voter Service Needs & Schedule

### Volunteer Activities Available Now!

You can see by our full calendar, Voter Service is going to be very busy this fall providing discussions of the ballot measures and conducting candidate forums in our coastal communities. This vital and exciting function of the League needs many members working together in order to provide these services. So please consider volunteering.

For first time volunteers, there are straightforward jobs of registering voters, helping with collecting written questions, or timing at the candidate forums. For members with experience in public speaking, moderating a forum may be for you. Members who want to learn just what we will be voting on this fall will enjoy learning about the propositions and presenting them to a community group. For this job, you will be teamed with an experienced presenter and given background materials and training to make it a manageable task.

To volunteer for any of these activities, please call Cathy Greene at 760-730-9136 or email her at [cs-greene49@aol.com](mailto:cs-greene49@aol.com). Edie Appel, our membership chair, will be calling to find volunteers for timers, voter registration, and other jobs. Please say yes when she asks you to contribute to the League's Voter Service activities in our communities.

### Voter Registration

Thursday, Sept 2 Voter Registration, Carmel Del Mar Elementary School

### Candidate Forums

Wednesday, Sept 8 Carlsbad Mayoral and City Council Candidates Forum at Rancho Carlsbad

Monday, Sept. 20 Del Mar School-Candidate Forum, at Del Mar Hills School

Tuesday, Sept 21 Oceanside City Council Candidates Forum, OCNA

Thursday, Sept 30 Encinitas City Council Candidates Forum at Grauer School

**Thursday, Oct 7 Carlsbad Mayoral and City Council Candidates Forum at Dove Library**

### Pros and Cons of Ballot Measures

Thursday, Sept 16 Pro/Con, S. Vista Community Association

Sat., Sept 25 Pro/Con, Lakeshore Gardens Homeowners Association

**Wed., Sept 29 6:30 PM Pro/Con at Carlsbad by the Sea, General Meeting for members & the public.**

Tuesday, Oct. 5 Oceanside City Council Candidates Forum, Ocean Hills Gov't Affairs Committee

Wed., Oct 6 Pro/Con, Solana Beach Presbyterian Church & Senior Ctr.

Fri., Oct 8 Pro/Con, for "Life" Group at MiraCosta Community College

Fri., Oct 8 Pro/Con, Solana Beach Civic Historical Society

Sat., Oct 9, Pro/Con for AAUW Fallbrook

Sat., Oct 9 Pro/Con, Lake San Marcos Democratic Club

Thurs., Oct 14 Voter Registration and Pro/Con, AAUW Del Mar-Leu.

Wed., Oct 20 Carlsbad Mayoral and City Council Candidates Forum, Carlsbad Village Association

Wed., Oct 20 Pro/Con, Brandeis Women's Group

Thurs., Oct 21 Pro/Con, North County Jewish Seniors Club

\*This is an abbreviated schedule for Voter Service as of August 21. We expect many more requests.

\*\***Bold events:** League sponsored for members and community.



### SmartVoter.org

In the two months leading up to the November general election, SmartVoter.org, the League's popular election headquarters on the Web, will again include a wealth of unbiased information on the state and local propositions, and will offer personal ballots for voters displaying the candidates on their ballots. All candidates for public office are offered free space to promote their campaigns in their own words. By early October, when mail balloting begins, we anticipate significant participation by candidates and will ask many members to help us achieve our goal.

SmartVoter is the signature service for the League of Women Voters of California and similar in its appeal to the televised Presidential Debates we conducted years ago. Now is the time to make sure SmartVoter becomes a household word in San Diego County. SmartVoter needs to take charge, keep up the momentum as the "go to" website for all voters to get their ballot information. If we don't continue to strengthening SmartVoter's recognition by the public, it could happen that other organizations (with more money) will usurp our idea.

**All members please take every opportunity to promote SmartVoter.**

## Bulletin Board September Meetings/Events

### Oceanside Unit

**Monday, Sept. 13 11:30 AM**

The Oceanside Unit will meet at the Buena Vista Audubon Nature Center, 2202 South Coast Highway, Oceanside. Speakers from both the Oceanside Housing Department and the Vista Housing Department will discuss housing issues. All League members and the public are welcome. Our unit members provide coffee and finger foods appropriate for that time of day, and bring suitable nonperishable packaged foods for the Food Bank.

### San Dieguito Unit Wednesday, Sept. 15 1:30 - 3:30 PM

The San Dieguito Unit will meet at a NEW TIME AND LOCATION. The location: The Town Hall Room of Belmont Village, 3535 Manchester Ave., Cardiff.

There is a shortage of parking at the Village. If there are no spaces IN THE REAR of Belmont Village, we will have to park at the Temple Solel just to the North. There is no connecting path from the Temple lot to Belmont Village so you will have to walk to El Camino Real and then turn right. You can't miss the Belmont Village.

We have a great program planned for you. A spokesperson from the Encinitas Fire Department will discuss with us what to do IN CASE OF FIRE. We are all vulnerable to fire, either in our homes or on lands near and around us. Please be sure to at-

tend. Fire season is soon upon us, don't be unprepared!

If you have any questions about parking, location or time, please call Anne Patton at 858-759-2715.

### Carlsbad Unit

**Thursday, Sept. 16, 10 AM**  
The Carlsbad Unit will meet at the Leucadia Wastewater District (LWD) to discuss:

**HOT TOPICS in CARLSBAD**  
Add your voice - Lets get involved!

- Zoning changes - Think Lowe's
- I-5 Expansion
- City finance - Pension reform

Let's discuss where we want to focus this year.

### Book Group

**Monday, Sept. 20, 1:15 PM**

The League non-fiction political book group will meet at the home of Naomi Marblestone to discuss 1491 by Charles Mann. Anne Omsted will lead the discussion.

### NEW Issues Group Season!

Groups begin in earnest this month. If a topic engages your interest or curiosity, please attend a meeting to see if there is a good match. These groups are wonderful places to meet terrific people and learn about important matters.

### NEW Education Group

We are recruiting members who have a passion for education reform and best educational practices. Please call Carol Grimes-Gartland at 760-729-0278 or email her at [clgspeced@sbcglobal.net](mailto:clgspeced@sbcglobal.net) with your name and meeting availability. New innovations in education and recent standards for students and teachers will be explored and discussed. The

group has the opportunity to be on the cutting edge of the newly adopted national study: The Federal Role in Public Education.

### Health Care Interest Group Tuesday, Sept. 7, 9:30 AM

The meeting will be held at the home of Vicki Beck to prepare for SB810 presentations.

### Media Monitors

**Monday, Oct. 18, 9:30 AM**

Contact Roger Fox at 760-720-3793 for meeting location.

### Sustainability Group Thurs., Sept. 7 & Oct. 7, Noon

Meetings will be held on the first Thursday of the month at noon at the Leucadia Wastewater District Office (LWD). Join us for a brown bag lunch meeting. We will begin efforts to collect Sustainability Survey data from local cities. We will also plan for other group activities for this year. Please join us in this important effort that educates the public and brings credit to our league. Call Diane Mochizuki for more information. LWD address: 1960 La Costa Ave, Carlsbad 92009

### Women's Issues Friday, Sept. 17 at 9:30 AM

We'll meet at the Leucadia Wastewater District office, 1960 La Costa Ave., Carlsbad 92009. Plan to attend our first meeting after a busy summer. Bring your ideas, challenges, issues concerning women. We will discuss, research, and explore them. Contact Evelina Hamilton with questions [evelinahamilton@gmail.com](mailto:evelinahamilton@gmail.com).

### New to League (NTL)

Contact Nancy Telford at 760-753-3487 or Naomi Marblestone at 760-720-9187 for dates for the next meeting.

## And then there were. . .

### Status of the California Redistricting Commission

Nearly 31,000 people applied for the 14-member California Redistricting Commission in February. Since then, the State Auditor's Panel has worked in webcast public sessions to select the most qualified 120 applicants, of which 47 percent are women. To view the applicants, including seven from San Diego County, go to [www.wedrawthelines.org](http://www.wedrawthelines.org)

Public interviews are being conducted until September 10th to narrow the pool to 60 applicants. By October 1, the Panel will submit the 60 names to the Legislature, which can remove up to 24 names. Then the Auditor will randomly select 8 names for the Commission. The eight members will then select the final six members. Their work will begin on January 1, 2011, using 2010 Census data to redraw state Assembly, Senate and Board of Equalization district boundaries.

## LWV of California Positions on the November Ballot Measures

For more detail see: <http://ca.lwv.org/action/prop1011/flyer.html>

Prop	Subject	Description	LWVC Position	Why
18	Water Bond	Legislature removed from ballot because of economic conditions.	None	
19	Legalize Marijuana	Allows people 21 years-old or older to possess cultivate, or transport marijuana for personal reasons	No Position	LWVC positions do not cover the issues in this prop.
20	Redistricting Congressional Districts	Adds U.S. House of Representatives redistricting to the scope of work the California Redistricting Commission will undertake.	Oppose	Prematurely increases workload of the new Redistricting Comm. and shorten time to do the work.
21	Surcharge for State Parks & Wildlife Programs	Creates an earmarked \$18 vehicle license surcharge and grants free admission to all State Parks to surcharged vehicles.	Neutral	LWVC doesn't support earmarks, but is neutral due to plight of State Parks.
22	Taking Local Funds	Prohibits State from taking, shifting, borrowing or restricting tax revenues dedicated to fund local services.	Neutral	Although would provide some stability in funding local govt., it would freeze the current dysfunctional system.
23	Suspend Clean Energy & Air Pollution Standards	Suspends State laws requiring reduced greenhouse gas emissions until California's unemployment rate drops to 5.5 percent or less for four consecutive quarters.	Oppose	Would kill AB 32, the landmark Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006, which League supported.
24	Repeal Corporate Tax	Repeals legislation passed during 2008-09 budget negotiations which gave annual tax breaks estimated at \$1.3 billion to mostly large corporations	Support	Budget crisis cannot be solved by expenditure cuts alone, especially with no demonstrated value to the economy.
25	Simple Majority Vote for Budget	Changes the legislative vote requirement necessary to pass the State budget from two-thirds to a simple majority. Legislature would forfeit salary and expense reimbursement until a budget is passed.	Support	Majority rule is a fundamental part of democracy.
26	Increases Vote Requirement	Increases legislative vote requirement to two-thirds for State levies and charges.	Oppose	Decisions on revenue measures should be made by a simple majority vote.
27	Eliminates Commission on Redistricting	Eliminates the 14-member redistricting commission from applicant pool picked by government auditors. Responsibility for redistricting would return to the Legislature.	Strongly Oppose	Would kill redistricting reform approved by the voters in 2008.

# Could “Bell” Happen Here?

by Connie Ulrich



The city of Bell presents a case study in what happens when the only people paying attention to local government are those governing. It’s not surprising to find that Bell has a history of uninformed voters and poor voter turnout. Add an absence of oversight such as League Observers would have provided a general lack of transparency in city decision-making and you have the recipe for an irresponsible city council and administration.

Why is a League presence so important? Because our mission is to encourage the informed and active participation of citizens in government, to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and to influence public policy through education and advocacy.

Every League has the tools to ensure transparency in their local government agencies, to educate the public on issues, and to encourage citizen involvement. One indispensable resource is the League’s Observer Corps whose members regularly attend public proceedings. They are able to assess whether the governmental bodies are operating efficiently, are transparent in their decision-making, open to public comment, and responsive to citizen concerns.

Had there been a League Observer attending Bell City Council meetings, she/he would have become aware that most city commission meetings took place during city council meetings. That fact would have led the Observer to examine the composition of Bell’s boards, committees, and commissions and probably led to the discovery that these meetings often lasted only a few minutes, that they were

chaired by a City Council representative or the City Administrator, and that these officials paid themselves an extra \$7,873.25 a month for doing so.

Once aware of these practices, the local League, had there been one, could have mobilized League members and other citizens by Letters to the Editor of the local newspaper, by holding informational meetings, and by speaking out at Council meetings. The League could have and would have sounded the alarm loud and clear. Could a “Bell” happen here in San Diego County? Not on our Leagues’ watch!



## Join the League of Women Voters

Name .....

Address .....

Phone.....Email .....

Membership is open to all US citizens of voting age. Others are welcome as Associate members.

**Dues:** ○ \$60/year (Oct. 1<sup>st</sup> through Sept. 30<sup>th</sup>) basic membership with dues pro-rated at \$5.00/month for those joining mid-year.

○ \$30/year for 2<sup>nd</sup> member, same address.

### Additional levels of giving:

○ \$100/year Suffragist ○ \$200/year Activist

○ \$300/year Advocate ○ \$500/year Founders Circle

**Total Enclosed \$** \_\_\_\_\_

Please make checks payable to **LWVNCSDC** and mail to us at P. O. Box 131272, Carlsbad, CA 92013

### Questions?

Contact Edie Appel, Membership Chair at 760-736-1608

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### **I-5 Expansion Proposal**

*From Del Mar Times August 12, 2010 article  
by Steve Goetsch*

As many of you are aware, Caltrans has scheduled meetings in North County to present a number of proposals for I-5 expansion. What you may not be aware of is the huge cost, scope, and length of time being proposed for this expansion. If you'd like to learn about the implications of the recently released Caltrans proposal for a \$4 billion, 40-year construction project to widen I-5, be on alert for notices of local meetings. The 1000-page Environmental Impact Report (EIR) has recently be released and is open for comments until October 6.



The project would increase the number of lanes to as many as 18 lanes in some places. Up to 112 homes and 10 to 13 businesses will be partially "taken" by this project, including 34 or more homes in Solana Beach. The project would run from La Jolla Village Drive all the way to Camp Pendleton. Target date for

completion is 2050. Although the entire I-5 route was designated a "scenic corridor" the EIR describes miles of sound walls 9 to 12 feet tall cutting off treasured ocean views.

The project was requested by SANDAG in 2000 and is partially funded by the county-wide TRANSNET sales tax, which is reserved for transportation purposes. Only about half the funding is secure at this time. The project was described in 2001 as 21 miles long (it is now 28 miles long), costing \$600 million (now \$3 to 4 billion) and 20 years to construct (now 40 years).

Recently, the Solana Beach City Council authorized up to \$85,000 to hire consultants to advise the city on the impact of this massive project. Some of them are already at work doing independent analyses and measurements.

Watch the media for dates of Caltrans workshops and community "town hall" meeting and plan to learn more about options on expanding or not.