



THE BEACH VOTER

The League of Women Voters of the Beach Cities
310 / 793-0569 www.beachvoter.org
serving El Segundo, Hawthorne, Hermosa Beach, Inglewood, Manhattan Beach, and Redondo Beach

ASSEMBLY MEMBER JEROME HORTON SPEAKS OUT ABOUT CALIFORNIA'S CHALLENGES, PRAISES THE LEAGUE

At our annual Kickoff Breakfast on Saturday, September 17 League members from the Beach Cities, Palos Verdes and Torrance enjoyed the harbor view from the Bluewater Grill in Redondo Beach and the chance to get reacquainted after the summer. This year's speaker, Jerome Horton, Member of the Assembly from the 51st District which includes Hawthorne and Inglewood, enriched the experience by providing inspiration as well as insights into Sacramento's political realities.

Assembly Member Horton spoke harshly of term limits, saying they have eroded the Legislature's ability to deal with complex public issues by turning the governing process over to legislators who frequently have little experience, historical knowledge or capacity for debate and whose objectivity is compromised by concerns about future job prospects. The League's role in providing factual and objective evaluations of legislation has become all the more important. Asked how the evils of term limits can be corrected without reviving the evils they were directed against, he suggested four terms in Sacramento would amount to a career but not a lifetime. (Continued on page 3.)

SUPPORT OUR LEAGUE AT THE OLD HOMETOWN FAIR

Once again it is time to ask all of our members to participate in our first fund raiser of the new LWVBC year. The Manhattan Beach Old Hometown Fair will be held on Saturday and Sunday, October 1 and 2. We are counting on all of our members to supply Brownies and Rice Krispies Treats to sell at our booth. Please bring them to Peggy Bartlett's home--701 13th Street, Manhattan Beach--anytime before the Fair, or to the booth . **PLEASE DO NOT CUT YOUR BAKED GOODS!**

If you can work a two-hour shift at the Fair on either Saturday or Sunday give Peggy a call. We need volunteers for our voter registration/information table as well as the food booth.

We try very hard to keep our membership dues down. The money we earn at the Fair helps support our voter education and advocacy activities.

A map and a recipe for Rice Krispies Treats is posted at www.beachvoter.org.

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The League of Women Voters is a non-partisan organization open to all citizens of voting age. Young people and non-citizens may join as associate members. The League's mission is to promote political responsibility through informed and active participation in government. The League never supports or opposes any political candidate. The League advocates on issues that members have studied and on which members have reached consensus.

Beach Voter

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SNOWED UNDER BY CAMPAIGN CLAIMS?
GET THE FACTS AT SMARTVOTER.ORG.



FROM VOTERS SERVICE

The 53rd Assembly District seat formerly held by the late Mike Gordon is no longer vacant. Ted Lieu won 59.9 per cent of the vote at the special primary on September 13, making a runoff election unnecessary.

Just around the corner is the special election on November 8. In addition to local city and school board elections there are eight ballot measures.

In October the Beach Cities League will be presenting unbiased explanations of the ballot measures along with proponents' and opponents' positions to requesting groups in El Segundo, Hawthorne, Hermosa Beach, Inglewood, Manhattan Beach and Redondo Beach. Candidates' forums also planned and sponsored by the LWVBC are set out below.

The League continues our mission to inform the electorate! Remember to vote on November 8.

Barbara Arlow and Linda Mack

CANDIDATES FORUMS

City Council Forum/Measure E pros & cons
Hermosa Beach Women's Club, Co-sponsor
Wednesday, October 12, 12:30-2:30 p.m.
Clark Building, 861 Valley Drive, Hermosa Beach

Hawthorne City Clerk/City Council
Centinela Valley & Wiseburn School Boards
Hollyglen Homeowners Association, Co-sponsor
Thursday, October 20, 7-9 p.m.
Dana School Auditorium at 135th & Aviation,
Hawthorne

Manhattan Beach School Board
Tentative date*: Monday, October 24, 7-9 p.m.
Mira Costa High School Auditorium
701 Peck Avenue, Manhattan Beach
*** Check calendar on Beachvoter.org or call
310-793-0569.**

KICKOFF--(continued from page 1)

Concerning budget challenges, such as a current proposal that would empower the governor to make 15 per cent across-the-board cuts to enable the state to live within its means, Assembly Member Horton said such measures circumvent the hard questions concerning where cuts can be made. He pointed out it costs the state \$1,000 a square foot to build a public school, as compared to \$200 a square foot to build a house. The extra, routinely justified by reference to earthquake retrofit requirements, is clearly excessive.

Redistricting, he said, is "a waste of time" as it will not make politicians any more accountable to the general public. The public should demand reforms, empowerment, and a mechanism to make legislators reach out to all their constituencies. "Poly-ticks and poly-tactics" keep anything from getting done.

Asked how to identify leaders, he said a leader should have compassion, basic human skills and receptivity to the concerns of all people. He urged the League to find ways to recognize and support emerging leaders at the high school and college levels.

On the environmental front, he claimed fuel use can be cut 60 per cent by use of solar panels, which have become less costly. He supports legislation to cut greenhouse gas emissions. When urged by LWVBC Program Chair Maggie Wilkinson to lend his support for retention of programs promoting changeout of diesel school buses for buses using alternative fuels, which are presently under assault before the Air Resources Board, he said he would speak with a contact on the Board to learn more about the issue.

On education, he said the governor has broken his promises while federal funding has been cut for both education and crime prevention. When asked about getting books into classrooms, however, he said this is one of many cases where money is available but the people who need it don't know how to tap into the right programs. He faulted local politicians for not getting the word out about potential assistance under the Healthy Family Program, Cal Grants for job training and other job training money under the transportation bond fund. If applications aren't filed by specified deadlines, the money is lost.

At several points in his address Assembly Member Horton praised the League for providing the electorate with objective information, an effort he said is all the more important as simplistic, misleading messages proliferate. Best of all, he said the League makes things happen! What nice words to hear at a Kickoff.

Irma Cohen and Henrietta Mosley



USA PATRIOT ACT REAUTHORIZATION

The House and Senate will be meeting soon to work out the differences in the USA PATRIOT Act. The LWVUS recently issued an Action Alert about the USA PATRIOT Act reauthorization. It is important that the improvements to the Act found in the bipartisan Senate bill, S. 1389, are kept and that attempts to further expand the Act in the House bill, H.R. 3199, are stopped.



While the Senate bill does not make all the changes that are needed, it does more to protect civil liberties and restore checks and balances than the House bill. The Senate bill provides for more legislative and judicial oversight, retaining shorter sunsets for two of the more controversial provisions (Sec. 206 and Sec. 215). It also places some limits on “sneak and peak” warrants (Sec. 213) and requires more relevance to counterterrorism when requesting personal records in investigations. On the other hand, the House version adds extraneous measures and expands the powers of the USA PATRIOT Act unnecessarily – making most of the law permanent without regard to needed oversight.

Please contact your members of Congress now! Urge them to support the language of the Senate reauthorization that was passed in the Senate by unanimous consent in a voice vote on July 29.

In addition, your Representative and Senators can do more to protect civil liberties and improve upon the Senate bill by supporting the SAFE Act, S. 737 and H.R. 1526. The SAFE Act provides reasonable checks on some of the most extreme sections of the USA PATRIOT Act. That law must be more balanced -- passing the Senate reauthorization and the SAFE Act would provide essential safeguards to our democratic rights while allowing for the powers necessary to combat terrorist threats.

Additional action options and background information are at the new LWVUS Legislative Action site at <http://capwiz.com/lwv/home>.

ACTION NEEDED

1. Contact your Senators and Representative now, by phone and by email, and urge them to guard our civil liberties when reconciling the different bills to reauthorize the USA PATRIOT Act. Tell them that the provisions of the Senate reauthorization should be retained and that the provisions of the House reauthorization go too far, expanding the reach of law enforcement at the expense of civil liberties. Ask them to support the Senate bill to reauthorize the USA PATRIOT Act as well as the SAFE Act.
2. Phone calls can be made through the Capitol Hill switchboard at 202-224-3121 or 202-225-3121. Or simply enter your zip code on the new LWVUS Legislative Action web site <http://capwiz.com/lwv/home> to send an instant message!
3. Encourage your friends and coworkers to contact their members of Congress today!

VISIT THE NEW LWVUS LEGISLATIVE ACTION CENTER

at <http://capwiz.com/lwv/home>. This nonpartisan web site makes it easy to make your voice heard on important issues when key bills are moving. In addition to providing links enabling you to communicate immediately with your elected officials, the site gives the day's schedule for both houses of Congress and for Committee Hearings.

MEMBERSHIP MEETING ON BALLOT MEASURES**MONDAY, OCTOBER 24, 2005, 7 P.M. -- MANHATTAN BEACH LIBRARY**

How often have you been asked what the League recommends on the ballot measures? Our next meeting will give you detailed arguments and information to assist you in advising your family and friends how to vote.

Briefly, the League of Women Voters of California recommends a NO vote on all of the ballot measures except 79 for the Special Election scheduled for November 8, 2005. A YES vote is recommended on 79, the Prescription Drug Discounts measure which provides for State-negotiated rebates. (See LWV recommendations, page 6 and article on Proposition 73 which follows.)

LWVC announced opposition to Proposition 77, the Redistricting Initiative, after negotiations failed to gain reform of the redistricting process by which congressional, legislative and Board of Equalization district lines are drawn.

The Governor and legislators were urged to offer a measure which includes an independent commission reflecting California's diversity; an open, accessible process for public input and scrutiny; and fair criteria for drawing lines. However, the only measure on the ballot is the Costa initiative, Proposition 77. Voting rights advocates join with the League to recommend a NO vote.

Taking action is a vital part of League's mission. Join us at the October membership meeting to gain in-depth knowledge and information about the ballot measures, what League positions were applied and the rationale for our recommendations on each measure. Become an informed advocate!

Jan Nathanson, Action Chair

**PARENTAL NOTIFICATION INITIATIVE -- OPPOSE**

The League of Women Voters of California opposes Proposition 73, the Parental Notification Initiative. This measure would amend the California Constitution to prohibit a minor from obtaining an abortion until 48 hours after the physician notifies the minor's parent or legal guardian, except in a medical emergency or with a parental waiver. The initiative permits a judicial waiver of notice based on clear and convincing evidence of the minor's maturity or the minor's best interests. To obtain a waiver the minor must file a petition and appear personally in juvenile court.

We believe that parental notification laws are unwise. Most parents want what is best for their children and for them to be safe. Most teens voluntarily involve their parents or another trusted adult in the intensely personal decision to terminate a pregnancy. But if for any reason a teen could not do so, most parents would want their daughters to get professional medical care and counseling in a timely way. The initiative could cause young women who feel they can't confide in a parent or face a court of law to prolong pregnancy until it is too late to obtain an abortion or their health is jeopardized. Alternatively, they may seek dangerous and illegal ways to terminate their pregnancies. (Continued on page 6.)

PROP. 73 -- (continued from page 5.)

The judicial bypass option in the proposed initiative is unrealistic. Teenagers fear the court process, and navigating the judicial system requires significant financial and psychological resources. Furthermore, it is difficult, if not impossible, to guarantee teens' privacy, especially in rural areas.

Good family communications cannot be imposed by governmental action. We should be focusing on prevention through professional counseling, comprehensive sex education, and birth control.

Reprinted from the Sept/Oct *Voter* of the League of Women Voters of Beverly Hills .

LEAGUE RECOMMENDATIONS FOR NOVEMBER 8, 2005 SPECIAL ELECTION

NO on PROP 73 *Waiting Period and Parental Notification before Termination of Minor's Pregnancy.* Parents rightfully want to be involved in their teenagers' lives and most parents want what is best for their children. But good family communication can't be imposed by government. Mandatory notification laws may sound good, but in the real world, they just put teenagers in real danger.

NO on PROP 74 *Public School Teachers. Waiting Period for Permanent Status. Dismissal.* The League supports fair, rigorous, and effective teacher evaluation and tenure procedures. However, this measure raises questions of due process rights and may limit the use of dismissal for cause. It does nothing to encourage teachers to enter and remain in the profession.

NO on PROP 75 *Public Employee Union Dues. Restrictions on Political Contributions. Employee Consent Requirements* The League supports fair, even-handed campaign finance reform, but this measure is bad policy. It restricts public employee unions' use of member dues for political activity but has no similar constraint on corporations.

NO on PROP 76 *State Spending and School Funding Limits.* This constitutional amendment changes the state's spending cap, increases the governor's power to make budget cuts, and revises the Proposition 98 minimum guarantees for state support of education. It reduces flexibility to address changing needs and will cause cuts in essential services. School funding will be permanently reduced by \$4 billion per year. Our system of checks and balances will be undermined by giving this and all future governors the power to make cuts unilaterally. This is not budget reform!

NO on Prop 77 *Redistricting.* California needs to reform the way legislative and congressional district lines are drawn, but this flawed measure doesn't measure up. The makeup of its redistricting panel and its neglect of communities of interest in drawing plans are bad policy. This proposal calls for an immediate redistricting that would ignore three million new Californians, and it requires a cumbersome, wasteful ratification of every set of plans by the people.

NO on PROP 78 *Discounts on Prescription Drugs.* There are two prescription drug initiatives on this ballot. Drug companies have contributed over \$50 million to support Proposition 78, an inferior program that depends on their voluntary participation.

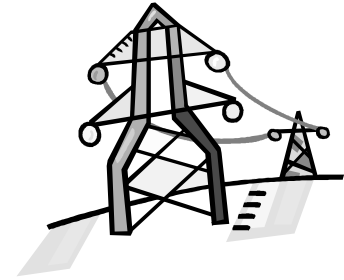
YES on PROP 79 *Prescription Drug Discounts. State-Negotiated Rebates.* Proposition 79 offers deeper drug discounts to nearly twice as many Californians as Proposition 78. It has an enforcement mechanism to hold drug companies accountable for providing discounts.

Because League positions do not cover the issues in **PROP 80, *Electric Service Providers. Regulation,*** the League is remaining neutral on this initiative.

Looking ahead --

WILL WE HAVE THE POWER? FROM WHERE? AT WHAT COST?

Early next year we'll be participating in the League's State Energy Study. The Beach Cities energy study group is just forming. This is a chance to learn about the forces -- electrical, political, economic -- that affect the lives of us all. How does the energy we use get to our homes and work-places? What should be done to keep it flowing reliably, economically and environmentally responsibly as California's population continues to grow? What can we do to reduce our reliance on the power grid?



TAKING PART IN A STUDY IS ONE OF THE BEST WAYS TO GET ACQUAINTED WITH LEAGUE! IT'S A GROWTH EXPERIENCE! IT'S A CHANCE TO DAZZLE YOUR FRIENDS AND FAMILY WITH YOUR KNOWLEDGE! IT'S FUN!

Call Maggie Wilkinson -- 310-322-7870 -- if you can help.

The League affirms our belief in and our commitment to diversity and pluralism. There shall be no barriers to participation in any activity of the League on the basis of gender, race, creed, age, sexual orientation, national origin, or disability. The League recognizes that diverse perspectives are important and necessary for responsible and representative decision making.

We're a not-for-profit organization, established in 1920, with the mission of promoting political responsibility through informed and active participation in government. We never support or oppose political candidates. We do advocate on issues that our members have studied and on which we've reached consensus.

All citizens of voting age are welcome to join. Associate membership is open to young people and non-citizens. If you can't attend our monthly meetings and special events, please consider showing your support through your 2005/06 annual membership fee of \$50 (which is not tax deductible — however, donations to the LWV Beach Cities Education Fund are tax deductible).

For more information, you may contact Susan Grebe at susan@beachvoter.org or (310) 545-2097. Or just send your check (payable to the League of Women Voters of the Beach Cities), to Peggy Bartlett at 701 13th St, Manhattan Beach, CA 90266.

Name _____ Telephone _____ E-mail _____

Address _____

Oct 1&2 Sat & Sun	10 am- 6 pm	<u>Manhattan Beach Old Hometown Fair</u> . Contact Peggy Bartlett at 310-545-1087 or Peggy@beachvoter.org to help - see p. 1.	Live Oak Park, Manhattan Beach See www. Beachvoter.org and/or www.mbfair.org for fair information
Oct 10 Monday	7 pm- 9:30 pm	<u>Board Meeting</u> 7 pm-social. Meeting starts promptly at 7:15.	At home of Henrietta Mosley.
Oct 12 Wed.	12:30 - 2:30 pm	<u>Candidates Forum</u> . Hermosa Beach City Council/ Measure E pros and cons.	Clark Bldg, 861 Valley Drive, Hermosa Beach
Oct 20 Thursday	7-9 pm	<u>Candidates Forum</u> . Hawthorne City Clerk/City Council/Centinel Valley & Wiseburn Schl Bds.	Dana School Auditorium at 135th & Aviation, Hawthorne
Oct 24 Monday	7-8:45 pm	LAST DAY TO REGISTER TO VOTE ON NOV. 8! <u>Membership meeting</u> --Action Briefing on Ballot Measures. The public is welcome.	Manhattan Beach Public Library 1400 Highland Ave., Manhattan Beach
Oct. 24 Monday	7-9 pm	Candidates Forum for Manhattan Beach School Board. <u>Tentative</u> -- Date may change. Check Beachvoter.org or call 310-793-0569 for updated information.	MB City Council Chambers, Manhattan Beach City Hall, 1400 Highland Ave, Manhattan Beach
Nov 1 Tuesday		LAST DAY TO APPLY FOR ABSENTEE VOTER BALLOT BY MAIL.	Check www.smartvoter.org for registration information
Nov 8 Tuesday	7 am - 8 pm	SPECIAL STATEWIDE AND CONSOLIDATED ELECTIONS	Check www.smartvoter.org for polling place and election information.



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