



# THE BEACH VOTER

**The League of Women Voters of the Beach Cities**

310 / 793-0569 [www.beachvoter.org](http://www.beachvoter.org)

serving El Segundo, Hawthorne, Hermosa Beach, Inglewood, Manhattan Beach, and Redondo Beach

## **WHERE WILL CALIFORNIA GET ITS ENERGY? PART 2**

Our membership meeting on the 27th of this month will be a continuation of our California Energy Update Study. Our first meeting on this topic went well with those attending learning about our sources of energy supply, transmission constraints, changes to the electric industry in California since 1996 and our state energy agencies. We even had a review of those *very mysterious* charges on our electric bills.



At this month's meeting the study committee will present information on the interrelationship of energy and water and our dependence on natural gas as an energy source. We will also discuss California's State policy on global climate change, the role of the Legislature in regard to energy and where the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) fits in. Most importantly, **WE WILL COME TO CONSENSUS** on these vital energy questions. (See pp. 4-5.)

We urge all League members to participate in our discussion and consensus.

**WHEN:** Monday, February 27, 7:00 pm

**WHERE:** Henrietta Mosley's home, 436 First St., Manhattan Beach, CA  
(between Valley and Morningside Drives) 310-379-4591

**PLEASE JOIN US** for this important study update--one that affects us all.

## **AND A REMINDER--**

Don't forget to come hear **Mignon Marks** from the **California Energy Commission**, also a member of the LWVC Energy Update Study Committee, speak on "**Energy Decisions for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century.**"

**WHEN:** Sat., February 11, 10:00 a.m. to noon

**WHERE:** Katy Geissert Civic Center Library,  
3301 Torrance Blvd., Torrance

Sponsored by the Tri-League (Beach Cities, Palos Verdes and Torrance) with the Long Beach Area League. Public welcome. No reservations needed. See flyer from the January *Voter*.

--Maggie Wilkinson for the LWVC Energy Committee

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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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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.

OUR DEMANDING CONSENSUS PROCESS

The League's consensus process isn't easy. Right now, in the Energy Update study, we are grappling with thorny questions, and weighing a bewildering assortment of competing values, to come up with recommendations.

Our efforts matter, because they are the foundation for the authority with which the League will speak on energy issues. We are not "causers" who jump on any bandwagon that seems headed in the general direction of our goals. Our positions are more nuanced than that -- based on in-depth study and grassroots analysis of workable alternatives -- in short, on the consensus process, which gives them staying power.

The League's role in the redistricting debate provides an example. The day after Prop. 77, November's flawed redistricting proposal which the League opposed, went down to defeat, the LWV of California issued a news release stating, in part: "The League remains committed to pressing for a redistricting process that encourages public participation and scrutiny, has fair criteria for drawing the lines, and transfers responsibility for redistricting to an independent commission that reflects the interests and diversity of all Californians."

LWVC President Jacqueline Jacobberger continued, "We pledge our efforts to redesign the redistricting process without the flaws that plagued Prop. 77. And we challenge everyone concerned about our representative democracy to work with us to put a real reform measure before California voters in 2006." That effort is already underway.

We've all been asked the League's position on legislation or a ballot initiative. Next time someone asks, remind yourself why they're asking.

Come out and be part of our consensus.

-- The LWV-Beach Cities Board

Note: For more information on redistricting, or to sign up for redistricting updates, visit <http://lwvc.org/lwvc/action/redistrict/> or see the latest monthly LWVC update at <http://ca.lwv.org/lwvonly>.

HONORING THE LEAGUE:

Resolution ACR 40, passed by the State Senate this past December, "Recognizes the origins and accomplishments of the League of Women Voters and memorializes the 85th anniversary of the League." Happy Anniversary to us!!!

Doris Rosenberg-Legislation Director



A 'grateful heart a garden is' and as treasurer of Beach Cities League I am in full bloom. The response to our Non-Event has been heart warming. We invite you to participate in this event in the most lighthearted fashion we can propose but with the need for the funds always an underlying goal. One of our members often adds a note with her check, "I always have so much fun at this event!" I wait for her note each year as it makes the task of asking for money a little easier. With that said, to all of you that are still deciding how to enjoy your personal event we welcome your contribution and to those listed below thank you for your quick response.

Gratefully, Peggy Bartlett, Treasurer

WENDY PHILLIPS	MARY LOU BRENNEMAN	JUNE EICKER
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\*\*\* WELCOME \*\*\*

We have two new members to welcome this month -- Janice Brittain of Hermosa Beach and Celia Ball of Manhattan Beach. We also welcome back returning member Ani Haigazian, who attended the Energy meeting in January. We're so glad to have you with us!

-- Susan Grebe and Irma Cohen, Membership

### Our Program Recommendation to LWV of L.A. County

As directed by our members at the December Program Planning meeting, we are recommending an update to LWV/L.A. County's Mental Health Care position (adopted in 1989). The Update would include monitoring how the County applies the funds from the 1 per cent tax on high incomes imposed by last year's mental health initiative to improve the mental health care delivery system. Please let us know if you have a particular interest in this topic or if you would like to help advocate the Update Study's adoption at the LWV/LAC Convention .

Harriet Chase, Social Policy Chair

**Consensus Questions for the Energy Update Study** The following is a preview of the consensus questions we'll be considering at our membership meeting on February 27. This month's insert, "Designing an Energy Portfolio," will also help you prepare for the meeting. **(But please attend, whether you do the "homework" or not!)**

1. Values: What values should be considered in electric policy decision-making in the coming decade?

Please indicate which of the following values you consider 1) vital, 2) very important, 3) somewhat important, 4) not very important. (No more than two 1s and two 2s)

	1	2	3	4
a) Reasonable rates	___	___	___	___
b) Customer choice of provider	___	___	___	___
c) Environmental protection	___	___	___	___
d) Reliability of service	___	___	___	___
e) Transparency and efficiency of government	___	___	___	___
f) Social equity and environmental justice	___	___	___	___
g) Encouraging a strong industrial base	___	___	___	___
h) Public participation in the process	___	___	___	___
i) Other [please specify]	___	___	___	___

2. Factors for consideration: In planning for acquisition of new electric resources, what factors merit consideration? (Same 1-4 scale, and no more than two 1s and two 2s, as above)

	1	2	3	4
a) The diversity/mix of resources	___	___	___	___
b) Impacts on greenhouse gas emissions	___	___	___	___
c) Level of support for baseload power requirements	___	___	___	___
d) Availability at times of peak power demand	___	___	___	___
e) Dispersed (<10 MW capacity) generation	___	___	___	___
f) In-state vs. out-of-state generation	___	___	___	___
g) Impacts on the transmission grid	___	___	___	___
h) Potential sites for terrorist activity	___	___	___	___
i) Life cycle costs	___	___	___	___
j) Other [please specify]	___	___	___	___

3. Should investor-owned and municipal utilities in the state be expected to adhere to the same standards for renewable resources development, demand-side management procurements, and reserve requirements? Should all independent Load Serving Entities be expected to adhere to the same standards?

- 4) Since sites for power generation facilities and rights-of-way corridors are part of the statewide energy planning process, can you envision a process that would ensure that land be available for future energy development?
  - a) Should land-use planning for future infrastructure development be an essential element in state energy policy?
  - b) Should there be a requirement that a pre-CEQA assessment be conducted prior to designation or banking of particular lands?
  - c) What roles should the public have in terms of regional energy planning?
  - d) What roles and responsibilities should local governments have in regional energy planning?
- 5) We would like you to consider the impacts of customer choice and direct access on electric system reliability and customer rates. Specifically:
  - a) What would you be willing to pay for customer choice?
  - b) When direct-access customers leave the regulated utility system, the remaining core customers must pick up additional embedded costs, Should departing customers be required to pay their fair share of embedded costs?
  - c) Should an additional charge be imposed on departing customers, recognizing that there could be a negative effect on the integrated system?
  - d) What conditions should be imposed on customers that have left the regulated utility system if they wish to return to service by the utility?
- 6) At present there is some debate regarding the roles of state government in planning, owning, regulating and managing the electric power system.
  - a) Given that much of the generation is now owned by out-of-state companies, what roles can and should the state play in the regulation and management of an electricity market?
  - b) What could be changed to make planning and regulation a more transparent process?
  - c) The League has supported competent regulation at the state level to meet projected state energy needs, as well as to protect health and safety and the environment. What should the state's responsibilities and jurisdiction be in terms of the siting and the rate structures of facilities not owned by the investor-owned utilities, including proposed liquefied natural gas facilities?
- 7) Would there be advantages in having a single California Energy Agency with responsibility for energy planning, policy, facility permitting, operational integrity and regulation? Please list some advantages and disadvantages. What other alternatives exist if California is to have an effective planning and regulatory process for the energy sector?
- 8) The water sector—conveyance, treatment, end-use and irrigation pumping—is California's largest consumer of electric power, and the demands of the water sector for on-peak power are expected to double over the coming decade. What specific improvements in conservation, efficiency and forecasting could be carried out by water users to foster more effective use of both our water resources and our energy resources?

INVITATION TO JOIN THE LEAGUE

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, 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 \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Interests \_\_\_\_\_



## LEAGUE SUPPORTS SIX-POINT LOBBYING REFORM PLAN

During the coming months, the House and Senate will consider reforms to respond to the lobbying scandals in Washington that deeply concern the American people. On Monday, January 23, LWVUS Executive Director Nancy Tate and leaders of six other national reform groups held a press conference in Washington, DC releasing six benchmarks for judging lobbying reform proposals.

### 1. Break the nexus between lobbyists, money and lawmakers.

Cap contributions from lobbyists and lobbying firm PACs to federal candidates at \$200 per election and to national parties and leadership PACs at \$500 per election cycle.

Prohibit lobbyists and lobbying firms from soliciting, arranging or delivering contributions and from serving as officials on candidate campaign committees and leadership PACs.

Prohibit lobbyists, lobbying firms and lobbying organizations from paying or arranging payments for events “honoring” members of Congress and political parties, such as parties at national conventions, and from contributing or arranging contributions to entities established or controlled by members of Congress, such as foundations.

### 2. Prevent private interests from financing trips and from subsidizing travel for members of Congress and staff, and executive branch officials and federal judges.

Corporations and others should be prohibited from making privately owned planes available for Members to travel at the cost of a first class air ticket rather than the cost of a chartered plane.

### 3. Ban gifts to members of Congress and staff.

The gift ban should close the existing loophole in the gift rules that allows lobbyists and others to pay for parties held to “honor” or “recognize” specific Members, such as the lavish parties held at the national party conventions.

### 4. Oversee and enforce ethics rules and lobbying laws through an independent congressional Office of Public Integrity and increase penalties for violations.

At the close of her press conference remarks, LWVUS Executive Director Nancy Tate stated: “We are asking for changes that citizens expect - changes that will bring the nation’s business out of the lobbyists’ backrooms, private jets, fundraising parties and golf courses into the open air of daylight, reform, enforcement and disclosure.” The full text of her remarks and the press release are on the LWVUS website, [lwv@lwv.org](mailto:lwv@lwv.org).

Establish an independent Office of Public Integrity in Congress and provide sufficient resources for the Office to effectively carry out its responsibilities.

The Office should monitor and oversee financial disclosure and lobbying reports; advise Members, staff and lobbyists on compliance with the rules; conduct investigations of non-frivolous allegations of ethics violations, including complaints filed by Members and outside individuals and groups; present cases involving potential ethics violations to the congressional Ethics Committees for consideration and action; and refer potential lobbying law violations to the Justice Department for civil enforcement.

### 5. Slow the revolving door.

Prohibit members of Congress and senior executive branch officials from making lobbying contacts or conducting lobbying activities for compensation in either branch for two years after leaving their positions.

Prohibit senior congressional staff from making lobbying contacts for compensation with their former offices or committees for two years after leaving their positions

### 6. Place sunshine on lobbying activities and financial disclosure reports.

Require lobbying reports and Members’ financial disclosure reports to be filed in an electronic format and made fully searchable on the Internet; lobbying reports to be filed on a quarterly basis; lobbyists and lobbying firms to disclose grassroots lobbying activities; lobbyists to file a list of the Members’ offices and congressional committees they lobbied during the quarter; and reports to be filed disclosing the financial backers of stealth lobbying coalitions.



**2006 EdSource Forum**  
**"School Accountability & Funding: Can California Get It Right?"**

Thursday, March 16, 2006  
Sheraton Suites Fairplex, Pomona

Don't miss the 29th Annual EdSource Forum to be held Thursday, March 16 in Pomona and Friday, March 17 in Fremont. Speakers and panelists will spotlight the two crucial policy challenges that will shape the future direction of public schooling in California.

**Accountability:** Top state policy makers discuss urgent accountability developments-- API, AYP, high school exit exam, low-performing schools.

**Funding:** How much is enough? How to spend it? To what end?

Registration for League members is only \$50 if paid by February 17 (\$60 thereafter). You can register online at [www.edsource.org](http://www.edsource.org); use the "subscriber" form to get the reduced rate available to League members. Or call Harriet Chase at 545-1026 for more information.

**COMING MARCH 9 -- TRI-LEAGUE ANNUAL LASAGNA SUPPER**

"Reforming Government: Private Money vs. Public Funding" will be the focus of our lasagna supper meeting on Thursday, March 9<sup>th</sup> at 6 p.m. Our featured speaker will be a representative from the California Clean Money Campaign. This organization is working with LWVC, Common Cause, and others to enact campaign finance reform.

It's time to remove the influence of special interest money from government policy. Find out more about it at our meeting on March 9 at the Katy Geissert Civic Center Library, 3301 Torrance Blvd. Supper (\$10.00) will be at 6:00 p.m.; Program at 7:00 p.m.

Send your reservations to Peggy Bartlett, 701 13th Street, Manhattan Beach, 90266. Please make your check payable to Tri-League of Women Voters. Phone: 310-5451087.

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**RESERVATION FORM FOR TRI-LEAGUE LASAGNA SUPPER**

Thursday, March 9 at 6 p.m.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Number attending \_\_\_\_\_

My \$10.00 payment for each supper is enclosed. (Please make your check payable to Tri-League of Women Voters.)

Amount enclosed: \_\_\_\_\_

Feb. 11 Saturday	10 am- 12 noon	<u>Energy Decisions For the 21st Century.</u> Co-sponsored by Tri-League and the Long Beach Area League. Speaker: Mignon Marks, California Energy Commission and member of LWVC Energy Update Study Committee.	Katy Geissert Civic Center Library 3301 Torrance Blvd, Torrance.
Feb. 13 Monday	7- 9:30 pm	Board Meeting 7 pm-social. Meeting starts promptly at 7:15.	At home of Irma Cohen.
Feb. 17 Friday		Deadline to Register for this year's EdSource Forum in Pomona on Thurs., March 16 (See topic below).	
Feb. 27 Monday	7-9 pm	Membership Meeting -- Energy Update. <u>Consensus Discussion.</u>	At home of Henrietta Mosley.
Feb. 28	Noon	March Beach Voter Deadline.	E-mail material, Subject: "March Voter" to VoterEditor@beachvoter.org
Mar. 9 Thursday	6 pm, program at 7	Annual Tri-League Lasagna Supper. "Private Money vs. Public Funding." Speaker from Calif. Clean Money Campaign.	Katy Geissert Civic Center Library 3301 Torrance Blvd, Torrance.
Mar. 16 Thursday		EdSource Forum "School Accountability & Funding: Can California Get It Right?"	Sheraton Suites Fairplex, Pomona



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