



# *The Beach Voter*

League of Women Voters of the Beach Cities

Serving El Segundo, Hawthorne, Hermosa Beach, Inglewood, Manhattan Beach & Redondo Beach

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## **A Reason for Hope**

By Teri Neustaedter, Homeless Committee Chair

With more than 53,000 homeless individuals in LA County at last count (2018), homelessness is an overwhelming issue. Even the Beach Cities have seen the number of homeless grow by 41 percent since 2015. But an expert panel who presented on January 28 at the Hermosa Beach Community Theater, in a well-attended program sponsored by LWV-Beach Cities, gave everyone a reason for hope.

Representatives from Janice Hahn's office, the LA County Homeless Initiative, Harbor Interfaith Services and the Beach Cities Homelessness Task Force provided an update on what's being done to remedy the homelessness situation. The biggest issue is the lack of affordable housing – that will take a few years to resolve, so what do we do in the meantime? Homelessness is a regional issue that deserves regional solutions, and that's what's blossoming as Measure H funds are being put to use.

Measure H was approved in March 2017. This quarter-cent county sales tax will produce \$355M annually to address homelessness in a wide variety of ways: prevention, outreach, permanent supportive housing, shelters and rapid re-housing are some examples.

Redondo, Manhattan and Hermosa Beach were granted \$150,000 of Measure H funds by the LA County Homeless Initiative to deliver local plans to combat homelessness. These three cities have created a joint task force, led by Manhattan Beach; a homelessness outreach team with both police and mental health liaisons connects with the homeless in our area to coordinate housing and navigate available services. El Segundo, Hawthorne and Inglewood also applied for funds to support their city's homelessness plans, and those are still being negotiated.

Police often become the "first responders" in working with the homeless. The Housing First strategy endorsed across the county is transforming what used to be a simple "enforcement"-only tactic to one that's more holistic, offering those in need resources, linking them to ways to get help. But first, a level of trust must be developed, and that can often take 7-10 interactions before someone agrees to move forward. This cultural shift in police approach, along with our city governments becoming more involved with regional efforts, will help produce a positive shift for those in need.

You will hear more about Housing First in the future, as housing provides stability and can allow someone to find a job, get mental or physical health care, battle addiction, or escape domestic violence. Preventing homelessness is the preferred intervention, but climbing rents and lack of housing make this a huge challenge, even for temporary housing, as demand is great. (Continued on p. 6)

INSIDE THIS ISSUE	PAGE
Report on "Homeless in the South Bay" forum: "A Reason for Hope"	1, 6
Inside This Issue	2
From the LWV-Beach Cities Co-Presidents	3
Membership News, Member Mixer	3
Thank you Non-event Contributors	4
Committee Reports. Health & Wellness, Book Club	4
Leuzinger Students in IOES GreenShorts Competition	5
3rd Annual Homeless Initiative Conf. Rept.	5-6
H.R.1, the <i>For the People Act</i>	7
CALENDAR	8

The League affirms our belief in 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.

**The Beach Voter**

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The League of Women Voters encourages informed and active participation in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy. Any person, 16 years or older, male or female, may become a League member. The League does not endorse, support or oppose candidates or political parties.

To become a member: Send check in the amount of \$30.00 (first time members introductory rate) payable to "League of Women Voters Beach Cities" to Susan Grebe at 629 19th Street, Manhattan Beach, CA 90266.

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

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Interests \_\_\_\_\_

## From the LWV-Beach Cities Co-Presidents:

The centennial celebration for the League of Women Voters is just a year away. When the League was organized in 1920 its purpose then, like today, was to promote active, informed citizen participation at all levels of government through education and advocacy. We do not endorse, support or oppose candidates or political parties.

We were pleased, co-sponsoring with the *Easy Reader*, to moderate three candidates forums on Wednesday, February 13th to an overflowing audience at the Redondo Beach Main Library. Candidates for Treasurer, Council District 3 and Council District 5 answered questions from the audience.

At a time when homelessness is an escalating crisis in Southern California, we are proud to have knowledgeable and activist members engaged in seeking solutions to the problem. You will find two articles from them in this *Beach Voter* issue..

Barbara Arlow and Joan LeSage

## Membership News

Welcome New Members: Joan & Scott Neumayer, Eric Neumayer, Margaret Healy and Michael and Skip Halloran, all from Redondo Beach.

Membership Rosters were mailed out in December. If you did not receive one or have changes to report, please contact me at [annkuhns@verizon.net](mailto:annkuhns@verizon.net). Here are updates for your roster:

### Address Correction:

Olivia Valentine  
2519 West 115th Place (**not Street**)  
Hawthorne CA 90250

### Phone Correction:

Jeanne Hamilton 909 204 1512

### New Email:

Don & Sari Brann  
dsbrann2020@gmail.com

## Member Mixer

Our second Member Mixer of the year will be held on Thurs., March 21 from 6 pm to 8 pm at Madero's Cocina Mexicana, 231 S. Pacific Coast Hwy, Redondo Beach. Discounted pricing on adult beverages and chef-prepared small plates will be available. This is an opportunity to get together with other members and prospective members in a relaxed, convivial setting, to discuss public issues or not. Should be fun. For questions, contact Arnette Travis: [arnettettravis@gmail.com](mailto:arnettettravis@gmail.com)

## THE LEAGUE NEEDS YOU!

The LWVBC's Nominating Committee, chaired by Ann Martin, is currently considering a slate of Board members for the 2018-2019 program year. If you've ever considered taking a more active role in the League, we want to hear from you. After all, any organization is only as strong as its volunteers. If you're interested, contact Ann at (310) 372-2823 or [jmartin-ca@earthlink.net](mailto:jmartin-ca@earthlink.net)

*Thank you to our much appreciated members  
who have so generously contributed to our annual  
Non-event fundraiser*

*Martha Andriani  
Ron Arias  
Barbara Arlow  
Peggy Bartlett  
Don & Sari Brann  
Jan Brittain  
Paulette Caudill  
Marilyn Dubas  
June Eicker  
Roz Fanello*

*Anne Garrell  
Susan Grebe  
Jeanne Hamilton  
Marla Horn  
Joann Kennelly  
Ann Martin  
Henrietta Mosley  
Michelle Murphy  
Dency Nelson  
Jeri Neustaedter*

*Sunhee Park  
Barbara Paulson  
Wendy Phillips  
Ellen Tarlow  
Margaret Thelen  
Mignon Thiem-Murphy  
Arnette Travis  
Diane Wallace  
April Halprin Wayland  
Lance Widman*

*For those who have yet to contribute -- fear not, there is still time to participate.  
All amounts large or small are still welcome!*

Health & Wellness Committee — Harriet Chase, Co-Chair

The committee met on Tuesday, February 12 to explore whether the Blue Zones Project that has been so successful in the South Bay could be extended to the City of Inglewood. Skip Halloran, who before retirement spent 40 years working for the City in various capacities including Senior Center Director, spoke on wellness programs currently available in the Inglewood community.

Inglewood has programs sponsored by the City, County and non-profits which are funded via a variety of grants. There are many programs, but they are separately sponsored and funded and there is no overarching umbrella. To create something like the Blue Zone Program as an overarching entity would require bringing all the existing program-sponsoring entities together to agree on who would administer the Blue Zones program and who would secure funding. By contrast, Beach Cities Health District is independent and not city based, and the funding comes from Manhattan, Hermosa and Redondo residents' taxes, creating an ongoing funding stream.

Committee member Arnette Travis, who is involved with Blue Zone Programming and is familiar with the Blue Zone certification process, helped guide the discussion. She noted that there is a process for an entity to become Blue Zone certified, but no measurements in place to be "Blue Zone inspired."

The next committee meeting will be on Tuesday, March 19 from 1:00-2:30 pm at Harriet's home. New members are welcome! If interested, contact Harriet: hzchase@roadrunner.com or 310-545-1026.

LWV-Beach Cities Book Club — Debra Estroff, Chair

The next Book Club meeting will be on Thursday, March 28, 7:00-8:30 pm at St. Cross Church, Room 5, to discuss *My Own Words* by Ruth Bader Ginsburg. For more information, or to communicate your preferences for future books, contact Debra Estroff (dbestroff@mednet.ucla.edu).

Leuzinger Students in IOES GreenShorts Competition  
by Lilia Tena, Senior, LWVBC Student Representative

Page 5

With the wild weather the entire country has been experiencing in the past few months, it's no surprise people are starting to address the consequences of pollution in our environment. Our world is paying the consequences of human carelessness. From the harmful gases produced by heavy traffic to the countless tons of plastic and trash that end up in our oceans, our world is constantly being affected by our thoughtless actions. There is one solution--get people to open their eyes.

Several students at Leuzinger High School are participating in UCLA's statewide IoES\* GreenShorts competition in order to help spread the importance of caring for our environment, starting locally. The criteria for submissions are simple. All that is needed is a quick 2-3 minute video describing one of the problems our ecosystem is facing and suggesting creative solutions or ways to help spread awareness.

"I'm really excited about filming this project. We really need to get people to open their eyes about what's going on." says one sophomore student.

Leuzinger's ECA (Environmental Careers Academy) and MCA (Multimedia Careers Academy) are working together in order to help get the message across. With MCA's cameras to document important footage and ECA's dedicated love and care for the environment, students will have more than enough resources to get creative and start on a project.

It is important for the world to know about what is killing our planet and what we can do to help fix these problems. We face countless challenges as a society, but now is a crucial time. Our planet is running out of power and every minute and change counts. The perfect place to start this trend is in our high schools. After all, we are the people of tomorrow and we are the ones who will live with the consequences if no action is taken. This change must start now.

All high school students in the SoCal area are welcome to participate in this competition. More information can be found at <https://www.ioes.ucla.edu/greensparks/make-a-film.ioes.ucla.edu/greensparks/make-a-film>

\*Institute of the Environment and Sustainability

Report on the 3rd Annual Homeless Initiative Conference, "Transformative Power Of Community: Changing Lives," on Feb. 7, 2019 at the Millenium Biltmore  
by Roz Fanello, Member of Homeless Committee

*Not Everything That Is Faced Can Be Changed But Nothing Can be Changed Until It Is Faced ( James Baldwin )*

The morning began with greetings and invocation. Special remarks by Supervisor Mark Ridley Thomas, who is known as the "father of Measure H," described the measure's expanse.

From Supervisor Hilda Solis we learned that the San Gabriel Valley has seen an increase in homeless seniors from 750 two years ago to 1370 now. The Lave Me (wash me) project in the Whittier Narrows area offers mobile showers every Thursday from 10 AM - 2 PM. The county is working on repurposing some of the unused buildings at the LAC USC Med Center area to be turned into housing for elders and for families.

(Continued on p. 6)

(Cont'd from p. 5) Supervisor Kathryn Barger told us that 18 thousand individuals and families have entered bridge and/or shelter housing since the inception of Measure H. Each year finds more homeless and the building is not keeping up for a number of reasons, race being number one. African Americans make up 9% of the population of LA County but 40% of the homeless are African American. The panel discussing "Racism, Poverty and Housing Scarcity" made it clear that a housing gap is a wealth gap.

In the early 1930's the FHA incentivized banks and realtors to discourage black home ownership. Redlining (red areas on the map made clear which areas were to be avoided) lasted for years until some changes began in the 1970's. It still is difficult to get landlords to accept "Section 8" (federal Housing Choice Vouchers Program) tenants. A recent article in the *Los Angeles Times* highlighted the problems caused by the recent government shutdown to tenants who depend on Section 8.

Among black children in school, up to 60% experience homelessness and yet 82% do graduate from high school. In LA County 50% of students experience some form of homelessness (doubling up on couches, etc.). Children in the foster care system suffer academic loss every time they move and they have a higher interaction with police.

For every white child in the juvenile justice system, eleven black children are tried as adults. The black unsheltered population includes 60% with a history of incarceration. They are then more likely to lose out on "right to work" paperwork once they are 18 and older. **The Homeless Initiative, The City of Long Beach, Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority (LAHSA) and a number of other services are available to help all children and families and especially the vulnerable 18-24 year olds.**

In summary, it was a terrific and educational day at a worthwhile conference. The breakout sessions were filled with experts who are making life better for our homeless neighbors. Rapid rehousing is one of the most heavily Measure H-funded strategies, but the LA County rental market makes it increasingly difficult to use the program as it was originally intended: as a quick and short-term assistance program for less vulnerable people. There are no easy answers and Measure H has only eight more years. But with the devoted hard work of service providers (including 1938 new hires in the past 18 months), whose services extend to 40 cities that have completed and received grants to face their homeless challenges, a difference will be made in the number of our neighbors experiencing homelessness. Recruitment of much needed social workers, counselors and administrative staff is ongoing.

#### A Reason for Hope, continued from p. 1.

Harbor Interfaith Services interacts daily with the homeless and knows each case involves an individual solution. In the Beach Cities, El Segundo, Hawthorne and Inglewood there were 625 homeless individuals during the 2018 count – and there will need to be 625 housing interventions to get everyone on a better path.

The good news is that groundwork has been laid regionally and locally to address the problem and Measure H is providing the funding to make it happen. Already nearly 19,000 people have entered crisis, bridge and interim housing funded in part or totally by Measure H, and more than 9,500 individuals have secured permanent housing specifically through Measure H funding. \$30M has been allocated for Outreach and \$17M is focused on Prevention.

Progress is being made. We all wish it could be faster, but the situation must be addressed one person at a time; one success story leads to another. Let's hope for thousands more in 2019.

***The following message from Chris Carson, President of the League of Women Voters of the United States, was sent out on Thursday, February 14:***

Ninety-nine years ago today, the League of Women Voters was founded with a mission to help 20 million American women carry out their new responsibilities as eligible voters. After all, the League was founded just months before the 19th Amendment was ratified.

Today we turn 99 years old, and the truth is: **we are just getting started**

In 2018 our organization reached more voters than ever before. In court rooms from Arizona to Wisconsin to the United States Supreme Court, we are fighting to protect the rights of voters and defend our democracy. In Congress right now the League strongly supports major sweeping legislation in H.R. 1, the *For the People Act*, that will expand voting rights and improve our elections.

The *For the People Act* is a comprehensive democracy reform package that includes restoration of the Voting Rights Act, voter registration modernization, public financing of elections through small donor matching funds, ending partisan gerrymandering and more. The League worked behind the scenes to influence the language of this legislation, including a push to include Same Day Registration.

As we celebrate 99 years of women's suffrage, we will continue to carry on the legacy of that achievement by making sure ALL eligible voters can exercise their rights and championing the expansion of those rights in the *For the People Act*.

With sincere thanks,  
Chris Carson, President

Additional information on the League's support for HR 1 is on the website at [www.lwv.org/newsroom/press-releases/league-women-voters-supports-hr1](http://www.lwv.org/newsroom/press-releases/league-women-voters-supports-hr1)

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Thoughts on League advocacy:

LWV advocates strongly based on our positions. Some issues are never resolved, such as representation for the District of Columbia, which was the very first position when the LWV was founded. But League has influenced solutions to many problems over the years by supporting issues which we have studied and on which we have reached consensus, such as redistricting in California. We also encourage members to contact their elected officials individually but have strength through advocating as a group as well. That is why I joined and have remained a member for so many years. Jan Nathanson, Program Co-chair

## CALENDAR

<b>March 11 Monday</b>	<b>6:45 - 9:30 pm</b>	<b>Board Meeting</b>	<b>St. Cross Church 1818 Monterey Blvd. Hermosa Beach Rm. 5</b>
<b>March 19 Tuesday</b>	<b>1:00 - 2:30 PM</b>	<b>Health and Wellness Committee meeting</b>	<b>Home of Harriet Chase 2151 N. Valley Drive Manhattan Beach</b>
<b>March 21 Thursday</b>	<b>6:00 - 8:00 pm</b>	<b>Member Mixer</b>	<b>Madero's Cantina 231 So. Pacific Coast Hwy Redondo Bch</b>
<b>March 23 Saturday</b>	<b>9:00 am - 12:00 pm</b>	<b>LWV-LA County Convention</b>	<b>Carson Event Center 801 E. Carson St. Carson</b>
<b>March 28 Thursday</b>	<b>7:00 - 8:30 pm</b>	<b>LWV Beach Cities Book Club discussion: <i>My Own Words</i> by Ruth Bader Ginsburg</b>	<b>St. Cross Church 1818 Monterey Blvd. Hermosa Beach Rm. 5</b>



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