



THE BEACH CITIES VOTER

The League of Women Voters of the Beach Cities
 serving El Segundo, Hawthorne, Hermosa Beach, Inglewood, Manhattan Beach, and Redondo Beach

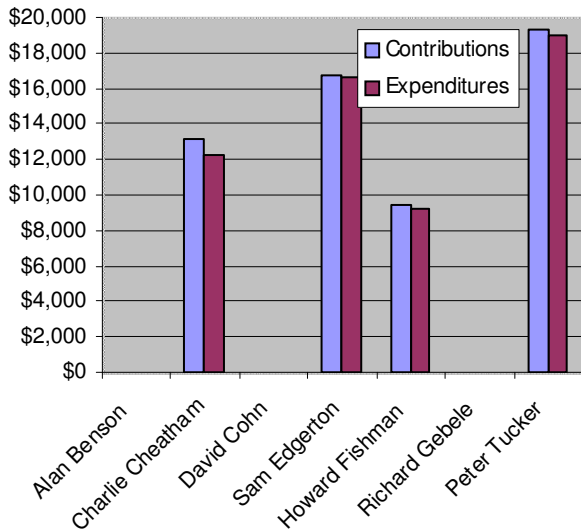
Politics and Money in the Beach Cities

The League of Women Voters has been a strong advocate of campaign finance reform. At the State level, League members have aggressively supported reform — gathering signatures for a ballot measure as well as taking action to gather voter support for state reform. And at the national level, the League applauded when the US Supreme Court upheld all key components of the Bipartisan Campaign Reform Act (BCRA) in 2003. In addition to upholding the ban on soft money, this decision upheld restrictions on funding of sham issue advertising.

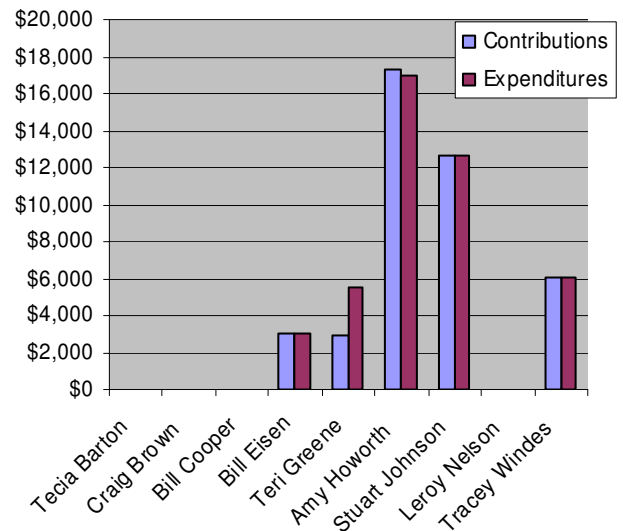
But what's happening at our local level? Our Voters Service co-chair, Barbara Arlow, has compiled the following information for two of the November 4, 2003 races. Among the seven Hermosa Beach City Council candidates, the two highest spenders—Peter Tucker and Sam Edgerton—were also the winners. And among the nine Manhattan Beach School Board candidates, the highest spender—Amy Howorth, and one of the lowest spenders—Bill Cooper, were the winners.

Under federal law,
 individuals can give
 no more than
\$2,000 to a
 candidate.

Campaign Finances - Hermosa Beach City Council



Campaign Finances - Manhattan Beach School Board



The information for the Hermosa Beach election was obtained from the Hermosa Beach City Clerk, and the information for the Manhattan Beach School Board election was obtained from the County registrar. Those candidates showing no contributions or expenditures filed forms stating that they will raise less than \$1,000.

Beach Cities Tackles Study of Local Commissions

Looking for an opportunity to better understand the way your community works? In the next few weeks, we will be gathering information for our local study "A Survey of the Selection Process of Local Commissions." The study will cover each of our six beach city governments: El Segundo, Hawthorne, Hermosa Beach, Inglewood, Manhattan Beach, and Redondo Beach. Please join in on what is sure to be an enlightening and eye-opening study — call June Eicker at 329-2020 or Maggie Wilkin-son at 322-7870. We will present our findings at our April membership meeting.



Thank You

We rely on the interest, support, and charitable instincts of our members and supporters. In addition to donors listed in our February *Beach Voter*, more have come through — and we thank them for their support!



- | | | |
|-------------------------|----------------|------------------|
| Wanda Arcos | Peggy Bartlett | Pat Dreizler |
| Joy Gault | Susan Grebe | Marion Greenman |
| Janis Hirohama | Maureen Kelly | Linda Mack |
| Henrietta Mosley | Jane Munson | Jan Nathanson |
| Wendy Phillips | Jim Pollard | Jennifer Steffen |
| Carole Wagner Vallianos | | |

In Memoriam

A long time Beach Cities League member, Dorothy Anderson, passed away on February 3, 2004 at the age of 94. A resident of Hawthorne since 1920, Dorothy was known as a leading citizen of Hawthorne for her many activities and leadership in P.T.A., the Womens' Club and Parks and Recreation Commission.

Marion Morgan was one of the League's experts on the United Nations. Her passing is a loss to the Palos Verdes League as well as members of the L. A. county Leagues.

Dorothy Treacle served as president of East San Gabriel League and was active in LWVLAC as well. She will be greatly missed.

The League of Women Voters is a non-partisan organization open to all citizens, men and women, of voting age. 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 of Women Voters was recently described as a "fraud" in a letter to each editor of *The Beach Reporter* and *The Easy Reader*. The reason was the allegation that the League presents itself as non-partisan but took a position on Proposition 56 in the recent primary election.

The writer either failed to remember or is unaware that the League of Women Voters grew out of the suffragette movement, which fought for almost 50 years to obtain the right to vote for women. This was not a partisan issue, and without strong advocacy, the battle might still be continuing or women would still suffer the second class citizenship our founding fathers assigned to them.

The definition of non-partisanship in the recent Primary election was clear. In California, a non-partisan voter does not designate a party affiliation and the ballot issued contains only the propositions, judicial offices and other non-partisan county and local offices up for election. A special request would enable a voter to vote one of three party ballots, which some non-partisan voters requested.

The long-standing mission of the League of Women Voters is to encourage informed and active participation of citizens in government. The League never supports or opposes candidates or parties, thus its non-partisanship status. However, the League is a political organization, in that government issues are studied, and if consensus is reached following in-depth study, it will take action.

There are two arms of the League of Women Voters. One is the Education Fund, a 501 (c) (3) non-profit corporation, which engages solely in research, study and education of citizens. The other is also non-profit, but serves members and the citizenry by both education and advocacy.

Voters Service is a major part of the League, providing *Pros and Cons* on ballot measures, Candidates' Forums, voter registration and other information through such activities as meetings and publications.

When action occurs, it is the result of lengthy study, consensus of members and adopted positions on numerous issues such as campaign financing, state budget, election procedures, health care and representation for Washington D.C., to name only a few.

The League of Women Voters is proud of its reputation as a non-partisan organization and works hard to protect its image of fairness and impartiality regarding candidates and parties. At the same time, its efforts in advocating for good government and the critical issues it emphasizes have influenced the lives of everyone, whether in local, county, state or national levels, for almost 84 years.

Jan

A Public/Private Partnership: Dynamic Changes in Downtown Manhattan Beach

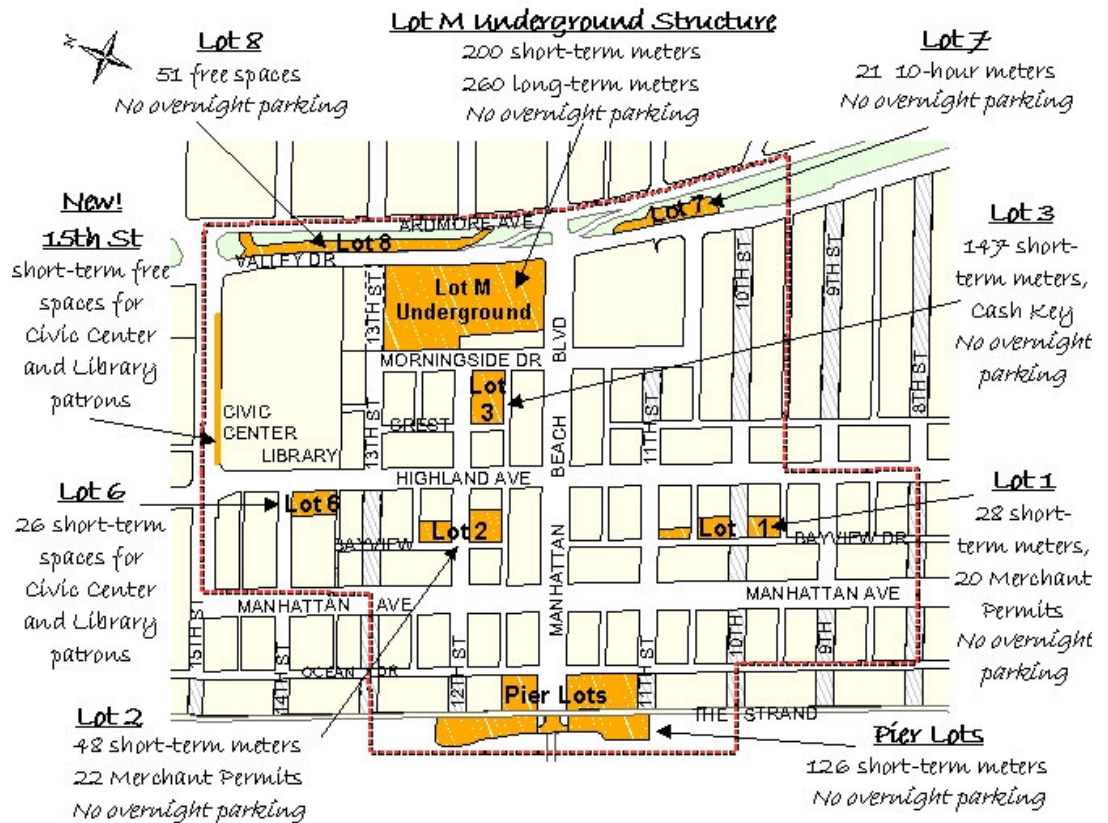
City Manager Geoff Dolan described the new public safety and Metlox projects at a luncheon meeting of the Manhattan Beach Coordinating Council. By August 2005, the old 22,000 square-foot police facility and the 10,000 square-foot fire facility are being replaced by a combined 60,000-square foot public safety facility, which will include:

- Main level — lobby and fire/police offices
- Second level — fire dormitory
- Below-grade — police, jail, and range.

A new 24,000 square foot civic center plaza will complete the project. And parking will increase from the present 208 parking spaces to 315.

Dolan said the Metlox project 460 spaces are city owned and operated. Public open space will comprise 40,000 square feet and 63,000 square feet will be of mixed use retail, restaurant, office, and inn space. He said the city expects \$849,000 in new revenues starting in 2005, including \$359,000 in parking revenues and \$490,000 in public revenues.

Where To Park In Downtown Manhattan Beach



Barbara Arlow, Voters Service Co-Chair

Volunteer Opportunities — Do you have time to help us out? We need volunteers!

- **Government Observer** — Do you have time to attend (or watch on TV) meetings of city councils, school boards, water districts, or health district?
- **Fundraising!** As our annual dues are only \$45 — fundraising supports much of our activity.
- **Smart Voter Coordinator** — Here is your chance to become active in the League in a position with no rigid schedule. You will be busy only during election times, when you will be talking to candidates for state, county, and local offices. All you need is a computer, internet service, and a desire to get balanced information to voters. For details, email Francis Talbott-White at talbwhite@yahoo.com.

The League of Women Voters California has approved Health Care as an Issue for Emphasis. This means that local Leagues will hold meetings to educate their members and the community about the health care crisis and offer ideas on how to take action. The LWVUS's Health Care Position states that *a basic level of quality health care at an affordable cost should be available to all U.S. residents.*

At last year's LWVBC health care meeting, two health care concepts were explained and two health care bills were presented based on them. Both bills are supported by the League of Women Voters California.

- Senate Bill 2 (Burton) was signed into law by Governor Davis. It uses the "pay or play" concept. It is an employer-based approach that requires the employers to pay a fee to the state to provide health insurance unless the employer provides coverage directly, in which case the fee is waived. Enough signatures have been gathered to have this bill on the November 2004 ballot for repeal; it has been named The Health Insurance Act of 2003 (SB2). The LWVBC board is supporting SB2 and recommends voting against a repeal.
- Senate Bill 921 (Kuehl) "Health Care for All Californians Act," (now in the Assembly) uses the single-payer concept. The government offers universal health care coverage through a single program, funded by taxes instead of insurance premiums. This bill meets the League's Position listed above.

The LWVBC Health Committee (Jan Nathanson, Beth Perkins, Maggie Wilkinson, Harriet Chase) invites you to the March Membership Meeting for updates on the health care crisis in California and the status of the two Senate bills, and for suggestions on how to take action.

Harriet Chase, Social Policy Chair

Action on Health Care

Striking grocery workers returned to their jobs last week, following an attempt to preserve their level of health care benefits provided through employer-based health care insurance. Is a move toward a "single-payer" health care system the answer? Join us as we find out the cause of the health care crisis, budget impacts on health care services at state and county levels, and how to take action on SB 921 (Kuehl) — Healthcare for all Californians Act. The public is welcome to join in!

Membership Meeting on Health Care

Monday, March 22, 7 pm to 9pm

Manhattan Beach Library, 1320 Highland

Doris Nelson, founding member and Director of Health Care for All Californians Act (the sponsoring agency for SB 921), will explain the bill and answer questions.

The average cost to an employer for each medically-insured employee has risen to \$6,277.

Electronic Voting Machines and Voter-Verified Paper Trails (VVPT)

The League of Women Voters strongly supports full and equal voting rights for all eligible Americans, including persons with disabilities. The League also supports voter verification of ballots, including the requirement in the Help America Vote Act (HAVA) whereby the voter verifies the ballot before it is cast and counted. However, the League does not support proposals for a new requirement for paper-based voter verification – the voter-verified paper trail (VVPT) system that would require Direct Recording Electronic (DRE) voting machines to provide an individual paper confirmation for each ballot for each voter to verify.

A VVPT requirement undermines voting access for people with disabilities or limited English proficiency, raises costs, fails to guarantee security, unnecessarily complicates the voting process, undermines federal certification standards, and slows the replacement of outdated voting machines.

- **The voter-verified paper trail requirement undermines voting access.** DREs make it possible, for the first time, for persons with visual disabilities or limited manual dexterity to cast secret and independent ballots. Because DREs can be programmed in multiple languages, voters with limited English proficiency can participate fully and equally. The millions of Americans who face literacy challenges also can take advantage of the audio features of DREs to cast independent votes without embarrassment. The VVPT system requires the voter to verify the written paper ballot, which historically disenfranchised voters will find difficult to do if they cannot see or if they have difficulty reading the paper verification. The VVPT requirement is costly and will also slow down the replacement of outdated voting machines or push election administrators toward optical scan ballots, which are less accessible to the types of historically disenfranchised voters described above.
- **The voter-verified paper trail system doesn't work. It does not guarantee a solution to the security concerns it is intended to fix.** If an electronic voting machine can be programmed to record an incorrect vote, it can be programmed to print out a misleading confirmation. VVPT advocates say the paper confirmations can be counted, but paper ballots are notoriously difficult to recount accurately. And there is a long history of lost, mangled and manipulated paper ballots. The real solution to security concerns is to institute the measures described below.
- **Management and operational procedures can be put in place now to protect voting machine security.** Among these are: physical isolation of each machine to protect against “hacking;” maintaining election official control over ballot creation, source codes, and management systems; statewide security programs binding on jurisdictions; improved equipment management practices and polling place operations; testing prior to and after Election Day; and parallel monitoring during Election Day.
- **A VVPT unnecessarily complicates Election Day processes for voters, poll workers and election administrators.** Printers jam, need paper, and are slow. With long lines already a problem at polling places, printing individual ballots and requiring a confirmation process for each voter will only exacerbate problems, confuse voters, and undermine voter privacy.
- **Federal standards already require that new voting machines, including DREs, provide paper records for recounts and authentication of elections.**
- **The VVPT requirement undermines the certification and standards process that protects voters and state and local governments.** VVPT systems are not certified. Mandating their use without a thorough certification process weakens the reliability of voting systems.

Remember the League

Please remember the League of Women Voters when planning your estate or reviewing your will.

Check the Box for Democracy

From a statement by Kay J. Maxwell, President, League of Women Voters of the US

Washington, DC "It's tax season again and Americans are agonizing over pages and pages of complicated federal tax forms. Anxious to get to the bottom line, millions of taxpayers skip over the first question, the one that asks whether you want to check the box to designate three dollars to the Presidential Election Fund.

"This election year, we ask you to take that question seriously. Checking the box is important for our democracy. It funds the public financing system that allows Americans to own the presidency, rather than special interests.

"It is important that taxpayers know upfront just how the Fund works. Checking the box will not increase the taxes they're paying or reduce their refund. It simply takes three dollars of the tax they've already paid and places it into the Presidential Election Fund. The size of the Fund depends entirely on the number of people who choose to check the box.

"The Fund was started in 1976 as a response to the special interest funding of presidential campaigns that brought the Watergate scandal. It sought to create a political system that was open and responsive to all citizens - equally. As the costs of campaigning have gone up, driven by the skyrocketing cost of buying television advertising, the system has eroded. In 2000, candidates from both major political parties raised enormous amounts of money outside the system and sought other ways to circumvent the limits. Last year, Congress and the Supreme Court acted to close these loopholes.

"Both the candidates and voters benefit from the public financing system. Candidates receive money to help cover their campaign costs and voters are assured that fundraising rules and spending limits are followed. Please do your part, check the box to protect democracy."

Changing Behavior to Mitigate Environmental Impacts

What can you do to save water?
Try:

- **Taking your car to a commercial car wash.**
- Using a broom to sweep your driveway, garage, or sidewalk instead of using water.
- Being careful to water the lawn – and not the sidewalk or street.
- Using a hose with a shutoff nozzle.
- Watering your lawn at night or in the early morning to avoid evaporation.
- Checking inside and outside faucets for leaks. Even a faucet with a small drip can waste a lot of water.



Focus on Car Washing

Urban legend has it that the oil and grease deposited from car drippings exceed spills from tankers and other disasters. These car drippings, which we deposit on roads, parking lots, and driveways, are mobilized by storm water runoff and end up in our streams, lakes, and oceans.

And you make the problem worse when you wash your car on the pavement in your driveway or curbside.

What's in your dirty car wash water that flows into the storm drain -- and then into Santa Monica Bay? A fine toxic mix of oils, grease, tire dust, rust, and BTEX contaminants (from your gasoline). And not only does the detergent you use loosen up all the contaminants clinging to your car, it also adds more toxicity to your dirty wash water, including ammonia, phenols, dyes, and acids.

Water quality leaders in the South Bay often suggest that residents stop driveway or curbside washing. Your alternatives? Take your car to a car wash! Most commercial car washes recycle their water, using about 60% less water per car than the average residential washer (Kevin Mercer, *Stormwater*, May 2002). And the spent wash water, after recycling, is discharged to sanitary sewers – not to storm drains.

If you must wash your car at home, please do so on your lawn, to avoid runoff of your wash water into the storm drain and Santa Monica Bay.

Mar 18	Thur	6:00 pm	14th Annual Lasagna Dinner— Assemblyman Lowenthal on Sacramento	Katy Geissert Civic Center Library 3301 Torrance Blvd, Torrance
Mar 18	Thur	7:45 am to 3:30	27th Annual EdSource Forum Overhauling School Funding in CA	Manhattan Beach Marriott — for registration, call (650) 857-9604 or go to www.edsource.org .
Mar 22	Mon	7:00 to 9:00	Membership Meeting Issue for Emphasis — Healthcare	Manhattan Beach Library 1320 Highland Avenue
Mar 25	Thur	5:00 pm	Voter deadline	Please electronically submit your articles to Kate Alson .
Mar 27	Sat	9:30 to 2:30	County Convention: Speaker Richard McKee — CA First Amendment Coalition	Tamayo's Restaurant 5300 E. Olympic Blvd, Commerce (see insert)
Apr 12	Mon	7:15 to 9:15	Board Meeting	At the home of Harriet Chase, at 2151 Valley Drive, Manhattan Beach
April 26	Mon	7:00 to 9:00	Membership Meeting Local Commissions	Manhattan Beach Library 1320 Highland Avenue
May 8	Sat	10 am to 1 pm	Beach Cities Annual Meeting	At the home of Linda Mack 571 27th Street, Manhattan Beach
May 15-16	Sat— Sun		LWVC Leadership Council	Sacramento
June 11—15	Mon	7:00 to 9:00	Membership Meeting Issue for Emphasis — Healthcare	Manhattan Beach Library 1320 Highland Avenue
Jun 21	Mon	6:00 to 9:00	New—Old Board Meeting	At the home of Jan Nathanson 13731 South Rossburn Avenue, Hollyglen



701 13th Street
Manhattan Beach, CA 90266

(310) 413-6904 or editor@beachvoter.org
www.beachvoter.org

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Join the League!

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 — men and women of voting age — are welcome to join. If you can't attend our monthly meetings and special events, please consider showing your support through your annual membership fee of \$45 (\$65 for household memberships), which is not tax deductible. Donations to the Beach Cities LWV Education Fund are tax deductible.

For more information, you may contact Susan Grebe at membership@beachcities.ca.lwvnet.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 _____

Address _____

Email _____

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.



Lasagna Supper Assemblyman Alan Lowenthal / What's Up in Sacramento?

Join this Tri-League Annual Event!!

Thursday, March 18, 2004 — 6 pm supper (\$10) 7 pm program
Katy Geissert Civic Center Library — 301 Torrance Blvd, Torrance

Call Peggy (310-545-1087) for reservations.