



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

Highlights from the National Convention

WASHINGTON, DC (from www.lwv.org) – The League of Women Voters of the United States held its 46th biennial national convention in June. More than seven hundred delegates from 47 states, the District of Columbia and the Virgin Islands, attended. The four-day gathering gave League members the opportunity to celebrate the League's accomplishments on civic engagement, campaign finance and election reform and to discuss important policy issues.

"This Convention proved that the League remains a vibrant, grassroots organization," stated Kay J. Maxwell, newly re-elected LWVUS president. "We debated many of the critical issues facing citizens across the nation, including civil liberties, the death penalty, the ERA, No Child Left Behind and electronic voting. As is the League's long and storied tradition, a variety of thoughtful perspectives were expressed through dialogue and debate," Maxwell added.

The Pew Partnership for Civic Change, a national civic research organization, presented the League with their 2004 Civic Change Award. This is the first time that an organization, rather than an individual, received the award. In making the announcement, Alma Powell, Pew Partnership's national advisory board chair and a past recipient, said, "The League of Women Voters has made this country better for more than eight decades ... Its voice of wisdom and reason has raised the level of our civic conversations and given future generations the tools to create a better America."

Additional highlights of the convention included a panel discussion on "Balancing Civil Liberties and Homeland Security in a Post-September 11th Age," featuring representatives from the 9/11 Commission, Georgetown University Law Center, the Council on Foreign Relations and the Constitution Project; remarks by U.S. Senator Richard Lugar (R-IN), Chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee; and an enthusiastic banquet address by famed White House correspondent Helen Thomas.

Electronic Voting

From a message from Kay Maxwell, President, LWVUS

The League has a long tradition of reaching agreement through deliberative, democratic processes. There was disagreement with the LWVUS stance opposing a Voter-Verified Paper Trail (VVPT).

At convention, by following League process, we arrived at a revised interpretation of our "Citizen's Right to Vote" position. The convention resolution substituted principles and criteria – "secure, accurate, recountable, and accessible" – for language that previously took a stand on a type of technology, i.e., an individual paper confirmation for each ballot, or voter-verified paper trail (VVPT). Thus the League has moved from taking a stand on types of technology to taking a stand on the goals or principles any particular technology must fulfill. The criteria – "secure, accurate, recountable, and accessible" – are not code words for VVPT or for any other type of technology. This revised stance, based

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Local News



Voter Services kudos

The League continues to pursue our mission to inform the electorate. Not only did we cover the regularly-scheduled elections, we also rose to the challenge of conducting outreach for the special statewide recall election last October. For these elections, we distributed thousands of Voter guides to explain the ballot measures in a simplified, straight-forward style. We also conducted a number of candidates forums, so that citizens could see and hear the candidates in person. In the fall of 2003, we conducted two forums for the Hermosa Beach City Council race, one forum for the Hawthorne City Council race, and we assisted the Manhattan Beach PTAs in a forum for the Manhattan Beach School Board race. Then in the spring of 2004, we conducted two city council forums, in Lawndale and El Segundo. We thank those who served as moderators: Susan Grebe, Jan Nathanson, Wendy Phillips, and Barbara Arlow. And thanks to those who served as question screeners: Peggy Bartlett and Barbara Arlow. With women like these, who could fail!

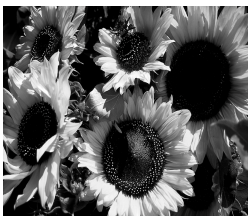
Linda Mack, Voter Service Co-Chair



Fundraising

We rely on the interest, support, and charitable instincts of our members and supporters. Your local "Beach Cities" League passes on all of annual \$45 dues we collect from you to support activities by county, state, and national Leagues. This makes your generosity all the more important, as Beach Cities is totally reliant upon fundraising and your extra contributions. Thanks to our most recent contributors!

Robert Johnson Susan Jones Linda Klein Beverly Landis



In Memoriam — Remembering Ethel Rudawitz

We lost one of our most vibrant members when Ethel Rudawitz passed on this past spring. A long-time resident of Hawthorne and expert on that city's politics, Ethel was an enthusiastic member of voter service team, and helped staff our candidates forums in her city as well as the other beach cities. She had an in-depth understanding of evolving land use issues in Hawthorne, and continued to actively participate in League activities even after her move to San Pedro a few years ago. Her Beach Cities colleagues miss her.

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 Cities Voter

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As our term of office draws to a close, it is time to once again say "thank you" for helping to make this a productive and enriching experience. So many of you have contributed to the accomplishments and success of our local League, in the areas of program, action, voters service, membership, legislation and the various administrative tasks, such as finances, record keeping, publicity, and communication. Though there are too many names to list individually here, please know that your dedication and efforts for the betterment and progress of our League are greatly appreciated and acknowledged.

Members who have either attended our monthly meetings, or contributed time and money, are equally important to our organization's survival. Please accept our sincere appreciation for your support and our invitation to continue your membership. Dues reminder notices are in the mail. We also urge you to participate actively when you can. The program for the coming year is rich with opportunities for study and action. Voter Services will be especially busy, with at least 14 ballot measures so far approved for the November election. If you are interested in serving on the Speakers' Bureau, please contact Barbara Arlow. Preparing *Pros and Cons* is an excellent way to become familiar with the issues and to share your knowledge with others.

A generous grant has been obtained for an update of the League's position on education. It will cover action for Community Colleges, which are in dire need of funding, and study of expanding our position to include pre-kindergarten education, as well as other public education related issues. Harriet Chase will welcome members to her committee. Please call her if you are interested. The County League Day in Pasadena on July 24th will feature the L.A. County Superintendent of Schools. All members are welcome. Look for the notice elsewhere in this Voter.

A shortage of poll workers gives the League a unique opportunity to be of service and fulfill our purpose of helping to make every vote count and "be counted". If you have not considered volunteering, this year would a perfect time to do so. You will learn how the process works through the training program and enjoy meeting and assisting the public on election day. Let us know if you would like to adopt a polling place.

Finally, if you are not already listed, let us know your e-mail address. It will not be published in the directory unless to give permission, but being on-line will enable you to receive calls-to-action and meeting notices. It provides instant communication and keeps the phone from ringing as often. Our website is operating and is filled with information from all levels of League. Let your friends and colleagues know about it and take advantage of this amazing technology.

The Santa Monica LWV Voter quoted a statement from Carrie Chapman Catt, which I offer in my closing message: "There are men and women with a vision of better things, and men and women with no vision.....The League of Women Voters makes its call to the brave, the intelligent, the forward looking. No others will be interested."

Jan

In May 2003, delegates to the LWVC convention voted for an update of our Education position, last updated in 1985. The League of Women Voters of California Education Fund (LWVC/EF) will be conducting a two-year study to update its position on K-12 public education. So far, a state League committee has been formed, a scope of study adopted, and a grant has been obtained from the Hewlett Foundation. The committee will pass through “mini” grants of up to \$500 to 12 to 15 local Leagues on a first-come, first-served basis. Leagues can apply for the funding to present forums/events to include in their particular study committee processes. Joanne Leavitt is the Study Committee Chair and Barbara Inatsugu is the League of Women Voters of California Education Fund (LWVC/EF) Program Director for Education. The scope of the study is as follows:

1. a review of the existing LWVC Education position, supporting consensus reports, and study materials to identify areas that need to be revisited and updated;
2. a study of issues that have emerged since the 1983-85 LWVFC Education in California study in the areas of finance, governance, school district organization, accountability, teaching, and curriculum;
3. an updated assessment and analysis of ongoing fundamental questions regarding the separation of finance and program control, the role of the state relative to districts and school sites, articulation among levels of education, and the role of early childhood education (readiness to learn);
4. a review of the federal No Child Left Behind Act as it impacts education in California.

As a delineation of the scope of study, the following are issues for consideration: Finance, Governance, School District Organization, Accountability, Teaching, and Curriculum/Programs.

Also, if you are interested in community colleges, we can apply for mini-grants of up to \$1,000 to fund local events focusing on community colleges — El Camino, in the case if the beach cities.

Can you help out? Call me, at (310) 545-1026 — we’re starting up a committee to take advantage of the mini-grant opportunity. New members are welcome to join this committee!

Harriet Chase, Social Policy Chair

Volunteer — and learn as you participate!

- **Government Observer** — We would like to designate observers for each of the six beach cities. Do you have time to attend (or watch on TV) meetings of city councils, school boards, water districts, or health district? Partner up with a friend to cover your city’s governance!
- **Fundraising!** As our annual dues are only \$45 — the best deal among all of California’s 69 local Leagues! Our local League activities are 100% reliant on fundraising.
- **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.

Action on Health Care

Following a “Call to Action” in June, healthcare legislation supported by the LWVC is progressing through the legislature. We are grateful to those members who responded to the action call on SB 921 (Kuehl) — ”Health Care for All Californians Act” — and to those legislators who have responded by showing their support. Stay tuned for further action alerts.

Harriet Chase, Social Policy Chair

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

Find it on the Internet

LWV Beach Cities	www.beachvoter.org	County of LA Registrar	www.lavote.net
LWV California	www.lwv.org	Secretary of State	www.ss.ca.gov
LWV US	www.lwv.org	CA Senate	www.senate.ca.gov
Smart Voter	www.smartvoter.org	CA Assembly	www.assembly.ca.gov
CA Budget Project	www.cbp.org	CA Legislative Analyst	www.lao.ca.gov
		US legislation	www.thomas.loc.org

Hot off the press —

***Choosing the President 2004:
A Citizen’s Guide to the Electoral Process***

The presidential races are heating up. Gain a better understanding of the process by reading this new book — “a reader-friendly comprehensive guide...*Choosing the President 2004* is an essential tool for all of us as we prepare for the election.” The guide is a wonderful gift that students and first-time voters will find invaluable. The League offers this exceptional resource at a price of \$11 (shipping and handling not included).

To order, contact Doris Rosenberg, at 310-413-6904.

Become a Philanthropist.

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

Remember the League

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on the “Citizen’s Right to Vote” position, means that:

- The League neither supports nor opposes any type of technology per se, such as Direct Recording Electronic voting machines (DREs), VVPT, or optical scan.
- Leagues may advocate for the four criteria, but it would not be appropriate to advocate for or against a type of technology, as indicated above, since that would be inflexible and would undermine technological innovation.
- Because election laws and current equipment are different in each state, Leagues in each state may support particular voting systems appropriate to them, including the management, operational and polling place procedures associated with the equipment. But before lobbying for or against a particular voting system, the system as a whole should be evaluated against the criteria — only those that meet all four criteria may be supported.

We ask that Leagues consult with the LWVUS before taking action in order to ensure that the League speaks with one voice in the application of this revised interpretation of the “Citizen’s Right to Vote” position.

The following is the text of the motion made by the President of the LWV of Minnesota and passed by convention delegates:

“Whereas there is strong disagreement among League members on the interpretation of the position on ‘Citizen’s Right to Vote’ that the LWVUS has taken on whether a Voter Verified Paper Audit Trail should be a requirement with Direct Recording Electronic Voting.

Be it resolved that LWVUS remove the following wording from its interpretation: The LWVUS supports an individual audit capacity for the purposes of recounts and authentication of elections for all voting systems. The LWVUS does not believe that an individual paper confirmation for each ballot is required to achieve these goals. An individual paper confirmation for each ballot would undermine disability access requirements, raise costs and slow down the purchase or lease of machines that might be used to replace machines that don’t work. The experts that we have consulted say that there are many safeguards other than an individual paper ballot confirmation that can protect the sanctity of the ballot and that other issues are far more important in safeguarding our election systems.

The LWVUS interpretation of the position on ‘Citizen’s Right to Vote’ will now read: In order to ensure integrity and voter confidence in elections, the LWVUS supports the implementation of voting systems and procedures that are secure, accurate, recountable, and accessible.”

Status of Clean Money Bill

The California Clean Money and Fair Elections Act of 2004, AB 2949 (Hancock), promises to attract more qualified and diverse candidates, improve voter turnout, and increase attention to voters' issues. By obtaining a specified number of small contributions to demonstrate broad public support, a candidate can qualify to voluntarily accept a spending limit and then receive public funds to run a viable campaign. Safeguards exist within the regulations that allow an infusion of additional money (up to a defined maximum) to match independent expenditure campaigns or privately funded opponents' campaigns that exceed the spending limits.

The conventional wisdom among most campaign finance reformers was that AB 2949 had no chance of action in the Assembly, but on April 20th the bill was voted out of the Elections, Redistricting, and Constitutional Amendments Committee by a 5-2 margin and sent to the Appropriations Committee. Representatives from many organizations, including the League, had testified in favor of the bill.

On May 5th, the bill was heard by the Appropriations Committee. Trudy Schafer, LWVC Program Director/Advocate, testified in support of the bill. The committee held the bill on its "suspense file" where it remained on May 21st, the last day to move bills out of house-of-origin fiscal committees during this session. During this legislative session, eight Assembly Members coauthored the bill (Mullin, Steinberg, Chan, Goldberg, Jackson, Laird, Leno, and Lowenthal), as well as Senator Cedillo. Additionally, at the May 5th hearing, Assembly Members Berg, Nation, and Oropeza advised author Loni Hancock that they wished to be identified as coauthors. If you are in one of these districts, please contact and thank your representative for her or his support.



During each committee hearing, representatives of the Green Party argued strongly against AB 2949 because of its mechanism that creates separate categories for candidates to qualify, based on previous election results. Candidates representing parties that won 3 to 10 percent of votes in the previous gubernatorial election would automatically have fewer small contributions to collect but would also be limited to substantially less in matching funds. Efforts are going on to modify the qualification requirements to enable small parties to collect more signatures to demonstrate support in order to obtain full funding for the general election.

The League will continue to participate in the Campaign Finance Summit meetings in conjunction with the Clean Money organization and other groups as we explore the next steps to bring campaign reform to California. The California Clean Money Campaign has groups in many communities that are currently working to educate the public about the Clean Money concept. To learn more details about Clean Money, visit www.publiccampaign.org and www.caclean.org. You might schedule an informational program on this subject in the coming year, using resources from these organizations including *The Road to Clean Elections*, a video about the Clean Elections laws in Arizona and Maine. Please contact me if you would like help with your plans.

Donna Chipps, Campaign Financing Director, LWVC lwvc.govt@sbcglobal.net

July 17	Sat	10:00 to 4:30	Board Retreat	Hesse Park Community Building 29301 Hawthorne Blvd, Rancho Palos Verdes
July 20	Tues	11:30 to 1:00	Tri-League Brown Bag Lunch	Water Water Everywhere?? See flyer (insert) for details.
July 24	Mon	9:30 to 3:00	Popovers in Pasadena	160 N Oakland, Pasadena See flyer (insert) for details.
Aug 27	Fri	noon	Voter deadline	Please e-mail your articles to Kate Alson.
Sept 13	Mon	7:15 to 9:30	Board Meeting	436—1st Street, Manhattan Beach (hosted by Henrietta Mosley)
Sept 18	Sat	To be announced	Kick-off breakfast with the "Tri-League"	Join our Torrance and PV colleagues as we kick off a new League year. Check our website — www.beachvoter.org — for details.
Oct 2-3	Sat— Sun	all day	Home Town Fair	Our annual fund raiser. Drop by our booth! Bring your brownies and krispy krittlers!



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



Water Water Everywhere??

A Tri-League Brown Bag Lunch

Speaker: Carol Kwan, Director, West Basin Municipal Water District

Tuesday, July 20th — 11:30 to 1:00

Katy Geissert Public Library — 3301 Torrance Blvd, Torrance

Bring your own lunch. We'll serve coffee and cookies.

Popovers in Pasadena!

Saturday, July 24th

Women's City Club

160 North Oakland, Pasadena

Registration: 9:30

Meeting: 10:00

Lunch: \$25* (includes morning coffee)

Speaker: **Dr. Darline Wrobles, Superintendent of LA
County Office of Education**

Workshops: For Presidents — Sally Severn

Voter Service — Frances Talbott-White and
Daphne Lake

Land Use — Lola Ungar

Universal Preschool — Joanne Leavitt

Send your reservation and check (payable to LWV of Beach Cities) — by July 12th — to Peggy Bartlett, at 701 13th St,
Manhattan Beach, CA 90266 (310-545-1087). *Board members pay \$20.

Name: _____

Should we contact you for carpool arrangements? Yes (phone number _____); No

Check here for vegetarian lunch.