



THE BEACH CITIES



The League of Women Voters of the Beach Cities

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

EDUCATION STUDY EXTENDED BY POPULAR DEMAND

Our League Education Consensus meetings have been so well received that we have decided to schedule an unprecedented third meeting on this study.

Topics to be discussed include:

- * Should governance be more centralized?
- * Is student assessment helping improve the quality of education and student learning?
- * A goal of the California Master Plan for Education is to have every child enter school ready to learn. Is this a worthy goal?

At our November meeting, we discussed background information on the consensus questions on "Equitable Access to Quality Education". This included information on the fact that California ranks #1 in the United States in teacher salaries, and in per pupil funding it is 27th. And our schools are 48th in administrators per pupil, 49th in pupils per teacher, and last in numbers of librarians and guidance counselors. In addition, we discussed the recent court rulings which require the state to improve conditions and funding for lowest schools and moves toward reducing school sizes as in charter schools. We reviewed current efforts to provide

universal access to voluntary preschool and the educational benefits to children who attend pre-kindergarten programs.

We hope you will join us to voice your thoughts on this vital subject!

-Harriet Chase, LWVBC Education Committee



Meeting Details:

Monday, January 24th

7 p.m. - 8:45 p.m.

Manhattan Beach Public Library

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Co-President's Message, by Wendy Phillips

The League of Women Voters is a non-partisan organization open to all citizens - both 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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Hello Beach Voters!

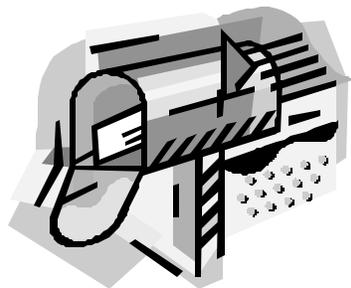
In between the fall and spring election seasons and in and around the holiday season, we have a window of opportunity to welcome new members, prepare our programs (Education Study wrap-up, an informational meeting on a pending commercial development and a town hall meeting on foster care), and raise funds - which is not our favorite activity... The typical Leaguer gets a bit shy and uncomfortable when asking for money, and would much rather spend his or her energy on voters service or working the issues.

We worked hard at the Old Hometown Fair, selling brownies and krispie kritters - and raised \$1,390! Our second major fundraiser - the "Non-Event" - is an appeal letter to our members that will be mailed later this month. Those of you who participated in the past may recall how easy this is - instead of the traditional fund-raiser that demands lots of time and energy, our Non-Event enables you to celebrate in your own way - at home or out on the town, alone or with friends. All you have to do is write a check for any amount you care to contribute. And that means that we can go on and devote our energy to finishing up our Ed Study and gearing up for the upcoming spring elections.

So we again invite you to join in our Non-Event - look for our letter which will be mailed out on January 17th. And look for the League of Women Voters as the elections draw near! We'll be busy with our candidates forums and voter outreach.

And thank you for your support!

-Wendy



UPCOMING LOCAL EVENTS

The Price of Justice - Campaigning for Judicial Office

What does it take to run for judicial office?

At our Tri-League (Beach Cities, Palos Verdes/Peninsula, Torrance) Brown Bag meeting on January 18th we'll hear all about it - the fundraising, the campaigning, communicating with the voters - from someone who's been there, done that, and lost!

Don't miss this rare opportunity!

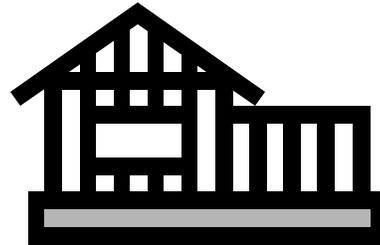
This noon - 1:30 p.m. event which will be held at Katy Geissert Public Library, 3301 Torrance Blvd, in Torrance, is free. Bring your own lunch, and coffee and cookies will be provided.



The Proposed Plaza El Segundo Project - a discussion of the Pros & Cons of this commercial site

Join us for this interesting and informative membership meeting on land use and transportation. This should be a lively presentation and discussion about the proposed Plaza El Segundo development at Rosecrans and Sepulveda. (See article pg. 4)

Date: Monday, February 28th
Time: 7- 8:45 p.m.
Place: Manhattan Beach Public Library
 1320 Highland Ave
 Manhattan Beach, CA 90266



Talk About Healthcare Bill SB 921 Scheduled

The League of Women Voters supports Senate Bill 921 the healthcare legislation authored by Sheila Kuehl, D-Santa Monica. This bill would creating universal healthcare through a publicly financed administration in California was introduced to the Senate in February 2003. The LWV of Long Beach is co-sponsoring a meeting which will feature a special presentation of the credible Lewin Study research findings on "the Health Care for All Californians Act."

The meeting will be held at the 1st Congregational Church of Long Beach, 241 Cedar, Cedar and 3rd, Long Beach 90802, from 9:45 a.m. - Noon on February 9th.

For more information, send an e-mail to: choff74523@aol.com or call: 310-377-7668.

**Plaza El Segundo Development
Set As February Discussion Topic**

Remember the huge bright yellow pile of sulphur that used to grace the northeast corner of Rosecrans and Sepulveda? Remember the sulphuric acid smell it gave off on a misty night?

The sulphur pile is long gone and so are the aging industrial chemical manufacturing facilities behind the chain-link fence, replaced by a huge depression where soil was removed to remediate contamination. Coming soon on 43-acres of the re-zoned 86-acre site: Plaza El Segundo, a 425,000 square foot landscaped shopping center with a variety of restaurants and retail tenants that may include Borders, Whole Foods, and Cost Plus World Market .

The City of El Segundo anticipates receiving \$2 million per year in new tax revenue from the project, plus amounts the developer is willing to commit to improve roadways and mitigate traffic and air impacts. To compensate for adverse impacts that can not be mitigated, the developer has offered a \$1 million contribution to the Wiseburn and El Segundo School Districts, another \$1.5 million contribution for upgrades to the City's aquatic facility, and a \$250,000 contribution to promote downtown El Segundo.

Opposition to the project centers on traffic issues, particularly impacts on the congested

Rosecrans artery and Sepulveda Blvd. The City of Manhattan Beach has voiced concern about increased congestion on its roadways and intersections, with talk of legal action if problems are not addressed.

At the El Segundo Planning Commission meeting on Wednesday, December 15, attorneys for Manhattan Beach asked the Commission to delay action on the matter until responses had been provided to all public comments on the Environmental Impact Report. After El Segundo's city attorney opined that such delay was not legally required, and El Segundo planning staff reported that Manhattan Beach is engaged in ongoing discussions with the developer about its concerns, the El Segundo Planning Commission proceeded to recommend approval of the Plaza El Segundo project by the City Council, possibly as soon as its next meeting on January 18.

The presentation on the Plaza El Segundo project originally scheduled for our January membership meeting has been postponed until February 28 to provide additional time to reach consensus on the Education Update. At the February meeting we hope to look at the project in the wider context of regional land use and transportation planning.

We hope you will decide to join us for this lively discussion!

-Henrietta E. Mosley, LWWBC Co-President

To read more information about this development project visit these websites:

<http://www.elsegundo.org/business/developments/plazaelsegundo.php>

<http://www.plazaelsegundo.com/>

<http://www.marventures.com/home.html>

Volunteer Help Wanted Ads

ACTION ADVOCATES WANTED

Advocates who have an interest or expertise in one or more of the League's positions, whether local, county, state or national, to serve on an action committee.

Advocates will monitor news reports or pending legislation in their special area and respond to calls to action when needed.

The state positions - covering a broad range of topics - are included as inserts in this Voter for your review. National positions cover a wide variety of subjects, such as reproductive rights, trade, gun control, and government issues. Transportation and election procedures are among the many county positions.

Please contact Jan Nathanson, Action Chair, at 310-643-6247 or jan@beachvoter.org

LOCAL MEETING MONITORS NEEDED

An inquisitive observer to attend, take notes and report back on any of the these public meetings:

- a. Plaza El Segundo development
- b. Plans for use of \$600,000/per yr. refund of excess property tax contributions for Manhattan Beach Library
- c. Hermosa Beach Library - Monitor any meetings on similar issues in Hermosa Beach

Know any issues of interest to our 6 cities that we should follow, and you want to cover? We want to hear from you! Please contact Henrietta Mosley at 310-379-4591 or henrietta@beachvoter.org

SCHOOL OUTREACH BRAINSTORMERS SOUGHT

Creative minds to give us their ideas on good citizenship projects the League could offer to schools. Also to suggest groups that might want to develop such projects with us.

Please contact Irma Cohen, LWVBC Outreach, at 310-939-0946 or incohen@adelphia.net

**IS YOUR MAILBOX
OVERFLOWING?**

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NOT RECEIVE YOUR BEACH VOTER
NEWSLETTER BY E-MAIL?! IT'S FAST,
IT'S EASY, AND YOU'LL MOST LIKELY
BE READING YOUR VOTER AHEAD OF
THE CROWD (while they wait for
theirs to arrive by regular snail mail).**

**To sign up, contact Susan Grebe at:
susan@beachvoter.org !**

**GREAT RESOURCE AT
YOUR FINGERTIPS...**

**Want to know about all
the upcoming elections?
Find the most complete
and up to date LWVBC
Calendar? Find useful
resources and links to
other CA Leagues?**

Visit our website:

www.beachvoter.org

State News

Membership News

Share Your E-mail With Us!

Would YOU like one less piece of mail delivered to your home?

Anyone who wishes to receive the Voter electronically *should contact Susan Grebe, susan@beachvoter.org*. The Voter is always available on website, and we will e-mail you an alert when the new Voter has been posted. All you will need to do is simply click on a link that will take you to the new Voter!

E-mail addresses provide a wonderful & quick way to keep our members informed & involved!

We send out *Calls to Action* or reminders of upcoming events. If you have an e-mail address and would like to be included e-mail: **Susan Grebe, susan@beachvoter.org**. **We never share your address with other groups . **

JOIN THE LEAGUE!!

New Directories Distributed

The new directories were delivered to members in December. If you did not receive one please let us know. Also please check your listing for accuracy and report any corrections. To reach Susan Grebe you can e-mail: rgrebe6072@aol.com or call: 310-545-2097.

A big thank you to Peggy Bartlett for proof-reading and Doris Rosenberg who helped with proofreading, the election calendar and representative updates.

Correction to Our Directory

Margaret Thelen's e-mail address should read margthelen@aol.com.

-Susan Grebe & Valma Evans, LWVBC Membership

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 – both men and women of voting age – are welcome to join!

The annual membership fee is \$45 (\$67.50 for household memberships), which is not tax-deductible. Student rates and sponsorships are available on a limited basis. Donations to the Beach Cities LWV Education Fund are tax-deductible.

TO JOIN TODAY, just send this form and your check (payable to the League of Women Voters of the Beach Cities), to Peggy Bartlett, 701 13th St, Manhattan Beach, CA 90266.

Name (s) _____ Telephone _____

Address _____ E-mail _____

Yes, please sign up me up to receive my Beach Voter newsletter electronically!

I would like to give the gift of League membership to the following friend/couple:

Name (s) _____ Telephone _____

Address _____

E-mail _____

Yes, please sign up me up to receive my Beach Voter newsletter electronically!

For more membership info, contact Susan Grebe, LWVBC Membership Chair, at susan@beachvoter.org or 310-545-2097.

Jan. 18 Tuesday	12- 1:30 p.m.	Brown Bag Meeting: The Price of Justice. Join the Tri-League for a meeting regarding campaigning for judicial office. Our speaker will be Hon. Douglas Carnahan, and our moderator will be Carole Wagner Vallianos. (Pg. 3)	Katy Geissert Public Library 3301 Torrance Blvd Torrance, CA 90503
Jan. 24 Monday	7- 8:45 p.m.	Education Consensus Meeting, Part 3 Our Education Study Update meetings were so stimulating that due to popular demand we have scheduled an unprecedented third meeting on this study. (Pg. 1)	Manhattan Beach Public Library 1320 Highland Ave Manhattan Beach, CA 90266
Feb. 10 Thursday	Noon	March Beach Voter Deadline	E-mail submissions, pictures, Subject: " March Voter", to: Kate@beachvoter.org.
Feb. 28 Monday	7- 8:45 p.m.	Membership Meeting: Land Use and Transportation Join a discussion about the proposed Plaza El Segundo development at Rosecrans and Sepulveda. (Pg. 4)	Manhattan Beach Public Library 1320 Highland Ave Manhattan Beach, CA 90266
March 8 Tuesday		ELECTIONS: Manhattan Beach Municipal and Redondo Beach Municipal and School Board.	
March 28 Monday	7- 8:45 p.m.	Membership Meeting: Town Hall Foster Care Miriam Krinsky, Executive Director, Children's Law Center, will be speaking.	Manhattan Beach Public Library 1320 Highland Avenue Manhattan Beach, CA 90266

This Beach Voter was printed by The Copy Shop, 309 S. Sepulveda Blvd., Manhattan Beach, CA 90266, 310-374-3666



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