



# *The Beach Voter*

League of Women Voters of the Beach Cities

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

## **TRI-LEAGUE LASAGNA SUPPER**

On **Thursday, March 15th** the LWV-Beach Cities will be hosting this year's Lasagna Supper, our traditional spring get-together with Leaguers from Torrance and the Palos Verdes Peninsula.

The evening's topic will be "**Efforts to Protect our Vote and the Elections in 2018 and 2020,**" to be addressed by Guest Speakers **Hon. Dean Logan** or a representative of his office, the **Los Angeles County Office of the Registrar** and **Allison Towle, J.D.** representing the **Office of Senator Ben Allen.**

The event will be held at the Katy Geissert Memorial Library, 3301 Torrance Blvd., Torrance. Supper will be from 6:00 PM to 7:00 PM with the program to follow from 7:00 PM to 8:30 PM. There will be a vegetarian option as well as a traditional meat lasagna. Supper includes salad, bread, iced tea or coffee and dessert. Cost: \$25.00. Those attending only the program part of the event are also welcome at no cost..

See the enclosed flyer for reservations (due by March 9th). For more information call Susan Grebe at 310-545-2097 or the League at 310-379-6663..

## **Local Perspective on National and State Education Policies and Funding**

The LWV-Beach Cities is planning a meeting to focus on how national and state education policies and funding impact our local school districts. Manhattan Beach, Hermosa Beach and Redondo Beach District Superintendents have agreed to serve on the panel. The date for the meeting is being finalized.

## **SAVE THE DATE—ANNUAL MEETING**

The Annual Meeting of the League of Women Voters of the Beach Cities will be held on Saturday, May 12th at the home of Penny Markey, 1534 Ruhland Ave., Manhattan Beach. The meeting will start at 10 AM and will be followed by a potluck salad lunch. Materials for this meeting will be sent via email to all members who have email. Members without email addresses will receive materials via U.S. Mail.

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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 of voting age, 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 \_\_\_\_\_

*With much appreciation we are happy to report that we have reached the \$3000.00 mark in our non-event donations. Thank you to the following members who helped make this happen:*

*Martha Andreani*

*Barbara Arlow*

*Peggy Bartlett*

*Don and Sari Brann*

*Paulette Caudill*

*Harriet Chase*

*Mary Chieffe*

*Marilyn Dubas*

*Debra Estroff*

*Susan Grebe*

*Merle Grossman*

*June Eicher*

*Ruth Hart*

*Betty Keel*

*Joan LeSage*

*Lillian Lunt*

*Fatima Malik*

*Ellen Margetich*

*Penny Markey*

*Ann Martin*

*Henrietta Mosley*

*Jane Munson*

*Michelle Murphy*

*Jan Nathanson*

*Dency Nelson*

*Teri Neustaedter*

*Sunhee Park*

*Wendy Phillips*

*Ellen Tarlow*

*Marge Thelen*

*Carole Wagner Vallianos*

*Ray and Carolyn Waters*

*April Halprin Wayland*

*Lance Widman*

## Reminder

It is not too late to attend our non-event fundraiser. You can still contribute and be a part from your favorite chair or lounging place in your home. You can even come in your PJ's! It's so easy — just write a check and put it in the envelope provided with your invitation. If you can't find the return envelope, the address is:

League of Women Voters Beach Cities, 629 19th Street, Manhattan Beach, CA 90266.

This fundraiser provides the funds for our local League to do the work we do. The yearly dues do not cover our operating expenses — the \$60.00 in dues is sent to National (\$31.00), State (\$28.00) and County (\$1.50). If you add these payments up it comes to \$60.50. We have the lowest dues in the State and this is because our philosophy is to keep dues low enough so joining is available to everyone. We even have a dues assistance fund for those who need it. The funds from this event pay for all our voter service efforts and program expenses as well as sending a representative to our yearly convention. No one takes a salary; we are run on a 100% voluntary basis. We are so fortunate to have such generous members as you who make our work possible.

Susan Grebe, Treasurer

Three new members have recently joined the Beach Cities League. We welcome Mia Garcia of Redondo Beach, Marla Horn of Redondo Beach and Laura Schwartz of Manhattan Beach.

### **New Date for Mental Health Program Monday, May 21**

The Mental Health program originally scheduled for April will now take place on Monday, May 21, 2018 at Joslyn Community Center in Manhattan Beach. Featured speakers will be Dr. Sam Chan, former District Chief for the LA Department of Mental Health, and Alzheimers Researchers Dr. Dean Sherzai and Dr. Ayesha Sherzai, who are partnering with the Beach Cities Health District on the "Healthy Minds Initiative."

Additional information on the program will be forthcoming as soon as plans are finalized.

Harriet Chase, Social Policy Chair

### **PROGRAM PLANNING RESULTS**

A lively program planning meeting was held in December and the LWV-Beach Cities Board met to review both National and Los Angeles County positions of the League of Women Voters in anticipation of their respective conventions this year. LWVLAC convention is in March and LWVUS convention takes place in Chicago in June. The reports were approved by our local board.

The LWVBC recommended that all current positions of the county League be retained. The issue recommended for emphasis and action was Homelessness. Inclusion of the specific wording was also recommended in view of homelessness as a major concern in Los Angeles county.

The program planning meeting for national issues also resulted in affirmation of all existing positions. Voting Rights was the overwhelming issue for emphasis and action. The members recommended the wording for Money in Politics include "measures to prevent undue influence through social media and other communication methods, both print and online."

Under the Federal Role in Public Education, it was strongly recommended that the position be changed to read: "Support federal policies that provide equitable, quality public education for all children pre-K through grade 12 "and adult education." Under Basic Human Needs, Housing Supply, the word "family" should be changed to "individual and families."

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(Program Planning Results contd.)

Special thanks to Barbara Arlow, Harriet Chase, Joan Le Sage, Margaret Thelen and the members of the LWBC board for their active leadership in the review process.

Jan Nathanson, Program Co-chair

## REPORT ON LOS ANGELES COUNTY WINTER LEAGUE DAY

by Barbara Arlow

**Dean Logan, Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk Los Angeles County: First Steps toward California's New Voting System.** The California Voter's Choice Act is designed to modernize the voting experience. Starting in 2020 Los Angeles County voting will take place for 11 days. In addition to paper sample ballots Interactive Sample Ballots (ISBs) will be available. The ISB will allow voters to pre-mark their selections on a computer or mobile device utilizing their preferred tools at home. It generates a Poll Pass, which is similar to an airline boarding pass, where voters can scan their Poll Pass at the Ballot Marking Device (BMD). The BMD prints a verifiable paper ballot with the voter's selections. By design, the BMD is not connected to any network or the internet. It also does not store any voter data or tally votes. There will be about 400 vote centers for the first 7 days and that will increase to 800 – 900 vote centers for the final 4 days. Voters will be able to vote at any vote center throughout the County. Electronic rosters will access data in real time and allow for same day registration. Fully accessible voting equipment will be available at every vote center. Ballot Marking Devices (BMDs) will make it easy for voters to customize the voter experience to fit their needs. Voters will be able to adjust settings on the BMD including user interface contrast, text size, screen angle, and audio volume and speed. This will allow disabled voters to vote without help. The equipment will allow one to read and listen in multi languages.

### **Make it Fair Campaign: League-Sponsored Ballot Initiative to Amend Prop. 13**

This will only apply to commercial property. Private and apartment houses are not included. Commercial properties that have not changed ownership have not been reassessed since 1975. All commercial properties purchased after 1975 are assessed at the time of purchase and therefore pay a higher tax rate. If the initiative passes pre-prop 13 commercial properties will be reassessed and all commercial properties will be reassessed every 3 years. It is estimated that will raise approximately 11 billion dollars that will go to local governments. 40% of that will go to school districts.

**Dr. Raphael Sonenshein, CSULA Pat Brown Institute: "So They're Registered – How Do We Get Them to Vote?"** There has to be hope to motivate voters. The League of Women Voters has credibility with people. We need to mobilize both youth and women. Youth are passionate about issues, but they don't know where to go with that passion. Women are going to be a major force in this election. This mid-term November 2018 election will determine the House of Representatives for the next two years.

## HIGHLIGHTS OF EVENING WITH REP. TED LIEU

Approximately 100 people came to the Hermosa Beach Community Theater on February 1, 2018 to hear Rep. Ted Lieu. Mindful of reports of disruptions at other local gatherings where Rep. Lieu appeared, the League took special precautions to maintain control of the forum, in addition to our usual written questions and ban on holding up signs or other demonstrations. These were successful, as after one brief outburst early in the meeting, decorum was maintained. The following are notes on some of Rep. Lieu's remarks.

Immigration: As the son of immigrants who got a foothold in this country by opening gift shops in Cleveland, Lieu sees immigration as a force for renewal and refreshment of American society, although he recognizes the need for standards and some restrictions. He defended the family reunification program (which the President calls "chain migration"), saying that families make society more stable.

The Russia investigation: The likelihood of a finding of obstruction of justice is more likely than a finding of conspiracy on the part of the Trump administration. The investigation will not wrap up any time soon, as evidenced by the 90-day delay placed on Michael Flynn's sentencing.

North Korea: There is great potential for harm, and no good options. Talk of resorting to the "bloody nose option" is foolish because that course of action would inflame North Korea and we don't know how they'd react. Since we don't know where their nuclear weapons are, we would have to resort to a ground invasion, which at a minimum would trigger a deadly reaction affecting South Korea and our own military installations in the region and could cause Russia or China to come to North Korea's defense.

Electoral college: In response to a question on eliminating the electoral college, he said he supports selecting the President by popular vote.

Priority infrastructure projects for the South Bay: Extend the Green Line into the So. Bay. Give money to individual cities to fix streets, etc. Prepare for automated driving, which relies on "deep learning" and entails the potential for cars to be hacked. Cybersecurity needs to keep up with automated vehicle advances.

Reported by Henrietta Mosley

## CALENDAR

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<b>March 12 Monday</b>	<b>7:00 PM-9:30 PM</b>	<b>Board Meeting</b>	<b>Home of Harriet Chase 2151 N. Valley Drive Manhattan Beach</b>
<b>March 15 Thursday</b>	<b>6:00 PM-8:30 PM</b>	<b>Tri-League Lasagna Supper</b>	<b>Katy Geissert Civic Center Library 3301 Torrance Blvd. Torrance 90503</b>
<b>March 24 Saturday</b>	<b>9:30 AM-12:00 PM</b>	<b>LWV Los Angeles County Convention. Speaker: Chris Carson, LWVUS President</b>	<b>Carson Community Center 801 East Carson Street Carson 90745</b>
<b>March 29 Thursday</b>	<b>7:00 PM-8:30 PM</b>	<b>El Segundo City Council Candidates Forum</b>	<b>El Segundo Woman's Club 541 Standard Street El Segundo, CA 90245</b>



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