



League of Women Voters  
North Orange  
County  
www.lwvnoc.org

# VOTER

September 2005

714-254-7440  
P.O. Box 3073  
Fullerton, CA 92834

The League of Women Voters is a nonpartisan political organization that encourages the informed and active participation of citizens in government, works to increase understanding of public policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy. Membership is open to men and women of voting age.

## LWVNOG 2005-2006 Kickoff Luncheon

### Tom Mauk, Orange County Executive Officer COUNTY GOVERNMENT: ITS EFFECT ON EVERY CITIZEN'S LIFE

One year ago, in September 2004, the Orange County Board of Supervisors hired **Thomas Mauk** as County Executive Officer after a nearly two-year national search. Tom had served as city manager for several southern California cities, including Whittier and La Habra, which is when LWVNOG member, Bette Frazier had the opportunity to recognize his talents. He graciously accepted Bette's invitation to speak at our LWVNOG Kickoff Luncheon about the impact of Orange County Government on residents of the county and how county government is currently coping with the issues of **transportation, health, population growth and public safety** and what changes to expect in the near future.

Since the 1994 OC bankruptcy, there have been five CEOs; four of which were either fired or left under pressure. Previous CEO Jim Ruth was hired as an interim in 2003, expecting to stay only long enough for the Board to find a permanent replacement. That replacement was Tom Mauk. Born in Oakland and raised in Santa Rosa, Mr.

Mauk graduated from Cal Poly Pomona in 1966 and earned an M.A. in Business Administration from USC in 1972. He served as an administrative analyst for the City of Los Angeles, Assistant City Manager in Montclair, then took his first City Manager position in Norco.

In 1980, Mauk was hired as City Manager for Whittier, a post he held for 19 years. He was City Manager when the 1987 Whittier Narrows Earthquake severely damaged that community's old downtown area. Mr. Mauk then served as City Manager for La Habra from 1999-2002, where he tackled a wide range of issues facing that North Orange County community. For the next two years, he worked in the private sector as Client Services Director for Municipal Bond Insurance Associates. He brings the financial background OC needs in dealing with the after effects of the bankruptcy. As County Executive Officer he advises the Board of Supervisors, carries out their policies, and oversees the daily operations of 21 County departments with 15,000 non-sworn employees.

#### KICKOFF LUNCHEON

SUNDAY

September 11, 2005

Noon-3:00 PM

Coyote Hills Golf Club

1440 E. Bastanchury

Fullerton

714-672-6800

Cost: \$30 a person

Bring a Guest

Information:

Frann Shermet

714-220-1338

Reservation Checks to

LWVNOG

P. O. Box 3073

Fullerton, CA 92834

Invite a Friend!

## Members' Column

BY ARLINE BURGMEIER  
MEMBERSHIP CO-DIRECTOR

I think all of us who participated in the "Hello Summertime" events agree that they were informative and fun. The events included two Lunch with League picnics, two Read with League book discussions, a tour of the Orange County *Los Angeles Times* facility and one more event yet to come, a **party welcoming Cypress and La Palma into LWVNOC on August 31<sup>st</sup>.**

Please come to the party if you can. It will be an informal event at my house from 5:00 to 7:00 PM. Members of city councils, chambers of commerce, service clubs, school boards, etc. from Cypress and La Palma have been invited to get acquainted with LWVNOC and its terrific members. RSVP to me

714/828-8624 or

[aburgmeier@sbcglobal.net](mailto:aburgmeier@sbcglobal.net)) and I'll give you directions. You will be asked to bring an hors d'oeuvre to share.

I hope that socializing at an informal get-acquainted event will encourage many of the Cypress and La Palma guests to join the LWVNOC, and that they, in turn, will bring their friends and colleagues to future League events

just as *you* are encouraged to do. Nearly all of our new members joined NOC because they were personally invited to come to a League activity and liked what they experienced. Adding members to our League allows us to expand our voter services and strengthens our influence in shaping public policy. It also gives more people the opportunity to become active and informed members of the community.

Speaking of joining LWVNOC, **our annual membership renewal drive is in high gear.** Renewal forms were mailed to you last week and we ask that you please return them promptly with a check.. This is your chance to kill two birds with one stone since the mailing also included a form to reserve your place at the kickoff luncheon on Sunday, September 11 at the Coyote Hills Golf Club in Fullerton. Send your separate checks to LWVNOC, P.O. Box 3073, Fullerton CA 92834.

And again speaking of joining NOC, welcome to our newest member, Anita Smiley of Fullerton!

## Hello Summertime

### A Most Informative Trip

On July 24, a group of our League members car-pooled down to the **Orange County facility of the L. A. Times.**

There we saw the process of huge spools of naked newsprint turned into the familiar daily paper ready for distribution. It was an interesting, informative trip, and occasionally, ear splitting noisy!

Scanning through a brochure, "Facts about the Los Angeles Times", to my delight, I came upon a section entitled "ENVIRONMENTAL PROGRAMS".

Below are some of the highlights that were so impressive.

The Times has won several honors for its environmentally safe practices including a national Environment and Conservation Challenge Award for its recycling and other programs. In 2003, more than 70% of all newsprint used by the Times-about 216,360 metric tons-contained a recycled fiber content of at least 40%. The virgin newsprint purchased by the Times is produced from wood byproducts. No trees are har-

*(Continued on page 3)*

## President's Column

Dear Leaguers,

I hope that you are having a wonderful summer but now September is almost upon us and your League Board has been getting ready for what promises to be an interesting Fall season. With several important and highly controversial ballot measures being put forward at a Special Election, we need to be ready to do what League does best: help voters work through the maze of misleading advertising and mailers which will be sure to come our way and make voting decisions which are in keeping with principles of good government. YOU can help by being trained as a speaker. See the calendar for the date and place for speaker training.

By now you will have received your annual dues renewal letter along with the announcement of the annual Membership Kickoff event on September 11th. We'd love to have everyone pay up her/his dues at or before the occasion. Traditionally we have always had an excellent guest speaker for the Kickoff and this year is no exception. We have

invited Mr. Tom Mauk recently appointed County Executive Officer for the County of Orange to address us on County issues. Among the many distinguished leadership positions he has held has been that of City Manager for the City of La Habra. One of our long time members from La Habra, Bette Frazier, has given us very good reports of his tenure there and of his capabilities as a speaker. It promises to be a very interesting and informative talk. Send in your reservation along with your dues!! We look forward to seeing you there.

In recent years the LWVNOC has presented a number of excellent informational forums. We look forward to doing so again when we present a forum about Public School Funding in relation to Proposition 76 including experts on both sides of the issue. The date is set for September 29<sup>th</sup> and the venue will be on the campus of the California State University Fullerton. We will have detailed information for you at our Kickoff Luncheon on Sunday, September 11.

*Eileen*

Come to the  
Kickoff Luncheon  
prepared for  
Tom Mauk's talk.  
Read Trish Harrigan's  
report on  
recent events at the  
Orange County  
Board of Supervisors  
meetings.  
See pages 4-5.

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vested specifically to make newsprint. These byproducts, primarily wood chips that would have been discarded or used as fuel, come from lumber operations.

In 2003, the Times recycled more than 33,800 pounds of film (silver recovery) and 3,200 gallons of used oil. In 1992, the Times became the first U.S. daily newspaper to transition entirely from petroleum-based black ink to water-soluble soy-based ink, which is highly resistant to rub-

off. Soy based inks significantly reduce the airborne release of volatile organic compounds and the problems associated with recycling newspapers printed with petroleum-based ink. In 2003, the facility was recognized by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency as an industry leader in testing alternative low-emission cleaning solvents.

**EDITH BOCKIAN**  
**NATURAL RESOURCES CHAIR**

P.S. Are you recycling your newspapers?

ORANGE COUNTY

**VOTER**

SEPTEMBER 2005

**Board of Supervisors Meetings****BUDGET, PENSIONS, MEDICAL BENEFITS, A TAX FIGHT**

**T**he budget hearings in late June were quite a routine affair again this year. Very little public comment of any kind was made. This may be because by the time the budget documents are made public, the available money has been allocated during behind-the-scenes negotiations among the departments and the CEO's budget office. There seems to be no room left for advocacy.

What is presented are figures for the base budget, already agreed upon; then augmentations rolled into the base budget, requests made by departments over and above base budget which the Budget Office has agreed to; then augmentations for Board consideration -*restore* level of service and augmentations for Board consideration -*expand* level of service. Each of these categories comes with a CEO recommendation for yes, or no, or a partial yes. The Supervisors usually agree; of course they, or their aides, have been fully briefed. Only in the case of the Human Relations Commission did Mr. Silva and Mr. Norby vote no on a proposed "restore level of service" augmentation of \$80,500. But the others voted yes, so the money was granted.

The Health Care Agency received a surprise (to the public) \$3 million increase in funding

for its Medical Services for Indigents program, and it was welcomed by advocates. The League spoke and indicated appreciation for the additional funds; however League also expressed its concerns about how limited this program is and said it does not begin to be a genuine health safety net for the mentally ill, the working uninsured and all those who, through no fault of their own, cannot take adequate care of themselves.

No sooner had the Board approved the 2005-2006 FY budget, when other money is-

**And the question remains: does county government know what it is doing?**

sues erupted. At the end of June the county grand jury issued a report critical of the supervisors handling of retirees' pension funding. A recent new report, by a new actuary, reported that what was thought to be a \$1.3 billion gap in funding could now be \$2.3 billion over the next 30 years. The actuary says it could cost the county \$114 million each year.

Union representatives challenged the grand jury report and said increased employee contributions and no salary in-

creases for a couple of years would cover the problems.

Medical benefits for retirees are also paid by the county and are rising steeply, from \$8 million in 2002 to \$23 million next year. All of this must be paid for, somehow.

Your observer has read the grand jury report, in an attempt to understand all this, and cannot say the attempt was successful! You are invited to try; go the [www.ocgrandjury.org](http://www.ocgrandjury.org) and click on 2004-05 under reports. And the question remains: does county government know what it is doing?

On another front, county financial management may look better. With many pleased and cheerful comments the BOS on July 19 signed off on the final arrangements to refinance the outstanding bankruptcy debt in such a way that it will be paid off ten years earlier, in 2016, for a savings of \$472 million. The county has saved \$116 million in a special repayment fund which will be applied towards the refinancing; Mr. Silva was praised by his colleagues for insisting on these savings. Mr. Campbell was very pleased to report that Wall Street is positive about Orange County, even with all the pension difficulties explained, and one bond rating agency has upgraded OC's rat-

*(Continued on page 5)*

## Helping America Vote Statewide Voter Registration Databases

*The LWVUS recently issued this report which details recommended practices for election officials as they work to implement the new federal provision that mandates states establish a statewide computerized voter registration list by January 2006.*

When Congress first began looking into the election system following the 2000 presidential election, it became clear that poorly designed and administered registration systems posed a very significant problem. Hundreds of thousands of eligible voters were disenfranchised because their registration applications were not being processed and because of other systemic problems.

In 2002, Congress passed a set of election reforms known as the Help America Vote Act (HAVA). Among these changes, Congress mandated that states establish a statewide computerized voter registration list. Specifically, the law requires each State to implement a “single, uniform, official, centralized,

interactive computerized statewide voter registration list...in a uniform and nondiscriminatory manner.” The system is to be “defined, maintained, and administered at the State level” and must contain the “name and registration information of every legally registered voter in the State.” Most states requested waivers from this new federal requirement for the 2004 elections. Today, more than three years after its passage, the full impact of HAVA’s reforms has yet to be realized. The 2004 election was far from perfect. Although voter turnout approached record levels, the election system showed signs of stress and voters faced real problems. Reports demonstrate that registration-related issues were the most commonly cited problem by voters in 2004. These problems – from failures to fully process registration applications in time, to bureaucratic requirements that blocked voter registration – kept eligible voters from casting votes. As of January 1, 2006, all states will be required to have a statewide voter registration da-

tabase. If done right, these databases hold the potential to reduce registration-related problems, enfranchise eligible voters and help elections run more smoothly. But many states are already behind in getting their databases up and running and there is little agreement on how a good database should work.

While statewide voter registration databases are an important tool for streamlining election administration, they are no panacea. State election officials are going to need to work closely with local officials and other concerned individuals and organizations to design systems that ensure fairness, transparency and efficiency. In the report, the League of Women Voters offers a set of recommended operational and management practices for election officials as they work to build good voter registration systems. These recommendations were first outlined in an earlier League publication in the Helping America Vote series, *Safeguarding the Vote*, and remain instructive and timely today.

*(Continued from page 4)*

ing. But there will be no extra money for parks or flood control or social services; as Mr. Campbell put it, the plan uses cash flow as currently experiencing it. To shorten the payment time, what county pays out each year won’t be reduced.

Then the Board dealt with another financial challenge. The OC Fire Authority employees union has qualified for the November 8th ballot a proposition that would entitle the firefighters to a portion of the Prop 172 funds that come to the county, about

\$264 million. They want 50% of future growth until the Fire Authority gets 10% of the total. Now the DA gets 20% and the Sheriff 80%. Mr. Campbell proposed 3 measures for the Nov 8 ballot to give the public choices on the distribution of sales taxes. The public can retain the status quo, or give Probation 5%, or set aside \$10M annually for a homeland security infrastructure fund. That makes it 4 measures on the same question!

BY TRISH HARRIGAN  
LWVOC OBSERVER  
OC BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

## League of Women Voters of California REDISTRICTING—Where WE Stand

In 1987 and 1988, the League of Women Voters conducted an extensive study of the redistricting process in California. We immediately applied our resulting position in support of Proposition 119, an unsuccessful attempt to establish an independent commission to draw district lines in California. The next two redistricting plans drawn by the state legislature (in 1991 and 2001) either were rejected by the courts or were widely criticized as being fundamentally flawed. Today we find ourselves in the middle of a sustained public debate on the future of redistricting in California, a debate that will continue for some time.

What does the League have to say about the way California should redistrict? In brief, we support a redistricting process and standards that promote fair and effective representation in the state legislature and in the House of Representatives, with maximum opportunity for public scrutiny of the process. And we support redistricting by a bipartisan commission rather than by the legislature.

The standards on which a redistricting plan should be based, regardless of who has responsibility for redistricting, should include (1) substantially equal population, (2) geographic contiguity and (3) protection of the voting strength of a racial or linguistic minority from dilution.

To the extent possible, these standards should also include respect for legal boundaries of cities and counties, and preservation and protection of communities of interest." On the other hand, the standards should not consider the protection of incumbents or the preferential treatment of any political party.

The League places a good deal of emphasis on the importance of the structure of the redistricting process. It is clear that members feel that how redistricting is done is even more important

than who does it. League positions on opportunities for citizen participation in government decision making, the need for adequate notice of proposed actions and the need for open meetings are all crucial to member understanding of what constitutes a fair redistricting process.

The League believes that the redistricting process should include (1) specific time lines for the steps leading to adoption of the redistricting plan, (2) public hearings on the proposed plan, (3) an automatic non judicial backup procedure in the event of deadlock and (4) a requirement that any redistricting plan drawn by the legislature be adopted by more than a simple majority vote.

Members prefer redistricting by a commission over redistricting by the legislature. Balance, however, is considered important and commission

members should reflect California's diversity of population and varied geography, as well as a balance of economic, social and partisan interests. Members conclude that a redistricting commission would make fair and effective representation a more likely outcome than the decisions of legislators, whose self-interests seem to dominate over their concern for fairness and the common good. Given only two practical choices—legislature or commission—the choice of a commission reflected members dissatisfaction with the legislature's previous redistricting performance as much as enthusiasm for a commission per se.

The questions of who should redistrict California and how such redistricting lines should be drawn are complex. All the criteria involve difficult and controversial definitions and decisions. The League position does not promise panaceas or quick fixes. Rather, it represents a thoughtful reflection on a complex political process and offers balanced suggestions for a road map to navigate the difficult journey.



## JOHN LEAHY 1921 - 2005

**T**he LWVNOC lost a valued member when John Leahy, an active and often Board member and committee chairman, died July 29, 2005. John was born January 18, 1921 in New York and has lived for over thirty years in Fullerton with his lovely and also active Leaguer wife Martha. Their son Mike and his wife and a grandson live in Ohio and son Bob lives in Tustin. John, along with the assistance of Martha, started a successful Newsletter business which son Bob took over when John retired.

John was a man of principles and convictions and a tireless worker in pursuit of those principles. He was also a well-mannered, good hearted, courtly gentleman in the truest sense of that word. He was a devoted and proud husband to Martha, a loving father, a caring neighbor, a kind friend.

John and Martha were members of League of Women Voters of North Orange County for over thirty years. Past presidents have wonderful stories of how John stepped in to help out when needed. His banking experience helped Eileen Miller make sense of the Treasurer's books she inherited in the days before computers. He served as Treasurer, chaired budget committees and insisted on League fiscal responsibility and an emergency fund which still serves the League. He worked on by-laws committees, was VOTER editor, worked with Connie Haddad in presenting an ILO program to honor outstanding women of Orange County. He worked with Jean Askham to present a program on the First Amendment Coalition of California and he said he wasn't ever going to wash off the kiss on the cheek Jean gave him as thanks for his help with the project.

Ill health sidelined John and Martha the past few years, but they have kept up their interest in League and world activities. Old timers will miss John and younger members will miss the experience of knowing and working with John Leahy. RIP.

BY SHIRLEY BLOOM  
LWVNOC BOARD OF DIRECTORS

## CALENDAR

### Party Welcoming Cypress and La Palma into LWVNOC

**Wednesday August 31<sup>st</sup>**

5:00 to 7:00 PM

At Arline Burgmeier's

Bring a light hors d'oeuvre

714/828-8624 or

[aburgmeier@sbcglobal.net](mailto:aburgmeier@sbcglobal.net)

### 2005-2006 Kickoff Luncheon Sunday, September 11th

Noon-3 PM

Coyote Hills Golf Club

1440 E Bastanchury, Fullerton

Details on Page One

Please join the first meeting of the

### Energy Study Committee

**Wednesday, September 14th**

10:00 AM-Noon

3015 La Travesia, Fullerton

Call Wanda Shaffer for directions

714-525-6676

### Ballot Measure Speaker Training Saturday, September 17th

9:00 AM-Noon

Details on Back Page

### Lunch with League

**Dr. Pat Ganer:**

**Redistricting**

**Thursday, September 22nd**

11:30 AM-1:00PM

Sizzler 1401 N Harbor Blvd

Fullerton Cost \$12

Reservations:714-254-7440 or

[LunchwithLeague@lwnoc.org](mailto:LunchwithLeague@lwnoc.org)

Save the Date

### Proposition 76 Forum

**Thursday September 29th**

7:00 PM CSUF

Details to Follow

### LWVNOC Board Meeting Tuesday, September 27th

Noon-2:00 PM

Fullerton JUHS District Offices

1051 W Bastanchury

### American Association of University Women Coffee

**September 10, Saturday 10:00 AM.** Come socialize with us. Many of your fellow League members will attend. The coffee is at the Fullerton Union High School District Office at 1051 W. Bastanchury Rd.

## JOIN THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS!

The League of Women Voters is committed to making democracy work across the country and around the world. Join us in educating and encouraging men and women to be active citizens and address the issues that affect our lives—election administration reform, campaign finance reform, civil and human rights, citizen engagement, judicial independence and criminal justice, education, health care, urban sprawl and our natural resources. Go online to [lwnoc.org](http://lwnoc.org) and click on "Join LWV" to become a League Member, or call 714-254-7440

The League of Women Voters of Orange County

SPECIAL ELECTION, NOVEMBER 8, 2005

**SPEAKING ON BALLOT MEASURES/BEING A MODERATOR**

**A MEMBER TRAINING PROGRAM**

The League of Women Voters traditionally explains ballot measures and presents candidate forums from an unbiased position at public forums and on invitation to meetings of civic, educational and religious organizations.

The seminar below is designed to help our speakers prepare for this important service. League protocol and methods will be included and experienced speakers will discuss the measures. The program is designed not only for members who expect to speak on this election, **but for all members who are interested in the process and may want to be included in the future.**

**SPEAKER TRAINING Saturday, September 17, 2005**

9:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon St. Joseph Center, 480 S. Batavia, Orange

Classroom 1 (at LaVeta, between Main and Glassell)

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, CALL SHIRLEY BLOOM 714 870 6593



League of Women Voters  
North Orange County  
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Fullerton CA 92834

Current and past issues of  
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[www.lwvnoc.org](http://www.lwvnoc.org)

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**Send in your renewal check today!**