



League of Women Voters
North Orange
County

VOTER

Summer 2004

714-254-7440
P.O. Box 3073

The League of Women Voters is a nonpartisan political organization that encourages the informed and active participation of citizens in government and influences public policy through education and advocacy.

Dear League Member,

Every time you renew your membership in the League of Women Voters of North Orange County it is a renewal of faith in our democratic system and faith that just one person—**you**—can make a difference in that system.

This is because the League is a three-tiered organization that represents local, state and national interests, so when you join our local NOC League you automatically become a member at all three levels. Using funds collected from members like you and from supportive donors, the League informs voters about governmental issues that affect them and involves citizens in the political process *at the grassroots level*.

From this perspective, membership is not a cost—it is an investment in our democratic system that pays rich dividends.

The November elections make this an especially interesting time to be involved in the League as we go into the community to demonstrate the new e-slate voting machines, present meet-the-candidate forums, and discuss with voters the pros and cons of ballot measures.

During the coming year we will also focus on other urgent issues, including the No Child Left Behind act; our health care system; and the effect of population increase on natural and social resources. Then, in May 2005, Orange County will host the California LWV convention, and our NOC League will be responsible for planning a gala reception.

Join us for a meaningful, interesting and rewarding year.

Sincerely,

Eleanor Fumanti, Co-President
LWVNOC

Eileen Olmsted, Co-President
LWVNOC

P.S. Please use the attached envelope to renew your membership today.

LWVUS CONVENTION REPORT

League Adopts New Position on Voter Verified Paper Trails

Controversy was the order of the day at the LWVUS 47th biannual Convention in Washington DC and it made for a stimulating and engaging four days for your representatives, Eileen Olmsted and Eleanor Fumanti, Co-Presidents of the North Orange County League. More than 700 delegates from 47 states, the District of Columbia and the Virgin Islands participated.



White House correspondent, Helen Thomas, speaking to delegates at LWVUS Convention banquet.

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, last but very much not least, the League's stance on electronic voting. This latter topic was the cause for many lively caucuses and eloquent debate on the Convention floor. People felt very strongly but, in true League fashion, on the last day, 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 the 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 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.

Delegates to the convention adopted a resolution making the protection of civil liberties an issue of highest priority for the national organization

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. "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; and remarks by U.S. Senator Richard Lugar Chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

BY ARLINE BURGMEIER, MEMBERSHIP CO-DIRECTOR

For most of us, renewing our membership in LWVNOV is a given. Of course we'll renew because we recognize the influence of the League on local, state and national government and want to contribute to that influence. Face it, we also take pride in belonging to a prestigious organization. Drop the name "League of Women Voters" in a conversation and there is immediate recognition and respect from others.

Membership has other benefits, too. Many of our members derive great personal satisfaction from participating in activities that promote voter awareness and citizen responsibility so they enthusiastically volunteer to help with voter registration drives, get-out-the-vote efforts, meet-the-candidate nights and community forums that focus on ballot measures.

But it's not all work and no play. The social side of the League is not just fun, it's enriching. Lunches, meetings and study groups provide opportunities to meet and share ideas with others who are smart, dynamic and involved—just like you.

Responding promptly to the attached 2004-2005 renewal packet will avoid the need for follow-up reminders. Don't just toss the packet in your "to-do-later" pile (we all have them), but write a check and mail it back right away. How embarrassing to have your membership lapse!

Let me know, too, if you have a friend, relative, co-worker or neighbor who might like to share the merits of membership. Just give me a name and address and I'll do the recruiting.

714-828-8624

aburgmeier@earthlink.net

Help Wanted Executive Director

The League of Women Voters of California is seeking an Executive Director. The primary duties will include management of the State Office, fund development and membership support. The salary for this exempt position is competitive, and benefits include health insurance, paid vacation and holidays. For the full job announcement and application instructions, please refer to www.lwvc.org/jobs. Applications received by July 30 will receive first consideration.

VOTERS SERVICE ACTION TEAM

BY EILEEN OLMSTED, VOTERS SERVICE CO-DIRECTOR

I would like to invite you to join the Voter Service Action team for Election '04. We are embarking on our busiest but most rewarding time for League activity. Even though you may not have much time to give to League this is a chance to do one small job which when joined to myriads of others provides us with the most public visibility as we do what League is most noted and admired for. There are jobs you can do at home on your telephone or while you are out doing errands or at just one League voter event.

Here are some of the many ways in which you can contribute:

- With candidate forums in all of our 6 cities (where you can sort questions, moderate, act as ushers, etc.)
- On Pro and Con speaking teams to respond to requests for our balanced

presentations on the ballot measures. (We will train you.)

- By distributing League election publications such as Easy Voter and Pros and Cons to one of our many distribution sites.
- By registering new voters and helping them navigate the voting process including demonstrating the eSlate electronic voting machines.
- By publicizing our prize winning voter information WEB site "Smart Voter" and ensuring that all local candidates provide the site with their information.

If there is just one way in which you would like to help call:

Eileen Olmsted 714-441-1659,
email: eileeno@sbcglobal.net or
Shirley Bloom 714-870-6593,
email: shirleybloom@msn.com.

First in a series of informative articles for an Update of the LWVC Energy Position

KEEPING CALIFORNIA'S LIGHTS ON The League and Energy

The LWVC recognizes that a full study of Energy would cover more than electricity. However, due to the timeliness and complexity of questions relating to electrical energy, and due to limited resources, the delegates at the 2003 Convention instructed that this Update should be restricted to electricity systems in California and their governance.

For one startling moment at the LWVC convention 2003, the lights went out all over the auditorium. And for a long hot summer in 2001, the threat of rolling blackouts was part of the daily life of all Californians. And although the West Coast has not had a major multi-state transmission outage since August 1996, the August 2003 blackout of the eastern U.S. and Canada only serves to point up our vulnerability.

All of these warnings point up the crucial need in this new century to find the **best way to secure and deliver an adequate and reliable supply of electricity for our state. This needs to be done in a way that respects the social and natural environment.** New decisions will be made in Sacramento and in our local communities; new sources of energy and new techniques of delivering it will continue to evolve. The League must be in a position to bring its principles to bear on public energy policy. Unfortunately, our Energy Position was last updated in 1980—a quarter of a century ago! In its day it was a thoughtful position. Now we are critically aware of its limitations.

Our 1980 Position permits us to speak only on

- **Conservation**
- **Public health and safety**
- **Environmental protection**
- **Renewable sources**
- **Siting of facilities**

- **Tax incentives for both conservation and renewables.**

This leaves a number of areas that we have not studied in sufficient depth to be able to comment. Before 2001 there was little concern in California about a shortage of generation capacity and of transmission facilities. Then came a “*perfect storm*” which peaked in 2001—drought in the northwest, extreme heat in the southwest, excessive and unregulated prices of natural gas from out of state, bottlenecks in related markets, unexpectedly high business growth in the technology sector, and a flawed attempt at deregulation. Through this experience we gained a new perspective on energy questions. We now see many additional areas calling for an updated Energy Position. We need to be able to address:

- **Integration of energy policy—from production to transmission to delivery**
- **Re-regulation or de-regulation—or something else**
- **State and federal regulatory conflicts**
- **Differing roles of investor-owned utilities (IOUs) and public utilities**
- **Issues of social equity**
- **Role of the public in planning**
- **Direct access for some users**
- **Distributed energy resources (DER)***
- **Emerging sources of energy—solar, wind, fuel cells and more.**

During the coming months we will be producing a series of articles expanding on all of these questions. We hope you will read them thoughtfully and bring **your light** to the League by joining in the Study to Update the LWVC Energy Position.

*Distributed energy resources are small-scale power generation facilities (typically in the range of 3 to 10,000 kW) located close to where electricity is used (e.g., a home or business) to provide an alternative to or an enhancement of traditional electric power systems.

Scope of the LWVC Education Position Study and Update

K-12 PUBLIC EDUCATION IN CALIFORNIA

Leagues throughout California will be participating this fall in an update and study of K-12 public education. The scope study includes:

- A review of the existing LWVC Education position, supporting consensus reports, and study materials to identify areas that need to be revisited and updated
- A study of issues that have emerged since the 1983-85 LWVC Education in California study in the areas of finance, governance, school district organization, accountability, teaching, and curriculum
- 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)
- A review of the federal No Child Left Behind Act as it impacts K-12 education in California.

Finance issues for consideration include the

impact of budget measures, categorical programs, stability of funding sources and Master Plan recommendations including the Adequacy Model. Questions and issues related to the charter school movement will be addressed in the review of school governance. The role of the public schools in providing pre-K education will be part of the review of school district organization.

Study materials will be available from the LWVC committee in September. Study group meetings will be scheduled in the fall and our consensus meeting is scheduled for early January in order to meet the state consensus submission deadline of January 15th. Our core committee is already at work planning the first event of this position update, a public forum on the No Child Left Behind Act which will be held on Thursday, September 9th at the Fullerton Public Library from 6:30 to 9:30 PM. If you would like to join this study committee please contact:

Dr. Versie Burns,
vgbfnb@aol.com 714-879-7445

LWVC ISSUES FOR EMPHASIS:

Current LWVC legislative priorities are the Issues for Emphasis adopted at LWVC Convention 2003-2005 for education and advocacy.

- State and Local Finances: Support equitable and adequate generation and distribution of tax revenues.
- Health Care: Support continued funding of the safety net.
- Community College System: Support access to community colleges for all who may benefit.
- Review all statewide ballot measures and recommend a position or neutrality on each ballot measure.
- Take action as appropriate on core issues: Elections, Voting Rights, Campaign Finance Reform and Reproductive Choices.
- Consider Program Director recommendations for action on the highest priority bills in their program areas.

Leagues in Action...

LWV of Wilton, CT: More Sleep Equals Better Learning

Wilton's High School students and Middle School students now start school at 8:00 AM instead of 7:20AM. These students now get more sleep, sleep which is required by their biological clocks. They are performing better in school by staying awake during their first hour of classes, and they seem to be happier in attitudes then when they had to wake up at 6:00 AM to make it to school for a 7:20 AM bell ringing...

The Wilton LWV is receiving phone calls and emails from school districts as far away as Seattle, Washington and as close as New Jersey asking about the School Start Time Change. The Wilton LWV's membership has grown due to support from the involvement in the later school start time issue.

The LWV of Wilton started a study in October 2001 after attending a joint LWV/PTA luncheon on the subject of school start times on adolescents' learn-

ing and behavior. The study group itself was diverse, made up of parents of kids of all ages and educators. No one in the group was committed to a position at the beginning; in fact some leaned toward the idea that this would be "coddling the kids". As the study progressed, the compelling evidence of better learning and health with a later start time option emerged.

The group looked at possible solutions and in the end recommended a delay in start time at the middle and high school levels. Important in this process, was the decision to go no further in the details of implementation than to establish feasibility. "We did not claim we had the only, or the best plan; we were satisfied to say that the change could be made and was worth the effort."

(The story has been featured in the New York Times and on major networks, including NBC's "Today" show).

Involvement Opportunity

We are looking for a League member to serve as our representative to the Fullerton Collaborative which meets once a month at lunch time. The Collaborative works to improve coordination and communication among educational and social service groups in Fullerton. The Collaborative was the sponsor of the recent very successful Faces of Fullerton event. For information contact Monika Broome 714-992-0276

CA Community College System: Equalization Funding

The LWVC supports SB 1875 (Alpert), which requires the Chancellor of the California Community Colleges to develop a plan each year for allocation of the equalization funds appropriated in the annual Budget Act. The funds for equalization of funding received by districts per full time equivalent student (FTES) will be allocated after the plan is reviewed by legislative budget chairs and approved by the Department of Finance.

Current funding variations are too great. While the average funding per FTES is about \$3,800, the variation is from about \$3,550 (Santa Monica) to \$8,150 (West Kern County).

The amount of equalization funding is also important. The Governor's budget request was for \$80 million each year for three years. Although Senate budget action supported that level of funding, in the Assembly only \$40 million was allocated for equalization. As this update went to print, the budget conference committee was beginning to meet to reconcile differences between the two houses' versions of the budget. Let your representatives in the legislature know how important it is to pass SB 1875 and to provide the \$80 million for equalization.

Save the Date

No Child Left Behind Act Public Forum

Thursday, September 9, 2004

6:30-8:30 PM

Fullerton Public Library

Details in Next Voter

Gala Kickoff Brunch Event

Sunday September 19, 2004

Noon to 3:00 PM
Coyote Hills Golf Club

1440 E. Bastanchury Rd.
Fullerton

Back By Popular Demand
Pat Ganer Ph.D.
Democracy 2004

Analysis of the Presidential Election
Search for Global Democracy

Cost \$30

RSVP 714-254-7440

Mail Checks by September 7th
LWVNOC, PO Box 3073, Fullerton, CA 92834

LWVNOC BOARD OF DIRECTORS ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING

The newly elected board of directors got the League year off to a running start at their June 21st, retreat and organizational meeting. The first part of the day's agenda provided the leadership team the opportunity to review all the activities that we provide and participate in. We then grouped the activities into the beginnings of more formalized organizational structure. This brainstorming session was facilitated by Smart Voter director, Joanne Gray who has a specialty in group process, organizational development, and job analysis.

Directors amended the nonpartisan policy for the coming year to read "Board members may not run for or hold any public legislative elective office." The four board committees, Membership, Development, Voters Service and Program met briefly to begin planning for the coming year.

LEAGUE YEAR AT A GLANCE

September and October will be busy months for LWVNOC conducting candidate forums for school board and city council candidates, presenting the pros and cons of ballot measures, demonstrating the new voting machines, promoting our SmartVoter website and working to get out the vote.

Our first fall event will be a forum on the No Child Left Behind Act followed by our gala Kickoff Brunch with Dr. Pat Ganer speaking on Democracy 2004.

Lunch with Leagues are set for the fourth Thursday of October, November, January, February, March and April at Sizzler on Harbor in Fullerton. The Education Position Update will have meetings in November and December with a consensus meeting in January.

After the first of the year, we will be collaborating with the North Orange Community College District in a community outreach effort. Spring plans include a forum on the impact of the expected population increase in Orange County.

And finally, in May, all four Orange County Leagues will be hosting the LWVC Convention in Garden Grove.

Board of Directors meetings are schedule for the second Wednesdays of each month at 3:30 in the Fullerton Joint District High School offices. Members are invited to attend.

Not a Member Yet? Please Join!

The League of Women Voters is strictly nonpartisan; we never support or oppose any political party or candidate. At the same time, we are wholeheartedly political, working to influence public policy through education and advocacy. Membership is open to all women and men of voting age who are U.S. citizens. Others are welcome to join as associate members.

____ **Yes**, I want to join. Enclosed is my check for \$55.00 payable to LWVNOC.

____ Please send me more information about League and its publications.

Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____ Email _____

City _____ Zip _____

Mail to the League of Women Voters North Orange County

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*Membership Renewal
Form Enclosed*

Voter Editor

Eleanor Fumanti

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