



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

# VOTER

January 2006

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.

## Lunch with League: January 26 Alternative Energy Sources

**L**unch with League resumes this month with a program to help members and guests understand Southern California Edison's successful use of alternative energy sources to reduce air pollution. Our guest speaker is Barry Gilman, manager of a group at Southern California Edison that oversees the technical aspects of purchasing energy from privately owned alternative energy sources. They deal with renewable energy such as biomass, wind, solar, and geothermal as well as cogeneration that combines electric generation with heat for a commercial process. Barry holds a Bachelor of Science degree in mechanical engineering and is a registered professional engineer. He has twenty eight years experience in power plant operation and maintenance and was the principal engineer in a program that reduced the air pollution from the SCE power plants by 30%.

This program will help members prepare for our Energy Consensus Meeting which is rescheduled for Saturday, February 18. Invite guests to join you at this timely Lunch with League. Thursday, January 26, 11:30AM-1:00PM, Sizzler Restaurant, 1401 N. Harbor Blvd. Fullerton, Cost \$12,

Reservations: 714-254-7440 or [lunchwithleague@lwvnoc.org](mailto:lunchwithleague@lwvnoc.org)

League of Women Voters of Orange County Presents

**What the Orange County Board of Supervisors  
Believes are the Most Pressing Issues  
Facing Orange County Government!**

Keynote Speaker: The Honorable Bill Campbell

**Chairman of the Or. Co. Board of Supervisors**

**10 AM to Noon January 21, 2006**

This is the first "Every Member Meeting" of the  
LWV Orange County "KNOW YOUR COUNTY" Study

St. Joseph Center Classroom #2

480 So. Batavia Street, Orange CA 92868

Parking south of the College building which is  
west of the Mother House. Carpools are strongly suggested.

St. Joseph Center will be very busy that day.

**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS  
NORTH ORANGE COUNTY**

PO Box 3073  
Fullerton, Ca 92634  
714-254-7440

**OFFICERS**

Eileen Olmsted, President  
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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 [lwvnoc.org](http://lwvnoc.org) and click on "Join LWV" to become a League Member, or call 714-254-7440.

## Membership News Birthday Celebration

**Y**ou're invited to a party to celebrate the League of Women Voters' 86<sup>th</sup> birthday on Saturday, February 4, at the Fullerton Joint Union High School District Office (1051 W. Bastanchury, just west of Euclid).

The party begins at 9:00 AM with a continental breakfast, games and prizes. The business portion of the morning will include program planning for the 2006-2007 league year. Then comes a salad lunch provided by NOC Board members with birthday cake for dessert. After lunch we'll view a video, "*The Story of Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Susan B. Anthony*" which traces the life-long friendship of these two women and their fight for women's suffrage in the U.S. The party will end around 1:00 PM.

Please RSVP to Frann Shermet (714/220-1338 or [frannys@earthlink.net](mailto:frannys@earthlink.net)) or Arline Burgmeier (714/828-8624 or [aburgmeier@sbcglobal.net](mailto:aburgmeier@sbcglobal.net)) if you plan to attend.

## Read with League

### Starts February 15

Get ready for the next round of Read with League.

The membership committee has organized a series of four informal discussions of books about topics of League or current interest. Mark these dates on your calendars and start reading!

February 15, Wednesday, 7 PM: [The Kite Runner](#)

March 14, Tuesday, 7 PM: [Don't Think of an Elephant](#)

April 12, Wednesday, 7 PM: [Critical Condition](#)

May 16, Tuesday, 7 PM: [Founding Mothers](#)

For details, see the flyer inserted with this issue.



From our President

## Reflections and Resolutions

**A** pending New Year is always a time for reflection and for making resolutions, some of which we may even keep. My resolution as your President is to be as responsive to the needs of you, our members, as I can be. The Board plans and executes the activities and events for the year and we hope they please you but we don't always know what we could be doing differently. Since communication is the key to achieving better responsiveness I am making the following appeal:

North Orange County Leaguers, we would like to hear from you!!! Let us know what you like and don't like about what NOC League is doing. We must depend on you to keep us informed. Is there something going on in YOUR community that you would like us to be following or taking action on? Would you like telephone or email reminders of upcoming League events? Would you like other kinds of activities, on different days or times? Let us know. Contact our membership chairs: Arline Burgmeier, 714-828-8624, [aburgmeier@sbcglobal.net](mailto:aburgmeier@sbcglobal.net) or Wanda Shafer, 714-525-6676, [wshaf6676@aol.com](mailto:wshaf6676@aol.com) if you have suggestions, complaints or kudos!

2005 was a very productive year for our League and we expect 2006 to be even more active and rewarding. We look forward to timely and informative presentations at Lunch with League, to reaching consensus on the Energy Study, to having an active Voter Service activity for our high school student population, to a forum on Health Care and another on the impact of federal legislation such as the Patriot Act on our local free speech rights. These and more will be on the calendar in the coming months. Be sure to check the Voter or on line at [www.lwvnoc.org](http://www.lwvnoc.org) for dates and places and plan to come.



The end of December marks the end of the member dues renewal period for year 2006. Anyone in arrears should have received an email or phone call reminder. If you have not already paid please do so **now**. This will be the last issue of the *Voter* for non-renewed members. If you don't plan to renew, could you let us know why? Please **do** renew even if you are unable to be active at this time. When our State and National Board members lobby legislators, numbers are very important in determining the impact of our League voice.

If you do have the time to be even a little involved here are some ways in which you can do so: by serving on the Board as publicity chair; by joining our Action Corps which responds to National and State Action Alerts; by attending a Lunch with League or other League activity and bringing a non-member friend; by doing a small part of a Voter Service Project. We promise not to overwork you and that you will have fun.

Hoping for an exciting and productive League year, 2006!!

Eileen

714-441-1659 or [eileeno@sbcglobal.net](mailto:eileeno@sbcglobal.net)

# LWV Orange County Study Committee Know Your County A Review of Government Structure, General Plan and Budget

**A**t the LWV Orange County Inter League Organization Annual Convention, June 5, 2005, the new "Issue for Emphasis" that was adopted for 2005-06 was *Know Your County, Review of the Government Structure, General Plan, and Budget*.

The Study Committee has met to review the constitutional and statutory basis for county government in California, and reviewed the directory of Orange County departments/services. We have attended two Board of Supervisors Meetings which focused on the County Budget, updates of past and pending budget expenditures. We have made plans for interviewing the County Administrative Officer, and individual members of the Board of Supervisors. In general, we are following the directions in the LWV publication "How to do a Local Study" - with the intention of discovering pressing issues facing Orange County government.

Any League member who wishes to join the Know Your County study committee is wel-

come; just send an email to Mary Evelyn Bryden, Study Chair, mebryden@adelphia.net. We, of necessity, usually meet during county employees' work days and hours, and mainly in the Civic Center, in Santa Ana, in county buildings.

The ILO Board concurred with my proposal that the study committee incorporate the "Know Your County" with the LWVUS Homeland Security Project into its work, since the project consists mainly of interviewing County Government officials which we will be doing already in the course of the KYC study. We will be following the LWVUS outline re "How Well is Homeland Security Working At Home!" Further, we were successful in applying to LWVUS to receive the project toolkit: "What We Know About You" referring to what the federal government is learning about individual citizens in its search for terrorists. This project will involve cooperating with other groups and institutions to discuss citizens reaction to intrusive government tentatively, perhaps with CSUF and

local Community Colleges and high schools. NOTE: this is an extension to the LWVUS "Local Voices" project, the publication was mailed to local league Presidents last month. Planning for this activity will begin early in January 2006.

Our plan is to produce materials to be handed out at "Know Your County" League meetings. And in particular, at the "Every Member Countywide meeting" January 21 at St Joseph Center, in Orange, 10AM to noon. Our speaker will be the Chairman of the Board of Supervisors, Bill Campbell. He has been asked to speak on "the most important issues currently facing Orange County. By the time of the 2006 Annual Convention of the LWV Orange County, we should have a proposal about a second year of KNOW YOUR COUNTY study, and suggestions for work toward possible new "County Government Action Positions" - including local League study and consensus unit meetings.

**BY MARY EVELYN BRYDEN  
LWVOC KNOW YOUR COUNTY  
STUDY CHAIR**

Orange County Board of Supervisors  
PUBLIC COMMENT

They waited, more or less patiently, through a long board meeting on 11/1 for Public Comment time to arrive and then comment they did. Six angry firefighters and paramedics minced no words as, in turn, they accused the supervisors of “clouding the issue” by putting other Prop 172 measures on the ballot; of dishonesty and lying in campaign ads against Measure D; that it was a lie to say sheriff deputies would be laid off, that even after the bankruptcy no safety workers lost jobs; that the sheriff has a \$77M slush fund while the firefighters needed stations, not trailers, and deserved a fair share of Prop 172 funds. One speaker said “we aren’t going away, show some ethics” and threatened to demand an audit of the Prop 172 funds. The firefighters union chief told the supervisors they were a roadblock to democracy and that “your firefighters will always be there” and that he hoped “your bad behavior won’t be”

The equally irate deputy sheriffs union president accused the firefighters of using carnary workers at \$3.00 a signature who told lies to people and that it was all a smoke screen

for a greedy union. Another speaker said the firefighters never lost a cent of property tax, that their leaders had agreed on a dedicated property tax as their source of revenue; a retired DA inspector said he was worried that funding would dry up for all county services, that low level employees would be hurt.

Supervisor Campbell, at his blandest, carefully asked County Counsel about the rules on replying to speakers and was told it was fine, as long as no voting was done. First Mr. Campbell said it wasn’t the supervisors campaign, that they couldn’t use tax money that way, that they didn’t hire campaign managers or have anything to do with it. Then he described the whole issue as a “dispute about funding”, that Proposition 172 never guaranteed any funds to firefighters, that it was “a campaign line only!” He then recommended that the fire-fighters take their funding complaints to the Fire Authority Board, who makes the pertinent funding decisions, not to the Board of Supervisors. That \$50M admin building was mentioned, also the fact that structural fires are fewer than before, and that police have

more incidents.

Mr. Norby objected to being called a liar and replied to one speaker who had said “elevate politics back to honorable” that if he wanted to be honorable, he should do so. He said his constituents aren’t served by the Fire Authority, but by city fire departments and that he would be willing to take some of the property tax growth the Fire Authority enjoys in exchange for some Prop 172 growth. Property tax vis-à-vis sales tax: which grows faster and hence produces more local revenue? Your observer can’t recall such angry public talk since the public erupted after the bankruptcy. It was not polite. And, after all was said and done, the voters said NO to ALL the county measures.

At the 10/25 meeting there was an interesting discussion and decision about affordable housing. A developer in Las Flores, south county, wants to convert some existing affordable housing apartment units to market-rate condominiums. The Planning Commission said no, and the board agreed, denying the appeal 3-2, Mr. Norby and Mr. Correa voting no, on private property rights

*(Continued on page 7)*



The Smart Voter site logged over 2 ½ million page views during the November 2005 statewide special election--evidence that many voters returned because of members' diligent work to consistently produce a rich site, chock-full of valuable election information!

Read on for a sampling of thank you's.

*The League of Women Voters Smart Voter site is superb--a fabulous public service, as were the scores of professionally conducted candidate forums.*

*A most excellent public service! Thank you to all the volunteers and donors.*

*I would like to thank you for providing Smart Voter as a service to the community. I believe it has developed into a much relied upon and trusted source of voter information.*

*Extremely useful and well done. Keep up the good work!!!*

*I found exactly what I needed and then some.*

*Once again I turn to you for factual information online. What a great site. Well done!*

## Energy Study Meeting Wednesday, January 11

### Natural Gas and LNG

*Learn more about natural gas and LNG at the final study group meeting on January 11 at 10:00 AM in the Placentia Library. After this meeting the committee will be preparing for the consensus meeting on February 18.*

#### **Natural gas policy in California**

In June 2005, the California Energy Commission and the California Public Utilities Commission stated their long-term policy goal for natural gas: "To ensure reliable, long-term natural gas supplies in California at reasonable rates, the Agencies must first work to reduce or moderate demand for natural gas. Because natural gas is becoming more expensive, and because electricity demand growth is expected to be met significantly by increases in natural gas-fired generation, reducing consumption of electricity and diversifying electricity generation resources are major elements of any plan to mitigate natural gas supply problems. The state must also promote infrastructure enhancements, such as additional interstate pipeline capacity and increased use of in-state storage, and seek to diversify our supply sources, including access to liquefied natural gas facilities on the west coast." Despite the fact that Californians are becoming increasingly energy efficient—California households are using less than half the natural gas they used 30 years ago—there is a se-

rious near-term concern about price. Development of additional LNG facilities is one approach to increasing our imports.

#### **Liquefied natural gas:**

##### **What is it? Where is it?**

Liquefied natural gas is just that—natural gas that has been turned into a liquid. Cooling natural gas severely (to minus-259 degrees Fahrenheit) turns it into a clear and odorless liquid, occupying (and this is the remarkable part) only one six-hundredth of its gaseous volume. In this state it can be easily transported in specially constructed ships or in tanktrucks, to be re-gasified at the other end.

LNG has some built-in safety factors. It cannot explode or burn. It is lighter than water. When it contacts anything that will cause its temperature to rise, it will "boil off" or evaporate, forming a vapor cloud. This cloud is at first heavier than air, but as it warms up it becomes lighter than air, rising and dissipating in the wind. Such a vapor cloud can ignite only if it encounters a strong ignition source—and encounters it when the concentration of natural gas in the cloud is between 5 and 15 percent. Natural gas cannot burn when its concentrations are less than 5 percent (too lean) or more than 15 percent (too rich).

## LEAGUE WILL CONTINUE THE FIGHT FOR REDISTRICTING REFORM

The League remains committed to pressing for a redistricting process that encourages public participation and scrutiny, has fair criteria for drawing the lines, and transfers responsibility for redistricting to an independent commission that reflects the interests and diversity of all California.

"Of all the issues on the special election ballot, redistricting offers the greatest promise for finding a fair, effective proposal that we can all endorse," said Jackie Jacobberger, President LWVC. Since last January, the League has worked with other public interest groups and policy makers to seek consensus on procedural reforms and substantive standards for districts.

"We saw the Governor and legislative leaders take steps toward redistricting by an independent panel, and during the campaign the media solidly endorsed that concept," she continued. "We pledge our efforts to redesign the redistricting process without the flaws that plagued Prop. 77. And we challenge everyone concerned about our representative democracy to work with us to put a real reform measure before California voters in 2006."

For more information, or to sign up for redistricting updates, visit the League's redistricting page at <http://lwvc.org/lwvc/action/redistrict/>

*(Continued from page 5)  
Orange County Voter*

grounds. Mr. Wilson lead the discussion, saying he doesn't want to encourage the purchasng of affordable apartment complexes for conversion to up-scale condos. He was not sympathetic to the developer, who apparently purchased the property recently, with conversions in mind. Mr. Silva suggested a 90-day continuance for more discussions but staff and Mr. Wilson objected. Apparently the county is currently negotiating with the state housing agency re

the county's housing element and is under pressure to provide an adequate share of affordable housing; to loose the Las Flores apartments would send "the wrong signal" to the state and increase the risk of the housing element being "disapproved", which could lead to loss of state funds, penalties, and legal difficulties. The developer wanted to talk about creating affordable housing but staff said there was no nearby available land.

The Orange County story in a nutshell: no affordable housing!

BY TRISH HARRIGAN, OBSERVER  
OC BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MEETINGS

### CALENDAR

#### **Energy Study Meeting** **Wednesday, January 11**

*Natural Gas and LNG*

10:00 AM-Noon

Placentia Library

411 East Chapman, Placentia

#### **Wednesday January 11** **Executive Committee Meeting**

Noon-2PM

Placentia Library

#### **Saturday, January 21** **Every Member Meeting** **LWV Orange County** **"KNOW YOUR COUNTY" Study**

10AM-Noon

St. Joseph's Center, Orange

Details, Page One

#### **Tuesday January 24** **LWVNOC Board Meeting** **FJUHSO**

Noon-2PM

1051 W. Bastanchury

Fullerton

#### **Thursday January 26** **Lunch with League**

11:30-1:00PM

Sizzler 1401 N Harbor Blvd

Fullerton, Cost \$12

Reservations: 714-254-7440 or  
[www.lunchwithleague@lwvnoc.org](http://www.lunchwithleague@lwvnoc.org)

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.

**Yes**, I want to join.

Enclosed is my check for \$55.00 payable to LWVNOC.

Name
Street Address
City, State, Zip
Phone
Email

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**Energy Study Meeting**  
**Jan. 11, 10AM, Placentia Library**

Current and past issues of  
the Voter are available on  
line and in color at:  
[www.lwvnoc.org](http://www.lwvnoc.org)

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