



# VOTER

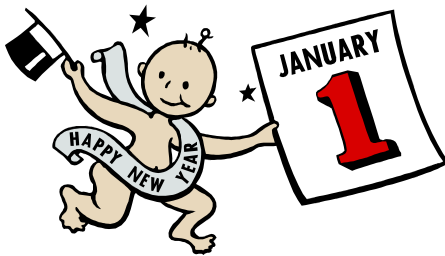
714-254-7440  
P.O. Box 3073  
Fullerton, CA 92834  
[www.lwvnoc.org](http://www.lwvnoc.org)

The League of Women Voters is a nonpartisan political organization that encourages informed and active participation 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.

## FROM OUR PRESIDENT

**M**y sincerest wishes for a Happy Holiday to you all and may our New Year of 2009 bring a recovering economy and some peace to our world!!

As we look back on 2008, we can pat ourselves on the back for all the League accomplishments concerning Judicial Independence, Immigration study and consensus, Constitution Day lessons, and the full slate of candidate forums, Pros and Cons presentations, and the many members who worked the polls for three elections. I so appreciate all the members who stepped forward to help with these activities.



I assume you are all following with interest the new cabinet and staff appointments that President Elect Obama has been announcing. January 20 will be here soon and our country will again demonstrate the peaceful exchange of government for the rest of the world.

We will shortly start a new study on the National Popular Vote with leadership from Wanda Shaffer and Linda Rogers. I hope to see many of you at the meetings sharing your input. During the rest of my term as your president, we will have some great speakers for Lunch With League, the Annual Meeting, and we will do some program planning at the League Birthday in early February.

I do hope you all have sent in your dues and I welcome our new members!

With my best wishes to all,  
*Mary*

### Lunch with League

Thursday, January 22  
12:30-2:00 PM

### American Politics A New President and a New Congress by Dr. Pat Ganer.

Sizzler Restaurant  
1401 N Harbor Blvd.

Fullerton

Cost \$12

Reservations:

714-254-7440 or  
bfhf1951@aol.com

Choice of chicken steak  
or salad bar.

Tactful Reminder:

Visiting the salad bar is not  
an option for those wishing  
chicken or steak plates.

BY BETTE FRAZIER,  
LWVNOC DIRECTOR

## A Message from LWVC President Janice Hirohama

# Making Democracy Work

**W**e did it! All League members can be proud of our California accomplishments this election year. And what a year this has been!

Winning passage of [Proposition 11](#) last month was a huge victory. It capped a long struggle by the League and other reform groups to put an end to a redistricting system rife with conflict of interest. The LWVC played a major—and very visible—role in the hard-fought Prop. 11 campaign. League members worked hard for this victory. They collected signatures to qualify the measure for the ballot, attended speakers' trainings and spoke to community groups about the initiative, donated to the campaign, sought endorsements, phone-banked, and urged their friends and family to vote for Prop. 11. Even after Election Day, as the fate of Prop. 11 hung in the balance, members volunteered to monitor the counting of provisional and vote-by-mail ballots in crucial counties. As it turned out, Prop. 11 won by a [slim margin](#), and every single vote mattered. This great victory for good government would not have been possible without the efforts of all of our members.

League members also did an exceptional job with [voter service](#). This election season placed unprecedented demands on our state and local Leagues. We saw record turnout in many counties, a wave of new registrations, and ever-greater numbers of voters seeking to vote early or by mail. Our [SmartVoter.org](#) website attracted a record number of page views. We distributed over 1 million copies of the [Easy Voter Guide](#), and made it available to many more in a variety of languages and online. Meanwhile, dedicated local League members throughout the state registered voters, answered phone and email queries about voting and the election process, gave pro and con presentations on the ballot measures, held candidate forums, and distributed Pros and Cons and Easy Voter Guides.

Thanks to all of you for your efforts. You truly made democracy work.

### Prop 11 Passes and the Next Phase Begins with Your Help

So it's all over? No, indeed. League members know that this was only the first step. We need to monitor the new process and do extensive public outreach. Interested in helping this major change get off the ground? Read LWVC [redistricting page](#), [UP-DATES](#), and the LWVC News ([sign up here](#))!

We have a brand new citizen engagement project coming very soon. Get ready to be a part of history.

### After Prop 11, Where Does the League Go?

With our victory on Prop. 11, interest in pushing forward with other needed reforms has everybody buzzing. Fix the structural budget problem? The initiative process? Further reforms in campaign financing? Our election systems? What is an open primary all about? Or is there something else?

You, our members, are on the ground in communities across California, and you know what citizens want and need. We need your direction as we begin the program planning process for the next biennium. We need to hear from you so that we can map out a strategy that will strengthen both the state and local Leagues and bring positive change to California.

## Leagues to Begin New Study

# The National Popular Vote Compact

**T**he national League of Women Voters has chosen its new study subject...”The Advisability of Using the National Popular Vote Compact among the States as a Method for Electing the President.”

The League strongly believes that the Electoral College should be abolished and not merely “reformed.” One “reform” which the League specifically rejects is the voting by electors based on proportional representation in lieu of the present “winner-takes-all” method. The League also does not support reform of the Electoral College on a state-by-state basis because the League believes there should be uniformity across the nation in the systems used to elect the President.

So....What would a new position to abolish the Electoral College and propose a new course look like? And just exactly what is the historical story of the Electoral College? Believe it or not, the first concern over EC was the 1824 election of John Q. Adams, again the concern arose in 1828 with Rutherford B. Hayes, again in 1888 with the election of Benjamin Harrison and most recently in the 2000 presidential election of George W. Bush. Over the past 200 years, according to the National Archives, more than 700 proposals have been introduced in Congress to reform or eliminate the Electoral College. Against this background comes the NPV, the National Popular Vote Compact Proposal.

Look for the planned dates, times, and meeting site in the next VOTER and in President Mary Fuhrman’s emails. Meanwhile the full text of the compact is available at [www.lwv.org](http://www.lwv.org).

PLEASE PLAN ON JOINING THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF NORTH ORANGE COUNTY IN THIS INTERESTING AND IMPORTANT STUDY.

## Lunch With League January 22

Dr. Pat Ganer

## A New President, A New Congress

**D**r. Pat Ganer is a favorite and familiar figure to LWVNOC members who have enjoyed her wit and wisdom when she spoke about politics at previous League events. At our January Lunch with League she will analyze the outcome of the Presidential election and its impact on government over the next four years.

Dr. Ganer has served on the faculty at Cypress College since 1971 and also teaches each semester at CSU Long Beach. She works mainly in areas of political communication and argumentation. She served as an analyst on the Presidential Debates for the Los Angeles Times and as a commentator on George Bush’s 2000 Convention speech for MSNBC television.

Invite a guest to join you at Lunch with League. This event gives us an excellent opportunity to showcase League programs to potential members. Lunch on Thursday, January 22, 2009 at 12:30PM at Sizzler Restaurant, 1401 N. Harbor Boulevard, Fullerton, Cost \$12. Reservations by Tuesday, January 20. Call Bette Frazier at 714-254-7440 or email, [bhfh1951@aol.com](mailto:bhfh1951@aol.com)



# BOARD OF SUPERVISORS' MEETINGS

By LWV Observer, Wanda Shaffer

The 14th Annual Report on the Condition of Children in Orange County was presented. Every year the changing conditions are noted with a projection of where changes may occur over the next decade. This report has been provided since 1993 and it notes the programs for high-risk children and their families, for wards, dependents, and behaviorally and /or emotionally disturbed children.

The County has set up a web-based subscription service to provide real-time information to county areas with emergency situations. The service is called AlertCOC and it can contact you via either landline, cell phone, or email. You may register your contact info through *www.AlertOC.com*. You will then receive info about major situations such as evacuations and road closures or about minor situations such a power outage.

The OC Performing Audit Director looked into the overtime costs in the Sheriff Dept. It was reported that appropriately using deputy overtime saves the county money. Sheriff Hutchens will be reporting to the board on Nov. 25 regarding the findings of Crout and Silva, a company hired to study the OC jail system. At that time, the sheriff will also discuss her plan to use non-sworn correctional officers in the county jails.

For the past 6 or 7 years there has been much antagonism between the Sheriff and the District Attorney regarding turnaround times in DNA testing, the integrity of lab results, evidence collection, and the costs of expanded DNA testing of property evidence. The BOS directed the CEO to form a study committee and to report back. The panel of stakeholders met eight times, from July 2 to September 18. Recommendations were

1. Both department heads should cooperate and use one DNA lab.
2. There should only be one DNA lab and it would be called the OC Crime Lab.

3. Hire a new head of lab operations to report to both cooperating dept. heads.
4. Work on interagency cooperation, trust, and communication.
5. The OC Crime Lab should continue to be located at the Sheriff-Coroner location. During the Public Comments, both the Public Defender and UCI Professor William Thompson stated their beliefs that this shared DNA lab could be a conflict of interests and that it would be desirable to have an independent lab with scientific staff to protect the science.

The BOS received many complaints about the Sheriff's review of Concealed Weapons Permits (CWP.) Supervisor Norby asked the supervisors to adopt a resolution that "...any person currently holding a concealed weapon permit be entitled to a renewal, that revocation or non-renewal of such permits shall be done only when shown that the permit was misused." This proposal drew over 80 citizens, the NRA lawyer, and an NRA representative decrying the Sheriff's CWP policy. There were four hours of audience participation and 1 1/2 hours of the Sheriff's presentation and the BOS questioning of her. The Sheriff stated her right to review all permits and reminded the Board that Sheriff Gates allowed 255 CWPs and Sheriff Carona allowed over 1,000. She determines "good cause" on each permit application. The BOS pointed out that people with a revoked permit are permanently listed at the Department of Justice. This list is available only to law enforcement; but being on this list could negatively affect a job application. At the end of the loooong day, the Sheriff said her policy isn't really that different than what the BOS desires.

*(A 2007 database showed that Orange County had 1,467 CWPs, San Diego 1,479, Los Angeles 1237, Tulare 2495, Kern 4118, San Francisco 12, Marin 55, Riverside 734.)*

# State Budget Crisis

*"...our forecast implies that we are quite literally on the edge of a fiscal cliff."*

Christopher Thornberg, Beacon Economics, November 2008

*"We project that the state will need \$27.8 billion in budget solutions over the 2008-09 and 2009-10 fiscal years. The state's revenue collapse is so dramatic and the underlying economic factors are so weak that we forecast huge budget shortfalls through 2013-14 absent corrective action."*

Legislative Analyst's Office, November 2008

The key phrase in the second quote from the LAO is "absent corrective action." Several things are moving.

The governor called a special session of the legislature on December 1 to address the problem. The intent is that no other legislative action will take place until the budget issues are resolved. Sacramento Bee columnist Dan Walters predicted in early December that he sees a solution that contains increased taxes that will not be called by the "t word" and Democratic compromises of currently untouchable items.

For a longer range solution, a joint task force of city, county and school officials will study and recommend a package of proposals to reform the state budget and fiscal systems. It is no longer acceptable to pass the buck to local governments: cities, counties and schools. A hard look at the 2/3 majority for budget passage is needed. California is one of only three states the hold to this potentially "stalemate" practice. California Forward also has entered the arena to transform state government through citizen-driven solutions.

Opinions vary, but some economists believe that states that increase taxes in such a climate have higher job and personal income growth than states that cut taxes. Economist and former head of the World Bank Joseph Stiglitz says that spending cuts have a bigger impact on local econo-

mies than tax increases. Additionally, some economists believe that in a recession, it is better to tax assets than to tax transactions. e.g. VLF (Vehicle License Fees) is better than sales tax. California is considered a moderate tax state at 7.8% of personal income, with the U.S. high being 12.8% and the low at 4.1%.

Finding the Lottery Securitization\* and the Budget Stabilization Act\*\* to be unworkable solutions, the policy making body of the California School Boards Association has voted to oppose these proposals if/when they find their way onto the ballot.

Legislative Analyst Mac Taylor's statement is somewhat encouraging (unless one is on the cut list): "Because the state's economy totals more than \$1.7 trillion in economic activity each year... spending reductions or tax increases totaling between \$20 billion and \$30 billion would have a relatively small impact on the overall economy. While the Legislature should try to minimize any negative economic effects of its decisions, the foremost concern must remain a permanent fix to the state's budget ills."

\*Lottery Securitization:

Proposes to sell lottery shares to private investors -- \$5 billion in each of the next two years--and redirect lottery revenues from schools to investors. School money would be replaced from the State general fund that is currently very short of money.

\*\*Budget Stabilization:

This would become part of the State Constitution. It would increase the current Budget Stabilization Fund from 5% to 12.5%, believed by some to be too high, and imposes new requirements on the use of this fund.

An accompanying bill AB 1389 gives the governor great mid-year budget cutting authority.

**BY MARILYN BUCHI, TREASURER LWVNOC  
BASED ON INFORMATION FROM THE  
CALIFORNIA STATE SCHOOL BOARD ASSN.**

# Lighting the Way to a Greener Environment

BY ELEANOR REVELLE (LWVIL AND LWVUS CLIMATE CHANGE TASK FORCE MEMBER)

It's on every Top Ten list of things-to-do to save energy and help fight global climate change: Replace incandescent light bulbs with compact fluorescent lights (CFLs).

The benefits are compelling. CFLs use roughly one-quarter of the electricity of an incandescent bulb to produce the same amount of light. This means savings for consumers through reduced electric bills. And by reducing the demand for electricity, it means less global warming pollution from coal-fired power plants.

About one-third of global warming pollution in the United States is caused by coal plants generating electricity. And lighting accounts for 20 percent of the electricity used. For consumers whose electricity is produced from coal, replacing a single incandescent bulb with a CFL will keep over half a ton of carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) out of the atmosphere over the life of the bulb.

Those consumers whose electricity is supplied primarily by nuclear power can make an impact as well. Nuclear power plants typically sell their considerable excess base-load capacity to electrical distributors in nearby regions which otherwise depend on coal-fired power. Reducing demand for electricity in such cases, therefore, makes more

emissions-free nuclear power available to replace carbon-intensive coal-fired power elsewhere.

## Is Mercury a Problem?

CFLs do contain a very small amount of mercury—about 5 milligrams, enough to cover the tip of a ballpoint pen. The mercury is safe while the bulb is intact or in use, and even if the CFL should break, it poses little risk.

Far more serious are the 50 tons of mercury emitted annually from coal-burning power plants in the United States. To generate the average 10,660 kilowatt hours (kWh) of electricity used by the typical household each year, a power plant will emit about 245 mg of mercury (roughly 0.023 mg of mercury/kWh of electricity produced). By using CFLs instead of incandescent bulbs, homeowners will reduce their electrical demand and cut mercury emissions as well.

## Assessing the Impact

Let's compare a 23-watt CFL with an incandescent bulb that produces the same amount of light, namely a 100-watt bulb. Since ENERGY STAR-qualified CFLs last five to ten times longer than incandescent bulbs, this example compares one 23-watt CFL with five 100-watt incandescents, equivalent to the minimum expected lifetime of the one 23-watt CFL.

	<b>1 23-watt CFL</b>	<b>5 100-watt incandescents</b>
Cost of bulbs (Home Depot prices)	\$4.00	\$3.15
Lifespan of bulbs	5,000 hours	5 x 1,000 hours
Electricity used over bulbs' lifetime	115 kWh	500 kWh
Cost of electricity (at 10¢/kWh)	\$11.50	\$50.00
CO <sub>2</sub> produced	230 lb	1,000 lb
Mercury (electrical generation)	2.6 mg	11.5 mg
Mercury (in the bulb) *	5.0 mg	0

\* With proper disposal, the mercury in the CFL will not enter the environment.

*(To be continued in the February Voter.)*

## Read with League - Spring 2009

It's best if you have read the book before the meeting,  
but please come even if you haven't.

Information: call Frann Shermet at 1-714-220-1338.

All meetings begin at 1:00 PM

### **January 8 The Missing Class**

by Katherine S. Newman & Victor Tan Chen

"A vivid, close-up and often moving look at the urban 'near poor.'"

Hostess: Kay Bruce 1-714-921-1308

6207 E. Twin Peak Circle (Anaheim)

### **February 12 The Last Great Revolution**

by Robin Wright

This book helps readers understand the political and social changes that have taken place in Iran since the 1979 revolution.

Hostess: Dean Cassidy 1-714-528-4295

1112 N. Bradford (Placentia)

### **March 12 The Second Civil War**

by Ronald Brownstein

"How extreme partisanship has paralyzed Washington and polarized America."

Hostess: Lee Sjostrom 1-714-879-4416

2618 Shawn Lane (Fullerton)

### **April 9 Mongrels, Bastards, Orphans & Vagabonds**

by Gregory Rodriguez

A thought-provoking account of Mexican immigration and the future of race in America.

Hostess Shirley Bloom 1-714-870-6593

2609 Cypress Point Drive (Fullerton)

### **May 14 Origins**

by Amin Maalouf

The author's memoir weaves the threads of his family's past with a timely consideration of Lebanese culture and politics.

Hostess: Marguerite Lyon 1-562-431-0371

2961 Salmon Drive (Los Alamitos)

### **June 11 The Post-American World**

by Fareed Zakaria

"...a prophetic assessment of America's changing place in an increasingly global age."

Hostess: Gabriela Koliass 1-714-524-3962

402 Ponce Avenue (Placentia)

## CALENDAR

### **Read with League**

**Thursday, January 8. 1:00 PM**

### **The Missing Class**

Hostess: Kay Bruce

1-714-921-1308

6207 E. Twin Peak Circle

Anaheim

### **United Nations Association Annual Meeting, Brunch**

**Sunday, January 18, 11:30 AM**

### **Dr. Frederick Bush**

Hacienda Restaurant \$30

1725 N College Ave

Santa Ana 714-538-5689

Reservations: 714-538-5689

info@una-oc.org

### **LWVNOC Board Meeting**

**Tuesday, January 15**

**Noon-2:00 PM**

Fullerton JUHS District Offices

1051 W Bastanchury

Fullerton 92635

### **Lunch with League**

**Thursday, January 22, 12:30 PM**

### **Dr. Pat Ganer**

### **A New President, A New Congress**

SIZZLER Restaurant

1401 N Harbor Blvd.

Fullerton, 92835

Reservations by January 22

Cost \$12. 714-254-7440

bhfh1951@aol.com



**League of Women Voters  
North Orange County  
P.O. Box 3073  
Fullerton, CA 92834**

## **LWV: JOIN US IN MAKING DEMOCRACY WORK**

### **Save the Date League Birthday Event**

Friday, February 6, 2009  
9:00 AM-1:30 PM  
Continental Breakfast  
Lunch  
Program Planning  
Fun and Games

#### **Voter Editor**

Eleanor Fumanti  
714-321-7394  
mefumanti@comline.com

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

### **Split Shift Poll Workers**

**C**ongratulations to members who participated in the split shift poll worker project! Some members worked three elections, some two, some one. Some members worked full shifts. All contributed time and intelligence to make the election process function well. AND the members who contributed their “earnings” from the February and June elections increased the League coffers by \$1826. Additional “earnings” from the November election will increase the amount. Thank you for your contributions of time and money.

**BY JERRY YOUNG, LWVNOG VOTER SERVICE DIRECTOR**