



VOTER

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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.

Lunch with League April 23 Alternative Fuels and the Environment



*Solar Powered Vehicle
driven by Dr. Charles Ritz.*

Dr. Charles Ritz is a professor of Mechanical Engineering and an adjunct faculty member in the graduate program in Regenerative Studies at Cal Poly Pomona. He has been involved in energy related areas for over thirty years. He worked for Chevron and Phillips Petroleum in oil, gas and geothermal exploration and production. At Cal Poly, he teaches and works with students on solar energy applications in such areas as heating and cooling, electricity generation, food drying and cooking. His students have also worked on diverse projects that deal with the production of biodiesel from algae to the design and construction of a solar powered golf cart.

Please plan to join us at 12:30PM on Thursday, April 23, SIZZLER Restaurant, 1401 N Harbor Blvd., Fullerton, 92835. Reservations by April 21. Cost \$12. Call Bette Frazier at 714-254-7440 or bfhf1951@aol.com.

Annual Meeting, Saturday, May 2 How the Juvenile Collaborative Courts Positively Impact Orange County

Annual Meeting Kit Enclosed

LWVNOC will hold their Annual Meeting on May 2 at the Fullerton Library at 9:30AM to elect officers, adopt the budget and program. Maureen Aplin will address the meeting at 12:30. See the complete agenda enclosed with this issue. A cold buffet lunch will be served at 11:30. Cost \$12. Please reserve by April 28. 1-714-254-7440 bfhf1951@aol.com

Maureen Aplin, Orange County Juvenile Court Referee, will address the structure and impact of Orange County's three Juvenile Collaborative Courts at the LWVNOC Annual Meeting at the Fullerton Library on May 2, 2009 at 12:30PM. Specifically, she will speak about the

- Juvenile Drug Court and the profound benefits and services offered for Orange County youth
- Truancy Court and how the terrific Truancy Response Program targets chronically truant youth and encourages them back into school
- Dependency Drug Court and the effort made to free parents from addiction with the goal of reunify foster children with their birth parents.

The public is invited.

Evening Dinner Meetings April 9 and 16 National Popular Vote Compact Study

Some of our members were unable to attend our Wednesday morning study sessions on the process of electing the president by using the national popular vote. We have scheduled two evening meetings on Thursdays, April 9 and April 16, during which Linda Rodgers and Mary Fuhrman will speak on this important and timely subject. There has been a request for evening meetings and these meetings will be our first experiment with the idea. Dinner (a small donation accepted) and study materials will be provided, so we must have your RSVP, please, by Monday, April 6.

Dates: April 9 and April 16, Time: 6 to 7:30PM, Place: Home of Patti Chikahisa, 560 Catalina Road, Fullerton, 92835. RSVP: by Monday, April 6. Leave a phone message, 1-714-525-6676 or email, wshaf6676@aol.com

Volunteer as a Split Shift Poll Worker for the May 19th Election

League members can volunteer to work the polls for half a shift at the special election on May 19th. LWVNOC member, Jerry Young works with the Registrar's office and coordinates our two member teams. At recent elections, members have donated their stipend to the League so the program works as major fund raiser for us. To Volunteer, call Jerry Young at 714-525-4037.

Public Forum April 22, 7PM, Fullerton Library California Budget Crisis & Ballot Measures

The Fullerton Public Library and LWVNOC and will co-sponsor a public forum on voter information related to the May 19 special election. Dr. Sandra Sutphen and Dr. Matthew Jarvis, professors at CSUF, will speak on the California budget process and the budget crisis. LWVNOC members, Linda Rogers and Wanda Shaffer, will present the pros and cons of the six propositions. The question and answer portion promises to be vigorous and lively. This is civic education for all on a complex topic. Come and bring your family and friends.

Date and time: April 22, 2009 7:00-8:30PM

Location: Fullerton Public Library, 353 W Commonwealth Ave, Fullerton 92832. Parking off Amerige Ave.

BY JERRY YOUNG, LWVNOC VOTER SERVICE COMMITTEE

The Mini Page Celebrates the League of Women Voters and Women's History Month

You're not too old to join in the fun. Puzzles, pictures, and history of the League of Women Voters are featured in the March 22 issue of The Mini Page which highlighted the League in celebration of Women's History Month. This weekly syndicated insert is directed to children and published by more than 500 newspapers nationwide. The League provided photographs and assistance to Mini Page editors, who wrote the article.

<http://thetandd.com/minipage/today.pdf>

FROM OUR PRESIDENT

Reading the calendar in this issue, I assume you will agree with me that the League is so very active with learning and advocacy activities. Then I remember what President Obama is faced with, and I take another breath and realize we too can survive and follow through on our goals.

First, I want to alert you to the upcoming May 2 LWVNOG Annual Meeting

For you new members, our annual meeting is where we elect our new officers, approve the budget, and at times update by-laws and policies. This year we will not be changing the by-laws but we will be honoring some very valuable people and long time members of our local League. We will meet at the Fullerton Library at 9:30AM. After coffee and muffins, the meeting will commence. One issue that will take some discussion is the proposed budget and possible dues raise. Out of our \$55 dues, we will be sending \$29.20 to LWVUS, \$22 to LWVC, and \$1 to ILO (the county group of all 4 Leagues) which totals to \$52.20, and leaves our local League \$2.80. We have been keeping our dues down for the past few years with the help of donations and special fundraising projects. However this year we will not have the Brea Mall shopping night as an income source since the mall has cancelled the event, and we also are losing \$500 income from conducting a Homeowners election. With 3 elections last year, our poll workers who donated their stipends added \$1343 to our income. With only the May 19 election this year, that amount will also be cut. Marilyn Buchi will present the budget at the meeting and you have a copy of it with this Voter. We planned the budget with an increase of \$5 in dues to \$60 per individual and \$30 for second member in the household. As you will see in the budget, we will still need to go to reserves to make it balance. We do plan to write some grants again and will be looking for other fundraisers. Your input in the discussion and vote will be most appreciated.

The annual meeting will also include lunch and a speaker very involved with the Juvenile Justice system in Orange County. Maureen Meehan Aplin presides over the Juvenile Drug Court, Truancy Court, Juvenile Dependency Calendars and also conducts mental health hearings at various hospitals.

RSVP for this meeting so we will know how many lunches to order.

I do hope those of you who couldn't attend the National Popular Vote study are taking advantage of our two evening meetings in April to update you on this issue and see if you agree with the consensus reached by the morning study group. Read with League and Lunch with League meet also in April as does your Board of Directors.

Best wishes to two of our active male members, Burnie Cohen and Chuck Greening, as they recover from their surgeries. News from former President Eileen Olmsted is that she will be taking responsibility for Smart Voter in Pittsburg.

See you all at the Annual Meeting!!

Mary

LWVC Announces Opposition to May Ballot Measures

The League of Women Voters of California announced its opposition to Propositions 1A, 1C, 1D, and 1E on the May 19 Special Election ballot and urged voters to reject them.

“We oppose these measures because they are NOT the solution to our long term financial crisis, with the continuing structural deficit in the state budget and flawed budget process,” said Janis R. Hirohama, president of the League. “We make this decision with regret. We would support real reform to make the state budget process more accountable and give the legislature and Governor effective tools to advance state priorities. However, these hurriedly drafted propositions, produced at the end of a flawed process that kept both the public and most legislators in the dark, will only make our fiscal situation worse.”

Proposition 1A is touted by its proponents as the way to bring stability to the budget process. But what it will *really* do is tie the hands of the Legislature and Governor as they face changing needs for state and local government services. It will keep them from taking into account the state’s changing demographics and growth in the actual cost of important services like health care.

“Although some claim there is an urgency to pass Prop. 1A to resolve our state’s budget problems, we disagree,” said Hirohama. “Most of its provisions will not take effect for two years—Two years that we should spend hammering out *real* solutions to our budget and fiscal challenges.”

The League believes elected officials should be allowed to carry out their responsibilities with flexibility. Years of “ballot-box budgeting” and formulas for auto-pilot spending have greatly eroded that flexibility. Prop. 1A, however, adds to the problem. For example, it dictates how half the funds that must be transferred to the “Budget Stabilization Fund” are to be used; it removes the Governor’s ability to sus-

pend transfers to the fund in difficult years; and it imposes new formulas for calculating “unanticipated revenues” and specifies how they can be used in good years. And, after the deep cuts made during these strapped times, it could lock in a reduced level of services by failing to properly take account of increase caseloads and program costs.

If Prop. 1A passes, the Governor would be given new power to make mid-year cuts and suspend COLAs in state programs without legislative oversight. The League believes that mid-year budget adjustments should require joint action of the legislative and executive branches so that checks and balances are maintained.

Proposition 1C. This proposal attempts to raise money for the short term by selling bonds that would be paid off by future lottery revenue. In light of California’s poor credit rating and the state of the economy, those bonds would have to be sold at very unfavorable interest rates, if they can be sold at all. The Legislative Analyst says that in the long term, lottery profits probably would not be enough to cover the higher payments to education required by Prop. 1C. We criticized this proposal as irresponsible last fall, and if anything, that criticism applies more than ever now.

Propositions 1D and 1E. On May 19, voters will also be asked to approve the temporary taking of funds from early childhood and mental health programs that were established by two previous initiatives. These are illusory, stopgap measures, and the League opposes these propositions as part of this objectionable package. It is ironic that these initiatives, which did what many consider “the right thing” by providing a source of funding, now face reductions.

The League is neutral on **Proposition 1B.** State responsibility for the funding of public education is essential, and we appreciate the need to pay back the devastating cuts that our schools and community colleges have sustained.

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BOARD OF SUPERVISORS' MEETINGS

MEETINGS OF MARCH 3, 10, and 17

The Board recognized Colleene Preciado, Chief Probation Officer, and approved "Another Chance at Love", a dog training program that takes adult dogs and asks the non-aggressive juveniles to become dog trainers. They will socialize and train over 50 puppies from the shelters; these trained adult dogs will then become service dogs. The Department already has an award-winning program where puppies are given to juveniles who train them. Obviously both the young people and the rescued dogs benefit greatly.

The County employees' representatives have once again asked the BOS to terminate the law suit, "County of Orange, etc. v. Board of Retirement of the OC Employees Retirement System, etc. LA County Superior Court Case. As this case winds its way up through the judicial system the cost has approached \$1.5 million. Judge Bendix, LA Superior Court, ruled in favor of the OC Employees Retirement. Three of four studies, presented before the BOS vote to start this case, stated the likelihood of not winning. OCERS also offered to pay the OC fees if they would stop the suit. As of the March 10 meeting, this was still in closed session with County Counsel conference.

The March 10 meeting was largely spent hearing testimony from opposing sides to Supervisor Moorlach's addition to the agenda. He is asking to drop Planned Parenthood from the Coalition of Community Clinics. His concern was that the Board had always adopted the philosophy of "Let managers manage." However he had an argument with a citizen about the fact that the County was supporting an abortion organization. Moorlach argued this wasn't true and after investigation, was embarrassed that he was wrong. He did not know about this because the Health Care Agency did not list the awardees, it simply stated there were 18 organizations to be under the Coalition of Community Clinics. The Coalition has been under contract

with the county since 2001. That year the BOS voted 5-0 to use Measure H, Tobacco Settlement monies, to fund 18 organizations for services in health education. After two hours of testimony from opposing sides, it was decided to ask for legal counsel before suspending funding for Planned Parenthood. Supervisor Bates was correctly concerned that this issue must be handled correctly and not have "abusive discrimination."

The testimony by the Planned Parenthood group was well organized. Numerous viewpoints were presented from supportive parents, teenagers, doctors, clergy and representatives from many organizations. Jon Dunn, the local president, stated that none of the Measure H money is used for abortions. It is a community outreach and education program.

Quotes of the Supervisors :

Norby: "I am opposed to abortion and the public and state funding of it."

Moorlach: "Take a hard look at funds. Should the money go to other organizations?"

Campbell: "When the BOS approves funding, it's a 'good housekeeping seal of approval'. I don't approve funding of abortions."

Bates: "As a Catholic, I'm opposed to abortion. We should look at ALL organizations and audit how the money was used."

Nguyen: "There are other organizations also probably in activities. Does the Board have the ability to dictate to individual entities? Do we usually check subcontractors? If so, what are we looking for, in detail?"

The two hours were troublesome to this observer. How much should religious beliefs and politics be involved in county decision-making? There will be a 30-day respite while County Counsel Ben De Mayo researches and replies to the BOS.

Supervisor Pat Bates was absent for the March 17 meeting. She was up in Sacramento honored with "A Woman of the Year Award".

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LWVNOC Protests Withdrawal of Planned Parenthood Funds

LWVNOC Board of Directors sent the following statement to Orange County Supervisors objecting to the proposed withdrawal of Planned Parenthood funding.

The League of Women Voters of North Orange County strongly objects to The Orange County Board of Supervisors recommendation that the Coalition of Community Clinics withdraw Tobacco Settlement Measure H monies from Planned Parenthood. The intended spending of Measure H funds was to further health services to our citizenry. From the numerous testimonies of Orange County citizens presented to the Board and from the audit of the Planned Parenthood organization, it is clear that Planned Parenthood does an outstanding job of delivering these services. There is no room for Supervisorial comments about their religious views when making decisions about public funds. Planned Parenthood has not used money from the County for activities the Board opposes. Reproductive choice is legal and the right of privacy of choice is imperative.

We urge the Board of Supervisors' to continue funding Planned Parenthood with Measure H monies.

Board of Supervisors

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The Registrar of Voters, Neal Kelley, was directed by the BOS to present Orange County Vote-by Mail Program Report. There was an explanation and history of the two states that have such a program. Oregon has experimented with various forms of voting-by-mail for nearly 30 years. In 1995 their House and Senate passed a bill, but the governor vetoed it. In 1998, Oregon voters approved Measure 60, sponsored by The League of Women Voters, with 69.4% of the vote. Since 2005 Washington offers local election officials the option to conduct vote by mail elections. Over the years, Californian Legislative proposals to change to an all-mail ballot voting system have met with resistance. Kelley stated that vote-by-mail elections in OC

would reduce election administration costs, though the investment in voting equipment would be lost. "Given the experiences in Oregon and Washington, it is unlikely that OC would experience an increase in voter participation with a vote-by-mail system. Common concerns over voter fraud and ballot security could be appeased by expanding the vote-by-mail security measures already in place in the County. "The biggest challenge would likely be found in the Legislature where proposals to implement it have frequently been met with resistance.

Julie Paulson, Health Care Agency Director, Tim Neely, Planning and Development Director, and Ben De Mayo, County Counsel were honored for their many years of service and were given good wishes on their retirements.

By LWV Observer, Wanda Shaffer

Opposition to Ballot Measures,

(Continued from page 4)

On the other hand, the Legislature will have the ability to restore school funding without Prop.1B and it is not needed in this package of propositions.

Since the League has no position on setting salaries for public officials, we take no position on **Proposition 1F**, which would prevent pay raises for legislators and statewide constitutional officers during budget deficit years.

The League of Women Voters recognizes that California is facing the worst budget crisis in its

history, with the worldwide recession severely affecting state revenues and the need for state services. Moreover, our budget system is broken and in desperate need of reform. This year illustrates the need to abandon the two-thirds vote requirement for passing budgets and raising revenues, and we must also look at other budget reforms. In the meantime, a new tax commission is considering ways to broaden or stabilize our revenues. "There is much that needs to be done," Hirohama stated, "but we are certain that the propositions on the May 19 ballot are not the answer."

JUDICIAL CAMPAIGN SPENDING ARGUED BEFORE SUPREME COURT

Washington, DC – In March, the U.S. Supreme Court heard oral arguments in *Caperton v. Massey*, a case that weighs the influence of campaign spending in state court elections with judicial independence. The League of Women Voters joined an amicus brief in this case that calls on the Supreme Court to both preserve judicial impartiality and reform judicial selection.

“The League is involved with this case because of its compelling importance – too much special interest money is being dumped into state court elections nationwide,” said Mary G. Wilson, national President of the League of Women Voters. “The Supreme Court can do a great deal of good in this case by ruling in favor of judicial impartiality.”

“There has been an alarming trend across the country of increasing financial contributions from special interests to judicial elections,” stated Wilson. “For the past decade, state and local Leagues have been working with concerned citizens and communities to reform judicial campaigns and lessen the influence of special interest contributors on the legal system.”

“Americans are looking to the nation’s highest court and their decision in *Caperton v. Massey* to stem the flow of special interest money and politics into our courts,” Wilson concluded. “Citizens need to know that due process and judicial independence will not be compromised for political gain. Every American’s right to equality under the law must be protected.”



To volunteer to work at LWVC Convention call
Mary Fuhrman 1-714-523-1585

CALENDAR

**Training on Pros and Cons
of the Ballot Measures**
Saturday April 4, 9:30-11:30AM
Sisters of St. Joseph, Room 4
440 Batavia, Orange
714-870-6593

**National Popular Vote Compact
Evening Meetings**
Thursdays, April 9 and 16
6:00-7:30PM
560 Catalina Road, Fullerton
714-525-6676
wshaf6676@aol.com

Read with League
***Mongrels, Bastards, Orphans &
Vagabonds***
By Gregory Rodriguez
Thursday April 9, 1:00PM
At the home of Shirley Bloom
2609 Cypress Point Drive, Fullerton,
714-870-6593.

Public Forum, Fullerton Library
**California Budget Crisis and
Ballot Measures**
Wednesday, April 22, 7PM
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Lunch with League
Thursday, April 23, 12:30PM
Dr. Charles Ritz
SIZZLER Restaurant
1401 N Harbor Blvd. Fullerton, 92835
Reservations by April 21
Cost \$12. 714-254-7440
bfhf1951@aol.com

Read with League
***Origins* by Amin Maalouf**
Thursday, May 14, 1PM
At the Home of Marguerite Lyon
2961 Salmon Drive, Los Alamitos
1-562-431-0371



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North Orange County
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LWV: JOIN US IN MAKING DEMOCRACY WORK

***League Schedules Evening Meetings April 9 & 16
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Voter Editor

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Current and past issues of
the Voter are available on
line and in color at:

www.lwvnoc.org

No Voter in May

The June issue of the Voter
will include reports from our
Annual Meeting and the LWVC
Convention which convenes in
Long Beach, May 15-17.