



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.

Senator Joe Dunn

An Insiders View of State and National Politics

Former state senator, Joseph Dunn, Esq. addressed members of LWVNOC at the Kick Off Luncheon in September. If a “good teacher” can be defined as one who can teach us some cool new stuff, teach us that some of what we “know” is wrong, and liven things up with humor, then the League audience would agree that Joe Dunn is a Master Teacher.

The California Problem

The fiscal system now in place in California won't work and can't work. And it is not because of “bad guys” torpedoing the state. Stuck, as we are, with the need for a 2/3 vote to pass a budget, at least eight republicans must break their pledge to vote against anything like a tax. That is not likely because to do so will bring down certain reprisals from their party.

Redistricting, in hope of getting a less polarized legislature is not likely to pass. Many legislators are against it because the present system almost guarantees them re-election. Most voters find it too complex to understand and vote against it.

According to Dunn, two things are necessary to make the California Legislature work: **loosening of term limits** which is popular with current legislators, but not with voters and a **return to open primaries** even though such primaries were turned down by the Supreme Court on a 5/4 opinion based on the constitutional right to assembly. The minority opinion agreed that political parties have the right to determine who participates in their primaries. but said that the taxpayers are not responsible to foot the bill to pay for that right. Primaries in California can cost \$100 million.

Universal Healthcare is highly appealing to the voters, and has passed both houses of the Legislature, but not been signed into law. It is known to be expensive, and many who support it already have coverage. The only way it can happen, according to Dunn, is incrementally over a period of years. The process requires compromise, which many legislators feel is unprincipled..



Current Political Movements

Having discouraged most of his League audience who are hoping for early resolution of these problems, Dunn reached into his bag of political knowledge to provide a brief tutorial on the rise and fall of political movements, a topic which he has seriously followed. He started with the Progressive Movement, which started in the late 1880's continued through Democratic and Republican administrations, the depression and World War II, and was fatally wounded by the uproarious Democratic Convention in Chicago in 1968. It was done in by extremists in its own Party.

A Conservative Movement took shape in the Reagan Administration, and has continued to this day. But he feels that the rise to power of the NeoCons during the Bush Administration drove a stake through the heart of the Movement. A re-

(Continued on page 7)

FROM OUR PRESIDENT

Some of us still ask:
"WHY SHOULD I BOTHER TO VOTE?"

Thirty-three women were arrested, beaten and jailed because they dared to picket the Wilson White House carrying signs asking for the vote. Now, 88 years after our grandmothers and great-grandmothers fought and suffered horrendous difficulties, we must spread the word to get out and use the "right" that was fought for by these courageous women.

Whether you are a Democrat, Republican or Independent—remember to vote. Remind young and old voters, our complacent voters, our "what difference does it make" voters, our "they're all just a bunch of crooks" voters, that voting is a privilege too often taken for granted.

Our local League is actively informing our electorate by having candidate forums, Pros and Cons presentations, and participating in the in-depth studies of the State League. Go to our web site. There you will find the November ballot recommendations of the League of Women Voters of California.

It is not enough just to encourage our families and friends to vote. We, ourselves, must become informed and intelligent voters. The League of Women Voters of North Orange County is here to do just that. **Get involved and Do Something! Get out the Vote!**

Mary Fuhrman



DORA LEWIS —hurled into a dark cell, smashing her head against an iron bed and left unconscious.














ALICE PAUL —embarked on a hunger strike, was tied to a chair while a tube was forced down her throat and liquid was poured into her stomach until she vomited. She was tortured like this for weeks.



LUCY BURNS—beaten, hands chained to cell bars above her head and left hanging for the night, bleeding and gasping for air.

**VOTE WITH THE LEAGUE ON
NOVEMBER 4**
**THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS
RECOMMENDS...**

-  **YES ON PROPOSITION 1A** -- Safe, Reliable High-Speed Passenger Train Bond Act
-  **YES ON PROPOSITION 3** -- Children's Hospital Bond Act
-  **NO ON PROPOSITION 4** -- Waiting Period and Parental Notification before Termination of Minor's Pregnancy
-  **YES ON PROPOSITION 5** -- Nonviolent Drug Offenses. Sentencing, Parole and Rehabilitation
-  **NO ON PROPOSITION 6** -- Police and Law Enforcement Funding. Criminal Penalties and Laws (Runner Initiative)
-  **NO ON PROPOSITION 7** -- Renewable Energy Generation
-  **NO ON PROPOSITION 8** -- Eliminates Right of Same-Sex Couples to Marry
-  **NO ON PROPOSITION 9** -- Criminal Justice System. Victims' Rights. Parole
-  **NO ON PROPOSITION 10** -- Alternative Fuel Vehicles and Renewable Energy. Bonds
-   **YES ON PROPOSITION 11** -- Redistricting Reform: California Voters FIRST Act

Because League positions do not cover the issues in **Proposition 2**, Standards for Confining Farm Animals, and **Proposition 12**, Veterans' Bond Act of 2008, the LWVC is taking no stand on these measures.

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**CANDIDATE FORUMS
2008**

- BUENA PARK**
City Council Forum
October 13, 7:00 PM
Buena Park City Hall
6650 Beach Blvd.
Moderator, Jan Wagner
- FULLERTON**
City Council Forum
October 6, 7:00 PM
Fullerton City Hall
303 W Commonwealth Ave.
Moderator, Linda Rogers
- LA HABRA**
Board of Education Forum
October 14, 7:00 PM
City School District Offices
500 N Walnut
Moderator, Mary Fuhrman
- LA HABRA**
City Council Forum
October 16, 7:00 PM
La Habra City Hall
210 E. La Habra Blvd.
Moderator, Linda Rogers
- LA PALMA**
City Council Forum
October 13, 7:00 PM
Luther Elementary School
4631 La Palma Ave.
Moderator, Frann Shermet
- PLACENTIA**
City Council Forum
October 2, 7:00 PM
Placentia City Hall
401 E. Chapman Ave.
Moderator, Linda Rogers
- YORBA LINDA**
City Council Forum
October 13, 6:30 PM
Yorba Linda City Hall
4845 Casa Loma Ave.
Assisting with Forum

Election Law: 1909—2008

Refresh your knowledge of the rules governing our elections in this synopsis created by LWVNOC Pros and Cons Director, Shirley Bloom.

1909 Direct Primary The Legislature enacts a direct primary law, allowing voters to nominate state party candidates, taking control away from political machines. Using that power, voters elect Hiram Johnson as Governor and give the Progressive Party control of the Legislature.

1911 Women's Suffrage Constitutional Ballot measure approved by 50.7% of voters gave California women the right to vote in state and local elections. California became the 6th state to give the right to vote. A similar measure was defeated in 1896.

1911 Right of Citizen's Initiative and Referendum Citizens are given the right to propose ballot measures by collecting signatures from voters. Voters also have the right to put referenda on the ballot to rescind laws or parts of laws enacted by the Legislature.

1911 Recall from Office Allows voters to remove elected officials, including judges, from public office.

1911 Non-Partisan Elections The election of judges and school officials is made non-partisan statewide. Two years later, county officials are made non partisan.

1913 Cross-filing A candidate can run for his or her own party's nomination as well as for nomination of other parties. Voters must vote within their own party of registration, but candidates can file for all party nominations.

1913 Direct Election of U.S. Senators Amendment XV11

1914 Per-capita or Poll Taxes A ballot initiative amendment to prohibit poll or any per-capita taxes was approved by 52% of voters. In 1920, 82% of the voters adopt a Legislative proposed amendment ordering an annual tax of at least \$4 on

“every alien male: between 21 and 60, “except paupers, idiots and insane persons.” It was struck down by the courts. In 1924, voters approve a similar measure, again to finance schools, but the Legislature does not levy the tax. In 1946, an amendment is adopted by 71% of the voters to abolish the per-capita tax for good.

1915 Non-partisan State Offices The Legislature votes to make all 120 legislative seats and 11 constitutional offices non-partisan, including governor. Using the **referendum**, voters reject the law later that year.

1920 The 19th Amendment gave women age 21 and older the right to vote.

1924 Indian Citizenship Act Native Americans were granted citizenship and the corollary right to vote 54 years after African American men were enfranchised with the 15th Amendment in 1870. However, voting procedures were delegated to the states and many states continued to deny Native Americans the right to vote

1926 Seats in the State Senate An amendment, designed to block the growing influence of Los Angeles County, apportions State Senate seats at 1 per county.

1963 Revising the Constitution By 1963, the State Constitution is 80,000 words long and has been amended 350 times. A Constitutional Revision Commission recommends revisions, in the form of constitutional amendments, to be placed on the ballot between 1966 and 1980. Most revisions are approved and the Constitution is reduced in size by two-thirds.

1965 Revising Senate Districts In 1964, the US Supreme Court ruled that 1 person's vote be worth as much as another's in the election of legislatures. The Legislature approves an apportionment law that equalizes populations within Senate districts, with a variance of 15%. In 1966, state senate dominance passes to Southern California.

1965 The Federal Voting Rights Act has been amended several times. The 1982 amendment put

(Continued on page 5)



How to Evaluate Ballot Measures

- **Is the ballot measure democratic?** Does it specify that it can only be changed by a super-majority?
- **Is the ballot measure funded?** If it creates new programs, new agencies or new government spending without saying where the money comes from, state budget problems result. Mandating that a certain percentage of the state budget be spent on this or that without regard for the effect on other public services is also a danger sign.
- **Is the ballot measure subject to checks and balances?** Voters have approved measures creating personal fiefdoms disguised as public agencies. Look for signs such as “revenues would be placed in a special fund” or “not be subject to civil service laws.” These fiefdoms typically have funding sources outside the state budget process and are thus exempt from review or change by the Governor or Legislature and exempt from public meetings, open records, and conflict of interest restrictions.
- **If the measure amends the Constitution,** consider whether it really belongs in the Constitution.
- **Don’t believe campaign literature and television commercials.** They do not have to be true.
- **Are there conflicts in the measure** that may require court resolution or interpretation?
- **Is this a complex issue** that should be thoroughly examined in the legislative arena?
- **Who are the real sponsors and opponents** of the measure? Who is providing the large contributions? _____ www.smartvoter.org

(Continued from page 4)

a ban on election practices that discriminate against racial, ethnic or language minority groups.

1971 The 26th Amendment lowered the voting age to 18.

1974 Political Reform Act (Prop.9) creates the Fair Political Practices Commission and requires disclosure of contributions, campaign spending and economic interests for state and local offices and ballot measures.

1975 Voting Rights Act (Amendment to Federal voting Rights Act of 1965) added requirements that elections and registration be conducted in the language of certain language minority groups.

1988 Campaign Finance Reform (Prop.73) limits campaign contributions to \$1000 per individual, \$2500 per political committee, \$5000 per political party. Prop. 68, on the same ballot, would have established partial public funding, was thrown out by the State Supreme Court because Prop. 73 received more votes. Much of Prop.73 has

been thrown out by Federal courts. In 1966, Prop.208 to limit contributions was blocked by federal court. Question of campaign contribution = free speech?

1992 Bilingual Election Materials Under the new law, a county is required to provide bilingual materials if either 5% or 10,000 or more of citizens of voting age are members of a single language minority and are limited English proficient.

1990 Term Limits Prop.140 creates lifetime tenure in the Assembly to 3 two year terms, in the Senate to 2 four year terms and in Constitutional offices to 2 four year terms.

1996 Open Primary By initiative, a voter, regardless of party registration can vote to nominate a candidate of any party. Overturned by California Supreme Court.

2002, Help America Vote Act (HAVA) Federal election reform legislation requires that a voter be able to cast a provisional ballot if voter is not listed on the voter roster.

Orange County Board of Supervisors Report from League Observer, Wanda Shaffer

1. OCTA ridership is setting breaking records.
2. Approved a total of \$69 million for MSI (Medical Services Initiative Program). 75% of funding is provided by Federal and State governments, OC provides 25%. Private and nonprofit healthcare providers are contracted through Advanced Medical Management Inc to care for OC indigent patients.
3. If your area code phone number is 714, you now need to dial a 1 before 714. New telephone lines or services will be assigned 657 area code starting Sept. 23.
4. Considering separating the Sheriff and Coroner offices, abolish the Office of the Coroner, and establish an Office of the Medical Examiner to be placed with the Health Care Agency.
5. If you are a resident of a city that uses the Sheriff Dept. instead of your own Police Department, check out the annual agreement cost in the June 24 agenda. It ranges from \$1,290,825 to \$14,650,192.
6. Newly appointed Sheriff Sandra Hutchens announced her command staff—two new faces are retired LACO Sheriff Dept. Chief John Scott and LAPD Deputy Chief Michael Hillmann. Chief Scott will serve as Undersheriff and Assistant Sheriff Hillman will head Operations. (Ultimately their positions will likely be filled by promotion from inside the department.) Sheriff Hutchens also included Asst. Sheriff J.B.Davis, Exec. Direc-

tor Rick Dostal, Capt. Mike James and former Acting Sheriff Jack Anderson.

7. North Orange County will get a Clerk-Recorder Office at 201 N. Harbor in Fullerton. The South and Central Orange County already have offices.
8. The OC Grand Jury reviewed Shirley Grindle's TINCUP Ordinance. It was recommended that a Fair Practice Commission be created. After much deliberation the BOS decided to set up a working group. This group will be comprised of 2 appointed citizens per district and they shall return with findings and recommendations by Feb. 2009.
9. A new OIR (Office of Independent Review) was created with the intent to monitor, assist, and advise the OC Sheriff-Coroner in investigations of peace officers complaints and incidents of death or serious injury to persons while in custody of the Sheriff Dept. This is a result of the 9-month special Grand Jury deliberations on the John Chamberlain jail death. Steve Connolly, from 7 years with the LACO OIR is appointed to a 3-year term as Executive Director. 3 lawyers will also be appointed to serve on the OIR. The OIR has no subpoena powers.

For more information on any topic, go online at ocgov.com. You can find each meeting's agenda and supporting papers. The agenda is posted on Wednesday and revisions/deletions on Friday. The BOS meets three Tuesdays per month.

Speakers Training for Pros and Cons

Speakers Training, held at the Fullerton Police Station Mural room, September 20, 2008 was well attended with Leaguers from all over Orange County. Despite a non functioning microphone and a late start, In Depth not received and Pros and Cons not having arrived, it was a successful program according to many of the attendees. Shirley Bloom provided "Tips for Speakers" and a sample introduction. Wanda Shaffer presented Orange County Measure J which would give final authority on county employee pension increases to the voters. Jean Raun of COAST League spoke about the 4 bond measures; Monika Broome spoke about Constitutional Amendments 4, 8 and 11. Kathy Loewy of COAST League explained Props. 2 and 6; Linda Rogers of North Orange County discussed Props. 5 & 9; and Joe Ross of CAPO League presented Prop. 7. Star of the presentation was Marcia Garten's (COCA League) Power Point presentation. Handouts were available and, after a quick lunch, we resumed to hear pointers on Candidate Forums. Final Speaker of the day was Jan Wagner (NOC) who provided moderator training for candidate forums. It was a long but informative day. Anyone from NOC who is interested in being a Pro/Con presenter, please contact Shirley Bloom, 714-870-6593. We still have requests from organizations wanting speakers.

BY SHIRLEY BLOOM, PROS AND CONS DIRECTOR, LWVNOC

Making Democracy Work Award



Arline Burgmeier and
Honoree Shirley Bloom



Arline Burgmeier and
Honoree Joan Cohen

A required component for Leagues participating in the LWVUS Membership Recruitment Initiative was the granting of a Making Democracy Work Award to community members who had contributed to the well-being of their communities. A separate award was to be granted to an NOC member who had contributed the most to the community through League activities. NOC members were invited to choose this person.

Nearly fifty anonymous votes were mailed in. When the votes were counted, there was a tie, and it was decided to grant an award to both of these members.

The first award was presented at the September 14 Kickoff Luncheon to Joan Cohen. However, the second winner was unable to attend the luncheon and remained unnamed. Finally, at the September 25 Lunch with League, the second award was presented to Shirley Bloom. Congratulations to both of these tireless members who have done so much for the community through the League.

BY ARLINE BURGMEIER, LWVNOC MEMBERSHIP CO-CHAIR

Joe Dunn

(Continued from page 1)

turn to a Progressive Movement will follow, regardless of the outcome of the 2008 election, he feels, because of the sorry state of economic conditions.

The Presidential Race

Following the informative tutorial, Dunn went on to the current Presidential race. He stated that national polls mean nothing, but we must keep an eye on five states: Colorado, Florida, Nevada, New Mexico and Ohio. If either candidate wins both Ohio and Florida, he wins. Winner of one of those two states must win two of the other three. He feels that Palin was brought in to try to nail down Ohio. He also feels that if Obama continues to hammer on the economy, on which McCain is weak, he will win. But he went on to warn that both parties have managed to snatch defeat from the jaws of victory in recent past contests, so it is unwise to count on anything.

BY CHUCK GREENING, MEMBER LWVNOC

CALENDAR

City Council and School
Board Candidate Forums are
listed on Page 3

Thursday, October 9, 1:30 PM

Read with League

Memo to the President Elect

By Madeline Albright

Arline Burgmeier's home

4547 Everest Circle, Cypress

714-828-8624

All are welcome even if you
have not read the book.

Thursday, October 16

10 AM-Noon

National Issues Forum

Nixon Library, 18001 Yorba Linda Blvd.

Coping With the Cost of Health Care

Download the Issue in Brief booklet

At www.nifi.org

Info: Mary Fuhrman 714-523-1585

maryfuhrman@pacbell.net

Thursday, October 23

Lunch With League

12:30-2:00PM

Pros and Cons of the Ballot Measures

Sizzler 1401 N Harbor Blvd

Fullerton, Cost \$12

Reservations 714-254-7440 or

bfhf1951@aol.com

Thursday, November 13

Read with League

Why Women Should Rule the World

By Dee Dee Myers

Anita Larsen's Home

321 E Terry Way, La Habra,



**League of Women Voters
North Orange County
P.O. Box 3073
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LWV: JOIN US IN MAKING DEMOCRACY WORK

ELECTION EDITION

Vote with the League, Page 3
Candidate Forums, Page 3
US Election Law, 1909 to the Present, Page 4
How to Evaluate A Ballot Measure, Page 5
Pros and Cons, Enclosed

Lunch With League

Pros and Cons of the Ballot Measures
October 23, Sizzler In Fullerton
Note the new time: 12:30-2:00 PM