



Voter

League of Women Voters North Orange County

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www.lwvnoc.org

Join Us in Making Democracy Work

September 2010

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THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS RECOMMENDS

November 2, 2010 STATEWIDE GENERAL ELECTION

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PROP 20 Redistricting of Congressional Districts OPPOSE

The League opposes Proposition 20, which we believe is well-intentioned but premature. California is in the midst of a major reform of our redistricting process, with a new independent Citizens Redistricting Commission drawing the lines for state Senate and Assembly districts. Proposition 20 would significantly increase the commission's workload by adding Congressional redistricting and shortening the time it would have to do its work. We believe the commission should draw Congressional district lines in the future, but the new process should be fully implemented before the commission's responsibilities are expanded so dramatically. In addition, a new definition in this measure could make it harder for the commission to respect California's diverse neighborhoods and communities as it draws district maps. Let's give redistricting reform a chance to work the way the voters intended before we take the next step and add Congressional redistricting.

PROP 23 Suspends Clean Energy and Air Pollution Standards OPPOSE

The LWVC vigorously opposes this Dirty Energy Proposition, funded by out-of-state oil companies, because it would virtually kill AB 32, the landmark Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006. Proposition 23 would suspend the implementation of AB 32 until the state unemployment rate is 5.5 percent or lower for four consecutive calendar quarters. That has happened only three times in the last four decades! This dangerous proposition would get rid of clean energy standards that will cut air pollution and protect the public health. Proponents say this measure is needed to preserve jobs, but in fact it will jeopardize

hundreds of thousands of clean-energy jobs. We must promote California's role as an innovator and investor in a clean-tech economy.

PROP 24 Tax Fairness Act SUPPORT

Proposition 24 would repeal the corporate tax cuts that were passed in closed-door budget deals of 2008-09. These tax breaks cost approximately \$1.3 billion in revenue to the state, while benefiting only two percent of California's businesses. There is no requirement that they actually result in the creation of private-sector jobs. Proposition 24 will make big multi-state corporations pay their fair share and put \$1.3 billion back into the treasury to help our schools, health care, and other essential services that have suffered severe budget cuts in recent years. The League supports repealing these tax cuts because this budget crisis cannot be solved by expenditure cuts alone, let alone expenditure cuts combined with tax cuts with no demonstrated value to the economy.

PROP 25 Simple Majority Vote for Budget SUPPORT

The LWVC supports this measure, which would change the vote required for the Legislature to pass a budget from the current two-thirds to a simple majority. Majority rule is a fundamental part of democracy. The majority should set priorities for spending and take responsibility for them. This measure will change the negotiations over the budget and reduce the stranglehold the minority now exercises over the process. Under Proposition 25, legislators will forfeit salary if they fail to meet the deadline for passing a budget. Budgets that are late and full of gimmicks harm all Californians, damage our economy, and hurt the state's credit rating.

PROP 26 "Polluter Protection" OPPOSE

Proposition 26 would redefine regulatory fees imposed on companies for harm done to the environment or public health as taxes. Since taxes, unlike fees, require a two-thirds vote for approval, it would be much harder for state and local governments to seek such payments from those making harmful products or creating public nuisances. The likely result is that the fiscal burden of the harm to the environment or public health will fall on the public rather than the businesses involved. The League opposes Proposition 26 because we believe that decisions on all revenue measures should be made by a simple majority vote.

PROP 27 Eliminates State Commission on Redistricting STRONG OPPOSE

This measure would kill the major redistricting reform voters just approved in 2008 and return the authority for redistricting to the backrooms of the Legislature. Proposition 27 would allow politicians to draw their own districts to protect their jobs. It would take us back to the days when bizarrely shaped districts were drawn in secret, carving up neighborhoods and communities to keep incumbents safely in office. Vote NO to keep the power with voters and the voter-approved independent Citizens Redistricting Commission.

NO RECOMMENDATION ON THE OTHER MEASURES ON THIS BALLOT

PROP 18 Water Bond Measure REMOVED FROM THE BALLOT

On August 10, the Legislature and the Governor moved Proposition 18 from the November 2010 ballot to the November 2012 ballot.

PROP 19 Legalize and Regulate Marijuana NO POSITION

Because League positions do not cover the issues in Proposition 19, the LWVC is taking no stand on this measure.

PROP 21 \$18 Vehicle License Fee for State Parks and Wildlife Programs NEUTRAL

Proposition 21 establishes a new earmarked fee. The League does not generally support earmarks but is neutral on this measure because there is little left that can be done to raise money for the state parks, which provide a valuable recreation and natural preservation resource for the state.

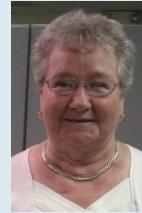
PROP 22 State Government Prohibited from Taking Local Funds NEUTRAL

This measure would provide some stability in funding for local government. However, it would freeze in place the current dysfunctional system of funding local governments in California. The League will remain neutral on Proposition 22.

August 24, 2010

VOTE WITH THE LEAGUE ON NOVEMBER 2!

President's Message



by Wanda Shaffer, LWVNOOC Co-President

I am hoping you will renew and join us again as we embark on an important year of voter education and grassroots activities.

We are very active in our eight cities, but our year's work reflects a wider base.

1. Our six speakers for the monthly Lunch with League discussed pertinent county, state and national topics.
2. We held an indepth study on the National Popular Vote.
3. We offered the Pros and Cons of the initiatives on the ballot.
4. The Easy Voter printed in 5 languages, was distributed free of charge and contains nonpartisan information. These booklets covered all candidates running for state, county city, school district positions as well as all of the county issues in the 34 cities.
5. Our VOTER newsletter carried the actions taken by the OC Board of Supervisors.
6. This year we will participate in the National League study of "The Role of the Federal Government in Education".
7. The State League has asked us to work on the redistricting of the cities and the county, now that the census has new population figures.
8. We have chosen 7 book selections for our monthly Read With League meetings, which are held in members' homes.
9. Our September 29 Kickoff Luncheon will feature Dr. Tim Naftali, the national archivist for the Nixon Library. His topic will be "Creating a Federal Non-Partisan Library".
10. Our League actively works with the other three Orange County branches in the OCILLO (Orange County Inter League Organization).

I hope I've been successful in showing our value as a League. **You are definitely a person we would like to keep as a member! Enjoy the League again this year!**

HELP WANTED AT 11 CANDIDATE FORUMS!!

On November 2, voters in the eight cities and various school districts within the area served by the LWVNOOC will be electing persons to serve on their respective city councils and school boards.

To help inform the voters about the candidates the League has scheduled eleven public forums: six city council and five school board including NOC College Board of Trustees.

We need helpers to serve as: greeters, runners (questions from the audience), question sorters and timers. If you are interested in being a moderator come to the training on

Tues, September 7 at Jeanne Blum's, 908 North Ford, Fullerton. RSVP 714-879-3847 or jeannepb@gmail.com

Dates and Locations: (All are scheduled from 7 to 9 pm)

La Habra: City Council Thurs, Sept 16 School Board Tues, Sept 21
City Council Chambers La Habra District Board Room
201 E La Habra Blvd 500 N Walnut Ave

Fullerton: City Council (4 year term) Mon, Sept 20 (2 year term) Tues, Sept 28
City Council Chambers 303 W Commonwealth Ave

School Board: Elementary Wed, Sept 22 High School Thur, Sept 23
1401 W Valencia Dr 1051 Bastanchury Rd

Placentia: City Council Wed, Sept 29
Council Chambers 401 E Chapman Ave

Buena Park: City Council Mon, Oct 4
Council Chambers 6650 Beach Blvd

Centralia: School Board Wed, Oct 6

Fullerton: North Orange County College Board of Trustees Thurs, Oct 7
Fullerton Union High School District Board Room 1051 Bastanchury Rd

La Palma: City Council Tues, Oct 12 (moderator)
Community Bldg 7821 Walker St

Pros and Cons Presentations

by Monika Broome, LWVNOG Director of Pros and Cons

In September, members of the League of Women Voters of North Orange County will begin presenting the Pros and Cons of the ballot measures which will be on the November 2nd ballot. Each measure will be presented with a nonpartisan approach that highlights the key issues involved. Then arguments offered by the supporters and opponents of each measure will be presented.

Any League member who might like to help with the presentations, is encouraged to attend the Pro/Con Training on Saturday, September 11 at the Buena Park Police Station Community Room, 6650 Beach Bl., Buena Park 90621 (N of Orangethorpe on East side of street) 10:00a.m. - 12:20 p.m.

Currently scheduled presentations:

Sept 15 12 noon, Rotary Club of Buena Park at Knotts Berry Farm Chicken Restaurant

Sept 22 10 am Bradford House in Placentia

Oct 7 7:30 pm Democrats of North Orange County, Sizzler, 1201 No. Harbor Blvd.

Oct 10 7 pm United Methodist Church, 2050 Valencia, Placentia

Oct 16 12-3 Mackey Auditorium at OLLI on the CSUF campus

Oct 28 12:30 Lunch with League at Sizzler 1201 No. Harbor Blvd

Any community groups who would like a presentation, should contact

Monika Broome at 714-992-0276.

POLL WORKERS - NOV. ELECTION

by Marge Imbler, LWVNOG Co-Voter Services

Poll workers are needed for the November election. In the past our league has had a rich tradition working at the polling places. We started a program of having two people share a position. The split shift program made the experience enjoyable and only half a day was worked. In the past one person collected the names and turned them in to the ROV, but now you can sign up directly with the Registrar of Voters and state your preference for AM or PM shift. It is best to do it by mid to late September.

If you are still interested, find a partner and call the Registrar of Voters at 714-567-7600. Make sure you let them know that you and your partner want the split shift. Of course, our League always gratefully accepts any stipends that are donated to us. If you have any questions, call Marge Imbler at 714 970-9368 or email her at mimbler@sbcglobal.net.

Tributes:

A new feature



has been added to our Voter

The new feature will honor special individuals as well as raise dollars for the League's Education Fund. League members are invited to submit a tribute in memory of a deceased friend or relative; to honor someone of an exceptional accomplishment; in observance of special occasions such as birthdays, weddings and anniversaries; or as a noteworthy way to salute a deserving friend or colleague.

For a tribute to be published in the Voter, it must be accompanied by a contribution, in any amount, to the LWVNOG Education Fund. This contribution is tax deductible. The tribute should be limited to 25 words, and must be non-political. (The content may be edited for publication.) The name of the donor will be mentioned with the tribute, but not the amount of the contribution. A thank-you card verifying the tax-deductible contribution will be sent to the donor. If feasible, the honoree will be notified in advance of the publication of the tribute.

Send tributes, along with a check made out to LWVNOG Education Fund, Tribute Coordinator, PO Box 3073, Fullerton, CA 92834. For more information call LWVNOG at 714-254-7440 or visit www.lwvnoc.org.

Calendar of Events



Membership Renewals Due

Wednesday, September 1, 2010

Diane Dantes, LWVNOG Co-Membership Director, is awaiting your renewals. You should have received via email or regular mail the forms to renew. To review all the great reasons to do so, you are referred to Wanda Shaffer's message in this Voter. Send your forms and checks to: Diane Dantes, 4949 Alcamo Lane, Cypress, CA 90630.

September Board Meeting

Thursday, Sept 16, 2010 from 12 to 2 pm

Fullerton Joint Union High School District Conference Room 1

LWVNO Board members will meet to plan activities for the coming month. Emphasis will be on Candidate, Pros and Cons Forums and the November election. Anyone is welcome to attend. Call Kay Bruce (714-345-1595) or Wanda Shaffer (714-525-6676) for more information.

Kickoff Luncheon

Saturday, September 25, 2010 from 11:30 to 2 pm

Alta Vista Country Club, 777 Alta Vista Street, Placentia, CA 92870

You'll be assured of good company, stimulating conversation and an impressive speaker for our annual Kickoff Luncheon. Timothy Naftali, PhD, director of the Richard Nixon Presidential Library will be speaking to us on the subject of "Creating a Federal Non-Partisan Library". Check out more information on Dr. Naftali in the Calendar section of our website (www.lwvnoc.org).

Cost of the luncheon is \$25, call 714-254-7440 or email cohen.joan@att.net for reservations, mail your check by Sept 17, 2010 to LWVNO, PO Box 3073, Fullerton, CA 92834.

Visit our website www.lwvnoc.org for detailed information on the above and other upcoming events.

Board of Supervisors Reports

by Christine Moore

July 20, 2010

Agenda item #22, agreement with U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) for detention and care of ICE detainees, was approved.

Sheriff Sandra Hutchens described the proposal and its safeguards. Hutchens said this is a "win-win" for ICE and for Orange County. It will alleviate county budget problems and help immigration authorities handle their detainee population more effectively. Estimated Federal revenue could reach \$31 million in 2010 and 2011, rising to \$35 million in 2011 and 2012. The revenue will help the county avoid future closures of jail facilities.

The county has available bed space with 2175 empty beds. (Total capacity of county jails is 7041.) ICE would use 838 beds. There would be 366 prisoners at Musick Prison, including 110 females. Orange's Theo Lacy Prison would receive 472 males.

In terms of release, 91% of ICE detainees will be directly deported. Those few left will be moved and released from federal facilities outside Orange County. This contract will actually reduce the number of releases to the city of Orange.

Some safeguards on the proposal are:

- County inmates will always take priority.
- The five-year contract may be terminated on 120 day notice.
- No early release of regular prisoners will be allowed to make room for ICE detainees.
- None of the detainees will come from ICE sweeps of streets. They'll come from other facilities, including Orange County jail system.
- Modifications can be made throughout the contract to include increases in cost and services.
- Orange County has the right to refuse at intake or later return inmates who are difficult.
- ICE will pay for inmate medication and off-site medical needs.

The prisons will require facility upgrades, costing \$4.1 million. Of this \$1.4 million will be reimbursed directly by the Federal government. The rest will be transferred from Fund 145

because of a decrease in the Proposition 172 fund. Eventually, the outlay would be repaid by contract income.

Hutchens assured supervisors and city officials that she would submit regular monthly reports on the program. John Sibley, mayor of Orange, previously a critic of the plan, said he appreciated Sheriff Hutchens's efforts and her commitment to maintain the terms of long-standing city agreements on prison operations in connection with this program.

Follow-up on Assessor Accusations

At the March 30, 2010 Board of Supervisors' meeting, Nick Bernardino, representing the Orange County Employees Union, relayed some accusations from the Assessor's Office employees that major companies were being under-assessed at a loss of some \$125 million in revenue--and that the new computer system in that office was hardly working and costing the county over \$45 million. Subsequently, the county district attorney conducted a civil investigation and basically exonerated the assessor's office. NOTE: However, problems with the computer system have been brought up repeatedly at board meetings and some inequities in corporate assessments, especially in relation to residential assessments, occur in many local governments.

July 27, 2010

Two central issues were discussed at this meeting: agenda item 32: U.S. Census redistricting plans; and agenda item 37: campaign reform commission evaluation of "TINCUP II" provisions.

Agenda item 32 dealt with re-districting mandated by the new 2010 U.S. Census results. Following the last month's discussion, the board decided to go ahead with the structure of the committee--two Supervisors and three chiefs of staff--but to make this an "ad hoc" committee whose major function would be to do preliminary research in order to plan and structure the actual committee that would do the redistricting.

This decision was a result of board objections to the previous planned makeup of the redistricting committee which included two supervisors.

A major concern that remains is the \$300 million federal monies lost to the county each year for the last 10 years because of undercounting of the 2000 census. This time the census went to great lengths to count the inhabitants of every household, not differentiating between ordinary citizens and "illegals."

It was pointed out that districts should comply with other community interests because lines drawn carry over into the departments of education. Therefore, current educational districts should be included in deliberations.

Supervisors John Moorlach and Shawn Nelson will study procedures used in the last census (year 2000) for further guidance. In addition, their staffs will be speaking to the U.S. Census Bureau itself.

It was stressed that all meetings should be open and transparent to the public, particularly to citizen groups like the League of Women Voters--which would also ensure compliance with the Brown "open meeting" Act.

Supervisor Campbell declared that the ad hoc committee would present its report in 60 days. Supervisor Moorlach pointed out that the "sunset" or conclusion of the ad hoc committee would happen when the actual committee was set up. No re-districting will be done by the ad hoc committee.

Agenda item 37 was the campaign reform commission report on "TINCUP II." It refers to the "Time Is Now; Clean Up Politics"-- a 1992 campaign finance reform passed by voters. The commission has been working on proposed changes for two years, including limits on individual contributions, on self-funding of campaigns, as well as eliminating contribution limits on recall elections and loosening restrictions on married couples' campaign contributions.

Citizen-activist Shirley Grindle, also a committee member, pointed out that many political operatives and aides to county supervisors on the committee were seeking to water down provisions of the campaign finance law, since they and the supervisors stood to benefit by

increased campaign donations.

Consequently, the only proposed action was for the Board of Supervisors to “receive and file” the report. This was the action taken, so the law will remain the same as it was when passed in 1992.

Citizen-activist Darryl Nolta applauded the outcome, noting that there WERE political insiders and political operatives on this board, as the Orange County Register had said in an article dated today, July 27, 2010. He suggested that if another committee were formed, it should have a broader representation, including ordinary citizens.

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