



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

VOTER

Nov.-Dec. 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.

Preserving Orange County's Treasures Strategic Vision Plan for Orange County Parks

A recent Grand Jury report documented the steady decline of the Parks Department through loss of revenue, leadership, vision and loss of hope. "Once considered a premier parks and recreation system, Orange County's Harbors, Beaches, and Parks (HB&P), today has been wounded by under funding, understaffing, and county bureaucracy. This results in operations that deal mainly with maintenance and safety issues while neglecting vision and growth opportunities." The Friends of the Harbors, Beaches and Parks (FHBP) was founded in 1997 and laid the groundwork for study and action to save our county's park system. Following the Grand Jury report, the present Board of Supervisors asked FHBP and the community to create a Strategic Vision Plan for the system. Approximately 100 O.C. citizens worked with the staff from last March into November to create this Strategic Vision Plan. LWVOC is hosting a public meeting about the plan on Saturday morning, December 2, at the Irvine Ranch Water District. Kevin Thomas, Director of O.C. HB&P will speak on the Strategic Vision Plan. All League members are urged to attend.

(Directions and car pool info on page 7)

**Strategic
Vision Plan**
**Orange County
Parks**
**Saturday
December 2nd
9:30AM-Noon**
**Irvine Ranch
Water District**
**15600 Sand Can-
yon
Irvine 92619**

League Wins at Grant Writing Workshop

Three LWVNOC members, Kay Bruce, Mary Fuhrman and Wanda Shaffer attended an all day grant writing workshop sponsored by Assembly members Mimi Walters, Lynn Daucher and Van Tran. Over 200 nonprofit organizations benefited from the presentation and networking. All participants were given a free week to use an internet source and discover the multitude of grant possibilities with training on how to "read" what the philanthropic organizations were offering. The delicious luncheon included drawings for a full month usage of the internet source, (usually a \$100 fee). I won a drawing, which was very exciting. But even better, was when Assemblyman Van Tran pulled my business card for the drawing, looked at it carefully, and said, "Oh, good. This winner belongs to one of my all-time favorite groups....the League of Women Voters!" We have such credibility, ladies! Be proud of this League! Thanks to member Marian Schain, who as president of the Fullerton branch AAUW knew of the opportunity and told us.



Mary Fuhrman, Lynn Daucher and Wanda Shaffer at the grant writing workshop

BY WANDA SHAFFER, DIRECTOR

**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS
NORTH ORANGE COUNTY**

PO Box 3073
Fullerton, Ca 92634
714-254-7440
www.lwvnoc.org

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Mary Fuhrman, VP Administration
Lee Sjostrom, Secretary
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Bette Frazier, Lunch with League
Eleanor Fumanti, Voter Editor
Fran Mathews, Natural Resource
Linda Rogers, Registrar Project
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Fran Shermet, Publicity
Anita Smiley, Social Policy
Sally Zivitz, Government

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 and click on "Join LWV" to **become a League Member**, or call 714-254-7440.

From our President

I want to acknowledge and thank the Voters Service co-chairs for the outstanding job managing all the work involved in an election year. **Joan Cohen**, in charge of candidate forums along with her team of city representatives, did a wonderful job and **Shirley Bloom** with several other presenters organized pros and cons for many disparate audiences. Many thanks to the chairs and all the League volunteers who made the Voter Service events successful.

The significance of the results of this election will be debated by political commentators and pundits for a long time. We have already read and heard the speculations regarding what the extraordinary turnabout in the Senate and Congress will mean. In addition to regarding the war in Iraq with great concern, the perception that corruption is widespread in the Nation's capitol appears to have been a motivating factor among voters. Our LWVUS president has wasted no time in joining with leaders of other like minded organizations to press for what the League believes to be one of the most salient issues facing our nation's leaders: **ethics and lobbying reform**. Please read their press conference statement on page 5. Be prepared for calls to action in the near future as the League lobbies to push legislation during these first crucial days when all eyes will be on the new leaders in Congress to live up to the new Speaker of the House's promise of accountability.

I would also urge you to read the post election analysis of Proposition 89's defeat on page 4. Although disappointed in the outcome of the **Clean Money Initiative Statute**, the League in California and its coalition partners are more determined than ever to bring campaign finance reform to California.

Our next Voter will be arriving in early January with news of a calendar chock full of interesting League events. In the meantime, I wish you all a delightful holiday season in the

Updated Energy Position Now On Line

Last year's state wide update of LWVC position on energy created several energy junkies here in North Orange County. Those members will be interested to know that the official position based on state wide consensus meetings is now available. Members may access the updated LWVC Energy Position at <http://ca.lwv.org/lwvc/issues/natres/energy.html>. Sections of the position are marked "vertical," indicating that local Leagues may use these items to take action at the local level (i.e., on local measures only) without seeking prior approval of the LWVC or the LWVUS. The updated position will be included in the *Action Policies and Positions* currently being revised and soon to be available.

Membership News

Whew! Are you exhausted too? The **November 7 elections** kept so many of us Leaguers extra busy for the last two months. Several of our members were canvassing neighborhoods, attending fund-raisers and otherwise campaigning in their own contests for school board or city council positions. Others were working behind the scenes as campaign managers or supporters for candidates and various propositions. Also, the League candidate forums and pro & con meetings kept a large number of Leaguers on the go either organizing, moderating or assisting at the numerous community events. And, many of us signed up to work at the polls on election day, which meant a non-stop 16-hour day. At the very least, all of our members surely spent time studying the issues and planning how to vote on November 7. And I'll bet that 95% of our members actually voted, and those who didn't had a good reason why they didn't.

To date, our **membership renewal** rate is about 75% in the current annual renewal period. Fantastic! If you are among the 25% still missing, please renew as soon as possible. Last year's membership actually ended on July 31, so if you haven't yet renewed, you are technically no longer a member.

We have added an amazing number of new members to our League. **Welcome** to Richard Beverage (Placentia), Martin Cohen (Fullerton), Susie Dittman (Buena Park), Laura Frisbee (La Habra), Richard A. Fumanti (Fullerton), Patricia Ganer (Buena Park), Merrijo Hatfield (Fullerton), Sharon Kennedy (Fullerton), Richard Larsen (La Habra), Pearl Mann (Fullerton), Patsy Marshall (Buena Park), John Mathews (Fullerton), Edward Radlauer (La Habra), Ruth Radlauer (La Habra), Gerald Schain (La Habra), and Cliff Sjostrom (Fullerton).

Read with League will begin on the evening of January 9. After that we will meet monthly on the second Tuesday. Please look for an announcement in the *January Voter* or on the our website for the place where we will meet and for the full schedule of spring dates. In January we will be discussing Al Gore's well-received book *An Inconvenient Truth*.

If you have questions about your renewal status or Read with League, contact me at (714) 828-8624 or aburgmeier@sbcglobal.net.

ARLINE BURGMEIER
MEMBERSHIP CO-DIRECTOR

League members did very well in the local elections. Marilyn Buchi on the Fullerton Joint Union High School Board, Pam Keller, Fullerton City Council, Minard Duncan and Ellen Ballard on the Fullerton School Board, Jan Wagner, Placentia-Yorba Linda Unified School Board and Patsy Marshall on the Buena Park City Council. Kitty Jaramillo ran for Fullerton City Council and Doug Schneider, Joanne Syrja's son ran for Fullerton School Board but did not get voted in. How rewarding to see our members maintaining the League's interest in good government!

WANDA SHAFFER
MEMBERSHIP CO-DIRECTOR

Prop 89 Loses But Adds to the Base for Reform

*Excerpts from a
Clean Money Now—Yes on 89
committee report.*

As most of you know, Proposition 89 lost at the polls Tuesday, along with almost every other non-bond ballot measure. It was a disappointing loss, showing that the broken and corrupt system of campaign financing in California won't be fixed overnight. The good news is that Prop 89 helped lay the groundwork for the inevitable passage of a change in the way we finance election campaigns. We will listen to what the voters are telling us, we will respond to it and, in the words of Arnold Schwarzenegger, we will be back -- with a Clean Money proposal that will be successful.

Congratulations and thanks to our passionate, ingenious, generous, and dedicated volunteers and coalition partners. Your combined efforts have made millions of people aware of the need for public financing of elections and strong election reform. Even though Prop 89 didn't pass, these efforts have built a tremendous base for Clean Money going forward. We thank our coalition partners at the California Nurses Association for having the courage of their passionate convictions in placing 89 on the ballot and backing it through the election.

Together we built one of the broadest and deepest coalitions for reform ever seen in

California. Over 250 organizations endorsed Prop 89, including large numbers of leading organizations that hadn't been involved before, representing consumers, seniors, labor, women, communities of faith, education, political groups, reform, healthcare, the environment, and business. They will form a powerful base for our next Clean Money effort.

We also made great strides with different constituency groups. For example, our

**League of Women
Voters
of California
is a member of
Californians for
Clean Elections
a committee of
leading reform groups
working with
Clean Money Now
Yes on 89.**

base of support within the Latino community has increased dramatically. With key leaders like Dolores Huerta and Mayor Antonio Villaraigrosa of Los Angeles endorsing along with the National Congress and the largest Spanish newspaper in the country, *La Opinion*, our support among this key demographic is bigger and stronger than ever. We also made tremendous strides in the Asian and other ethnic communities. Many thanks to our dedicated

campaign staff for spearheading this effort so ably.

Six months ago, when AB 583, Assembly member Loni Hancock's Clean Money bill, was before the state legislature, virtually no newspaper in the state editorialized on the subject, let alone in favor of it. Although most large newspapers took a position against Prop 89, most of them also went on record supporting public financing of elections as a solution we need to explore. This represents a sea change in the opinion leaders of California that would not have come about this quickly without Prop 89 before the voters.

Statewide and national polling shows government corruption is a - if not THE - leading problem for voters. That's not surprising when over \$550 million was spent on California's election alone. We will continue the conversation on Clean Money and work with our coalition partners, volunteers, and greatly expanded base to bring forward a proposal that will succeed and finally make government accountable to the voters. The battle for our democracy continues. And though it will take time and patience, we will eventually prevail because our cause is just. As Dr. King reminded us, *"The moral arch of the universe is long but it bends towards justice."*

For more information:

**California Clean Money
Campaign
California Common Cause**

Reform Groups Call for Immediate Action by New Congress on Lobbying and Ethics Reforms, Need For an Independent Ethics Enforcement Entity

Statement Issued by Campaign Legal Center, Common Cause, Democracy 21, League of Women Voters, Public Citizen and U.S. PIRG. Press Conference November 9, 2006

On Tuesday, voters sent a powerful message to members of Congress that they must address the extraordinary corruption, ethics and lobbying scandals in Congress, and must do so quickly. Tuesday's exit polls showed that voters considered corruption and ethics problems as their greatest concern, with 42 percent of voters responding that they were "extremely concerned" about corruption and ethics in Washington.

While all of our groups agree that reforming the nation's campaign finance laws is essential to addressing the corruption and lobbying scandals, our focus today is on the need for immediate action by the new Congress to pass comprehensive and effective ethics and lobbying reforms. These reforms must include the creation of an independent ethics enforcement entity in Congress in order to fix the failed congressional ethics enforcement process.

The 109th Congress presented the nation with the worst corruption and lobbying scandals in decades. Yet, this Congress failed to enact any meaningful reforms, choosing to ignore deep concerns that voters had about the corruption, ethics

and lobbying scandals in Washington.

In Tuesday's election, the American people responded loud and clear to this disgraceful performance. They voted to change Congress. The 109th Congress utterly failed the American people in refusing to enact ethics and lobbying reforms. The new Congress must now do the right thing and pass comprehensive, effective ethics and lobbying reforms quickly.

We strongly applaud House Democratic Leader Nancy Pelosi for her public commitment prior to the election, and again on Election Night, to pass new ethics rules on the first day of the new Congress. We also commend Representative Pelosi for her legislation in this Congress, the Honest Leadership and Open Government Act (H.R. 4682), which contains a number of important and valuable ethics and lobbying reform provisions. We call today on the new Senate Majority Leader to make a similar public commitment for the Senate to act quickly to pass effective ethics and lobbying reforms. Past experiences make clear that any delays in passing such government integrity reform measures will play into the hands of congressional opponents and Washington lobbyists by giving them time to undermine or kill the reforms.

We want to make three points today about the reform effort pledged in the House, which also apply to the efforts

that must be undertaken in the Senate:

First, an independent ethics enforcement entity must be created to help enforce the congressional ethics rules. Put simply, the House and Senate ethics committees have no credibility with the American people, and for good cause.

Second, we urge that any proposed new ethics rules be carefully reviewed to ensure that there are no loopholes. New ethics rules on travel, meals, entertainment and other financial benefits currently being provided to Members must be effective and loophole-free.

Third, if, as expected, the House acts only on new ethics rules on the first day of the new Congress, we urge the House leadership to make clear publicly that the other reforms contained in the Pelosi bill that require legislation will be acted on quickly. These reforms should be re-introduced in a bill at the beginning of the new Congress, and House and Senate leaders should publicly commit to send this legislation to the President within the first 100 days. The phony lobbying and ethics bills that passed the House and Senate this year, and then withered away in conference, must be replaced with comprehensive, effective, loophole-free reform measures enacted quickly in the new Congress.

At stake here is the integrity and public credibility of Congress and its Members, and the interests of the American

Election Season Tidbits

UNPREPARED

While working on the Buena Park City Council Forum, I went around or called all the community organizations to alert them to the time and place. These included the Noon Lions Club, Chamber of Commerce, Soroptomists, Rotarians, all the city commissioners, etc. Many of their presidents e-mailed the news to all members. Monika Broome was the moderator that night and in the portion of questions after the opening statements,

she asked one of the challengers "What is your opinion on Prop. 90 concerning Eminent Domain?" The poor gentlemen had no idea of what she was asking, stuttered, apologized he hadn't done his homework, and got off to a bad start. Needless to say, he was not elected.

BY MARY FUHRMAN, LWVNOC ADMINISTRATIVE VICE PRESIDENT

FORUM FOLLY:

As requested, our League worked with the Cypress PTA Council to plan and implement a candidate forum for the seven people running for the Cypress School Board. Linda Rogers agreed to moderate for her first time ever. The night of the forum arrived and lo and behold only the three in-

cumbents appeared. Apparently, their four challengers decided it wasn't worth the effort! The incumbents graciously followed the forum format and Linda had a great practice run!

BY JOAN COHEN, LWVNOC VOTER SERVICE CO-DIRECTOR

The Devil is in the Details

As much as audiences deplore television commercials, many, are influenced by them. One 90 year came up to me after a Pros and Cons presentation and said, "I always voted against bonds, believing they were a tax but now that I understand about bonds, I'm going to vote for them for the first time." All five city council candidates, when asked about "eminent domain" stated that they believe that it should be abolished perhaps forgetting that "eminent domain" is permitted by

the U.S. Constitution (5th amendment), but it is the use of eminent domain for "public purpose" rather than just "public use" and what is "just compensation" that is being challenged. Supporters of abortion rights and civil liberties were not so sure they favored initiative spending limitations when they found it could apply as well to organizations such as Planned Parenthood and ACLU as to large business corporations.

BY SHIRLEY BLOOM, LWVNOC VOTER SERVICE CO-DIRECTOR

A FIRST FOR eSLATE

At a polling place in Laguna Woods Village (AKA Leisure World) a voter took so long to mark the ballot that the electronic voting machine closed down. Although the Hart InterCivic eSlate machines give voters a second chance to review and correct their ballot, the machines have a 30 minute

time limit. If you don't push the red CAST BALLOT button within the time limit your vote expires. Does the voter get a second chance? I'm waiting for the registrar's office to give me the answer to that one.

BY ELEANOR FUMANTI, VOTER EDITOR

The Details

In November 2004 (a Presidential election year), North Orange County League did 23 Pro/Con presentations, speaking to approx. 575 people. In 2005 (special election), we did 14 presentations, speaking to approx. 295 people. In November, 2006, we did 17 presentations and spoke to approx. 650 people. Monika Broome, Mary Fuhrman,


Linda Rogers and Shirley Bloom were invited to speak at many community gatherings and organizations in communities in North Orange County as well as locations in other Orange County cities. The 13 state ballot measures were complex and confusing. In trying to address a problem, some

(Continued on page 7)

Being a Guest Moderator

During election time, there are many events in our community where we as LWV members are asked to serve as moderators for candidate forums and to lead Pro and Con presentations. This year I was asked to be a moderator for the Laguna Beach City Council Candidate Forum. In order to maintain a non partisan approach, moderators for League local Candidate Forums live outside the community. Here are the lessons learned from my experience in Laguna Beach.

- ◆ Planning began months in advance of the event.
- ◆ Enriching the event was enhanced with Partnerships among four community organizations.
- ◆ Using different communication styles enhanced the Moderator's effectiveness.
- ◆ Timing was key to meeting the audience's expectations.
- ◆ Long term friendships develop when you work with persons with the same goals for LWV.
- ◆ Training was available for every person who was involved from the Greeters, the Timers, the Question Sorters, and the Moderator.
- ◆ Writing the rules for the event and distributing them early to the candidates helped insure a smoother event.
- ◆ Seeking new ways to streamline the events was another benefit of working across League boundaries.
- ◆ Using media effectively through cable, newspapers, website and email were essential in communicating with the public.

The evening at Laguna Beach was a total success because everyone was rowing the boat in the same direction. If you are given an opportunity to be involved in another League's event, I hope you will take the challenge. 

BY DR. KAY BRUCE, VP DEVELOPMENT

(Continued from page 6)

were poorly written, inviting court challenges and creating perhaps as many problems as they would resolve. "Special interest" initiated constitutional amendments and laws presented to a generally uninformed electorate seem like a poor method to govern. But, as has been said, "Democracy is the most inefficient form of government, except when we consider the alternatives."

Voters Service committees as well as the general electorate need time to recuperate from the election turmoil, time to adjust to the changes and make plans for the future.

BY SHIRLEY BLOOM, LWVNOC VOTER SERVICE CO-DIRECTOR

CALENDAR

LWVNOC Board Meeting

Tuesday, November 28

Noon-2PM

FJUHSO

1051 W. Bastanchury Fullerton

Members are always

welcome to attend.

STRATEGIC VISION PLAN **ORANGE COUNTY PARKS**

Saturday, December 2nd

9:30AM-Noon

Irvine Ranch Water District

15600 Sand Canyon

Irvine 92619

Directions: Exit the 5 at Sand Canyon and go west. Turn left on Waterworks Way. Quick left into the Irvine Water District parking lot.

Car Pooling: Contact Fran Mathews, 714-870-4187

Reservations: Contact Joe Ross
949-248-1629
Seating is Limited

Read with League

Tuesday, January 9th

An Inconvenient Truth

By Al Gore

Details to be announced in
January Voter

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 renew.

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

Name
Street Address
City, State Zip
Phone
Email

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