



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.

League Condemns CA Budget; Hopes for Future Reform

Janis R. Hirohama, president of the League of Women Voters of California issued the following statement condemning the 2008-09 CA state budget after it was signed by Gov. Schwarzenegger.

The Legislature and Governor have enacted a budget deal that is dishonest and irresponsible. It not only fails to set priorities and address serious problems at a time when we face economic uncertainties, but also sets the stage for further and deeper budget problems in coming years.

This is a dishonest budget. It relies on an assortment of gimmicks—including accounting tricks, early collection of tax revenue, and speculative borrowing—to obscure the fact that the money to support the budget really isn't there. As one example, although the claim is made that the plan does not rely on borrowing, in fact it counts on borrowing, through the future issuance of bonds to be repaid from lottery revenue.

The budget is also irresponsible. By including the Governor's plan to build up the reserve, it reduces flexibility and makes it far more difficult for future legislatures and governors to adjust priorities within limited resources. Moreover, including this provision requires a constitutional amendment that must be approved by the voters. Passage of a future ballot measure should never be the premise on which a budget is based.

The budget deal calls for reducing the reserve fund for this year to less than a billion dollars, shifting this year's shortfall into next year through a variety of accounting changes, and opening major new loopholes in the corporate tax that businesses will pay in future years. Meanwhile, it does nothing to address the continuing structural deficit

caused by previous tax reductions and spending decisions.

Still, despite these serious defects and the painful impact of the severe cuts it makes to essential services, a budget had to be passed. Without a budget, many important programs were jeopardized because they were not receiving the funding they depend on.

The state also faced cash flow problems that could mean borrowing at a time when money is less available than usual, and likely to be more expensive. The state could not wait any longer for a budget, especially when the minority in the legislature had made it clear that they would not budge from their pledge not to raise any taxes. That pledge has once again enabled a minority to hold the entire budget process hostage to their wishes. This is not responsible representative government.

While there is plenty of blame to go around, there is a silver lining to the mess in Sacramento. The voters will be able to pass judgment on at least two components of the budget deal in a special election. More important, many people are now saying that it's time to look at real budget reform, particularly at eliminating the two-thirds vote requirement to pass a budget. Now that the people of our state have been treated to a stark example of the utter dysfunction in the budget process, we hope they will join us in fixing this broken system and replacing it with a process that really works. The people of California deserve no less.

FROM OUR PRESIDENT

Thanks for your generosity. On behalf of our entire organization, I'd like to thank those members who made an extra financial contribution to the League of Women Voters of North Orange County when they renewed their memberships for 2008-2009.

I'd also like to thank members who served as election poll workers, then pledged to donate their half-day earnings to NOC. These special people were not only helping to finance NOC but also serving their communities.

About ninety percent of the dues that members pay at renewal time goes to our parent organizations at the national, state and county levels so they can carry out the political agenda of the League of Women Voters in each sphere.

The remaining portion of the dues stays with NOC to help pay for operating expenses such as postage, photocopying, stationery supplies, a dedicated phone line, website fees, representation at conventions, and Voter Service activities. The contribution of additional dollars from members enables the NOC to provide an expanded program for members and helps the NOC fulfill its mission of informing voters and influencing public policy.

I'd also like to thank those members who help the NOC save money by receiving the *Voter* newsletter by e-mail and those who help by making non-monetary donations such as potluck food for get-togethers, refreshments for in-home meetings, and saleable items for silent auctions.

So thank you to all members who have been so generous to the League of Women Voters of North Orange County. Your generosity surely reflects your belief in the mission of the League.

Mary Fuhrman

WELCOME TO MEMBERS

Welcome back to the 112 continuing members who have renewed their LWV memberships for 2008-2009. We have contacted the remaining 28 available members and hope they will soon send in their checks to make 2008-2009 a 100% renewal year.

During the renewal period, we have added 13 new members: Diane Dantas (Cypress); Wynn Davis (Anaheim); Sue Dutcher (Fullerton); Delores Gibb (Buena Park); George Gibb (Buena Park); Kathleen Gribble (Orange); Camille Himes (Placentia); Ginie Hulsey (Los Alamitos); Sandra McCune (Buena Park); Lyn Liby (Yorba Linda); Vida Llywelyn (Cypress); Karl Schlaepfer (Fullerton); and Mary Welch (Placentia). Welcome to all of you! We look forward to seeing you at upcoming events and hope you find great personal satisfaction as League members.

HELP WANTED

Needed: Volunteers to oversee a screening of the video "How We Got the Vote" at a library or senior center in Brea, La Habra, La Palma and Yorba Linda. It's easy: arrange a date and time with the head person; post a notice; arrange chairs; turn on the video.

Contact Arline Burgmeier for details: aburgmeier@sbcglobal.net or 714/828-8624.

Election 2008: LWVNOC Was Everywhere!

LWVNOC members were busy on many fronts this election season working on our mission to promote informed and active participation in government. We kept our **SmartVoter website** up to date as a voter resource with information on candidates, ballot initiatives and voting procedures. Our **SmartVoter Street Banners** encouraging voters to use our SmartVoter website, were hung in Buena Park the first two weeks in October; and in Placentia and Fullerton beginning October 20th.

We conducted **City Council Candidate Forums** in Placentia, La Palma, Buena Park, Fullerton and La Habra. The Placentia, La Palma and La Habra forums were all co-sponsored by the Chamber of Commerce. In Yorba Linda, we assisted at a council forum sponsored by that Chamber. We also co-sponsored the La Habra **School Board Candidates Forum** with the La Habra Chamber of Commerce and sponsored the Brea Unified School Board Candidates Forum. League members, Marilyn Buchi, Mary Fuhrman, Linda Rogers, Fran Shermet and Jan Wagner served as forum moderators and Jeanne Blum, Gloria Schlaepfer, Marion Schain and Anita Larsen worked organizing the events.

Monika Broome, Mary Fuhrman, Jerry Young, Wanda Shaffer and Shirley Bloom presented the **Pros and Cons of the Ballot Measures** at twenty-three events, to audiences totaling over seven hundred people. Two people who attended presentations joined LWVNOC and we received \$50 in donations. In addition, **2500 copies of the LWVC Pros and Cons** publication and **2000 Easy Voter guides** in English, Spanish and Korean were distributed in North Orange County.

LWVNOC had a table at the **CSUF Voters Fair** where Sue Fisher, Gabriella Kalias and Shirley Bloom, made League voting resources available to students. We also spoke on election issues to a roomful of young men and

women at **CSFU sorority Delta Sigma Theta**. Shirley Bloom reports that it was a great opportunity to address the enthusiasm of a new generation of voters.

League worked with the **National Issues Forums** Institute on three public policy forums scheduled between Labor Day and Election Day at the Richard Nixon Presidential Library and Museum. Discussions about Education, Health Care and Energy in the midst of a presidential campaign gave participants opportunities to explore options, weigh others' views and to consider the costs and consequences of public policy decisions. LWVNOC President Mary Fuhrman reports, "We discovered that League participants already were well informed on the issues and were able to add information to the discussions. We were pleased to have many students from Cal State Fullerton and Saddleback College adding their thoughts and concerns."

League members have again volunteered to serve as **Split Shift Poll Workers** on November 4th. Members are signed up with partners and will each work for half the day. In addition to working at the polls, members voluntarily donate their stipend to our League.

As a non-partisan organization, League never supports or opposes candidates for political office but after studying issues and developing policy positions, we do actively advocate for the positions. Leagues throughout California worked for passage of Proposition 11, the Redistricting Proposition. Pearl Mann, Government Director LWVNOC worked with League members in each of our eight North Orange County cities, requesting **each City Council to adopt a resolution in support of Proposition 11**. Buena Park and La Habra passed the resolutions. In the other cities, city council members voiced individual support.

Pebble in the Pond

Throw a pebble in the pond and you don't know how far the ripples go. LWVNOC and Fullerton Public Library sponsored a showing of the film: *How We Got the Vote*. A Sunny Hills High School civics/history teacher gave extra credit if his students attended. One mother came with her daughter. The mother told her boss at the LA Recorder/Registrar office in Norwalk about the program. The Norwalk office collects the LA County ballots and uses volunteers from three different high schools to help with unpacking, etc. The student volunteers have a 1 1/2 hour break in the work shift.

It took a few phone calls to connect the mother with LWVNOC. The mother picked up the tape from Jeanne Blum. The result is hundreds of high school students will see the historic film, *How We Got the Vote* during their work shift break on an historic night. A bonus to League is that the registrar will transfer the VHS tape to DVD and give League several copies.

You never know how far the ripples in the pond will go.

BY JERRY YOUNG, LWVNOC VOTER SERVICE DIRECTOR

League Helps at Buena Park Junior HS Mock Election

League members served as poll workers at the Buena Park Junior HS Mock Election. Arline Burgmeier, Patti Chikahisa, Joan Cohen and Barbara Michel monitored registration, absentee ballots and voting booths. Students voted during lunch break. Ballots contained statewide propositions, presidential candidates and some local candidate races.

The polling place is pictured below with individual voting booths at the back of the picture.

Results of the election are shown to the right.



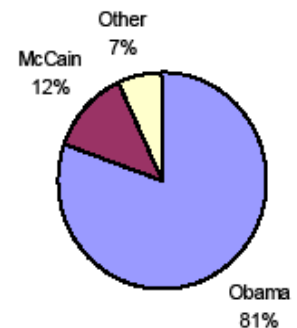
Buena Park Junior High School

Mock Election Results – October 21, 2008

Election Facts

- 407 seventh and eighth grade students voted in the mock election.
- Props 2 and 8 received the most amount of votes with 405 each.
- All of the other Props averaged roughly 390 total votes.
- Prop 1A was decided by 11 votes.
- Prop 8 was decided by 17 votes.

BPJH Student Vote for President



| Candidate | # of votes |
|----------------|------------|
| Obama | 326 |
| McCain | 50 |
| Nader | 7 |
| Barr | 5 |
| McKinney | 5 |
| Barr | 5 |
| Keyes | 2 |
| did not select | 7 |

| Proposition | Result |
|------------------------------------|--------|
| Prop 1A - High Speed Train Bond | yes |
| Prop 2 - Treatment of Farm Animals | yes |
| Prop 3 - Child Hospital Bond | yes |
| Prop 4 - Minor's Pregnancy | yes |
| Prop 5 - Nonviolent Offenders | yes |
| Prop 6 - Law Enforcement Funding | yes |
| Prop 7 - Renewable Energy | yes |
| Prop 8 - Same Sex Marriage | no |
| Prop 9 - Victim Rights, Parole | yes |
| Prop 10 - Energy Bonds | yes |
| Prop 11 - Redistricting | yes |
| Prop 12 - Veterans Bond | yes |

League Works with Local Schools to Celebrate Constitution Day, September 17

Since 2005, schools receiving federal funds have been mandated by Congress to observe Constitution Day. With financial aid from a LWVUS grant, many LWNOC members participated in preparation and presentation of Constitution Day activities in Fullerton elementary, middle and high schools. George Washington (Gary Beard) told all the students at Beechwood School about the important people who worked to develop our Constitution. The seventh and/or eighth graders of the Fullerton School District studied the Preamble and put it together phonetically using vanity license plate cards from all fifty states. League members observed and took pictures. The high schools of FJUHSD were presented Jeopardy games on two levels. The students worked in teams answering questions about the Constitutional structure or our government. Both teachers and students appreciated our efforts and materials.



Understanding California Water Issues

A presentation at September Lunch with League by William Mills, retired General Manager of the Orange County Water District. The District is a world-renowned leader in the fields of groundwater management, wastewater reclamation and wastewater desalting.

California, if considered as an entity, would be the world's 6th largest economy with 30 million residents, projected to reach 50 million by 2030. Agriculture is the basis of the state's economy and is inherently a heavy user of water, using 39% of the State's water supply. The sources of supply to meet our water needs all have their limits. There are four major sources of water in the state.

Surface Water This category includes the snow and rain in the mountains, much of which is captured in reservoirs, to be released as needed during the dry parts of the year. Most of the precipitation in the state is in the northern part, while most of the need (population and industry and a good part of the agriculture) is in the south. To meet this disparity, a set of canals and pumps moves water down the Sacramento Valley in canals, around the Bay Area to the east, then through the Central Valley in canals, pumped over the Tehachapi Mountains (the largest single user of electricity in the State) and on to various users in coastal Southern California, including Orange County.

Lesser, but still large sources include the snow and rain of the eastern Sierra Nevada, captured for Los Angeles by the Los Angeles aqueduct which brings the water south and over the San Gabriels. South-eastern desert regions of the state receive imported surface water from the Rocky Mountains in Colorado. The water is transported by the Colorado Aqueduct, the Coachella Canal, and the All-American Canal. This large source of water has a questionable future. The "legal take" was set during a period of above-average precipita-

tion over the Rockies, and at a time when Arizona and Nevada were lightly developed. This may change, depending on the rainfall, but the major reservoir (Lake Mead) is near record low.

Ground Water Most parts of the state have some water underground, but the water is at widely varied depths and of varied quality. Nevertheless, one third of the state's demand for water is met by drilling wells. North Orange County receives about 70% of its water from this source. Orange County is most fortunate in having a large, deep water table, as deep as 4000 feet. Because we lie along the coast, there is saltwater at sea level under the sands and soils of the beaches. To prevent this water from draining into the shallow fresh-water wells in coastal areas, fresh water is pumped into wells to create a barrier to salt water incursions. The Santa Ana River, which runs through the county from the mountains, is the primary natural source of water to refill the basin. Spreading basins have been established in areas where no impervious rock layer prevents the water from reaching the water table. Rain and snowmelt water is injected into the spreading basins during heavy flow in the River, to add to the natural replenishment of the groundwater basins.

Recycled Water Much of the rainwater which falls on the County ends up running into storm drains along streets whence it is transported to the ocean through barrancas. This water, as soon as it reaches the Pacific, becomes part of the salty ocean. That which falls on lawns, gardens, parks and other open land will either evaporate or sink into the ground, where it may help recharge the aquifer. Waste water, though heavily polluted, can be recycled in sewage treatment plants. Depending on the extent of treatment, the output can be used for irrigating parks and golf courses, or may be pumped into basins to replenish the aquifer. A new system for replenishment is being built now.

Desalination Removal of salt from ocean water has been possible for centuries, by evaporation followed by cooling to become distilled water, suitable for most human uses. Recent advances in suitable

(Continued on page 7)

Water Issues*(Continued from page 6)*

membranes has made desalination economically feasible by a process called "reverse osmosis". Orange County has constructed the largest desalination plant, and is expecting to produce 70,000 acre feet a year. A major part of the cost of the process is electricity to drive the high-pressure pumps needed to drive the water "uphill" through the membranes. This source will doubtless become more important in the future, in California and other coastal localities.

Impacts of Water Use Two large lakes in eastern California, Owens and Mono, have been nearly destroyed by the draw-down to support the LA aqueduct. Hetch-Hetchy Reservoir in the Sierras has drowned a spectacular valley, once a rival to nearby Yosemite, in order to provide water for the Bay Area. The most serious and difficult impact is in the San Francisco Bay Delta area. The area from Sacramento to the Bay is flat, and many housing developments in the area are below sea level, protected by earthen dikes. A serious flood on the River or a dike failure from a quake could produce a tragic situation. On the south side of the Upper Bay, considerable land is also below sea level and is largely agricultural. A dike failure some years ago flooded several square miles of this land which was submerged for months before it could be pumped dry. Many farms were established on low islands in the upper reaches of the bay in years past. The soil on these islands was a deep deposit of peat. As it was cultivated, watered, etc, the soil subsided, so that the islands had to be diked to remain in use. These are all at risk for flooding, too.

Water from the Sacramento River flows into the Bay from the north. Corresponding amounts are pumped out from the southern reaches, all barely above salt water in the Bay. The heavy pumping has driven a small fish, the Delta Smelt, into steep decline. Though of no immediate use in commerce, the smelt is a basic part of the food chain for the whole Bay complex. Federal officials have placed sharp limits on the pumping, which impacts the ability of the state to supply water to the South. A canal around the area has been suggested, but it is complex, expensive and controversial. This issue is of critical importance to the whole state and its economy.

BY CHUCK GREENING, MEMBER LWVNOC

CALENDAR**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

1-562-691-7355

Sunday, November 23**The Evening of Giving****Brea Mall 6:30-10:00PM****Fund Raiser for LWVNOC**

Cost is \$10

It will be an evening of special drawings, giveaways and special sales....a chance to do holiday shopping without all the regular mall crowds. Various stores are offering discounts that night and you don't have to be present to win a prize.

Tickets: Call Joan Cohen

1-714-525-0023

Thursday, December 11**Read with League***Hope's Boy*

By Andrew Bridges

Marguerite Lyon's Home

2961 Salmon, Los Alamitos

1-562-431-0371

Wisdom Without Walls

A conversation bringing together concerned community members and women serving life sentences at the CA Institution for Women. A discussion of the issues concerning women serving these sentences.

Friday, November 21**CA Institution for Women****9:00AM-3:30PM**

16756 Chino-Corona Road Corona, CA 92879

1-909-597-1771 ext 5375

Suggested Donation \$30

(Includes refreshments and lunch for guest and two women inside)

Prison clearance is required for the visit.

More Information:

Suzanne Darweesh, 1-714-738-1785



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LWV: JOIN US IN MAKING DEMOCRACY WORK

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