



# The Voter

"... to promote informed citizen participation in government."

Membership: (949) 718-9626, League Phone: (949) 451-2212, Website: <http://orangecoast.ca.lwvnet.org>

**April-May, 2016**

## Calendar of Events

*Monday, April 4<sup>th</sup>, 9:45am*

**LWV Orange Coast Board Meeting**

*St. Mark's Presbyterian Church*

*2200 San Joaquin Road, Bonhoeffer Room, Newport Beach 92660*

*All members welcome. Call 208-284-9167*

*Friday, April 15<sup>th</sup>, 10:00 to 1:30*

**LWVC PUBLIC HIGHER EDUCATION STUDY DISCUSSION & CONSENSUS**

*Mimi's Cafe, 1835 Newport Avenue, Costa Mesa*

*Menu: Quiche Lorraine or Florentine; Grilled Chicken & Guacamole or Roasted Turkey Sandwich; or Chicken Chop Salad, all with fruit, Choice of Caesar or House Salad, or French Onion Soup*

*Cost: \$20*

*RSVP: Required, call 949-786-1669, or [beckynewman2222@gmail.com](mailto:beckynewman2222@gmail.com)*

*Monday, May 2, 2016, 9:45am*

**LWV Orange Coast Board Meeting**

*St. Mark Presbyterian Church*

*Bonhoeffer Room, 2200 San Joaquin Hill Road, Newport Beach, CA 92660*

*All members welcome, call 208-284-9167 for more information*

*Saturday May 13, 2016, 10:30am-2:00pm*

**LWV of Orange County ANNUAL MEETING**

*Knott's Berry Farm Hotel*

*7675 Crescent Avenue, Buena Park*

*Cost: \$26*

*RSVP: required at [www.ocilo.ca.lwvnet.org](http://www.ocilo.ca.lwvnet.org)*

*Saturday, May 21<sup>st</sup>, 10:00am to 2:00pm*

**LWV Orange Coast ANNUAL MEETING, MERGER MEETING**

*Laguna Woods Village Clubhouse 1, Moulton Pkwy., Laguna Woods*

*RSVP: Required, call 714-475-9772 or email: [vchenevey@yahoo.com](mailto:vchenevey@yahoo.com)*

*All members or guests are welcome at any of the meetings in this calendar*

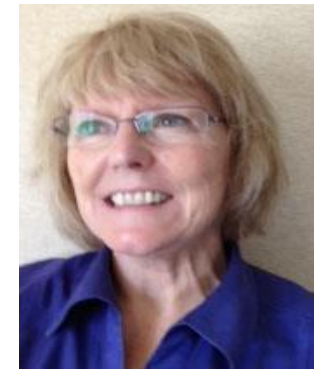
## Presidents' Message

### **CALL TO CONVENTION!**

As Co-Presidents of the League of Women Voters of Orange Coast, we issue this call to the **Fifty-fifth Annual Meeting** to be held in Laguna Woods, California, on Saturday May 21<sup>st</sup>, 2016. On this day we will adopt local program, elect officers and directors, approve a budget and transact other pertinent business, including approval of the merger of Coast League with CAPO League.



We will be meeting in Clubhouse One, Laguna Woods Village, California, from 10:00 am to 2:00pm; lunch will be followed by the combined Coast - CAPO merger presentation and vote. ***Please RSVP to Vickie Chenevey: 714-475-9772 or email: vchenevey@yahoo.com***



Please see the nomination committee recommendations for the 2016-2017 Directors/Officers on **page 3**. Please contact Barbara Wood (Coast) or Marilyn O'Brian (CAPO), if you wish to make additional suggestions or recommendations for nominations.

Further information regarding the meeting, budget, program, by-laws, final nominations for officers/directors, cost for luncheon and directions to Laguna Woods Clubhouse One, will be sent mid-April.

We welcome and invite all members to attend.

*In League,*

*Barbara Wood, Diane Nied, Grace Winchell*  
Co-Presidents, LWVOC



***“The difference between a goal and a dream is having a plan”***

### **Orange Coast League Cities:**

Aliso Viejo, Costa Mesa, Huntington Beach, Irvine, Laguna Beach, Laguna Hills, Sunset Beach, Laguna Woods, Lake Forest, Mission Viejo, Newport Beach, Rancho Santa Margarita, Seal Beach

**NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT: BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2016-2017**

*Nominating Committee: Barbara Wood and Marilyn O'Brien*

President	Diane Nied
VP Administration	Grace Winchell
VP Program	Barbara Wood
Secretary	Beth McConaughy
Treasurer	Judy Standerford
Education	open
Government	Armida Brashears
Natural Resources	open
Social Policy	Chris Collins
Membership	Christina Lucey
Voter Service	Vickie Chenevey
Web Managers	Charlotte Pirch Judy Standerford
Facebook	Judy Standerford
Voter Editor	Charlotte Pirch

Off Board	
Event & Publicity	Elliott Wilson
Communications	Patty Santry
E-Blast	Elaine Cheslow
League Phone	June Mcguire
Speakers Bureau	Carolyn Martin
At large	Susan Sayre Rebecca Newman Judy Gielow

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**The Public Higher Education in California Review**

The persistence of inequality in California higher education participation and attainment will reduce the proportion of college-educated adults, which in turn will have detrimental effects on the state’s economy, workforce, and quality of life of aging baby boomers, as well as to aspirations to be a society that provides equal opportunities regardless of race or socioeconomic status.

**Why A Public Higher Education in California Study matters to the League of Women**

**Voters:** The League of Women Voters of California (LWVC) does not have a position on public higher education in California inclusive of the California State University (CSU), and the University of California (UC) systems, the League **does** have a position on the California Community College (CCC) system. This lack of an inclusive position prevents the LWVC from commenting on or advocating for or against proposed policies and legislation affecting higher education. This study was proposed and approved to remedy this situation and to provide the LWVC with a comprehensive and inclusive position on public higher education in California.

**Purpose of the Study:** According to the 1960 California Master Plan for Higher Education, which includes the UC, CSU and CCC systems, open access to higher education is provided to *all who can benefit from instruction*. In defining the scope and purpose of this study, emphasis is given to the concept of access from the perspective of students and families---can students and families afford to pay for increasing costs given reductions in state funding? The concept to access also includes preparedness for college work, and other barriers and opportunities affecting students' successful enrollment and completion.

While the relationship of funding and affordability as key components is obvious, the inclusion of student preparedness and other issues arising from barriers and opportunities speaks to more fundamental questions of equity: Access for whom? Access to what?

**Conclusion:** The scope of the study, therefore, has been refined to examining *access to quality public higher education in California including funding, preparedness, equity, and opportunities and barriers to student success*. Understanding these issues and their importance for ensuring access to public higher education is essential for both the membership of the LWVC and all residents of California.

Two Leagues -- CAPO and COAST – have a local Study team working on **A STUDY OF PUBLIC HIGHER EDUCATION IN CALIFORNIA**. CAPO members on the team are: Gail Benda and Marilyn O'Brien. COAST members are: Terry Bream, Chris Collins, Rhea Dorn, Ellen Hayes, Charlotte Pirch, Carole Urie and Grace Winchell

**Our Consensus Meeting for this Study will be held on April 15, 2016 from 9:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m., at Mimi's Café, 1835 F. Newport Blvd., Costa Mesa, CA 92627 as our April 2016 Lunch with the League. RSVP: Required, call 949-786-1669, or [beckynewman2222@gmail.com](mailto:beckynewman2222@gmail.com). Watch for MailChimp announcements.**

If League members want to see advocacy on subjects which are important to them, then widespread participation in Studies is important.

Effective participation requires member understanding and agreement about issues. The Public Higher Education in California Committee has provided members and the public with information to facilitate member study and consensus. **To be prepared to participate in the Consensus Meeting for the LWVC Public Higher Education in California Study, please familiarize yourself with the Study materials! You can find the Study materials at: <https://lwvc.org/sites/lwvc.org/files/downloads/studies/Higher-Education-Study-Guide-Complete.pdf>**



**LWV Orange Coast Welcomes New Members**

Say a big League hello to Dee Grace and Kay Cotton both from Irvine, Joy Adams of Mission Viejo, and Diana and Walter Little!

## **Report on the Orange County Board of Supervisors**

*By: Wanda Shaffer, LWVNOC & ILO*

**New Chair is Lisa Bartlett and Vice-Chair is Michelle Steel. Supervisor Shawn Nelson** has filed a candidacy for Superior Court Judge. If elected, this will require an election to fill his remaining 2 years on the BOS. And, yes, that is extra election costs for the County.

**The OC Fraud Hotline's Annual Activities Report.** The OC Internal Audit Dept. administered the Fraud Hotline from 1996 to 2015. This department was discontinued in August 2015 and the responsibility was assigned to the Office of County Counsel with assistance from the Auditor-Controller. 2015 had a total of 346 received allegations complaints. 54 cases were actionable and 257 cases were referred out to the appropriate entity. Of the Closed Hotline Cases, 17 were substantiated, 41 were not substantiated. 314 reports were made anonymously, 28 were made by individuals who identified themselves, 290 by telephone, 36 by email, 17 by letter, 1 fax and 2 in person. Allegations were: time abuse, improper promotions, waste of taxpayer money, excessive overtime, conflict of interest, using and selling drugs, theft of County property.

**The Registrar of Voters** requires all Text and Direct Arguments, County Counsel's Impartial Analysis and Costs to be submitted by March 11. The Review/Rebuttal Arguments period is from March 12 to 21, 5 pm. These are subject to public review and legal action during this period. March 22 to 31 at 5 pm. is public review for Rebuttals and legal action. Sample ballots will be mailed approximately April 28; the mailing completion deadline is May 28. (Last day to register is May 23.) **[POLL WORKERS ARE GREATLY NEEDED FOR THE JUNE 7 ELECTION DAY. LEAGUE MEMBERS CAN WORK WITH A FELLOW LEAGUER AND EACH ONLY NEED TO WORK HALF OF THE DAY!](#)**

The Board voted 4-1, with Supervisor Do voting no, to support construction and operation of the proposed **Huntington Beach Seawater Desalination Facility** and to urge the **California Coastal Commission** to approve the Development Permit.

**All regular Board of Supervisors meetings** will now be scheduled on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup>, Tuesdays of the month, starting in April. The online agenda and supporting papers will also be made available to the public more quickly.

**A rainy day homeless shelter** will be opened at the abandoned bus transportation center across from the Hall of Administration. However it was not ready for the cold and rainy days in January. ACLU and homeless advocates criticized the delay and the contract given to Mercy House. They delivered a petition signed by 1,568 citizens asking for the 440 emergency shelter beds NOW. No food is allowed in the facility. The lease is \$11,000 for 5 months.

**Cal Optima Board will again be restructured.** Supervisors Bartlett and Do formed an ad hoc committee. Still under discussion is how to make it a more engaged and independent board, with more oversight and accountability. (Previously many Board members had resigned and Cal Optima was under sanctions by the state of California.)

## *Voter Service Report*

*By Vickie Chenevey, Voters Service Chair*

### **VoteCal Database Update:**

VoteCal will replace the current California voter registration database and provide a single, uniform, centralized voter registration database that meets applicable Help America Vote Act (HAVA) of 2002 **requirements**. VoteCal's many **functions** will provide improved service to the voters of California by:

- Connecting the Secretary of State (SOS) and all 58 county elections offices together to improve the voter registration process
- Providing a publicly available website which will allow voters to register online
- Providing a single, official statewide database of voter registration information

Orange County Registrar of Voters helped lead the way and was one of the two initial pilot counties. The final two counties were added on February 29. After the SOS validates that VoteCal is working correctly, VoteCal will be declared the official system of record for voter registration in the State. The SOS expects this to occur in June 2016. For more detailed information, go here: <http://www.sos.ca.gov/elections/voter-registration/votecal-project/>

### **VOTING MYTH**

**MYTH:** As a "no party preference" (formerly known as "decline to state") voter, I can vote in any party's primary election, whichever I chose.

**FACT:** Voters registered as "no party preference" have the option to receive an **American Independent Party ballot, a Democratic Party ballot, or a Libertarian Party ballot**. If they do not request a specific party ballot, they will receive a **NONPARTISAN BALLOT**. A "no party preference" voter **cannot** receive a Republican Party ballot, a Green Party ballot, nor a Peace and Freedom Party ballot.

### **HELP WANTED!**

Would like to participate to increase voter participation this year?

Volunteers are needed to:

- 1) Spend part of a day registering voters at a campus or other event?
- 2) Participate as a speaker to present Pros and Cons to interested groups?
- 3) Participate in creating our Pros and Cons presentation?
- 4) Volunteer as a poll worker?
- 5) Participate in Voters Edge activities, such as gathering information on issues and candidates, with training?
- 6) Work at a candidate forum?
- 7) Is there an activity, not mentioned here, that you would like to do?

*"Every election is determined by the people who show up"* Larry J. Sabato

## **League Votes to Support Ethics Measure on June 7, 2016 ballot**

*By Sue Guilford, President, LWV OC ILO*

League of Women Voters of Orange County ILO voted on March 11, 2016 to support the Ethics Measure that will appear on the June 7, 2016 ballot for Orange County.

This decision follows the three study sessions held in the fall of 2015 during which we studied the issue of Ethics Commissions. At the conclusion of the study, we voted on a Concurrence Statement:

***The League of Women Voters of Orange County supports the inclusion in the Orange County Charter of a permanent, local oversight mechanism to enforce governmental ethics, and campaign financing and lobbying laws. This mechanism should be designed to ensure transparency, accountability, integrity and impartiality.***

***Key elements of this mechanism ideally should include, but not be limited to:***

- ***Independence***
- ***Training for candidates, elected and appointed County officials, and key County staff in the areas of governmental ethics, and campaign financing and lobbying laws***
- ***Subpoena power to allow for collection of relevant information***
- ***Adequate budget and staff***
- ***Annual reports to the public***
- ***Enforcement mechanisms***
- ***Whistleblower protection***
- ***Timely responses***

We used the Concurrence Statement to evaluate and take a position on a ballot measure for an ethics commission, which may be on the June 2016 ballot.

We compared the elements of our statement with the provisions of the measure:

[http://www.ocvote.com/fileadmin/user\\_upload/elections/pri2016/measures/Ethics-Commission-Ordinance.pdf](http://www.ocvote.com/fileadmin/user_upload/elections/pri2016/measures/Ethics-Commission-Ordinance.pdf), and found that we can support the measure.

The impartial analysis accessible here:

[http://www.ocvote.com/fileadmin/user\\_upload/elections/pri2016/measures/Ethics Commission - IA.pdf](http://www.ocvote.com/fileadmin/user_upload/elections/pri2016/measures/Ethics Commission - IA.pdf)

The argument in favor is accessible here:

[http://www.ocvote.com/fileadmin/user\\_upload/elections/pri2016/measures/Ethics Commission - AF.pdf](http://www.ocvote.com/fileadmin/user_upload/elections/pri2016/measures/Ethics Commission - AF.pdf). Four supervisors (Lisa Bartlett, Andrew Do, Shawn Nelson and Todd Spitzer) signed the argument in favor.

There will be no formal argument opposing the measure. Supervisor Michelle Steel opposed the measure as being too costly. It is unclear whether there will be any organized opposition to the measure.

## LWV of California Update:

**Vote with the League - Yes on Prop 50, on the June 7, 2016 ballot!** This constitutional amendment would give each house of the Legislature clear authority to suspend, with a two-thirds vote, a member *and* withhold pay and benefits.

- Prop. 50 is a straightforward way for lawmakers to hold their own colleagues accountable for breaching the public's trust.
- Such actions are highly unusual. Over the years, five senators have been expelled, and several senators accused of corruption resigned in 1985. The Assembly has never suspended or expelled a member.

Read more about [how the League takes a position on a ballot measure](#).

**It's Back: Parental Notification Initiative:** A well-funded version of the Parental Notification Initiative (PNI) is collecting signatures for the November ballot. The LWVC, as it has in past attempts, has joined the effort to oppose this measure as a member of the steering committee. There are various opportunities to serve on committees to assist in this effort, and more will arise as the campaign takes shape. Members who would like to assist in this cause can contact [advocacy@lwvc.org](mailto:advocacy@lwvc.org). This will be a continuing update until the election.

**Concern for Coastal Commission Activity:** At the January meeting, the board also agreed to send a letter to the Coastal Commission reflecting our continuing support for their protection of our coastline and stating that, while we are not privy to personnel matters and cannot comment on them, we do want to see strong protections maintained and are concerned about current news. A copy of the full letter is here: <https://lwvc.org/statement/2016/feb/coastal-commissions-executive-director>

**PROS & CONS Ballot-Measure Writer/Researchers** are wanted for the November 2016 edition. This is perfect for those who like to dig into the meat of ballot initiatives. Our writers and researchers draft the **PROS & CONS** to a set format, based on the material in the Secretary of State's Official Voter Information Guide. Next comes the drafting of **IN-DEPTH**, researching additional background information for use by our speakers. In this phase additional research of information that is not in the Legislative Analyst's material, including such things as: lists of supporters and opponents, additional arguments, information on how much money is being spent on the campaign by both sides. The editor and other reviewers provide guidance to the writers. **THE WORK IS DONE IN THE MONTHS PRIOR TO THE NOVEMBER ELECTION AND WRITERS MUST BE AVAILABLE TO BEGIN WORK IN JULY. IF** interested, contact [Sandy Wolber](#), Editor.

**The new and improved *Guide to California Government* is ready for sale.** The *Guide to California Government* is a thorough, easy-to-read book for navigating the process for voting and engaging with our state government. This updated edition of the guide provides essential information for every citizen or future citizen of California. This book is designed to engage and inform readers by emphasizing the public's role in California government.



## LWVUS Making News

**League Files Motion for Temporary Restraining Order and Preliminary Injunction Against EAC.** The League filed a [Temporary Restraining order \(TRO\) and injunction](#) enjoining the Election Assistance Commission (EAC) and Executive Director Brian Newby from enforcing the decision granting state requests to amend the national uniform mail-in voter registration form to require documentary proof of citizenship. This is part of a [filed suit in federal district court](#) to stop the recent illegal action by the Executive Director of the U.S. Election Assistance Commission (EAC) that allows these states to restrict voter registration. For additional background and information please see the [League's press release](#).

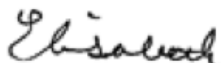
**League Opposes SENSE Act and BRICK Act in U.S. House.** The League joined other partner organizations on [a letter to the House Energy and Commerce Committee](#). The SENSE Act (H.R. 3797) and the BRICK Act (H.R. 4557) would weaken health safeguards for Americans on behalf of special interests and result in more air pollution and health hazards.

**League Joins Amicus in *Zubik v. Burwell*.** The League of Women Voters joined an [amicus brief in the case of \*Zubik v. Burwell\*](#), a challenge to the contraception accommodation in the Affordable Care Act. The amicus brief argues that the contraception accommodation for employers who object to providing contraceptive coverage is the least restrictive means of advancing the government's compelling interest in protecting women's health and promoting women's equality. The League has long standing positions in support of equal access to health care and equal rights for women as well as the right to privacy in reproductive choices. The Supreme Court will hear arguments in the case on March 23, 2016.

**LWVUS Board Sets 2016 Legislative Priorities.** The LWVUS Board set federal legislative priorities for the second session of the 114th Congress at its January board meeting. The League has many positions from which to take action but establishing a focus for our national advocacy is a critical responsibility of the LWVUS Board as it is for every League Board. In setting priorities, the Board considers a number of factors, the most important of which is focusing League effort where it can have the greatest impact. For 2016, the LWVUS legislative priorities are ranked in two tiers. The first tier priority is Representative Democracy, which includes [voting rights](#) and election administration, [money in politics](#), redistricting reform and work on a [constitutional convention](#). The second tier is Climate Change. And we continue to watch action on several issues including [immigration](#), [health care](#), reproductive rights and [environmental protection](#).

**Register for Convention and Lobby Day** Thinking about attending Convention June 16-19, in Washington, DC? NOW is the time to ACT. Register for Convention (or Convention AND Lobby Day) using the [online registration form](#). And be sure to make your [hotel reservations](#) while rooms at the special League rate are still available.

In League,





**MAKING DEMOCRACY WORK**



**League of Women Voters  
of Orange Coast  
Board of Directors**

Co-Presidents	Barbara Wood Grace Winchell Diane Nied
Vice President Administration	
Secretary	Beth McConaughy
Treasurer	Judy Standerford
Government Natural Resources Social Policy	Grace Winchell Diane Nied
Education Membership Voters Service Voter Editor	Chris Collins Christina Lucey Vickie Chenevey Charlotte Pirch
<b>At Large</b>	Patricia Santry Armida Brashears
<b>Off Board</b>	
Events & Publicity E-Blast League Phone Web Manager Facebook	Elliott Wilson Elaine Cheslow June Maguire Charlotte Pirch Judy Standerford

**Contact Us**

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**LWV Orange Coast:** [LWVorangecoast.ca@gmail.com](mailto:LWVorangecoast.ca@gmail.com)  
**LWV Orange County:** [www.ocilo.ca.lwvnet.org](http://www.ocilo.ca.lwvnet.org)  
**Smart Voter:** <http://smartvoter.org>  
**LWV California:** <http://www.ca.lwv.org>  
**LWVUS:** <http://www.lwv.org>  
**Facebook:** <https://www.facebook.com/LWVOrangeCoast>

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The League of Women Voters a nonpartisan political organization, encourages informed and active participation in government, works to increase understanding of major public issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy.

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