



The Voter

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

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

Calendar of Events

August, 2017

Thursday, August 3rd, 3:00pm CAPO Unit Clip & Come & PIE!
Location: 3111 Madera, San Juan Capistrano, CA 92675
For information: 949-496-1858 or mjob35@gmail.com

Monday, August 7th, 10:00am-1:00pm LWV Orange Coast Board Retreat
Location: 24452 Ladera Drive, Mission Viejo, CA 92691.
Potluck Lunch: Please bring item to share.
For information: 208-284-9167 or barbjsocal@gmail.com.

Friday, August 11th, Noon to 2:30pm. Lunch with League (**Note date change.**)
Where: Claim Jumper Restaurant 18050 Brookhurst Street, Fountain Valley, CA 92708
Topic: "Unconscious Biases in Decision-Making Within the Criminal Justice System".
Speaker: L. Song Richardson, Interim Dean UCI Law School
Entrees: Chicken Caesar Salad, Black Tie Pasta with chicken or vegetables, Chicken Pot Pie, Half Clubhouse Sandwich with salad.
Cost: \$20 for lunch and speaker, \$5 for speaker only
RSVP: Required by August 7th, 208-284-9167 or barbjsocal@gmail.com.

Thursday August 24th, 12:30-2:30pm. Book Club North
Book: "An Unapologetic Life", by Lucy McMillen
For information and location: 949-548-6136 or stamper3@pacbell.net.

♪ Take me out to the ballgame ♪

Remember when baseball was in your life as a child? Well here is a chance to see what some kids did when they grew up with their talents. **AUGUST 5th AT 5:00 AT THE ANGEL STADIUM**, the **ANGELS** are playing **OAKLAND**. Our **League** has 30 seats reserved for us at \$25 each. You can send Treasurer Judy Standerford your money at LWV of Orange Coast, P.O. Box 1065 Huntington Beach, Cal. 92647-1065, or bring it to the game. For available seating information: 949-496-1858. *Please join us, Marilyn O'Brien*

September, 2017

*Thursday, September 7th, 3:00pm. CAPO Unit Clip & Come & PIE!
Location: 3111 Madera, San Juan Capistrano, CA 92675
For information: 949-496-1858 or mjob35@gmail.com*

*Monday, September 11th, 9:45am-12:00pm LWV Orange Coast Board Meeting
Location: St. Mark Presbyterian Church, Bonhoeffer Room, 2200 San Joaquin Hills Road,
Newport Beach, 92660
For information: 208-284-9167 or barbjsocal@gmail.com.*

*Friday, September 15th, Noon to 2:30pm. Lunch with League
Location: Marie Callendar's, 31791 Del Obispo Street, San Juan Capistrano, 92675
Topic: "The Orange County Jailhouse Snitch Scandal"
Speaker: Norberto Santana, Publisher, Voice of OC
Entrees: Quiche and Salad, Fettucine Alfredo with Salad, Bacon & Cheese Sandwich with
Coleslaw, Meatloaf Sliders with Coleslaw
Cost: \$15 lunch and speaker, \$5 speaker only.
RSVP: Required by September 11th, 208-284-9167 or barbjsocal@gmail.com*

*Thursday, September 21st, 3:00pm CAPO Unit Book Club
Book: Please bring suggestions for books to read.
Location: 3111 Madera, San Juan Capistrano, 92675
For information or mjob35@gmail.com*

*Thursday, September 28th, 12:30-2:30pm North Unit Book Club
Book: "Underground Railroad" by Colson Whitehead
For information and location: 949-548-6136 or stamper3@pacbell.net.*

NOTICE: Civil Discourse in Orange County?

Members of the Coast, COCA, and North Orange County Leagues will be meeting on July 27th to discuss the possible formation of a Civil Discourse Network among the OC Leagues and other OC organizations. All members are invited to attend. Anyone interested, contact Petti Van Rekom (petti.vanrekom@petti.com) for more details.

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

Co-Presidents' Message

Your two Co-Presidents, Diane Nied and Becky Newman welcome you to the next two months of the League year. If you are like us, you may well be besieged by more requests for action and information about issues than you can possibly absorb or deal with. Indeed, you may find yourself a bit frozen – like a deer in the headlights unable to move.



The League Really Matters: Luckily, you are a member of the League, and there is no better place to focus some of your concern and energy – and acting “the League way” is a great cure for feelings of hopelessness and uncertainty. Here is our national mission statement:

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

The League Has Unique Strengths: Our careful process for studying issues and coming to consensus on our *Positions* (national, state and local) and our careful process for advocacy has stood us in good stead in the 97 (!) years we have existed, enabling us to educate ourselves and others and then to advocate on the issues of our times from a basis of knowledge and solidarity. When the women and men of the League go into action, we are assured that we are supported by a large, informed, intelligent body of members who believe – and will act – as we do. That is why acting with the League is something to believe in and to devote our time and resources to.

The LWV of Orange Coast has Strengths: COAST is lucky to be composed of remarkable men and women who have made real contributions to their families, workplaces, volunteer work and communities. We also have a group of strong dedicated leaders in our Board and “Off-Board” positions – look at the list on the back of this *Voter*. The Board meets monthly (you are welcome to attend). Primarily due to our leaders work, we have Lunches with the League, various Program Planning meetings, the annual meeting, and occasional other activities, such as the outstanding evening meeting on climate change in May and participation in various Voter Service events – and, of course, *The Voter*. Our books are kept, membership rosters are up to date, new members are contacted, filings are made, bills are paid, our phone is answered – the basics are covered.

What We Do Not Have Is an Active Committee Structure. This means that our leaders tend to not only take on responsibility for setting policy and determining activities and events – but also for the execution of events, with other members of the leadership group serving as the de facto committee. That is not a blanket statement – lots of individual members step up to the plate for voter service events, particularly, but the fact is we cannot do much more than we are currently doing unless we “grow” our committee structures.

Please Join Us for Our Fall Kick-Off Event: This fall Diane and I will host a Membership Kick-Off event (time and date to be determined). Please plan to come. It will be your chance to show up and be counted, to volunteer for a committee or a project, and allow our League to continue to grow and to be a source of strength for our country in a time of trouble and divisiveness unprecedented in many of our memories. The country needs the League and your

local League needs you – not just your dues and your affection and good wishes, but your labor. We have something to do for virtually everyone. Come to kickoff and learn what we are doing, meet your wonderful committee chairs and other leaders, and tell us where you can roll up your sleeves and join us.

Finally, a bit of housekeeping: Diane and I will be sharing duties for the year, including taking turns writing the Co-Presidents’ letter for *The Voter*. Becky is the writer this month – hence her picture is with the letter. But the letter is from both of us, and starting with the next *Voter*, when Diane will be the writer, we hope to have a picture of both us on this page.

We are counting on you!

Rebecca Newman & Diane Nied



Orange County Register, Sunday, June 18, 2017, Letters to the Editor

Re: “Orange County supervisors reject new, cost-saving voting system” [June 13, 2017]: League of Women Voters of Orange County is very disappointed that the Orange County Board of Supervisors voted to reject Registrar Neal Kelley’s proposal to change to vote centers for 2018 elections. The justification for refusing to accept this cost-saving measure, that will help to make voting more convenient for all, appears to be a completely unsubstantiated and unwarranted fear of voter fraud. Elections officials around the country all agree that voter fraud is so rare as to be a non-issue.

In fact, according to Mr. Kelley, the vote center system will be even more secure as well as much more convenient for voters in Orange County. He created the system for Orange County after reviewing the experiences with vote centers in other states, thus taking advantage of lessons learned by early adopters. As a test, six vote centers were opened in Orange County for the November 2016 election. Those who took advantage of the vote centers were very pleased with the experience.

League of Women Voters supported Senate Bill 450, the Voter’s Choice Act which makes vote centers possible in Orange and 13 other California counties in 2018. The new system will save the county millions while providing a more convenient and secure voting experience, and we hope it will encourage more eligible citizens to vote.

All voters will receive a mail ballot that can be mailed or dropped into a secure drop-off box, located throughout the county. Starting the second weekend prior to Election Day and continuing through Election Day, conveniently located vote centers will be open long hours and staffed with trained employees. Bilingual assistance and disability accessibility will be available. Electronic poll books will eliminate tedious, longer provisional ballots. The system will also provide workers with information to verify voter identity, including whether a person has already voted elsewhere in the state.

The League of Women Voters supports neither candidates nor political parties. We encourage informed and active participation in government. Our motto is “Making Democracy Work.”

We hope that the O.C. Board of Supervisors will reconsider the vote on vote centers for Orange County in 2018.

*Sue Guilford, President
League of Women Voters of Orange County*

“Politics and the Role of Religious Liberty”

***By: Stephanie Campbell, President,
Americans United for Separation of Church and State***

Americans United for Separation of Church and State (AU) was founded in Washington, DC in 1947 by a coalition of religious, educational and civic leaders to oppose government aid to private religious schools. Since then AU has taken on issues such as government-sponsored prayer, Bible reading in schools, and vouchers. Most recently AU has been a leader in the fight for gay rights, reproductive rights and evaluating judicial nominees in terms of church/state separation. The Orange County chapter (AU-OC) was founded in 2004 and presents educational programs, lobbies in Washington DC and Sacramento and works with our national organization on first amendment violations in Orange County.

The 2016 election had a number of religious-themed issues including: the Muslim ban, opposition to transgender rights, and President Trump’s commitment to appointing justices who support evangelical values. In addition to the Trump campaign’s focus on these religious issues there were many far right extremist groups that were active in the campaign: the Council for National Policy, Alliance Defending Freedom, The Falwell Empire, Family Research Council, and The Heritage Foundation - who set the religious tone of this past election and are strong opponents of church/state separation.

In compliance with the evangelicals who supported him, Trump has stated that he will change the contraception rules of the Affordable Care Act (ACA). The ACA requires health insurance policies to cover contraceptives, the change that Trump proposes would allow employers and universities to use their religious belief to deny contraceptive coverage to their employees.

President Trump has vowed to repeal the Johnson Amendment (1954). The Johnson Amendment is a provision in the tax code which prohibits all 501(c)(3) non-profit organizations from endorsing or opposing political candidates. The purpose of the Amendment is that taxpayers should not be forced to subsidize the partisan election activities of churches and non-profits. In addition, the Johnson Amendment protects non-profit organizations. Endorsing candidates would put these organizations at risk of being turned into the tools of political campaigns. The small group of politicians and their supporters seeking to weaken the Johnson Amendment are actually interested in boosting their own political power.

Climate change is another church/state issue. Instead of embracing the results of scientific research, some religious leaders are denying climate change, quoting Biblical passages to support their views. Unfortunately, there are many in our government who embrace these religious views at the expense of science.

Public schools and vouchers is another controversial church/state issue. Religious groups want to use vouchers to support religious schools. Vouchers take funds from the public school system. The appointment of DeVos to Education Secretary is definitely a step in this direction.

The Muslim ban that Trump has tried to enforce is a third church/state issue. The ban would purposefully prohibit persons from visiting or immigrating to the United States based solely on their religion and country of origin. The fight against this blatant bias is supported by such strong legislation such as California Senate Bill 3.

The U.S. Supreme Court's ruling in a trio of cases concerning pensions at religiously affiliated hospitals could jeopardize the financial security of hundreds of thousands of workers. The decision involves three cases that were decided jointly: *Dignity Health v. Starla Rollins*, *Advocate Health Care Network v. Maria Stapleton* and *St. Peter's Healthcare System v. Laurence Kaplan* (2017). The high court ruled 8-0 that religiously affiliated hospitals don't have to comply with the Employee Retirement Income Security Act (ERISA), a federal law designed to protect employee pensions. Houses of worship are exempt from ERISA, and a number of religiously affiliated hospitals claimed they should be as well.



Here's Why You Should Come to the LWVC Convention in 2019!

by Becky Newman, Co-president

I sat down to write this and began with a very standard format for such reports:

- An overview;
- Some statistics;
- Some links to more information; and
- Some detailed information about some aspects of Convention.

This is all very well and good and you will find it here, BUT first . . .

Start Now to Plan to GO to the Next LWVC Convention in 2019 – Here's Why! and . . . It Will be in Southern California

You should come to Convention because it can be transformative.

It is good to see how League works, to meet the officers, to hear about plans, to make budget and program decisions and so on.

But what matters most are the things that happen that set you on fire.

Judy Standerford, Michele Musacchio and I went to Convention this year and I asked them to share a peak experience or two.

Here is something Judy wrote about the amazing experience of participating in an un-planned deep discussion about race and age and inclusion in a group of more than 150 people, which occurred when we had some extra time at the end of the final session and the floor was opened for folks to raise any questions or comments they wanted to make.

From Judy:

Our very own Michele asking the question that we often ask but no one else brought it up at the "open questions" session – why are we not attracting more minority members. The resulting very lively session, with almost all the minority delegates giving their opinion, was both insightful and educational for the rest of us.

And from Michele:

I'm a part of the November 9th brigade [folks who joined the League after the election]. I wanted to understand the depth of race identity and the role of organizing white women. Who deals with this in the League?

The first answer came from our Executive Director, Melissa Breach, and went something like this:

She started with the acknowledgement of her privilege as a professional, well-educated white woman. She talked about barriers we as a League don't work on (we don't offer babysitters at Board meetings, we meet during the day so working women don't join, etc.) We need to move forward, but also to know that we will make mistakes.

And one of my favorite comments, from a black Leaguer:

I have tried to move through the world as a strong woman irrespective of my color and I look at you the same way. BUT we do need to diversify. We talk about diversity but every year the room looks the same. Let's cut the talk and walk the walk. Let's make the room look different in 2 years.

And on we went. Many of us would be afraid to have this conversation with family, friends or colleagues – but here we were, having it with some 150 of our League sisters and brothers. I felt like I had gone to church.

And Now – The Standard Report You Were Expecting:

General Overview: The 67th Convention of the League of Women Voters of California (LWVC), with the theme *A Capitol Connection*, was host to 197 voting delegates representing 54 local Leagues, 3 inter-League organizations (ILOs), and the LWVC board. There were more than 20 attendees from The OC, including Michele Musacchio, Becky Newman and Judy Standerford from COAST. All OC Leagues were represented, as well as ILO.

The convention was held at the Sheraton Grand Hotel in Sacramento, June 2-4, with an optional Lobby Day on June 1st. The host League was the LWV Sacramento County.

The convention approved the recommended budget, the recommended program, the new bylaws and the recommended slate of officers and directors for the 2017-19 biennium. The 2019 convention will be in Southern California. A [post-convention summary](#) is available online.

All PowerPoints and handouts are available at the convention website: [LWVC 2017 Convention Website](#)

Due to travel times and our personal schedules, no-one from Coast attended Lobby Day nor the Voter Service dinner at which CA Secretary of State Alex Padilla spoke (we had all heard him before). Likewise, we did not attend the Sacramento League's fundraising dinner and riverboat cruise featuring Sacramento Bee editorial cartoonist and associate editor Jack Ohman – too many workshops and caucuses competing for the time.

Non-Plenary Meetings: there were more than 25 scheduled caucuses, meetings, workshops, and information sessions as well as constant ad hoc meetings around issues of interest, including:

- Ongoing discussions of evolving the League to meet modern demands;
- The new “LEW” (League Easy Web) platform for our websites – which will be called MyLO;
- The League’s role in the implementation of SB 450 and the initial rollout of Voting Centers;
- Discussions of race and policing and justice;
- Information on the current single-payer healthcare bill – SB 562;
- Information on what other Leagues are doing; and
- Discussions of the LWVC Issues for Emphasis, 2017-19:
 - ✓ Making Democracy Work in California;
 - ✓ Natural resources; and
 - ✓ Responses to changing federal policies and budget actions which impact California.

Speakers: We heard from some fantastic speakers – at least one of whom was a last-minute replacement for a scheduled speaker who was called away by a family emergency. Here’s Judy’s description of the substitute:

Stockton Mayor Michael Tubbs, the first African-American mayor of Stockton and the youngest mayor in American history of a city with population over 100,000, was both inspiring and very interesting. He has a very “down-to-earth” manner while at the same time being confident of what he is doing.

And from Becky:

I think we should all remember his name – we are likely to hear more of him in the future.

Some other highlights: Two presenters have shared their PowerPoints with the League: Celinda Lake of Lake Research Partners, who spoke on [Messaging for Impact: California, Women and the Importance of Civic Engagement](#) and Chris Hoene, Executive Director of the [California Budget and Policy Center](#), who spoke on [Implications of Federal Policy for California](#). Books recommended by Celinda Lake: [Don’t Think of an Elephant](#), by George Lakoff, and [Don’t Buy It](#), by Anat Shenker-Osorio.

Awards: The League of Women Voters of California gives awards for work which has been done by constituent Leagues have done in four different arenas.

The categories include: Community Engagement, High Visibility, Strengthening Democracy, and Strike While the Iron is Hot. In the first three categories, separate awards are given for three sizes of Leagues – Small (membership under 100), Medium (membership between 101-250), and Large (membership 251 and over).

COAST won two awards to medium sized Leagues: One for High Visibility ([Voting 101: A College Student Guide to Voting in Orange County](#), our project with the OC Registrar of Voters), and one for Strengthening Democracy (for our work with UCI and the OC Registrar of Voters to register UCI students to vote)!

LWV of California Update:

To: LWVC Advocacy and LWVC Make It Fair groups: The CA Association of Realtors filed 3 duplicate initiatives called the People's Initiative to protect Prop 13, to alter the residential side of Prop 13. It is too soon to tell if they are serious about going to the ballot but this certainly appears to be a preemptive strike. Some of you have reached out asking how we should we respond; this email contains background information on their proposal and suggestions for next steps.

Our communications team has recommended that Make It Fair avoid directly commenting in the press on this flawed Realtor proposal to avoid conflating their alteration of the residential side of Prop 13 with our campaign to close the commercial property loophole.

However, we are encouraging individual members of local Leagues respond with online comments, letters to the editors and social media posts that focus on our core message. *(Please speak out, but as individuals. Please don't use the League name or Make It Fair).*

Please start with [this LAT's article](#) and help us look for additional online and print opportunities to get our message out. You can contact David Koenig at 818-445-7565 or DavidJKoenig@gmail.com to join our online rapid response team.

Talking Points on this issue:

- Two-thirds of young people - those who don't own homes - would get nothing from this proposal - and the remaining third would still receive almost nothing. To really help California millennials it is time to close the corporate commercial property tax loophole and recover funds for community colleges, job training and building affordable homes.
- To help young people in California we must level the playing field for small businesses and entrepreneurs by closing the commercial property tax loophole for Millionaires, Billionaires and big Corporations.
- To help young people, we should address the loopholes the commercial property tax loopholes in Prop 13 that allow millionaires, billionaires and big corporations to avoid paying their fair share in taxes. As a generation that is drowning in student loan debt, most young people in California are unable to afford to buy a home.
- We desperately need more investments in vital local services, and if Congress ever passes their dreadful healthcare bill, our young people will be desperate for more healthcare funding as well. It's time that we finally address the elephant in the room and close the Proposition 13 corporate loophole to truly fund vital services to help millennials in California.
- Closing the corporate commercial property tax loophole in Prop 13 would be a much better way to help our young people, as it would recover billions that can be invested in our education and healthcare systems to help young people get the skills they need to

compete, and avoid drowning in debt. Closing the corporate loophole would also level the playing field for young people who want to start small businesses - as currently the Prop 13 corporate loophole heavily disadvantages new businesses, making them pay often several times more in taxes than older businesses for the same properties.

- If we really want to help young people, we shouldn't be focusing on a tax benefit that reduces taxes for existing homeowners - few young people are homeowners to begin with. Instead, we should begin to address the loopholes in Prop 13 that allow millionaires, billionaires, and big corporations to avoid reassessing their properties, costing the state of California billions of dollars a year in lost funding for K-12 classrooms, Health clinics, community colleges and affordable home building.

Background on Realtor Proposal

This is not a new proposal by the Realtors and has not improved since they last proposed this in the legislature in 2015. This proposal does not alleviate the housing crises and would only inflate the value of homes even more. It effectively gives the wealthier, longer and older homeowners who have benefitted most from Prop. 13, even bigger tax breaks and hurts those trying to get into the housing market. It allows someone who has benefited from low taxes to bid up the cost of a new purchase even more.

The suggested benefits to millennials under this proposed Prop 13 reform measure that would extend tax breaks to young people who sell their residence and buy a new one does not address the fundamental problem of housing supply. Most millennials in California are unable to buy a home in the first place, and the potential effects on the state budget could be damaging.

Instead, closing the corporate loophole in Prop 13 would be a much better way to help millennials, as it would free up billions of revenue that can be invested in our education and healthcare systems to help young people pursue higher education, access affordable healthcare, and join the middle class.

Two similar pieces of legislation were proposed in 2015 but died in the legislature: SB 378/SCA 9 (Beall) and AB 2668/SCA 9 (Mullin):

<https://www.boe.ca.gov/legdiv/pdf/2668ab021916rmk.pdf>

<https://www.boe.ca.gov/legdiv/pdf/0378sb081715rmk.pdf>

Here are two recent media items:

#1: [OpEd by Pastor Benjamin Briggs](#) that ran in the Press Enterprise and The Sun: “Close Prop. 13 tax loophole for corporations”.

#2: [Podcast by Malcolm Gladwell titled "A Good Walk Spoiled"](#) about golf courses. He includes in his criticism how LA golf courses pay virtually nothing in property taxes because of the Prop 13 loophole.

In League,

Helen Hutchison, President
League of Women Voters of California

LWVUS Making News

Reject ‘Election Integrity’ Commission’s Voter Suppression Agenda! Join the [11,000+ League supporters](#) who have signed the petition saying they will not let the ‘Election Integrity’ Commission’s efforts to investigate voter fraud threaten their ability to exercise their right to vote.

League Joins Letter to Secretaries of State Regarding Pence-Kobach Commission Data Request. The League joined [a letter](#) sent to all 50 Secretaries of State condemning and opposing the data request by President Trump's advisory commission, and urges those that have not responded to carefully consider future responses to the commission.

League Joins Call to Restore Funding for Election Assistance Commission. The League joined [a letter](#) in support of an amendment to the financial services and general government appropriations bill that would restore funding for the Election Assistance Commission (EAC). The amendment, offered by Representative Quigley, was not adopted, but provisions increasing the level of funding and removing language that terminated the agency were removed from the legislation through another mechanism.

Continue Opposition of Senate Health Care Plan. [The U.S. Senate's plan](#) to cut health care for 22 million Americans, cut Medicaid and reduce access to health care for women has failed to proceed. Senate leadership was unable to garner enough support for the legislation, withdrew the legislation and have decided to move forward with a plan to [repeal the Affordable Care Act](#) without a replacement plan that will likely fail to pass. [Please continue to call and email your Senators](#) and let them know that [America deserves better](#).

League Calls on Congress to Pass a Budget that Meets Basic Human Needs. The League joined more than 1,500 groups on [a letter](#) that calls on Congress to pass a budget that adequately meets the needs of all people and communities. Letter encourages investments in public education, affordable housing, health and nutrition, public transit, roads and bridges, clean air, clean water, clean energy, child care, and other means of making investments in communities that also create good jobs.

State Leagues In Action. Wednesday, LWVUS staff attended the [#RespectMyVote Rally](#) to protest the first meeting of the EIC and, in combination with other groups, collected nearly 500,000 signatures in petitions against the Commission. Interns also attended an informative session on “Attacks and Advances in Voter Registration”. [Read more in our blog](#).

In Baltimore, the League was part of the [Gerrymandering Meander](#) last week, where participants stopped through the four congressional districts that cover a total 13 miles, to highlight Maryland’s extreme gerrymandering. And in Pennsylvania, the League is working hard to make sure Allegheny County has [quality voting equipment](#).

In a terrific [column for the Orlando Sentinel](#), Carol Davis, LWV of Orange County co-president, lays out the League's position on health care. And on The Union Edge this week, Jessica Jones Capparell, LWVUS Interim Senior Director of Advocacy, spoke on fighting back against false claims of voter fraud. [Listen to her segment here](#).

In League,





Contact Us

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LWV Orange Coast: LWVorangecoast.ca@gmail.com
LWV Orange County: www.ocilo.ca.lwvnet.org
Voters Edge: <http://votersedge.org/ca>
LWV California: <http://www.ca.lwv.org>
LWVUS: <http://www.lwv.org>
Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/LWVOrangeCoast>

**League of Women Voters
of Orange Coast
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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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