



San Diego VOTER

Vol. 72 No. 1

January 2008

UNITS: PREPARING FOR THE FEBRUARY 5 ELECTION

The pros and cons of the propositions on the February 5 ballot will be presented at the January Unit meetings. There will be seven propositions: Transportation funds, Community College funding and governance, extending the Limits on Legislators' Terms, and four referenda on Indian gambling contracts.

Our League speakers will present the arguments on both sides of the issues and tell you what groups/individuals are supporting the measures. Our totally non-partisan presentations are made before each election.

Feel free to attend any Unit meeting as they will all have the same information – you can work one in around your schedule. (Note that we have a new Southeast Unit which meets on the first Saturday after the Board meeting in the Malcolm X Library.)

At the same time that we present non-partisan information on ballot measures, we often support or oppose them if we have a position that allows that. The League's positions on the February 5 ballot measures have been announced by the California LWV:

OPPOSE Proposition 91: Transportation Funds

This position reflects the continuing concern about funding earmarks in the state constitution, despite our support for the importance of transportation funding.

When was the last time you voted on a referendum? This election should be interesting. Invite friends who are not aware that important issues will be up for voting. Hope to see you there.

OPPOSE Proposition 92:

Community Colleges: Funding, Governance, Fees
This position was a difficult one, as we truly want to see reform of the community college system on the basis of our position adopted in 2003. However, we continue to have concerns about changes to the constitution that would further restrict the ability of the state to continue other important programs in the future. Proposition 92 would set up a designated funding structure without providing new funds and its provisions would be difficult to modify.

NEUTRAL Proposition 93:

Limits on Legislators' Terms in Office
This initiative, by itself, makes relatively minor changes to the current term limit structure, and without redistricting reform as part of a government reform package, does not achieve meaningful reform. It is moreover involved in an increasingly partisan campaign.

NO POSITION Propositions 94-97:

Referenda on Amendments to Indian Gaming Compacts
The League has not studied the issues concerning Indian gaming compacts and therefore has taken no position on these measures.

Mark Your Calendar for Events Coming Up!

January 17 - Luncheon on Water Issues
See flyer in this Voter

February 15 – Luncheon on Education Issues
See flyer in this Voter

February 22 – Tour of San Diego's Airport
See box on page 5

League of Women Voters
Nov. 2007– June 2008 Board of Directors

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San Diego Voter

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Save the Date!
Saturday, January 26

Message from the State LWV
VOTERS FIRST Redistricting initiative. Learn about this important reform measure. Find out how the League makes democracy work in our communities.

Letter from the President

The fun and games of the holiday season are over. We're now at the starting gate of a politically-charged new year. With election races in February, June, and November, we've got our work cut out for us. As in every election cycle, the public reflexively turns to the League of Women Voters for information and guidance on every aspect of the voting process. And we do our best to deliver the goods -- candidate forums, analyses of ballot initiatives, speakers at community groups, selective endorsement of ballot measures, etc. I hope that one day soon we'll be there delivering the priceless gift of tamper-proof voting machines.

Voters also turn to the League for our public interest advocacy of League principles and positions. In the coming year, we will continue to deliver the goods on open government, charter change, community participation, privatization of city services, education-related issues, natural resources, and recommendations for repair of the city's physical, social, and economic environment. We may sometimes be a voice in the wilderness. But often we do make a difference. Without the participation of LWV on the local stage, our city would be deprived of one of the few civic voices able and willing to speak up for open government and reform.

And speaking of openness, many of you have asked for clarification of the circumstances that led to last fall's leadership changes in the San Diego LWV. Here is some information that should put to rest any residual concerns:

Does the board act in compliance with LWV policy and protocol? Yes. The board adheres to League bylaws, policies, and positions when deciding to take action. We honor our responsibility to keep the voice of the League strong, clear, and honest.

Did the board take a vote of no-confidence in our former president and request her resignation? Yes. The board's decision was necessitated by two critical problems: the demonstrated inability of the former president to maintain a respectful and constructive working partnership with other board members; and the fact that she had taken unauthorized actions, which she attempted to conceal and which would have discredited board members and League advocacy positions.

Does the State League support the leadership changes within the San Diego League? Yes. In a letter to our League, dated 12/16/07, Janis Hirohama, President of the LWV of California, wrote: "... the LWVC recognizes Norma Damashek as the duly appointed president of the LWV San Diego.... We have confidence in the ability of your board and members to move forward in a positive direction and make your League even stronger in the future."

(continued on page 3)

(Continued from page 2)

The board and I appreciate this statement of confidence from the State president. We count on everyone's cooperation for the work that lies ahead. To start the ball rolling, the State recently provided the San Diego League with a replacement MTA (management training advisor) whose name is Xandra Kayden. Her experience, impartiality, and independence will be welcome assets to us as the new year unfolds.

The board has already established a nominating committee to begin the process of creating a slate of nominees for our June general meeting. You are encouraged to start thinking about suitable people to serve on next year's board. We will publish contact information for the nominating committee in the February Voter so you can relay your recommendations. And as we do each year, a bylaws committee will be created to keep up with new requirements from the State and National Leagues and, wherever possible, to replace "legalese" with crystal-clear guidelines and verbiage.

Last but not least, although the LWVSD is known to be a top State League in terms of membership and action, we could use some improvement. Where? On our website. The possibilities for the LWVSD to create an identity on the internet as the provider of unique services for the San Diego public are enormous. We can and should be the place to which all San Diegans go for information, guidance, and education about voting and all other issues the League takes a public stand on. We have the integrity, intelligence, willpower, conscience, and duty to fill a myriad of advocacy and information gaps in our city. So please call or email me with the names of fun-loving people with 21st century skills in negotiating cyberspace. Let it be said that when it comes to the LWVSD, not even the sky is the limit.

---- Norma Damashek, President
ndamashek@ucsd.edu / 858 459-8751

International Relations Activities

16 Days of Activism against Gender Violence

The 16 Days of Activism against Gender Violence ended on Human Rights Day (December 10) after six events and programs were presented! The 60th Anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights campaign was launched on December 10, 2007, to be ended on December 10, 2008. Activities are being planned for the UDHR60 campaign, which will include events organized by the Int'l Relations Committee. If you wish to participate, please let me know at 619-223-8074 or ahoiberg@aol.com.

Visit Your United Nations!

Each year, a delegation from the United Nations Association of San Diego spends a few days at the United Nations attending the annual session of the U.N.'s Commission on the Status of Women. If you are interested in adding your name to the list as a potential delegate, please let me know. The session begins on the 25th of February, 2008 and ends on the 7th of March, 2008. Delegates stay for as many days as they can, and there is no charge for the session at the U.N. or for the hundreds of workshops and panel presentations held at the Church Center across from the U.N. The thematic issues this year are "Financing for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women" and a review of women's equal participation in conflict prevention, management and conflict resolution, and in post-conflict peace-building. I can be reached at 619-223-8074 or ahoiberg@aol.com.

--- Anne Hoiberg Co-Chair

January Unit Meetings: Pros and Cons for the Feb. 5 Election

Saturday, Jan. 12 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM	Note New Unit! Southeast Unit	Malcolm X Library 5148 Market Street San Diego, CA 92114	Peggy Finch (Interim) (858) 484-2516
Monday, Jan. 14 9:30 - 11:30 AM	Rancho Bernardo and Scripps Ranch	San Diego National Bank Community Room, 2 nd Floor 16789 Bernardo Ctr. Dr. San Diego, CA 92128	Betty Weinberger (858) 674-0909 Irene Dunny (858) 613-0335
Monday, Jan. 14 5:30 – 7:30 PM	Mission Valley	Mission Valley Library 2123 Fenton Parkway San Diego, CA 92108 (near IKEA & Costco)	Debra Blum (619) 225-0353 Karen Beeson (619) 475-8236
Tuesday, Jan. 15 9:30 - 11:30 AM	La Jolla	La Jolla Public Library 7555 Draper Avenue La Jolla, CA 92037	Alice McCauley (858) 642-1856
Tuesday, Jan. 15 1:00 – 3:00 PM	University City	North University City Community Library, off Nobel at Judicial Drive	Margaret Stevenson (619) 299-0036
Wednesday, Jan. 16 9:30 – 11:30 AM	North Shores/ Point Loma	LWVSD Office 4901 Morena Blvd., Bldg 100, Suite 104 San Diego, CA 92117	Betty Carlson (619) 276-3223 Nancy Witt (619) 222-7230
Wednesday, Jan. 16 1:00 – 3:00 PM	Tierrasanta	Villa Monterey Clubhouse 5275 Rimpark/Apple Tree Dr. San Diego, CA 92124	Carole Porter (858) 279-5474
Thursday, Jan. 17 9:30 – 11:30 AM	East San Diego	College - Rolando Library 6600 Montezuma Road San Diego, CA 92115	Barbara Evje (619)-462-4772

LWVSD Calendar — January

January			
1/1	Tues		<i>New Years Day</i>
1/3	Thurs	12:30pm	Education Committee Meeting, LWVSD Office
1/4	Fri.	10:30 a.m.	County League Board Meeting, LWVSD Office
1/8	Tue	6:00 p.m.	LWVSD Executive Committee Meeting, LWVSD Office
1/9	Wed	10.00 a.m.	Membership Committee Meeting, LWVSD Office
1/10	Thurs	9:30 a.m.	Unit Council, LWVSD Office
1/12 to 17			UNITS - PROS AND CONS
1/17	Thurs	11:30 a.m.	Lunch with League: “Water Issues”, Tom Ham’s
1/21	Mon		<i>Martin Luther King Day</i>
1/22	Tues	7:00 p.m.	ROE V. WADE DINNER, Handlery Hotel
1/25	Fri.	9:30 a.m.	Public Policy Meeting, LWVSD Office
1/25	Fri.	12:00 noon	Program Committee Meeting, LWVSD Office

The League of Women Voters is a nonpartisan political organization dedicated to informed and active public participation in government policy and decision-making. The League engages in education and advocacy on behalf of the public interest and welcomes full participation in its activities by all members of the public.

The LWV as Members of Coalition For Reproductive Choice invites you to:

Roe v. Wade Dinner
 Tuesday, January 22, 2008

Handlery Hotel and Resort
 \$55 in advance

\$65 if postmarked after January 18

We will honor pro-choice volunteer Betty Mason

Speaker: Attorney Louise Melling, Director of the ACLU Reproductive Freedom Project\

Proceeds benefit the Make a Difference Fund.

For reservations or information, contact
 LWV CRC Rep. Rebecca Booth
 619-276-5741



Common Cause Meeting

"Election Reform on the Ballot:
 Redistricting, Term Limits, Electoral
 College and More."

Saturday, January 19

Noon - 2:00 pm

Francine Busby and others will present a
 Common Cause survey of the 2008
 ballot propositions.

Mission Valley Library
 2123 Fenton Parkway
 San Diego 92108

---Jeanne Brown
 San Diego Organizer
 California Common Cause
 (619)224-1807

Membership

As of Dec. 15, we have 498 members. Please note in list of Unit Meetings that we have a new Unit in the southeast part of the city. A warm welcome to this new group!

Please welcome the following new members!

Julie E. Braden	92101
Susan C. Duerksen	92116
Karen Freeman	92130
Elizabeth Generoli	92116
Rebecca R. Kiperts	92123
Norma Little	92037
Patricia MacCormack	92109
Gregory Morales	92114
Donna Posin	92104
Jocelyn Schulz	92037
Eleanor Shorter	92037
Ursula Wagstaff-Kuster	92121

Tour of San Diego Airport

The Airport Authority is running tours of its facilities. We have reserved a bus for League (members only) on Friday, February 22 from 1:00 – 3:00 p.m. Slow walking and riding on the bus – no stairs.

Names must be submitted for security. Please reserve with the League office by February 20 – first come, first served. (23 is the limit) Please send \$10.00 to LWVSD, 4901 Morena Blvd., San Diego, CA 92117.

Free parking (validated) either in the Commuter Terminal Parking Lot or the West Wing Parking Lot. To get to the West Wing Parking, take Harbor Drive just past the Commuter Terminal and turn right – it is just west of the Commuter Terminal.

Aiport Tour on February 22, 2008

Name(s) _____

Phone: _____

Address _____

Email _____ # of People attending _____

Enclosed is \$ _____ (\$10.00per person)



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LWVSD Diversity Policy

The LWVSD, in both its values and practices, affirms its belief and commitment to diversity and pluralism, which means there should be no barriers to participation in any activity of the League of Women Voters on the basis of gender, race, creed, age, sexual orientation, national origin, or disability. LWVSD recognizes that diverse perspectives are important and necessary for responsible and representative decision making. LWVSD subscribes to the belief that diversity and pluralism are fundamental to the values it upholds and that this inclusiveness enhances the organization's ability to respond more effectively to changing conditions and needs. LWVSD affirms its commitment to reflecting the diversity of Americans in its Board, staff and programs.

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LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS

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