



**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS
OF PALOS VERDES PENINSULA/SAN PEDRO**

MAY 2009

Voter

JUDITH WEBB (CO-PRESIDENTS) 310-833-5864 jwebb@usc.edu	LINDA HERMAN 310-541-3373 lhermanpg@cox.net
<u>LWV 310-784-7787</u>	www.lwvpv.org

EDITOR:
Toni Lubofsky
310-541-2656
LWVoter-PVPSP@cox.net

CALENDAR

May 6, Wed	7:00 -9:00 pm	Ballot Proposition Public Forum with AAUW/PV Library (pg 4)
May 9, Sat	9:00 am-3:30 pm	HealthCare for All Conference: The Single Payer Solution at Pasadena Presbyterian Church (see page 3)
May 13, Wed	12:00 noon	Board Meeting, Joan Hogan's home
May 15 - 17	Fri - Sun	LWVC State Convention, Long Beach Marriott
May 19, Tue	7 am - 8 pm	Special Election to address six State Budget propositions
May 30, Sat	10:00-2:00 pm	Local Convention, Los Angeles Yacht Club, San Pedro (You should have received your Call to Convention, in the mail; if not, contact Toni Lubofsky for a copy)
June 10, Wed	12:00 noon	Board Meeting

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PRESIDENTS' LETTER

As we approach both state and local League conventions, we arrive at the end of an unusually busy election year for the country and the state. The Presidential election of last fall, one that will perhaps change the direction of this country for years to come, was complicated locally with ballot measures and local elections. Our state representatives have prolonged the election year and we face, once again, a governor-orchestrated series of propositions that no one foresaw, and the outcome is dubious, win or lose.

The League has supported education unfailingly, yet our take on the propositions that face us on May 19 seem inappropriate and stop-gap with no guaranteed solution. Please remember to support the League, joined by the AAUW as co-hosts, on May 6 at the PV Library, when our own Jo-Anne Waller will discuss the pros and cons in a clear manner that so few are capable of doing. Evidently, the League's stand on the propositions was taken seriously enough by the governor and a select group of state congressmen, that Janice Hirohama and Chris Carson, state League president and legislative director, respectively, were asked to explain the League's positions in person. They did so, and came out alive, but who knows?!

After we survive the election, please join us at our local Convention, this year held, thanks to Sandra Pickar, at the Los Angeles Yacht Club. Please join us on the 30th at this special venue, one not previously used by the League, but certainly appropriate to the League's San Pedro connection! Reservation form is available on the first page of your recently received Call to Convention.

Thanks from Judith for the support you have given to her during four years of co-presidency. Linda will be carrying on for another year which makes transitioning much easier. Nancy Mahr, who now heads the LA County League, will step down (somewhat) to co-lead the PV/SP League in the coming year. We continue on....

Judith and Linda



SPECIAL NOTICE

Betty Reidman, for all the years we've been online, has been our contact at <[PVONTHE NET](#)> providing her expertise and time to put LWV/PVP/SP information and updates on the RPV free community website.

We learned she recently lost her husband, Kenneth Riedman. She continued to help us and put up our March/April Voter as usual.

We're so fortunate to have such helpful and dedicated community members like Betty and her husband - who also was an active volunteer, to enrich our community.

DIRECTOR REPORTS

ON HEALTH CARE

The following letter was just sent to the LWVUS Board by many LWV members across the nation who have been blogging about health care for many months:

The LWVUS position on health care (April 1993) calls for a health care system that is universal, comprehensive, equitable and affordable, both to individuals and to the nation. The position states that the "League favors a national health insurance plan financed through general taxes in place of individual insurance premiums."

Many of us believe that a single-payer health care plan best fulfills these criteria. Recent LWVUS communications make no mention of single payer as an option, even though the consensus position clearly supports it. Therefore, we urge the League to advocate for single payer. In addition, the LWVUS should call for side-by-side in-depth comparisons of the single-payer proposal with all proposals under consideration.

Many of our Leagues are eager and well-prepared to use our position for education and advocacy. We do not want to miss an opportunity to lobby legislators at a critical time. In particular, we ask that the LWVUS Board allow states and local Leagues to support single payer legislation. Our voice can make the difference.

Submitted to the Healthcare Listserv by Joan Rabin, LWV of Amherst MA and signed by over 20 LWV members from all over the US

DON'T FORGET
THE HEALTHCARE FOR ALL CONFERENCE:
THE SINGLE PAYER SOLUTION
AT PASADENA PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
MAY 9, SATURDAY 9AM-3:30PM
check out this website for all the speakers,
seminars & activities
<http://www.healthcareforall.org/Pasadenaflyer.pdf>

Mary Frangias, Health Care

SCHOOL BOARD MEETINGS

There are many items that will affect the PVPUSD budget for the 2009 school year, including the state financial crisis, state budget revisions, expenditures and revenue.

This is what the school board and district officials are talking about, and how it will affect the 2009-2010 budget. Budget numbers will change, as assumptions change. The biggest issue facing district officials is a \$6 million deficit in its \$100 million budget. The situation was created by a loss of state revenue to alleviate the state's \$42 billion shortage. They can't really set up a definite budget as things are constantly changing.

If the state financial crisis doesn't improve this year or next, the district is required to maintain three per cent of its annual budget in reserves. Three per cent is really the bottom, so if the district uses all but three per cent of its reserve, which is \$3 million this year, it will not have any reserves for the 2010-11 school year. What the district won't assume as yet, is a new parcel tax, upon which voters will decide in a June 23 vote-by-mail election. They are not planning on any money from the federal stimulus. District officials hope to adopt a budget by June.

LEARN MORE AT
THE LWV/AAUW FORUM
EXPLAINING THE STATE
BALLOT PROPOSITIONS
MAY 6 AT PEN CENTER LIBRARY
7:00 PM

*Diana Halderman,
School Board Observer*

The Palos Verdes Peninsula Chapters of the League of Women Voters and
the American Association of University Women
invite the community to

**A FORUM ON THE CONTENT,
PROs AND CONs OF
PROPOSITIONS 1A THROUGH 1F**

coming up at May 19 Special Election

The forum will be held at the
PENINSULA CENTER LIBRARY on 701 Silver Spur Rd. in Rolling Hills Estates
AT 7P.M. ON WEDNESDAY, MAY 6TH.
For further information, please call the League of Women Voters (310) 784-7787

*PROP 1A - PROP 1F deal with a "rainy
day" fund, increased taxes, spending
limits, restoring funding levels for
education, borrowing from
future lottery profits,
decreasing designated
funds for children and
mental health services,
and stopping state
elected officials
from getting
pay raises
when the
state has
a deficit*



**PLEASE BRING YOUR FRIENDS,
QUESTIONS AND JOIN US TO
EXPLORE WHAT MIGHT
HAPPEN TO OUR MONEY!**



THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS

RECOMMENDS

MAY 19, 2009 SPECIAL ELECTION

PROP 1A Restrictions on State Budget Process

OPPOSE

Prop 1A is touted by its proponents as the way to bring stability to the state budget process. However, it would actually make it more difficult for future governors and legislatures to enact budgets that meet California's needs and address state priorities. It would amend the state Constitution to dictate restrictions on the use of funds put into the reserve and limit how "unanticipated" revenues can be used in good years. It could lock in a reduced level of public services by not taking proper account of the state's changing demographics and actual growth in costs. Prop 1A would also give future governors new power to make budget cuts without legislative oversight. Like the other propositions opposed by the League on this ballot, Prop 1A came from a deeply flawed process that resulted in measures written in haste and without public input or analysis. The League would support real budget reform, but we regretfully conclude that this measure would only make things worse. Most of its provisions would not take effect for two years; we should spend that time working on real budget reform.

PROP 1B Education Funding. Payment Plan

NEUTRAL

This measure requires the state to make \$9.3 billion in supplemental payments to K-14 education over approximately five to six years beginning in 2011-12. This funding is intended to address uncertainty about what the Proposition 98 school funding guarantee requires. The League supports full funding of public education and believes that making up for the devastating cuts of recent years must be a priority. Prop 1B is not needed, however, and even if passed by the voters, it would take effect only if Prop 1A is also passed. The legislature has the power to restore funding to education in a more straightforward way that is not tied to Prop 1A.

PROP 1C Lottery-Based Borrowing

OPPOSE

This measure makes changes in state lottery operations intended to increase its profitability and allows the state to issue \$5 billion in bonds that are "securitized" by future lottery profits. The lottery would no longer be a source of revenue for education, and the state General Fund would be required to make up for the loss to education of lottery funds. League positions on long-term financing anticipate the use of bonds for capital improvements, not borrowing, and call for prudent consideration of debt levels within the budget. In light of California's poor credit rating and the state of the economy, these bonds may have to be sold at interest rates very unfavorable to the state, if indeed they can be sold at all. The nonpartisan Legislative Analyst's Office says that in the long term, lottery profits probably would not cover the higher payments to education required by Prop 1C.

PROP 1D Diverting Children’s Services Funding

OPPOSE

This proposition would redirect tobacco tax funds reserved for First 5 early childhood programs by Proposition 10 (passed in 1998) to the state General Fund. \$608 million would be diverted in 2009-10 and \$268 million a year for the following four years, creating the illusion that more revenues are available. In reality, Prop 1D raids these funds in the short term in order to pay for some services, while taking funding away from other services. It also includes unnecessary provisions, such as new county baseline funding levels unrelated to population needs. We oppose this stopgap measure.

PROP 1E Diverting Mental Health Services Funding

OPPOSE

For the next two years, Proposition 1E would redirect about \$230 million a year from the Mental Health Services Act (Proposition 63 of 2004) to the state General Fund to replace state funding for an existing screening, diagnosis and treatment program. As with Prop 1D, it raids existing programs to create temporary “savings,” but makes less money available for some services. It may even result in the loss of federal matching funds. The League opposes this short-sighted measure.

PROP 1F Elected Officials’ Salaries

NO POSITION

Because League positions do not cover the issues in Proposition 1F, “Elected Officials’ Salaries. Prevents Pay Increases During Budget Deficit Years,” the LWVC is taking no stand on this measure.

3/26/09

LWVC issued this press release
March 12, 2009

LEAGUE ANNOUNCES OPPOSITION TO MAY BALLOT MEASURES

SACRAMENTO CA - The League of Women Voters of California today announced its opposition to Propositions 1A, 1C, 1D, and 1E on the May 10 Special Election ballot and urged voters to reject them.

“We oppose these measures because they are NOT the solution to our long term financial crisis, with the continuing structural deficit in the state budget and flawed budget process,” said Janis R. Hirohama, president of the League. “We make this decision with regret. We would support real reform to make the state budget process more accountable and give the Legislature and Governor effective tools to advance state priorities. However, the hurriedly drafted propositions, produced at the end of a flawed process that kept both the public and most legislators in the dark, will only make our fiscal situation worse.”

PROPOSITION 1A is touted by its proponents as the way to bring stability to the budget process. But what it will REALLY do is tie the hands of the Legislature and Governor as they face changing needs for state and local government services. It will keep them from taking into account the state’s changing demographics and growth in the actual cost of important services like health care.

“Although some claim there is an urgency to pass Prop. 1A to resolve our state’s budget problems, we disagree,” said Hirohama. “Most of its provisions will not take effect for two years—two years that we should spend hammering out REAL solutions to our budget and fiscal challenges.”

The League believes elected officials should be allowed to carry out their responsibilities with flexibility. Years of “ballot-box budgeting” and formulas for auto-pilot spending have greatly eroded that flexibility. Prop. 1A, however, adds to the problem. For example, it dictates how half the funds that must be transferred to the “Budget Stabilization Fund” are to be used; it removes the Governor’s ability to suspend transfers to the fund in difficult years; and it imposes new formulas for calculating “unanticipated revenues” and specifies how they can be used in good years. And, after the deep cuts made during these strapped times, it could lock in a reduced level of services by failing to properly take account of increased

LWVC BALLOT MEASURES *continued*

caseloads and program costs.

If Prop. 1A passes, the Governor would be given new power to make mid-year cuts and suspend COLAs in state programs without legislative oversight. The League believes that mid-year budget adjustments should require joint action of the legislative and executive branches so that checks and balances are maintained.

Propositions 1C. This proposal attempts to raise money for the short term by selling bonds that would be paid off by future lottery revenue. In light of California's poor credit rating and the state of the economy, those bonds would have to be sold at very unfavorable interest rates, if they can be sold at all. The Legislative Analyst says that in the long term, lottery profits probably would not be enough to cover the higher payments to education required by Prop. 1C. We criticized this proposal as irresponsible last fall, and if anything, that criticism applies more than ever now.

Propositions 1D and 1E. On May 19, voters will also be asked to approve the temporary taking of funds from early childhood and mental health programs that were established by two previous initiatives. These are illusory, stopgap measures, and the League opposes these propositions as part of this objectionable package. It is ironic that these initiatives, which did what many consider "the right thing" by providing a source of funding, now face reductions.

The League is neutral on **Proposition 1B.** State responsibility for the funding of public education is essential, and we appreciate the need to pay back the devastating cuts that our schools and community colleges have sustained. On the other hand, the Legislature will have the ability to restore school funding without Prop. 1B, and it is not needed in this package of propositions.

Since the League has no position on setting salaries for public officials, we take no position on **Proposition 1F,** which would prevent pay raises for legislators and statewide constitutional officers during budget deficit years.

The League of Women Voters recognizes that California is facing the worst budget crisis in its history, with the worldwide recession severely affecting state revenues and the need for state services. Moreover, our budget system is broken and in desperate need of reform. This year illustrates the need to abandon the two-thirds vote requirement for passing budgets and raising revenues, and we must also look at other budget reforms. In the meantime, a new tax commission is considering ways to broaden or stabilize our revenues. "There is much that needs to be done," Hirohama stated, "but we are certain that the propositions on the May 19 ballot are not the answer."

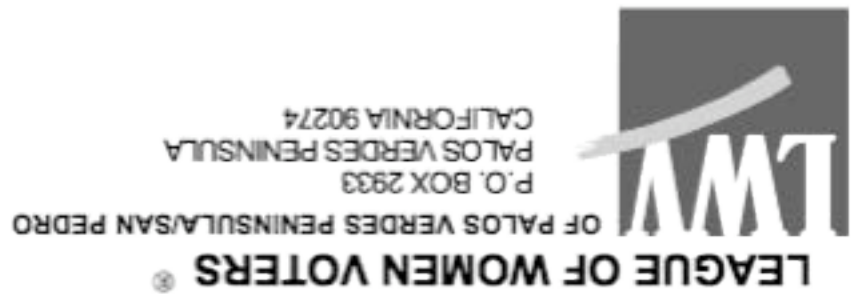
NATIONAL POPULAR VOTE COMPACT

On April 18 our committee presented information needed to come to consensus about whether LWV should take a position of support for the National Popular Vote Compact (NPVC). The NPVC is a contractual-like agreement among states that would insure the candidate that receives the majority of votes cast in the 50 states and the District of Columbia would be elected president. LWV currently does support the abolishment of the Electoral College.

Background material and an explanation of how the compact would work was presented by the committee. We discussed the pros and cons about each of the seven consensus questions. The group had some strong opinions about whether LWV should support the formation of the compact. Generally it was felt that it would be better to abolish the Electoral College but that does not seem to be an easy task; to amend the constitution is difficult. There was a strong feeling that the winner of the popular vote should be elected president and that the NPVC could enable that to happen.

We reached consensus about all but one question which concerned achievability. The group felt that the NPVC was a reasonable way to go but the amendment process was still a better way. We therefore hoped that LWV would continue to actively support a constitutional amendment to abolish the Electoral College as well as actively supporting the NPVC.

Elaine Asch, Committee Chair



* LWV/PVP/SP *

has an excellent, informative website:
www.lwvpvp.org
thanks to BETTY RIEDMAN
& PALOS VERDES ON THE NET
for providing & hosting this web site as
a public service to our community
Please visit our website for more information