



San Diego VOTER

Vol. 70 No. 7

September 2006

September Unit Meetings: the Local Ballot Measures

In preparation for the November 7th general election, the Unit Meetings will discuss the pros and cons of County and City ballot measures in September and State ballot measures in October.

There are four topics for the September meeting:

- 1) The current wording for the **San Diego International Airport** siting is: "To provide for San Diego's long-term air transportation needs, shall the Airport Authority and government officials work to obtain approximately 3,000 of 23,000 acres at MCAS Miramar by 2020 for a commercial airport provided necessary traffic and freeway improvements are made, military readiness is maintained without expense to the military for modifying or relocating operations, no local taxes are used on the airport, overall noise impacts are reduced, and necessary Lindbergh Field improvements are completed?"
- 2) A ballot measure proposed by the Mayor and approved by the City Council has to do with **citizens voting to increase city employees' pensions** and reads: "Proposition (no.) amends the City Charter to change the approval process for increases in city employees' retirement system benefits. Shall the Charter be amended to require voter approval for any increases in retirement system benefits for public employees?"
- 3) The other city ballot measure is concerned with **outsourcing or managed competition of city work** and reads, "Proposition (no.) amends the City Charter to allow for contracting out of city services. Shall the Charter be amended to allow the city to contract services traditionally performed by City civil service employees if determined to be more economical and efficient while maintaining the quality of services and protecting the public interest?"
- 4) **Community Colleges Classroom Construction, Repair/Safety Measure.** To better prepare San Diego community college students for 4-year universities and quality jobs, shall San Diego Community College District upgrade existing educational facilities, including renovating classrooms for nursing, police, paramedic, and firefighting careers, upgrade science and high-tech training labs; repair aging roofs, electrical and safety systems; and construct and equip facilities and sites; by issuing \$870 million in bonds, at legal rates, with citizen oversight, mandatory audit, no money for administrative salaries, and maintain current tax rate limits?"

Please bring your Voter to the Unit meeting so you have the above wording for our discussion. Be aware of what is in the news coverage on these ballot measures, so you can contribute to the discussion led by trained Unit leaders.

As we go to press, we do not have the official written pro and con arguments from the supporters and opposers, so we cannot expand on these ballot measures for this article. **Come – bring your friends, family, and neighbors for a lively discussion!**

Beryl Flom, Shirley Larson, Program Co-Chairs

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San Diego Voter

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and educational activities.

For information, contact the League office at
(858) 483-8696.

More Help Wanted

Learn something new, meet new friends, while volunteering

Committees	First Meeting Place*	Chair	E-Mail & Phone
Public Policy Committee	Fri., Sept. 22 , 9:30 a.m. League Office	Norma Damashek	ndamashek@ucsd.edu 858-459-8751
Speakers Bureau	To be arranged	Margaret Stevenson	mopsandpops@earthlink.net 619-299-0036
Program Committee	Fri., Sept. 1, 9:30 a.m. Shirley Larson's home	Beryl Flom & Shirley Larson	edflom@sbcglobal.net 858-459-4406
Candidate Forums	To be arranged	Betty Weinberger	wein2@aol.com 858-674-0909

Help Wanted

Call for Volunteers

This is a call for volunteers who are interested in helping with Voter Registration this fall. I don't need to emphasize the need to get every eligible person registered, but it will not happen without all of our efforts. Please let your unit chair or me know that you would like to register voters at sites like retirement homes, senior citizens centers, farmers markets, etc. I am presently working up a list of sites and venues in the area near each unit, so much traveling would not be necessary. Unit chairs will give details, instructions and registration materials at the Unit meetings. Please show your commitment and enthusiasm and sign up for this important effort.

Inge Jodka, 858-571-3964
ijodka@sbcglobal.net

Volunteers Wanted

Voter Service is what the League is known for, and one of its major public services. It has many aspects: Voter Registration, Speakers Bureau, Smart Voter, Election Extra and Candidates Forums. There are chairs for all these jobs but one. We are looking for a volunteer to do the Election Extra. This 4-page newspaper, distributed widely over the city, is one that the public looks for, to explain the issues on the ballot at every major election. Any Leaguer would find this an interesting and challenging one-shot position. (Mid-September to early October) Writing or editing experience would be helpful, but not mandatory. We also would love to have help in placing the Extras in our various neighborhoods prior to the election. Please give some thought to this and call Suki Stone (Volunteer Chair) @858-586-7889.

Volunteers Needed!

We're looking for volunteers to (wo)man the phones in the office for a week or two prior to the November 7th election. Two- or three-hour intervals, 9 to 5, would be nice. Bring a book, knitting, Christmas cards, whatever, for the quiet times. Sign up with Jeanne Brown at (619) 224-1807 or jhisten@cox.net.

Volunteers Needed for Social Policy Committee

As the new chair of the committee, I am looking for members to join with me in exploring social policy issues this coming year. This means we can be looking into the following issues:

1. Libraries - Are you interested in finding out what's going on with San Diego's new library plans?
2. Women's right to choose - Are you worried about a the right to choose with the new Supreme Court?
3. Welfare and Poverty - Are you concerned about the increasing numbers of those living below the poverty line?
4. Foster care - What happens when the foster child turns 18?
5. Healthcare - Do you know what SB840 is about and will it be good for Californians?
6. Abused and abandoned children - Where do they go and what happens to them?
7. Juvenile justice - Should juveniles be treated as adults?

If you are interested in looking into some of these issues, meeting once a month, let me know what times you'd be available for a two-hour meeting. I live in Pt. Loma, Sunset Cliffs area, and we could meet in my home or at the LWV office during the day or early evening, any day except Monday. Here's hoping we have enough interested Leaguers to pursue many of the above topics.

Nancy Witt, nancystew@nethere.com, or 619-222-7230

The Education committee needs volunteers for a Forum with 9th District PTA for Candidates in district C. The entire city votes in the General Election, so we must learn about them. Topics considered for later are school nutrition, civics education and solar energy use in the schools. Meetings will be held 4th Wed., 10:30 am, LWV Office. Please call first. Ruberta Castro, ruberta1@sbcglobal.net, 858-273-4794

Nuclear Power — should we pursue or abandon? The California Energy Commission may provide the answer.

Emotions run high when discussing whether or not the US should generate energy through nuclear power.

Those advocating nuclear power point out to its cost-efficiency and that a coal-fired power plant actually releases more radioactivity into the environment than a comparable nuclear power plant.

Those opposed however, argue that nuclear power does in fact contribute to global warming; its real costs are prohibitive (and taxpayers pick up most of them); there is not enough uranium in the world to sustain long-term nuclear power; and the potential for a catastrophic accident or terrorist attack far outweigh any benefits.

So who's right? Well, the good news is that California Assembly Bill 1632, if passed, would require the non-partisan California Energy Commission ("CEC"), as a part of its electricity forecast, to produce a cost analysis of California's nuclear power plants.

Specifically, the CEC would be requested to assess existing scientific studies to determine the vulnerability of very large generating facilities to major disruptions due to aging or a major earthquake and the resulting impacts on reliability, public safety and the economy. Based on those findings, the CEC would then develop a strategy to address state and local costs and impacts associated with accumulating waste at nuclear power plants.

Those quantifiable costs would then be measured against the benefits of utilizing nuclear energy (California currently derives 13% of its energy from nuclear power).

Since this bill is non-partisan and seeks to independently measure the costs associated with nuclear energy, League members should encourage their State Representatives to approve the bill. To date, the bill has passed unanimously in the Assembly and is in the Senate. Since a number of Representatives will be termed out in the November elections, we should write to them as soon as possible to encourage them to vote "YES" on AB1632. Otherwise, if we wait, new Representatives may require time to learn about and take action on the bill.

For those interested in learning more about opposition to nuclear power, the Institute for Peace and Justice at the University of San Diego will be hosting Dr. Helen Caldecott, Wednesday, October 4th at 7:00pm. She will speak on her new book, "Nuclear Power Is Not the Answer." The event is co-sponsored by the Alliance for Nuclear Responsibility.

Recipient of the Nobel Peace Prize, Dr. Caldecott is the most visible person dedicated to the anti-nuclear movement. She has devoted the last 35 years to an international campaign to educate the public about the medical hazards of the nuclear age and the necessary changes in human behavior to stop environmental destruction. Trained as an M.D., Dr. Caldecott worked in medicine as well as taught at Harvard Medical School for a combined 20 years. For registration, please click: <http://peace.sandiego.edu/>

For those interested in the encouragement of nuclear power, please see Richard Rhodes, author of landmark books on the history of nuclear development, on the web, or Denis Beller, a nuclear engineer and technical staff member at Los Alamos National Laboratory, both of whom have written extensively on the subject. In "The Need for Nuclear Power, Foreign Affairs," Vol. 75, pp. 30-44 [2000], they calculate the actual lower cost of using nuclear power versus coal.

Jill Elsner, Natural Resources Chair

League of Women Voters of San Diego					
Proposed vs. Actual Budget					
For the Year Ended June 30, 2006					
The following is a brief version of the year end financial statements. (Complete version on file in the League office).					
INCOME			EXPENSES		
	PROPOSED	ACTUAL		PROPOSED	ACTUAL
ADMINISTRATION	11,864.00	3,480.11	ADMINISTRATION	33,215.00	34,611.85
ADVO- CACY:SD,CA,US			ADVOCACY:SD,CA,US	100.00	
STUDY/CITIZENS INFO	1,900.00	2,041.00	STUDY/CITIZENS INFO	1,800.00	2,211.32
DEVELOPMENT	30,400.00	41,876.00	DEVELOPMENT	10,700.00	15,886.76
MEMBERSHIP	21,565.00	21,782.70	MEMBERSHIP	20,294.00	14,581.62
NEWSLETTER- VOTER	3,241.41	421.41	NEWSLETTER- VOTER	3,241.41	2,734.67
VOTER SERVICE	730.00	425.00	VOTER SERVICE	350.00	0.00
GRAND TOTAL- INCOME	\$ 69,700.41	\$ 70,026.22	GRAND TOTAL- EXPENSE	\$ 69,700.41	\$ 70,026.22
Total Interest Income from Investments				\$ 2,757.40	
Education Fund Income and Expenses					
Beginning Education Fund Balance: 7/1/05				\$ 2,641.17	
Education Fund Income				11,257.00	
Education Fund Expenditures					
LWVCA PMP				(2,058.00)	
LWVUS PMP				(2,199.25)	
Pro's & Cons				(871.09)	
Education Fund Ending Balance				\$ 8,769.83	
Bank Accounts at 6/30/2006					
Checking account				\$ 11,345.28	
Investments*				91,717.70	
Ed. Fund				8,769.83	
Total				\$ 111,832.81	
*Of the \$91,717.70 in investments, \$44,999.75 has come from bequests					

Unit Meetings for September Pros and Cons — Local Ballot Measures

Monday, Sept 11 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	Irene Dunny (858) 613-0335 Ethel Palmer 858-675-0590
Monday, Sept 11 5:30 – 7:30 PM	Mission Valley	Mission Valley Library 2123 Fenton Parkway San Diego, CA 92108 (next to IKEA, near Costco)	Debra Blum (619) 225-0353 Karen Beeson 619- 475-8236
Tuesday, Sept 12 9:30 – 11:30 AM	La Jolla	La Jolla Public Library 7555 Draper Avenue La Jolla, CA 92037	Alice McCauley (858) 642-1856
Tuesday, Sept 12 1:30 – 3:30 PM	University City	Home of Shirley Larson 5086 Constitution Rd. San Diego, CA 92117	Fran Venn 858-558-3063 Susan Betts 858-455-6259
Wed., Sept 13 9:30 – 11:30 AM	North Shores/ Point Loma	LWVSD Office 4901 Morena Blvd., Bldg. 100 Suite 104 San Diego, CA 92109	Dee Sacks (619) 226-2252 Nancy Witt (619) 222-7230
Wed. Sept 13 1:00 – 3:00 PM	Tierrasanta and East San Diego	Villa Monterey Clubhouse 5275 Rimpark/Apple Tree Dr. San Diego, CA 92124	Paula Hurst (858) 292-8214 Barbara Evje 619-462-4772

LWVSD Calendar — September

September			
1	9:30 a.m.	Fri	LWVSD Program Committee, LWVSD Office
1	11:00 a.m.	Fri	County League Board Meeting, LWVSD Office
4		Mon	<i>Labor Day</i>
5	6:00 p.m.	Tues	LWVSD Board Meeting, URS, 1615 Murray Canyon Rd., Ste. 1000
7	9:30 a.m.	Thurs	Unit Council, LWVSD Office
7	11:00 a.m.	Thurs	Unit Training, LWVSD Office
11-14			UNITS - Pros & Cons/Local Ballot Measures
16	10:00 a.m.	Sat	Introduction to League, Chula Vista Library, 4th & E Streets
20	10:00 a.m.	Wed	Membership Committee Meeting, LWVSD Office
23		Sat	<i>Rosh Hashanah (and evening of 22nd)</i>
29	9:30 a.m.	Fri	Public Policy Committee, 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.

**Please welcome recent new members. It would be great if we would all invite a friend to join!
Currently the LWVSD has 540 members.**

NAME	ZIP	NAME	ZIP	NAME	ZIP
Joan Anderson	92115	Lauren Kauschansky	92104	Joan Pary	93027
Maya Block	91913	Janice Kelley	91902	Michael G. Porter	92111
Naomi Dayton	92103	Peter Kent	92122	Sidney R. Silverman	92037
Judith Easton	92037	Louise Klinke	92128	Sydell Templin	92037
Marie Hall	92128	J.D. Kutch	92119	Ann Wakefield	92129
Robert Hamburger	92037	J. Perry Langford	92110	Martha Wild	92104
Sonja Hintz	92037	Kathleen Matheny	92109	Julia Zolot	92104
Naomi Hirschman	92120	John Palmer	92128		

Greetings to League Members:

I look forward to chairing the Membership Committee for the next two years. Our goal is not only to increase membership, but also to establish a new unit. There is a group of people who are interested in a unit in Chula Vista, and an introductory meeting will be held September 9, at the main Chula Vista Library, from 10 a.m. to 12 noon. Our first Committee meeting will be Wednesday, Sep. 20 at 10 a.m. at the LWV office. Please join us. If you have any questions, feel free to contact me at 858-484-2516. Thank you for your support.

Peggy Finch, Membership Chair

SmartVoter website for election help!

Local League members are busily wading through lists of ballot issues to prepare for the November 7th election. The League of Women Voters of California has readied a website, www.smartvoter.org, to offer voters objective background material on the complex issues and array of candidates that appear on the State ballot.

Voters visiting this site can type in their address to find their polling place and receive a customized ballot including measures and seats for State elected positions in their areas. They can read nonpartisan information about the election and details on the candidates. Smart Voter offers all candidates the opportunity to submit a brief biography along with their three top priorities, position papers, endorsements and photos. The site also gives easy access to League's non-partisan Pros and Cons. For additional information, Smart Voter has links to related newspaper articles, local measure sites, and archives of previous elections. To access Smart Voter, visit <http://www.smartvoter.org>. Give it a try!

Are you interested in ordering a snazzy LWV pin? Contact either Jeanne Brown at jhisten@cox.net or Genoveva at the office at (858) 483-8696 or lwwsd@san.rr.com to order. Be sure to get your \$10 check in to the office by the September 30 deadline

Yes, I'd like to join the League of Women Voters of San Diego!

Name: _____ 2nd Household Member: _____

Address: _____

Phone: (____) _____ Email: _____

Dues Enclosed: _____ \$65 for one membership; _____ \$100 for two in same household

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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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