



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®  
OF SAN DIEGO  
MAKING DEMOCRACY WORK

VOTER

April 2017

## How Can We Make Our Elections Fairer?

Most of us have voted since we were 18 or 21; as soon as we could. It was a privilege that we anticipated. Not much has changed about how we voted until computers came along, but even then, how we made our decisions to vote didn't change. But that may not be the case for long. There may be better, more efficient, fairer ways to elect our representatives. At the April luncheon we will be hearing from speakers who will share some of these possible changes.

Rey Lopez-Calderon from Common Cause will update us on having a "Fair Elections" initiative on the ballot for San Diego; what it is and where it is being used now.



Before joining Common Cause in 2011, López-Calderón worked for a national, faith-based network, where he became the founding organizer of Alliance of the Southeast, an interfaith, multicultural network of churches in Southeast Chicago. He now shares his time working in D.C. and San Diego as vice-president for development,

"Fair Elections" or "Matching Funds Elections" is a type of public financing that brings in a more diverse group of candidates who may not have the funds to run a campaign in today's world. It is not the same as "Clean Elections" as we will hear and has had more success.

Melissa Breach is the executive director of the League of Women Voters of California. She is a skilled consultant and trainer on the issues of governance, organizational sustainability, and facilitation. Melissa will be helping us understand a few of the election innova-

tions that are being used around the country.

**Instant-Runoff Voting** is a way to decide an election of a candidate, without it having to go to a runoff. It is also called "Ranked Choice Voting" because that is the process that allows a candidate to win in one election rather than having a runoff. San Francisco is one of many places that uses it.

**Proportional Representation** is sometimes called Fair Representation. Proportional representation is the principle that a legislature should reflect all of the voters who elect them. Like-minded voters should be able to elect representatives in proportion

to their number.

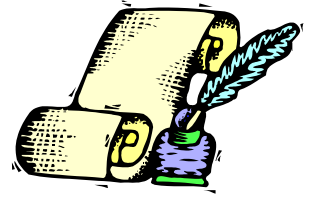
**The National Popular Vote (NPV)** is one that would ensure that the Electoral College results are consistent with the popular vote results, without having to amend the Constitution to get rid of the Electoral College.

To help you be prepared for the luncheon speakers (It is a lot to absorb in one sitting), you may want to look at the the last five paragraphs in this article: <http://www.latimes.com/opinion/op-ed/la-oe-drutman-can-our-institutions-survive-our-divided-politics-20170305-story.html>

Come to the April 27 luncheon where you can learn more about all of these possible changes to our election systems. See the flyer on page 9 for more details.

*Jeanne Brown*, President

# President's Message



Spring brings hope, growth and rejuvenation. Our League is enjoying a growth spurt this spring and we hope it will continue. More and more people realize that “Democracy is not a spectator sport” and they need to do more than just watch what is happening in their towns, their state, and their country. Whether it is the immigration situation, changes in healthcare services, the criminal justice system or a host of other issues, they know that the League is a good place for people to learn how to participate in their democratic institutions. Be sure to read the results of our legislative interviews. It is inspiring to read them and comforting to know that our legislators will take the time to share their understanding of important issues with us.

We welcome both new and established members to get involved in our many upcoming events. Whether it is at a League luncheon, at our Earth Day Booth, attending a committee meeting or the general meeting on Charter Schools, I’m sure you will find something to reinvigorate you this Spring. Look at the League calendar and throughout this Voter to find events that will interest you. Please share your interests, insights and talents with us. We have an active Board with very active committees where those talents will be appreciated. I’m looking forward to seeing everyone having a busy Spring.

Yours in League,  
*Jeanne*

## League of Women Voters San Diego 2016-2017

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## Volunteers Needed for EarthFair 2017



The 28th Annual EarthFair in Balboa Park will be held on Sunday, April 23. The theme this year is “Be A Solution.” LWVSD will host a booth to educate about Community Choice Energy (CCE) -- an opportunity to learn more about this energy-sourcing alternative that is suggested in San Diego’s Climate Action Plan and is being considered and discussed by civic leaders throughout our region. We’ll need volunteers to staff our booth in two-three hour shifts, and I also welcome help with exhibit design and game development. Please contact me at [pegengel@roadrunner.com](mailto:pegengel@roadrunner.com) to join the team. Thank you!

*Peg Engel*, Natural Resources Chair

## LWVSD Board/Committee Meetings ~ April



Mon	Apr 3	10 am	Membership Committee, League Office	
Tue	Apr 4	5:30 pm	LWVSD Board, Board Room	
Mon	Apr 10	10 am	Ambulance Study Committee, League Office	
Thur	Apr 13	8 am	Immigration and Deportation Committee, Marie Callender's, 330 F St, Chula Vista	
Fri	Apr 14	9:30 am	Public Policy Committee, League Office	
Fri	Apr 14	12:30 pm	Natural Resources Committee, League Office	
Wed	Apr 19	9:30 am	Education Committee, San Diego County Office of Education, rm 307	
Fri	Apr 21	10 am	Program Committee, League Office	
Fri	Apr 28	9:30 am	Voter Assembly, League Office	

## Unit Meetings ~ April

Wed	Apr 12	10 am	La Jolla	Casa de Manana Retirement Community, 849 Coast Blvd., La Jolla. Councilwoman Barbara Bry: City Council's plans regarding homeless individuals and families and affordable housing. Coffee 9:30 am. Alice McCauley, <a href="mailto:abmcc@att.net">abmcc@att.net</a> .
Thu	Apr 13	10 am	Scripps Ranch	11104 Gatemoore Way, 92131. Partnering with Sustainable Scripps Ranch to celebrate Earth Day, discussion will be on composting in Scripps Ranch and the LWV environmental positions. For details email <a href="mailto:ScrippsLWV@gmail.com">ScrippsLWV@gmail.com</a> .

## LWVSD Activities ~ Mark your Calendars

Wed	Apr 5	All day	"See the Sea," Tour of the Salton Sea (fully subscribed)	
Wed	Apr 5	4:30-7:15 pm	"Ray and Joan," book talk at USD about Joan Kroc, see below	
Sat	Apr 8	3:30-5:30 pm	"San Onofre and our Future - Making the Right Decisions" flyer p 9	
Sun	Apr 23	8 am-5 pm	EarthFair, Balboa Park, <a href="http://www.earthdayweb.org/EarthFair.html">http://www.earthdayweb.org/EarthFair.html</a> . p 2	
Thu	Apr 27	11:30 am-1:30 pm	Lunch with the League, Tom Ham's, Fair Elections, article p 1, flyer p 10	
Sat	Apr 29	10 am-12 noon	General Meeting: Vouchers & Charter Schools, Mission Valley Library p 4-5	

Also see <http://lwvsandiego.org/calendar.html> for updates

The League office is at 7710 Balboa Avenue, just east of the Balboa Ave/I-805 intersection.

Meetings are held either in the League office in room 224A or in the board room on the third floor.

LWVSD has joined with the Joan B. Kroc School of Peace Studies as a Community Partner for an upcoming free public book talk by author Lisa Napoli on April 5 at 6 pm. Lisa's book, which has received extensive reviews nationwide, is Ray and Joan: The Man Who Made the McDonald's Fortune and the Woman Who Gave It All Away. Lisa's talk will focus on Joan Kroc and her causes and her philanthropy, so it may be particularly interesting for League members.



The book talk is the final portion of a Women for Social Impact (WSI) event that starts at 4:30 pm, and invite you to attend that event as our guests to meet the many interesting and diverse women who belong to the group. Lisa Napoli will be speaking to WSI attendees more about her life as an author, and most of the attendees will probably go straight to the book talk afterwards. The book is on sale from 5:30-6:00 pm. [http://www.sandiego.edu/events/peace/detail.php?\\_focus=58739](http://www.sandiego.edu/events/peace/detail.php?_focus=58739) (further information)

*Diana Kutlow*, Director of Development and Alumni Relations,

*Lori Thiel*, LWVSD Vice President, and *Anne Hoiberg*, LWVSD Director of International Relations



## LWVSD General Meeting: Charter Schools and Vouchers

Confused about the differences between charter schools and vouchers? Concerned about the changes that the new Secretary of Education, Betsy DeVos, may bring to our public schools system? Join us at the LWVSD General Meeting on charter schools and vouchers, to be held on Saturday morning, April 29 from 10 am to 12 noon at the Mission Valley Library.

Speaking on charter schools at this meeting will be Miles Durfee, Regional Director for Southern California of the California Charter Schools Association, and Mario Koran, Education Reporter on the staff of the Voice of San Diego. Durfee is an expert on all facets of the charter school movement, and Koran has done considerable research on vouchers, as well as on the scope and powers of the Secretary of Education cabinet post.

Currently making its way through the House of Representatives is HB 610 (2017-18), the Choices in Education Act of 2017. This bill, according to the summary on the Legiscan website, would change federal

funding of education as follows: it “repeals the Elementary and Secondary Act of 1965 and limits the authority of the Department of Education (ED) such that ED is authorized only to award block grants to qualified states. The bill establishes an education voucher program, through which each state shall distribute block grant funds among local educational agencies (LEAs) based on the number of eligible children within each LEA’s geographical area.” A portion of this money would be distributed to parents who choose to enroll their child in a private school or to home-school their child. An analysis of the potential impact of this bill will be addressed at the forum.

As concerned citizens and voters we all need to be fully aware of these possible changes. Join us for this objective and nonpartisan examination of all of these issues on April 29.

*Eileen Coblens*

Education Committee  
Co-chair, Secondary Education

## Thanks for a great luncheon in February: Cradle to Prison Pipeline



Jeanne Brown

Linda Trousdale

Julia Childs Andrews

Priscilla Villafana

Penny Adler

# General Meeting



Saturday, April 29  
10 a.m. to 12 noon  
Mission Valley Library  
2133 Fenton Pkwy

## Charter Schools and Vouchers

Sponsored by the LWVSD  
Education Committee



- ♦ What does school choice mean?
- ♦ How is school choice implemented in California? Other parts of the country?
- ♦ How do vouchers work?
- ♦ What legislation is currently in the pipeline which will affect school choice?
- ♦ What part of education funding is federal? state? local?
- ♦ How will the appointment of Betsy DeVos as Secretary of Education affect school choice?
- ♦ What is the opposition to charter schools and vouchers?

### Speakers

#### Miles Durfee



Regional Director for  
Southern California,  
California Charter  
Schools Association

Durfee is an expert on  
all facets of the charter  
school movement.

#### Mario Koran



Education Reporter,  
Voice of San Diego,

Koran has done considerable  
research on vouchers, as well  
as on the scope and powers  
of the Secretary of Education  
cabinet post.

## LWVSD Committee Updates

**Committee updates will be continued on pages 7 and 8.  
We hope you will find a group that interests you and get involved.**

The **Education Committee** concentrates on issues surrounding early childhood education (infant through third grade). There is always an interesting presenter at the meetings on the third Wednesday from 9:30 to 11:30 am usually in building 3 of the San Diego County Office of Education, 4901 Linda Vista Road. Besides League members, the committee includes individuals from the 9th District PTA, Education Enrichment Systems, the San Diego County Early Education Program, the YMCA Resource and Referral Dept, and the American Academy of Pediatrics who often join us and sometimes present on what their organization is currently involved with. Chair: Penny Adler, [dadler@ucsd.edu](mailto:dadler@ucsd.edu), 619-995-2861.



The **Program Committee** either takes responsibility for the planning or has oversight of larger events sponsored by the League. These include luncheons, general meetings, study related consensus meetings, and tours. Other subject oriented committees may be asked to do the planning for programs in their respective areas of expertise. (Sips and Civility is a large event sponsored by the Voter Empowerment Committee.) Regular committee meetings are held the third Friday of the month at the League Office from 10 am-12 noon. Any member of the League may recommend program ideas to the committee; however, the committee's first priority is to honor the recommendations that come from the annual program planning meetings. Chair, Kay Ragan [kragand@cox.net](mailto:kragand@cox.net) or 619-233-8133.



The **Ambulance Study Committee** is concerned about the no-bid contract that the City has with American Medical Response (AMR) who bought out Rural Metro. The study is also looking at the cost of ambulance service to the patient. They are conducting several interviews of key players and will be reporting their findings in *Voter* articles and a general consensus meeting next Fall. There also will be a luncheon panel on this topic. Eventually the LWVSD will have a new position. Meetings are the second Monday of the month at 10 am in the League office. Chair: Beryl Flom, [edflom@sbcglobal.net](mailto:edflom@sbcglobal.net), 858-459-4406.



The **Membership Committee** meets most months on the first Monday of the month at 10 am in the LWVSD office. Beryl reports on the count, new members, and efforts to meet with every new member one-on-one. The committee also updates publications regularly and drafts the letters for dues renewal on July 1. Chair: Beryl Flom, [edflom@sbcglobal.net](mailto:edflom@sbcglobal.net), 858-459-4406.

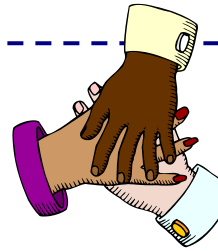


The **Voter Empowerment Committee** is actively planning our Next Sips & Civility event (May 23) on the topic of how to become politically active. This event series is designed to engage younger voters in civil discourse. Our voting-season sub-committees are taking a break in the off-season, but it's never too soon to learn more about Candidate Forums, Speakers Bureau, Voters Edge, and Voter Registration events. Our meetings for the rest of this year will be held at the home of Vickie Riggs. Contact Chair Amanda Berg for more information: [amandalberg@gmail.com](mailto:amandalberg@gmail.com). 858-603-3733.



## Membership

People who have been members for 50 contiguous years are honored at the LWVSD's Annual Meeting in June and no longer pay dues. If you think you qualify, please contact Beryl Flom.



We again have many new members who are interested in being active in government and learning more about issues being discussed in Congress, the State Legislature, and City Hall in preparation for the next election. The Board is working hard to get all these new members placed on committees and doing projects with the League. Committee updates in this *Voter* should inspire many of our members to become more active.

Please welcome:

**Barbara Angius, 92127**

**Rebecca Cervenak, 92110**

**Linda Feldman, 92103**

**Jan Hall, 92107**

**Marcia Lowrey, 92115**

**Rebecca Phillpott, 92131**

*Beryl Flom*, Membership Director, [edflom@sbcglobal.net](mailto:edflom@sbcglobal.net), 858-459-4406

The **Public Policy Committee** studies various issues primarily affecting the City of San Diego. As examples, last year we studied the Citizens Review Board on Police Practices, the polo fields issue in Carmel Valley and the proposal by Councilmember Mark Kersey to create an infrastructure fund. We also reviewed and made recommendations to the Board on many of the measures on the ballot in the November election. This year we anticipate focusing on homelessness and affordable housing. Frequently we invite speakers to our meetings to educate us on topics of interest. Recent speakers have included Rob Quigley to speak on the alternative vision for the East Village of downtown in response to the Chargers stadium initiative, David Malmuth of the IDEA District to discuss their plans for East Village (very consistent with Rob Quigley's alternative vision) and Mary Lydon to inform us about a new housing organization called Housing You Matters. The Public Policy Committee meets on the second Friday of each month at 9:30 am in either the League office or the 3rd floor conference room, depending on whether we are having a speaker. Chair: Myles Pomeroy, [mpomeroy@san.rr.com](mailto:mpomeroy@san.rr.com)



The **Natural Resources Committee** follows issues that affect San Diego's water resources, energy resources, environmental pollution, climate change, open space, and conservation of native plants and animals. Tasks include monitoring the proceedings of relevant City boards and agencies, representing LWVSD on special-issue task forces, liaison with local conservation organizations, and preparing statements based on LWV Positions when there are opportunities for public testimony on natural-resource issues. LWVSD hosts an information booth every year for the EarthFair in Balboa Park. The 2017 EarthFair is April 23, and our topic is Community Choice Energy. If you might be interested in helping with one of our observer responsibilities, have a favorite issue you'd be willing to follow for us, could help with preparing resources for our EarthFair booth, or could take a two-hour shift at our booth on April 23, please contact Peg Engel, [pegengel@roadrunner.com](mailto:pegengel@roadrunner.com).



## Legislative Interview Process a Success

Each year the LWVC sends out a legislative kit for local Leagues to use to interview their local State representatives. This is an opportunity for legislators to share their priorities with the League and to learn about League positions and priorities. This year LWVSD volunteers conducted six leg-



islative interviews out of a possible eight. Assembly members Joel Anderson and Todd Gloria were unavailable. The volunteers met with Assembly Members Shirley Weber, Lorena Gonzales, Randy Voepel and Brian Maienschein, and Senators Ben Hueso and Toni Atkins.

As a comparison, in 2016 we were only able to meet with Toni Atkins. In 2015 we met with Toni Atkins, Shirley Weber and Marty Block. In 2014 we met with Toni Atkins, Marty Block, Lorena Gonzales, Ben Hueso, Brian Maienschein and Shirley Weber. We also met with staff members from Brian Jones' office that year. The success of the program depends on how many volunteers we can get and how early we can contact the representatives to get on their schedules. A big thanks to Josie Holmquist, Vickie Riggs, and Lori Thiel for contacting the offices of the representatives and setting up the appointments (some of which changed a few times!).

Volunteers this year were: Myles Pomeroy, Vickie Riggs, Amie Garapich, Gail Mackler, Jane Rand, Pamela Hunter, Wayne Riggs, Donna Bartlett-May, Joni Halpern, Rachel McDonald, Mary Hanson, Jeanne Brown, Janie Griswold, and Jennifer Avina. Observers were

Rose Van Oss and Jan Hartwig.

The questions this year were about adequate and stable funding of election administration; how to meet the challenge of enrolling more students at UC and CSU; legislative proposals to ensure enough water for municipal and industrial uses, agriculture and the environment; and should the bar be raised to qualify initiatives and referendum for the ballot.

The responses are forwarded to LWVC and are used when the State Board members advocate in Sacramento.

When you see the request for volunteers next January, please consider signing up. These interviews are always interesting and informative.

If you would like to read the notes from each interview, go to <https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/0B2ycOk9gS0iPQkNEeENuZnBDNms>

*Donna Bartlett-May*, Secretary

The **Immigration and Deportation Committee** continues to work with state and federal legislators on bills that improve the immigration process, treat people more humanely, and help deported veterans. Last summer the committee provided legal services at the Stand Down in San Diego, and in March they helped deported veterans at their Stand Down in Tijuana. The committee also arranged for the immigration and refugee program at the February Sips & Civility this year. Next Fall we will be asking all the Leagues in the country to focus more League action on immigration. Committee members are dedicated to sharing their knowledge on the immigration process and treating all people fairly. They meet at 8 am at Marie Callender's Restaurant at 330 F Street in Chula Vista on the second Thursday of the month. Chair: Beryl Flom, [edflom@sbcglobal.net](mailto:edflom@sbcglobal.net), 858-459-4406.





# LWV Town Hall

## ***San Onofre and our Future—Making the Right Decisions about Storage of Nuclear Waste***

**Saturday, April 8, 2017**

**3:30 - 5:30 pm**

Serra Mesa / Kearney Mesa Library  
9005 Aero Drive, San Diego



On April 14 at 2 pm, Superior Court Judge Judith Hayes will hear the *Citizens' Oversight vs. Coastal Commission* lawsuit which seeks to prohibit the burial of 3.6 million pounds of radioactive nuclear waste from the decommissioned San Onofre Nuclear Generating Station (SONGS) in a privately owned nuclear waste dump at San Onofre State Beach Park. It will be argued that the permit to bury the waste (between the Coastal Commission and Southern California Edison) was issued unlawfully and should be revoked. If this is allowed, within 50 miles of 8.4 million residents, nuclear waste that is deadly to humans for 250,000 years will be buried in delicate thin-walled steel canisters with a warranty of only 25 years and a design life of only 60 years.

### **Speakers**

**Charles Langely**



Executive Director  
Public Watchdogs, protecting California businesses and residents from rogue government agencies

**Maria Severson**



Partner, Aguirre & Severson, litigating challenge to San Onofre's shutdown costs and nuclear waste storage

**Nina Babiarz**



Founding academic member of the Southern California Regional Transit Training Consortium

**Robert Pope**



Geologist, Public Watchdogs - expert in hydrogeology, aerial photogrammetry and land use research and analysis

# LWV

# *Lunch with the League*

**Thursday, April 27, 2017**

**11:30 - 1:30**

**Tom Ham's  
Lighthouse Restaurant**



## *How Can We Create More Fair Elections?*

### *Innovations in Electing our Representatives*

#### Speakers

**Melissa Breach**

*Executive Director  
for LWVC*



**Rey Lopez-Calderon**

*Vice President for  
Development for  
Common Cause*



#### Co-sponsors



## *Lunch with the League: Fair Elections, April 27, 2017*

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail \_\_\_\_\_

Guest(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Amount enclosed (\$35 per person) \_\_\_\_\_ by Mon, Apr 24. Make checks payable to LWVSD and mail to 7710 Balboa Ave. 224A, San Diego, CA 92111, 858-483-8696, or register on our website with PayPal: [www.lwvsandiego.org](http://www.lwvsandiego.org). Click on 'donate' button, 'amount' \$35, 'purpose' April Luncheon.



**League of Women Voters  
of San Diego**

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Town Hall: Storing Nuclear  
Waste from San Onofre

Luncheon: Fair Elections

General Meeting: Charter  
Schools and Vouchers

Committees: Come join us!

New Members

EarthDay needs YOU

Legislative Interviews

**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.

**Join the League**

Individual Membership \$65     Additional Household Memberships \$35     Student Membership \$25

Those on limited income can pay any amount.     Please contact me with more information.

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_ Phone(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

How did you hear about LWV? \_\_\_\_\_

Please make your check payable to: League of Women Voters of San Diego and mail to  
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