



San Diego VOTER

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.

Vol. 69 No. 7

October 2005

REDISTRICTING: WHERE WE STAND

League of Women Voters of California

In 1987 and 1988, the League of Women Voters conducted an extensive study of the redistricting process in California. We immediately applied our resulting position in support of Proposition 119, an unsuccessful attempt to establish an independent commission to draw district lines in California. The next two redistricting plans drawn by the state legislature (in 1991 and 2001) were either rejected by the courts or were widely criticized as being fundamentally flawed. Today we find ourselves in the middle of a sustained public debate on the future of redistricting in California, a debate that will continue for some time. What does the League have to say about the way California should redistrict?

In brief, we support a redistricting process and standards that promote fair and effective representation in the state legislature and in the House of Representatives, with maximum opportunity for public scrutiny of the process. And we support redistricting by a bipartisan commission rather than by the Legislature.

The standards on which a redistricting plan should be based, regardless of who has responsibility for redistricting, should include (1) substantially equal population, (2) geographic contiguity and (3) protection of the voting strength of a racial or linguistic minority from dilution. To the extent possible, these standards should also include respect for legal boundaries of cities and counties and preservation and protection of “communities of interest.” On the other hand, the standards should not consider the protection of incumbents or the preferential treatment of any political party.

The League places a good deal of emphasis on the importance of the structure of the redistricting process. It is clear that members feel that how redistricting is done is even more important than who does it

League positions on opportunities for citizen participation in government decision making, the need for adequate notice of proposed actions and the need for open meetings are all crucial to member understanding of what constitutes a fair redistricting process.

(Continued on page 2)

November Units will be on “How We Vote” – the day, the training of and stipend for poll workers, the machine we use, paper trail, instant runoff voting, etc.

SAVE THE DATE

HOLIDAY PARTY SILENT AUCTION

Wednesday, December 7, 5:30pm

Joan B. Kroc Institute for

PEACE AND JUSTICE

UNIVERSITY OF SAN DIEGO

Inside this issue

LWVSD Calendar	3
Membership	3

**SAN DIEGO VOTER
LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF
SAN DIEGO BOARD**

Officers:

President	Kay Ragan
Vice President, Administration	Fran Pierce
V.P., Advocacy/Public Policy	Norma Damashek
Vice-President, Program	Emmett Greenwald
Vice President, Voter Service	
Secretary	Valerie Chau
Treasurer	Christine Ahalt

Directors:

Action	
Development	Jody Tadder
International Relations	Anne Hoiberg
Natural Resources	Suzanne Michel
Public Relations	
Social Policy	Faye Rose
Unit Coordinator	Sarah Brown

Off Board

Dues Secretary	Dee Sacks
Membership	Betty Weinberger
Program	Beryl Flom
Voter Editor	JoAnn Fields

Smart Voter (for city voters)
Observer Corps
Volunteer Coordinator
NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Suki Stone

Beryl Flom, Chair
Jo Ann Bickley
Fran Pierce
Catherine Stoll
Suki Stone

Office

Administrative Assistant Genoveva Lopez
(Mon. - Thurs. 9:30 am to 1:30 pm - Fri. 9:30 am to 12:30 p m— call ahead please.)
Phone: (858) 483-8696 : FAX: (858) 483-8396

**Email: lwvsd@san.rr.com
Website: www.lwvsandiego.org
SmartVoter: www.smartvoter.org**

October 2005 Volume 69, No. 7
San Diego Voter is published monthly except
July and December

Subscription: \$26 per year
Published at League of Women Voters of San Diego,
4901 Morena Blvd., Building 100, Suite 104,
San Diego, CA 92117.

Contributions may be made to the League of Women Voters of San Diego for advocacy and administrative work, or to the tax-deductible League of Women Voters of San Diego Education Fund for voters service and educational activities. For information, contact the League office at (858) 483-8696.

Send *Voter* articles by the 15th of each month
Joann_fields619@yahoo.com and League Office

REDISTRICTING: Where We Stand,— Continued from page one

The League believes that the redistricting process should include (1) specific time lines for the steps leading to adoption of the redistricting plan, (2) public hearings on the proposed plan, (3) an automatic nonjudicial backup procedure in the event of deadlock and (4) a requirement that any redistricting plan drawn by the Legislature be adopted by more than a simple majority vote. Members prefer redistricting by a commission over redistricting by the Legislature. Balance, however, is considered important, and commission members should reflect California's diversity of population and varied geography, as well as a balance of economic, social and partisan interests.

Members conclude that a redistricting commission would make fair and effective representation a more likely outcome than the decisions of legislators, whose self-interest seems to outweigh their concern for fairness and the common good. Given only two practical choices – Legislature or commission – the choice of a commission reflects members' dissatisfaction with the Legislature's previous redistricting performance as much as enthusiasm for a commission per se.

The questions of who should redistrict California and how such redistricting lines should be drawn are complex. All the criteria involve difficult and controversial definitions and decisions. The League position does not promise panaceas or quick fixes. Rather, it represents a thoughtful reflection on a complex political process and offers balanced suggestions for a road map to navigate the difficult journey.



The closer we get to an election, the more the League of Women Voters is in the public eye. Please carry membership applications with you at all times. Also--"talk" up the League to friends, neighbors and people that you meet. Surprises do happen!! Thank you. Betty Weinberger, membership chair

Please welcome the following new members.

NAME	ZIP	PHONE
Brenda Bird	91902	619-656-9343
Marcia Hazan	92131	858-566-9361
Jean Snow	92064	

OCT.	TIME		LWVSD CALENDAR
19	10:00am	Wed..	Membership Committee , League Office
21	12:00pm	Fri.	Catfish Club, Ballot Measures , KGTV-10 Studio, 4600 Air Way, 92102
21	1:30pm	Fri.	By the People—KPBS & ILO - small group , S.D. County Dept. of Education, 6401 Linda Vista Dr. 92111
22	9:00am	Sat.	Development Committee , League Office
29	2:00pm	Sat.	By the People—KPBS & ILO - Plenary session , Joan B. Kroc Institute for Peace and Justice, USD

Catfish Club

On Friday, **October 21st**, the Catfish Club will undertake a voter education forum on the various Statewide Initiatives appearing on the November 8th ballot. The San Diego County Taxpayers Association and the League of Women Voters of San Diego will share their positions on the propositions. The luncheon meeting is held at 12 noon at the KGTV-10 Studios located at 4600 Air Way, San Diego 92102. Please **RSVP** by 9:00 am on Thursday, October 20th by phone: (619) 266-7278 or by email: RSVP@CatfishClub.net

By the People Deliberation Week

The San Diego County ILO, a group from the San Diego downtown Library, and the Catfish Club are working with KPBS on the “By the People Deliberation Week”. It is designed to stimulate conversation on America’s role in the world and increase citizen engagement in national dialogue – in this case on healthcare and on education. – which will lead to greater citizen empowerment. There will be three mini-Dialogues; the ILO dialogue on healthcare will be on Friday, **October 21st** from 1:30-3:00 pm at the County Department of Education’s (COE) Rindone Technology Center, 6401 Linda Vista Drive, San Diego 92111. Healthcare experts are not required. There will be a limit on the number of participants. Please respond to Nancy McCleary, (619) 222-9719 or nanlar.mcc@att.net

Directions: From Hwy. 163, exit at Genesee and go west and turn left on Linda Vista Rd. From Hwy. 5, exit at Sea World Dr./Tecolote Rd., go east to Morena Blvd. and turn right, turn left on Napa and left on Linda Vista Rd., drive past the University of San Diego.

On Saturday, **October 29th** at 2:00 pm, the public is encouraged to attend the Plenary session at the Joan B. Kroc Institute for Peace and Justice at the University of San Diego. Plenary panelists are likely to include one or two legislators and other professionals. **Participants at the mini-dialogue are expected to attend.** All events will be filmed by KPBS and will result in one or two “Full Focus” segments plus the film will be sent to MacNeil-Lehrer Productions. The website is <http://www.pbs.org/newshour/btp> Join other local Leaguers and help educate our community on developing citizen empowerment.

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.

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

Name: _____ Spouse: _____

Address: _____ ZIP _____

Phone: (____) _____ Email: _____

Dues Enclosed: _____ \$55.00 for one membership; _____ \$85.00 for two in same household

Mail to: League of Women Voters of San Diego, 4901 Morena Blvd., Bldg. 100, Ste. 104, San Diego, CA 92117

Ads go on this page

Copyright © 2005 by The League of Women Voters of San Diego. No part of this newsletter may be used or reproduced in any manner whatsoever without written permission. For information, address San Diego Voter Editor, The League of Women Voters of San Diego, 4901 Morena Blvd., Bldg. 100, Suite 104, San Diego, CA 92117



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS

THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF SAN DIEGO
4901 MORENA BLVD.
BLDG. 100, SUITE 104
SAN DIEGO, CA 92117

NON-PROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
San Diego, CA
Permit No. 422

TIME DATED MATERIAL ENCLOSED

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED