



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®  
OF SAN DIEGO

MAKING DEMOCRACY WORK

# VOTER

March 2014

Volume 78, No. 7

## San Diego's Affordable Housing Crisis



### The Problem

San Diego has an ongoing affordable housing crisis. Rental vacancies are at historic lows. Rents are at historic highs. Rent increases have significantly outpaced wage growth. San **Diego's largest and fastest growing economic sectors are dependent on low paying jobs.** Housing costs have become an increasing **burden on our region's families.** The combination of rent growth and growing numbers of low income families makes accommodating the housing needs of our low income population an ever increasing challenge.

**Housing is considered "affordable" when rent and utilities or the mortgage, taxes and insurance represent no more than 30% of a household's total income.**

Households spending more than 35% of their income on housing are considered cost burdened. In San Diego County, almost half (48.5%) of households are considered cost burdened. Households spending more than 50% of their income are considered severely cost burdened and are considered to have critical housing needs. More than 34% of working families in San Diego County are considered to be severely cost burdened.

*(continued on page 4)*

## Agricultural Update Consensus Meeting Saturday, March 15, 10 am-2 pm

*University Community Library, Conference Room  
4155 Governor Drive, San Diego 92122*

You are invited to attend the consensus **meeting for the League's Agricultural Update Study.** In the morning there will be stations around the room where you will be able to look at maps, charts, and other materials, have your questions answered, and generally get up to speed on U. S. agriculture. On arrival you can order a sandwich and drink for \$5, or you are welcome to bring a bag lunch and drink.



Lunch will be at 11:30; at 12:30 we will have our consensus meeting. We must be done by 2 due to library hours, so we will move through that as quickly as we can.

You can read the consensus questions in the lavender insert. More information can be found in the January and February Voters or on the website: [www.lwvsandiego.org](http://www.lwvsandiego.org).

We all like to eat and our health depends on eating well. That makes this study especially pertinent to our everyday lives. Please plan to come. ~ Ann Omstead, Ag. Study Comm.

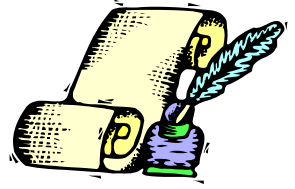
*From Restoring Respect to Shared Governance  
LWVC-LWVC North County Regional Workshop  
Saturday, March 22 ~ See flyer page 6*

*Miramar Landfill Tour ~ Friday, March 28, 9:10 am  
See flyer page 7*

**Earth Day  
April 27**

Volunteers needed to plan and to staff our booth; contact Jeanne Brown at [jhisten.brown@gmail.com](mailto:jhisten.brown@gmail.com).

## Co-president's Message



Wow, how time flies when you are having fun. You have probably guessed by now that Donna and I are taking turns writing the co-president's message, and we probably both agree that it comes around quickly.

We are each in the position to be cheerleaders for all the work that is going on by Board members, committee chairs and many others. I attended the Public Policy Committee yesterday and was again reminded that we are attempting to follow many issues that are important to our area. The focus in yesterday's meeting was on two issues: the Barrio Logan Community Plan Update Referendum and the Affordable Housing Presentation for the March Unit Meetings. Yes, you are correct: each of these issues could occupy the entire Voter.

Susan Riggs from the San Diego Housing Federation, Betsy Morris from C3 and Laura Nunn from Affordable Housing were guests of the committee. Susan is moving to Sacramento, at the invitation of the Governor, to continue her work on these issues. She will have the opportunity to work with Helen Hutchinson, LWVC Board Member & Legislative Chair, and Trudy Shafer, our legislative advocate at the Capitol.

The March Unit meetings are going to be very informative. I hope you make every effort to attend one of them. Guest presenters will facilitate the discussions. Last month's meeting on "Trash Talk" generated a lot of discussion and interest. I am very appreciative of the work that goes into these presentations; without such dedication we would not have the learning opportunities.

The legislative interviews with our state representative went well. Interviews were held with Assembly members: Toni Atkins, Lorena Gonzales, Brian Maienschein, and Shirley Weber. We also met with Brian Jones' staff. Our visits included Senator Marty Block, and a meeting with Senator Ben Hueso is pending. Senator Joel Anderson was not available. The interview team consisted of Jeanne Brown, Beryl Flom, Carol Landale, Phoebe Telser, Joan Cudhea, Myles Pomeroy, Michele Hagan, Donna Bartlett-May and Kay Ragan.

I leave you with a very important invitation to attend the Regional Workshop, sponsored by the State League and planned and facilitated by members from the North County League. This is a real opportunity for two Leagues to join together in full support of this very important topic, "Civic Engagement Through Deliberative Dialogue." Please complete the registration form in the Voter or register online while you are thinking about it.

Let us hear from you about your ideas and concerns,

~ Kay Ragan, Co-president

League of Women Voters  
San Diego 2013-2014  
Board of Directors 7/13 - 6/14

Co-President.....Donna Bartlett-May  
Co-President.....Kay Ragan  
Treasurer.....Kathleen MacLeod  
Secretary.....Nancy Witt  
Co-VP/Administration....Emi Kaneshiro  
Co-VP/Administration...Amie Garapich  
Dir/Membership.....Beryl Flom  
Co-Dir/Program.....Adrienne Schere  
Co-Dir/Program.....Jeanne Brown  
Co-Dir/Education.....Penny Adler  
Dir/Public Policy.....Myles Pomeroy  
Dir/Voter Service.....Jill Elsner  
Unit Coordinator.....Carole Porter  
Chair, International Relations Comm....  
.....Anne Hoiberg  
Voter Editor.....Dolores Nelson  
Webmaster.....Cris Hagaman

Phone: 858-483-8696

E-mail: [lwvsd@san.rr.com](mailto:lwvsd@san.rr.com)

Website: [www.lwvsandiego.org](http://www.lwvsandiego.org)

SmartVoter: [www.smartvoter.org](http://www.smartvoter.org)

San Diego Voter is published monthly  
by the Board except June, July, and  
December. Subscriptions: \$27 per year.  
League of Women Voters of San Diego  
7710 Balboa Avenue, Suite 224A  
San Diego CA 92111

Copyright © 2014 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, use address above.



## March Units ~ Affordable Housing

Sat, Mar 8 10 am-noon	Southeastern	Malcolm X Library, Multi-media Room 5138 Market Street, San Diego 92105	Sue Rogers.....619-233-1744
Mon. Mar 10 9:30-11:30 am	Rancho Bernardo & Scripps Ranch	The Gateway – TV Room 858-487-1197 12751 Gateway Park Rd., Poway 92064	Claire Weiner.....858-679-7350 Betsy Stevens.....858-451-5653
Mon, Mar 10 1:30-3:30 pm	University City	North University City Community Library 8820 Judicial Drive, San Diego 92122	Mariette Kobrak...858 450-1521 Catherine Stoll...858-755-4119
Tues, Mar 11 9:30-11:30 am	La Jolla	La Jolla Community Center 6811 La Jolla Boulevard, La Jolla 92037	Joan Dahlin.....858-454-5019
Wed, Mar 12 1-3 pm	Tierrasanta	Tierrasanta Library 4985 La Cuenta Drive, San Diego 92124	Carole Porter.....858-279-5474
Wed, Mar 12 5:30-7:30 pm	Mission Valley	Mission Valley Library, Meeting Room A Fenton Pkwy, near Ikea, San Diego 92108	Debra Blum.....619-225-0353
Thurs, Mar 13 10 am-noon	College/Rolando	College Rolando Library 6600 Montezuma Road, San Diego 92115	Barbara Evje.....619-463-0673 Pearline Hayes....619 582-2296
Fri, Mar 14 9:30-11:30 am	East County	El Cajon Library, Conference Room 201 East Douglas Avenue, El Cajon 92020	Marietta Lassaline.619-448-6270
Thurs, Mar 20 10 am-noon	Ocean Beach/ Point Loma	Point Loma Library 3701 Voltaire St, Point Loma (SD) 92107	Nancy Witt.....619-222-7230 Shirley Walkoe...619-223-6314

## LWVSD Board/Committee Meetings ~ March

Tues	Mar 4	4 pm	LWVSD Board, 3rd floor Conference Room, 7710 Balboa Avenue, SD 92111
Thurs	Mar 6	9:30 am	Unit Chairs Meeting, League Office, 7710 Balboa Ave., Ste. 224A, SD 92111
Fri	Mar 7	10 am	LWVSDC ILO Board, Scripps Ranch Library, 10301 Scripps Lake Dr, SD 92131
Fri	Mar 14	9:30 am	Public Policy Committee, League Office, 7710 Balboa Ave., Ste. 224A, SD 92111
Wed	Mar 19	9:30 am	Education Committee, SD County Off. of Ed., 6401 Linda Vista Rd., SD 92111, 305
Fri	Mar 21	10 am	Program Committee, League Office, 7710 Balboa Ave., Ste. 224A, SD 92111

## Special Events ~ March-April

Sat, Mar 15	Agriculture Study Consensus Meeting, University Library, 4155 Governor Dr, 10 am-2 pm.
Sat, Mar 22	<b>LWV North County's Restoring Respect Conference, Mesa College, 8:30 am-2 pm, flyer p 6</b>
Fri, Mar 28	Miramar Landfill Tour, 9:10 am; see flyer p 7
Sun, Apr 27	Earth Day, Balboa Park, 10 am-5 pm <a href="http://www.earthdayweb.org/EarthFair.html">www.earthdayweb.org/EarthFair.html</a>
Mon, Apr 28	SEEE Seminar: Post-secondary Online STEM Education: Promise or Problem? 4:30-6 pm. Details in April Voter. For more information or to register, go to <a href="http://www.seeeseminar.com">www.seeeseminar.com</a>

## Mark Your Calendars

May 17-18, 2014	LWVC State Council in San Jose
Jun 6-10, 2014	LWVUS National Convention in Dallas
May 15-17, 2015	LWVC Convention in San Diego!



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

We have two new members this month: Ann Johns and Evah Allen (both live in 92115) and one returning member: Claire Hirschfield from 92037. Please make them feel welcome at upcoming meetings.



The official count for our membership was submitted on February 1 and is at 315. We are anxious to grow our League, and the best way to do that is to invite your friends or family to join you at a meeting. There are lots of opportunities in March to include them.

~ Beryl Flom, Director, Membership

### Thank You to our Donors!

David Harris	Debra Blum	Beryl Flom	Judy Seerey	Dorene Sulzer	Marj Larson	Ruth Potter
Joan Dayton	Sara Moser	Sharon Allen	Diane Roland	Mary Reyen	Nancy Witt	Jean Wilson
Carole Porter	Barbara Evje	Philip Manson	Betsy Stevens	Ruth Ireland	Joyce Janette	Sue Martin
Kevin McClean	Phyllis Epstein	Amie Gerapich	Colleen Michell	Carolyn Conner	Rebecca Booth	
Hadarah Chemnik	Deborah Szekely	Jeanne Kintzele	Judith Wilkinson	Anne M Kaukonen		
Joan Bernstein	Margaret Stevenson	Marcy Goldstone	Nancy Andersen	Estelle Greenstein		
Kay and Charles Ragan	Caroline Hamlin	Donna Bartlett-May	Catherine Thiemann	Alice McCauley		

(continued from front page)

Further exacerbating the problem are high land costs which are associated with little developable land for residential development, a complex and cumbersome permit approval process, major deficiencies in public facilities, the elimination of Redevelopment in California (a major source of funding for affordable housing), insufficient subsidies for capital costs and operating expenses and community opposition to higher densities and to affordable housing in general. One encouraging action was the adoption by the City of San Diego in 2013 of reduced parking standards for affordable housing units.

### The Solutions

- Construct additional affordable housing and maintain our existing affordable housing stock.
- Make sure that new affordable units have appropriate income and rent restrictions to ensure that they are affordable for years to come.



### How San Diego's Economy

Contributes to the Problem

**San Diego has what is called an "hourglass economy," meaning that the local economy**

has lots of high paying jobs and lots of low wage jobs but fewer middle income jobs. Economic growth forecasts for San Diego call for this pattern to continue.

While the private market can address the demand for housing those with the high paying jobs, it cannot address the demand for housing for the low wage workers without significant public subsidies to close the gap between what low wage households can afford to pay and the cost of providing the housing with allowance for a reasonable profit for the developers.

### March Unit Meetings

**The League's March Unit Meetings will be devoted to affordable housing.** Please plan to attend to learn more about the problem and solutions.

~ Myles Pomeroy, Director, Public Policy

## WATER: In Search of Solutions

I attended a program entitled *WATER: In Search of Solutions* at the Natural History Museum on January 25. The program was created by the Art of Science Learning San Diego Incubator for Innovation. Some interesting information was discussed which I thought was worth sharing.

A panel discussion covering water policy, infrastructure, treatment, technological change, and water use was excellent. They discussed climate change and its impact on water resources in San Diego County and how we as citizens and businesses are adapting now to prevent water shortages. Climate change has caused a reduced snowpack and reduced flows to the Colorado River. With another 650,000 people expected in San Diego County by 2030 the average gallons per year per household consumption of 160,000 gallons must be reduced. Two-thirds of this population growth is births over deaths, so these are our children and grandchildren.

There was discussion regarding how this reduction will happen. Since up to 70% of domestic water use is for outdoor landscaping, this is a logical place to start. The cities of Denver and Albuquerque use less water in total than San Diego does in landscape alone. People came to California from wetter climates and wanted to have the same lush lawns and plants. In Tucson they use less than 80 gallons per person per day because they are proud of their landscapes that require no water. Their culture makes you an outcast if you have a lawn. We need to have that sense of our environment and be more integrated into it here in San Diego. We use five to ten times more water than the average British or German citizen and three times more than Australians and Israelis.

Some cities capture their rainwater to provide quite a large percentage of their water supply. Of course here in southern California rainwater is hard to come by, but when it does rain, 60% of that water is allowed to run off into the ocean. Modern urban growth has impaired our ability to obtain water from native sources.



Obtaining water from non-native sources is extremely expensive in terms of energy. Thirty percent of all energy used in the state is used to move water.

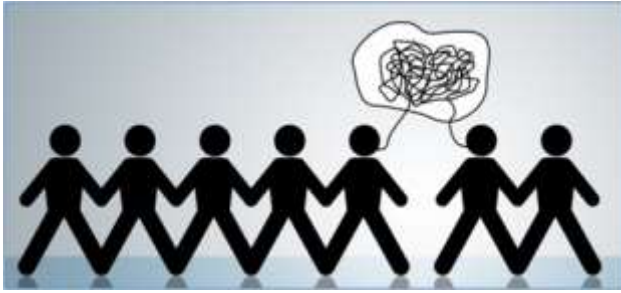
The San Diego County Water Authority has been working to diversify its portfolio of water sources so the area is not so dependent on imported water. The County now imports 46% of its water. They are working on conservation, new supplies through recycling or desalination and infrastructure improvements. There was some discussion regarding the fact that there is ten to twenty times more energy in wastewater than it takes to treat it and how fertilizer can be created from it as well as clean water.

**Today's dominant water reuse model is based on the collection and treatment of urban wastewater before making it available for low value irrigation or agricultural use.** This is not economically sustainable. New technology in the use of membranes will make it possible for higher purposes such as cooling towers and high pressure boilers. Advanced treatment produces water of drinking water quality. Smaller satellite treatment plants could be used to treat wastewater and create revenue by extracting water and methane then taking the nutrients and creating fertilizer and even converting algae to biofuels. An option being considered is the augmentation of drinking water supplies with advanced treated recycled water.

One discussion that will no doubt create controversy is the fact that water is too cheap and therefore it is not valued as it should be. Two-thirds of the water used in California is used for agriculture, and it can be argued that an increase in cost of water will lead to more expensive food.

In conclusion, we must reduce, recycle and reuse everywhere we can. We must also invest in new technologies and think native in order to prevent water shortages in our desert climate.

~ Donna Bartlett-May, Co-president



## FROM RESTORING RESPECT TO SHARED GOVERNANCE

LWVC Regional Workshop  
Saturday, March 22, 2014

Co-sponsored by League of Women Voters®  
and Restoring Respect San Diego



**Mesa College**  
**7250 Mesa College Drive**  
**San Diego, CA**

**8:30 am - 2 pm**  
**Check-in at Room 101**

**For workshop and travel information, go to: [www.lwvncsd.org](http://www.lwvncsd.org)**

Questions? Contact:  
Martha Cox  
[marthacox@roadrunner.com](mailto:marthacox@roadrunner.com)  
Mary Thompson  
[thompsmq@roadrunner.com](mailto:thompsmq@roadrunner.com)

Please join us for a day of learning and collaboration as we explore new ways for communities to engage all citizens in issue-driven problem-solving. **You won't want to miss this opportunity to hear one of the country's leading scholars in the field.**

Speakers: *Dr. Martin Carcasson*, Professor of Communications at Colorado State University and Director of the Center for Public Deliberation; *Dr. Carl Luna*, Professor of Political Science at Mesa College and Co-Founder of Restoring Respect; *Dr. Lisa Shaffer*, Encinitas City Council Member and retired lecturer at **UCSD's Rady School of Management.**

Want more? The 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Restoring Respect Conference on Friday, March 21, 2014 from 9 am to noon at USD's Joan Kroc Center for Peace and Justice, 5998 Alcala Park, San Diego is free and open to the public. For information, go to: <http://www.sandiego.edu/restoringrespect/>

There are two ways to register:

Register online. Go to [www.lwvncsd.org/RegMtg](http://www.lwvncsd.org/RegMtg) complete the registration form and pay by credit card.

Register by mail. Complete this registration form and mail with payment to:

- LWVNCSD, Attn: Regional Workshop, PO Box 131272, Carlsbad CA 92013
- LWV Members: I will attend and buy lunch \$30 (\$35 after March 14)
- Non-LWV Members: I will attend and buy lunch \$40 (\$45 after March 14)
- I will attend and bring my own lunch \$15 (\$20 after March 14)

**What's for lunch?**  
Check one:  
 Chicken  
 Veggie

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ League/Organization: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Phone and E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Total Enclosed: \_\_\_\_\_

*Thanks for registering early!*



# Miramar Landfill Tour

## Friday, March 28 9:10 am

The League of Women Voters of San Diego has arranged for a tour of the Miramar Landfill on Friday, March 28 at 9:30 am, but we need to transport our members in large cars or vans. If you have such a vehicle that we could use for about an hour-and-a-half, please contact Beryl Flom at [edflom@sbcglobal.net](mailto:edflom@sbcglobal.net).

We will meet outside the LWVSD office, Balboa Office Building, 7710 Balboa Ave. between 9:00-9:10 am and consolidate into three vans, leaving no later than 9:15. We will then pick up the Environmental Service Department staff and proceed to Miramar Landfill. Wear comfortable closed toed shoes.

After the tour, we will return to the Green Building, 9601 Ridgehaven Court, for a discussion on Zero Waste with Steve Greeley, Deputy Director.

We will come back to the League office building about 1:00 pm. Anyone wanting to eat lunch together at Applebees across the street is welcome to join us. Cost \$10 for van rental. Space is limited. Deadline for reservations is Monday, March 24. Questions: Beryl Flom, 312-218-6444 (cell).



WASTE REDUCTION AWARD



~ ~ ~ ~ ~  

### Miramar Landfill Tour Reservations

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone (C) \_\_\_\_\_ Phone (H) \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Please make your check for \$10 per person payable to: League of Women Voters of San Diego and send to 7710 Balboa Avenue, Suite 224A San Diego, CA 92111 Phone: 858-483-8696

or register on our website with Paypal [www.lwvsandiego.org](http://www.lwvsandiego.org)

Click on 'donate' button, 'amount' \$10, 'purpose' Landfill Tour

Deadline  
March 24!



League of Women Voters  
of San Diego  
7710 Balboa Avenue, Suite 224A  
San Diego CA 92111  
858-483-8696

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

Return Service Requested

### 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   

I am unable to join at this time, but I am enclosing a tax-deductible\* contribution of:

\$25  \$50  \$100  \$150  Other \_\_\_\_\_  Please contact me with more information

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_ Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Phone(s) \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail \_\_\_\_\_

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

Please make your check payable to: League of Women Voters of San Diego  
7710 Balboa Avenue, Suite 224A San Diego, CA 92111 Phone: 858-483-8696

\* To be tax-deductible, please make check to LWVSD Education Fund.