



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®
OF SAN DIEGO
MAKING DEMOCRACY WORK

VOTER

April 2014

Volume 78, No. 8

April Unit Meetings: Participatory Budgeting

Participatory budgeting (PB) is a process of democratic deliberation and decision-making, and a type of participatory democracy, in which ordinary people decide how to allocate part of a municipal or public budget. Participatory budgeting allows citizens to identify, discuss, and prioritize public spending projects and gives them the power to make real decisions about how money is spent. When PB is taken seriously and is based on mutual trust, local governments and citizens can benefit equally. In some cases PB even raised people's willingness to pay taxes.

The idea originated in Porto Alegre, Brazil in 1989 and has been slowly spreading. *YES!* Magazine published an article in 2010 on participatory budgeting's use in Chicago's North Side. According to the article, "Participatory budgeting has gone global, spreading to over 1,200 cities around the world and winning the United Nations' recognition as a best practice of democratic governance."



PBP
PARTICIPATORY
BUDGETING
PROJECT

Now the idea is here in San Diego. The League of Women Voters is part of a San Diego alliance of organizations dedicated to educate our citizens and city council members about the process with the hope that we can bring it here.

We are hoping that one or more council districts will adopt PB on a trial basis and see if it is something that could be continued or even expanded in future years. For those outside the San Diego City limits, other cities and towns are considering using it too so they can learn from this potential experiment.

Attend your local LWVSD Unit Meeting in April to learn more. You can also click on this link for an interview that the Voice of San Diego held with one of the proponents.

<http://voiceofsandiego.org/2013/12/30/the-peoples-budget/>

~ Jeanne Brown, Co-director, Program



Volunteers still needed!



Learning in the 21st Century
Building a Pathway to Student Success



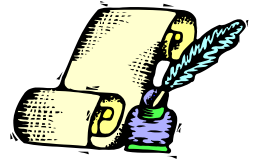
SEE SEMINAR SERIES



We are co-hosting and participating in many interesting and educational events this month. Look inside for details — and join us!



Co-President's Letter



One of the great things about being in League is the chance to learn new things. I had the opportunity this past month to attend several events that I would never have known about if I weren't a League member. The first was a pre-conference summit for the Fair Housing Laws and Litigation Conference. There was great information shared regarding the Supreme Court decision in *Shelby County v Holder* and its effect on voting rights in various states. Statistics provided by the Advancement Project were discussed and the litigation that has ensued. There was also discussion regarding the Voting Rights Amendment Act.

The second event I was able to attend was the Women and the Law Conference on Women and the Military. Thanks to Kay Ragan for letting me go in her place. There was an opening session on sexual assault in the military and how prosecution differs from the civilian world. Top military brass sat on the various panels throughout the day discussing recent statistics and changes to the military code of justice and women serving in elite combat forces. There were some great questions and comments from audience members. I sat next to a woman who told me she had been assaulted four years ago **while serving in the military, but her commander accused her of "unladylike behavior" and there was never any investigation. The Department of Defense now requires all accusations to be investigated even if the victim does not wish to file a complaint.**

The third opportunity I had was thanks to Anne Hoiberg and the United Nations Organization of San Diego. I spent several days in New York attending the Non-Government Organization's Commission on the Status of Women. This was my first time in the United Nations and it was exciting to meet women from around the world who are working on improving the status of women in their countries. I was particularly impressed with what the women of Africa are doing. If women occupy 64% of the parliament in Rwanda, why is that figure 18.5% in the US Congress? Another session showed a film entitled RU: Water is Life. This was the story of a 12-year-old girl in Africa whose life was dominated by walking several miles a day to collect water from a mud hole instead of attending school. What a change with the simple installation of a well close to her village! This is also a problem when women have to spend time collecting firewood to cook. In many cases, the women are assaulted while outside the village. I met a woman who works for a company that makes solar stoves which solves this problem as well as helping the environment. The women of South Sudan distributed a statement regarding the outbreak of armed conflict and how they want to intervene to seek ways to end the crisis. They demand all parties of the conflict stop using young men and women as combatants **and they demand women's participation in mediation and negotiation.** While there is much going on in the world that is negative, the women of the world continue to effect change and demand a voice in the decision-making process.

You all as League members and as members of other organizations are a part of that change.

~ Donna Bartlett-May

League of Women Voters

San Diego 2013-2014

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Phone: 858-483-8696

E-mail: lwvsd@san.rr.com

Website: www.lwvsandiego.org

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April Units ~ Participatory Budgeting

Tues, Apr 8 9:30-11:30 am	La Jolla	La Jolla Community Center 6811 La Jolla Boulevard, La Jolla 92037	Joan Dahlin.....858-454-5019 Alice McCauley (sub)
Wed, Apr 9 1-3 pm	Tierrasanta	Tierrasanta Library 4985 La Cuenta Drive, San Diego 92124	Carole Porter.....858-279-5474
Wed, Apr 9 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, Apr 10 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, Apr 10 10 am-noon	East County	El Cajon Library, Conference Room 201 East Douglas Avenue, El Cajon 92020	Marietta Lassaline.619-448-6270
Sat, Apr 12 10 am-noon	Southeastern	Malcolm X Library, Multi-media Room 5138 Market Street, San Diego 92105	Sue Rogers.....619-233-1744
Mon, Apr 14 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, Apr 14 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
Thurs, Apr 17 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 ~ April

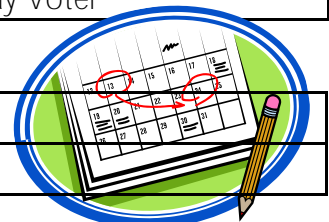
Tues	Apr 1	4 pm	LWVSD Board, 3rd floor Conference Room, 7710 Balboa Avenue, SD 92111
Thurs	Apr 3	9:30 am	Unit Chairs Meeting, League Office, 7710 Balboa Ave., Ste. 224A, SD 92111
Fri	Apr 4	10 am	LWVSDC ILO Board, Scripps Ranch Library, 10301 Scripps Lake Dr, SD 92131
Wed	Apr 16	9:30 am	Education Committee, SD County Off. of Ed., 6401 Linda Vista Rd., SD 92111, 305
Fri	Apr 18	10 am	Program Committee, League Office, 7710 Balboa Ave., Ste. 224A, SD 92111
Fri	Apr 18	10 am	Public Policy Committee, League Office, 7710 Balboa Ave., Ste. 224A, SD 92111

Special Events ~ April-May

Sat, Apr 5	Common Cause Meeting, Improving Local Elections, 12-2 pm, p 9
Tues, Apr 8	Lawyers' Club Second Annual Equal Pay Day Luncheon, 12:00-1:15 pm, p 4
Fri, Apr 11	Affordable Housing Forum, 8:30 am–12:30 pm; Mission Valley; 2111 Camino del Rio S, p 8
Sat, Apr 26	Learning in the 21st Century: Building a Pathway to Student Success, p 6
Sun, Apr 27	Earth Day, Balboa Park, 10 am-5 pm www.earthdayweb.org/EarthFair.html , pp 4-5
Mon, Apr 28	SEEE Seminar: Post-secondary Online STEM Education: Promise or Problem? 4:30-6 pm, p 7
Sat, May 3	LWVSDC (ILO) Convention, 9:30 am-2:pm, p 1, green insert
Sat, May 31	LWVSD Annual Meeting, 10 am-2 pm, Mission Valley Library, details in May Voter

Mark Your Calendars

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>



Earth Fair 2014, Sunday, April 27. 10 am-5 pm, Balboa Park

Look for the League booth across from the reflecting pond. Volunteers are still needed. Please contact Jeanne Brown at jhisten.brown@gmail.com if interested in helping.



Second Annual Equal Pay Day Luncheon



Raise Your Voice, Close the Gap

Tuesday, April 8, 12 noon - 1:15 pm

The Westgate Hotel, 1055 Second Avenue, San Diego, 92101

This year, Equal Pay Day falls on April 8, representing the date in the current year through which women must work to match what men earned in the previous year. According to the U.S. Census Bureau, on average, full-time working women are paid 77 cents for every dollar paid to their male counterparts. Women of color fare even worse. Please join us for a discussion featuring,

- ◆ Kelly Jenkins-Pultz, Acting Regional Administrator, US DOL Women's Bureau Region 9 ~ the various factors that contribute to the wage gap and the adverse impact upon women and families;
- ◆ Dan Kuang, Ph.D., VP of Legal and Audit Support Services, Biddle Consulting Group, Inc. ~ the implications of pay inequity for the private sector and the role of employers in taking a proactive approach toward their compensation policies; and
- ◆ Ann Marie Houghtailing, a negotiations expert, learning how to make a difference and close the gap ~ negotiations tips and equipping you with five actions you can take to become the agent of your own financial success to help close the gap!

This Luncheon is co-hosted with Hera Hub, League of Women Voters, San Diego Women In Finance, VOW – Voices of Women, and Women's Museum of California. **\$25, Members of Lawyers Club and/or Co-Hosts; \$40, Non-Members; \$20, Students; \$40 at the door, space permitting. On April 8th wear RED to symbolize far "in the red" women are with their pay.**

Register early, this program will sell out. <https://m360.lawyersclubsandiego.com/ViewEvent.aspx?>



Volunteers Jeanne Brown, Josan Feathers, Jill Elsner, Joan Eisenhower

Learning in the 21st Century ~ Building a Pathway to Student Success

This year marks the beginning of two major **changes in the way our children's education** is both funded and taught. Rather than districts receiving money through over 40 categorical funds that could only be spent on specific programs, the Local Control Funding Formula (LCFF) will increase school **funding and direct more resources to California's highest-need students** - English learner, low-income, and foster youth. It leaves significant spending decisions to local discretion in the form of a Local Control and Accountability Plan (LCAP) that must be adopted by July 2014. It is up to parents and students to make sure LCFF funds are used responsibly and with emphasis on closing the achievement gap. The LCFF acknowledges that English learner, low-income, and foster youth students have greater needs that require more resources to address and that this should be reflected in the LCAP.

There will also be major changes in the way our students are taught known as the Common Core State Standards (CCSS). Based upon considerable research into 21st century literacy skills that prepare students for both college and careers, these standards and the resultant assessments have been adopted by 45 states, includ-



ing California. The CCSS are designed for assessment; they are stated goals that students are to achieve at completion of each grade level. Each of the literacy skills (reading, writing, speaking, listening) is applied across the curriculum, with variation depending upon the content area: history/social studies, science, English/language arts. There are separate skills and examinations for math.

To help all of us to better understand these major changes, the Education Committee of the LWVSD along with co-sponsors — the 9th District PTA, UpforEd (United Parents for Education) and Oceanids (UCSD philanthropic organization) — are putting on a workshop on Saturday, April 26 from 8:30 until 1:30 which includes lunch. The major focus will be the Common Core State Standards, but there will be four workshops which will focus on other topics of major interest to parents, grandparents and educators. Please refer to flyer on page 6 for the details. You will leave this workshop with a much better understanding of how education will be funded and taught in the 21st century.

~ Penny Adler, Director, Education



Funding Affordable Housing and Infrastructure in a Post Redevelopment Era

Saturday, April 11, 8:30 am - 12:30 pm

Linder Hall, First United Methodist Church
2111 Camino Del Rio South in Mission Valley- park in lots P1 & P2

This League-sponsored forum is a follow-up to the presentations at the March Unit meetings and is intended for those wanting to learn more about innovative ways of providing affordable housing and also addressing critical infrastructure needs for which there is always inadequate funding available.

We will begin the day at 8:30 am with registration and light refreshments.

The forum begin at 9:00 am and will feature an impressive list of speakers:

- State Representative Toni Atkins, recently elected by her colleagues as the new Assembly Speaker;
- **Mike Burnett, an innovative small developer and designer, “Lean Urbanism“;**
- **Nico Calavita, retired professor of city planning at San Diego State, “Land Value Recapture, Incentive Zoning and Sale of FAR’s”;** and
- Susan Riggs, recently named by Governor Brown as Deputy Secretary of Housing Policy for California, **“Governor Brown’s Housing Priorities.”**
- Betsy Morris, retired former director of the San Diego Housing Commission, will moderate.

A time for questions will follow each presentation. We will adjourn by 12:30 pm.

Bios for the speakers are included in the forum program and online at www.lwvsandiego.org.

This will be an opportunity to learn more about the world of affordable housing and how we can use innovative ideas to increase our supply. We hope that some elected decision makers will choose to come so that the forum could help to influence the discussion on possible policy changes.

There is no charge for the forum, but attendees must register at <http://affordablehousingforum.eventbrite.com/?s=23371169>

~ Myles Pomeroy, Public Policy Chair, mpomeroy@san.rr.com



Sponsored by





Saturday, April 5, 12-2 pm



Mission Valley Library, 2123 Fenton Parkway,
San Diego, CA 92108-4739

Our Elections: How Can We Improve Them Locally??



Michael Vu, Registrar of Voters of San Diego County, will speak about the June elections.

Lorena Gonzalez, Assembly Member for the 80th District, will be sharing her bill (AB1873) to get all special elections in California run as mail-in ballots only.



Approaching Zero Waste



Now that the cities of San Diego, Oceanside and El Cajon have adopted the goal of zero waste and the concept is being introduced to the County of San Diego, several agencies, organizations and companies are working to achieve it:

- A certificate program has been developed for community colleges - two schools have adopted it so far.
- Zero Waste San Diego sponsored a Zero Waste Symposium in February - nearly 170 people attended to learn more of the details of how it can be achieved and to network with each other to make it happen.
- Single use plastic bags are on their way out - legislation is being considered at both the state and city levels -- some communities have already banned them.
- Chula Vista has staff that walks around neighborhoods to check people's trash bins - they give out "Whoops" notices to those who don't recycle properly.
- A new composting facility is being planned for East Otay Mesa - organic matter is top on the list for diverting from landfills.
- A pilot food composting program is being done in Ramona by SD County.
- The Air Resources Board's AB32 scoping plan revisions for Climate Change Plans lists landfills as one of the top polluters because they emit methane; much of the methane is captured and made into fuel, but there is still leakage.
- If you want to dispose of something that can't be recycled, advertise it free on www.freecycle.com and give it away to someone who wants it.
- Spend a little time at San Diego's Earth Fair on April 27 watching the more than 20 recycle stations separate waste for recycling and the repair center demonstrating a variety of restorations (furniture, bicycles, lawnmowers, etc.) you can do at home (located near the Aerospace Museum).



Membership

We have two new members this month - please welcome Rosemary Gaudio, 92119 and Naomi Stewart, 92114. Encourage them to come to Units and meet other Leaguers - making friends in League is a real benefit.

~ Beryl Flom, Director, Membership, edflom@sbcglobal.net, 858-459-4406

State Legislative Committee Meets in Sacramento

Kay Ragan, LWVSD Co-president and State Board Member, recently participated in the Legislative Committee meeting in Sacramento. The committee routinely communicates via conference calls but once a year has an in-person meeting. The meeting was also held in conjunction with the California Budget Project Conference.

Ragan's role on the State Board is Director, Social Policy dealing with issues of education, affordable housing, poverty, women, children and related family issues. Participants met with legislators on key bills on the **State's legislative agenda. One such bill is the T-K bill** authored by Steinberg — SB 837. This bill provides for universal pre-kindergarten education for four-year olds, taught at developmentally appropriate levels.

The transitional kindergarten program is not meant to be a second year of kindergarten, but rather to provide for a transition into kindergarten. The bill would help level the playing field for children from disadvantaged backgrounds when placed in a more supportive environment with a broad range of children. The long term benefit is not only to the individual children but to society.

The committee voted to support the bill. Our local Education Committee supports the bill and Penny Adler provided the initial background on the bill to the committee. Both Adler and Adrienne Schere are consultants to the state committee on Early Childhood Education.



Jackie Jacobberger, past State President; Trudy Schafer, LWVC staff member; Kay Ragan, LWVC Director; Barb Singleton, LWV San Francisco; Helen Hutchinson, LWVC Vice President; Joanne Leavitt, LWVC Chair. Early Childhood Education; Mary Bergan, LWV Oakland; Paula Lee, LWV Los Angeles.

Opportunities to Participate in Studies and Position Update

The County ILO has asked us to participate in the updating of the Behavioral Health Position and a new study on County Agriculture. You are not only invited to participate, but to serve as chair of either of these topics. As chair, you have the opportunity to recruit members to work with you. North County League members are also asked to participate. The collaboration with members from both Leagues worked well in the National Agricultural Study, so there is a good model in place.



If you are interested these two issues please communicate with Donna dbartlettmay@gmail.com or Kay kragand@cox.net.

In Memory of Abbe Wolfsheimer-Stutz – 1938-2014

Environmentalists in San Diego County were saddened to learn on March 13 that a valuable leader, Abbe Wolfsheimer-Stutz, had died of cancer. The San Diego League was fortunate to have her support in our program areas of transportation, land use, housing, and parks when she served on the San Diego City Council from 1985 thru 1993.

In 1987, as a League member and member of the Rancho Bernardo Planning Board, I received an invitation from Abbe (my city council representative) to attend a Saturday morning coffee to meet some members of a land conservancy group from Del Mar and Solana Beach. Abbe began the coffee by **sharing her dream, “envisioning a protected 55 mile open space preserve: The San Dieguito River Valley from Volcan Mountain to the Pacific Ocean in Del Mar.”**

Later that year, an executive committee was formed by SANDAG and staffed by Susan Carter, Project Coordinator. Both Roni Seay, our current county League's president, and I (representing Rancho Bernardo) served on this body and later on the Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC).

Since the river valley crossed six jurisdictions, the cities of San Diego, Del Mar, Escondido, Poway, Solana Beach and the unincorporated County of San Diego, SANDAG convened an executive committee composed of elected representatives from those agencies, and then-Councilmember Abbe

Wolfsheimer and Supervisor Susan Golding as co-chairs of the executive committee provided the leadership to establish the San Dieguito River Valley Regional Open Space Park Joint Powers Authority.

The CAC Chairman, SDSU Professor Phil Pryde, held the first meeting in May 1988. I had the privilege of serving as his vice-chair. Margaret Schlesinger, LWV member and former mayor of Solana Beach, continues to represent the League on this active body.

Abbe was born in Chicago to Irving Salomon and Cecile Liebowitz. In 1945, her father, who later was appointed by President Dwight D. Eisenhower to be U.S. Ambassador to the UN, moved his family to the historic Rancho Lilac in Valley Center.

Abbe attended the California Western School of Law, passed the bar in 1973, and was a professor of real property at Western State University for 11 years.

LWV and the San Dieguito Conservancy will miss the public policy input Abbe provided over the years as we marvel at and enjoy the success of her San Dieguito River Valley vision. As Susan Carter, **now Deputy Director of the JPA, stated, “It’s absolutely true, this miracle would never have happened without the enthusiastic leadership of Abbe Wolfsheimer-Stutz.”**

~ Ramona Salisbury Kiltz



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of San Diego
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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 _____

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