



# League of Women Voters

## North County San Diego

# VOTER

The League of Women Voters, a nonpartisan political organization, encourages informed and active participation in government and influences public policy through education and advocacy.

Volume I No. 3  
Editor: Veronica J. Seay

LWV Telephone 760-736-1608  
P.O. Box 131272, Carlsbad CA 92013 [www.lwvncsd.org](http://www.lwvncsd.org)

### October 2011 Calendar

- Thurs., Oct. 6    Natural Resources Group at  
Noon to 2 PM    Leucadia Wastewater Offices
  
- Mon., Oct. 10    Oceanside/Vista Unit Meeting at  
11:30 AM       Buena Vista Audubon Center, O'side  
LWVUS Education Study Discussion
  
- Thurs., Oct. 13   Board Meeting  
9:15 AM        Leucadia Wastewater Offices
  
- Friday, Oct. 14   Escondido Unit Meeting  
10 AM to Noon   LWVUS Education Study Discussion
  
- Mon., Oct. 17    Book Group at the home of  
1:15 - 3:00 PM   Naomi Marblestone
  
- Wed., Oct. 19    San Dieguito Unit Meeting at  
1:30 PM        Belmont Village, Cardiff  
LWVUS Education Study Discussion
  
- Thurs., Oct. 20   Carlsbad Unit Meeting at  
10 AM           Leucadia Wastewater Offices  
LWVUS Education Study Discussion
  
- Friday, Oct. 21   Women's Issues Group  
10 AM           Leucadia Wastewater Offices
  
- Wed., Oct. 26    Civil Discourse Group at the home  
10 AM to Noon   of Mary Thompson
  
- Wed., Oct. 26    ***Celebrating the 100th Anniversary  
11:30 - 1:30 PM   of Women's Suffrage in California  
Looking Backward and Forward***
  
- Luncheon sponsored by the  
                         LWV of San Diego (City)  
                         which is celebrating its 75th Year

Make your reservations at  
[www.lwvsandiego.org](http://www.lwvsandiego.org)

Consult our website for up-to-the-minute LWV  
information & maps to meetings at [www.lwvncsd.org](http://www.lwvncsd.org)

### Role of Federal Government in Public Education: Equity and Funding

by Peggy Dornish

Equity and Funding issues in public schools have long been of concern to the League, and while LWVC has a comprehensive position on these issues, LWVUS does not. Hence, this key aspect of our Education Study. Unfortunately, however, the time mandated for the Study is too short to deal with the many intertwined issues with our League's hallmark thoroughness. Accordingly, the Committee urges members to read the background materials and attend the Unit meetings in October as preparation for the Consensus meeting in November.

\* \* \* \* \*

Public school funding comes from many sources—federal, state, and local taxes, fees and grants provided by various governmental and other agencies. Nearly half of K-12 education funding is supposed to come from the individual states to local districts. The federal government adds less than 10 percent to specifically local education budgets, yet it contributes significantly to the rules for how education funding is used (e. g., currently, No Child Left Behind and Race to the Top).

**EQUITY & ADEQUACY** States that rely heavily on property taxes to fund education tend to have significant inequities in school funding, mirroring inequities of wealth in the society at large.

*Continued on page 3*

**LWV Board Members 2011-2012****Officers**

|                  |                                       |
|------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Mary Crowley     | President                             |
| Nancy Telford    | 1st Vice President                    |
| Barbara Lorenzen | 2nd Vice President<br>& Issues Groups |

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| Peggy Dornish         | Voter Service                             |
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| Carol Grimes-Gartland | Events                                    |
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| Arlene Meadows        | Carlsbad Unit                             |
| Margie Monroy         | Natural Resources                         |
| Diane Mochizuki       | San Dieguito Unit                         |
| Anne Patton           | VOTER Editor                              |
| Roni Seay             |   |

**Off-Board Director**

|                |               |
|----------------|---------------|
| Joann Johnson  | Grant writing |
| Liz Kruidenier | Social Policy |

**President's Message**

Because of a family emergency, President Mary Crowley was not able to write her column for this issue. I'm sure she would have written her thanks to the Kick-Off committee and urge members to participate in the LWVUS Education Study. We wish Mary and her family all the best.

**Thoughts About the VOTER**  
by Roni Seay

I edited my first VOTER with Margie Monroy in June 1989. It was a small 7 x 8 inch, eight-page volume that I wrote on my first Apple and printed with a rather fuzzy dot matrix printer. Later, we literally pasted articles, photos, and graphics on large sheets of paper and drove them to the printer. Fortunately the production was streamlined with the advent of laser printers, desktop publishing programs, and PDF.

I always planned to make members aware of coming League events and meetings; highlights of other levels of League; and articles about Local issues, action, interest groups, LWV Observers and Voter Service. Margie and I tried to balance our articles (which we wrote almost exclusively ourselves) to be comprehensible to both new members and the public without being tedious for our long-time members.

During the last five years Co-President Peggy Dornish wrote an outstanding column "The View from Here" and improved the VOTER with her writing and editorial skills. Recently we instituted an editorial committee for planning the upcoming issues and have recruited more writers and proofreaders. Our website, managed by Suzanne Carneiro, and the VOTER have become partners. The website has more space for in-depth reports and photographs and can be updated quickly.

I am happy to turn over the editor's job to people with a fresh approach. I had a nice feeling of accomplishment each month, but the deadlines have seemed to come faster and faster. I will continue to write articles and help with the VOTER as needed.

Mary Thompson will edit the November/December 2011 edition and starting in January 2012 Martha Cox will be the new editor. We can look forward to an evolving publication under their talented leadership.

**Welcome New Members**

**Mary L. Adams**  
**Oceanside**

**Lisa Shaffer**  
**Encinitas**



## Role of Federal Government in Public Education: Equity and Funding *continued from page 1*

Moreover, housing patterns, especially in urban areas, show that our society is becoming increasingly re-segregated, another societal circumstance which also leads to funding inequities.

Since the 90's, the focus seems, however, to have shifted from the standard of equity to that of adequacy, that is, whether or not a state is providing local districts with (just) enough funding and resources to give all students a basic education. The actual cost of an adequate education varies considerably, however, depending on the degree of poverty in a community and on the special needs of some of its students.

**ACCOUNTABILITY & COMPETITION** In 2001 President Bush signed the No Child Left Behind Act which expanded testing requirements in the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA, enacted during Lyndon Johnson's presidency) and introduced an aggressive federal role in holding states accountable for showing improved student performance. NCLB was intended to close achievement gaps, particularly for minority students. It appears that did not happen. One provision of NCLB permitted parents to remove a student from a low performing school to a better performing school in the local district, and requiring the abandoned school to pay transportation costs, thus punitively reducing that school's resources--a large part of the problem in the first place.

Race to the Top was signed into law by President Obama in 2009. This program shifted the basis for awarding federal funds from accountabil-

ity to competition by rewarding educational reform in selected states, more accurately, rewarding a plan for reform. Another aspect of both NCLB and Race to the Top is to offer choice to parents whose children attend poorly performing public schools, that is, vouchers and charter schools. But here, too, research shows little difference in student performance compared to public school students with similar backgrounds and socioeconomic status.

Another issue on which everybody does seem to agree is the importance of early childhood education--and the education of parents in their roles in preparing their children for school.

### BACK TO EQUITY vs. THE PROBLEMATIC "CARROT OR STICK" APPROACHES

It seems clear that there are no easy answers or simplistic solutions to current dissatisfaction with our public schools. The problems are not just educational, but societal as well, and this situation is just the sort of problem that Leaguers are well equipped to tackle. We need to add our experienced, educated voice to the current debate

### Website Information

Please go to the LWVUS website to find the background papers for this study.

- enter: [www.lwv.org](http://www.lwv.org)
- pull down: For Members
- click: Projects and Programs
- click: Education Study
- find: Background Papers
- click: Get informed



## Review of League's Financial Records by Martha Cox, Treasurer

On August 3, 2011, board members Peggy Crane and Barbara Lorenzen conducted a financial review of the records of the former North Coast and Escondido Leagues. Both of these board members have extensive financial backgrounds, which put them in good stead to undertake this task. In their report to the board, they commended these findings:

- Back-up documentation of payments and deposits was very thorough and accurate
- Postings were made correctly and in a timely manner
- Bank reconciliations were completed monthly
- Activity was easily reviewed

They also made some suggestions for minor reporting changes and a method of filing records to make financial reviews easier.

With the completion of the financial review, both treasurers of the former North Coast and Escondido Leagues have filed the previous fiscal year's tax documentation for their respective organizations and they will begin to merge funds into North County San Diego accounts.

The North County San Diego League is truly indebted to Peggy Crane and Barbara Lorenzen for their expertise in providing the level of professional service that allows us to make the above statement.

## Stand by your (Political) Ad LWVC's Latest Legislative Position

by Mary Thompson

It's old news that the U.S. Supreme Court ruled in January 2010 in *Citizens United vs. FEC* that corporations and unions may use unlimited funds from their general treasuries to pay for political ads— independent expenditures and electioneering communication.\* In response, a federal DISCLOSE Act (HR 5175) would have required that ads paid for by persons or entities contributing more than \$50,000 declare their support but that bill fell short in the Senate.

What's new is LWVC's support of the California DISCLOSE Act of 2012 (AB 1148) This bill is patterned after the federal legislation and would apply to all ads supporting or opposing ballot measures or candidates in state and local elections.

Political advertising is more and more often paid for by corporations and wealthy individuals hiding behind deceptively named organizations. In California, over \$235 million was spent on 2010 ballot measures alone, most by corporations hiding behind misleading committees like "Stop Hidden Taxes" and "California Jobs Initiative" — both of whose largest funders were actually oil companies. AB 1148 requires the largest funders of political ads to be clearly and unambiguously identified, on the ads themselves, to "Stand by Their Ad," so voters know who is actually paying for them.

AB 1148 requires the CEO of the corporation, the leader of the union, or the wealthy individual who is the largest funder of a ballot measure or ad for or against a candidate to appear in the ad, to identify themselves, and to say they "helped pay for this message and approve it."

As a two-year bill, extra time is being allowed to scrutinize the major changes to disclosure on all political advertising in California. The bill is scheduled to come before the California Senate Elections Committee in January 2012. Another group, DISCLOSE 2012, has suggested this important legislation should not be carved up by special interests in the Legislature, and instead should be brought to the ballot as an initiative.

In either event, "transparency" legislation gets wide public support. In a June 2010 national poll by Hart Research, 89% of all voters said they favored legislation

"that would require greater disclosure by corporations of their spending to influence elections."

Besides supporting AB 1148, LWVC also urges support for the measure's backer, California Clean Money Campaign. [www.CAClean.org](http://www.CAClean.org)

\* Two types of restrictions of election advertisements (political speech) were overruled by *Citizens United*: independent expenditures and electioneering communications. Independent expenditures are political speeches presented to the electorate that is not coordinated with a candidate. Electioneering communications, in laymen's terms, are typically ads that trash the candidate on election eve. The Bipartisan Campaign Reform Act of 2002 (aka McCain-Feingold) had banned such advertising paid for by corporations or labor unions.

Some important limits do remain intact: corporations still cannot give money directly to federal candidates or national party committees.



## Escondido Unit Meeting Report

by Margaret Liles

The Escondido Unit held their first official meeting Saturday afternoon, September 10. The meeting was graciously hosted by Ellen Gifford in the Conference Room at the Redwood Terrace Senior Home. We were pleased that several members from the coast attended the meeting.

Martha Cox and Mary Thompson, from the Civil Discourse Committee, gave an excellent overview of how their Committee came to be, and what they wished to accomplish. The participation of all citizens in their government is essential for an effective democracy. Such participation has long been endorsed and encouraged by the LWV. Recognizing the League's effectiveness, leaders in the emerging Arab-Spring democracies of Tunisia, and Egypt have requested assistance from the League in developing their LWV's. But, what about democracy in our own country? Martha and Mary began

*Continues on page 5*

*Escondido Unit continued from p. 4*

their presentation with a short video of examples demonstrating very uncivil discourse, a type of discourse that is very prevalent not only on FOX, MSNBC, and radio talk shows, but also in public meetings. The Civil Discourse Interest Group wishes to bring back civility, believing that without civility, the free exchange of ideas so necessary in a democracy, is hindered. The LWVNCSD is not alone. Many Leagues throughout the nation have started similar focus groups. Martha and Mary concluded their presentation with a brainstorming session about how to define and implement civil discourse.

### **Water Resources Library**

Members then heard from Linda Vida, Director of the Water Resources Library for the University of California. She gave a brief history of the Water Resources Collection and Archives and explained what was included in the collection--an astonishing range of documents including engineering plans, correspondence, water district information, and many historic photos of California's many water projects. She explained that a lot of the library's materials were now available online, in outline form at least. The online information is constantly being updated and is conserved for future use. The Library is used by university students and researchers but also many attorneys and other non-academic parties and recognized as a resource that has a neutral position on the many legal battles over California's water.

The "water library" is not officially open to the public until Spring 2012, having spent the past year relocating from UC Berkeley. Here's a link to the archive:

<http://library.ucr.edu/wrca/>

## **Unit Meetings Education Study**

### **Oceanside/Vista Unit**

**Mon., Oct. 10 at 11:30 AM**

The meeting will be held at the Audubon Center, 2202 Pacific Coast Hwy., just south of West Vista Way on the north side of the Buena Vista Lagoon.

### **Escondido Unit**

**Friday, Oct. 14 10 AM to Noon**

The Unit will meet at the East Valley Community Center, 2245 East Valley Parkway, Escondido. Call Arlene Meadows at 760-751-2049 for more information.

### **San Dieguito Unit**

**Wed., Oct. 19 at 1:30 PM**

The San Dieguito Unit will meet at Belmont Village, 3535 Manchester Drive, Cardiff.

*Parking instructions:* Park in the south end of the Temple Solel parking lot (directly to the north of Belmont Village). Walk a short distance to Manchester, turn right at the FIRST DRIVEWAY, walk to the end (a cul-de-sac) then turn left to the sidewalk. Walk a short distance, veer left. You will see the entrance to the dining room. Enter and ask staff to direct you to the Town Hall Room. (League members will help direct you.)

Anne Patton [apatton@ucsd.edu](mailto:apatton@ucsd.edu)

### **Carlsbad Unit**

**Thursday, Oct. 20 at 10 AM**

The Carlsbad Unit meets at the Leucadia Wastewater Offices in Carlsbad. Contact Margie Monroy for more information.



## **Bulletin Board**

### **Natural Resources Group Thurs., Oct. 6 at Noon**

Meetings are held at the Leucadia Wastewater Offices on the first Thursday of the month. Join us for a brown bag lunch to discuss your interest in Natural Resources. We are open to any subject about which you have a curiosity or passion. We intend to have a flexible format that will likely include speakers and field trips.

### **Book Group**

**Mon., Oct. 17, 1:15 to 3:00 PM**

We will discuss any book of your choice by Oliver Sacks. Anne Omsted will moderate. The meeting is at Naomi Marblestone's home. Call Anne Omsted if you have any questions.

### **Women's Issues**

**Friday, Oct. 21 10 AM to Noon**

For information contact Evelina at [evelinahamilton@gmail.com](mailto:evelinahamilton@gmail.com)

### **Civil Discourse Group**

**Wed., Oct. 26 at 10:00 AM**

Join us as we broaden our understanding of civility in public discourse. Contact Mary Thompson at 760-942-2458 for meeting details

### **Join County League**

LWV San Diego County is looking for a few League members to add to its Board of Directors. They also are assembling a team to observe the Board of Supervisors.

The County of San Diego has control over Health and Human Services, Natural Resources, Land Use, Courts, Elections—a fascinating array of powers. Contact me!

Roni Seay, Nominating Committee  
[RoSeay@aol.com](mailto:RoSeay@aol.com)

## Status of Sustainable Practices: A Survey of North Coast San Diego Cities

### Executive Summary by Diane Mochizuki

*Sustainable communities are those which strive to fulfill the economic, social and environmental needs of their present constituents without jeopardizing the needs of future generations. The League of Women Voters North County San Diego undertook a survey to determine how North Coast San Diego cities measured up in their efforts to promote sustainability.*

The LWV North County San Diego Sustainability Issues Group undertook the second biennial survey of sustainable practices in 2010. The coastal cities which participated in the survey were Carlsbad, Del Mar, Encinitas, Oceanside, Solana Beach, and Vista. The survey was formatted as a yes/no questionnaire that also allowed for elaboration where desired. The questionnaire was composed of 24 questions divided into 8 categories: greenhouse gases; planning; water conservation; governance; innovation; solid waste; environmental stewardship; and community involvement. The questionnaire gave us a good snapshot of local effort and commitment to create sustainable communities.

Table 1 summarizes our findings. The cities varied in implementation of sustainability efforts, as would be expected given differences in population and operating budgets, as shown at the bottom of the table. The percentage of positive response ranged from 57% for Carlsbad to 83% for Solana Beach.

The survey showed that all cities had (or were in the process) of determining their Green House inventory. All cities with the exception of Del Mar had traffic coordination programs in place to facilitate transportation flow and reduce GHG emissions. Only Solana Beach currently mandates LEED standards for all new public buildings. All cities, with the exception of Vista had achieved reduced energy consumption in the last two years. Carlsbad, Solana Beach, and Vista now have General Plans encouraging residential buildings near public transportation.

Most of the cities were found to promote water conservation. All cities, with the exception of Solana Beach, required drought-resistant landscaping in new commercial

or residential sites. All six cities utilized drought-resistant planting on municipal properties. Carlsbad, Encinitas, Oceanside, and Solana Beach use reclaimed water for irrigation. Del Mar was unique in having a policy that promotes the collection and use of gray water.

We found that with the exception of Del Mar and Carlsbad, the cities have continued to spend at or above 2009 levels for sustainability efforts. All cities, with the exception of Del Mar, have implemented new and in many instances creative sustainability practices. In all cities except Del Mar, sustainability efforts have resulted in cost savings. Encinitas, Solana Beach and Oceanside have been able to create new innovative or cost saving programs which promote sustainability.

In the area of solid waste, Oceanside and Solana Beach require that their green waste contractors compost yard waste rather than divert it to landfills where it creates methane gas. All cities, with the exception of Carlsbad, mandate recycling of building debris after demolition or renovation. In support of environmental stewardship, all cities are implementing the Model Water Efficiency Landscape Ordinance AB 1881. All cities also consider existing landscape prior to approving new development. With the exception of Solana Beach, all cities are involved in a Habitat Conservation Management Plan. Solana Beach, however, has a program to protect habitat in South America as a method to offset carbon emissions. Currently, no city has an ordinance requiring the use of non-toxic, biodegradable products to minimize the flow of toxic materials into waterways. Encinitas, Solana Beach, and Vista, however, utilize Integrated Pest Management (IPM) practices which use natural pest control and non-toxic products on some of their city properties.

In order to engage their citizens, Encinitas, Del Mar, Oceanside, and Solana Beach participate in public education forums on sustainability. Solana Beach monitors mandated sustainability efforts of all its departments through periodic reports. Both Encinitas and Solana Beach have public committees that monitor sustainability efforts and report to the city council. Del Mar, Encinitas, Oceanside, Solana Beach, and Vista provide citizens with reports on the results of their sustainability efforts.

*Please go to the LWVNCSD website to read or download the report: [www.lwvncsd.org](http://www.lwvncsd.org)*

## LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS NORTH COUNTY SAN DIEGO Comparison of Positive Sustainable Action by North County San Diego Cities

Data from: League of Women Voters North County San Diego\* 2010 Sustainability Survey <http://lwvncsd.org>

Cities within our league area were asked a series of 24 questions from the different action areas listed below. A yes response indicated a positive sustainable action taken by a city. The table shows the number of positive responses over the total number of questions asked. For example, in the Green House Gases Action Area, two questions were asked. A score of 2/2 means that the city responded yes to both questions. Specific questions and the complete data can be viewed at the following web link: [lwvncsd.org/sustainabilityreport2010](http://lwvncsd.org/sustainabilityreport2010)

| CITY                            | Carlsbad | Del Mar | Encinitas | Oceanside | Solana Beach | Vista  |
|---------------------------------|----------|---------|-----------|-----------|--------------|--------|
| <b>ACTION AREA</b>              |          |         |           |           |              |        |
| <b>Green House Gases</b>        | 2/2      | 1/2     | 2/2       | 1/2       | 2/2          | 2/2    |
| <b>Planning</b>                 | 2/3      | 2/3     | 1/3       | 1/3       | 3/3          | 1/3    |
| <b>Water Conservation</b>       | 3/4      | 3/4     | 3/4       | 3/4       | 2/4          | 2/4    |
| <b>Governance</b>               | 2/3      | 0/3     | 3/3       | 3/3       | 3/3          | 3/3    |
| <b>Innovation</b>               | 1/1      | 0/1     | 1/1       | 1/1       | 1/1          | 1/1    |
| <b>Solid Waste</b>              | 0/2      | 1/2     | 1/2       | 2/2       | 2/2          | 1/2    |
| <b>Environmental</b>            | 3/4      | 3/4     | 3/4       | 3/4       | 2/4          | 3/4    |
| <b>Community Involvement</b>    | 0/4      | 3/4     | 2/4       | 1/4       | 4/4          | 2/4    |
| <b>Positive Responses/Total</b> | 13/23    | 13/23   | 16/23     | 15/23     | 19/23        | 15/23  |
| <b>Percent positive</b>         | 57%      | 57%     | 70%       | 65%       | 83%          | 65%    |
| <b>Operating Budget</b>         | \$188    | \$19    | \$88      | \$112     | \$25         | \$66   |
| <b>Population</b>               | 105,325  | 4,161   | 59,518    | 167,086   | 12,867       | 93,834 |

\* formerly LWV North Coast San Diego County

League of Women Voters  
North County San Diego  
Post Office Box 131272  
Carlsbad, CA 92013

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CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED



**Why are Bats Good?  
Are Bats More than a Prop for Halloween?**  
by Roni Seay

A single bat can eat up to 1,000 mosquitoes in one hour. Bats are among the most important yet underrated animals. Despite the fact that almost a quarter of all known mammal species are bats, most people know very little about them. Bats are vital for pollination and seed-dispersal in the world's tropical rainforests. They are the world's primary predators of flying insect pests, but they are being killed indiscriminately or chased out of the few safe habitats left to them because of misinformation and ignorance. Here in San Diego County we are fortunate to have 23 species of bats in residence. More: [www.batcon.org/](http://www.batcon.org/)

**Join the League of Women Voters**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Membership is open to all U.S. citizens of voting age. Others are welcome as Associate Members.

Dues:

- ( ) \$60/ year (Oct.1 to Sept. 30)
- ( ) \$30/year for 2nd member, same address.

New members joining after Feb.1 will pay one half the annual dues.

Additional levels of giving:

- ( ) \$100/year Suffragist    ( ) \$200/year Activist
- ( ) \$300/year Advocate    ( ) \$500/year Founders Circle

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

Please make checks payable to LWV-NCSD and mail to: LWV-NCSD, PO Box 131272, Carlsbad CA 92013

Please contact Membership Chair Peggy Crane, at [peggycrane@hotmail.com](mailto:peggycrane@hotmail.com) for more information.