



FROM THE CO- PRESIDENT'S DESK

As I come to the end of my second term, I am pleased to say that we have accomplished getting our fiscal house in order by trimming expenses and increasing income. As we end our fiscal year, I want to thank the board members who are not continuing on the Board for 2019-2020: Harriet Borson, Sharon Akins, and Tom Carson as Treasurer. All have contributed much to our progress. I am sure they will continue to serve the League in other capacities.

We are continuing to reach out to high school students to register them to vote. Your help is needed so that we can reach as many students as possible. In addition, we are preparing for the June election and again we could use volunteers to sign up to educate voters in the various communities we serve.

We are trying new things such as **Hot Topics Lunch**, kudos to Sandra Trutt for arranging these. We have had two very successful events thus far; the first was on climate change and the second was on immigration.

The LWV California convention will be in Pasadena on May 31 through June 2. For more detailed information, check out our website. **Saturday, June 29** is the new date for our **Annual Meeting**. This will give us the time to settle in and be prepared to greet you at the meeting.

We will be having our **Celebrating Leadership Awards** in the early fall. In March 2020, the League will be celebrating the 100th Anniversary of the Passage of the 19th Amendment. It will be a **Journey to the Polls Film Festival** with stories of the fight for Women's Suffrage. The films will screen on each Sunday in March at the Billy Wilder Theater in the Hammer Museum followed by a panel discussion. Admission is free. There are opportunities to sponsor the event. More information will follow.

In League,

Martha Sklar, Co-President

May - June 2019

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LOCAL UNITS

**Las Virgenes
Valley**

VOTING SOLUTIONS FOR ALL PEOPLE LEARN ABOUT LA COUNTY'S VOTE CENTERS AND THE NEW VOTING EXPERIENCE!

The Los Angeles League of Women Voters is hosting three community meetings in the Northwest San Fernando Valley, Santa Monica and Agoura Hills to inform communities about the 2020 changes to how we vote and where we vote.

These meetings are a great opportunity to provide feedback on the process and let us know where you want to vote! We hope to see you at one of our meetings!

HOW WILL VOTING CHANGE IN 2020?



INNOVATIVE TECHNOLOGY

New accessible voting equipment designed by LA County voters to meet all of their needs.



CONVENIENT VOTE CENTERS

LA County voters can vote at any vote center throughout the County over an 11-day voting period.

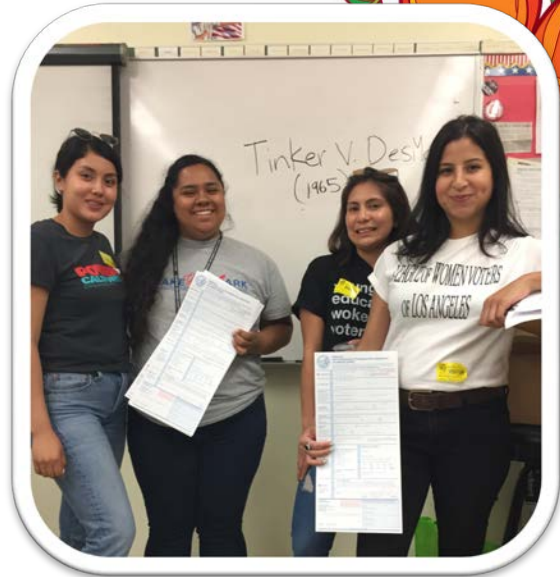
DATE/ TIME / LOCATIONS:	FOCUS AREA:
Thursday, May 2, 2019 At 6:30 p.m. Shepherd Church - MC Room 130-131 19700 Rinaldi Street Los Angeles, CA 91326	Cities: Calabasas, Hidden Hills Unincorporated LA County: Lake Manor, Santa Monica Mountains, West Chatsworth, West Hills LA Neighborhoods: Canoga Park, Chatsworth, Winnetka, Woodland Hills
Tuesday, May 7, 2019 At 6:00 p.m. Virginia Avenue Park - Thelma Terry Building 2200 Virginia Avenue Santa Monica, CA 90404	Cities: Malibu, Santa Monica Unincorporated LA County: Santa Monica Mountains, West Los Angeles LA Neighborhoods: Bel Air, Beverly Crest, Brentwood, Century City, Mandeville Canyon, Mar Vista, Pacific Palisades, Palisades Highlands, Palms, Rancho Park, Venice
Tuesday, June 11 At 6:00 p.m. Agoura Hills/Calabasas Community Center 27040 Malibu Hills Road Calabasas, CA 91301	Cities: Agoura Hills, Calabasas, Malibu, Westlake Village Unincorporated LA County: Santa Monica Mountains



SPRING INTO LEAGUE!



In March, the League attended a training by the Los Angeles County Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk (RR/CC) on the new voting technology for 2020. Partners were able to try out the new and innovative voting equipment. Very fun and easy to use! We are excited to share with League and members of the community information about the new voter experience. You can learn more by attending a local VSAP meeting.



On April 20, The City of Los Angeles, Department of Neighborhood Empowerment, in collaboration with county, state and federal governmental agencies, organized the 1st Homelessness Resource Fair. Board director, Penny Sommers, and member of the homelessness action committee, Catherine Hicks, were there to represent the League and to promote the Yes in My LA guide.

Voter registration at Fairfax High School was a success! Thanks to our partners Power California and LA County RR/CC we were able to pre-register 175 students and register 28 students to vote.

CAMPAIGN FINANCE REFORM IN LOS ANGELES: THIS IS WHAT DEMOCRACY LOOKS LIKE!

There are \$13 million languished in a public fund for elections in the City of Los Angeles. Restrictive rules have made it difficult for grassroots candidates to qualify for matching funds to help with campaigns. Incumbents and candidates with big money connections were more likely to win elections.

New and Improved Rules

On Tuesday, April 16, the LA City Council approved the final piece (Bonin/Koretz motion) of a landmark package of reforms that will be a model for matching funds programs across the nation. Beginning with the 2020 election:

- The lower qualifying threshold of \$11,400 for city council elections means that candidates will more easily be able to access matching funds;
- Reducing the maximum match for donations empowers small donors;
- Increasing the match from 2:1 to 6:1 gives candidates more money to run expensive campaigns; and
- Candidates will be required to participate in a candidate forum in order to qualify for public funds.

The new campaign finance rules in Los Angeles will ensure competitive elections, which are the antidote to unethical or ineffective politicians.

How did this happen?

Community activist, Rob Quan, studied the LWV Los Angeles publication *Los Angeles: Structure of a City Government* and gathered a coalition of organizations interested in campaign finance reform. LWV-Los Angeles, California Common Cause, California Clean Money, and Money-Out-Voters-In are some of the organizations that worked together under the coalition name of Unrig LA. This is what Unrig LA did:

- Researched campaign finance programs in other municipalities, notably New York City, San Francisco, and Seattle
- Mined publicly available data on the Los Angeles Ethics Commission website
- Met with Ethics Commission staff and presented reports to the Ethics Commission
- Met with individual council members and their staff to ensure they understood the benefits of a robust campaign finance program



(Left to right) Wayne Williams from California Clean Money; Councilmember Paul Koretz; Carolina Goodman from League of Women Voters of Los Angeles; Councilmember Mike Bonin; Michelle Sutter from Money Out Voters In; Rob Quan from Unrig LA

--Continued on Page 4

- Made public comments at Rules Committee and City Council meetings
- Solicited community impact statements from neighborhood councils
- Did outreach and educated the public to encourage them to sign petitions, call their council members, and make public comments at meetings in City Hall

Unexpected support came from the FBI investigations of corruption in City Hall and from *Los Angeles Times* articles highlighting the problem of pay-to-play politics in local government.

What's next?

Stay tuned for more from Unrig LA, as it works to bolster the Ethics Commission's proposed ban on non-person campaign contributions and behest payments (made to elected official's pet non-profits). Unrig also has its sights set on addressing dark money associated with independent expenditures.

Carolina Goodman
Campaign Finance Reform Committee Chair

DID YOU KNOW?

Los Angeles School District provides services for students with unstable housing. All students are given a Student Residency Questionnaire to fill out at the beginning of the school year, when a new student comes into the school, or if a student's housing circumstances change. This identifies those students who are in a precarious living situation, such as living in a shelter, a motel, in a vehicle, trailer, campsite, or a garage. Once students are identified, they can take advantage of the various services the school district offers. This program can help the students get basic school supplies, set up public transportation (TAP card) or school bus transportation to get to and from school, and referrals to resources in the community.

The public can also donate to several LAUSD support services, such as "family Christmas gifts," and "sponsor a graduate." If you are interested, go to their website: homelesseducation.lausd.net to see the programs available and to learn how you can help. Check out their wish list, too!

Sandra Trutt
Homeless Action Committee Chair

PROPOSED LWV CALIFORNIA POSITION ON CRIMINAL JUSTICE

LWVLA Committee on Criminal Justice Reform

California spends more on its prisons than it does on its schools, and the human cost is far greater. A large body of research finds that, for similar offenses, members of the African American and Hispanic communities are more likely to be stopped, searched, arrested, killed, convicted, and sentenced to harsher penalties. For these reasons, the LWVLA Committee on Criminal Justice Reform was established to identify research-based best practices and to collaborate with local law enforcement to address these issues.

At the 2017 LWV California Convention in Sacramento, LWVLA's Committee on Criminal Justice Reform made a presentation on Policing Practices. The session was attended by 15 California local Leagues, most of which expressed great interest in the broader issue of criminal justice reform, e.g. civilian oversight, alternatives to incarceration, and re-entry programs. This was the impetus to begin monthly calls to share insights on criminal justice that would promote safety and justice for all.

A review was made of state and local LWV positions on Criminal Justice. We were encouraged to draft a criminal justice position for possible LWV California concurrence. League positions are usually adopted by consensus after a two-year study. Leagues can also adopt a position that has been established by other Leagues through a process called concurrence. The proposed Criminal Justice position has now been shared with every local league in California, and we have considered their feedback when writing the final draft which will be a "recommended item" for LWVC's 2019-21 Program. For the full position, see Tinyurl.com/CriminalJusticeReformProposal

Here is the position in brief:

LWV-California supports:

- A criminal justice system that is just, effective, equitable, transparent, and that fosters public trust;
- The elimination of systemic bias, including the disproportionate policing and incarceration of marginalized communities;
- Policing practices that promote safety for both law enforcement officers and the communities they serve;
- Collaboration between government and community throughout every stage of the criminal justice system;
- A focus on humane treatment and rehabilitation with the goal of promoting the successful re-entry into communities of those who have been incarcerated; and
- Reliance on evidence-based research in decision-making about law enforcement programs and policies (including scheduled, periodic audits of program and policy effectiveness).

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Since the last VOTER

Civic Society

Crissi Avila
Susan F. Rice
Gerry Sallus

Contributions

Five Senses Tastings

New Members

Teresa Braun
Linda Gerson
Paulelle Goldschmid
Mihae Jung
Andrea Murray
Aria Pullman
Rosemary Rubin
Carma-Lu Thompson

Sustaining Contributions

Crissi Avila
Marilu Guevara
Jodi Doane

Tributes

Stephanie Bluestein
· In Memory of Joel Bellman

-- Proposed LWV-California Position on Criminal Justice, Continued from
Page 7

To ensure that the Criminal Justice position becomes policy, delegates from local Leagues will vote on adopting this position by concurrence at the upcoming state convention in June. The LWV California position will allow the state and local Leagues to educate the public and to advocate for legislation about needed reform in our criminal justice system.

Carolina Goodman
Criminal Justice Reform Committee Chair

NEW MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

My name is Andrea Murray, and I'm excited to be joining the League of Women Voters and their Homeless Action Committee. I'm a first generation American from Chile, and I grew up in the San Fernando Valley going paddle boarding in Malibu or hiking in Topanga. After graduating from UCLA in 2014 as an Astin Civic Engagement Scholar, I went on to work in homeless services, first engaging directly with clients, and later spearheading volunteer programs and fundraising initiatives. Today, I work at St. Joseph Center, the lead homeless service provider in West LA, helping raise funds for their vocational programs. I look forward to using my background and skills to support LWV's mission!

DO WE HAVE YOUR CURRENT EMAIL?

The League will be transitioning from hardcopy to online communication. This means that you will only receive a hardcopy newsletter by request.

If you have not received an email from us in the past, please contact us at info@lwwlosangeles.org or 213-368-1616. We will update our records and ensure you continue to stay informed.





SoCal Climate Change Forum

All Saints Church

Sweetland Hall

132 N. Euclid Ave, Pasadena, CA 91101

Saturday, June 22, 2019, 11:00am – 3:00pm

Doors open 10:30

- Meet League members from Santa Barbara to San Diego
- Learn what other Leagues are doing
- Learn about state legislation
- Learn how you can collaborate

LWV LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®
OF CALIFORNIA

2019 Annual Meeting



SATURDAY, JUNE 29
UTLA AUDITORIUM
REGISTRATION
8:30-9:00AM
PROGRAM
9:00-12:15PM



2019 Keynote Speaker

ALEJANDRA RAMIREZ-ZARATE

Policy and Research Analyst for Political Voice at Advancement Project California.

RSVP online at www.LWVlosangeles.org or by mail using form below

Name _____ Year Joined _____ Age _____
Email _____ Phone _____

Buffet breakfast - Tell us if you have dietary restrictions? _____

RSVP for _____ x \$25 donation payable to the League of Women Voters of Los Angeles

Credit Card #: _____ Exp. Date ____/____/____
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TYPE OF MEMBERSHIP	ANNUAL DUES	TYPE OF MEMBERSHIP	ANNUAL DUES
___ Individual	\$ 85	___ Sustaining	\$ 250
___ Student (currently enrolled, under 25 years)	\$ 28	___ Patron	\$ 500
___ Household (2 members, 1 address, 1 mailing)	\$ 120		
___ Supporting	\$ 125		



Scan the code to join online!

☐ I am paying my dues by check: Amount: _____
To pay by credit card: please go to www.LWVlosangeles.org and click "Join the League"

☐ I'd like to do more: Here is an additional gift and separate check to support the League's activities for:

Donation of \$ _____ payable to **LWV of Los Angeles**

Contributions, gifts and dues to the League of Women Voters of Los Angeles are tax-deductible.