

League of Women Voters of Orange Coast

The Voter

".....to promote informed citizen participation in government."

League Phone: 1 949 451-2212. Website: https://my.lwv.org/california/orange-coast

Calendar of Events

October, 2018

Monday, October 1st, 10:00am-12:30pm LWV Orange Coast Board Meeting

Location: St. Mark Presbyterian Church, Bonhoeffer Room, 2200 San Joaquin Hills Road,

Newport Beach, 92660

For information: 1-949 786-1669 or beckynewman2222@gmail.com

Thursday, October 4th, 2:00pm CAPO Unit Clip & Come & PIE!

For information and location: 1-949-496-1858 or mjob35@gmail.com. Join us don't be shy.

Wednesday, October 17th, 11:30am -2:00pm Lunch with League

Topic: Pros & Cons

Speakers: LWV Orange Coast Speakers Bureau

Location: Back Bay Conference Center, 3415 Michelson Drive, Irvine, 92612

Cost: \$20 for lunch and speaker, \$5 for speaker only.

Menu: See RSVP link.

RSVP: Required by October 14, at this link https://goo.gl/forms/TP7G8e2NGIIQr8Hw1.

If you do not have electronic access you may leave a message with your name and phone number for a call back to make your entree choice (or to cancel) at (949)451-2212.

Thursday, October 18th, 3:00pm CAPO Unit Book Club

Book: TBA

For information and location: 1-949-496-1858 or mjob35@gmail.com

Thursday, October 25th, 12:30-2:30pm. Book Club North

Book: "The Warmth of Other Suns" by Isabel Wilderson.

Moderator: *Grace*

For information and location: 1-505-1998 or sstemc6@gmail.com.

Happy Halloween!

November, 2018

Thursday, November 1st, 2:00pm CAPO Unit Clip & Come & PIE!

For information and location: 1-949-496-1858 or mjob35@gmail.com. Join us don't be shy.

Monday, November 5th, 10:00am-12:30pm LWV Orange Coast Board Meeting

Location: St. Mark Presbyterian Church, Bonhoeffer Room, 2200 San Joaquin Hills Road,

Newport Beach, 92660

For information: 1-949 786-1669 or beckynewman2222@gmail.com

Tuesday, November 6th, 2018 ELECTION DAY! VOTE!

Wednesday, November 14th, 11:30am to 2:00pm. Lunch with League

Topic: "Waste Not OC"

Speaker: Rachel Otair, Program Manager

Location: Back Bay Conference Center, 3415 Michelson Drive, Irvine, 92612

Menu: See RSVP link.

Cost: \$20 for lunch and speaker, \$5 for speaker only

RSVP: Required by November 11th, at this link https://goo.gl/forms/zeP53aXThsEDbSR42.

If you do not have electronic access you may leave a message with your name and phone number for a call back to make your entree choice (or to cancel) at (949)451-2212.

What is Waste Not OC? "Waste Not OC Coalition works collaboratively with hospitals, food banks, municipalities, the food industry and the waste hauling industry to reduce hunger and food waste by safely and cost effectively recovering unwanted wholesome food for distribution to local pantries serving those in our community facing food insecurity. From volunteering as a food runner to speaking with your local eateries, The League of Woman Voters can make an impact in our community by conveying the message that there should be no one suffering from food insecurity. This presentation will explore the ways to get involved in the community and how Waste Not OC and coalition partners are working to end food insecurity in Orange County.

We will have a food drive (non-perishable, shelf-stable food) in conjunction with this presentation.

Thursday, November 15th, 3:00pm

CAPO Unit Book Club

Book: TBA

For information and location: 1-949-496-1858 or mjob35@gmail.com

Thursday, November 29th, 12:30-2:30pm.

Book Club North

Book: "Factfulless: 10 good things about our world" by Hans Rosling.

Moderator: TBA

For information and location: 1-505-1998 or sstemc6@gmail.com.

All members or guests are welcome at any of the meetings in this calendar

President's Message

My message this month was to be a report on the amazing League of Women Voters of California Advocacy Teach-In held Saturday, September 15th in Sacramento. I'm delighted to report that they have decided, after all, to do a similar event in Southern California. I will also report back in a future *Voter*. However, we have some routine business we need to address now – **Signing Up for Lunch with League**.

Our events and communications teams continue to be challenged by what must be a lack of clarity in our communication with all of you about the importance of registering in advance of the Sunday night deadline for Lunch with League (LwL). Here's an overview:

- In each *Voter* there is an announcement of at least the next two LwLs. This often includes links to more information and <u>always</u> has links for registering.
- Three weeks before each LwL, all members (and other interested folks) get an email about the upcoming LwL, again with details and a link to the reservation form. This announcement includes the information that registration closes the Sunday night before the LwL in question.
- About one week before the event, another such email goes out.
- Those without access to the Internet can register via the League's message phone 949-451-2212
- It is also possible to register by going to our website and clicking on Events https://my.lwv.org/california/orange-coast/calendar
- Our advance publicity also includes multiple warnings that, as our sister Leagues say, "A
 reservation made is a reservation paid."

This all matters – especially now that we are having our Lunches with the League at the Back Bay Conference Center.

- The Center is conveniently located, there is plenty of parking, there are several menu choices AND the price is still just \$20.
- BUT the Center is not a restaurant. They don't shop and cook like a restaurant. They have no way to produce unanticipated meals and no way to sell them to other customers.
- They are not happy if we call with late reservations and we have decided to stop doing that
- We pay for everything ordered and sometimes end up with several unclaimed meals. At the same time, we always have folks who show up not having ordered and expecting to eat.
 Sometimes those two balance out – but not always! Note: You are welcome to come for "Speaker Only."

You can see where this is going! LwL is <u>typically</u> on the third Wednesday of each month – watch for announcements. If it's getting close to that 3rd Wednesday and you haven't seen one, check our website and register there. If you're not sure you registered, go ahead and register; the system eliminates duplicates. You get a confirmation email when you register and a reminder while there is still time to cancel.

See you at Lunch with the league!

In League, Rebecca Newman President



Resources for Voters from the League of Women Voters of California General Election – November 6, 2018:

League Explanations of the Ballot Measures: These are simple explanations of each ballot measure: https://lwvc.org/vote/elections/ballot-measures

League Recommendations on the Ballot Measures: These are how the League feels about the ballot measures - a different issue from the simple information in the first resource: https://lwvc.org/news/our-voting-recommendations-november-ballot-measures

Easy Voters Guides: These are available in eight languages and are simple 8-page guides to registration and voting, produced in collaboration with the California State Library:

http://www.easyvoterguide.org/

And, a real favorite of League members: **Voter's Edge**: https://votersedge.org/en/ca

Voter's Edge is a great way to "comparison shop" candidates. It is free to the candidate. If a candidate chooses not to participate, that also says something.

To participate, each candidate must:

- Sign a pledge not to talk about her or his opponent/s just himself/herself;
- State her or his profession, and
- State his or her three highest priorities; and

Candidates who participate may also submit any and all of the following:

- An approved head shot (clear; no pets or family members, et cetera; no props or prominent text);
- Position papers;
- Videos;
- And so on.

Follow the Money on Voter's Edge: In the case of state-level and federal-level candidates, we also post information about their major contributors – looking at the money supporting candidates is an additional way of evaluating their positions.



How do they do it? Jamboree Housing Corporation

Summarized by Christine Moore

At the League's recent homeless panel, Jamboree Housing described its model of permanent housing for the homeless with an array of services including mental health. Since Jamboree serves some of the poorest people with rents as low as \$300, a month, it is important to understand the financial structure that makes this possible.

Jamboree develops, rehabilitates and builds housing properties that include resident services delivered directly and through community partnerships with other organizations such as hospitals, school districts

and mental health service providers. Jamboree properties are managed by third-party property managers, who are vetted, hired and monitored by Jamboree. The property management companies must have a solid track record of experience in the affordable housing arena, and meet the criteria of the public entities that audit the properties' and Jamboree's performance. This is a highly regulated business. The ongoing performance of the third-party property management companies is central to Jamboree's long-term stewardship of these communities and the success of Jamboree's business.

The properties' ownership structures are set up as stand-alone partnerships that include a **Limited Partner**, which is the tax credit investor that supplies the equity or cash investment. The tax credit investors are usually institutional investors or large tax credit syndicators. Jamboree is the **Managing General Partner** in all these ownership structures. Mr. Sanchez explained that setting up the capital to fund affordable housing requires coordinating a number of cooperating entities. Jamboree's affordable housing has a complex financing structure where many different pieces come together: federal, state, local and private. Private equity is provided by the tax credit investor who purchases the 4% or 9% Low Income Housing Tax Credit (LIHTC) and by conventional bank loans that provide the bulk of financing. In addition, there is usually a financing gap which is filled with grants and loans from cities, counties and private funds. In exchange for these loans and grants, restrictions in the form of affordability covenants are placed on the deed of trust. The LIHTC gives investors a reduction in their federal tax liability in exchange for providing financing.

Properties developed by Jamboree serve individuals with incomes between 30% to 60% of the Area Median Income (AMI) and serve the following populations:

- Chronically Homeless
- Working Families
- Seniors
- Special Needs
- Veterans

In summary, once Jamboree secures a tax credit reservation, it must leverage the financial resources for the development. Under a typical LIHTC transaction, Jamboree secures a conventional loan from a private mortgage lender or public agency, gap financing from a public or private source and equity from a private investor in exchange for the tax credits. The LIHTC investors get tax credits and losses for their returns, which motivates them to invest. Jamboree properties are maintained as affordable communities for at least 55 years. Even if a Jamboree property transfers hands, the affordability requirements for that property are maintained for the remaining term of the affordability covenant attached to the deed of trust. In some cases, prior to the expiration of a 55-year term, Jamboree will extend affordability covenants

Jamboree's current portfolio consists of 84 properties and over 7,500 units. Jamboree is a non-profit company that re-invests its money in developing more affordable housing. Its mission is to deliver high quality affordable housing and services that transform lives and strengthen communities.

In conclusion, Jamboree is just one of several similar non-profit developers producing housing for the homeless in California—in fact, the fifth largest in the state. The financial model described applies to all of these and is based on California and U.S. tax credit laws. Together, these non-profits may well provide the ultimate solution to the homeless problem.

(Interview with Jose L. Sanchez, Vice-President of Asset Management Jamboree Housing Corporation.)

Voter Service Update

These are very busy and exciting times for Voter Service!

We held a Voter Service Committee meeting last month, and welcomed many new members. We formed a High School Voter Registration and Education subcommittee and an exploratory subcommittee for High School Civic Engagement Clubs. This has great potential and we look forward to it becoming an integral part of our efforts in the future. We are also creating new materials to engage voters.

We continue our traditional work doing Pros and Cons presentations, voter registration and education efforts, and candidate forums. We've begun our Pros and Cons presentations and candidate forums are gearing up. Besides high school voter registration, we are participating in voter registration and education at Temple Beth El, Blackmarket Bakery, Google, Saddleback College, and UCI.

Our focus is Get Out The Vote! We include voter education at all our events, promoting Voter's Edge as the primary driver. We are proud to be a partner of National Voter Registration Day. Look for new "VOTE" yard signs that will be available soon. And be sure to join us at Lunch with League on October 17 for our Pros and Cons Presentation.

Michele Musacchio Vickie Chenevey Voters Service Co-Directors LWV Orange Coast

LWVC Voting Recommendations on the November 6, 2018 Ballot Measures

Sacramento, CA - This election, voters face long ballots and are being asked to weigh in on a wide variety of critical issues. Whether you vote early, by mail, or on Election Day, we've made the decisions easier. After careful study and analysis, the League of Women Voters of California offers these recommendations:

• YES on Prop 1: Veterans and Affordable Housing Bond - California is experiencing a housing crisis. The state's extreme shortage of affordable housing has life and death consequences, especially for people with low incomes. Housing instability has been linked to public health crises, food insecurity, and developmental problems in children. Prop 1 will build and preserve affordable homes, including supportive housing, for veterans, working families, people with disabilities, Californians experiencing homelessness and others struggling to find a safe place to call home. It will authorize \$4 billion in general obligation bonds, to be used to support these affordable housing

programs. It would also leverage federal dollars for construction of new housing.

- YES on Prop 2: Homeless Housing Bond A quarter of the nation's homeless reside in California--over 130,000 people. A significant percentage of our homeless population suffers from mental illness. Prop 2 allows the use of unspent money, originally allocated through a 2004 measure to fund mental health services, to be used to address the problem. If passed, the unspent money would be used to provide permanent supportive housing for people who need mental health services, and are either currently homeless or at risk of becoming homeless.
- NO on Prop 3: Water Bond -It is essential that California manage and develop water resources in ways that benefit the environment, and that the environmental focus emphasizes both conservation and use-appropriate high water quality standards. However, this bond is not the way to accomplish those goals. While the League of Women Voters of California supports the use of long-term debt (bond measures) to finance capital projects, this measure has a number of fatal flaws, including:
 - Shifting the cost for water from the end users to California taxpayers;
 - Reducing state money available for other critical state programs like education, affordable housing, and healthcare;
 - Failing to provide for adequate project oversight and financial accountability.

NO on Prop 4: Children's Hospital Bond - While the League supports quality healthcare for all Californians, Prop 4 would use \$1.5 billion in public, general obligation bond money to support privately-owned children's hospitals, along with five children's hospitals in the University of California system. State funds should not be used to support private facilities. This principle stands even when, as is the case in this measure, the facilities serve severely ill children. The bond money would be used for construction, expansion, renovation, and equipment projects. These are capital improvements that could be funded either through revenues the private hospitals generate or through capital campaigns (where, for example, a building is named after a donor).

- NO on Prop 5: Property Tax Property taxes are the major source of funding for schools and local services. Prop 5 is a costly constitutional amendment that would reduce funds for schools and local services by \$1 billion per year. In exchange for that \$1 billion a year, Prop 5 would provide special tax benefits to some property owners. It does nothing to help low-income seniors, or families struggling to find housing. Seniors already have the ability to keep their tax break when they downsize. Prop 5 drains California's coffers of money that is essential to schools and communities.
- NO on Prop 6: Gas Tax Repeal California is in critical need of highway and local street repairs and maintenance, and improvements to mass transit and transportation. Prop 6 would repeal the recently-enacted 2017 package of taxes and fees approved by the State Legislature to fund transportation projects, amounting to a loss of \$4.7 billion in annual funding. The measure would also add a constitutional amendment requiring any fuel or diesel taxes to be approved by voters, limiting the legislature's ability to address

California's serious infrastructure needs. Passage of this repeal measure would have significant negative impacts and leave our state structures vulnerable, especially during natural disasters.

• YES on Prop 10: Repeal Costa Hawkins - Multiple strategies are needed to address the significant housing shortages and inequities that exist across California. While this rent control measure offers little systemic progress, and may not result in adding new affordable housing units, it does allow local communities to respond to the housing crisis in ways that are appropriate for each of them. We support providing local communities with this control.

PLEASE NOTE: Because League positions do not cover the issues in the following measures, the LWVC is taking no stand on Prop 7 (Daylight Savings Time), Prop 8 (Dialysis), Prop 11 (Ambulance Drivers), and Prop 12 (Farm Animals). Prop 9 was removed from the ballot.

"The League fights for just and responsible public policy—making life better for all Californians", said League of Women Voters of California President Helen Hutchison. "Join the fight and vote with the League on November 6!" she added.

How does the League make ballot measure endorsements? We only take positions on ballot measures based on current advocacy positions (https://lwvc.org/our-work/positions/what-position) and League principles. Positions are developed based on <a href="grassroots member study and consensus.

LWVUS Making News

U.S. Commission on Civil Rights Releases Report on Voting Rights: The Commission on Civil Rights released its <u>report on minority voting rights access</u> and how the Justice Department has been enforcing the VRA in the wake of the Supreme Court's Shelby County decision. Overall the report finds that many discriminatory practices are in use that threaten the right to vote for minority voters. The report makes recommendations to Congress and the Department of Justice with regards to policy and enforcement solutions to protect voters. LWVUS <u>provided written comments to the Commission</u> for this report.

LWVAZ, Mi Familia Vota Education Fund, Promise Arizona vs. Michele Reagan: This case was filed in August 2018 against the Secretary of State, Michele Reagan for violating the National Voter Registration Act (NVRA). In an ongoing challenge, our legal partners (ACLU, Lawyers Committee, and Demos) sent written notice to Reagan back in December 2017 challenging the voter purge practice in the state. The lawsuit details how Arizona has continued to engage in known violations of the NVRA. The lawsuit is intended to protect voters who have moved since last election due to work, school, family, or any other reason, and ensure they will not be turned away from the polls. We issued a press release that you can read here.

UPCOMING: Wellstone Training, Integrated Voter Engagement: Twice a month, LWVUS hosts a single session webinar training. The second presentation held on September 18 was on Integrated Voter Engagement—shows participants how to run campaigns that help build a bigger base in ways that empower communities and grows new leaders within state and

local Leagues. This training is ideal for anyone charged with interacting with new engagers and supporters (Communications staff, Recruitment, etc.), local League leaders who have an interest in learning better ways of engaging/messaging in new communities, and executive board members who seek to identify and recruit strong leaders and next generation of leaders to your ranks! If you would like to view the presentation again or if you missed it, you can access past trainings recordings and presentations, as well as get information about upcoming webinars on the League Management Site!

Interested in NPV and ERA? Join these Groups!: Delegates at the 2018 convention overwhelmingly supported adding National Popular Vote (NPV) and ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment (ERA) to the national program. LWVUS has created separate groups for League members wishing to discuss strategies, share resources, and connect with other League members working on these issues around the country. You can request to be added to the NPV google group here. And you can join the ERA Facebook group here.

Opportunity to Comment on Repeal of Clean Cars Regulation: The LWVUS Climate Change Task Force has put together <u>guidance for Leagues and individuals</u> wishing to comment on the roll back of the fuel economy standards for cars and light trucks, otherwise known as the Clean Cars Standard. Notice of the roll back was published in the federal register and comments are now being accepted. Please comment on behalf of your state or local League or as an individual regarding this misguided decision by the administration.

New-and-Improved Federal Action Request Form!: The Federal Action Request Form has received a face lift! Please use this form to consult with LWVUS regarding litigation efforts at any level and federal level advocacy. The form helps to connect the work happening at all levels of League and ensure we are speaking with one voice.

Senator McCain's Legacy of Inclusion: We remember the late Senator John McCain for his bipartisan work on campaign finance reform as a political maverick, but also for his leadership rejecting racism and bigotry on the 2008 campaign trail. It was a testament to his character and his commitment to American democracy. Read our full statement here.

New York Times: Gender Letter Newsletter: A few weeks ago we shared *Race/Related*, a weekly New York Times newsletter exploring race, identity, and culture. If you haven't checked it out, we encourage you to subscribe. The Times also publishes <u>Gender Letter</u>, exploring women, gender, and pop culture.

LWVUS is excited to have received the <u>2018 Webaward for Outstanding Achievement in Web Development</u> for LWV.org. Congratulations to the whole team for a great redesign!

Meet Our Communications Manager: Caitlin Rulien is the national office's Communications Manager and, if you're reading this League Update, you've seen her work! Caitlin joined the League in May 2017, bringing the organization nearly eight years of experience in public relations and digital communications across an array of fields, including agency, nonprofit, and the media. Since joining the League she has managed our social media channels and email program, as well as supported our website development and brand management projects. Learn more about Caitlin here.

In League,

Chris Garson



The League of Women Voters of Orange Coast encourages informed and active participation in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy. We are a non-profit 501c-4 membership organization.

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