



® League of Women Voters of Palos Verdes Peninsula

Voter

www.lwvpalosverdes.org

(310) 784-7787

January / February 2016

Calendar 2016

Wednesday	Jan 13	Board Meeting	Noon	Nell Mirels' House
Saturday	Jan 16	Money in Politics Consensus	10:30 AM-12:30 PM	Malaga Cove Library PVE
Tuesday	Jan 19	Strategy Meeting	11:00 AM	Nell Mirels' House
Wednesday	Jan 20	Voter's Edge Training (see flyer)	9:30-12:00	Western Justice Center 55 S. Grand Ave Pasadena CA 91105
Saturday	Jan 30	County League Day (see flyer)	9:30-2:00	Sportman's Lodge Event Center 12833 Ventura Blvd. Studio City, CA 91604
Wednesday	Feb 10	Board Meeting	Noon	Nell Mirels' House
Saturday	Feb 13	Tri-League (see Flyer)	9:30-12:00	Depot Restaurant Torrance
Monday	Feb 28	Higher Education Consensus Meeting	6:00 – 8:30 PM	Manhattan Beach Library

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This Month's Co-Presidents' Message

We hope that all of you had an excellent holiday.

We are about to enter a very busy year with the coming election season and are already looking for people to help with all the Voter Activities that will be coming up. Our Voter Service person is Nancy Mahr. She can be reached by phone or email at nlmahr@verizon.net. Please send your name to her if you are interested in participating.

Later in the year there will be trainings for the Pro and Cons presentations. But before then, there will be primary forums and a need to monitor our Voter Service website which is (was) called Smart Voter -- this site is now changing into Voter's Edge.

We have two study consensuses coming up. Please check the calendar and watch for flyers. Money in Politics will be in January and Higher Education will be in February.

The board is busy these next few months trying to reorganize our League. We are always open to anyone who wishes to attend a board meeting and would welcome your feedback as to meetings or events you would like to see or topics for future studies. We will be having our program planning soon and already someone has asked us to consider taking up the gun issue as a study. If you have something you would like to see—please plan to come to our program planning meeting or send us your suggestions.

We are also seeking new board members. If anyone has a particular role they would like to have – please let us know. Two of our board members have health issues and we have several open positions as well.

With all the activities we hope to see all of you at one or more.

Katy Watkins (310-408-6211) and *Vi Jungerich* (310-541-5092)
Co-Presidents



Maria Ashla
27516 Longhill Dr. RPV
310-541-5234 (H)
310 947-4640 (C)
mariaashla@cox.net

The Elected Officials Party!



LWV PVP Co-President Katy Watkins (right) with PV Chamber President Eileen Hupp (left)



Thank you!!!

The Elected Official's Party once again enjoyed the food donated from the following local businesses: **Pavilions, Mayer's Bakery, Ralph's Market, Bristol Farms, Red Onion, Admiral Risty, Trader's Joe, and Askai.** We thank all these donors for the delicious food. In addition, we thank the **PVP Chamber of Commerce** and **Mary Ellen and Phil Barnes** for the terrific wines.

Thank you one and all!!!



What Do University Trustees/Presidents Think?

Vi Iungerich

What do trustees think?

Though not directly within the scope of California's Public Higher Education study, a new Public Agenda report underscoring conflicts between trustees and university presidents at public comprehensive universities adds another dimension to our understanding of issues affecting higher education.

Public comprehensive universities in our state and across the nation that are not flagships or main research institutions are engines of economic growth and critical for sustaining the middle class. The trustees of these schools are well positioned to help their institutions meet unprecedented challenges, but they say they lack the fundamentals needed to do so according to Public Agenda.

The research is based on in-depth interviews with trustees and presidents at public four-year comprehensive universities and was produced in partnership with the Kresge Foundation. Public Agenda interviewed 42 trustees representing 29 boards responsible for a total of 143 institutions, as well as 45 presidents of comprehensive universities.

In 2011, comprehensive universities enrolled 69% of all students attending four-year public universities. They enrolled an even larger proportion of the country's African-American and Hispanic students.

Findings from the research suggest that trustees are acutely aware of the challenges facing their schools, including tightening budgets and lackluster completion rates. They also seem eager to work with institutional leaders to address these challenges and advocate for their institutions with politicians and employers. But trustees face gaps in knowledge, skills and trust, which prevent them from best serving comprehensive universities.

Independent, nonprofit, and public colleges and universities utilize a board format for their governing structure. These boards are often referred to as a *board of trustees* (similar terms include *board of regents* or *board of visitors*), and they act as the legal agent or "owner" of the institution. As a collective body, the trustees hold the authority and responsibility to ensure the fulfillment of an institution's mission. They are also ultimately responsible for the fiscal health of the college

or university. The board of trustees' governing role is typically limited to selection of the president and policy approval, with the daily operations and management of the institution vested in the president.

"Public comprehensive universities and the boards that govern them are structured in many different ways, yet these institutions and boards face many of the same pressures and challenges," said Allison Kadlec, Public Agenda's director of higher education and workforce programs. "For trustees of these vitally important institutions to fulfill their potential, they and university leaders need to communicate and collaborate in new ways." Many trustees acknowledge that making up budgetary shortfalls by increasing tuition for students and families is undesirable and unsustainable. Yet they also say they don't understand enough about higher education finances and don't necessarily trust the ways institutional leaders frame and present information.

Trustees were nearly unanimous in their view that universities must focus on student success, understood as retention and completion. Yet they have had trouble improving transfer pathways from community college to comprehensive universities and remain largely unfamiliar with student success efforts such as competency-based education.

Trustees also identified a number of actions they could take on behalf of their schools, including helping schools operate more efficiently, setting goals for student success, fundraising, advocating with policymakers and facilitating workforce connections. Yet trustees also said they and their colleagues are often unsure of how to best accomplish these tasks most effectively.

What do presidents think?

Presidents have their own set of concerns when it comes to board governance. Presidents of universities within large systems said that because trustees are charged with looking at the big picture, they often don't understand the nuanced difficulties facing each individual institution. Some presidents reported feeling as if their governing boards didn't understand their institution's specific mission.

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One president said the process of communicating with board members is akin to speed dating: "You go from one trustee to the next, make sure they see you try to make them interested in what you're doing, and then you move on to the next one. You try to see as many trustees as you can so they will put a name to a face and will support your proposals because they like you. It is just absurd."

Presidents of stand-alone institutions that aren't part of a larger system face a different set of problems. Many are concerned about board overreach and micro-management. Some complained about their trustees getting too deep in the weeds, with one say it is easy to get sucked into "the daily care and feeding" of trustees.

One president said: "The trap for these people is that they're very successful and used to managing stuff and knowing the details. But we need them to think big, not details."

Tri-League Presentation and Consensus Meeting

on

Public Higher Education

Monday, February 22, 2016

at

The Manhattan Beach Library

beginning at 6 p.m.

LWVC STUDY OF PUBLIC HIGHER EDUCATION

Changes in public higher education are occurring at a rapid rate. This makes our State League study of higher education even more relevant. The study examines the segments of public higher education in California in terms of accessibility, including:

- Funding
- Affordability
- Preparedness
- Equity
- Opportunities and
- Barriers to success

The community colleges are destined to play a pivotal role in California's economy. Associate's degrees of the past are on the verge of becoming obsolete as skilled fields increasingly require a higher level of education in order to meet rapidly expanding demands for greater technical know-how. Yet, our CSU's and UC's are often difficult to access and extremely costly. At the same time, the state's economy needs a million more graduates with bachelor's degrees by 2025. A number of educators and policymakers, including Governor Jerry Brown, doubted the state's ability to meet that goal without including the community colleges, which serve a little over two million students a year--more than triple the combined enrollment of California State University (CSU) and the University of California (UC). Community colleges bring opportunities to nontraditional students in our state. With an average age of 28, more than 60% of full-time community college students work, a third are the first in their family to attend college, and nearly as many are raising children of their own. **This is why California's community colleges will soon offer some four-year degrees.** The locations of the community colleges are a factor not just in meeting the employment needs of a region, but also for meeting the students' geographic limitations. Each of California's counties is served by at least one community college, whereas the closest CSU campus may be 200 miles away and take hours to get to on public transportation. Commuting for hours a day or moving to live closer to a four-year college aren't reasonable options for older students who need to be near families and jobs.

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Beginning in 2017, 15 of the state's 113 community colleges will offer bachelor's degrees in specific high-needs technical fields. The new bachelor's degrees are for programs not already offered at CSU's or UC's. These programs are part of a pilot program approved by the Legislature and Jerry Brown. Those receiving initial approval are:

- Airframe Manufacturing Technology, Antelope Valley College
- Industrial Automation, Bakersfield College
- Emergency Services & Allied Health Systems, Crafton Hills College
- Mortuary Science, Cypress College
- Equine Industry, Feather River College
- Dental Hygiene, Foothill College & West Los Angeles College
- Bio-manufacturing, Mira Costa College
- Respiratory Care, Modesto Junior College & Skyline College
- Automotive Technology, Rio Hondo College
- Health Information Management, San Diego Mesa College
- Occupational Studies, Santa Ana College
- Interaction Design, Santa Monica College
- Health Information Management, Shasta College

To be considered for the pilot program, colleges had to already offer an associate's degree in a high-need field and provide evidence that local employers want and need more people with bachelor's degrees in those fields. Students completing the bachelor's degree in Respiratory Care in Stanislaus County at Modesto Junior College or Skyline College are a case in point. Stanislaus County is renowned as much for its agricultural production as its high poverty rate and terrible air quality. About 62,000 county residents have been diagnosed with asthma, according to the California Department of Public Health, and nearly 3,000 of them wind up in the emergency room every year. The need for highly trained respiratory therapists in the county is critical and for those who successfully complete the bachelor's degree, jobs paying \$77,000—the median salary for respiratory therapists in California—will be immediately available.

Tuition will also be considerably more affordable than bachelor's degree programs in the CSU and UC system. California's community colleges cost \$46 a credit for an associate's degree, but about half the students receive Board of Governors fee waivers and pay no tuition. The bachelor's degree programs will cost \$84 a unit for just the last two years, making it possible to earn a four-year degree for about \$10,000.

This examination of the changing role of the community college is but one facet of the LWVC Study on Public Higher Education. California's future is linked to opportunities for higher education. A significant decline in college enrollment stands in stark contrast to research that identifies a lack of college-educated workers as a "serious impediment to an economically successful future" for California as well as for those who rely on publicly supported institutions of higher learning as their link to better jobs and upward mobility.

Don't miss the Tri-League presentation and consensus meeting on Public Higher Education on Monday, February 22, 2016 at the Manhattan Beach Library beginning at 6 p.m. This subject and its many ramifications affect us all!

PRESENTATION AND CONSENSUS ON MONEY IN POLITICS

**by
Jo-Anne Waller**

At the 2014 LWVUS Convention delegates approved a review and update of the League position on campaign finance. Figures from the FEC (Federal Election Commission) indicate:

1. Since 2010 \$1 billion in independent expenditures alone has been spent through super PACS and 60% of that was contributed by only 195 individuals and their spouses
2. During the first 6 months of this year \$258 million was raised by super PACS backing presidential candidates
3. But during the same time period in the 2012 cycle only \$13 million was raised by super PACS backing presidential candidates.

This upsurge in political spending is what prompted this new update. League members throughout the country will be focused on 3 areas:

1. The new schemes and structures used to influence elections
2. The erosion of protections against corruption in our political process
3. Possible solutions to the above problems.

The members of our committee will be discussing some of the following questions:

1. What is the impact of recent Supreme Court decisions on money in politics?
2. What activities are types of political corruption?
3. Should spending to influence an election be limited?
4. What are some methods of regulating campaign finance to protect the democratic process?
5. What is the difference between a PAC and a super PAC?
6. What has been the impact of 501 (c)(4) organizations on money in politics?

**Please Join Us To Discuss These Issues
on**

**Saturday, January 16
10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.**

**at
Malaga Cove Library**

MONEY IN POLITICS CONSENSUS QUESTIONS

This update on Money In Politics builds on the League's current position on campaign finance. The consensus questions in Part I address the goals of campaign finance regulation in terms of democratic values. The questions in Part II relate to the extent to which First Amendment protections like free speech and freedom of the press should apply to various speakers and activities in the campaign finance context. Part III asks about methods of campaign finance regulation. **You are asked to respond to the questions without regard for the Supreme Court's current views on the First Amendment.** In responding to each question, please interpret the words in their most general sense. Keep in mind that the LWV intentionally words positions that are derived from member study in the broadest possible way so that our positions have relevance for many years. Future national Boards will determine when and how to apply our positions.

An optional comment section is included at the end of each of the three parts. Please note that while comments will be read and considered, only responses to questions can be tabulated.

PART I QUESTIONS: Democratic Values and Interests with Respect to Financing Political Campaigns

1. What should be the goals and purposes of campaign finance regulation?

(Please respond to each item in Question 1.)

a. Seek political equality for all citizens.

☐ Agree ☐ Disagree ☐ No consensus

b. Protect representative democracy from being distorted by big spending in election campaigns.

☐ Agree ☐ Disagree ☐ No consensus

c. Enable candidates to compete equitably for public office.

☐ Agree ☐ Disagree ☐ No consensus

d. Ensure that candidates have sufficient funds to communicate their messages to the public.

☐ Agree ☐ Disagree ☐ No consensus

e. Ensure that economic and corporate interests are part of election dialogue.

☐ Agree ☐ Disagree ☐ No consensus

f. Provide voters sufficient information about candidates and campaign issues to make informed choices.

☐ Agree ☐ Disagree ☐ No consensus

g. Ensure the public's right to know who is using money to influence elections.

☐ Agree ☐ Disagree ☐ No consensus

h. Combat corruption and undue influence in government.

☐ Agree ☐ Disagree ☐ No consensus

2. Evaluate whether the following activities are types of political corruption:

(Please respond to each item in Question 2.)

a. A candidate or officeholder agrees to vote or work in favor of a donor's interests in exchange for a campaign contribution.

☐ Agree ☐ Disagree ☐ No consensus

b. An officeholder or her/his staff gives greater access to donors.

☐ Agree ☐ Disagree ☐ No consensus

c. An officeholder votes or works to support policies that reflect the preferences of individuals or organizations in order to attract contributions from them.

☐ Agree ☐ Disagree ☐ No consensus

d. An office holder seeks political contributions implying that there will be retribution unless a donation is given.

☐ Agree ☐ Disagree ☐ No consensus

e. The results of the political process consistently favor the interests of significant campaign contributors.

☐ Agree ☐ Disagree ☐ No consensus

OPTIONAL COMMENTS (250 word limit):

PART II QUESTIONS: First Amendment Protections for Speakers and Activities in Political Campaigns

This set of questions is designed to determine the extent to which the First Amendment protections of free speech and freedom of the press should apply to different speakers or activities in the regulation of campaign finance. Free speech and free press provide essentially the same protections to speakers, writers, publishers and advertising, whether or not they are part of the institutional press, and largely regardless of the medium. Essentially, these protections extend to any conduct that is expressive. Many of the options below would be found unconstitutional by the current Supreme Court, but we are seeking your League's views, not those of the Court. These are broad, overarching questions about spending to influence an election, including independent spending, contributions to candidates, broadcast news and other communication expenditures.

1. Many different individuals and organizations use a variety of methods to communicate their views to voters in candidate elections. Should spending to influence an election by any of the following be limited?

(Please respond to each item in Question 1.)

- a. Individual citizens, including wealthy individuals like George Soros and the Koch Brothers.

☐ Spending banned ☐ Some spending limits ☐ Unlimited spending ☐ No consensus

- b. Political Action Committees, sponsored by an organization, such as the League of Conservation Voters, Chevron, the American Bankers Association, and the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW), whose campaign spending comes from contributions by individuals associated with the sponsoring organization, such as employees, stockholders, members and volunteers.

☐ Spending banned ☐ Some spending limits ☐ Unlimited spending ☐ No consensus

- c. For-profit organizations, like Exxon, Ben and Jerry's, General Motors, and Starbucks, from their corporate treasury funds.

☐ Spending banned ☐ Some spending limits ☐ Unlimited spending ☐ No consensus

- d. Trade associations, like the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, the American Wind Energy Association, and the American Petroleum Institute, from the association's general treasury funds.

☐ Spending banned ☐ Some spending limits ☐ Unlimited spending ☐ No consensus

- e. Labor unions, like the United Autoworkers and Service Employees International, from the union's general treasury funds.

☐ Spending banned ☐ Some spending limits ☐ Unlimited spending ☐ No consensus

f. Non-profit organizations, like the Sierra Club, Wisconsin Right to Life, Coalition to Stop Gun Violence, American Crossroads, and Priorities USA, from the organization's general treasury funds.

☐ Spending banned ☐ Some spending limits ☐ Unlimited spending ☐ No consensus

g. Non-partisan voter registration and GOTV (get out the vote) organizations and activities, like the LWV and Nonprofit Vote.

☐ Spending banned ☐ Some spending limits ☐ Unlimited spending ☐ No consensus

h. Political parties, like the Republicans, Libertarians, and Democrats.

☐ Spending banned ☐ Some spending limits ☐ Unlimited spending ☐ No consensus

i. Candidates for public office spending money the candidate has raised from contributors.

☐ Spending banned ☐ Some spending limits ☐ Unlimited spending ☐ No consensus

j. Candidates for public office spending their own money.

☐ Spending banned ☐ Some spending limits ☐ Unlimited spending ☐ No consensus

2. The press plays a major role in candidate elections through editorial endorsements, news coverage, and other communications directly to the public that are often important to the outcome. Should such spending to influence an election by any of the following be limited?

(Please respond to each item in Question 2.)

a. Newspapers, like the New York Times and the Wall Street Journal.

☐ Spending banned ☐ Some spending limits ☐ Unlimited spending ☐ No consensus

b. Television and other electronic media, like Fox News, CNN, MSNBC and CBS.

☐ Spending banned ☐ Some spending limits ☐ Unlimited spending ☐ No consensus

c. Internet communications, like Huffington Post, Breitbart, Daily Kos, and individual bloggers.

☐ Spending banned ☐ Some spending limits ☐ Unlimited spending ☐ No consensus

OPTIONAL COMMENTS (250 word limit):

PART III QUESTIONS: Methods for Regulating Campaign Finance to Protect the Democratic Process

1. In order to achieve the goals for campaign finance regulation, should the League support?

(Please respond to each item in Question 1 a and b.)

a. Abolishing SuperPACs and spending coordinated or directed by candidates, other than a candidate's own single campaign committee.

☐ Agree ☐ Disagree ☐ No consensus

b. Restrictions on direct donations and bundling by lobbyists? (Restrictions may include monetary limits as well as other regulations.)

☐ Agree ☐ Disagree ☐ No consensus

c. Public funding for candidates? Should the League support:

(You may respond to more than one item in Question 1 c.)

i. Voluntary public financing of elections where candidates who choose to participate must also abide by reasonable spending limits?

☐ Agree ☐ Disagree ☐ No consensus

ii. Mandatory public financing of elections where candidates must participate and abide by reasonable spending limits?

☐ Agree ☐ Disagree ☐ No consensus

iii. Public financing without spending limits on candidates?

☐ Agree ☐ Disagree ☐ No consensus

2. How should campaign finance regulations be administered and enforced?

(You may choose more than one response for Question 2.)

☐ a. By an even-numbered commission with equal representation by the two major political parties to ensure partisan fairness (current Federal Election Commission [FEC] structure)?

☐ b. By an odd-numbered commission with at least one independent or nonpartisan commissioner to ensure decisions can be made in case of partisan deadlock?

☐ c. By structural and budget changes to the FEC (e.g., commission appointments, staffing, security, budget, decision making process) that would allow the agency to function effectively and meet its legislative and regulatory mandates.

☐ d. No consensus.

OPTIONAL COMMENTS (250 word limit):



December, 2015

Dear members of the Los Angeles and Orange County Leagues,

You are invited to join us for the new iteration of Smart Voter that will be known as ***Voter's Edge California***. The training session will take place with LWVC Senior Director of Civic Engagement ***Dora Rose***, LWVC Membership and Technology Manager, ***Sharon Stone***, and Smart Voter co-founder, ***Roberta Hollimon***. We all know that the upcoming 2016 Presidential election promises to be a very busy time for Leagues across the state, so whether you're "getting it in gear" or still trying to figure out "how the pieces align," you don't want to miss this opportunity to receive in-person personal training for how to use the new ***Voter's Edge*** platform.

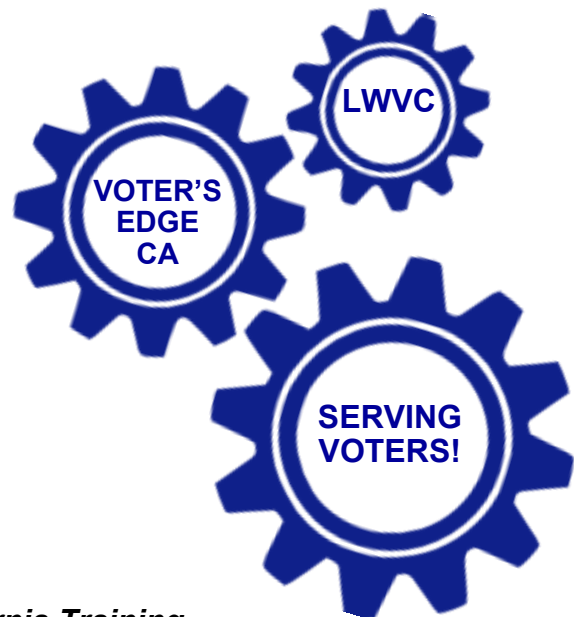
Whether you're already part of the Smart Voter/***Voter's Edge California*** team, or you are interested in joining the team, we recommend attending this very important training session that you will find a great aid for your participation!

Wednesday, Jan. 20, 2016

Coffee and rolls – 9:30 AM

Training – 10:00 AM to 12 Noon
WI-FI Available

Western Justice Center
55 S. Grand Avenue
Pasadena, CA 91105



New Voter's Edge California Training

When you join us you will learn how to work on the next generation of Smart Voter called ***Voter's Edge California (VEC)*** a joint project with MapLight, that will be our new one-stop online source for a personalized ballot, candidate, ballot measure, and election information.

To register for the new ***Voter's Edge California Training***, please email **Linda Herman** at lhermanpq@cox.net, or call **310-541-3373**, or complete this form and snail mail to Linda at 28070 Ella Road, Rancho Palos Verdes, CA 90275 **by Wednesday, Jan. 13, 2016**.

Name(s) _____

League _____ Position _____



LWV/LA County

Join us for...

Winter League Day 2016

New Voter Service Strategies

**Saturday
January 30, 2016**

9:30 to 2 PM

Luncheon

**Sportsmen's Lodge
Event Center**
12833 Ventura Boulevard
(Coldwater Canyon)
Studio City, CA 91604

Check the Event Center
website for directions
sportsmenslodge.com



Dora Rose

LWV California Senior Director of Civic Engagement
Ms. Rose will come from Sacramento to speak to us on LWVC's plans for the 2016 election cycle and the Smart Voter/Maplight merger to give us *Voter's Edge*. And, Dean Logan, L.A. County's Registrar/Recorder, will be there to present information on voting trends in L.A. County with an update on the new voting system. This will be a great program to kick off your Voter Service work for the 2016 elections.

Please send form and check payable to **LWV/LAC**

Call for info: Tel. 310-479-7482

Mail to **S. Trutt, 1508 Greenfield Ave., #207, Los Angeles, CA 90025**

League Name _____

Name(s) _____

Reservation Deadline is January 16, 2016 # _____ @ \$30.00 Total enclosed \$ _____

If postmarked after Jan 16, 2016, Reservations # _____ @ \$35.00 Total enclosed \$ _____

Cobb Salad # _____ or Vegetarian # _____ w/o NUTS or name food # _____

The Tri-League Breakfast



Saturday February 13, 2016

at

The Depot Restaurant - Kimono Room

1250 Cabrillo Ave. Torrance CA 90501

9:30 AM Registration/Coffee 10:00 AM Breakfast 11:00 AM Speaker

\$30.00 Per Person

**Speaker: Martha L. Gomez
Staff Attorney at MALDEF**

Topic:

Current Immigration Issues

Reservation Form

Name(s) _____
Number of People _____
Amount Enclosed _____ **(at \$30 per person)**
Your League _____

**Please send your check payable to LWV PVP to Cindy by February 6
at 29910 Avenida Anillo, RPV 90275**



Join The League!

WHO ARE OUR MEMBERS?

Membership in the League of Women Voters, the most respected and effective grassroots organization in the country, is open to all men and women who are registered voters.

Our members make a visible difference by serving as community leaders using their experience to create positive, lasting change in our communities.

HOW DO I JOIN?

Just fill out the membership form below and mail it to:

LWV PVP, PO Box 2933, Palos Verdes Peninsula, CA 90274.

Please make checks payable to *LWV PVP*

Membership Form

Name _____

Name(s) of additional member(s) in household _____

Address _____

City _____ Zip Code _____

Phone (home) _____ Phone (work/day/cell) _____

Email address _____

Amount enclosed \$ _____

\$65.00 one member

\$32.50 additional member in the same household.

Dues are tax deductible. LWV PVP is a 501(c)(3) organization.

LWV PVP Officers and Board Member Contact Information:

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Director at Large	Janet Macleod	310-833-1376	jmacle43@cox.net
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Publicity (off board)	Julie Craemer	310-378-1941	rcraemer@aol.com (also Interns Program)
Interns Program (off board)	Susie Park	310-377-4965	susiep2000@aol.com

