



League of Women Voters of Palos Verdes Peninsula

# Voter

lwvpalosverdes.org

(310) 784-7787

May/June 2020

## CALENDAR for May - June 2020

<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>May 13</b>	<b>PVP Board Meeting</b>	<b>Noon</b>	<b>Zoom or conference call</b>
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>May 13</b>	<b>The survey including the projected annual programs, the budget and the list of new officers will be sent to all members.</b>		
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>June 10</b>	<b>PVP Board Meeting</b>	<b>Noon</b>	<b>Zoom or conference call</b>
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>June 13</b>	<b>Virtual Local Annual Convention</b>		<b>TBA</b>

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## President's Message

The recent pandemic has produced an on-going storm that has pushed us to take unfamiliar and unknown paths. The pandemic has resulted in an economic crash, unemployment, closed schools and businesses, restaurants, parks and beaches. We are forging our way in this new reality which leaves us confined to our homes, isolated, stressed and often balancing work and the education of children.

2020 is the year of the Centennial Celebration of the 19th Amendment and the Founding of the League of Women Voters. Many events were in the plans.

- The Suffragette Parade sponsored by the Peninsula Library on March 14, 2020 (Cancelled)
- The Tri-League Brunch on April 18, 2020 at the Depot Restaurant with a presentation of Schools and Communities First by the committee headed by Linda Herman. (Cancelled)
- The Suffragette Musical: "From Battles to Ballots A Century of Struggles" written and created by our member Anne Destabelle for performances on May 31st and June 7. (Cancelled) We hopefully will be able to reschedule at a later date.
- Our June 13th, 2020 Local Chapter Convention at the Think Cafe on 5th Street is cancelled.

### **Please read the section on the Annual Convention and the Election of New Officers for 2020-2021**

We have entered a "virtual" era for meetings. Our League's April board meeting was held by telephone conference. Zoom, Microsoft Team and WhatsApp are becoming common forums for such meetings. The LWV Annual Political Interviews were held by telephone: Al Muratsuchi (State Assemblyman) on April 3, 2020 and Steven Bradford (State Senator) on April 10, 2020. Thanks to all who participated and Nancy Mahr for making the arrangements.

With an upcoming election year, we continue to face challenges. How will we present local candidates to the public? We will need the help of all our members to fulfill our LWV mission. So please contact us with your ideas and help for the next LWV year which begins on July 1, 2020.

*Sincerely,*

*Janet MacLeod*

Interim President

## LWV Palos Verdes/San Pedro **Virtual** Annual Convention for 2020-2021

All local League of Women Voters are required to hold an annual convention. Earlier in the year, LWV Palos Verdes/San Pedro Board selected June 13, 2020 as the date to hold our annual convention. As a result of the pandemic, we are having to cancel our in-person convention and develop new ways to conduct the business of convention, primarily using online resources.

What is the business of convention? Adopting our program for the coming year, adopting our budget, and electing officers and directors.

A month prior to the convention, by **May 13, 2020**, each member will receive a “convention” email. It will include the following:

- a description of the proposed local program for 2020-2021 as recommended by members attending the annual program planning meeting and approved by the Board for submittal to the membership;
- a copy of the proposed budget for 2020-2021 as presented by the Treasurer and approved by the Board for submittal to the membership;
- a slate of nominees for LWV officers and directors for 2020-2022 as developed by the Nominating Committee and approved by the Board for submittal to the membership. There will also be a list of continuing board members who are in the middle of their terms.

Each of the items above must be voted on by the membership. When you receive the material, please read it carefully so you will be prepared to vote.

### VOTING:

Around June 13 you will receive another email that will be an online vote survey. You will be able to vote for our three business items directly online. The LWV Board will receive the vote tally and verify the election. Members will be notified of the results.

**NOTE:** Accommodation will be made for League members who do not have access to computers. These members will receive their materials and surveys by regular mail.

We appreciate your patience in this new process for the LWV. If you have any questions contact Janet MacLeod, 310-833-1376, or Nancy Mahr, 310-377-0335.



The following areas are open for our Board of the League of Women Voters for 2020-2021. We are hoping that a few of our members will step up to fill in these particular areas.

1. Natural Resources
2. Healthcare
3. Land Use in Palos Verdes and San Pedro
4. Social Policy
5. Voter Editor

Anyone who is interested, please email Julie Craemer (Nominating Committee) at [rcraemer@aol.com](mailto:rcraemer@aol.com)

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## **Schools and Communities First proposition – Update**

**by Linda Herman**

On April 2<sup>nd</sup> we received the announcement that supporters of a “split roll” ballot aimed at increasing commercial property taxes submitted 1.7 million signatures in support of the effort -- nearly twice the number needed to qualify for the November ballot.

Alex Stack, spokesperson for the coalition of labor, education and community groups backing the effort, said the 1.7 million signatures collected by volunteers and paid signature gatherers represented one of the largest such efforts ever mounted in California for a ballot measure. The signatures being submitted to county registrars for validation underscore “the momentum and support for this initiative” among a wide range of residents concerned about funding for education and community programs.

Since that date, the corona/virus has overtaken us and along with the needs of our school districts, it has also become abundantly clear that public health is an urgent priority. This initiative will also allow cities and counties to strengthen their health services, and support our nurses, doctors, and other health care workers and public health officials in our clinics and hospitals.

Our committee is planning to get together shortly to follow through with the promotional campaign on behalf of this proposition. Getting together to evaluate how things have changed will be most important. Recognizing we are all persuaded by personal stories in support of the proposition, we hope to collect stories from several of us to be placed on appropriate sites, all to be handled through a Digital Director at the state level who will help us in in uploading a story or recording a message video. It is clearly evident that being part of the information stream is where we need to be right now.

I am pleased to continue to be involved with this effort and encourage you to contact Linda Herman if you are interested in joining our committee.

### **Voter Editor Needed**

One of the most important positions on the LWV PVP Board is editor of our newsletter, The VOTER. Starting in July, 2020, we have an opening for our bi-monthly newsletter. If any member is interested, please contact Vi lungerich at:

[violaiungerich@gmail.com](mailto:violaiungerich@gmail.com)

## Legislative Interviews 2020

by Nancy Mahr

In April, a team of LWV members interviewed via conference calls Assemblymember Al Muratsuchi (66<sup>th</sup> District) and state Senator Steven Bradford (35<sup>th</sup> District). The calls were part of the LWVCA annual program to interview state legislators across California and solicit their responses to specific questions. The information is used in LWVCA's advocacy on priority bills.

Our interview team: Janet MacLeod, Nancy Mahr, Allison Phillips, Asha Shahed and Katy Watkins, plus Marilu Guevara from the Los Angeles City League. Both legislators shared their observations and concerns relating to the coronavirus pandemic, including increased testing capacity and more protective equipment. Both commended Governor Newsom and Mayor Garcetti for their leadership in addressing the crisis. Assemblymember Muratsuchi also stated that measures related to the virus would take priority over other bills when the Legislature returns for duty.

Our first LWV topic was ACA 6 (Assembly Constitutional Amendment), a measure which would expand voting rights for parolees. LWV CA supports this measure. Both legislators support this bill and the concept of expanding voting rights when possible. Senator Bradford is a co-author. He noted that restoring the right to vote is part of the process of reentering society.

Topic two was on the way in which transportation and housing trends impact climate change. Again, both legislators support increasing public transportation. Muratsuchi suggested that multi-family housing should be constructed around key transportation hubs. Bradford stated that it is important to consider the people now living in targeted transit hub areas; they fear displacement. He also noted that today there is a preference for single-family zoning, rather than a mix of dwellings.

The state's housing shortage was the next topic. LWVCA had supported SB 50, now dead, which would have incentivized the construction of more dense, affordable housing around transit lines and workplaces. Muratsuchi wants a better balance between state housing goals and city autonomy. He voiced concern that SB 50 infringed on city authority in land use, zoning and density. Bradford felt that SB 50 didn't adequately address affordable housing needs. He is hopeful that a new housing bill which is under development will provide a good solution. He thinks the public needs to have a clearer understanding of affordable housing.

Other items addressed:

- **AB 1064** – Muratsuchi's bill to increase fines for violators of the laws relating to gun sales. He supports gun control measures, but this bill was too expensive and was placed in the suspended file.
- **Schools and Children First Initiative** – Muratsuchi has concerns that property owners will pass through increased cost to renters.
- **Cannabis** – Bradford supports safe testing labs for cannabis that is for medicinal purposes.
- **Advocacy** – Bradford wants to see diverse voices.

## Social Policy

**By Vi Iungerich**

The latest impact of COVID-19 and its effect on the poor and those of minorities has been exceedingly difficult. According to several articles in the Public Policy Institute of California, those that are in the lowest income levels of our county will not benefit by many of the financial aids being put in place to support the economy. For example, it is estimated that about 81% of Californians live in a family that will receive an economic impact payment of about \$2,200. All told people in this state could receive about \$26 billion of the payments in this program. But of the almost 20% left over, one third of them are among the state's lowest income families. This is because the payments are tied to those that have filed taxes recently. Very poor people are not required to file taxes and unless they share banking details with the IRS, they will not receive a stimulus check. These are the families with an income of less than \$22000 a year for a family of four. There will be some help for these folks with the temporary expansion of unemployment insurance and California has recently announced the Disaster Relief Fund, which uses public and private funds, will provide up to \$1000 per household to families of some undocumented immigrants. Food assistance programs are also expanding somewhat but the need is great and the longer the crisis remains the more that needs to be done.

While we know the poorest families (about 18%) are in need, there are about an equal number of families that are just above the poverty line. For these families even a small increase of \$250 can push them over the line. These tend to be families with children that qualify for some safety net programs like CalFresh. For other segments of the population that are on the edge, Social Security helps those over 65 to survive. California has been trying to develop programs that can help the group of nearly poor to climb the income ladder, but the virus has put a dent into many plans.

Overall, in Los Angeles 22-28% of the jobs are in industries that will be taking a major hit due to the pandemic. These include jobs in accommodations and food services, administration and support services, transportation and warehousing (especially the ports), and the arts, entertainment, and recreation. It is estimated that 19% of the Californians employed in these industries are the working poor and another 22% are just above the poverty line. For the Los Angeles metro area this amounts to 1,043,000 workers at risk.

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Our long term League of Women Voters member and board member, Vi Iungerich, has moved out of the area after more than 48 years in the Rancho Palos Verdes area. Her new address is:

**Vi Iungerich**  
**5676 Lindley Ave**  
**Encino, CA 91316**

Vi can be reached at her previous home telephone number which will forward to her current telephone.

After more than 40 years with the Palos Verdes Peninsula/San Pedro League, we will miss her dedication and her input and studies on Social Policy issues such as foster care, jail reform and homelessness. We know that she will enjoy life closer to her daughter and her grandchildren but hope that she will visit us from time to time.

**LWV PVP Officers and Board Member Contact Information:**

Interim President	Janet Macleod	310-833-1376	<a href="mailto:jmacle43@cox.net">jmacle43@cox.net</a>
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Secretary	Nell Mirels	310-377-9468	<a href="mailto:hmirels@aol.com">hmirels@aol.com</a>
Treasurer	Cindy Kondon	310- 541-3923	<a href="mailto:cynthiakondon@icloud.com">cynthiakondon@icloud.com</a>
Social Media/Communications	Allison Phillips	310-791-3929	<a href="mailto:allisonpve@gmail.com">allisonpve@gmail.com</a>
Education	Eileen Hupp	424-488-2379	<a href="mailto:eileenhupp@gmail.com">eileenhupp@gmail.com</a>
Land Use	Katy Watkins	310-408-6211	<a href="mailto:Kathleen6068@att.net">Kathleen6068@att.net</a>
Membership	Anne Beck	424-489-3096	<a href="mailto:arbeck3223@sbcglobal.net">arbeck3223@sbcglobal.net</a>
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