



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®
OF LOS ANGELES

VOTER
VOTER

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK



As I come to the end of the first year 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, and our organization is stronger than ever!

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 5 Primary Election and again we could use volunteers to sign up to educate voters on the ballot measure Pros & Cons.

On June 1, we expect to move our offices to the 12th floor in the same building. It will reduce some of the square footage, but also decrease our rent. This is being done at the request of the lessor. We look forward to welcoming everyone to our new office!

Saturday, June 23 is the new date for our **Annual Meeting**. This will give us the time to settle in to our new office and be prepared to greet you at the meeting. In addition, LWVUS is having its **biennial convention in Chicago, June 28 – July 1**. It is a beautiful time to visit Chicago and meet other League Leaders from around the country. I am definitely looking forward to our membership meetings.

As we end our fiscal year, I want to thank the board members who are not continuing on the Board for 2018-2019: **Sheana Knighton and Kitty Stokes**. Both have contributed much to our progress. I am sure they will continue to serve the League in other capacities.

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2018 Annual Meeting Kit and Registration Flyer Inside

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**STAY IN TOUCH
2018
MEMBERSHIP
DIRECTORY**

If you would like the most up-to-date version of the directory, please email info@lwvlosangeles.org or call our office, 213-368-1616.

--From The President's Desk, Continued from page 1

The annual **Celebrating Leadership** event is tentatively scheduled for Saturday, September 29 at a lovely home in Sherman Oaks. More information to come- as soon as all plans are finalized.

Let us work to keep the organization vibrant for the next generation. We need everyone's support to succeed. The more involved you are with the League, the stronger our voice is in the community.

Let us Make Democracy Work!

In League,



Martha Sklar

LWV 2018 Annual Meeting
LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF LOS ANGELES
SATURDAY, JUNE 23 - UTLA AUDITORIUM
REGISTRATION 8:30-9:00AM PROGRAM 9:00-12:15PM



A LOOK AT OUR IMPACT IN 2017
DISCOVER OUR NEW WEBSITE
EDUCATION AND ACTION FOR
2018-2020
APPROVAL OF OUR BUDGET
ELECTION OF OUR BOARD OF
DIRECTORS
NETWORK WITH MEMBERS
MEET OUR LEADERSHIP
AND MORE!



2018 Keynote Speaker

BOB STERN

Past President of the Center for Governmental Studies and the first general counsel of the California Fair Political Practices Commission

CALIFORNIA AMMUNITION REGULATIONS

SUMMARY FROM GIFFORDS LAW CENTER

California regulates the following aspects of ammunition:

1. Sales and transfers of ammunition
Beginning January 1, 2018 individuals who sell more than 500 rounds of ammunition in any month will be required to obtain a business license. Once licensed, they will be required to report the loss or theft from their inventory.

Sales of ammunition by unlicensed sellers have to be conducted through licensed vendors.

Beginning July 1, 2019 vendors will have to conduct a background check to verify that the person receiving the ammunition is legally eligible.
2. Persons prohibited from possessing ammunition are those deemed ineligible under state law
3. Minimum age to possess ammunition: 18 years of age
4. Ammunition at gun shows – regulation prohibits ammunition from being displayed at gun shows except in closed containers.
5. Certain kinds of unreasonably dangerous ammunition – regulates bullets designed to penetrate metal or armor, a body vest or body shield. Vendors cannot sell ammunition greater than .60 caliber.

Sandra Trutt, Chair
Gun Violence Prevention Committee

DEMOCRATIC POLICING: CITIZEN PARTICIPATION IN POLICING POLICY

On April 5, 2018, a panel on how the police are governed was held at the Women's City Club of Pasadena, sponsored by the Pasadena Area and the Los Angeles League of Women Voters.

Barry Friedman, Founder of NYU Law School's Policing Project, spoke with us via Zoom teleconference. Dr. Friedman discussed two kinds of accountability: front end (transparent rules that do more good than harm) and back end (what happens after things go wrong). He proposes that the public be brought into decision-making regarding the use of military equipment or issues of surveillance: Is there a need for the information that police are collecting? Does it work? Have we minimized the harm? Have we limited police discretion?

President Obama's Task Force on 21st Century Policing report provides excellent guidelines, and the recent LAPD video release policy of body cameras is a good national model.

Matt Johnson, Vice President of the Los Angeles Police Commission:

The commission is fully staffed with 60 employees plus the Inspector General. Increasing transparency and accountability help to build public trust in the police. The L.A. Commission has both front end and back end oversight. He urged civilian participation for front end policies and back end reviews.

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--From *Democratic Policing*, Continued from page 3

We have strict oversight for the use of drones, and two Commission members must be notified before drones are used. The Commission must be immediately involved in all issues of excessive use of force.

Max Huntsman, Inspector General, LA Sheriff's Department:

"I have no power [in the Sheriff's Department] but I get to see everything and tell everyone." The drone policy and dash cam policy are similar in the LASD and LAPD. It is difficult to track de-escalation on the street. Mentally ill people participate in the training of the Sheriff's Department deputies, to help them deal with mental health incidents. The Department has some teams of mental health professionals and police, but not as many as needed.

Matt Johnson: President Trump has set back police reform from the trajectory that began with the 21st Century Policing guidelines and the threats of consent decrees.

Max Huntsman: Small law enforcement agencies benefit from the assistance of www.lexipol.com in developing policies. Lexipol exists to fill the gaps but has no public accountability. Perhaps, Attorneys General could write a set of policies.

Barry Friedman: There is tension between privacy and safety, and the public needs to be involved with both. The police unions are easy whipping posts. Police are the only officials told to do something that would be criminal action by civilians, but they need to be protected. San Francisco and Sacramento Attorneys General are stepping forward.

Contact marjoriebgreen@gmail.com for more information on LWVLA's Committee on Criminal Justice Reform. Michelle White, LWV-PA, also wrote about this event. See <https://goo.gl/vKZbYi>
Set aside an hour and a half to view the video of this important League Day on Democratic Policing:
<https://tinyurl.com/DemocraticPolicing>

Marjorie Green, Co-Chair
LWVLA Committee on Criminal Justice Reform



LEAGUE BOOK CLUBS

The Valley Unit's Book Club meets in alternate months. The next meeting is on Wednesday, May 8 at the home of Hermalee Schmidt in Woodland Hills. They will be discussing *Stars and Stripes Forever* by Harry Harrison. On July 11, discussion will be on *Lab Girl* by Hope Jiles. We encourage lunch-bringers to arrive at 12:30 pm; discussion begins at 1:00 pm, concluding around 2:30 pm. If you are interested, please send an email to Sue Strickland, johnnandsioux@socal.rr.com.

The Westside Book Club meets every other month on the first Thursday of alternate months at 1:00 pm. The next meeting will be Thursday, May 3 at the Trutt's home. Please contact David Trutt at davettt@verizon.net if you would like to join. The book selection is *Hedy's Folly: The Life and Breakthrough Inventions of Hedy Lamarr* by Richard Rhodes. Meeting ends at 3:00 pm. The following meeting will be July 5 at 1:00 pm. New readers welcome!

THE DAY OF ACTIVISM

Kattie O'Connell, League student member, attended our *Get Active LA!* event at LA City College. The following is Katie's "The day of activism" entry from her League service learning blog that catalogs her League experiences and accomplishments.



"The day of Activism" was truly, a day of change and hope for the future! I met Mona Field from the Los Angeles League at LA City Community College. Immediately, I could tell how excited she was to see and learn all about the different non-profit-organizations that were there to share their hard-work. By 11:00 am all of the non-profit organization booths were up and running, including the League's Voter Registration table. I worked at the voter table; I took pictures of all the organization and best of all; I was able to walk around, meet people and enjoy all the knowledge that surrounded me.

I came to the realization that in order to get things done, such as activism, organizations need to support each other in order to be successful. To make a change, different organizations need to come together and work as a team. I stood back and observed the crowd; the activists were passionate about sending their message; the students and residents were eager to learn about how they can get involved. It was a pleasure watching and being a part of a community that is willing to work together. That is what it's all about: togetherness!

The most unexpected part of the day is when I stood up in front of 100 LA City Community College students to speak about how I got involved with the League and how it changed my entire life! *The League keynote-speaker did not show up. Mona was quick on her feet and said "we have to be the speakers!" Oh man, I was nervous, but then it dawned on me: "Hello, Katie, you are fine! You just received public speaking training from the League. GET IT GIRL!" I spoke for about five to seven minutes, which felt like a lifetime. I did great because professor Joseph Meyers asked me to speak about the League to his class. I felt good and proud of myself!*

All I can really say after this day and experience is that everything comes together. We all get opportunities in life, and when we take them our past and future experiences intertwine - it just connects. Once again, I thank the Los Angeles League for constantly evolving my perspective about community work.

Katie O'Connell,
LWVLA Student Member

GET ACTIVE LA! AT LOS ANGELES CITY COLLEGE

We had a tremendously successful event at Los Angeles City College, in which we reached approximately 200 students. Our event included 20 community nonprofits who tabled so that students could circulate and learn about civic engagement, get registered to vote, sign the petition for the Prop 13 Reform initiative (supported by LWVC), and find out about internship opportunities. We also had small group workshops on immigration and the homeless issues.

Thanks to our staff, YES committee volunteers, intern/youth member Katie O'Connell, and Voter Services Co-Chair Marsha Schwartz.

We really did get the League name and mission out to a very diverse and engaged audience.

Mona Field,
YES Committee



PERMANENT SUPPORTIVE HOUSING AND MOTEL CONVERSION ORDINANCES

On April 11th the Los Angeles City Council took two giant steps toward providing homes for people who are homeless by passing the Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH) Ordinance and the Interim Motel Conversion Ordinance. League representatives Carolina Goodman and Penny Sommers were at City Hall for this historic vote. Prior to the City Council meeting, United Way held a rally and press conference, recognizing LWVLA as one of 25 organizations on the Prestigious Orange List of Fame that turned out to the rally.



The PSH Ordinance would allow new developments to be built at higher density and would exempt them from mandatory parking minimums. The Interim Motel Conversion Ordinance would streamline the approval process for converting existing motels and hotels to supportive and transitional housing for individuals and families experiencing homelessness. This would allow for transitional housing to be developed on a faster timeline than would be required to construct new units.

If homelessness in LA is an issue that interests you, here are several ways you can be involved:

- Join the Homelessness Action Committee by contacting Sandra Trutt at s.trutt@verizon.net
- Download the booklet <https://yesinmyla.org> to learn about PSH in LA
- Watch for events held by United Way <http://everyoneinla.org>; and track the progress on supportive housing in your council district <http://everyoneinla.org/supportive-housing-tracker/>
- Contact your Council Member to congratulate or encourage him or her to keep working on the issue

Sandra Trutt, Chair of the Homeless Action Committee, and Alexa Roman have taken the lead in educating members about homelessness issues and providing direction toward positive actions aligning with LWVLA's position on homelessness. Committee members have been working with United Way of Greater LA to support the PSH and Motel Conversion Ordinances. Hard work and perseverance paid off with the passage of these two ordinances.

The LWVLA supports United Way and the LA Chamber of Commerce in a number of projects. In March, United Way launched *Everyone In*, a community engagement initiative powered by a coalition of philanthropic, business, labor, and community organizations that provides one place to track and measure progress toward ending homelessness. Individuals will be able to learn more about people who are experiencing homelessness in their community, stay informed on supportive housing, and find opportunities to attend community events. The United Way created a tracker to keep an eye on LA's progress towards ending homelessness.

Penny Sommers,
Homelessness Action Committee

PROPOSED LEGISLATION TO LEVEL THE PLAYING FIELD FOR MARGINALIZED COMMUNITIES IN CALIFORNIA

I am honored to be a 2018 Fellow with the Women's Foundation of California/ Women's Policy Institute. Below are the bills that the Women's Foundation is working diligently to pass during this legislative session. I share them to inform you about what is taking place in Sacramento.

Please visit <http://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billSearchClient.xhtml> to follow any of these bills.

SB 1391 (Lara)—Trying Youth as Adults

SB 1391 would prohibit children ages 14 and 15 from being tried as adults in criminal court and being sentenced to time in adult prison. SB 1391 recognizes that 14- and 15-year-olds are developmentally different from adults and should not be treated like adults in the criminal justice system. SB 1391 will ensure that youth ages 14 and 15 throughout California who commit crimes get the services and help they need within the juvenile justice system and likewise reduce the likelihood they will commit crimes in the future.

SB 1233 (McGuire) - The Community Service Opportunity Act

SB 1233 would authorize a person convicted of an infraction, a misdemeanor for failure to appear or pay bail for specified violations, or who has suffered a civil assessment for failure to appear, to perform community service in the defendant's county of residence in lieu of part or all of the fine or assessment imposed by participating in specified educational programs. The bill would specify that the court has discretion in determining whether the defendant has successfully completed his or her educational program.

AB 2299 (Chu)- Medi-Cal Managed Care: Informational Materials

AB 2299 will codify Medi-Cal readability standards of health education and inform materials in English for managed care plans, and establish a transparent and accountable process for determining readability in all threshold languages, including an initial community review of all consumer facing materials. We believe that ensuring understanding of medical information is a key component for low-income communities to be self-advocates for their health.

SB 1393 (Mitchell, Lara)- Five-Year Fair and Just Sentencing Reform

SB 1393 would increase the fairness of the justice system. The bill restores the court's discretion, in the interest of justice and at the time of sentencing, to strike sentence enhancements for prior serious felony convictions, when a person is currently charged with a serious felony. Allowing judicial discretion is consistent with other sentence enhancement laws and retains existing sanctions for serious crimes.

SB 1392 (Mitchell, Lara)- RISE 2018 1-year repeal

SB 1392 would remove a sentencing enhancement that adds an additional year of incarceration for each prior prison term or felony county jail term. The bill would not change the base sentence for any offense or amend any other enhancement.

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AB 2785(Rubio) - Lactation Accommodations for California Community College and California State University Students

AB 2785 would require California Community Colleges and California State Universities to provide adequate accommodations on their campuses to lactating students to express human milk, breastfeed/chestfeed an infant child, or address other needs related to breastfeeding/chestfeeding without incurring any academic penalty.

AB 2413 (Chiu) – The Right to a Safe Home Act

AB 2413 protects victims of crime or abuse, as well as individuals in emergencies from being evicted or otherwise penalized for calling law enforcement or other emergency assistance.

Jodi Doane,
LWV of Los Angeles Secretary

NEW MEMBER SPOTLIGHT



Jackie D'Almeida is a graduate student studying public policy at UCLA. She is an advocate for women's and children's rights, and currently interns at Human Rights Watch in the Children's Rights Division. As an undergraduate, she was an executive board member of UCLA's American Association of University Women, and organized a salary negotiation workshop, a Women in the Workforce panel discussion, and a self-defense workshop, all geared towards university women. She is passionate about promoting voter education and is very excited to get involved with the League of Women Voters. She looks forward to meeting you all!



Felice Klein recently retired following 40 years in healthcare. Her academic foundation and early work experience were in nursing but she spent the second half of her career in physician education. Now, aside from enjoying the recent additions of two grandchildren, she's pursuing activities to keep herself healthy and keep her mind active and challenged. Felice tries to stay very current on local and statewide issues but can always benefit from learning more and perhaps increase her access to hearing directly from decision makers. She connected with LWVLA at the recent candidate forum at CSUN that was held in preparation for the 45th Assembly District Special Election. She joined to determine if the organization is compatible with her interests and hopes to make meaningful contribution.



Sarah Reines, a communications and marketing executive, has nearly 25 years of experience with public and community relations, internal and executive communications, thought leadership, digital and social media, communications measurement and change management. She is the founder and CEO of communications consulting firm Reines Communications. She lives in Westlake Village with her husband and three children, and is active as a volunteer with the city's Cultural and Recreation Advisory Board, Girl Scouts, AYSO, her children's schools and her temple.

HOUSE L.A.

Los Angeles County Supervisor Sheila Kuehl's sponsored presentation on new incentives available to landlords who are willing to rent to individuals and families who have experienced homelessness. The event at Santa Monica College was well attended by new participants and experienced landlords.

Supervisor Kuehl described the Section 8 vouchers as extreme affordable housing for families and individuals. The benefits are for LA City and LA County participating parties.

Here are some on the benefits put forward by the Housing Authority of the City of Los Angeles County:

- Reliable rental payments
- Prescreened referrals
- Holding fees for vacant units, monthly
- First and last security deposit for tenants
- Damage mitigation for repairs up to \$2,000
- Peace of mind to landlords because case managers are assigned to tenants
- Move in assistance available for moving costs and furniture including a refrigerator

Harold Greenberg, President of an Apartment Association said that housing is growing too slowly in Los Angeles for the number of people needing affordable places to live. Mr. Greenberg told us that the Homeless Incentive Program (HIP) will assist owners of old buildings with repairs to bring units up to code.

Rapid Re-Housing

The Housing Authority of LA will provide financial payments for a person or family to get into housing, as soon as possible after they become homeless. They provide security deposits and utility fees for gas, electric, water, pay unpaid utility bills from the past (up to \$500,) moving costs, furniture, incentives mentioned earlier to those needing it. These are not your chronically homeless people who need wrap around services, these low-income families just need a leg up to get back into a stable situation. They offer support services to the tenant and the landlord.

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MEETING WITH COUNCILMEMBER PAUL KORETZ

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The “Shared Housing” program offers information on shared apartment. This is a program to prevent someone from becoming homeless in the first place.

Veterans

The Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) has their own Supportive Housing called HUD-VASH. They issue section 8 vouchers for Vets with case management after the person or family is housed. Those assisted must be chronically homeless, be VA healthcare eligible, be willing to participate in the program and are low-income. Participant cannot be a registered sex offender.

Sandra Trutt

Homelessness Action Committee Chair

Katie Eichhorn and Sandra Trutt met with Councilmember Koretz and three members of his staff in April to talk about the immediate housing and support for currently homeless individuals. They thanked him for his vote on the Council Measure to build 222 units in five years in the 5th District and for his vote to pass the Supportive Housing Ordinance and Motel Conversion measures in the City Council. They brought along the Homeless Task Force report and pointed out several items he could implement in his District from it.

1. In Yolo County they converted a single motel into Bridge Housing, filling it with homeless, taking care of their needs and moving them on to housing, then getting more homeless in for temporary stay while being helped. Koretz said the Council just passed the Motel Conversion measure that can turn high vacancy motels into Supportive Housing. His aid said there was a motel on La Cienega that might be appropriate for this type of temporary shelter, if they can reach an agreement with the owner.
2. Thirty-five percent of the homeless are families. Koretz said that most agencies put families at the top of their list for housing.
3. Paying the homeless for doing jobs, such as picking up trash along roads and freeways, working with green waste or animal care. Koretz said that LASHA is hiring the formerly homeless into their organization to work with the homeless on the streets.
4. Koretz said he was working with Supervisor Sheila Kuehl to get more low-cost housing in Los Angeles.

When we asked what the League can do for the District, he said that we needed to have as a first priority re-uniting the homeless with their families. “I thought the outreach workers did that,” I said. He felt they didn’t do a good job and put it last on the list. It is more economical to spend money for transportation to get the homeless back with their families, than to build expensive PSH for them, he said.

His aid offered help if we wanted to do a Pilot Project in the district, a “Reunification Team,” in which League members would volunteer with LASHA outreach workers to help reunify homeless individuals with their family. We do have some members who want to work more closely with the Homeless. We will think about this issue.

Sandra Trutt
Homelessness Action Committee Chair

Since the last VOTER

Contributions

Sharon Akins
Jane Cook
Mona Field
Alan M. Glassman
Adam Green
Amelia MacRae
Martha Sklar
Sandra Trutt

Civic Society

Jean F. Cohen
Susan F. Rice
Lois Saffian
Gerald Sallus

Members

Ali Borden
Suzanne Brian
Rina Carmel
Jacquelyn D'Almeida
Wanda Dameron
Dovid Franklin
Adam Green
Barrie Hafler
Ashley Hastings
Barbara Huff
Teresa Keesan
Felice Klein
Susan Kovinsky
Susan von Manske
Sarah Pillsbury
Alicia Gabrielle Puzon
Katherine Samuels
June S. Sattler

Monthly Sustaining Contributions

Crissi Avila
Jodi Doane
Marilu Guevara

Tributes

*Marilu Guevara in memory of Jodi
Doane's father.*

*Caroline Cooperman in memory of
Nancy Arnheim.*

MEET OUR ANNUAL MEETING SPEAKER



Bob Stern is past President of the Center for Governmental Studies, a Los Angeles based group that wrote model laws to improve the government process for nearly 30 years. He was the co-author of numerous books, including the Center's study: "Democracy by Initiative: Shaping California's Fourth Branch of Government." Stern was the first general counsel of the California Fair Political

Practices Commission, the agency in charge of administering California's campaign disclosure, ethics and lobbying laws.

He recently taught a course at UCLA Extension to 90 students called "The Trump Presidency: the Good, the Bad and the Unknown" and has taught "Current Events" at Santa Monica Emeritus and "The November Election: 2016" at UCLA Extension.

He was a principal co-author of the Political Reform Act of 1974 (Proposition 9), passed by 70% of California voters, and called by the 2015 book Game Changers, one of the 12 most important election results in California history. In addition, Stern was a principal drafter of the City of Los Angeles' Ethics and Public Campaign Financing law, passed by Los Angeles voters in 1990.

The *Washington Monthly* magazine described him as a "campaign finance guru," and Peter Schrag, in the *Sacramento Bee*, called Stern the "godfather of modern political reform in California."

He was the President of the Council on Governmental Ethics Laws, an organization consisting of state, federal, Canadian and local agencies that regulate campaign finance, ethics and lobbying laws.

In 2006, he was given the League of Women Voters of Los Angeles Education Fund Voter Participation Leadership Award for campaign finance reform. He has also been honored by Pomona College and California Common Cause.

Stern is a graduate of Pomona College and Stanford Law School.





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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

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