



The Voter



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Serving the cities of Brea, Buena Park, Cypress, Fullerton, La Habra, La Palma, Placentia, Yorba Linda

President's Message

by Pearl Mann, LWVNOC President

Our Strategic Planning meeting in the park went well. Meeting outdoors wearing our masks and socially distanced was lovely. It was challenging at times without a microphone, but we were productive. We have planned no indoor in-person meetings yet.

The Board voted to sponsor a video contest for junior high school through college students that will contribute to our goals of voter service, education, and community. Each video will be two minutes of pros and cons creatively addressing one ballot measure selected by the student. We are accepting donations to fund cash prizes for the winners. Thanks to Professor Jodi Balma for introducing this project. What a creative way to engage and inform students!

Our hard working Voter Service team is busy organizing and scheduling pros and cons presentations and candidate forums in an array of virtual formats for the cities we serve. Other than moderators, the only volunteers needed for candidate forums are timers.

Voter Guides from LWV California are now available. Most of our free Guides will be donated for the Voting Centers because we have no live audiences at our events. However, we have some Guides available. Email me if you know of a venue which will accept some.

LWVNOC forwards you emails from LWVC and LWVUS weekly, offering opportunities to learn about or help with current issues. May each of you find something that interests or excites you.

I hope you and yours keep safe and well.



Vista Park in Fullerton

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California's Water - Sharing our Knowledge

from League of Women Voters of California

This is the first installment of an eight-part series on water resources in California.

When you turn on the tap in your home, where does the water come from? Where does it go? The answers may surprise you.

The California water system is bewildering in its complexity. Some water rights date to the Gold Rush and are held jealously. Our population and economy grew as they did because we engineered dams, viaducts, channels and more that move water from hundreds – sometimes thousands – of miles away.

Giant water projects have allowed us to build an agricultural juggernaut that demands water, even when the rivers and aqueducts run dry. Local rivers and streams are an important source of water for many communities and farms in Northern and Central California. When surface water is not available, we turn to groundwater, but that resource is being overdrawn.

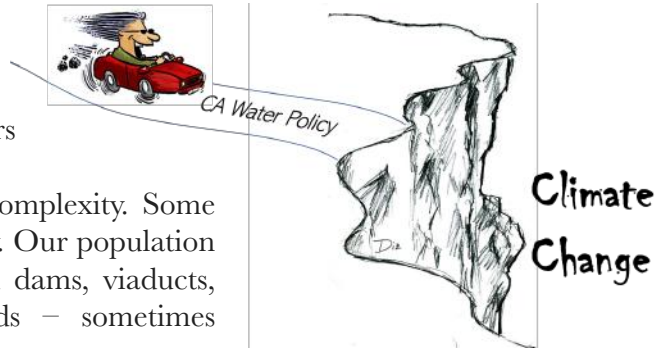
Water is important to all aspects of life – ours, and that of plants and other animals. Water and water policy also have influence on and are influenced by many other aspects of natural resources – climate change, forests, sea level rise, land use, and many more.

The League of Women Voters of California has more than 30 members dedicated to understanding California's water. The [Water Committee](#), co-chaired by Jane Wagner-Tyack and Roberta Borgonovo, has members from all across California with both scientific and policy expertise on California's unique water supply and distribution systems.

To help share our information, the Water Committee is planning a series of articles on California's water to inform you, to intrigue you, and to share the team's expertise. The articles will be offered about once a month to Local Leagues for possible publication in their VOTER newsletter, and accessible online.

Please join us in learning about the many important aspects of California's water. This article is the first in the series. Next up:

Water is Related to Everything – How water links to energy, health, environmental justice, agriculture, recreation, and so much else.



LWVUS Homelessness Action Policy by Kristina Fruneaux

Hello everyone,

Here is a link to the finalized Homelessness Action Plan. It is my understanding that it has been approved by State already and is therefore ready to publicize. It will be affirmed at convention next year. It will be available soon on the State website, but priority is being given to the Propositions right now.

Have a look: <https://my.lwv.org/sites/default/files/lwvc-homelessness-action-policy.pdf>

Read with League

by Lucina Moses and Cheryl Zimmerman

Read with League met via a Zoom meeting hosted by Jan Wagner (Thank You Jan!) and had a great discussion of **The Woman's Hour: The Great Fight to Win the Vote** by Elaine Weiss. Barbara Dunsheath reviewed the book and led the discussion. Our September book is **Talking to Strangers** by Malcolm Gladwell. Frann Shermet will be the reviewer. The meeting will be on September 8th at 1 pm via Zoom. If you wish to participate in the meeting via Zoom, please send your email to Jan Wagner at janwagner@me.com no later than September 3rd, so she has time to build her email list to send out invitations to the meeting.

Please RSVP to:

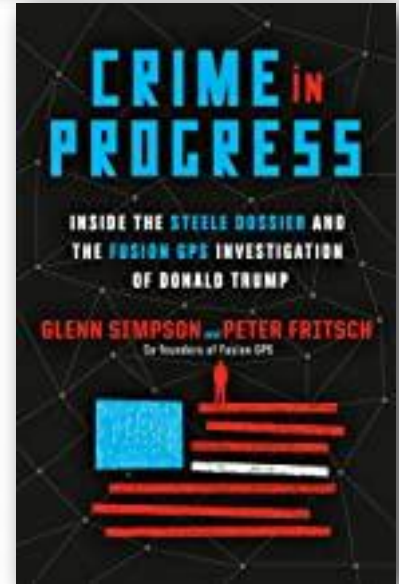
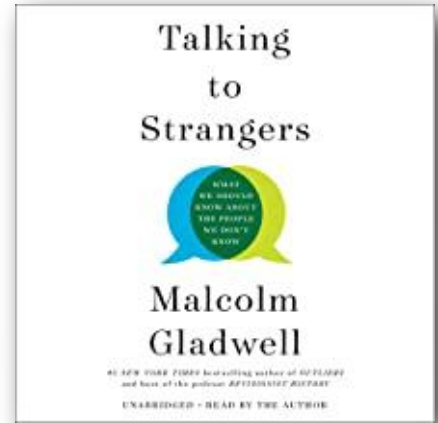
Lucina Moses at (775)762-7656 or lucinalea@mac.com

or

Cheryl Zimmerman at (714) 348-6765 cbzimmerman@fullerton.edu.

Also contact Lucina or Cheryl if you have any questions about Read with League.

Future Meetings: We will read **Crime in Progress: Inside the Steele Dossier and the Fusion GPS Investigation of Donald Trump** by Glenn Simpson and Peter Fritsch in October. We will finalize our selections for November 2020 through February 2021 at the September meeting.



Groaners

Two fish swim into a concrete wall. One turns to the other and says, "Dam."

Did you hear the one about the Buddhist who refused Novacain during a root canal? His goal: transcendental medication.

I thought I saw an eye doctor on an Alaskan island, but it turned out to be an optical Aleutian.

She was only a whiskey maker, but he loved her still.

A rubber band gun was confiscated from algebra class because it was a weapon of math disruption.

No matter how much you push the envelope, it'll still be stationery.

A dog gave birth to puppies near the road and was cited for littering.

A hole has been found in the nudist camp wall. The police are looking into it.

Atheism is a non-prophet organization.

Two hats were hanging on a hat rack in the hallway. One hat said to the other, "You stay here; I'll go on ahead."

I wondered why the baseball kept getting bigger. Then it hit me.

Groups Sue Postmaster General over USPS Changes

8/19/2020

GREENBELT, MD—Late Tuesday, the League of Women Voters of the United States, the National Urban League, and Common Cause filed a lawsuit against the Postmaster General and United States Postal Service asserting that recent changes to postal service procedures and equipment presents an undue burden on fundamental right to vote, infringes on voters' free speech rights, and violates the Administrative Procedures Act (APA).

The Postmaster General issued an announcement on Tuesday that the agency would suspend certain “operational initiatives” until after the election, though it did not offer many details. Many questions remain as to whether this suspension of initiatives covers the most concerning changes already made, such as the removal of hundreds of mail sorting machines and the treatment and timeframe for delivery of election-related mail. Furthermore, the erosion of trust and major delays that resulted from the changes to procedures and equipment remain.

“The League supports the US Postal Service, one of our country's oldest and most trusted agencies. Yet, even with the supposed suspension of changes to USPS's system, the damage has already been done,” said **Virginia Kase**, CEO of the League of Women Voters of the United States. “The distrust has been sown. Voters are left confused and uncertain as they navigate how to vote safely during a pandemic. We must not allow the proposed changes to USPS to be implemented, for this election

or any future election. We must restore voters' faith in our mail system.”

The lawsuit, *National Urban League, et al v. DeJoy*, defendants intentionally made changes that would undermine the upcoming election. The lawsuit requests the court to weigh in on whether the U.S. Constitution was violated, restrict future action by the Postmaster General to implement nationwide changes to the mail system without proper oversight, and take immediate steps to mitigate the damage caused by these changes.

“As a century-old organization, the League understands the importance of being a credible and trusted beacon for American communities. The shenanigans that postal workers and USPS agency officials have had to endure are shameful,” said **Celina Stewart**, chief counsel and senior director of advocacy and litigation at the League of



Women Voters of the United States. “The taint of the Postmaster General's flippant changes will not be removed until a clear plan is outlined detailing how the agency will mitigate the damage done and establish transparency. Only then will trust begin to be restored for millions of individuals who rely on the vital services that the US Postal Service provides.”

The League and its partners are represented by the Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law and Arnold & Porter LLC.

“As the Senate Intelligence Committee report released today reveals, the team surrounding

[See **USPS Changes** on the next page.]

USPS Changes (Continued from previous page)

President Trump has pushed the boundaries of voter suppression and interference in unprecedented ways,” **Marc H. Morial**, President and CEO of the National Urban League. “We are determined that the Constitutionally-established institutions of our government will not be twisted into service of the President’s reelection campaign, and we will not abandon those who depend upon the Postal Service for life-sustaining deliveries.”

“The drastic and disruptive changes to the Postal Service by the Trump administration have been an attack on every American’s right to vote and their First Amendment right to free speech - and they must be rolled back definitively with more than just a press release,” said **Karen Hobert Flynn**, President of Common Cause. “These efforts to undermine the effectiveness of the Postal Service under President Trump must ALL be rescinded. In the midst of a pandemic we need to know that ballot applications and ballots will be delivered in a timely manner so that every American will be able to make their voice heard on Election Day without having to choose between protecting their health and exercising their right to vote.”

“Postmaster General Louis DeJoy has wreaked havoc across the country with reckless policies

intended to disrupt the timely delivery of mail just weeks in advance of a general election,” said **Kristen Clarke**, president and executive director of the Lawyers’ Committee for Civil Rights Under Law. “Without question, DeJoy is weaponizing the United States Postal Service (USPS) to disenfranchise Americans who choose to vote by mail amid an unprecedented pandemic gripping the nation. We are filing this lawsuit to stop actions that were adopted unlawfully and that were intended to cause delays intended to disrupt the November election. DeJoy’s statement vowing to suspend changes rings hollow in the absence of remedial action taken to address the damage that his actions have caused.”

“There is nothing more precious in the Constitution than the sacred right to vote, and the law will not and cannot stand idly by when that right is infringed for political purposes,” said **Kenneth Chernof**, partner at Arnold & Porter.

Voters are strongly encouraged to act early with their voting plan this year, whether it involves voting by mail or voting in person. VOTE411.org has timely updates and information related to voting options in all 50 states and DC.



LEAGUE OF
WOMEN VOTERS®

Pros and Cons Presentation on Statewide Ballot Initiatives

A Webinar on Tuesday, October 6, 2020 from Noon to 1:30

The LWNOC will explain the 12 State Initiatives on the November 2020 ballot. Pros and Cons on each Initiative as well as its fiscal impact will be offered. Information will be presented factually and without bias so you can make your own decisions.

Please submit any questions in advance to dvagts@gmail.com by Saturday, October 3.

Download a PDF of the Easy Voter Guide at easyvoterguide.org.

PO Box 3073 Fullerton CA 92834

lwnoc.org

Orange County Board of Supervisors, by Wanda Shaffer

As you are probably aware, the county is in the “COVID countdown.” If the county can show that the testing system ratings and virus cases stay below the state cutoff number, OC can proceed with opening the schools. The “decision day” is Sept. 6. There are many Pre-K - 6th grade private/secular schools that have already applied for school waivers. Those schools must themselves monitor and report. The county will be allowed to open in phases. Only the schools are considered in this change. The Health Dept. stressed that ALL STUDENTS must have **the regular flu shot by the end of November.**

The August meetings were filled with public address topics: not wanting to wear masks; a need to cut the police budget; and “Black Lives Matter.” It was common to have 50-90 speakers at each meeting. The public is also allowed to email their comments, which are then read aloud at the meeting.

August is also the month for final \$\$\$ decisions and cuts in the **2020-2021 County budget.** There will be a Tuesday, Sept.1 Board mtg. for a Public Budget Hearing. Then there will be a Tuesday, Sept. 15, meeting to adopt the final budget. The Supervisors will “prioritize public health and safety.”

In the interest of time and space, here are two areas of interest YOU, the reader, may wish to pursue:

- To find COVID testing sites and information, go to: <https://occovid19.ochealthinfo.com/covid-19-testing>
- To find the recommended Budget, Augmentation Requests, Key Budget Messages and the Dept. Contact List, go online at: <http://www.ocgov.com/gov/ceo/deputy/finance/budget>. Stay well!

We Will Not Be Silenced

by Stephanie Doute, CAE, LWVC Executive Director

100 years ago women won the ratification of the 19th amendment after decades of activism. They were not quiet. They believed that without a vote, they had no voice in the future of their country and society. We hold that belief sacred, 100 years later. **Your vote, your voice.**



Yet, our history is rife with attempts to silence the voices of people. Voter suppression has a dark and rampant history in the US. Voter purges, poll taxes, voter ID laws, felony disenfranchisement, gerrymandering, restricting access to the US Postal Service. It's not done. **As long as there is power in our vote, there will be people attempting to take that power away. To silence us. We will not be silenced.**

100 years ago, women stood in the streets with signs and marched en masse to demand their right and to have a voice. Today, people are marching in the streets, with signs, to demand their human rights and have a voice. 100 years later. Same cause. Our rights. Our lives. Our votes. Our voices.

So, as we look back at the women, upon whose shoulders we stand, it is time to steel ourselves for the same future. Sojourner Truth said, **"If the first woman God ever made was strong enough to turn the world upside down, these women together ought to be able to turn it right again."**

The country - the world - needs our fortitude. We take this time to honor the women whose strength and persistence gave us the power to carry this forward. **To honor their legacy by standing, marching, and working to protect voting rights right now and for the next 100 years.**

They were not silent. We will not be silent.

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**LEAGUE of WOMEN VOTERS of NORTH ORANGE COUNTY
 Membership Form 2019 - 2020**

Name(s) of Member(s) _____

Address _____

City _____ Zip Code _____

Phone _____ Cell _____ E-mail _____

Individual member \$65.00 Renewal ___ New member ___ \$ _____

Additional household member \$32.50 Renewal ___ New member ___ \$ _____

Student member Free Renewal ___ New member ___ \$ _____

Additional donation to League (To cover our operating expenses, etc.):
 \$25 \$50 \$75 \$100 other \$ _____

Donation to Educational Fund (Separate tax-deductible donation):
 \$25 \$50 \$75 \$100 other \$ _____

Total enclosed (Make checks payable to LWVNOC.) Thank you. \$ _____

How can you serve the League? How can the League serve you?

Please complete this member survey. Circle your choices or fill in the blanks.

Our areas of emphasis this year are: **Voting Issues, Civic Engagement, Education, and Housing and Homelessness.**

I am interested in working on: _____

I would also be willing to work on special events and other League projects. Yes No

I have special skills (for example: graphic art, computers): _____

I am currently: Working ___ Retired ___ My job/profession: _____

I prefer to attend League events: During the day In the evening Weekdays Weekends

Suggestion for an activity or speaker: _____

I am not able to participate in League events but wish to support the work of the League by renewing my membership or by making a donation. Comments: _____

Please send this completed form with your check to LWVNOC, P.O. Box 3073, Fullerton, CA 92834

For Treasurer's Use Only: Check # _____ Amount \$ _____ Date: _____



League of Women Voters

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