



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

President's Message by Gerri McNenny

Thanks to the extraordinary effort that our many volunteers put into the Kickoff and the Silent Auction, we had a very successful opening to our year. Special thanks must go to Karen Bender, Maggie Lee, Sherlan Neblett, Ruth Zemke, Betty Hammond, Lori Patton, Sharon Ohara, Marcy Fry, Kristina Fruneaux, Carol Wiseman, and Jodi Balma for their work in making the Kickoff and Silent Auction run so smoothly. Of course, we also have Jodi Balma to thank for our captivating speaker. "Mrs. Frazzled" provided such an accurate and informed analysis of Project 2025, she held us all spellbound.

We also had a great turnout. Eighty-four people attended the Kickoff and went home just a little more enlightened about our political system. On top of that, we were able to raise \$4396 (including donations) to fund our work of promoting informed participation in our democracy through our candidate forums, pros and cons sessions, and monthly Lunch with League meetings, to name just a few of the League's activities.

Of course, we had already initiated a very successful series of Candidate Forums and Pros and Cons Presentations prior to our Kickoff. Thanks to the amazing work done by Linda Lockwood, Director of Voter Services, as well as Jan Urban, Deborah Vagts, Jodi Balma, Jennifer Trafford, Maggie Lee, Karen Lloreda, Sherlan Neblett, Jan Wagner, and all of the other members of Voter Services, we're off to a roaring start in bringing a whole lot more light to the positions and views of candidates running for offices within the eight cities covered by our League. I look forward to sharing that journey with all of the wonderful members of the League. Together, we do make a difference!



Mrs. Frazzled

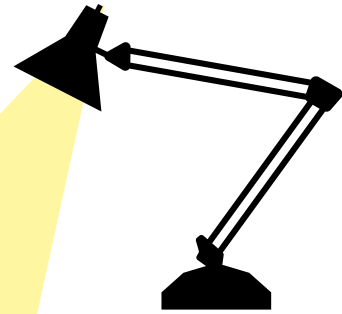


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Observer Corps Report

by Karen Bender



Today's report covers August and September up to 9/16.

In August **Fullerton City Council** discussed a possible sales tax increase to help cover the budget deficit.

Our new **La Habra City Council** observer, Richard Larsen, reports that on September 16, a "public comments" speaker on behalf of United Sovereign Americans raising voting and election concerns.

The **Orange County Board of Supervisors (BOS)** supports two bills in progress that assist in preventing homelessness: AB 2498 (Zbur), providing counties with funding to administer a housing subsidy to eligible persons, and SB1032 (Padilla), authorizing the Dept. of Housing and Community Development to forgive the full amount of the principal, interest, and fees if the borrower makes specified showings.

Regular attendees for the public comment section of the BOS meeting are a group identifying itself as United Sovereign Americans and sometimes "reorganized" or "new" California. They sequentially "comment" or "read" their lengthy written agenda into the minutes. Their focus is to change current voting practices.

Supervisors Sarmiento and Foley have demanded that Supervisor Do, District 1, step down in response to allegations that Supervisor Do mishandled millions of dollars in discretionary COVID funds. His removal was to be on the agenda for 9/10; however, at this meeting we learned the BOS does not have the power to remove him. The Attorney General can remove him, or he can resign; so far, he's refusing to resign. The Board of Supervisors did censure Supervisor Do "for demonstrating reckless and unethical conduct in the performance of his duties as a fiduciary of public funds."

Orange County has dropped its contract with Mind OC, a non-profit organization that oversees the Be Well Mental Health Program. According to the ***Voice of OC*** a recent audit found program failures "like failing to properly train staff and correctly bill the county."

LWV Orange Coast has an observer at the **Orange County Board of Education (BOE)**. You can access their reports on our website! Thank you, webmasters Ed Smith, and Orange Coast League, Janette Dye. Click on "Observer Corps." Scroll down below "LWVNOC Observer Reports." Scroll farther down below "Observer Resources" to the section labeled "The following display is for demonstration – the content may not be current:" There you will find all Orange Coast Reports. Click on "Observer Reports – County". Select "Board of Education" to see the full August 7th report.

An agenda item at the August 7th **BOE** meeting was a Resolution to oppose Assembly Bill 1955 regarding Parent Notification that was signed into law on July 15, 2024. The Board's Resolution concludes with a statement of intention to challenge AB1955 in federal court. The Resolution passed 5 to 0.

Thanks to our dedicated LWVNOC Observer Corps: City councils: Brea – Gerri McNenny; Cypress – Patricia Larsen; Fullerton – Dee Steedman and Ruth Zemke; La Habra – Richard Larsen. School Board: Placentia-Yorba Linda Unified School District – Dennis Van Vliet. County: Board of Supervisors – Karen Bender.

2024 CANDIDATE FORUMS



SEPTEMBER

19 Cypress School District
Thursday, Sept 19
6:00 - 7:30 p.m.
5816 Corporate Ave.,
Suite 100
Cypress, CA 90630

23 Fullerton City Council
Monday, September 23
6:00 - 7:30 p.m.
Council Chambers
303 W. Commonwealth
Parking behind City Hall
Fullerton, CA 92832

24 Placentia City Council
Tuesday, September 24
6:00 - 7:30 p.m.
Placentia Council Chambers
401 E Chapman Ave.,
Placentia, CA 92870

28 League of Women
Voters of North Orange
County Kickoff Event
Saturday, September 28
10:30 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

La Habra City School District
Wednesday, September 25
6:00 - 7:30 p.m.
LHSD Chambers
500 N. Walnut St.
La Habra 90631

26 Brea City Council
Thursday, September 26
5:30pm - 7:00pm
Brea Council Chambers
1 Civic Center Circle
Brea, CA 92821

OCTOBER

8 Fullerton School District
Tuesday, October 8
6:00 - 7:30 p.m.
Fullerton College, Room 229
321 East Chapman Ave.
Fullerton, CA 92832

10 Buena Park City Council
Thursday, October 10
7:00 - 8:30 p.m.
Buena Park Council
Chambers
6650 Beach Blvd.
Buena Park, CA 90621

La Habra City Council
Wednesday, October 16
6:00 - 7:30 p.m.
City Council Chambers
110 East La Habra Blvd.
La Habra, CA 90633

21 North OC Community
College District
Monday, October 21
6:00 - 7:30 p.m.
Fullerton College, Room 224
321 East Chapman Ave.
Fullerton, CA 92832

24 Centralia School District
Thursday, October 24
6:00 pm - 7:30 p.m.
CESD Boardroom
6625 La Palma Ave.
Buena Park, CA 90620



Visit our website for
more information

Website: my.lwv.org/california/north-orange-county

LWVNOC Meeting Dates October 2024 - May 2025

Lunch With League 11:00 at Coyote Hills CC

All on Thursdays
October 24, featuring LA Times
staff writer, Gabriel San Ramon
“The Need for Local Journalism”

January 23
February 27
March 27
April 24
May 22

Board Meetings 10:00 at ROP

All on Wednesdays, and all
members welcome!

October 16
January 15
February 19
March 19
April 16
May 21

Read with League

Returning in January with Love
Adu as our new director. More
information soon to come.

Advocacy by Richard Larsen



This is a list of requests for petitions distributed to the LWVNOC Advocacy group in September to take action on.

On the 5th we received a petition request from California Common Cause to petition our governor to sign bills AB 2839 to keep deepfakes out of campaign adds and AB 2655, which combats online disinformation mostly regarding AI deepfakes which have been in use.

On the 12th we received a petition request from LWVUS to tell Congress to act on the E R A to celebrate International Day of Democracy because today in the US, women's rights are still not guaranteed.

On the 18th we received a petition request from US Common Cause to petition our Congress to prevent election deniers from shutting down our government and to resist the efforts of a group of radical lawmakers who've demanded an extreme new law meant to deter newly naturalized citizens from voting and to make it harder for all citizens to vote.

Also on the 18th we received a petition from LWVC to petition our Governor to sign AB 544, which places polling locations inside jails, allowing any eligible incarcerated person to register and cast their votes in those jails as a pilot program.

On the 19th we received a petition request from LWVUS to join them in calling on Congress to strengthen voting rights and to pass the John Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act to celebrate National Voter Registration Day.

On the 22nd we received a petition request from US Common Cause to petition Sen. Lindsey Graham about a last minute effort to have Nebraska change its election rules by returning to a winner-take-all electoral college vote. Politicians shouldn't be allowed to switch the rules at the last minute to gain a partisan advantage.

On the 25th we received a petition from LWVUS which was a forward from US Common Cause to tell Congress they must ban guns from polling places. We must ensure that our polling places remain sanctuaries for democracy.

Freedom from Intimidation in Elections Act

from LWVUS 9/26/2024

WASHINGTON, DC – The League of Women Voters of the United States is proud to support the Freedom from Intimidation in Elections Act, which will enshrine in law that every voter should have the right to cast their ballot free from fear and intimidation.

"This bill is a crucial step in protecting our elections and the individuals who make them possible. By establishing a presumption that openly carrying a firearm during election-related activities constitutes voter intimidation, this legislation strengthens the legal framework needed to prevent such threats. It also provides civil remedies for those who experience intimidation, supplementing existing criminal prohibitions, and allowing our justice system to hold those who violate these prohibitions accountable. This legislation reflects a growing recognition that the integrity of our elections must be preserved in the face of increasing threats.

In recent years, gun deregulation in some states, combined with increased political polarization and disinformation, has led to a disturbing rise in threats against election officials, poll workers, and even voters. The chilling reality of armed protesters gathering outside ballot-counting facilities and the armed surveillance of drop boxes during the 2020 election has highlighted the urgent need for stronger legislation and safeguards in this bill. This legislation addresses these concerns by updating existing anti-intimidation laws, ensuring that our democratic process remains secure and coercion-free.

The League of Women Voters stands firmly in support of this bill to ensure that every voter can participate without fear."



LWVNOC Current Officers and Directors

Officers

President	Gerri McNenny
Vice-President	Sherlan Neblett
Secretary	Ruth Zemke
Treasurer	Karen Bender

Directors

Action/Advocacy	Richard Larsen
Lunch w/ League	Betty Hammond Jennifer Trafford Maggie Lee
Co-Membership	Marcy Fry Maggie Lee
Co-Voter Service	Linda Lockwood Jan Urban
Speaker Committee	Jodi Balma
E-mail Blasts	Maggie Lee
Voter Editor	Jim Hill
Web Host	Ed Smith Maggie Lee

Special Events	Vacant
Nominating Comm.	Vacant

Off-Board Directors

Read with League	Patricia Larsen
Past President	Kristina Fruneaux
League Phone	to be discontinued
League Mail Box	Karen Bender
Student Outreach	Jodi Balma
Facebook	Jodi Balma Kristina Fruneaux
Climate Change Comm.	Gerri McNenny
Observer Corps	Karen Bender

MEMBER INFORMATION FOR 2024-2025

First Name	Last Name
Email Address	
Street Address	
City	Zip
Phone Number	Cell Number

MEMBERSHIP FEES AND DONATIONS

- Individual Membership @ \$85
 - Two in a household @ \$120
 - Free Student Membership
 - Donation to the LWVNOC \$ _____
 - Renewal
 - Renewal
 - Renewal
 - Donation to LWVNOC Education Fund \$ _____
 - New Member
 - New Member
 - New Member
- (Must be separate check made out to LWVCEF)

PAYMENT INFORMATION

- Check enclosed (payable to LWVNOC)
- Credit card

Name on Credit Card	
Billing Address	City, Zip
Credit Card Number	
Expiration Date	Security Code

Please circle areas of interest for you and/or add a special interest to you:

- | | | | |
|-------------------------|-------------------|----------------|---|
| Read with League | Education | Climate Change | Affordable Housing/
Homelessness |
| Observers | Action & Advocacy | Voter Services | Help with Technology/
Communications |
| Special Events Planning | Fund Raising | Field Trips | |

Do you have any skills or background that would support any of these areas?

Yes No

Please send this completed form to:
 League of Women Voters of North Orange County (LWVNOC)
 PO Box 3073, Fullerton, CA 92834

