



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®  
OF VENTURA COUNTY

# VOTER

June 2018, Volume 60 No.10

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Dear Members and Friends of LWVVC:

As we near the June 16, LWVVC Annual Meeting and the election of new officers, I would like to thank you for the honor of serving as your President. It has been a good learning experience and a chance to get to know our county better - I can now find my way to Simi Valley, Thousand Oaks, Oxnard, Camarillo, Saticoy, Fillmore, and many other parts of the county with ease and my trusty GPS. The travel has been a fun way of getting to know many of you as we carpool, especially Judy Murphy (best minute taker ever!) and Betsy Patterson.



- ▶ Thanks to Carmen Hurd for her leadership in organizing the registering of voters in all of the Oxnard Union High Schools which I now know my way around.
- ▶ Thanks to David Maron for introducing me to many of the city halls and schools throughout the county and for his incredible mentorship on how to conduct an impartial and well-organized candidate forum.
- ▶ Thanks to Betsy Patterson for demonstrating how to turn a suggestion of how to grow our membership in to a thriving program on Civil Discourse, as well as making Channel Islands State University seem like a familiar setting.
- ▶ Thanks to Pat Butler and Carol Lindberg for their dedication to growing our membership. They have traveled as much or more than I so that whatever we're doing, people can learn about us and join.
- ▶ Thanks to Barbara Doyle for infinite patience as she has taught me the ways of the league, especially in putting together the Annual Meeting, and how to organize and run a housing authority election.
- ▶ Thanks to the whole Scholarship Committee, especially Melanie Ashen, for arranging scholarships at Ventura, Oxnard and Moorpark Colleges (also places I now know my way to).

Thanks aside, I look forward to seeing you all at the Annual Meeting on June 16. Please be sure to mail in your reservations and check for lunch by June, 9 and include your entree choice. Not only will it be nice to catch up but we will have a very interesting presentation about Community Choice Energy which has been proposed for our county. Come meet our new board members, catch up with treasured friends, and see what we have to look forward to in 2018-2019.

Yours in League,

Pat Essick, President

**Starting this Summer, VOTER is thrilled to welcome its new editor, Maria Runyon**

**June 5 is California Primary Election day!**

**For information regarding this year's propositions, check out the League's Voter Guide or click on Pros & Cons icon above**

# ➤ SPECIAL EVENTS ◀

## ANNUAL MEETING



**Don't forget to RSVP by June 9**

**Saturday, June 16 - LWVVC Annual Meeting, Luncheon & Speaker** - 9:30 am to 1:30 pm. Location: Marriott Courtyard, 600 E.

Esplanade Dr. Oxnard. The meeting will be followed by a plated lunch with a menu choice of Cobb Salad with rolls and butter, Veggie Sandwich with pasta salad (vegans should request no cheese or mayo) and Santa Fe Chicken Wrap with pasta salad. All lunches are served with choice of coffee, iced tea, water and include Champagne Cake for dessert. Cost for the lunch is \$30. Luncheon attendees must send their checks no later than June 9 to LWVVC at the address below - write your menu choice on your check.

*You may attend the meeting and listen to the speaker without purchasing lunch.*

9:30 am	Coffee/tea/pastries
10:00 to Noon	Business Meeting.
Noon	Luncheon
12:40 to 1:30	Speakers: Linda Hillman and Don Dame on community choice energy

Community choice energy (CCE) is a new way to get cleaner electricity to consumers at competitive prices and with greater local control of how electricity is produced. Ms. Hillman and Mr. Dame will provide an update on current central coast and statewide trends in CCE. Linda is an attorney and CPA whose career includes federal and local public service including accounting, law and operational management as well as private sector financial management. Don spent nearly 40 years working in the natural gas, electricity and water utility industries. He currently consults on direct access, community choice power assessment and governance matters with cities and counties throughout California.

## Vote with the League on June 5

Yes, VOTER knows that it published the following in April's issue however with the election just days away, we thought it would be worth repeating...only smaller.

### LWV California Recommends

**PROP 68 - California Drought, Water, Parks, Climate, Coastal Protection, and Outdoor Access for All Act** **Vote YES**

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This measure would authorize California to issue general obligation bonds, with the money used to finance state and local parks, water conservation measures, water reliability to disadvantaged communities, and flood protection projects. California parks provide open space and recreation, improving health and community well-being. The water projects funded by this bond are forward thinking and are a key part of our state response to climate change.

**PROP 69 - Motor Vehicle Fees and Taxes**

**Vote YES**

If passed, this constitutional amendment would ensure that the existing transportation revenues we pay at the pump and when we register our vehicles can ONLY be used for road and transportation improvement projects. This amendment protects these transportation funds by prohibiting the state legislature from using these revenues for non-transportation purposes. Prop 69 protects existing taxes and fees we are already paying. It does not raise taxes one cent. The League supports measures to ensure adequate revenue to support needed services including safe roads and good public transportation.

**PROP 70 - Greenhouse Gas Reduction Reserve Fund**

**Vote NO**

This measure would add a requirement that two thirds of legislators approve the first appropriation of any money collected from the sale by CARB (California Air Resources Board) of cap-and-trade allowances after 2024. At a time that we need efficient and effective investments in climate change solutions, this requirement could lead to deadlocks, inefficiency, and poor decisions. Vote NO on Prop 70.

**PROP 71 - Effective Date of Initiatives**

**Vote YES**

Currently, an initiative that is approved takes effect the day after the election unless the measure provides otherwise. Election results are not officially certified until five weeks after the election. While most election results are clear shortly after Election Day, that is not always the case. Prop 71 would provide that an initiative would take effect five days after the Secretary of State certifies the election results.

**PROP 72 - Property taxation: new construction: rain water capture system**

**Vote YES**

This measure would allow an exclusion from additional property taxes for construction or installation of rain water capture systems. These systems capture, store, and use otherwise wasted rain water for landscape irrigation and similar uses, saving more conventional water for personal use. With traditional water sources becoming less dependable, this is one more way we can diversify sources of usable water.

Source: LWV California

**Looking Ahead to November**

**Board of Directors:**

**President:**  
Patricia Essick

**Vice President:**  
Betsy Patterson

**Secretary:**  
Judith Murphy

**Treasurer:**  
Karen Savitt

**Directors at Large:**  
Pat Butler  
Barbara Doyle  
Suzanne Harvey  
Steve Lattimore  
Carol Lindberg  
Chelsea Sutula

**Looking Ahead to Local November 6, 2018 Elections**

Voters in the cities of Oxnard and Ventura will be voting for city council members by district starting with the November 6, 2018 election. Voters should consult the individual city website to determine the boundaries of the new voting districts and which districts will be electing representatives in 2018 and 2020.

The move to district elections for these cities has been underway for some time. Voters will find references to various public documents and answers to frequently asked questions concerning the change from at-large to district elections at the respective websites (click on links):

[City of Ventura](#)

[City of Oxnard](#)

Election details of each local city council, school board and special district within Ventura County can be found at the website for [Ventura County Clerk, Recorder and Elections Office](#), which lists each agency

and the corresponding elected officials or their respective district seats that are up for election in 2018 or 2020.

Submitted by Cheryl Collart, Ventura

# Got Questions About Climate Change?

## LWV California's Climate Change Program Issue Information

LWV California's Climate Change Program offers the following webinars for anyone who is looking for background information or, suggestions on how to take action - click on the links below. Access is free and open.



### **California Cap and Trade - An Introduction,**

presented by Dr. Emily Wimberger, Chief Economist for the California Air Resources Board (CARB) the organization responsible for administration of California cap and trade, with an introduction by John Gioia, CARB board member.

**Soil Health for Carbon Sequestration in the Face of Climate Change,** presented by Elizabeth Guimarin, Consultant and Educator on Soil Health.

And coming up, June 19, 12:00-1:00pm PDT, **You Can Make a Difference! Five Simple Actions to Reduce Emissions,** presented by April Anderson, member of the LWVC Climate Change Task Force. Register for the webinar [here](#).

Source: LWVC Climate Change Program Director

## LWVVC Committee Reports

### ▶ **Advocacy Committee - Chelsea Sutula, Chair**

### ▶ **Budget Committee - Cheryl Collart, Chair**

Members of the Committee have wrapped up their work on the proposed budget for 2018/2019. Committee will not meet again until late Spring 2019, when it will take up budgeting for 2019/2020 League year.

### ▶ **Civil Discourse Committee - Betsy Patterson, Chair**

We plan on continuing our collaboration with California State University Channel Islands in the Fall, again working with the Communications class on team-building and Professor Megan Kenny Feister, to produce another civil discourse event with students and faculty on campus. In addition, we are pursuing an opportunity to collaborate with Professor Jose Marichal in the Political Science department at California Lutheran University. Dr Marichal has a particular interest in studying the role of social media in politics. He is currently working with students to look at the use of Twitter as a form of small-scale “micro-activism.” He concurred with our observation that political discussions on social media seem to lack civility much of the time. We also hope to have another training event, this time focusing on all of the roles at the discussion table - participant, facilitator and note-taker. Look for more information about this training in the late Summer/early Fall. If you are interested in hearing more and getting involved, please contact [Betsy Patterson](#). - Submitted by Betsy Patterson.

► **Nominating Committee - Cheryl Collart, Chair**

The Committee has wrapped up its work putting together a slate of officers for the 2018/2019 League year. The Committee will not meet again until late Spring 2019, when it will once again take up the task of recruiting new leadership for LWVVC.

► **Program Committee - Steve Lattimore, Chair**

► **Scholarship Committee - Melanie Ashen, Chair**



This year's recipient of the LWVVC \$1000 scholarship award is Sterling Langford, a student at Ventura College who plans to pursue a degree in Political Science. Come and meet Sterling at our Annual Meeting on Saturday, June 16 at the Oxnard Courtyard by Marriott. Come support our scholarship program and enter the raffle or bid in the Silent Auction to raise funds for the Scholarship Fund as well as the General Fund for activities for the next year. It is all tax-deductible.

► **Voter Registration Committee - Carmen Hurd, Chair**

Carmen Hurd and her band of happy volunteers were registering and pre-registering voters all Spring, including Oxnard High School in April, students at the March Against Gun Violence in front of Ventura City Hall on April 20, employees at Patagonia on May 1, and May 9, and advanced placement economics students at Channel Islands High School on May 21, the last day to register for the June primary election. We will ramp up registration efforts in the Fall before the election. - Submitted by Betsy Patterson.

► **Voter Service Committee - Pat Essick, Chair**

■ Candidates Forum: On May 17, LWVVC held a candidates forum for the three candidates running for County Supervisor in District 4 to fill the position currently held by Peter Foy. Our own member David Maron moderated and was assisted by timers Matty Park and Bill Hosek, question sorters Betsy Patterson and Jeanette Hosek and greeters Carol Lindberg, Pat Butler and Pat Essick. The candidates for Supervisor are Andy Waters, Bob Huber and Bernardo Perez. Many more candidates forums to come in the Fall - a great opportunity to get involved. - Submitted by Betsy Patterson.



■ Proposition 13 Reform/Make It Fair campaign: The California Schools and Local Communities Funding Act of 2018 (Act) petition signing. We continue to gather signatures aiming to reach LWV California's goal of 10,000 by May 30. Pat Essick, Karen Savitt, Pat Butler and others have been working diligently and sending them to the state for counting. As of May 9, LWV California had received over 6,000 signatures to send for verification. Signature gathering will continue into the summer. If passed, the Act will create a "split roll": non-residential, non-agricultural large commercial property will be re-assessed on a regular basis, leading to a projected increase in property taxes of over \$11 billion per year - revenue that will go directly to schools and local

governments. This increase will not affect residential properties or small businesses or agricultural businesses. - Submitted by Betsy Patterson.

## Civil Discourse Project - Update

### LWVVC Civil Discourse Project Gaining Traction

Feedback from the students at California State University Channel Islands for our inaugural Civil Discourse Project, “Politics in the Classroom: Should Professors Share Their Political Beliefs and Can Students Feel Safe in Expressing Their Beliefs?” showed that many of the 60 participants felt the event “exceeded their expectations.” None of the students really knew what to expect but were pleased with the experience and encouraged more events like this on campus in the future. The students on our team were enthused about their experience and will compile a handbook to help guide future planning. We will continue to collaborate with the Communications Department and Dr Megan Kenny Feister, and hope to reach out to other faculty in other departments as well.

We welcome anyone who is interested in joining us and helping with these civil discourse events. We have trained many facilitators but we plan to have other training sessions, focusing on all of the roles involved in civil discourse: participants, note-takers and facilitators. We have learned a lot so far this year and look forward to sharing this project with more members, both East County and West County.

Submitted by Betsy Patterson, Board Member

## Local High School Receives Award

On May 1, LWVVC members Melanie Ashen and Betsy Patterson attended an awards ceremony at Adolfo Camarillo High School. The school received the Award of Distinction for Civic Learning for California Public Schools. The award is co-sponsored by State Superintendent of Public Instruction Tom Torlakson and California Chief Justice Tani Cantil-Sakauye, who recognize and value the important role of public schools in preparing students for participation in our democracy. The award is designed to celebrate both successful efforts to engage students in civic learning, and to identify successful models that can be replicated in other schools. Over 10 student activity clubs were recognized at Camarillo High School.

Submitted by Betsy Patterson, Board Member

## LWVVC BOARD DOINGS

All members or anyone else interested in learning about the League are encouraged to attend monthly Board meetings - See Calendar below for the when's and where's. See what your Board is doing and learn about projects that are in the works.

### Notes from May Board Meeting

#### Topics Covered and “To Do” List:

■ Annual Meeting – Barbara Doyle updated the Board on plans being made for our Annual Meeting. The speakers will address “community choice energy.” June 9<sup>th</sup> is the RSVP cut-off date.

■ Treasurer's Report - Karen Savitt ran through our finances. The proposed budget submitted by the Budget Committee was amended to increase the printing category for Pros and Cons. The vote was not unanimous.

■ Web page – Suzanne Harvey ran through where things stand in the process of converting from our current website to the new format. There have been lots of hurdles but we are getting closer.

Submitted by Judy Murphy, Secretary

## MEMBERSHIP NEWS

### New Members:

- No new members to report this month

### New Associate Members:

- No new Associate Members to report this month

### Donors – Thank you to our donors

- Jim Churchill
- Katie Fellows
- Joanne Isaksen
- Jennifer Matos & Craig Rudolph
- Jeanette Hosek
- Susan Lacey
- Carmen Hurd
- Kathleen Diermier

### LWVVC Scholarship Fund Donors – We thank you and so do the students

*If you would like to donate to the LWVVC Scholarship Fund, please make your checks payable to "LWVVC" with a notation "Scholarship Fund" on memo line of the check.*

*As a 501(c)(3) not-for profit organization, all contributions to LWVVC are tax deductible.*

## VOLUNTEER A LITTLE TIME

• lwvvc needs you! •

*If you have some time and are interested in volunteering a bit of it for the good of the League, following is a list of projects that could use your help. If interested, send an email to [info@lwvventuracounty.org](mailto:info@lwvventuracounty.org) and let us know what you would like to do, someone will follow-up.*

### **Why Volunteer?**

**We know you want to be a part of it. We know you want to make a difference; that's why you joined the League of Women Voters! Take the next step and volunteer.**

► **LWVVC Webmaster.** We are in search of someone who would be interested in assuming responsibility for maintaining our website. Our website matrix allows for a fair amount of creativity should one be so inclined however at a minimum the position requires monthly posting of our newsletter and maintenance of our on-line Calendar. If interested, send an email or call [Suzanne Harvey](#).

▶ Searching for a **League member to take part in the Ventura County Reproductive Rights Network (VCRRN) committee** (this is a VCRRN committee, not a LWVVC committee). This committee meets once a month on a Tuesday evening for an hour. It is composed of wonderfully friendly, like-minded supporters of Planned Parenthood. We work on the same 2 projects each year: The Roe v. Wade event and the annual Write for Your Rights event. This committee is composed of representatives from a number of different non-profits. It doesn't take a lot of time and it is very rewarding. Contact [Geri LeVine Loe](#) if you might be interested.

▶ **Climate Change Task Force:** Needed, a member to serve as LWVVC's liaison to the LWV California Climate Change Task Force. This job can be done by anyone who is concerned about Climate Change and is willing to get information and updates on what the Task Force is up to and report back to our membership. Learn more by visiting the [Climate Task Force](#) website. Contact [Pat Essick](#) if interested.

▶ **Civil Discourse Project:** Always looking for members interested in the Civil Discourse Project, working with college students at CSUCI and soon with CLU students. Interested? Contact [Betsy Patterson](#).

▶ **Advocacy (e.g. Electoral College Reform), Voter Registration, Program, join a Committee and get active.** Send [us](#) an email and let us know if you'd like to get involved. Here's a list of current committees:

- Advocacy Committee
- Scholarship Committee
- Voter Registration Committee
- Program Committee
- Nominating Committee

▶ **Articles for the VOTER.** We are always looking for articles to include in the VOTER. Anyone who has a piece they think would be of interest to our members can email it to us. If needed we may edit your pieces for length or "un-league-like" language - we're all about civil discourse. Deadline is one week prior to ending of every month.

## CALENDAR

• all league meetings are open to the public •  
*(Calendar Can Also Be Found On Our Website)*

▶ **Thursday, June 14 - LWVVC Board Meeting** – 11:00 am to 1 pm (please be prompt). Location: Ventura College of Law, Classroom #1 located off the Courtyard, 4475 Market Street, Ventura (parking in the rear.). Open to all members or anyone interested in learning more about the League. Board meetings are scheduled for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of every month.

▶ **Saturday, June 16 - LWVVC Annual Meeting & Luncheon** - 9:30 am to 11:45 followed by luncheon. Location: Marriott Courtyard, 600 E. Esplanade Dr, Oxnard. The meeting will be followed by a plated lunch for the price of \$30. See above "Special Events" for details.

▶ **Thursday., June 28 thru Sunday, July 1- LWV United States 53rd National Convention.** Location: Hilton Hotel, 720 S. Michigan Ave. Chicago. Must be a LWV member. Click [here](#) for information.



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