



League of Women Voters

North County San Diego

VOTER

The League of Women Voters, a non-partisan political organization, encourages informed and active participation in government and influences public policy through education and advocacy.

October 2020

ALL LWVNCSD Meetings in October will be Virtual

For everyone's safety, we will conduct all business by email, phone or other electronic method of communication. If you have any questions or suggestions, please call President Anne Omsted at 760-753-6970 or a Board Member.

By the time you read this edition of the VOTER you will have watched the October 1 webinar on the State and Local Ballot Measures. All members were invited to attend. VOTER SERVICE is the side of League that registers voters, educates voters by explaining the ballot measures (pros/cons) in a fair, nonpartisan way and conducting candidate forums. Voter Service also provides information about the voting process from registration to following your ballot to the Registrar of Voters. Another important LWV Voter Service is www.votersedge.org/ca. There you learn about your candidates, state and local ballot measures and how to "follow the money."

Our own League website www.lwvncsd.org is one of the best resources for all things about the coming election. Thanks to our webmaster and social media experts we are getting the word out to the public. We now have the State and Local ballot measures and recordings of local candidate forums on our YouTube channel. You can find the links on our website. Be sure to tell you family, friends and neighbors about it. The *Easy Voter Guide* is very informative especially for newer California voters to learn about the election process.



Important!

The League of Women Voters has an equally important separate division of ADVOCACY. We have positions arrived at after study and member consensus. League lobbies and promotes issues (never candidates or political parties). On page 3, we will show the State propositions that the LWV of California has determined to support or oppose.



Message from President Anne Omsted

Our League has been working very hard to do Voter Service. On 9/22, National Voter Registration Day, we had members manning booths at both Oceanside Library branches, the Vista Food Bank, and Fallbrook High School. The technical side of setting up virtual candidate forums and Pros and Cons presentations has consumed some, while others have been getting materials organized into packets, figuring out how to share important information with the public, and generally handling all the details of our campaign to serve our community. It has been a pretty wild ride!

But now we have begun to film the various forums and Pros and Cons, begun giving the virtual talks to students and for libraries. And every member has access to these events. I encourage you to visit our website (lwnvncsd.org) and take a look at the various offerings. And share with your family, friends, and neighbors any information that will help them to be informed voters.

In November we turn to a serious discussion of what we as a League want to do vis-à-vis racial equity and social justice. At our Annual Meeting in June this was of great interest to the attendees. In addition to Voter Service activities, we all have been learning about various aspects of the entire issue of racial equity, white privilege and how people of color have been systematically undervalued. What do we want to do about it? At our November 20th General Meeting, we want to have a discussion of what you think we should be doing. Our options are only limited by the principles of the League of Women Voters. I would appreciate your thinking about this issue now and sharing with me your thoughts on how to present this topic to the members and any suggestions you might have.

I am at daomsted@gmail.com, and I would love to get an email about this from you.

Anne

Notes from Board Meeting of 9/11/20

by Anne Omsted

- Learned about the many activities our League is engaged in related to Voter Service
- Adopted a Reserves Policy that will require that we maintain an average of nine months of monthly expenses as a Reserve fund. Thanks, Nancy Telford!
- Discussed how to present the 11/20 General Meeting on Racial Equity and Social Justice and decided to ask the members to share their ideas with us now.
- Agreed to be a sponsor of the 10/7/2020 “Restoring Respect” forum.
- Reviewed plans for our 9/14 talk about Prop 15 with Helen Hutchison.
- Discussed how to promote Prop 15 in our communities.
- During the weeks prior to the Board meeting, the Board via email reviewed the Pros and Cons developed by our Pros and Cons Committee, and approved the material being posted on VotersEdge.org/ca
- During the weeks prior to the Board meeting, the Board also approved holding all Voter Service activities such as Forums and Pros and Cons virtually to protect our members and the public.

LWVNCSD Officers & Directors 2020

Officers

President	Anne Omsted
1st VP Administration	Nancy Telford
2nd VP & Advocacy	Veronica Seay
Secretary	Jennifer White
Treasurer	Jennifer Lonbom

Directors

Membership	Rita Soza
Natural Resources	Carol Parker
Social Policy	Bill Loftus
VOTER Editor	Veronica Seay
Webmaster	Susan Connell

Unit Chairs

Carlsbad Unit	Nita Rodriguez
Oceanside Unit	(Chairs rotate monthly)
San Dieguito Unit	Rita Soza

Committee Chairs

Behavioral Health	Liz Kruidenier
Candidate Forums	Karen Vanderwerken & Pat Cameron
Civil Engagement	Mary Thompson
Education	Claudine Jones
Fundraising	Sandra Sweet
Health Interest Comm.	Jane Dunmeyer
Observer Corps	Connie Ulrich
Press Releases	Jane Schatt
Pro/Con-Ballot Measures	Karen Sutton & Mary Thompson
Social Media	Suzanne Carneiro
Voter Service Calendar	Nancy Sublette
Community Safety & Gun Violence Prevention	Jennifer Lonbom



Here are the state ballot recommendations from the League of Women Voters of California (LWVC) For more detail go to their website.

<https://lwvc.org/vote/elections/ballot-recommendations>

YES on PROP 15: **SCHOOLS & COMMUNITIES FIRST**

YES on PROP 16: **OPPORTUNITY FOR ALL**

YES on PROP 17: **RESTORE VOTING RIGHTS**

YES on PROP 18: **VOTING RIGHTS FOR 17-YEAR OLDS**

NO on PROP 19: **PROPERTY TAX BREAKS**

NO on PROP 20: **ROLLBACK ON CRIMINAL JUSTICE REFORMS**

NO on PROP 24: **CONSUMER DATA PRIVACY**

YES on PROP 25: **END CASH MONEY BAIL**

Share our **Vote with the League flyer** with your friends!

Note: there are no recommendations on these state propositions: Prop 14: Prop 21, Prop 22, or Prop 23.

The only local ballot measure our LWVNCSD is taking as position on is Measure L. We recommend a NO vote which would reject the Oceanside City Council's rezoning of 176.6 acres of northeastern Oceanside to accommodate the North River Farms project.

Tina Schmidt Carlsbad Citizen of the Year

Tina Schmidt, our much appreciated member, was named Carlsbad Citizen of the Year last month. Her many and varied contributions in Carlsbad added "toward the civic improvement, beautification and betterment of the City." She and her husband Tony were two of the first docents at the Museum of Making Music and she served on the Arts Commission among many, many other activities.

Tina first joined LWV in Minnesota at age 20 (even before she could vote) and joined our League in the late 1990's. Tina served on our Board, was PR director and has chaired our Budget Committee for many years. She has saved us time and money by organizing *years of files* so we can find documents more easily and no longer have to pay for storage. Tina's favorite League activity was being the League Observer for the Carlsbad City Council. That led her to a greater interest in the City itself.

LWV North County San Diego congratulates Tina Schmidt for her outstanding commitment to the community.

LWVC Homelessness Task Force Action Policy is Approved and Ready To Use

At the LWVC Convention in June, 2019, our League was instrumental in the vote of the Convention attendees to create a statewide Task Force to evaluate Homelessness issues and develop either a Position or an Action Policy to provide a tool for Advocacy on Homelessness issues.

For the past year, a dedicated group of League members from all of California met twice a month to research, evaluate and write an Action Policy. On 8/5/2020, the Board of the LWVC voted unanimously to accept the Task Force's proposed Action Policy. It is now official, and is being used by Leagues throughout the state to advocate for all sorts of services and aids for homeless people in their specific communities. San Diego County League members who participated include Joni Halpern and Myles Pomeroy from San Diego League. From our North County League: **Anne Omsted**, Homelessness Task Force Chair and **Bill Loftus**, our tireless advocate for the homeless.

Please Welcome our New Members

Dana Black - Rancho Santa Fe
Carly Cammarano - Carlsbad
Gail Castanon - Carlsbad
Susan Files - Carlsbad
Sally Foster - Encinitas
Christine Harris - Encinitas
Kaye Humber - Encinitas
Ron Levitt - Carlsbad
Melanie McComsey - Oceanside
Barbara Roth - San Marcos
Stella Sanchez-Wade - Encinitas
Amy Stephens - Encinitas
Meg Thode - Carlsbad
Ellen Williams - San Diego
Tamara Williams - San Diego

LWV Book Group

The LWV Book Group will have a meeting via Zoom on October 19 from 1 - 3 PM.

Once a year the LWV Book Group reads a non-fiction book discuss. Our selected fiction choice is *American Dirt* by Jeanine Cummins. Norelynn Pion-Goureau will lead the discussion and Nancy Telford will be the Zoom host.

If you are interested in participating in this meeting and want to be included on the Zoom invitation list, please contact Kathy Anderson at kathsand@sbcglobal.net



Climate Solutions Corner
 by Carol Parker,
 LWVNCSD Natural Resources Director

We have all experienced the poor air quality from all the wildfires in August and September. We have seen the smog in our air and the pictures of the horrific orange skies from the Bay Area and other places. We all know that this has been a truly bad start to fire season in the West. What's worse is that the wildfires are pumping millions of tons of CO₂ into the atmosphere that will trap more solar radiation, causing even higher temperatures, which will dry out the vegetation faster, increasing fire risk, and so on. In California and Oregon, there has been more green-house gas (GHG) emissions from the fires this past month, than from the states' power plants for the whole year. It is the first time this has happened since they started tracking this data. Wildfires are increasing because of climate change and they are contributing to speeding it up as well.

We can slow down global warming, and all the associated problems with wildfires and others, by cutting GHG emissions, then additionally drawdown CO₂ in the atmosphere. We all can do our part through lower energy use, food waste reduction, using energy efficient cars, appliances and light bulbs (google **Drawdown** for climate solutions). But the biggest way to cut GHG emissions is for our government to change energy and land use policies.

Vote for national and local candidates that will make cutting GHG emissions and the environment a priority. Officeholders will make decisions that they know their constituents care about. Please tell them about how you feel about climate change. I am voting for the climate this year because I believe making choices through the lens of the environment now, can lead to a better economy, more social justice, increased health benefits, and a cooler future.

Please join me in celebrating Earth Day on Election Day.

Annual Fiscal Report

By Jennifer Lanbom, Co-Treasurer

Beginning Balance 7/1/2019	
Checking	6,094.35
Savings	27,767.51
ILO Proceeds	22,520.71
PayPal	9.49
Total Assets	56,392.06
Ending Balance 6/30/2020	
Checking	6,488.99
Savings	27,969.80
ILO Proceeds	22,684.99
PayPal	0
Total Assets	57,143.78

Total Income	22,741.70
Total Expenses	22,594.98
Net Surplus/(Deficit)	146.72

The annual tax returns and filings for the fiscal year ended 6/30/20 are due on 11/15/20 to the IRS, CA FTB and CA Attorney General's Registry of Charitable Trusts.





September 21, 2020

Mayor Peter Weiss and City Council Members
300 North Coast Hwy
Oceanside, CA 92054

Dear Mayor Weiss and Council Members,

Approximately 18 months ago the Oceanside City Council received a letter from our League expressing concerns about procedures used to fill vacancies on the City Council. Our recommendations, at that time, reflected key positions of the League. LWV at all levels – federal, state, etc. – takes no position on any issue until it has been thoroughly studied for a fit with LWV values.

The relevant positions behind the concern we're bringing to your attention included:

- Citizen's Right to Know/Citizen Participation
- Diversity, equity, and inclusion
- Racial Justice for Black people and people of color

Our concern at this time is the decision by the City Manager to limit the recruitment of a new Police Chief to candidates from within the Oceanside Police Department and to not disclose the names of those who will be involved in the review of applications and/or the interviews of candidates.

The League of Women Voters North County San Diego acknowledges the right of the City Manager to choose personnel under her direction. In most cases this is an efficient process for filling staff vacancies within the City. However, the recent passage of a LWVUS Resolution on Racial Justice and the increased awareness by citizens of implicit bias by police officers and their supervisors brings a heightened sense of importance to the selection of a new Police Chief for any city in America.

We respectfully request the City Council to encourage the City Manager to:

- Broaden the search for such an important position within City staff and
- Solicit applicants broadly and provide a standard form for such applications that includes information on key community issues of concern
- Seek meaningful community involvement in the process by determining selection criteria, makeup of interview panels, screening questions and evaluating applicants.

The League of Women Voters, a nonpartisan political organization, influences public policy through education and advocacy. We never support or oppose any political party or candidate. To support our mission we monitor local government to ensure that all actions are carried out in a way that supports our mission. That's what we've done in this example. Please validate our concerns and act to support citizen involvement in the City Manager's selection process for this critical position.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Anne Omsted".

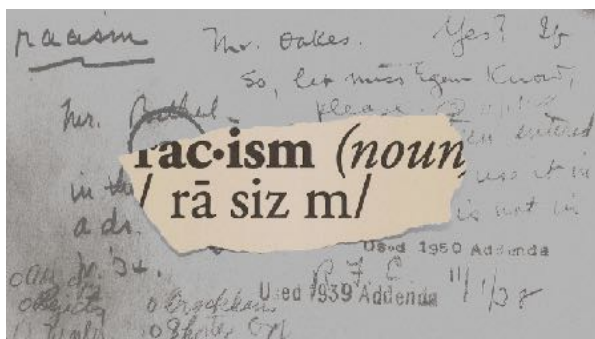
Anne Omsted, President,
League of Women Voters
North County San Diego

cc: City Manager Deanna Lorson

P. O. Box 131272 • Carlsbad, CA 92013-1272 • 760-736-1608 • www.lwvncsd.org
The League of Women Voters North County San Diego is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization.

Watch for your Monday Morning E-blasts
from VP1@lwvncsd.org

RACISM



When confronted by a word we come across in our reading or in conversation whose meaning is unclear we used to run to the dictionary we kept readily available in our homes. Now we just “Google” its meaning.

However, some of us are unaware of the changing definitions included in popular dictionaries like Merriam-Webster (since 1828). For example, when Merriam-Webster published the second edition of its unabridged New International Dictionary, in 1934, “racism” was nowhere to be found.

According to a recent article in The Atlantic by Ben Zimmer, Merriam-Webster’s “definition of racism has evolved over time and reveals a complex narrative.” Earlier in the summer of 2020 pre-George Floyd’s killing by police officers, the first definition given for racism in the Merriam-Webster Dictionary was “a belief that race is the primary determinant of human traits and capacities and that racial differences produce an inherent superiority of a particular race.”

For those of you in our League book club, you were introduced to the term “systemic racism” by Michelle Alexander, the author of *The New Jim Crow* and Richard Rothstein the author of *The Color of Law*. I have used the term in some of my weekly Social Justice Updates “published” via Nancy Telford’s Eblasts each Sunday night.

In June, a young Black activist from Missouri, Kennedy Mitchum, contacted Merriam-Webster because she was dissatisfied with what she found when she looked up racism in the dictionary’s online portal. As she told CNN at the time, “The way that racism occurs in real life is not just prejudice. It’s the systemic racism that is happening for a lot of Black Americans.”

According to Ben Zimmer in the article he wrote for the Atlantic this month, “the revised entry for racism has finally arrived.” As before, the first definition given relates to personal belief and attitudes. But the revised second definition—“the systemic oppression of a racial group to the social, economic, and political advantage of another; specifically: white supremacy”—better highlights what Mitchum was looking for.

Many of us have changed our way of thinking about “white privilege” and “white supremacy”. Some of us have been further challenged by the writings of Ibram X. Kendi, in his book How to Be an Antiracist. Kendi’s more strident accusation is “not being racist isn’t enough. We must actively choose to be “antiracist,” working to undo racism and its component polices in order to build an equitable society.”

These are difficult times for many in League who certainly consider themselves to be well educated progressive thinkers. Considering relatively new terms defined in ways we have never considered makes for hard work we don’t necessarily want to take on during these troubled times. However, we should be encouraged to persevere by considering the words of the late John Lewis, “Do not get lost in a sea of despair. Be hopeful, be optimistic. Our struggle is not the struggle of a day, a week, a month, or a year, it is the struggle of a lifetime. Never, ever be afraid to make some noise and get in good trouble, necessary trouble.”

Bill Loftus, Director of Social Policy, LWVNCSD

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS

North County San Diego
Post Office Box 131272
Carlsbad CA 92013-1272



LWV North County San Diego Membership Application

***** Share this with a Friend *****

Membership is open to all persons who are at least 16 years of age.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Cell _____

E-Mail _____

Please make check payable to LWVNCSD
Mail to:

LWVNCSD - Attn. Membership
PO Box 131272
Carlsbad, CA 92013-1272

or Join Online at: lwvncsd.org

Dues:

____ \$35 First Year member

____ \$70/year renewal

____ \$50/year 2nd member at the same address

____ \$0/year Students enrolled in accredited Institution

Additional Levels of giving

____ \$100/year Suffragist

____ \$200/year Activist

____ \$300/year Advocate

____ \$500/year Founders Circle

I am interested in:

____ Voter Service

____ Action and Advocacy