

League Advocates to Help California Voters Safely Cast Ballots in the November Presidential Election from LWVC

The League of Women Voters of California has fought for voting rights and to remove barriers to civic participation for 100 years. The challenges presented by the coronavirus pandemic are unique but not insurmountable. For the last few weeks the League has been collaborating daily with the Secretary of State's office, elections officials, and other good government and civil rights groups to develop plans that will ensure California voters are able to make their voices heard, safely and equitably, in November's election.

The League, in coalition with a number of other organizations,* is **<u>advocating for a set of</u>** <u>**recommendations to achieve a successful presidential election**</u>. We believe that all registered California voters should be provided a vote-by-mail ballot. However, despite its importance as a vehicle to address the pandemic, vote-by-mail is not a solution for everyone. Many communities are unfamiliar with the vote-by-mail process and many people need in-person options for a variety of reasons -- including getting assistance, registering and voting on the same day, and being able to cast a ballot with confidence in the manner that the voter is accustomed.

The League is particularly mindful that voting by mail holds the potential to disenfranchise communities of color, youth, language minorities, people with disabilities, people with low income, and those who are unhoused, housing insecure or geographically mobile. Changes to our voting process must be done in ways that will protect voters who are already underrepresented in our democratic system.

"Advocates, counties, and the state government are all working diligently to determine the changes necessary for the November elections and to begin implementing those modifications." said Stephanie Doute, Executive Director of the League of Women

Voters of California. "Our recommendations are geared toward maintaining the integrity of our democracy, fostering the voting rights of historically underrepresented communities, and designing a safe, healthy election for all eligible Californians."

In addition to maintaining robust in-person options while simultaneously sending every registered voter a ballot, we are advocating for: maximized use of ballot drop boxes to expand voting opportunities and reduce lines at inperson locations; transparency and solicitation of public comment on election changes to ensure that community voices are factored into each county's planning; and the allocation of significant resources for public education and engagement, with a focus on communities that do not traditionally vote by mail.

*Our coalition of advocates include the American Civil Liberties Union of California, Asian Americans Advancing Justice - Asian Law Caucus, Asian Americans Advancing Justice - LA, California Common Cause, Disability Rights California, League of Women Voters of California, Mi Familia Vota, National Association of Latino Elected and Appointed Officials (NALEO) Educational Fund, NextGen, and Voting Rights Lab.

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We are Not in the Same Boat

From the Santa Barbara LWV

I heard that "we are all in the same boat", but it's not like that. We are in the same storm, but not in the same boat. Your ship could be shipwrecked and mine might not be. Or vice versa.

For some, quarantine is optimal. A moment of reflection, of reconnection, easy in flip flops, with a cocktail or coffee. For others, this is a desperate financial & family crisis.

For some that live alone they're facing endless loneliness. While for others it is peace, rest & time with their mother, father, sons & daughters.

With the \$600 weekly increase in unemployment some are bringing in more money to their households than when they were working. Others are working more hours for less money due to pay cuts or loss in sales.

Some families of 4 just received \$3400 from the stimulus while other families of 4 saw \$0.

Some were concerned about getting a certain candy for Easter while others were concerned if there would be enough bread, milk and eggs for the weekend.

Some want to go back to work because they don't qualify for unemployment and are running out of money. Others want to kill those who break the quarantine.

Some are home spending 2-3 hours/day helping their child with online schooling while others are spending 2-3 hours/day to educate their children on top of a 10-12 hour workday.

Some have experienced the near death of the virus, some have already lost someone from it and some are not sure if their loved ones are going to make it. Others don't believe this is a big deal.

Some have faith in God and expect miracles during this 2020. Others say the worst is yet to come.

So, friends, we are not in the same boat. We are going through a time when our perceptions and needs are completely different.

Each of us will emerge, in our own way, from this storm. It is very important to see beyond what is seen at first glance. Not just looking, actually seeing.

We are all on different ships during this storm experiencing a **very different journey**.

Fullerton College Students Need Help

by Prof. Jodi Balma

Dear League friends, I was supposed to be the April Speaker on the topic "Presidential Power: What would the Founders Think?" However, I need to speak about something else. The League of Women Voters of North Orange County has generously supported my students in so many ways before, and they need help through this pandemic and economic crisis more than ever.

Please consider donating to the Fullerton College Foundation. I asked you in February (which seems light years away from today) to support the Molly McClanahan Scholarship, but right now our students need emergency grants. Here is the address for your donation. Thank you. I miss you all and wish you safe shelter.

Fullerton College Foundation Emergency Grant Fund 315 N. Pomona Fullerton, CA 92832





LWVC CLIMATE CHANGE TASK FORCE

League Positions on Proposed California Legislation

The LWVC has announced our position on four new climate related bills:

<u>AB 1567</u> (Aguiar-Curry and Mathis) **SUPPORT** "Organic Waste: Scoping Plan" requires an integrated scoping plan for reducing emissions associated with forestry, agriculture and urban organic waste, providing better coordination across all sectors. <u>Letter of Support</u>

<u>AB 1941</u> (Gallagher) **OPPOSE** "California Renewables Portfolio Standard: hydroelectric and nuclear generation and suspension" would temporarily pause the state's renewable power mandates to provide funds to harden the grid. Although hardening the grid to reduce the risk and impacts of wildfires is imperative, loosening standards to mitigate climate change would slow our progress toward zero carbon. Letter Opposing

<u>SB 1052</u> (Hertzberg) **SUPPORT** "Water quality: municipal wastewater agencies" would authorize municipal wastewater agencies to enter into voluntary agreements to improve stormwater management and to treat stormwater as a local water resource. Letter of Support

SB 1323 (Skinner), **SUPPORT** "Carbon sequestration: state goals: natural and working lands: registry of projects" creates CO2 removal targets for natural and working lands as a step towards identifying the scope and scale of work needed to reach carbon neutrality. Letter of Support

For a complete list of climate-related bills go to <u>LWVC Climate Change Legislation</u>. For all LWVC bill positions check out the <u>LWVC Bill Status Report</u>.

OC Board of Supervisors by Wanda Shaffer, ILO Reporter

The BOS has been very busy! The Covid-19 virus resulted in <u>many</u> meetings. They are available online at (<u>ocgov.com</u>) Here are some of the current events:

OC Treasurer is now accepting penalty cancellation requests for property tax payers who have been directly impacted by the virus. If you did not pay your property taxes by April 10, you should complete the

<u>COVID-19 Penalty Cancellation Request Form</u>. Your can submit that form and pay the tax amount without penalty if it is received between April 11 and June 30, 2020. Call (714) 834-3411 or visit <u>ttcinfo@ttc.ocov.com</u> for additional information.

The County Health Dept. has seen major changes! David M. Souleles, Director of Public Health Services, has retired. Lilly Simmering, Asst. Director, will retain her current position and assume the Acting Director position, until a replacement can be found. Michael Schrader, Chief Executive of CalOptima, will vacate his

Republic Services wants you to know that since there is no longer a market for "recyclable" materials, for the time being there are new directions for separating your trash. They are presented in the flyer shown below.



BOS Report continued previous page.

position on May 3, and head to a similar sister health plan out of state. CalOptima is the largest health insurer in Orange County, providing health care for low-income residents and residents with disabilities. Richard Sanchez, Director of OC Health Care Agency, will leave the Agency and replace Michael Schrader as Director of CalOptima. An interim director of OCHCA will be named shortly.

Supervisor Bartlett asked for OC golf courses to be opened, as Ventura and Riverside Counties have done. The BOS will set up guidelines that must be followed. Approved.

Supervisor Bartlett asked that starting Wednesday, April 22, all beaches, trails, parks be closed for the next two weeks. She was concerned that the forecasted hot weather would bring OC and San Diego residents to Orange County beaches. San Diego has restricted their beaches. The item did not pass.

Last week, CAL FRESH received 21,000 calls for help.

"It's a small virus with big consequences. But we can come to the end of it." JR (French artist)

Curated Music Selections

For a treat from the Silver Lake Conservatory of Music Youth and Master Youth Chorales, click on the following link.

https://youtu.be/qMtMkZOoRQE

OC Health Care Agency Announces Launch of the OC COVID-19 Testing Network

(Santa Ana, CA) -- The OC Health Care Agency (HCA) is pleased to announce the launch of the OC COVID-19 Testing Network, which offers COVID-19 testing starting Tuesday, April 21, 2020 to Orange County residents who meet the criteria detailed below.

The Network coordinates and expands testing across Orange County to create a safety net for any community member who is experiencing COVID-19 symptoms but is unable to receive testing through a health care provider.

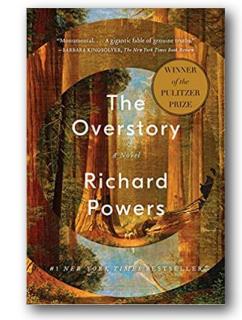
"We have partnered with an initial set of community health centers who are performing FDA-approved PCR testing, the most reliable testing available to detect current infection," said Dr. Nichole Quick, County Health Officer. "The OC Health Care Agency will continue to work diligently to expand this network by bringing more locations online in the days and weeks to come."

The PCR test identifies if someone is currently infected from a sample taken with a swab. It is not a blood test, nor does it test for antibodies. Residents with symptoms of COVID-19, which generally include fever, cough, and shortness of breath, should first contact their medical provider to get guidance on testing and care. Individuals who are unable to be tested by their provider may schedule an appointment at any Network test site to receive a medical screening and test. Initial locations include:

- AltaMed Medical Group, Anaheim
- AltaMed Medical Group, Santa Ana/Bristol
- Nhan Hoa Comprehensive Health Care Clinic, Garden Grove
- UCI Health, multiple locations

A continually-updated list of test sites, with information on scheduling and the appointment process, can be found at <u>www.ochealthinfo.com/novelcoronavirus</u> (click on COVID-19 Testing and Screening) or by calling the HCA's Health Referral Line at <u>1(800)</u> 564-8448.

"Because of continued challenges of obtaining testing supplies and personal protective equipment (PPE) for health care providers, testing may be restricted at times to high priority groups as defined by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)," said Dr. Quick. "Residents must make an appointment for testing to assure eligibility and availability of testing."



Read with League

by Lucina Moses and Cheryl Zimmerman

Jan Wagner has graciously offered to host the May 12th RWL meeting via Zoom. Thank you, Jan! The meeting will be at the usual time: 1 pm. Our book is The Overstory by Richard Powers. The Overstory, winner of the 2019 Pulitzer Prize in Fiction, is a sweeping, impassioned work of activism and resistance that is also a stunning evocation of-and paean to-the natural world. From the roots to the crown and back to the seeds, Richard Powers' twelfth novel unfolds in concentric rings of interlocking fables that range from antebellum New York to the late twentiethcentury Timber Wars of the Pacific Northwest and beyond.

Lucina Moses and Cheryl Zimmerman will co-review the book. If you have questions, please contact Lucina Moses at 775 762 7656. If you wish to participate in the meeting via Zoom, please send your e m a i l to Jan Wagner at janwagner@me.com no later than May 8th, so she has time to build her email list for the meeting.

This Hope Endures by Edith Bokian

In the 1980s, one of our League members, the late Jean Askham, frustrated by the low number of women in Congress, created this political pin for us with the theme, Elect Women 50/50 by 2020. Well, it's 2020. We're slowly creeping up to the goal she set!

Be safe. Stay well.



501(c)3 or 501(c)4? by Jan Wagner

The LWVNOC Board recently established a committee to investigate the benefits and drawbacks of converting our local league to a more fully tax-exempt organization under the 501(c)3 provision of the tax code.

Different types of organizations can qualify as tax exempt under Internal Revenue Code 501(c), such as charities, churches, schools, trade associations, etc. and each has its own specific rules under the IRS Code.

Like most other leagues, including LWV California and LWVUS, LWVNOC currently qualifies as tax exempt under 501(c)4, which covers promoting social welfare. As such, we are allowed to be significantly involved in the political arena, with no limits placed on lobbying or advocacy activities. That said, dues and contributions paid to 501(c)4 organizations are not deductible to their members and donors. Donors who wish to make <u>tax-deductible</u> contributions to our league must specify that the donation goes into the <u>Education Fund</u>, which is a 501(c)3. The way we use money from the Education Fund is limited in several important ways.

Voter Service and advocacy are at the core of our mission. LWVNOC will not consider something that would hamper those activities. On the other hand, this potential change involves complexities that deserve discussion and thoughtful consideration. For that reason, we will include information in subsequent newsletters and plan a General Meeting to consider the issue in October. We will present an overview at that time in a Pros and Cons format before calling for a vote of the membership.

Time for Some Music

For a treat from the Silver Lake Conservatory of Music Youth and Master Youth Chorales, click on the link below.

https://youtu.be/qMtMkZOoRQE



Wisdom Expressed and Learned Through Quarantine

- Half of us are going to come out of this quarantine as amazing cooks. The other half will come out with a drinking problem.
- I used to spin that toilet paper like I was on Wheel of Fortune. Now I turn it like I'm cracking a safe.
- I need to practice social-distancing from the refrigerator.
- PSA: every few days try your jeans on just to make sure they fit. Pajamas will have you believe all is well in the kingdom.
- Homeschooling is going well. 2 students suspended for fighting and 1 teacher fired for drinking on the job.
- I don't think anyone expected that when we changed the clocks we'd go from Standard Time to the Twilight Zone
- This morning I saw a neighbor talking to her cat. It was obvious she thought her cat understood her. I came into my house, and told my dog.... we laughed a lot.
- So, after this quarantine.....will the producers of My 600 Pound Life just find me or do I find them?
- Quarantine Day 5: Went to this restaurant called THE KITCHEN. You have to gather all the ingredients and make your own meal. I have no clue how this place is still in business.
- My body has absorbed so much soap and disinfectant lately that when I pee it cleans the toilet.
- Day 5 of Homeschooling: One of these little monsters called in a bomb threat.
- I'm so excited --- it's time to take out the garbage. What should I wear?
- I hope the weather is good tomorrow for my trip to Puerto Backyarda. I'm getting tired of Los Livingroom.
- Classified Ad: Single man with toilet paper seeks woman with hand sanitizer for good clean fun.
- Day 6 of Homeschooling: My child just said "I hope I don't have the same teacher next year".... I'm offended.
- Better 6 feet apart than 6 feet under

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At Large Resource Chair Student Outreach Facebook

Observers OC BOS

Fullerton

Jan Wagner Wanda Shaffer Marilyn Buchi Jan Wagner

Jodi Balma Kristina Fruneaux

Wanda Shaffer Sherlan Neblitt Eileen Moore



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

Name(s) of Member(s)									
Address									
City Zip Code Phone Cell									
Phone Cell		E-mail							
Individual member	\$65.00				nember		\$		
Additional household member	\$32.50		Renewal		New member		\$		
Student member				New member			\$		
Additional donation to League (T	o cover ou				:				
	\$25	\$50	\$75	\$100	other		\$		
Donation to Educational Fund (Second							_		
	\$25	\$50	\$75	\$100	other		\$		
Total enclosed (<i>Make checks payable</i> How can you serve the Leagu Please complete this member surv Our areas of emphasis this year a	re ? How vey. Circle	can th your cl g Issue	e League noices or es, Civic	e serve y fill in the Engager	blanks. ment, Edu o		• ousing a	nd Homelessness.	
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donation. Comments:									
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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: _____



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