

The Voter

February 2018

Food for Thought

On Saturday, February 27 we had the pleasure of hearing Char Miller from Pomona College speak about "Not So Golden State: Sustainability vs. The California Dream." Dr. Miller is the W. M. Keck Professor of Environmental Analysis at Pomona College and a former professor of history at Trinity University. He is the author of *Deep in the Heart of Texas: Land and Life in South Texas*, *Not So Golden State: Sustainability vs. the California Dream*, and *On the Edge: Water, Immigration and Politics in the Southwest*. Dr. Miller takes a holistic approach to sustainability that looks beyond a few years and seeks to try to predict what will be important in the next 50 or 100 years. Saving natural places protects us from floods and fires. To learn more about his ideas take a look at the many books he has published.

~~ Barbara Nicoll



Candidate Forum

Congressional District 39

League of Women Voters Claremont Area Serving
Diamond Bar, Chino and Chino Hills
Invites the Public to attend.

All candidates have been invited.



Wednesday, January 24th 7-9pm
Diamond Bar Community Center
1600 Grand Ave
Diamond Bar



Congressional District 39 LWV Candidate Forum

On January 24th the Claremont Area LWV, serving Diamond Bar and Chino Hills, held a candidate forum at the Diamond Bar Community Center. District 39 covers portions of San Bernardino, Los Angeles and Orange counties. Currently the district is served by Republican Congressman Ed Royce, who is retiring at the end of the term.

Eight candidates participated in the forum. The participants included one Independent, one Republican, and 6 Democratic candidates. Questions ranged from immigration to gun control. The venue was filled to capacity with 400 District 39 constituents in attendance.

~~ Cindy Reul

Political Responsibility through Informed and Active Participation



President's Message

Happy New Year everyone!

I want to begin by recognizing and thanking Judith Tanenbaum for writing and editing the Voter for the past several years. It's always a challenge to gather interesting articles, but she manages to produce an interesting and informative newsletter every quarter. She continued with this task while she was in Catalonia. Thank you, Judith!

We all know that Cindy Reul & Kathy Bresnan do outstanding jobs in Voter Service. Most recently, Cindy, with Kathy's able assistance, organized and moderated a forum for the candidates for the 39th Congressional District. The forum became particularly interesting after Congressman Ed Royce announced his retirement. The nine candidates represented Democrats, Independents, and Republicans and approximately 400 people attended. The questions were excellent; the candidates followed the guidelines and provided the audience with information on which to evaluate them. Thank you to Cindy, Kathy, and the many League volunteers in attendance.

Thank you to Barbara Nicoll for putting the recent Food for Thought together. I was out of town but am told that it was a great success. Barbara also is preparing a letter for spring fund raising in lieu of another Food for Thought. I know that you receive many requests for funds; please be as generous as you are able. We use the funds to support our activities throughout the year.

In March, League members Centia Batz and Jerry Klasik will be presenting the unit educational meeting on using social media and the new League website, My League Online (MyLO). We all know that social media is critical to the political life of the world; its important the League members understand how to use it.

Last, but certainly not least, here's an update on the Voter Turnout campaign that I am organizing. The concept is to design a community-wide program to make voting "the thing to do." We are starting in Claremont but hope to develop a model that can replicated in other cities in our area. We held a meeting of interested league members in December at which we gathered ideas on how to proceed. Cindy Reul, Jennifer Stark, and I met with city representatives in December to garner support for the project. The next step is underway. We are creating a small committee of 5 or 6 representatives of community groups to act as the initial organizing committee. I have commitments from the School District and Inland Valley Hope Project. I hope to have the remaining committee members secured in the next two weeks.

A recent Huffington Post article documented how intense the news cycle has been in just the last month. One source of optimism for me has been the work that the League has been doing nationally to protect voter's rights. There have been significant court decisions on gerrymandering that support the concept that every vote should count. The League has been a party of most, if not all, of these cases. I'm proud to support that work. ~~Tressa Kentner

Needed: Observer for Claremont City Council:

Second and Fourth Tuesdays, 6:30pm.

Contact Barbara Rugeley, b.rugeley@verizon.net, 909.626.9733, for information and training

Gerrymander:

To divide election districts to give one political party an electoral majority in a large number of districts while concentrating the voting strength of the opposition in as few districts as possible.

This is an update of the current cases of gerrymandering that are in the United States court systems. Some of these cases are at the state Supreme Court level or in federal courts. Two cases are currently in the U.S. Supreme Court. The League of Women Voters has been part of the legal challenges to the congressional and legislative district maps of **each** of these cases.

U.S. Supreme Court Cases:

Wisconsin: Gill v. Witford, arguments heard by the Supreme Court on October 3rd, 2017. To be decided in this term, possibly by June. Case involves Statehouse maps drawn in 2012 led to the GOP winning 60 of 99 seats with just 49% of the overall vote.

Maryland: Benisek v. Lamone, oral arguments are expected to be heard on March 28, 2018. This case centers on voters of the 6th Congressional district of Western Maryland. The district was redrawn by the Democratic Legislature to include parts of heavily Democratic Montgomery County. That has resulted in a drop of registered Republicans of 14 percent. The seat was previously held by a Republican but has since been held by a Democrat.

Both of these cases involve “partisan gerrymandering”. The Supreme Court has not decided a case involving partisan gerrymandering in decades. It has regularly settled cases involving racial gerrymandering. These cases could change the political landscape across the country. If the Supreme Court chooses to limit partisan gerrymandering, experts say that is unlikely to force the states to redraw their existing partisan maps in the middle of the mid-term elections. The next round of redistricting begins following the 2020 census and legal observers believe that would be when any new Supreme Court decision would be implemented.

Other states gerrymandering cases to watch: Ohio, Texas, North Carolina and Pennsylvania.

~~Cindy Reul

SUPPORT PROPOSITION 68 - California Drought, Water, Parks, Climate, Coastal Protection, and Outdoor Access for All Act (SB 5)

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.

There's a good chance the Claremont area would be eligible for grants to preserve and protect additional hillside land and for trail development. The State League, our Claremont Area League, and the Claremont Wildlands Conservancy all support Proposition 68.



Claremont Area
PO Box 1532
Claremont, CA 91711

President: Tressa Kentner
Voter Editor: Judith Tanenbaum
February 2018

Return Service Requested

MyLO Is Coming!

Our League will have a new website for you to explore this spring. MyLO will have many new features that our current website is unable to accommodate. Here are some of the conveniences you can look forward to:

- Both the membership forms and the donor forms will be able to be submitted online using PayPal. You do not have to join PayPal to use a credit card with this service.
- There will be a secure “Members Only” section with a list of member names and email addresses (no phone numbers or addresses). This section will also include other information published in our Yearbook. As an active member, you will be able to create your own password to access this section. Membership data will be updated monthly.
- As the system develops, you will be able to use our site to find out what other local, county, state and national Leagues across the nation are accomplishing on an issue of interest to you.
- As soon as the website is ready to go live, we will send out an email announcement with a link.

LWV Claremont Area Late Winter 2018 Program/Events

9:30 a.m. and 7 p.m.	Mt San Antonio Gardens 875 E. Bonita Ave., Pomona <u>Building D, 4th floor lounge</u> Garner House 840 N. Indian Hill Blvd., Claremont	2/22 LWV Claremont: Building on Our Past 3/22 Social Media and our Local League 4/26 Voter Engagement Study Group Results	Upcoming Unit Meetings
----------------------------	--	---	------------------------------