



The Voter

November 2012

League of Women
Voters
of San Bernardino
1955-NOW!

November 2012

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President’s Message

As always, this has been a busy time for the League, mostly because of our service to voters.

- We distributed 1000 Easy Voter Guides.
- We explained the ballot propositions to over 200 people in various groups, including Church Women United, First Methodist Church, Jocelyn Center, Plymouth Village, and the United Church of Christ.
- We cosponsored a community forum at the Inghram Community Center in San Bernardino and ex-

plained the ballot propositions there.

Thank you, Carol Robb and Mary Saxon Hobbs, for your help.

- We answered many calls from voters which we directed to the Registrar of Voters. Some wanted information about the propositions.

Now we're awaiting the results of the election, and the Board has decided to have another "post mortem" to talk about the aftermath of the election as we did last year. We're calling it an "Election Survivors Party" and we

hope you plan to be there! **NOVEMBER 17 - 12 to 2 PM.** Coco's at Highland and Waterman.

This discussion should lead into our review of our state position on the Initiative and Referendum process. We will probably schedule a meeting to talk about it sometime in January or February. If you're interested in being on the committee, please let me know.

We hope to see you at the Survivors Party. Have a **HAPPY THANKSGIVING!**

—Gloria Anderson

Special points of interest: The CA League Recommends:

- Prop. 30: YES
- Prop. 31: NO
- Prop. 32: NO
- Prop. 34: YES
- Prop. 40: YES

The League Recommends

If you go to <http://ca.lwv.org/> and scroll to the bottom of the page you will see the League of Women Voters of California recommendations on the propositions. (Click on the symbol in front of the proposition to get to the discussion of the measure.)

The recommendations are:

- Yes on Prop. 30
- No on Prop. 31
- No on Prop. 32
- Yes on Prop. 34
- Yes on Prop. 40

The League is neutral on Prop. 38 and Prop. 39.



Mt. Sac Rally for Prop. 30



Misleading Arguments for Proposition 32

Proponents of Proposition 32 have promoted it as campaign finance reform, claiming that it offers “payroll protection” by prohibiting unions and corporations from using payroll deductions to fund political activity. Sounds great—until you realize that corporations don’t

use payroll deductions to fund political activity! From the League site:

“Restricting just unions and their workers will result in a political system that favors corporate special interests over everyone else. Prop 32 was intentionally designed to do that.”

“If campaign finance reform is to pass, it must be a fair and even-handed effort to close loopholes in the law, rather than a purely partisan effort to eviscerate political opponents. All money in politics must be affected equally.”

League recommendation? Vote “NO!”

“A national political campaign is better than the best circus ever heard of, with a mass baptism and a couple of hangings thrown in.”
— H.L. Mencken

Misleading Advertising for Proposition 38

Several of the League of Women Voters of San Bernardino’s Board members were surprised to hear radio spots recommending that supporters of education funding vote for both Proposition 30 and Proposition 38. The ad did not even mention Proposition 30’s section on conflicting measures, which reads:

measures shall be deemed to be in conflict with this measure. In the event that this measure receives a greater number of affirmative votes than a measure deemed to be in conflict with it, the provisions of this measure shall prevail in their entirety, and the other measure or measures shall be null and void.”

would go into effect if both passed. It’s possible that the group who wrote the ad just didn’t want to confuse us with the complexity of full disclosure; but voters need to know the whole truth. If Proposition 30 passes with more votes than Proposition 38, it will go into effect. If it has fewer votes than Proposition 38, even if over 50% of voters vote for Proposition 30, it will be not go into effect.

“In the event that this measure and another measure that imposes an incremental increase in the tax rates for personal income shall appear on the same statewide ballot, the provisions of the other measure or

In other words, if both Proposition 30 and Proposition 38 pass, but Proposition 38 garners more votes than Proposition 30, then Proposition 30 shall be “null and void.”

The League recommends:

Vote “YES” on Proposition 30.

The League is neutral on Proposition 38.

The ad did not mention that, in fact it implied that both measures



LWVSB Oct. 13 Public Meeting on Municipal Bankruptcy

Our speaker, Dr. David Baker, spent over 20 years of his professional life serving as a County Administrator, first in the Tuolumne, and then in San Joaquin. His breadth of knowledge both in municipal finance and in municipal politics allowed him to give us an overview of municipal budget issues and bankruptcy.

One of the difficulties in discussing the “financial condition” of our community is the variety of meanings of “solvency.”

- Cash solvency is the ability to pay bills due in the next two months,
- Budgetary solvency is the ability to meet this budget cycle’s (usually one year) obligations,
- Long-term solvency includes everything in the foreseeable future (such as pension benefits and major equipment purchases), and s
- Service-level solvency refers to the ability of the municipality to meet the expectations of the community.

The concept of “Service Level” solvency is central to the health of the community, but it is defined differently by different communities (since different groups have different expectations) and it is difficult to measure.

Those who wish to monitor a municipality’s finances need to be aware of many different sources of revenue and many different types of expenditures. Watch the city manager’s reports for revenue per capita, restricted revenues (earmarked for specific purposes), intergovernmental revenues, elastic revenues (such as sales tax), one time revenues, tax revenues (uncollected and uncollectable property taxes need to be taken into account), and user fees. The type of revenue should be understood before it is committed, for instance one time revenues should not be designated to cover on-going expenses.

Expenditure types include expenditure per capita, expenditure by function, fixed costs, and employee benefits.

It was recommended that:

Monitors pay careful attention to the items in the consent calendar at meetings. Ask that an item be taken off the consent calendar if you feel uneasy about an its fiscal impact. The consent calendar is dealt with summarily; items removed from the consent calendar receive more discussion.

Watch the enterprise operating position of departments being considered for privatization. The ones of interest to the business community are the ones that will make money in the long run. Outsourcing functions that bring in more than they cost is counterproductive.

Watch fund balances at the end of the year—get explanations for BOTH deficits and surpluses.

To view Michel Nolan’s story on the meeting in the Mercury News, see: http://www.mercurynews.com/california/ci_21767836/professor-discusses-municipal-bankruptcy-at-san-bernardino-gathering



Dr. David Baker

Orange County filed for bankruptcy in 1994. For about 10 years, that was what defined Orange County to the public. After a decade, that impression faded, and that’s not what Orange County now.



Moving forward, despite the disaster.

**League of Women Voters
of San Bernardino 1955-NOW!**

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**The League of Women Voters: Because
Democracy is not a spectator sport.**

Upcoming events—save the date!

Nov. 6: 7am-8pm: Vote!

**Nov. 17, noon-2 pm. Election Survivors Party at
Coco's on Highland near Waterman**

Second Annual Election Aftermath Meeting

LWVSB will meet on November 17, at the Coco's on Highland near Waterman. (Be careful, there are two Coco's on Highland. Take careful note that we're meeting at the one near Waterman!)

The purpose of this meet-

ing will be to discuss the results of the General Election. As our (LWVSB) President said, "It will either be a celebration or a wake—or maybe both, depending on the outcome of the election."

We will focus on the results for the ballot measures and discuss "next steps." Join us for a camaraderie and the ideas!

**We're on the web: [http://
lwvsanbernardino.ca.lwvnet.org](http://lwvsanbernardino.ca.lwvnet.org)**

California Voter Registration

**California's
highest voter
turnout for a
presidential
election was
88.4% in 1964.**

California's Secretary of State released the final statement of voter data on Nov. 2. 18,245,970 Californians, 76.7% of those who are eligible to register to vote have registered!

There is always a surge in voter registration before a Presidential Election. The surge this year is smaller than the surge in registration in 2008. (That year, in the final 45 day

window before the registration deadline 1.2 million Californians registered. This year 986,290 registered during that 45 day window.

Secretary of State Debra Bowen said "Registering to vote is easier now than it was four years ago, yet fewer people actually registered in this final 45-day window than did in 2008. This makes it clear that it's not just a question of making

voter registration easier; it's really about what inspires people to care about their democracy and be part of the decision-making process."

The complete report, which includes voter registration data for a variety of political subdivisions, is at www.sos.ca.gov/elections/ror/ror-pages/15day-general-12.