



The Voter

League of Women
Voters
of San Bernardino
1955-NOW!

Your guide to local issues, action, and information

September 2012

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President's Message

League Meeting on Municipal Bankruptcy

September and October will be dominated by the upcoming election. However, an important meeting for all League members and the public on Municipal Bankruptcy will be held:

OCTOBER 13
10 AM to 12 PM
at the Feldheym Library.

Our speaker is Dr. David Baker who teaches Public Financial Management at CSU San Bernardino. He will help us understand what bankruptcy means to a community and the people who live there. Look for details in this issue of The Voter and join us on October 13.

Election activities include:

- Registering voters at ITT Technical Institute on Monday, September 17, in observance of Constitution Day
- Participating with CSU San Bernardino on National Registration Day, September 25, and advocating against Proposition 30 with them

- Presenting Pros and Cons on the ballot measures to various groups in September and October, including at a community forum we are cosponsoring in the 6th Ward on October 20
- Distributing Easy Voter Guides

Become an Observer for LWVSB!

And finally, please take note of the article in this issue about observing your government in action. We are especially interested in observing the school board and the city council. Considering what seems to be a growing trend to long meetings, if several members will volunteer to observe once a month, it won't be a burden to anyone. And remember, the city council can be observed in the comfort of your own home.

Learn about the issues and spread that knowledge!

Finally, we hope you take advantage of the wealth

of voter material on the state League's web sites at <http://www.cavotes.org>, <http://www.lwvc.org>, and <http://www.easyvoterguide.org>. For those of you without internet access, we will be sending Pros and Cons by snail mail. Become Know-it-alls!

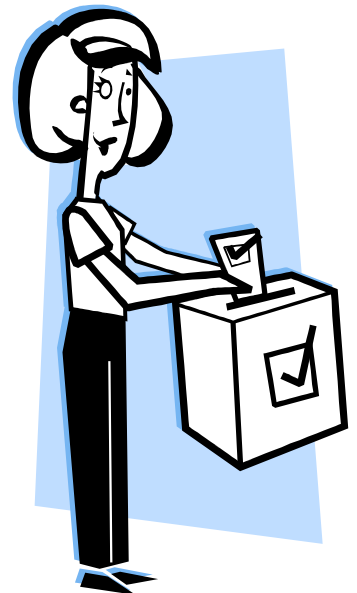
VOTE - AND GET YOUR FRIENDS, RELATIVES, CASUAL ACQUAINTANCES, AND ANYBODY ELSE YOU KNOW TO VOTE TOO!

-Gloria

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Special Points of interest:

- Come learn about the ins and outs of municipal bankruptcy at our Oct. 13 meeting.
- Register to vote!
- Help others register to vote!
- Become involved as an observer of local government meetings.





Open government—
sunshine (citizen attention)
is the best disinfectant.

Report from the San Bernardino School Board

The SBCUSD School Board meeting on 9-18-12 resulted in the trustees' unanimous decision to revoke the charter of the Crown Ridge Academy.

Chris Tickell, the District's Director of Charter School Operations, was thorough and objective in investigating the financial and academic problems at the school and made sure the Board was fully informed.

This action seems in keeping with our League's recommendation for increased oversight of the San Bernardino charter schools. Because this is the first revocation, we need to be aware of school officials' planning for a smooth transition for the 100 plus CRA students moving to other schools. San Gorgonio H.S. and Pacific H. S.

should be the schools most affected.

Stay tuned for next month's report on The Algebra Project, administered by Dr. Lori Collins and Pastor Sean Casey.

LWVSB

*School Board Observer
Marilyn Patterson*

A popular government without popular information or the means of acquiring it is but a prologue to a farce or a tragedy, or perhaps both
—James Madison

Wanted: A Few Good Listeners

Protecting our right to know is integral to the health of our democracy. With all that is going on in city government and in the school district, it is important that we know what decisions are being made and how they are being made.

That is why it is vital that we have observers of their meetings and that they report what they have

observed. What does it take to be an observer?

- good listeners able to summarize and "interpret" proceedings in a fair way
- interested in local government and or issues being discussed by the governmental body that they are observing
- discrete and courteous
- not having a personal

or partisan agenda while serving as a League observer

Does that describe you? If you can give time even once a month, please consider becoming an observer of either the San Bernardino City Council or the San Bernardino City Unified school board.

Gloria Anderson



Agendas, Minutes, (some video) of Local Meetings

County of San Bernardino County Board of Supervisors Meetings: <http://www.sbcounty.gov/BOS/default.asp>

Agendas and minutes of the San Bernardino County School Board Meetings: <http://www.sbcsd.k12.ca.us/index.aspx?NID=35>

Videos of San Bernardino City Council Meetings: http://www.sbcity.org/cityhall/city_council/watch_city_council_meetings.asp

City of Redlands Meetings: <http://www.ci.redlands.ca.us/clerk/meetingagenda.htm>

Banned Books Week (Sept. 30 - Oct. 6)

In September 1982, the *American Library Association*, the *American Booksellers Association*, and the *National Association of College Stores*, alarmed at the increase in demands to remove books from the shelves of libraries, bookstores and schools, formed a national coalition to preserve Americans' "Freedom to Read." They worked to inform the public that books were being removed from communities. One of the "Freedom to Read" coalition's efforts was Banned Book Week. It has become an annual event. The 30th Banned Book Week is September 30-October 6, 2012.

2011's most frequently challenged books include a science fiction book written in the 1930s, and a coming of age story that deals with racism and imperfect justice. The books range from dystopian

warnings to change our priorities, to "fluff" that has proven effective in encouraging reluctant readers to finish a book. One has been adapted into a major film, another into a television series. One was #5 on the *Modern Library's Best Books of the 20th Century* list, another won a *Pulitzer Prize*. They are:

- 1) The Internet Girls trilogy, by Lauren Myracle.
- 2) The Color of Earth trilogy, by Kim Dong-hwa.
- 3) The Hunger Games trilogy, by Suzanne Collins.
- 4) *My Mom's Having a Baby! A Kid's Month-by-Month Guide to Pregnancy*, by Dori Hillestad Butler.
- 5) *The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian*, by Sherman Alexie.
- 6) The Alice series, by Phyllis Reynolds Naylor.

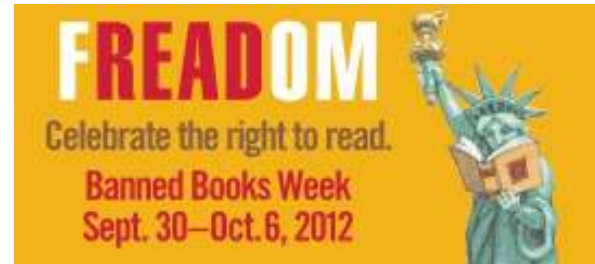
7) *Brave New World*, by Aldous Huxley.

8) *What My Mother Doesn't Know*, by Sonya Sones.

9) The Gossip Girl series, by Cecily Von Ziegesar.

10) *To Kill a Mockingbird*, by Harper Lee

This year Bill and Judith Moyers are Honorary Chairs for *Banned Book Week*. You will find Bill Moyers' video essay on book banning and the evils of censorship at <http://bannedbooksweek.org/>. The *American Library Association* has created a section of information on banned books at <http://www.ala.org/advocacy/banned/bannedbooksweek>. It includes a timeline of 30 years of banned books.



"Everyone is in favor of free speech. Hardly a day passes without its being extolled, but some people's idea of it is that they are free to say what they like, but if anyone else says anything back, that is an outrage."
--Winston Churchill

Online Voter Registration

On September 19, 2012 California Secretary of State Debra Bowen opened California's online voter registration system.

To register to vote you will need an internet connection, your California driver's license number (or your California ID card number), your Social

Security number, and your date of birth.

It is hoped that the option of registering to vote online will increase participation, particularly for people who are temporarily away from their home voting precinct (for instance for students or military troops).

The deadline for electronic registration, if you wish to vote in the November 6 election, is October 22.

<https://rtv.sos.ca.gov/elections/register-to-vote/?AspxAutoDetectCookieSupport=1>



LWVUS Position on Privatization

At the recent Annual Meeting the LWVUS position on privatization was updated.



Background

The LWVUS Board approved a new position on Privatization at its June 2012 meeting. The position is based on responses received from the 227 Leagues across the country that participated in the Privatization Study. Thanks to the many local and state Leagues and ILOs that held meetings, involved their communities, and worked to reach consensus on this important issue. Committee Chair Janis McMillen (KS) and her Committee: Diane DiIanni (TN), Carole Garrison (VA), Ann Henkener (OH), Cathy Lazarus (CA), Nora Leech (WA), Muriel Strand (CA) and Ted Volskay (SC) are to be commended for their excellent work and leadership.

Position

The League of Women Voters of the United States believes that when governmental entities consider the transfer of governmental services, assets and/or functions to the private sector, the community impact and goals of such transfers must be identified and considered. Further, the LWV believes that transparency, accountability, and preservation of the common good must be ensured.

The League believes that some government provided services could be delivered more efficiently by private entities; however, privatization is not appropriate in all circumstances. Privatization is not appropriate when the provision of services by the government is necessary to preserve the common good, to protect national or local security or to meet the needs of the most vulnerable members of society. While the League recognizes that the definition of core government services will vary by level of government and community values, services fundamental to the governance of a democratic society should not be privatized in their entirety. These services include the electoral process, justice system, military, public safety, public health, education, transportation, environmental protection and programs that protect and provide basic human needs.

The decision to privatize a public service should be made after an informed, transparent planning process and thorough analysis of the implications of privatizing service delivery. While specific criteria will vary by service and local conditions, the League believes the following considerations apply to most decisions to transfer public services, assets and functions to the private sector:

- On-going and timely communication with stakeholders and the public;
- Statement of the circumstances as they exist and what is to be gained;
- Definition of the quality, level and cost of service expected;
- Assessment of the private market; whether there are providers to assure competitive pricing and delivery; (in some cases there may not be multiple providers if a service is so specialized. i.e. high tech, airports.)

When governmental entities consider the transfer of governmental services, assets and/or functions to the private sector, the community impact and goals of such transfers must be identified and considered.

-LWVUS



LWVUS Position on Privatization (cont.)

- Cost-benefit analyses evaluating short and long term costs of privatization, including the ongoing costs of contract administration and oversight;
- An understanding of the impact on customers, the broader community, environment and public employees;
- An open, competitive bidding process with clearly defined criteria to be used in selecting a contractor;
- A provision and process to ensure the services or assets will be returned to the government if a contractor fails to perform;
- A data-driven selection of private entities whose goals, purposes, and means are not incompatible with the public well-being;
- The careful negotiation and drafting of the controlling privatization contract; and
- Adequate oversight and periodic performance monitoring of the privatized services by the government entity to ensure that the private entity is complying with all relevant laws and regulations, contract terms and conditions, and ethical standards, including public disclosure and comment.

The League believes that the enactment of state laws and issuance of regulations to control the process and delivery of privatization within a state's jurisdiction is often appropriate and desirable. Best practices for government regulation of the privatization process should include the following requirements:

- An open process that allows for citizen input and oversight in a timely manner;
- A reasonable feasibility study and project evaluation appropriate to the size and scope of the project;
- The establishment of carefully crafted criteria for selection of the private-entity (beyond the lowest cost bid);
- Additional consideration for local bidders in order to support the local economy;
- The retention of liability and responsibility with the government entity;
- Allowance for and promotion of opportunities for innovation and collaboration; and,
- Provision for employment, benefits and training plans on behalf of employees displaced as a result of privatization.



Privatization is not appropriate when the provision of services by the government is necessary to preserve the common good, to protect national or local security or to meet the needs of the most vulnerable members of society.

-LWVUS



Statement of Position as Announced by National Board, June 2012

<http://www.lwv.org/content/privatization-position>

**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.**

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

Upcoming events—save the date!

October 13: 10 AM to 12 Noon: League of Women Voters of San Bernardino meeting to learn about municipal bankruptcy at the Norman F. Feldheym Library. (Meeting is open to the public.)

October 22, 2012: Last day to register to vote in the November election.

October 2, 16 & 23L Meetings of the SB County Board of Supervisors

The SBC School Board meets on the 1st and 3rd Tuesday of every month.

Oct. 2: Redlands City Council meeting.

Oct. 9: Redlands Planning Commission meeting.

Oct. 1 & 15: San Bernardino City Council meetings.



LWVSB Meeting on Municipal Bankruptcy

The League of Women Voters of San Bernardino offers an opportunity to learn about municipal bankruptcy at a meeting to be held on Saturday, October 13, from 10 AM to 12 noon at the Norman F. Feldheym Central Library, 555 W. 6th Street, San Bernardino.

Dr. David Baker, who teaches Public Financial Management at California State University at San

Bernardino, will talk about what bankruptcy means to a community and its residents, as well as its impacts, and possible solutions and how to ensure that it doesn't happen again.

League President Gloria Anderson said that the League's approach is study before action and that the League hopes the meeting will lead to the kind of civic engagement that is needed at this time of crisis in San Bernardino.

- What does bankruptcy mean to a community and its residents?
- What will be its impacts?
- What are possible solutions to get out of it and to ensure it doesn't happen again?

OCTOBER 13, 2012
10 AM to 12 Noon
NORMAN F.
FELDHEYM
CENTRAL LIBRARY
555 West 5th Street,
San Bernardino

