



# The VOTER

Newsletter of the League of Women Voters, San Bernardino Area

Co-Presidents: Gloria Anderson and Jill Vassilakos-Long

VOTER Editor: Dotti Garcia

August, 2016

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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Jill Vassilakos-Long, Co-President

On June 4, 2016, at the League of Women Voters of the San Bernardino Area Annual Meeting, our league reaffirmed our positions---the positions on the issues we have studied over the years. One of these positions is on the charter of the City of San Bernardino. It is:

### **CITY CHARTER**

Support Measures to secure an orderly and simplified San Bernardino City Charter, with provisions that enable the Mayor and the Common Council to deal with city problems efficiently, flexibly, and with responsibilities and authority clearly defined. The City Charter should:

- A. provide a framework that allows details to be placed in ordinances passed by the Mayor and Common Council.
- B. provide a government that is responsible, representative, accountable and responsive to the citizens.
- C. address ethics in government.
- D. provide for succession of elected officials.
- E. contain fair, understandable election procedures.
- F. be written in lay language.
- G. be accessible to all.

Later in that meeting, on the basis of our position, the league affirmed our commitment to support current efforts to propose a new city charter, to educate voters about it, and to advocate for its passage. [*Ed.Note—the proposed City Charter is attached to this newsletter.*]

You are probably more familiar with situations in which the League does not take a position, because we can only take a position after careful study. In this case, our League had an existing position, because we have studied San Bernardino's charter more than once. We have, for more than a decade, held the position that the San Bernardino City Charter was a hindrance to good government, that it promoted dysfunction and impeded rational governance.

Mark Scott, San Bernardino's new City Manager, was our Annual Meeting's invited speaker. I wondered what he thought of us all as we affirmed our belief in the need for changing San Bernardino's Charter. I found out when, after we had concluded our business meeting, he took the floor. He congratulated us on being involved in our city, and told us that one of the conditions he had placed on his employment with the city was that the charter be revised or replaced, because he had independently concluded that the existing charter made it impossible for San Bernardino to thrive!

San Bernardino's proposed new charter will be on the ballot in November. There is already much discussion about it—but not as much excited discussion as other local ballot issues have caused. Want to learn more? Our League will hold a membership meeting on **September 10 (Saturday)** at the Arrowhead Country Club in San Bernardino. It is a lunch meeting from 12:00-2:00 (\$15 at the door), and the program will be on local ballot measures. **There will be four local measures on the San Bernardino ballot – three are related to marijuana; the fourth is the adoption of the new San**

**Bernardino City Charter.** Come hear about the local ballot measures on September 10 from noon – 2 P.M. Please RSVP to me at (909) 649-1310 (voice or text), or email me at [jvlong@csusb.edu](mailto:jvlong@csusb.edu)

We will be holding a number of Voter Registration drives through September. September 27<sup>th</sup> is National Voter Registration Day. If you would like to get involved, please contact me.

We will also be fielding requests for speakers on the state ballot measures. On October 1, from 12:30-2:00 P.M, Gloria Anderson will train us on the Pros and Cons for this election. This training will be at the Garcia Center for the Arts at 536 West 11<sup>th</sup> Street. Please come if you want to learn about the seventeen measures that the state is putting on the ballot, and especially if you are willing to speak to groups to educate them about the propositions. [*Ed. Note: LWVC Recommendations on state propositions is attached to this newsletter*]

(Note: the Garcia Center is a beautiful old adobe building at the corner of 11<sup>th</sup> and E Streets. Right now, street construction makes it somewhat difficult to access. To get there, turn South on E St. from Baseline. This is tricky; you will be navigating around traffic cones---look for the lane they have left for you. Watch the street on your right; in one short block you will see the adobe building on your right. Turn right at the street corner. Parking is on the south side of the building.)

Watch our calendar on the League of Women Voters website---just Google **League Women Voters San Bernardino** to find it. If we organize debate watching parties, the information will be on the website.

Mark Scott was right – we are fortunate to live in a community with people who are involved and informed. Thank you!

**Jill Vassilakos-Long**

Your dues as a member of LWVSB were due July 1---If you have not paid yet, please fill out the following form, and mail it to the address given.

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Mail to LWVSB Area, P.O. Box 3394, San Bernardino, CA 92413

<b>Dues Payment--LWVSB</b>	
Name: _____	Address: _____
E-Mail _____	Telephone: _____
Dues Payment of Individual \$60 <input type="checkbox"/> ; Family \$90 <input type="checkbox"/> ; Student, \$30 <input type="checkbox"/>	

## Voter's Edge California

Carol Moon Goldberg, LWVEducationFund Vice-President

Voter's Edge California is up and running in 31 counties, and League volunteers are busy encouraging candidates to participate and promoting the use of this important voter education tool. We hope to expand the number of participating counties in the November election. Please continue to promote the use of Voter's Edge California at all voter service events. Below is an enlarged picture of the front of available bookmarks that can be passed out at events. On the reverse side are the following: 1) Use your address to get a personalized ballot. 2) Get in-depth info on candidates, measures, and who supports them. 3) Check where, when and how to vote. 4) Keep track of your choices and use them to vote. 5) Share your choices and be a part of the conversation!



### Calendar for Upcoming Events

September 10: LWVSB Board meeting, 9:00-11:00, Garcia Center for the Arts.

September 10: Member Meeting, Noon-2:00, Arrowhead Country Club- \$15; Program about local ballot measures (San Bernardino) RSVP: Jill Vassilakos-Long

October 1: LWVSB Board Meeting, 9:00-11:00, Garcia Center for the Arts.

October 1: Speaker Training and Information on State ballot measures, 12:30-2:00, Garcia Center for the Arts, 536 West 11<sup>th</sup> Street, San Bernardino.

October 10: First day to mail-in ballots

For information on any of the above, contact Jill at

[jvlong@csusb.edu](mailto:jvlong@csusb.edu) 909-649-1310 or Gloria at

[glorand@juno.com](mailto:glorand@juno.com) 909-338-4163

### Letter from LWVCalifornia President Helen Hutchison:

We need your help to reform California election funding. SB 1107 gives local governments the flexibility to fight big money in politics by publicly financing elections.

Please urge your Assembly member to vote yes on SB 1107 to help increase voter participation, restore public trust, and strengthen our representative democracy.

**SB 1107** will remove a 28-year-old ban on public financing of campaigns, helping state and local governments level the playing field for those wishing to run for public office. This bill will support election innovation, including voluntary programs like those already in place in six California charter cities, but it does not require any government to offer public financing.

Take action now and urge your Assembly member to support SB 1107. Your message will encourage more civic participation and combat public cynicism about government. Please help support this valuable bill by contacting your Assembly member. Helen Hutchison, President LWVC

## LWVUS CONVENTION 2016

By Gloria Anderson

Although our Board decided not to incur the expense of sending a member to this year's convention, we all benefit from the decisions made at the convention.

Following is a summary of this year's national convention held in Washington, DC in June. For details, visit [www.lwv.org](http://www.lwv.org) and click on Convention/Council.

- Chris Carson, LWV Glendale/Burbank was elected as our national president.
- A bylaws amendment regarding Membership was adopted that will require all Leagues to change bylaws to be in conformity with what was adopted. It removed the citizenship requirement and reduced the age requirement to 16 years. The rationale was that both could benefit from what they would gain from League membership. The change will not require approval from local Leagues.
- Six resolutions were approved – two on gun safety, one on statehood for the District of Columbia, and three on climate change.
- A Behavioral Health position was adopted by concurrence with the Colorado League's position. In brief, it says that every U.S. resident should have access to affordable, quality in-and-out patient behavioral health care, including needed medications and supportive services that is integrated with, and achieves parity with physical health care. The existing Health Care position mentions "mental health care" only as the last item in a list of types of care to which residents should have access to it is believed that this will enable Leagues to advocate for more effective Behavioral Health treatment and care.
- A position on Redistricting was also adopted by concurrence with the position that was proposed by the LWVUS Redistricting Task Force that will provide the ten state Leagues that do not have a position to advocate on redistricting immediately, without having to study it. (California's position was adopted in 1988 and amended in 2007 and was used effectively to advocate for an independent Redistricting Commission that reapportioned the districts following the 2010 census.)

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### MORE ON SB CITY CHARTER

As Jill wrote in her column this month, LWVSB is supporting a yes vote on the new San Bernardino City Charter. A PAC has been formed (with several LWVSB members on it) and working strongly to get the word out, to convince citizens to vote YES, and to get out the vote. The November ballot will be lengthy, with 17 state propositions, elections of national, state and local officials, and 4 measures placed on the ballot by the San Bernardino City Council. Three of them have to do with regulation of marijuana sales, cultivation, etc. and one with the charter. These local issues will most likely be towards the bottom of the ballot. We suggest that when you vote, you go to the bottom of the ballot, find the charter issue, vote; and then go back to the top and work your way down! Your vote on the charter will affect you as much or more than anything else on the ballot. Vote YES on SB Charter 2016! *Dotti Garcia*

