



The VOTER

Newsletter of the League of Women Voters, San Bernardino Area

Co-Presidents: Gloria Anderson and Jill Vassilakos-Long
VOTER Editor: Dotti Garcia
September, 2016

CO-PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

HELP WANTED—WILL TRAIN

This month, our message to you is that we need you to help us educate voters about the November election.

Specifically, we need members who will speak on the pros and cons of the 17 state propositions that we must vote on. The Official Voters Guide that the Secretary of State will be mailing to registered voters will be the largest in history because some of the measures are long and detailed. If you are interested in becoming a Pro-Con speaker, we invite you to join us on Saturday, October 1, from 12:30-2 PM at the Garcia Center for the Arts (*address and directors on next page*) to learn about the propositions and how to present them. A light lunch will be provided.

One thing you will learn is who is behind the propositions and how much money is being spent on them. What began as an opportunity for the people to take part in democracy has become for the most part a way for special interests to dominate the process. The League has advocated for changes to improve the initiative and referendum process, but change is difficult because of the influence of big money. So we must do our best to inform voters about what they will face at the ballot box.

Meanwhile, we are trying to fulfill requests for Pro-Con presentations and candidates meetings. This month, we have requests to do a candidates meeting in Rialto on September 22. Thank you, **Jonathan Anderson**, for agreeing to moderate. We also have a Pro-Con meeting in Bloomington organized by some labor unions and Latino groups on September 22. I will be presenting pros and cons on several measures at that meeting. In October, as of now, we have Pro-Con meetings in Redlands and Fontana and a candidates meeting in Redlands.

The Easy Voter Guides we have ordered will be delivered in early October. Please let me know if you would like some to distribute. You can also find them at www.easyvoter.org. The Pros and Cons that the League is known for, can also be found online at www.CAvotes.org.

We have also been very involved in the campaign to pass the new San Bernardino charter. Co-President **Jill Vassilakos-Long** has signed the ballot argument in favor and **Betsy Starbuck** is the campaign manager. Members **Dotti Garcia, Susan Longville and John Longville** have also been working diligently on the campaign. If you are interested in helping by walking precincts, contact Betsy at betsy.starbuck@gmail.com.

And a belated and sincere welcome to new members **Nidia Bitterlich, Nellie Snyder, Dale Marsden and Mark Scott**. Thank you, **Miriam Nieto**, for agreeing to be our Membership Director.

If you want to become a Pro-Con speaker, please let me know as soon as possible.

So much to do, so little time! But if we work together, WE CAN DO IT!

Gloria Anderson, glorand@juno.com 909-338-4163

DIRECTIONS TO THE GARCIA CENTER FOR THE ARTS—

536 West 11th Street, San Bernardino

From Baseline, turn South on E Street for about one block. You will see a long old adobe building. Turn West on 11th Street (You can't turn east). Wrought iron fence and gate, fountain in patio. Parking is on-street in front of the building.



*Get Your Yard Signs
Sign up to walk precincts
GET OUT THE VOTE on Election Day*

You are invited to a
Reception to **Support Measure L**

Thursday, September 22, 2016
Mitla Café
602 N. Mt. Vernon Ave.
San Bernardino
5-7 p.m.

\$20/person or more if you can

Delicious Mitla's appetizers will be served.

Please RSVP to Betsy Starbuck at 909-518-7000 or email:
YesOnNewSBCharter@gmail.com

Invited Guests: Mayor Carey Davis, Community College District President, John Longville, Councilmembers Marquez, Shorett, Nickel, and Mulvihill, Community College Trustee Gloria Harrison, and other community leaders.

Measure L is the designation given to the ballot measure for approval of the proposed San Bernardino City Charter. A copy of that charter was attached to your August VOTER. You can also access it by going to the city's website and click on proposed charter. Help is needed to walk precincts in the next few weeks, to write letters to the editors of the Sun, the Press-Enterprise, and several community newspapers, and to speak about the League's endorsement of a YES vote on the measure. If you want to do any of this, please contact Betsy Starbuck at 909-518-7000. And when you vote, remember to go to the bottom of your ballot, vote on the charter issue, and then go back to the top and vote on the rest of the ballot!

MARIJUANA MEASURES ON SAN BERNARDINO CITY BALLOT

In addition to Proposition 64, the state's Recreational Marijuana Legalization initiative statute that will be on your ballot, there will be three measures aimed at regulating the marijuana dispensaries and cultivation in the city, even though since 2011 they are not permitted. Two of the measures, O and N, were put on the ballot through the process of gathering signatures of registered voters. The other measure, P, was written by the City Attorney's office. All were approved for the ballot by the City Council, in order to allow voters to make a choice. At our members' meeting on September 10th, Jill Vassilakos-Long did a monumental job of comparing the three measures. However, in the space we have here, it is virtually impossible to reproduce all the information she had gathered. We have asked the City Attorney's office for a copy of the impartial analysis which is required to be printed in the Voters' Guide. That analysis is not available yet; therefore, we suggest that you read it carefully when you receive your copy.

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

Dues Payment--LWVSB

Name: _____ Address: _____

E-Mail _____ Telephone: _____

Dues Payment of Individual \$60 ; Family \$90 ; Student, \$30

How the LWVC Takes Action

To reach [the League's aim], study is not enough, becoming experts is not enough.

Good citizenship requires not only knowledge but ability to act.

-Margaret Wells, President, League of Women Voters 1934-44

(Editor's Note: In the most recent VOTER, we attached the LWV of California's positions on several of the ballot measures which are on the November ballot. The following is the process through which those decisions are made)

Leagues at all levels take action. Our advocacy can include writing letters to media or legislators, holding press conferences, speaking at hearings and public meetings, adding our voice to a ballot measure campaign or sending action alerts to our members. Taking action is always based on current program positions and/or on League Principles. Positions are developed based on member study and consensus. We have many positions, and many opportunities to act, so how does the League of Women Voters of California board determine when to take action on state legislation and statewide ballot measures, and on which items?

League Priorities

The League has a series of priorities: the issues for Education and Advocacy set every two years at the LWVC Convention, the legislative priorities set for each legislative session by the board, and the core issues of the League that include redistricting, elections, initiative and referendum process, voting rights, campaign reform and reproductive choices.

Requests for Action

Recommendations and requests for action on issues---bills before the Legislature, potential ballot measures---come from a variety of sources. Local Leagues or League members can request that the LWVC look at a potential piece of legislation for action, or we may be asked by the author of a bill for the League's endorsement. Other groups working in a particular area can ask that the League join them in endorsing a bill or ballot measure. Or, most commonly, we simply are following legislation in a particular area closely and find something that we want to address.

Analysis: How Does It Fit with League Positions?

These requests are first sent to the off-board Program Director and/or Legislative Consultant responsible for the issue area for analysis. Off-board Program Directors and Legislative Consultants are experts on League positions and previous League action on the positions in a particular area, and do analysis of bills and ballot measures with recommendations about potential League action. They watch legislation in their area of expertise, and they frequently are the ones that draft the letters and testimony in their issue area.

The Legislative Consultants write analyses of the measure under consideration, including a summary of the measure and how it changes current law, a summary of the related League positions, and how the League positions apply to the measure. They also give recommendations about supporting or opposing the measure and indicate how important they feel it is within their area. The Program Directors may add their comments and recommendations, including information about previous league action on similar measures.

Legislation Committee

Recommendations for action on legislation and ballot measures are considered by the LWVC Legislation Committee, made up of the LWVC President, VP for Advocacy and Program, all program directors from the LWVC board and two off-board members. The Legislation Committee can take action for the LWVC on all bills, and makes recommendations to the whole LWVC board for action on ballot measures. Whenever action is taken, that is reported to the board and the membership. Members can find a record of League action in the Bill Status Report ...on our Web site <http://lwvc.org>

Some of the criteria that the Legislation Committee and the board use in determining whether to take action on a particular issue are:

- League positions, including previous League action
- What does the League's voice add to the debate on this?
- What will happen if the League does not speak?

Frequently, the League has multiple positions covering a single measure, and the Legislation Committee must balance these positions together---and sometimes against each other. At other times, the League supports a part of a measure, but doesn't like another part, so we must weigh the importance of the supported portion against that of the non-supported portion. All of these factors weigh in the legislative Committee and the board discussions.

For the ballot measures, we also consider what else is on the ballot for that election. That element of the decision process for ballot measures doesn't so much affect whether or not we will take a position but rather when we might take a position and how strongly we will be involved in a campaign.

Ballot Measures

We only take positions on ballot measures based on current program positions and/or on League principles. Positions are developed based on member study and consensus. We have many positions, and many opportunities to act, so how does our board determine when to take action on statewide ballot measures, and on which items?

Endorsement Strategy

Because the League's resources are limited, we try to be strategic about how we endorse measures.

We want to make sure:

- that it is something we really can endorse (that it isn't still in a nebulous state)
- that it isn't doing to change in some way that will make us have to either withdraw our support or otherwise backpedal.

If there is going to be some kind of campaign, we also want to be given a strong voice in the campaign messaging. We are involved in some campaigns from the very beginning (redistricting, clean money), but frequently wait to see whether a measure qualifies for the ballot before endorsing.

Some of the other factors that we consider when looking at a ballot measure include:

- the reality of its passage (is it really worth putting our energy into this?)
- who else is working on it (can we realistically be in a coalition with these organizations?)
- overall campaign strategy (is there a total plan, and can the League take an effective role?)
- whether we want to make a statement of principle on the issue.

For More Information:

- League of Women Voters of California, [Our Work \(/our-work\)](#) LWVC position statements and action policies as well as our current priorities for education and advocacy.

- League of Women Voters of California, Legislative Priorities ([/our-work/positions/legislative-priorities](#))

MORE ON SB CITY CHARTER

As Gloria 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*