

Today's VOTER

NEIGHBORHOOD REGENERATION SUMMIT TO BE HELD MAY 31

---by Gloria Anderson, VP Program/ Action, LWVSB

For the past year or so, our League has been involved in a project with collaboration of Cal State's Community-University Partnerships. It was originally intended to culminate in a symposium to be held last spring, but since then, it has evolved into focusing on how to improve neighborhoods in the city. The partnership has grown to include Neighborhood Housing Services, St. John's Episcopal Church, San Bernardino City Police Department, the District Attorney's Office, and several other participants. We have held meetings in several neighborhoods to get input from the residents, and now we hope to bring together residents from as many neighborhoods as we can in a "summit."

The Summit will focus on the development of recommendations to improve housing and community life in San Bernardino. Participants will be working in teams utilizing the Neighborhood Regeneration Game to plan and design their ideal neighborhood. It will be held on May 31 at the San Bernardino Adult School Green Room, 1200 North "E" Street, San Bernardino from 8:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.. Continental Breakfast and Lunch will be served. There is no cost. Deadline for registration is May 21.

Those of you who belong to Neighborhood Cluster Associations should be getting an invitation from your association. Those who don't belong to one may call or e-mail me to let us know you plan to attend. You also may have received a phone call from the telephone tree because the deadline for registration is May 21 and we need to know how many people from the sponsoring organizations will be attending so we can accommodate everyone. Questions? Call me at 338-4163 or e-mail me at glorand@juno.com. See you at the Summit.

LWVUS Publishes "Citizen's Guide to Global Economic Policymaking"

---by Gloria Anderson, VP Program/ Action, LWVSB

For all you high finance people, we have a copy of the latest LWVUS publication, A Citizen's Guide to Global Economic Policymaking. It provides a comprehensive guide for the citizen who asks "Who are the main international organizations, what do they each do, and how can I influence them?" It will show where and how the representatives of the United States, and to the extent possible, civil society groups and the private sector can formally influence the policy making process.



This book stems from the League's belief that U.S. citizens must be active participants in the making of a global system that works in the interests of the world's people. Individual copies are \$8.95 plus shipping and handling and may be ordered by calling 1-888-287-7424 or e-mail pubs@lww.org. For further info, contact Gloria Anderson 338-4163 or glorand@juno.com.

EDSOURCE: A FONT OF EDUCATIONAL INFORMATION

---by Gloria Anderson, VP Program/ Action, LWVSB

For the latest information on school reform issues, go to the EdSource website: www.edsource.org. LWVSB has a subscription to their publications which anyone interested may borrow. The newest one is the 2003 Resource Cards on California Schools. These 33 cards in a handy spiral-bound

booklet give you fingertip access to facts and **figures about** California schools. A table of contents; section dividers, and an index help you quickly locate the topics - from school finance to student performance to teacher demographics - that you need. Contact Gloria for further info.

LWVUS Adds Civil Liberties to Advocacy Priority

Good news! The LWVUS Board has added the issue of Civil Liberties to the third level of the advocacy priority list alongside DC Voting Rights, Financial Issues, Health Care,

and Global Warming, and the CEDAW (Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women).

MEETING RE- PATRIOT ACT DRAWS CROWD

Attorney Donald Jordan addressed the LWVSB's March meeting on the subject of the Patriot Act, designed by Attorney General John Ashcroft for P-roviding A-ppropriate T-ools R-equired to I-ntercept and O-bstruct T-errorism act of 2001. Long time

League members will remember fondly Jordan's mother, Meredyth Jordan, charter member and former president of LWVSB and active in the community, especially on the SBCUSD Board of Education. It was a treat to meet her son and hear his presentation re-the Patriot Act.

The landmark legislation expanded the government's power to conduct searches of homes and offices without prior notice, use roving wiretaps to listen in on telephone conversations, monitor computers and email messages – even eavesdrop on attorney/client conversations – and try suspects in military tribunals.

As Jordan pointed out history demonstrates that in times of war the courts, even the U.S. Supreme Court, have upheld restrictive laws passed by the government that abridge rights protected by our Constitution. The difference today is that this is an undeclared war, and no truce will signal the restoration of civil rights.

After a brief discussion about the specific Constitutional problems encountered by the PATRIOT act are those guaranteed in the life, liberty, or property without due process of human being within the jurisdiction of the public trial” and the right to know the recent reports re- detention of suspect aliens. been restrained. The 4th amendment speaks to houses papers and effects from unreasonable “warrants issued for probable cause.” Such incursion but also by electronic eavesdropping Then there is the problem of access to personal offices, all open to law enforcement under PATRIOT.



perceived need for more security after 9/11, Jordan cited the PATRIOT act. Among Constitutional rights abridged by 5th and 14th amendments: “No person shall be deprived of law.” “Person,” according to the USSpCt includes any republic. The 6th amendment requires a “speedy and accusations and obtain counsel, rights suspended in First amendment free speech and association rights have the “right of the people to be secure in their persons, searches and seizures” as well as the requirement for guarantees have been violated, not only by physical permitted under the PATRIOT act, according to Jordan. records held by banks, bookstores, libraries, and medical

When the PATRIOT act passed in October 2001, moderates and civil libertarians in Congress agreed to support it only by making many critical provisions temporary. Those provisions will expire, or "sunset," at the end of 2005 unless Congress re-authorizes them. But Republicans in the Senate in recent days have discussed a proposal, written by Senator Orrin G. Hatch that would repeal the sunset provisions and make the law's new powers permanent, officials said. Republicans may seek to move on the proposal by trying to attach it to another antiterrorism bill that would make it easier for the government to use secret surveillance warrants against "lone wolf" terrorism suspects.

Prez Sez--- Lee Manak

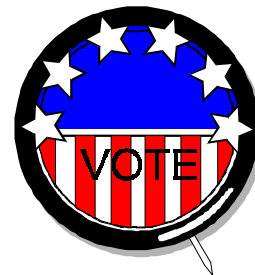
What an interesting and educational three years I have had as your local League President! Little did I know that when I joined League in 1997, I would accept your nomination as a member of the Board of Directors and then the Presidency within such a short period of time. Much has been learned and acted upon during this opportunity in hopes that, as your President, you observed it as productive and positive.

The Prez Sez columns in this VOTER newsletter were written with the intent to keep you apprised of our activities and to spur your interest in participation. Within this newsletter you will find a brief review of some of our recent and current activities.

Our Citizens of Achievement Reception event held in February was very successful due to the many contributions and donations of food and members who served on committees. Thank you all.

The opportunity to present League and our local activities to the Senior Class at the NEW Kaiser High School in Fontana on April 18th was very rewarding and a lot of fun. Their questions were challenging, to say the least. Of course, I left Voter Registration forms with the teacher, Kim McKinney.

Our 48th Annual Meeting on April 26 at the Radisson Hotel in San Bernardino was conducted with the nomination and



election of your 2003-2004 Officers and Board of Directors. Thank you to all the Board Members including those off Board Directors I have served with and especially to those League members over the years who gave me a positive response when I called upon you to fulfill a task or project. I wish the new Officers and Board members much success and a lot of fun.

Yes, I had a chance to embrace an opportunity. I'm telling you----I gave it a good hug.

LWVC Participates in Campaign Finance Reform 'Summit'

A "summit" meeting of representatives from nine California organizations committed to campaign finance reform took place in March in Oakland. Organized by the California Clean Money Campaign, it included people from the LWV California, California Common Cause, California Public Interest Research Group, Center for Governmental Studies, Center for Voting and Democracy, Democracy Matters, Greenlining Institute, and the Southwest Voter Registration and Education Project and William C. Velasquez Institute.



All agreed on the long-term goal of full public financing of elections. Ideas for medium-range, short-range, and immediate goals were discussed. Planning will continue toward a large public forum as a starting point for work on specific campaign reform projects. The second "summit" is scheduled for May.
----Marion Taylor, Government Director, mtaylor@got.net

LWVC Supports 2, Opposes 1 March 2004 Ballot Measures

State Budget: Amending Requirements for Passage in Legislature:

The LWVC Board voted to support an initiative aimed at the March 2004 ballot that would amend the state Constitution and statutes by making major changes in how the state budget is passed. It would change the required vote to pass the budget, as well as tax increases or decreases and other legislation related to the budget, from two-thirds to 55% of each house of the Legislature. Legislators and the Governor would forfeit their salaries and expenses each day they fail to pass a budget after the constitutionally mandated deadline. The Legislature would be required to stay in session and could not consider any other bills not related to the budget, except emergency bills recommended by the Governor, until the budget was passed. A "rainy day" reserve fund would also be created to set aside money in good economic times when revenues exceed what is needed for existing programs. This would be used in times of economic downturn to reduce the need for drastic cuts in programs or increases in taxes.

The initiative would require the Controller to prepare a two-page summary explaining how state funds are spent and include it in the state ballot pamphlet at every statewide election. The summary would also direct readers to a state web site that includes voting records of legislators on the budget and related legislation. The measure would also add a provision that no officer, committee or member of the Legislature shall threaten or punish any member for his or her vote on the budget or related bills. Complaints of violations could be filed with the ethics committees of each house, which could investigate, make recommendations on action, including censure, and make their findings public.

LWVC's State and Local Finances position calls for "a process that allows adoption of revenue and finance measures by a simple majority vote," and measures that "facilitate accountability to the public by the unit of government which collects the revenues and which delivers the services." Although we support a simple majority vote, we supported Proposition 39 of 2002 that changed the required vote for passage of local school bonds to 55% on the grounds that it was a significant step in the right direction, and the Board believes that is also the case here.

We also support relevant, easily understood information on election issues in the ballot pamphlet. We have no positions on some of the other features of the measure, but neither do they appear to contravene any positions. They are intended to require greater accountability on the part of the Legislature.

Only two other states, Rhode Island and Arkansas, require a two-thirds vote to pass a budget. In California, the requirement has meant ever longer delays that work severe hardships even in good economic times. It has not led to compromise, but has simply become a bargaining process of holding out until the necessary votes are "bought" by provisions for special interests. In hard economic times, delays work even greater hardships and uncertainty, hurting our credit rating and raising the cost of borrowing money.

School Bond Measure:

The Board has agreed to reaffirm its previous intent to support the school bond measure already set to be placed on the March 2004 primary ballot. This is a \$12.3 billion bond measure that is the second part of the legislation that put last



November's Proposition 47 on the ballot. It includes \$10 billion for K-12 school facilities, with approximately half for new construction and a quarter each for modernization and critically overcrowded schools. The remaining \$2.3 billion would be allocated to the community college system.

Racial Privacy Initiative:

The Board also reaffirmed its decision to oppose Ward Connerly's initiative, which has now qualified for the March 2004 ballot. The measure bans "classifying" based on race, color, ethnicity or national origin in public education, contracting, or employment, or in other government operations, with some limited exceptions. It would stop the state from collecting or compiling statistics in vital areas such as public health and education. This would make it difficult to target programs and funding to the populations most in need of them, and would mean that statistics would not be readily available to track positive or negative trends in society. Our opposition is based on the LWVUS Equality of Opportunity position, which has been interpreted to support a broad range of affirmative action and outreach measures that would be hard to implement or monitor without statistical support.

WOMEN'S CONFERENCE 2003 May 16 at CSUSB

Congressman Baca invites everyone to the annual women's conference at CSUSB, "Local to Global: Everything you need to know about women's issues today." It will take place May 16 at 8 a.m. in the Upper Commons. There will be speakers, interactive workshops, and an update on current legislation for women. Expect to learn about legislation, issues, important information for today's and enjoy opportunities to network. Free admission, continental breakfast and lunch. Call Shannon or Jennifer 885-2222 for reservations by May 12.

LETTERS

A new feature of your VOTER debuts with this issue. Members who have questions about League policies or for whom there is an issue burning in their brain, may write a letter (prefer email) to the VOTER editor. Today's issue is one that seems to have been buried though LWVC has a great position on it: REDISTRICTING.

*Though members of LWVSB as well as elected officials of local jurisdictions dutifully participated in the hearings that were held, even in San Bernardino, it seems we were talking to the wall. League's position on redistricting states that the goal of redistricting should NOT be to protect incumbents nor prefer treatment of one political party. Standards should include respect for boundaries of cities and counties and preservation and protection of 'communities of interest.' League also calls for vesting redistricting responsibility in a bipartisan special commission with membership including citizens at large, representatives of public **interest** groups and minority group interests.*

The public hearings of 2000 were a charade. They resemble the fragments left after Humpty Dumpty had his great fall. If you have a fast Internet connection, see the redistricting map at our website

(<http://www.lwvnet.org/lwv/ca/lwvsanbernardino>) for an idea of the mess made of redistricting. Examples are Assembly District 59, which stretches from Apple Valley to Arcadia, to Los Angeles to Mentone to Redlands and San Bernardino. Then there is Assembly District 63 from Upland to San Bdnno, Highland, Redlands, Riverside, and Yucaipa. The Assemblyman for #59 has his office in Monrovia, while #63's is in Rancho Cucamonga. How does such a patchwork serve local jurisdictions?---Your editor, Marion White Vassilakos



KNOW YOUR ELECTED OFFICIALS

President George W. Bush, The White House, Washington, DC 20500
Gov. Gray Davis, 3737 Main St., #201, Riverside, CA 92501 (909) 680-6860
Senator Barbara Boxer, 201 No. E St., San Bdnno 92401, (909) 888-8525
Senator Dianne Feinstein, 750 B St., San Diego 92101, (619) 231-9712
Representative Jerry Lewis, Rayburn Bldg., Washington, DC 20515 (909) 862-6030
Representative Joe Baca, Longworth Bldg., Washington, DC 20515 (909) 885-2222
State Senator Jim Brulte, 10681 Foothill, # 325, Rancho Cuc., 91730 (909) 466-9096
State Senator Nell Soto, 215 N. D, #101, SanBdnno, (909) 3813832
Assemblywoman Gloria Negrete McLeod, 4959 Palo Verde, #108C, Montclair, (909) 621-7483
Assemblyman John Longville, 201 N. E, #205, San Bdnno, (909) 388-1413
Bob Dutton, 8577 Haven Ave. #210, Rancho Cucamonga 91730, (909) 466-4180
Assemblyman Dennis Mountjoy, 135-A W. Lemon Ave., Monrovia 91016 1-888-377-2212



LWVSB is online !

A website for our League has been established at <http://lwvsanbernardino.ca.lwvnet.org/>
We will have our VOTER available there soon for those who cannot wait for the exciting news summarized monthly. Already you can access LWVSB's calendar of future events, LWV news, position statements, LWV principles, officers, election information, membership forms, and links to other League sites.

Many THANKS to Jill Vassilakos-Long for establishing this website
and to Matthew, who will help keep it up to date.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

- * YES, I want to add my voice to yours by joining the League of Women Voters as a part of your voice for citizens and force for change. I enclose: (see choices that follow)
- * \$40 One Year individual membership
- * \$60 Household (for one year membership, 2 members sharing an address)
- * \$30 Student membership (one year)
- * I'm unable to join the League at this time but enclose a Contribution of \$_____
- * Please send me more Information.

NAME/NAMES: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

PHONE: DAY/EVENING _____ / _____ EMAIL _____

Please make checks payable to League of Women Voters and return with this application form to:
League of Women Voters, San Bernardino, 568 No. Mountain View #150, San Bernardino, CA 92401-1218

LWV of San Bernardino Board of Directors

| | | |
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| VOTER Distribution Off Board Dir. | John Weininger | (909) 885-2222 |
| Louise Thompson, (909) 883-6602; Alex Sharp (909) 862-8851, Mary Colvin (909) 864-5539; Jenny Overton (909) 883-9801; Nominating Committee: Kathy Roberts Chair, Millie McKim, Juanita Scott, Alex Sharp, Louise Thompson. | | |

Abbreviations: LWV -League of Women Voters; SB -San Bernardino; LWVC – LWVCalifornia; SBPL – San Bernardino PublicLibrary; SBCo – San Bernardino County; USSCt – U.S. Supreme Court

**LWVSB THANKS MR. DITTO'S GRAPHIC ARTS CLASS
AT SAN GORGONIO HIGH SCHOOL FOR THEIR HELP IN PRINTING
THE 'VOTER'**

****LWVSB Members extend their deep sympathy to Louise Thompson upon the loss of her sister****

LWVUS Bd. Prioritizes Issues for Action

--from Kay Maxwell, LWVUS President

Among issues for action addressed by the LWVUS at a Board meeting is the following statement sent to LWVSB regarding the conflict in Iraq:

"We [LWVUS] believe that the United Nations should be an important component of U.S. foreign policy. We support U.S. policies that strengthen the UN's capacity to solve global problems and believe that the U.S. should work actively and constructively within the UN system, exercising diplomatic leadership in advance of decision-making."

The League of Women Voters, a nonpartisan political organization, encourages the informed and active participation of citizens in government and influences public policy through education and advocacy. LWV does not support or oppose any political party or any candidate. It does, however, take action on selected government issues in the public interest.

QUOTE OF THE MONTH: "The extremists who perpetrated the attacks [Sept. 11] did not want to simply destroy American landmarks of industry and government, they wanted to destroy *America as America*, to demolish the foundations upon which American culture and freedom...are built upon. To set aside the lessons of 225 years of American freedom...as politically or practically inexpedient in a time of 'war,' would be to allow the extremists to win by surrendering who we are as a nation. If the American people accept a form of police statism in the name of a promise of personal security, that would be the greatest defeat imaginable."

-- **Forfeiting** "Enduring Freedom" for "Homeland Security," Rutherford Institute, John W. Whitehead, Pres.

OLDIES BUT GOODIES: If you multiply two even numbers you get an even number, and if you multiply an odd and an even, you get an even number. The only way to get an odd number is to multiply two odds. So why aren't there more even than odd numbers?

CALENDAR

| | |
|-----------------|--|
| May 14 – 18 | LWVC Convention, Oakland Marriott |
| May 16 (Friday) | Women's Conference, 8 a.m., CSUSB |
| May 31 (Sat.) | Neighborhood Summit, 8 a.m. – 2:30 p.m., SBCUSD Adult School, Base Line & E St.. |
| May | LWVSB Bd. mtng. to be determined by incoming Board |

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS
OF SAN BERNARDINO
568 No. Mt. View Ave. Ste. 150
San Bernardino, CA 92401

May/June 2003



Today's VOTER

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF SAN BERNARDINO
Recent Activities and Accomplishments

- Established our local League Website February 27, 2003.
<http://sanbernardino.ca.lwvnet.org/>
- January 31, 2003, President Lenore Manak was appointed to the San Bernardino Community College District citizen's oversight committee representing taxpayers. The committee is in charge of making sure the district spends the money only for the purposes provided in the November 2002 Measure P Referendum that authorized the bond measure.
- February 7, 2003- Conducted and monitored a Pro-Con Forum at the Feldheym Central Library on the issue of war with Iraq.
- February 23, 2003- Held our 27th Citizens of Achievement Awards Reception at the San Bdn. County Government Center where we recognized 23 individuals for their outstanding volunteerism efforts in their communities.
- March 29, 2003- Community Meeting was held at Roberto's Restaurant in the Highland area . The presenter was Attorney Don Jordan, who addressed recent legislation about homeland security and its impact on civil rights. He spoke on Individual's Rights, the Bill of Rights, The First, Third, and Fourth Amendments, and Patriot Acts I and II. This presentation was timely in view of National attention at the time. League of Women Voters has a position on Individual Liberties, which states:
" The League of Women Voters of the United States believes in the individual liberties guaranteed by the Constitution of the United States. The League is convinced that individual rights now protected by the Constitution should not be weakened or abridged."
- April 18, 2003- Presented program at Kaiser High School in Fontana for 20 Senior Students on "What is the League of Women Voters" and particularly events our local League has been involved in. Included Voter registration forms.
- April 26, 2003- LWVSB held our Annual Meeting and luncheon at the Radisson Convention Center in the Sycamore Room from 10:00-2:00 p.m. Scott Konopasek, Registrar of Voters, presented information re- the proposed computerized voting..
- May 31, 2003- Community University Partnerships, Cal State, in which our League is one of the partnerships, will be hosting a community meeting at the San Bernardino Adult Education School. Goal: To get community groups together to work on community improvement. A few of the partners in this group are from local churches, the Neighborhood Housing Services, and the police and probation departments.
- Our League just completed a League of Women Voters of California study looking at our own local Community College District in reference to the areas of Mission, Governance, and Finances. Our findings were sent to the State League where information from all Community College Districts in the state will be compiled. The state League will then formulate a position for consensus by League members to include the Community Colleges. Our current position on education includes K-12 only.

- Our local League is a member of LOCAL, "Leave our community assets local" which is an organization throughout the state of California developed as the result of the budget crisis.
- Our local League members are members of the San Bernardino County Million Mom March national organization, which is very active on sensible gun control.
- Our local League has been closely monitoring the City of San Bernardino Lakes and Streams project now known as the Revitalization Plan.
- In the recent past, our local League testified before the State of California Reapportionment and Redistricting committee chaired by Assemblyman John Longville.
- In the recent past, our local League testified before the San Bernardino County Board of Supervisors on two issues.
 - 1. Supporting the taping and televising of board meetings, which now occurs.
 - 2. The morning after pill ban that the Board of Supervisors wanted to do in this county at county clinics. This did not pass. The League opposed banning the pill.
- We have local members who are on the Observer Corp. Members attend meetings of the Board of Supervisors, San Bernardino City Council, and the San Bernardino District School Board. Information brought before the League board of directors.
- Men have been members in the League for many years. LWVSB have men on the board of directors and our local League had a male president from 1997-99. We have 19 men in our local League.
- Voter Education and Voter Services are our main focus. We have a close relationship with the San Bernardino County Registrar of Voters office staff. Members serve in various ways.
 - 1. Many members serve on Election Day as clerks, supervisors, or troubleshooters at the polls.
 - 2. Members are present for the Logic and Accuracy Testing Procedures performed at the Registrar of Voters Office before an election.
 - 3. Voter Registration is performed all year long in front of stores, at colleges or universities, and League events.
 - 4. Participated as committee and community member in the opportunity to use electronic voting machines, which will be in use in 2004.
- We educate the community on the State Ballot Measures called the Pro Con Meeting. League helps the voter better understand what the ballot measure states. League does not take a position during these meetings. State and Local Leagues do take positions on the ballot measure.
- Last year when there was a problem at the Registrar of Voters office on a computer input error in an election, League members assisted in a hand count and our president served as the Official Observer for a full week.
- Conduct candidate election forums in the community: We conducted forums for San Bernardino County District Attorney's race, County Assessor's race on KVCR TV, and City Council races for San Bernardino and Highland.