

Your VOTER

(GUIDE TO LWV SAN BERNARDINO ISSUES, ACTION, & INFO)

PIZZA, POLITICS, AND PARTY Woooooeee!!

Pizza will share the stage with the ballot measures facing voters on the March ballot and LWVSB's celebration of League's 84th birthday. Pros and Cons will be available, and discussion promises to be lively. Board members will provide pizza, salads, beverages, and birthday cake before discussion begins.

All members are urged to attend: 6 p.m., Thursday, Feb. 12, at Ruth Petrucci's, 5276 Sepulveda, San Bdn. For more information, call Gloria (338-4163).

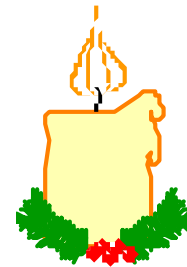
DEMOCRATIC PRESIDENTIAL HOPEFULS DEBATE FEB. 22

LWV is sponsoring the Democratic presidential candidates' debate Sunday, Feb. 22, in Los Angeles. The debate will be televised on NBC. Mark your calendars for 6 to 8 p.m.

VIGIL COMMORATES ROE v WADE JAN. 22

A candlelight vigil will commemorate the 31st anniversary of Roe v. Wade on Thursday, Jan. 22. Those who wish to be a part of this ceremony are asked to assemble at 5:30 p.m. on San Bernardino Civic Plaza near the Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial. Councilperson and LWV member Susan Lien Longville will speak as will the Reverend Audrey Turner of Clergy for Choice. The event is scheduled to last until 7:30 p.m. It is sponsored by Planned Parenthood of Orange and San Bdn Counties and Clergy for Choice.

Candles will be provided. RSVP to Silissa Uriarte-Smith by Jan. 21 (909) 890-5515 or <PublicAffairs@pposbc.org>.



CITIZENS OF ACHIEVEMENT PROCESS IN MOTION

Susan Nieblas, LWVSB's Reproductive Choice director, has taken the lead in delegating responsibilities for a successful Citizens of Achievement Reception. Nominations for awardees are due by the end of this month, so if you have not mailed them, there is still time. The event is scheduled for 2-4 p.m., Sunday, March 28, at the San Bdn County Government Center.

Board members have agreed to perform many of the major tasks. Involved besides Susan are Gloria Anderson, Micaela Cruz, Ruth Petrucci, Barbara Sokoloff, and Marion Vassilakos. Included in this month's YOUR VOTER is a **form for members and friends to fill out in order to volunteer their help for the C of A reception**. It is critical for LWVSB to succeed in this endeavor to recognize community volunteers by means of this reception. Please fill out the form and return it or phone Gloria (338-4163) or Susan: (337-6564).

**'EASY VOTER GUIDES' DISTRIBUTED FROM Sokoloffs', 3324 Sepulveda, SBDno
PROS AND CONS AVAILABLE AT Petruccis', 5276 Sepulveda, San Bdn**

LWVSB BOARD AGREES TO SUGGEST SCOPE OF "LAKES" EIR

Mickey Cruz attended the Jan. 14 meeting at which the Lakes and Streams environmental impact report will be discussed. The object of the meeting is to delineate the scope of the EIR. LWVSB will respond the documents Mickey obtains. This 55 page document "Notice of Preparation of an EIR Impact Report," is available from City Hall for \$8.30 or free on the city website <www.ci.san-bernardino.ca.us>. Click on "Downtown Revitalization" on the right of the home page and proceed from there.

The Board thinks it is important for LWVSB to be involved in this process. Contact Gloria Anderson for further information.

PLANS FOR FUTURE INCLUDE CIVIL LIBERTIES FORUM

LWVSB Board decided to ally with other organizations to sponsor a Civil Liberties forum in April or May. Planning targets a Saturday morning and possible lunch. Speakers would address the balance between homeland security and our Bill of Rights. Directors will contact other groups who would be interested in the future of United States policy.

FOR INFO RE- DRE's, SEE <http://www.lwv.org/join/elections/hava_dre_crs-report.pdf>

OBSERVER CORPS REPORTS ON COUNTY SUPS' MEETINGS

Barbara Sokoloff reported that the interim appointed supervisor pointed out Sbdno County's budget is \$57,000,000 short. This will mean drastic cuts in County services. A group of parents who were objecting to Child Protective Services taking their children and placing them in foster care testified before the Board. It was pointed out for those who are concerned about the issue that LWVC does have a child advocacy committee.

PICK UP PROS AND CONS TO DISTRIBUTE TO YOUR ORGANIZATIONS



The Board agreed that "Easy Voter Guides" and "Pros and Cons" will be delivered to the homes of Barbara Sokoloff, 3324 Sepulveda Ave., and Ruth Petrucci, 5276 Sepulveda Ave. They should arrive by the end of January. Call Barbara at 886-8694 and Ruth at 883-5991 to ascertain whether the shipments have been delivered. These voter information pamphlets are no good if they lie around, so come get them and take them to the meetings you attend every month.

MAXWELL LETTER RE- P.L. 107-252 HELP AMERICA VOTE ACT

Excerpts from LWV President Kay Maxwell's letter to Commissioner Soaries of the Election Assistance Commission re- DRE ((Direct Recording Electronic) voting machines is excerpted:

"There are a variety of practices that would improve the security of electronic voting systems. Among these are a prohibition on wireless and Internet connections and the development and enforcement of statewide security plans for voting machines. Some states, Maryland for example, are already pursuing statewide procedural and management techniques to ensure the security of their electronic voting systems. We believe that all the states, and the nation's voters, would benefit if the Commission were to describe those 'best practices,' including polling place operations, that can be put in place for the 2004 election to improve security for each type of voting system.

"In addition to fundamental security considerations, there are two other areas where the public will expect improvements during the 2004 election process, and where basic guidance from the Commission would be helpful." [Maxell suggests uniform provisional ballot opportunities as set forth in the League publication "A Guide to Implementing the New Federal Provisional Ballot Requirement." She also offers cautions re- purging of voters from the roles and calls for timely and accurate processing of voter registrants.]



YOU CAN DECIDE ON UPDATED PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION POSITION

During the LWVUS 2002 Convention delegates voted to update the League's Presidential Election position. A task force of state and local League representatives has been working with the LWVUS Board and staff to guide the update process. Now EVERY MEMBER input is needed! Background information has been in recent issues of the NATIONAL VOTER that you all receive three times a year.

The League has testified and lobbied for legislation to amend the Constitution to replace the Electoral College with direct election. The measure, which passed the House and nearly passed the Senate in 1971, has been revived in each Congress. In 1997, the LWVUS, in testimony before the House Subcommittee on the Constitution, again called for abolition of the Electoral College and for direct election of the President and Vice President. The League has also supported national voting qualifications and procedures for presidential elections to ensure equity for voters from all states and to facilitate the electoral process.

Today the process of electing the President is dominated by questions of campaign strategy and campaign

finance, the role of the parties in the primaries and caucuses leading up to the convention, the role of the media and the effect of developing technologies. **Every member's opinion counts.**

You will find the proposed position, along with a response form, in your **January/February 2004 NATIONAL VOTER**, now in the mail, and online in the Position Update section of the LWVUS members' site.

IT'S EASY TO PARTICIPATE.

We are being asked whether we strongly support, accept, or do not accept the proposed position. After you have studied the position and formed your opinion, send in your concurrence response to the LWVUS office, preferably online in the Position Update section of the LWVUS members' site (<http://www.lwv.org/concurrence/>). Or you may respond by mail.

Postmark deadline is March 1, 2004. Online deadline is March 4, 2004.

ONE DOLLAR FOR UNFPA

--from Jane Roberts

All we ask is one dollar from 34 million Americans to reach out to the world for women's reproductive health, family planning and safe motherhood. This campaign has caught the imagination of well over 100,000 Americans, one can read some of their letters on the web or at www.unfpa.org with a click on 34 Million Friends.

You can contribute by sending \$1 to U.S. Committee for UNFPA, 3800 Arapahoe Ave. Suite 210, Boulder, CO 80303. Ted Turner's U.N. Foundation is paying the necessary overhead for this, so all of the money goes to UNFPA's humanitarian work. I'm a 30 member of LWV. The National Council of Women's Organizations, the umbrella group for LWV and AAUW, has unanimously endorsed this campaign. If everyone will spread the word, 34 Million Friends is achievable.

---<julianrob@aol.com>

PROP 56 NEEDED TO UPGRADE 'GOLDEN STATE' CREDIT RATING

In December Moody's Investment Service cut California's credit rating for the third time in the last 10 months. California now has the same credit rating as Puerto Rico, Malaysia, Thailand, Chile and Lithuania. Moody analysts noted that despite the election of a new governor, lawmakers were still unable to reach consensus on solutions to the state's budget problems.

"The only thing that will rescue California from our seemingly unending fiscal crisis is systemic reform of our state's budget process," said Jacqueline Jacobberger, President of the League of Women Voters of California.

"The League supports Proposition 56 because it is the real reform California needs."

"California's fiscal health continues to be a victim of budget gridlock," said Lenny Goldberg of the California Tax Reform Association. "The legislature's chronic inability to reach consensus means the fifth largest economy in the world is heading for a Third World credit rating. Proposition 56 is needed now, more than ever."

Proposition 56, the Budget Accountability Act, will break the cycle of gridlock and hold the Governor and legislature more accountable for passing a responsible budget on time. It includes provisions to:

- Permanently forfeit the Governor's and legislators' salaries for every day that the budget is late;
 - Require the legislature to remain in session and work on only budget-related legislation until the budget is passed;
 - Give voters information about the budget in the ballot pamphlet and on an easy-to-use web site;
 - End partisan gridlock by reducing the vote threshold to adopt the state budget and related tax legislation from two-thirds to 55%;
 - Require the state to create a "rainy day" fund of 5% in times of surplus.
- For more information on how late and irresponsible budgets impact real people, please visit <www.budgetaccountabilitynow.org>.

LWVSB WEBSITE LINKING
TO ONLINE 'YOUR VOTER' <www.lwvsanbernardino.ca.lwvnet.org/>
or find site via google

LWVSB THANKS OFFICE DEPOT
FOR HELP IN REPRODUCING THIS 'VOTER'

KNOW YOUR ELECTED OFFICIALS

President George W. Bush, The White House, Washington, DC 20500
Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger, State Capitol, Sacramento, CA 95814
Senator Barbara Boxer, 201 No. E St., San Bdn 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, Cannon 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, SanBdn, (909) 3813832
Assemblywoman Gloria Negrete McLeod, 4959 Palo Verde, #108C, Montclair, (909) 621-7483
Assemblyman John Longville, 201 N. E, #205, San Bdn, (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

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)**
- * **\$50 One Year individual membership**
- * **\$75 Household (for one year membership, 2 members sharing an address)**
- * **\$40 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**

LWW OF CALIFORNIA HAS TAKEN A POSITION ON TWO OF THE FOUR BALLOT MEASURES THAT APPEAR ON THE MARCH 2 PRIMARY ELECTION BALLOT. THE LEAGUE DID NOT HAVE SUFFICIENT TIME TO STUDY OR DID NOT HAVE A LEAGUE POSITION RELATING TO MEASURES 57 AND 58 AND CONSEQUENTLY DOES NOT HAVE RECOMMENDATIONS REGARDING THOSE MEASURES.

YES ON PROPOSITION 55 STATEWIDE SCHOOL BONDS

Support Proposition 55-Kindergarten-University Public Education Facilities Bond Act of 2004.

This \$12.3 billion bond measure is the second phase of a school construction and repair plan to meet expanding state needs. The first part passed overwhelmingly as Proposition 47 in 2002. This measure includes \$10 billion for K-12 school facilities, with about half for new construction and a quarter each for modernization and critically overcrowded schools. There is also \$2.3 billion for higher education (community colleges and the CSU and UC systems) that has been hard hit by the state budget crisis. The state treasurer confirms that in these hard economic times, it is important to continue our long-term investment in education facilities. Prop. 55 will provide state matching funds for locally approved school bonds. It will create hundreds of thousands of new jobs and stimulate the local economy, while holding to strict accountability standards. California's total school population is projected to increase by one million in the next decade; higher education expects 700,000 additional students. Prop. 55 will provide our kids the safe, clean learning environment essential to improving student achievement.

For more information: www.yeson55.com

YES ON PROPOSITION 56 BUDGET ACCOUNTABILITY ACT

Support Proposition 56 for real budget reform that holds our legislators accountable.

This measure is designed to end the legislative gridlock which has prevented the state from dealing responsibly with the challenges of passing a budget. It holds legislators accountable by requiring them to pass the budget on time or face real consequences. They would have to stay in session and work only on the budget, and would forfeit both their salary and expenses until the job was done. Voters could learn how legislators voted on the budget from an easy-to-use Web site, and the Voter Information Guide (ballot pamphlet) would contain a summary of how the state's money is spent.

This constitutional amendment would end partisan gridlock by reducing the vote required to pass the state budget and related bills, including tax measures, from two-thirds to 55 percent. Only two other states routinely require a two-thirds vote to pass a budget. This high threshold has given a handful of California legislators the ability to demand concessions, such as spending on projects in their districts or tax breaks for special interests, to get their support for a budget. Under Prop. 56, the state would build up a "rainy day" reserve fund when revenues are greater than needed to fund existing services, and use the fund to maintain service levels in bad times. Late, irresponsible budgets hurt all the people of California-Proposition 56 will bring real reform of the budget process now.

For more information: www.budgetaccountabilitynow.org

VOTE WITH THE LEAGUE ON MARCH 2

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF CALIFORWA o 801 12th STREET, SUITE 220 o SACRAMENTO, CA 95814
916-442-7215/Fax 916-442-7362 o E-mail: lwvc@lwvc.org o Web site: <http://ca.lwv.org>

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.

LWV of San Bernardino Board of Directors

Vice President	Gloria Anderson	(909) 338-4163
Secretary		
Treasurer	Ruth Petrucci	(909) 883-5991
Director Voters Service		
Director Observer Corps	Barbara Sokoloff	(909) 886-8604
Director Reproductive Choice	Susan Nieblas	(909) 337-6564
Director VOTER Editor	Marion Vassilakos	(909) 864-3805
Membership Director	Margaret Rodgers	(909) 882-7471
Director Spec. Project	Micaela Cruz	(909) 887-9296
World Trade/UN Studies, Off Bd. Dir.	Katharine Roberts	(909) 886-1983
Website Off Board Director	Jill Vassilakos-Long	(909) 863-1450
VOTER Distribution Off Board Dir.	John Weininger	(909) 885-2222
Alex Sharp (909) 862-8851; Nominating Committee: Esther Streator, Bobbi Terrell, Teresa Parra, Barbara Sokoloff, Margaret Rodgers		

ABBREVIATIONS: DRE – Direct Recording Electronic voting machines, i.e. touchscreen voting.

QUOTE OF THE MONTH: "I think that would be a good idea." Mahatma Gandhi when asked what he thought of western civilization.

OLDIES BUT GOODIES: A husband and wife were arguing about who should brew the morning coffee. He claimed, as chief cook, she should; and she claimed since he was up first, he should. Then she added, "Besides it ways in the Bible that it's your job." When he demanded to see that, she fetched the Bible and opened it to Hebrews.

CALENDAR

Jan. 22 (Thurs.)	Candlelight vigil re- reproductive choice, SB City Hall plaza, 5:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.
Feb. 11 (Wed.)	Board meeting, 1 p.m., Krueper Bldg., 568 Mtn. View, San Bdno.
Feb. 12 (Thurs.)	B-day, pizza, and pros and cons, 6 p.m., Petrucci's, 5276 Sepulveda, SB
Mar. 2 (Tues.)	Primary elections
Mar. 28 (Sun.)	Citizens of Achievement reception, 2 – 4 p.m., County Govt. Center, Sbdno.
April or May	Community organizations meet re- Civil Rights
May 22 (Sat.)	LWVSB Annual Meeting, location tentative
June	LWVUS biennial convention, Washington, DC

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

TIME SENSITIVE MATERIAL

JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2004

YOUR VOTER

