

Your VOTER

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

BALANCING CIVIL RIGHTS AND NATIONAL SECURITY

Featured at our Saturday, May 15, meeting will be the Bill of Rights, the Patriot Act, and Homeland Security. A panel of experts will discuss how to balance the Constitutional issues under increased surveillance that has been authorized under Homeland Security. Should America's Constitutionally guaranteed freedoms remain secure when the country is threatened by terrorists? The meeting will take place from 10 a.m. to noon at the Feldhym Library, 555 Sixth St., San Bdn. Bring your thinking caps.

The event is a voter service project of LWVSB and is co-sponsored by the San Bernardino Public Library. For more information, contact Gloria Anderson <glorand@juno.com> (909) 338-4163).

HONORABLE PATRICK MORRIS TO SPEAK AT ANNUAL MEETING MAY 22

You should have received your LWVSB annual meeting kit in the mail by now. The luncheon meeting will take place beginning at 10 a.m. (Sat.) May 22, at the Arrowhead Country Club.

Officers for LWVSB 2004/05 will be elected, instructions will be given to National Convention delegate, and the program for the fiscal year will be decided. Our speaker will be LWVSB member the Honorable Patrick Morris, San Bernardino Superior Court, who will describe the Mental Health Court established in 2000. In the STAR treatment (Supervised Treatment After Release) program, offenders are placed in an intensive mental health treatment program instead of jail. These are nonviolent criminal cases where the offenders are required to live in board-and-care facilities and receive counseling, medications and supervision.

Don't miss this opportunity to participate and converse with your League friends. Guests are welcome. Remember to make reservations for yourself and guests by **May 15** deadline, and BRING YOUR ANNUAL MEETING KIT.

PUBLIC WORKSHOP ABOUT PROPOSED CITY CHARTER MAY 17

Leaguers are urged to attend a public workshop concerning the draft city charter at 7 p.m., Monday, May 17, in the City Council chamber. The proposed charter that was crafted without public input is 41 pages long and, among other changes, calls for a city manager, curtails some mayoralty powers, and makes recall of elected officials easier. The LWVSB Board authorized Mickey Cruz to request a public workshop during the April 17 Council meeting.

A copy of the draft charter may be downloaded from <<http://www.ci.san-bernardino.ca.us/>> Click on "Draft Charter" on the right of the city's home page, and voila there is the 41-page draft charter in pdf format.

A few of the changes from the city's 1905 charter include:

Sec. 39. The Mayor's directives and/or decisions may be overridden, amended, etc. by a 2/3 majority vote of the Council. The existing charter uses the word "executive order."

Sec. 40 (d) "License ~~Tax~~ **Fee**. Council shall have power to license for purposes of ~~regulation and~~ revenue all and every kind of business, occupations, shows, exhibitions, and lawful games carried on in the City and to fix the rate of license ~~tax- fee~~ thereon."

Perhaps Sec. 40 (d) is changed because of changes in State law since 1978, but Sec. 40(e) seems to cover that. So, why Sec. 40 (d)? The California Budget Project defines a tax as "a charge against an individual or landowner that pays for public services and facilities that PROVIDE GENERAL BENEFITS." A fee is "a voluntary charge imposed on an individual for a service or facility PROVIDED DIRECTLY TO THAT INDIVIDUAL; it cannot exceed the estimated reasonable cost of providing a service or facility or else it is considered a special tax." Local governments are not required to gain voter approval for a new or increased fee, but they must hold a public hearing on the proposed fee and notify the public of the hearing 10 days in advance.

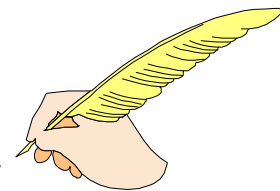
Prop. 218 (1996) required majority voter approval for all local general taxes and 2/3 voter approval for all local special taxes. Property related fees required majority voter approval. Property related fees are taxes and not fees if such fees are used for general public services. --from the California Budget Project

DRAFT CHARTER:

The role of the Mayor, Sec. 40 (s) et seq., is still that of a strong mayor, but a City Manager has general supervision over operations of city departments and reporting City's financial condition. In the existing charter, there is no mention of the appointed City Administrator, who serves at the Mayor's behest, and thus no enumerated duties.

The mayor, designated "chief executive officer and chief spokesperson," appoints and has general supervision of a City Manager (CM), Police Chief (PC), and Fire Chief (FC) with consent or approval of the Council. The Mayor may suspend or dismiss for cause the above officers.

Sec. 104 of the draft makes the CM the authority over city departments: Mayor and Council and their staffs cannot issue orders to employees under the authority of the CM, "Except for purpose of inquiry and/or advising of a complaint... the Common Council... shall deal with the administrative service solely through the City Manager, and neither the Mayor, Common Council...[etc.] shall give orders to any of the subordinates of the CM, either publicly or privately."



Sec. 122. Recall. Required signatures change from 25% to 15% of registered voters in the City and retains 25% of registered voters for ward recall. Signature gatherers have 90 days in draft charter vs. 60 days in existing charter. Other deadlines are extended accordingly.

Take this opportunity to read the draft charter via the website. Ask your public library for help if you do not have a home computer. Librarians will help you find what you want.

Ed. Note – It is impossible to address the draft charter in the limited space in YOUR VOTER. Go online to read the draft charter or ask for a copy at the City Attorney's office.



CITIZENS OF ACHIEVEMENT HONORED AT ANNUAL EVENT

All members who participated in LWVSB's annual citizens of achievement enjoyed celebrating with the awardees and greeting friends and guests. Weather cooperated with a clear sunny day.

As each awardee entered, s/he was greeted with a beautiful corsage in bright blue and red flowers. The gentle repast set out included gourmet treats including nuts, fresh fruit, veggies, dips, meats, cheese, nibbles, and desserts. Beverages included wine, fruit juices, water and sugar free drinks.

The ceremony was presided over by V.P. Gloria Anderson and awards presented by former LWVSB presidents Brenda Frederick, Jim Mulvihill, and Juanita Scott.

To League members who donated the food and beverages we thank you. Without your help this event would fail.

Those who took chairmanships for the event include: Gloria Anderson – Biography writer, Certificate preparation, Biography reader selection, Ceremony chair, Program brochure; Ruth Petrucci – Check-in table, Program booklet formatting, Printing, & Proofreading, Liability insurance, Mailing invitations, Reservations; Susan Nieblas – Mailing lists, Non alcoholic beverages, Corsages; Millie McKim – Food; Mickey Cruz – Brochure advertisements, Food telephone committee, Membership table; Decorations; Barbara Sokoloff – Facility details & permits, Food telephone committee; Marion Vassilakos – VOTER info, Purchase and serve wine, tumblers; All Board members – Many mailings, Cleanup. Members pitching in to help pour drinks, replenish the buffet, or fill-in where needed include Jill Vassilakos-Long, John Weininger, Brenda Frederick, Lenore Gross, and many others.

Thanks again to you all for a labor of love and a job well done.

LWVC BALLOT MEASURE RECOMMENDATIONS

Access to Government Information, SCA 1, also known as the Sunshine Amendment. We support this constitutional amendment that would make public access to meetings and public records a constitutional right. It puts the principles behind the Brown Act and other open meeting laws into the state constitution.

Referendum Petition to Overturn Amendments to Health Care Coverage Requirements. The League opposes overturning the Health Insurance Act of 2003 enacted last fall (SB 2, Health Care Coverage Requirements). It will be important to clarify for voters what a YES or NO vote will mean as the proposal is worded on the ballot; the League's position is that we support retaining this law.

The League has taken no position yet on any of the other measures likely to be on the November ballot. At its March meeting, the LWVC Legislation Committee discussed three of them:



Local Taxpayers and Public Safety Protection Act. The purpose is to protect and stabilize local government revenues. It includes provisions requiring voter approval before the Legislature removes local tax dollars from the control of local government "as described in this measure" and allowing local governments to suspend performance of state mandates that are not reimbursed.

Improving Classroom Education Act. This initiative would increase school funding for K-12 education and provide funds for a voluntary universal preschool program. Funds would come from an increase in taxes on commercial real property.

Mental Health Services Act. Petition signatures are being verified for this measure that would provide funds to counties to expand services and develop innovative programs and integrated service plans for mentally ill children, adults and seniors. Funds would come from an added 1 percent tax on incomes that exceed \$1 million.

We decided to wait for more information about the probable impacts of these proposals and to consider carefully conflicts in our positions relating to them. A reminder: Because the LWVC has taken no position, it is not appropriate for local Leagues or League members to gather signatures or otherwise express support or opposition to any of them in the name of the League.

---Marion Taylor, Legislative Dir., <mtaylor@sbcglobal.net>

LWVSB extends sympathy to

Dotti Garcia, former Board member and VOTER editor, on the loss of her mother;

Anita Miller, former Board member, on the loss of her husband Joe, who helped us for many years with the Citizens of Achievement program book

LWVC ISSUES FOR EMPHASIS 2003-2004

State and Local Finances--support equitable and adequate generation and distribution of tax revenues

Health Care--support continued funding of the safety net

Community College System--support stable funding for community colleges.

770 SQ. FT. SIGNS POISED FOR SAN BDNO'S FUTURE?

Though San Bernardino City's Planning Commissioners rejected a proposal by three area businessmen to erect three LARGE electronic message signs along the Interstate 215 near CSUSB and the Arrowhead Credit Union Stadium, and on Rt. 30 above the City Youth Soccer complex, the City is apparently forging ahead with plans. [Does anyone remember the last time giant billboards were an issue? We see the residue at the I-215 – I-10 interchange and in a serious image problem].



The three businesses include Quiet Brothers Signs, Arrowhead Credit Union, and Inland Empire 66ers baseball team. The Council will need to amend the development code to allow the signs that would be designed to carry 90% private advertisements and 10% announcements about local events.

The conceptual sketches of the Rt. 30 sign shows a nearly 38-ft. wide electronic display supported by panels and columns. The 60 ft. high sign dwarfs the outline of a person standing beside it. One panel reads "San Bernardino Soccer Complex". A picture of Olympic gold medalist speed skater Derek Parra is attached with the caption "Home of Derek Parra." Another panel boasts "Youth Sports Capital of the World." Some Council members and the Mayor think the idea is gold.

The 770 sq. ft. signs have support from some Council members and from the Mayor, who has said the signs could help raise San Bernardino's profile and persuade those speeding by to [on impulse] exit and check out the city's youth soccer tournaments, CSUSB's sports teams and Little League's Western Regional tournament.

Planning Commissioners who voted against the project 5/2 hold that the 770 sq. ft. signs would create visual blight near residential areas and provide too little public benefit.

If you want to comment on this issue, you need to discover when it will surface as an agenda item on the Council meeting schedule. San Bdn's City Council meets on the first and third Mondays at 3 p.m. Council agendas are available online 72 hours previous to the meeting. Go to the city website: <www.ci.san-bernardino.ca.us/>. Possible May 3 Vote.

CELEBRATING REPRODUCTIVE FREEDOM SACRAMENTO LOBBY DAY JUNE 8, 9 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Sacramento Convention Center

more info from Jo Ann Madigan (415) 346-0563 <jomadigan@earthlink.net>

PEEKABOO BUDGETING, HIDE AND SEEK POLICY ??

Did you know legislation that fails in a vote may show up in omnibus budgets, such as the one Congress approved on Jan. 22? How does this happen? Was the insertion of policy issues into the 2004 Omnibus Budget Act a circumvention or an evolution of the budget process? What can the public do? Dr. Audrey Mathews, Associate Professor of Public Administration at CSUSB, will address the issue **Sat., June 12**, 1 – 3 p.m., at the Feldheim Library Kellogg Room.

Mathews, currently serving on the County Planning Commission, has experience as budget director of several local governments including D.C., Compton, and Beverly Hills. She has received awards from collegial associations and chaired a forum on water issues at which she also spoke last summer in Dublin at the International Conference of the Academy of Business Administration.



Historically appropriations bills have moved through subcommittees to the floors of the Senate and House. Then a conference committee with members from both houses met and agreed on compromise. Today, the process is short circuited by rolling unresolved issues into an "omnibus bill." This year saw hotly contested legislation buried among the numbers: media ownership, overtime rules, food labeling, gun control background checks, denying funds for world family planning, school vouchers, and more. Pork barrel was rampant also. Come June 12, bring a guest, and learn about the budget that is the blueprint for your tax dollars.

MEMBER SURVEY RESULTS

Remember the member survey earlier this year? Responses have been tabulated. WHAT NEWS GETS THE ADRENALIN SURGING? Members said concerns about budget cuts, weakening of environmental laws, lack of honesty in government, government secrecy, budget deficits, health care, social security, influence of lobbyists, crime, city management/mismanagement, media hype, etc.

Under OTHER ISSUES were similar responsesm, dysfunctional legislature, employment, immigration, space program, tardy action re-dying forests and fire danger. One member favors the PATRIOT Act.

WHY YOU JOINED THE LWV? Mostly because of interest in issues and agreement with LWV's positions, to learn more and stay informed. Others trust LWV, want an opportunity to learn with intelligent men and women, impressed with voter information. One member joined because her mother did, another because she was a guest at a meeting

WHAT LEAGUE SHOULD DO> Voter service, register, get out the vote, hold candidate meetings, keep informed, take action on local issues and watchdog government: library funding, education, health care, urban planning, letters to the editor. Workers' comp.

LANDMARK CASE PROTECTS BIRTH CONTROL COVERAGE

California's Women's Contraceptive Equity Act encountered a bumpy road before its final win in 1999. Gov. Wilson vetoed it 3 times because religious organizations objected to providing coverage for their employees. When the bill was signed by Gov. Davis, "religious employer" had been explicitly defined to be an entity which "primarily employs persons who share the religious tenets of the entity" and that the "inculcation of religious values is the purpose of the entity."



Under this law an employer who provides prescription drug coverage must include approved contraceptive coverage, except under the specific religious exemption. Catholic Charities filed suit to be exempt from providing contraceptives. In March 2004, the California Supreme Court ruled 6-1 that Catholic Charities must provide contraceptives. It is not a religious employer under the provisions of this law because it offers such secular services as counseling, low-income housing, and immigration services to people of all faiths without directly preaching Catholic values. The case may be appealed.

HOW DID THEY VOTE?

San Bernardino County Supervisors: FAMILY PLANNING – In March, Board accepted \$575,329 in federal money for family planning services at county health clinics, including emergency contraception pills that could be distributed to minors. YES VOTES: Biane, Hansberger, Young; NOS: Postmus, Aguiar.

U.S. Senate: HARM TO FETUS – HR 1997 that gives a human fetus "at any stage of development" the same legal rights as its pregnant mother when a federal crime is committed against the mother was passed 61 for and 38 against. VOTING NO: Feinstein, Boxer.

ABORTION RIGHTS – In March Senate defeated alternative to HR 1997 that would have established a separate federal offense for harming a fetus but not define when life begins. VOTING YES: Feinstein, Boxer.

CAMPAIGN FINANCE REFORM: CLEAN MONEY BILL INTRODUCED

The League has long supported the concept of publicly financed campaigns. The Clean Money approach is the most comprehensive and effective way to end undue special interest influence in campaigns for public office. It also would level the playing field and encourage a greater number of qualified candidates to run for office. Today, many potential candidates are discouraged by the huge campaign war chests of incumbents and the need to spend countless hours raising campaign funds.

Clean Money Elections have been implemented in Arizona and Maine for all state elections and in Vermont, Massachusetts, New Mexico, and North Carolina on a more limited basis. The results have led to more qualified and diverse candidates, increased voter turnout, and increased attention to voters' issues. By obtaining a specified number of small contributions to demonstrate broad public support, a candidate can qualify to voluntarily accept a spending limit and then receive public funds to run a viable campaign. Safeguards exist within the regulations that allow an infusion of additional money (up to a defined maximum) to match independent expenditure campaigns or privately funded campaigns that exceed the spending limits.



The LWVC is encouraged that Assemblymember Loni Hancock and her coauthors have introduced The Clean Money and Clean Elections Act of 2004 (AB 2949) in this legislative session. The League has not taken a position in support of AB 2949 because there are many details to be worked out in order to make this the best comprehensive strategy for the financing of campaigns in California. The League is committed to helping in that effort and announced its support of the Clean Money concept at an informational hearing of the Assembly Elections, Reapportionment, and Constitutional Amendments Committee on March 23. A highlight of that hearing was the testimony of Marc Spitzer, Chair of the Arizona Corporations Commission (a statewide elected office), who described his experience running a successful Clean Money campaign and how it freed him to meet with voters and concentrate on the merits of the issues.

The California Clean Money Campaign has groups in many communities that are currently working to educate the public about Clean Money. The LWVC has participated in several "summit" meetings with the CCMC and other organizations that promote campaign finance reform. To learn more details about Clean Money, visit <www.publiccampaign.org> and <www.caclean.org>.

---Donna Chipps, Campaign Financing Director, <lwvc.govt@sbcglobal.net>

LWVSB WEBSITE LINKING

TO ONLINE 'YOUR VOTER' <www.lwvsanbernardino.ca.lwvnet.org/>

or find site via google

THE GOVERNOR'S PROPOSED BUDGET

The Governor has presented his proposed budget for 2004-05. It includes deep cuts, borrowing and cost shifts to cover an estimated gap of \$17 billion. Certainly, there will be changes to this budget; the May revise, with updated estimates of caseloads and revenues issued after April tax receipts are in, is a more realistic view of California's financial situation and is the version on which the budget passed by the legislature is based. But, for now, we have just the vision presented by the governor, and it is sobering. The California Budget Project's analysis of the proposal shows \$7.3 billion in program reductions and savings including:

- deep cuts to K-12 education of \$2 billion
(suspending Proposition 98's guarantee)
- Medi-Cal cuts of \$1.1 billion

- \$886 million less for higher education
- cuts of \$950 million to transportation
- significant reductions to CalWORKs, In-Home Supportive Services and child care programs.



The budget recognizes that the Proposition 57 economic recovery bonds will be repaid over a longer period of time than the bonds authorized by the 2003-04 budget agreement, thereby requiring smaller payments each year. This would create savings of \$1.3 billion in 2004-05 but have a greater long-term cost. Other loans and borrowing, including money from pension obligation bonds and other deferred payments and loans, total \$2.6 billion. This budget also assumes new federal funds coming to California (certainly not a sure thing) and transfers and other revenue totaling \$1.6 billion.

Cost shifting to local governments creates additional savings for the state budget, while creating difficult situations for cities, counties and special districts. They would share \$1.8 billion in additional costs. Eliminating the CalWORKs allocation to juvenile probation programs, eliminating reimbursements for some tasks such as booking fees, and reducing other reimbursements accounts for about \$500 million. The state would save another \$1.3 billion by shifting that amount of property tax revenue from the cities, counties, and

districts to schools, thus reducing the state's school funding obligation.

The governor's budget proposes spending reductions in nearly every area. The largest share of the "solutions" to the budget gap would come from health and human service programs, including controversial proposals to limit enrollment in a number of programs (\$3.1 billion); K-14 education (\$3.0 billion); economic recovery bond savings (\$2.8 billion); business, transportation, and housing (\$1.9 billion); and the shift in property taxes from local governments (\$1.3 billion). These are all substantial cuts, especially coming, as they do, after several years of belt tightening!

California has a large structural deficit: revenues are insufficient to fund service levels under existing law. How the governor, legislature and constituent interests will work to find solutions for this year, and for years to come, will be critical for us all.

**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, 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, 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**

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		
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, Mary Colvin (909) 864-5539; Jenny Overton (909) 883-9801, Louise Thompson; Nominating Committee: Esther Streator, Bobbi Terrell, Teresa Parra, Barbara Sokoloff, Margaret Rodgers

Abbreviations: LWV -League of Women Voters; SB -San Bernardino; LWVC – LWVCalifornia;; SBCo – San Bernardino County;

QUOTE OF THE MONTH: "Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere." --- *Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr.*

OLDIES BUT GOODIES: A terribly overweight blonde is put on a diet by her doctor. "I want you to eat regularly for 2 days, then skip a day, and repeat this procedure for 2 weeks. The next time I see you, you'll have lost at least 5 pounds." When the blonde returns, she's lost almost 20 pounds. "Why that's amazing!" the doctor says. "Did you follow my instructions?" The blonde nods. "I'll tell you though, I thought I was going to drop dead that 3rd day." "From hunger, you mean?" asks the doctor. "No, from skipping."

CALENDAR

May 12 (Wed.)	Board meeting, 1 p.m., Krueper Bldg. Bd. Room, 568 No. Mtn. View, San Bdn
May 15 (Sat.)	"Balancing Civil Rights & Nat'l Security," 10 a.m. – noon, Feldheym Library, San Bdn
May 15 (Sat.)	Deadline for Annual Meeting reservations
May 17 (Mon.)	Workshop on proposed city charter, 7 p.m., City Hall Council Chambers, San Bdn
May 22 (Sat.)	Annual Meeting LWVSB, 10 a.m. – 2 p.m., Arrowhead Country Club, San Bdn
June 12 (Sat.)	"Peekaboo Budgeting," Dr. Audrey Mathews, 1 – 3 p.m., Feldheym Library, San Bdn
June 12 – 15 (Sat. – Tues.)	LWVUS biennial convention, Washington, DC Hilton
June ??	Meeting re- budget process, pork barrels, and me-too's

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

TIME SENSITIVE MATERIAL

MAY/JUNE 2004

YOUR VOTER

