

# Your VOTER

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



## DO NOT MISS OUR ANNUAL HOLIDAY PARTY DEC. 11

ALL MEMBERS ARE URGED TO GATHER FOR OUR ANNUAL HOLIDAY PARTY. WE ARE FORTUNATE TO AGAIN ENJOY THE FESTIVE OCCASION AT MARILYN PATTERSON'S LOVELY HOME. WHILE WE ENJOY BRINGING EACH OTHER UP TO DATE ABOUT OUR LIVES, WE WILL ENJOY SEASONAL GOODIES, SUCH AS WHISKEY CAKE, KOURAMBIAINTHES, FILLED COOKIES, FRUITS, AND A VARIETY OF BEVERAGES. BRING A COPY OF YOUR FAVORITE RECIPE; CARDS AND PENCILS WILL BE AVAILABLE.

WE LOOK FORWARD TO THIS LEAGUE SOCIAL EVENT AND HOPE TO SEE EVERYONE THERE --- 2 - 4 P.M., SATURDAY, DEC. 11, AT MARILYN'S, 3678 PARKSIDE DR., SAN BONO. IT IS JUST ACROSS FROM THE COUNTRY CLUB CLUBHOUSE. CALL MICKEY CRUZ (887-9296) OR GLORIA ANDERSON (338-4163) FOR INFORMATION.

## Observe from Sanctity of Your Home

Our Observer Chair Barbara Sokoloff needs help from members who have television sets and can observe city, county, and special district meetings while they are at home. League cannot anticipate action if League is not aware of what happens at government meetings. Take a few hours out of your day, and observe these meetings from your home. Then report to Barbara, who will bring the matter to the Board. Barbara can be reached at (909) 886-8604.

Meeting times on KCSB, channel 3 are as follows:

San Bernardino City Council: Monday 3 p.m., live on 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Mondays  
Saturdays 3 p.m.

San Bernardino Internat'l Airport Authority/IVDA: Mondays 6 p.m., Wednesdays 2 p.m.

Joint Powers Water Authority: Tuesdays 5 p.m.

San Bernardino County Board of Sups: 9 a.m. Monday (not live)

PLEASE VOLUNTEER TO HELP OUT!!



## Measure G Prompted LWV Opposition

The Local Government Position Update Committee, charged during LWVSB's annual meeting with reviewing and recommending an update on the position, met during the summer and held their consensus meeting in October. Our Board accepted the consensus.

Because a proposed amended city charter was on the November ballot (Measure G), the Board evaluated the proposed amended provisions using the criteria established in the local government position update. League's update committee had published in YOUR VOTER some of the information regarding forms of local government, authority assigned to local officials, what should be included or excluded in a government ruling document, etc.

Board members agreed the proposed amended charter fell short of good public policy and voted to oppose Measure G. The Board questioned excessive layers of supervision and authority that could lead to government gridlock and/or political infighting. Members also thought the representation of the proposed charter in the ballot pamphlet was incomplete, thus denying voters convenient access to wording that had been deleted and identifying wording that had been added. Members did think the city manager concept is viable, but the manager's authority in Measure G is truncated.

The Leagues position on local government includes the national umbrella position, part of which follows:

"Promote an open governmental system that is representative, accountable and responsive; that has a fair and adequate fiscal basis; that protects individual liberties established by the Constitution; that assures opportunities for citizen participation in government decision making..."

LWVSB's updated local government position adds the following wording:

"Support measures that secure an orderly and simplified City Charter, with provisions that enable elected officials to deal with city problems efficiently, flexibly, and with responsibilities and authority clearly delineated. The City Charter should:

- provide a framework that leaves details to ordinances passed by the Common Council;
- address ethics in government;
- provide for succession of elected officials;
- be written in lay language, and easily accessible to all;
- contain fair, understandable election procedures."

# Update!

Members of the Update Committee who met during the torrid summer deserve your thanks: Mickey Cruz, Marilyn Patterson, Ruth Petrucci, Lenore Schon, Juanita Scott (until she left the area), Barbara Sokoloff, and Marion Vassilakos.

# LEAGUE SUPPORTED MEASURE I

As we reported in the last VOTER, the Board of Directors approved supporting Measure I, the half-cent sales tax extension for transportation projects. You may have seen the letters to *The Sun* and the *Press-Enterprise* and we were listed among supporters in mailers on Measure I.



## ReCap of Busy Election Season

---by Gloria Anderson, VP

This was one of the busiest election seasons in many years – probably because of all the ballot measures. We filled numerous pros and cons presentations requests and distributed thousands of Pros and Cons put out by LWVC as well as thousands of Easy Voter Guides that we get at no cost from a project funded by the Secretary of State, State Library, and James Irvine Foundation

Thanks to Dotti Garcia, Brenda Frederick, Susan Nieblas, Marion Vassilakos, and Gloria Anderson who did pros and cons presentations in San Bernardino, Victorville and Redlands for church groups, seniors, AAUW, community colleges (Valley and Crafton Hills), and a hospital auxiliary.

Thanks also to everyone who distributed Pros and Cons (2000 of them) and Easy Voter Guides (4000 in English and 1000 in Spanish). We partnered with the Inland Communities United for Change voter education project to distribute the Easy Voter Guides, but we had many more requests for the Pros and Cons than we could fill! We also had numerous calls to our answering machine, mainly about not having received a sample ballot or an absentee ballot or not knowing where they should go to vote. There was also confusion about the corrected absentee ballot page and many called us because they could not get through to the Registrar of Voters office which apparently was swamped processing all the new voter registrations.

### LWVSB THANKS HARPER'S PRINTING FOR HELP IN REPRODUCING THIS 'VOTER'

## LWVC EDUCATION STUDY INFORMATION ON THE WEB; CHAIR NEEDED

At the 2003 LWVC Convention, members voted for an update on League's Education position. The LWVC website is a one-stop treasure of information about California's education mission and structure. Go to <http://ca.lwv.org/lwvonly/> for League's kit that covers all aspects of California's attempt to educate our residents from structure to finance to accountability. Click on Education update study, then on study guide, and then the parts you select to read. You can email Program Director for Education Barbara Inatsugu <LWVinatsugub@aol.com> and request that she email you a copy of the update kit in either Word Perfect or Word.



Other websites for info include EdSource publications <http://www.edsource.org/> and are listed under Step 1 in the study kit. Our League does not have a study chair for this important statewide study. Please contact Mickey Cruz (887-9296) if you would like to work with this study and these documents. Time is running short.

### 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

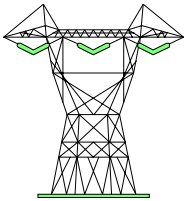


# LWVC ENERGY UPDATE

When we flip the light switch, we expect the lights to go on.

**Reliability** depends on three key elements: generation, transmission and distribution. **Generation** is the creation of electricity.

**Transmission** is the movement of the electricity from generation to a delivery system. The **distribution system** delivers the electricity to your home so that when you flip the switch, the lights go on.



Prior to 1996, the 3 elements were owned and operated by a utility – a vertically integrated monopoly. The utility planned ahead for demand based on historical trends, economic and social forecasts. It built generating plants, transmission lines, and distribution lines, and operated the whole system. The utility had an obligation to serve you, with reliable, reasonably priced electricity whenever you flipped the switch.

The utility had to learn about the usage patterns of all its customers – when households were likely to turn on their A/Cs, switch on lights, power up major equipment. From this data the utility developed a 20-year load forecast and developed plans to meet the need.

Californians are served by three investor-owned utilities (IOUs), 21 municipal Utilities (muni's), three rural electric cooperatives (RECs), two federal agencies and 13 irrigation districts, all in the electric utility business and all engaged in

one, two or all three aspects of the industry. You will be interested to learn that the average retail price per kilowatt hour in 2002 was 13.4 cents, and it is forecasted to be 12.6 cents in 2005.

The format of our state's electric industry changed radically in 1996. Seeking to foster competition, the state legislature passed AB 1890, which proved to be a deeply flawed attempt at "deregulation" by separating the pricing of wholesale and retail generation. Through this bill the Legislature "unbundled" the vertical utility, separating generation from transmission and from the delivery of power. The hope was to make room for more players in the generation field. Each vertically integrated utility was knocked on its side, and was required to sell off its generation facilities (except for hydro and nuclear facilities).

**Generation** could now be provided by merchant generators, independent power producers, out-of-state utilities or aggregators (brokers of wholesale generation). Generation greater than 50 MW of capacity is still licensed by the California Energy Commission, but pricing of wholesale power is now monitored by the Federation Energy Regulatory Commission. Reliability is no longer the major criterion for the state's electric system, and the jurisdiction of the CPUC with regard to pricing is limited.

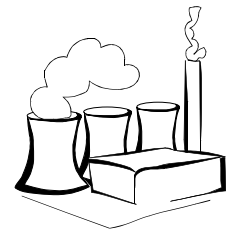
**Transmission** became the responsibility of a new not-for-profit quasi-governmental organization known as the California Independent System Operator (CAISO). It has the competency and responsibility to measure congestion along the transmission lines, but there is some contention among the Energy

Commission, CAISO and the PUC over the definition of need for new transmission lines, and whose responsibility it is to finance and build them.

The **distribution system** has remained the responsibility of the utility, and regulatory oversight has stayed with the CPUC. Part of the work of the distribution system is to reduce high voltage electricity to a voltage safe for use in your home. This is usually done first at a distribution substation in your general area, then at a pole-mounted or perhaps underground transformer very near your home.

Today, **generation** is owned by a variety of providers but not typically by the distribution utility. Power flows over the transmission grid operated by CAISO. It is delivered to the distribution system operated by your local utility, which delivers it to your home.

With the passage of the deregulation legislation, reliability and the utility's obligation to serve gave way to power shortages and spiking prices.



As the policy makers and regulators struggle to find a new model that will provide competition and choice and thus lower prices without sacrificing reliability, League must understand these key elements.

Further Resources:  
<[www.ferc.gov](http://www.ferc.gov)>, <[www.cpuc.gov](http://www.cpuc.gov)>;  
<[www.energy.ca.gov](http://www.energy.ca.gov)>;  
<[www.cmua.org](http://www.cmua.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

President	Micaela Cruz	(909) 887-9296
Vice President	Gloria Anderson	(909) 338-4163
Secretary	Susan Nieblas	(909) 337-6564
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		
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
Nominating Committee: Brenda Frederick chair; Lee Manak, Teresa Para, Gloria Anderson		

Abbreviations: LWV –League of Women Voters; SB –San Bernardino; LWVC – LWVCalifornia;; County; EIR – Environmental Impact Report; SBIAA – San Bdn International Airport Authority; IVDA – Inland Valley Development Agency.

Quote of the month: “I asked him if he hadn’t let the Americans off too easily about Abu Ghraib. He dismissed the question. ‘The U.S. put the Japanese in camps during World War II; it had McCarthyism....But it will all pass. Democracy corrects itself.’” Jeffrey Tayler quoting Faisal al-Kasim, of al-Jazeera television in Nov. 04, *Atlantic*.

### **CALENDAR**

Dec. 11 (Sat.) Annual holiday party, 2 – 4 p.m., Marilyn Patterson’s, 3678 Parkside Dr., San Bdn  
Dec. 14 (Tues.) Board meeting, 1 p.m., Krueper Bldg. Board Room, 568 Mtn. View Ave., San Bdn

**LWVSB VOTER IS ONLINE AT OUR WEBSITE**  
[www.lwvsanbernardino.ca.lwvnet.org/](http://www.lwvsanbernardino.ca.lwvnet.org/)

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

**TIME SENSITIVE MATERIAL**

**December 2004**

**YOUR VOTER**

