

# Your VOTER

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

## LEAGUE TO HONOR SIXTEEN CITIZENS OF ACHIEVEMENT APRIL 10

Every year when League reads the nominations for Citizens of Achievement -- volunteers who have stepped forward and acted as catalysts for community betterment -- we gain new respect for the nominees. League hopes you will take time out of your busy Sunday to honor the sixteen who will be awarded League's Citizen of Achievement honors on April 10, from 2 - 4 p.m. at the County Government Center, 385 No. Arrowhead Ave., San Bdn.

Those who will be honored include: Ruby Baker, Tina L. Beth, Cheri Bronstrup, Henry Calderilla, Judy

Cestaro, Pratap Champs, Mike Clark, Thomsas M. Davis, Dr. Arturo Delgado, Timothy D. Derryberry, Dr. Cheryl Fischer, Dr. Albert K. Karnig, Dr. Will Roberts, Paquita Schoellhorn, Bobbie Terrell and Pat Yeates-Ursetta.

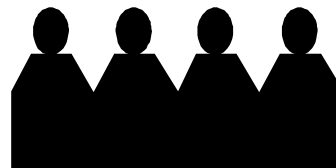
League's Board has helped with the planning and mailing, especially Gloria Anderson, Ruth Petrucci, Susan Nieblas, Barbara Sokoloff, and off-board Millie McKim, John Weininger, and the entire membership who provide the delicious refreshments, decorations, and program.

## JOE BACA, JR, INTERVIEWED BY LEAGUE MEMBERS

---by *Gloria Anderson, VP Program*

League had an opportunity to meet with a member of our League, recently elected to the State Assembly, Joe Baca Jr. Mickey Cruz, Susan Nieblas, Barbara Sokoloff and I interviewed him on Friday, March 4, at his office on E Street.

Baca has already introduced 22 bills in the Legislature and he serves on several important committees, including the Select Committee on Perchlorate. One of his bills, AB 1354, would require the Department of Health Services to set a maximum content level (MCL) at no more than 6 PPB (parts per billion) and would require that any additional costs needed to achieve the MCL be paid by the polluters.



Areas we covered with him included the state budget, access to health care, possible reforms (especially redistricting and term limits) and his priorities, which he told us are transportation and education. He said he favors closing tax loopholes, such as credits, exemptions, deductions, and other special tax breaks and incentives, as well as reviewing them to determine whether they have had the promised results and who has benefited. He also supports making health insurance available to more people, especially the working poor. As for reforms, he is hopeful that legislative negotiations with the Governor on reforms can produce acceptable compromises to some of the systemic problems of state government. He was also critical of the Governor's suspension of Propositions 42 (transportation funding) and Proposition 98 (education funding). Suspension of Prop 42 is bad for San Bernardino County because it will cause the diversion of some Measure I sales tax money to complete some highway projects.

## LWV ACTION AT THE NATIONAL LEVEL

Regarding election reform, the League has testified before the US Election Assistance Commission about four areas of concern: voting rights; the lack of timeliness in issuing standards and developing systems; need for states and local uniform standards for the issuing, processing, and counting of provisional ballots; problems with the counting of provisional ballots; and transparency in reporting about the state guidelines. We also called attention to the League's monograph, "*A Guide to Implementing the New Federal Provisional Ballot Requirement*," published in August, 2003, and available on our web site at [www.LWV.org](http://www.LWV.org).

On social security, we wrote to members of Congress about our concern over proposals to privatize the Social Security system, and that we must recognize that it is not merely a retirement program -- it is a social insurance program with broad effect. The League believes that both the perceived crisis and the proposed solutions need to be thoroughly examined and debated -- that if Congress determines changes are needed, there are reasonable, moderate adjustments that can achieve solvency and fiscal soundness. It is key that we have a full, national debate before making major changes in the system.



## PROFESSOR AUDREY MATHEWS EXAMINES STATE'S MONEY WOES

"Who are the winners and losers in California's state budget?" was the question raised by Dr. Audrey Mathews during League's March meeting. Since 1987, California has not had a balanced budget. In reality, Mathews said balanced budgets are smoke and mirrors

because debt and inflation play a role, and the impact of these items is not reflected in the program figures provided to the public.

According to Mathews, Proposition 13, and the ballot measures that attempt to plug loopholes in Prop. 13 contribute to the demise in services to residents. Inequities in Prop. 13, which were predicated on 7 years as the average rate of property changing ownership, are manifest in every neighborhood. After Prop. 13, the state infilled local governments' loss of property tax for 4 years. The economy had boomed in the '80s, and the state's extra money was built into the budget. However, sustaining the formula set in fat times is impossible this year and in the future unless California wants deficits forever, according to Mathews.

## PUT YOUR



revenues, Californians face curtailed services. Though spending remains stable, the governor and legislators are "ripping off" cities for 2 more years.

Another problems facing Californians is the critical shortage of low and moderate income housing. Needed are 7,439 structures per year, while only 2,400- 3,000 are being constructed. Demographers predict population of 2,737,213 in San Bernardino County by 2020. (CDHCD) Prop. 42 promised gasoline tax to local jurisdictions, but that money has been re-directed to the State.

Personal income tax and sales tax revenues account for 81.7 % of the state budget general fund. Both sources are dependent on the state's economy, so when the economy sours, so does state revenue. The general fund spending figures for 2005-06 generally are higher per category; but because of inflation and state raiding of local

Getting back to the winners and losers in the proposed state budget: Education and Corrections are winners – especially Corrections. Mathews was surprised citizens voted to continue 3 Strikes and cited annual costs per cell in prisons at \$35,000 to \$80,000, depending on type of prison security required. She said 3 Strikes has increased the number of prisoners three fold. Losers in the budget proposal are Health and Human Services and local governments. Members who were surprised that the Governor had the power to redirect taxes written into ballot measures learned that some ballot measures include wording permitting taking that money if the Governor declares the state is in crisis.

It was agreed that legislation by ballot measure (initiative) is not the way to go. The legislators must step up to the plate and legislate. There is a misconception that lottery money provides sizeable amounts for schools. The lottery provides funding for school construction. Together the federal and state governments pay half of local schools' budgets. After 2003, K -12 growth in enrollment is decreasing; but a bulge in births is expected to hit the preschool level. California public colleges and universities charge less tuition than most other states, but California has not raised the tuition periodically to keep up with inflation, thus creating the need for large increases in tuition in the last couple of years. California had promised all students who are eligible a place in the public higher education system.

Dr. Mathews has given Leaguers a lot to think about and share.

## ACT NOW: OPPORTUNITY TO SUPPORT SB 840: Calif. Health Insurance Reliability Act

LWVC calls for action from LWV members. Urge your state senator to support SB 840 (Kuehl) that would provide fiscally sound, affordable health insurance to all Californians, with a right to choose their physician and control health cost inflation. SB 840's benefits will be paid for by federal, state and county monies currently being spent on the health care system and by affordable insurance premiums that replace all premiums, deductibles and out of pocket payments now paid by employees and consumers. For more info, try google or email VOTER editor.

## PEOPLE OF NOTE TALK ABOUT EXPERIENCES AS ELECTED OFFICIALS

Five League members who are serving or who have served in elective office talked about that experience and had some words of praise for the League's involvement in government issues as well as how we might be involved in the future.

Assemblyman Joe Baca Jr., former Community College District Board member Lois Carson, former mayor and Assemblyman John Longville, SBCUSD Trustee Teresa Parra, and former County Supt. of Schools and Community College District Bd. Chuck Terrell gave us some insight into how it is on the other side of the table.

Lois Carson suggested we do outreach to various organizations and people working in the community, and Teresa Parra (one of our younger members) spoke about the need for us to attract younger members to carry on the League's work in the next 50 years. Chuck Terrell talked about the Chamber of Commerce's Leadership Development program and how it might be something the League might be involved in. And it was really good to see John Longville (a shadow of his former self) venturing out a month after his heart surgery. He brought a message from wife and Councilwoman Susan who was unable to be with us because of a conference at which she was speaking. We also heard about Lillian Eaton's unique experience as one of the people who helped to incorporate Yucaipa and served on its first Council.

## WANTED: A FEW GOOD WOMEN AND MEN

Have you ever wanted to be in on the inner workings of the League? Now is the time to do it! We have openings on the board for at least two more directors – Membership and Voters Service, but we can have as many as 17 (can you believe that??) according to our bylaws. If you are interested, as Rebecca Ludwig is, give Nominating Chair Brenda Frederick a call at 882-2230, and talk with her about it. We need to have the slate by April 14, so don't delay!

**LWVC CONVENTION: MAY 20 -22**

*Crown Plaza Anaheim Resort, \$45 single day before April 12*

**WORKSHOPS:** *Administration, Membership success, Efficiency via internet, Voter service, Action strategies, Visibility, Fundraising, Reforming State Govt., Universal Health Care, Management training, Education budget reform and the ballot. See – <http://ca.lwv.org/lwvonly/> Call Micaela for info. 887-9296.*

**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, 328 Cannon Bldg., Washington, DC 20515 (909) 885-2222  
State Senator, Bob Dutton, 10681 Foothill Blvd. #340, Rancho Cuc., 91730 (909) 481-3230  
State Senator Nell Soto, 215 N. D, #101, SanBdn, (909) 3813832  
Assemblywoman Gloria Negrete McLeod, 4959 Palo Verde, #100B, Montclair 91763, (909) 621-7483  
Assemblyman Joe Baca Jr., 201 N. E, #205 92401, San Bdn, (909) 388-1413  
Assemblyman Bill Emerson, 10681 Foothill Blvd. #325, Rancho Cuc 91730 (909) 466-9096  
Assemblyman Dennis Mountjoy, 135-A W. Lemon Ave., Monrovia 91016 (1-888) 377-2212

**NEW MEMBERS – UPDATE YOUR DIRECTORY**

Suzanne Brownihg  
5267 Mission Hills Drive  
Banning, CA 92220  
(951) 845-0404

Annette Casey  
1331 Century St.  
Redlands, CA 92374  
(909) 798-0431

Tom & Brynn Dodson  
6933 Rockspring Lane  
Highland, CA 92346  
(909) 882-3612 (w)

Lillian Eaton  
9954 Fremont St.  
Yucaipa, CA 92399  
  
(909) 797-9028

Pam and Ken Ford  
1049 West Fern Ave.  
Redlands, CA 92373  
(909) 792-0942

Carol Hartman  
626 No. Dearborn St. #111  
Redlands, CA 92374  
(909) 794-4540

Rebecca Ludwig  
11171 Oakwood Dr. M303  
Loma Linda, CA 92354  
(909) 845-0404

Mary Martin  
PO Box 2626  
San Bernardino, CA 92406

909) 889-6012

Catherine Meister  
12232 Rosedale Ave.  
Colton, CA 92324  
(909) 825-6568

Jane Roberts  
700 Cajon St.  
Redlands, CA 92373-5940  
(909) 793-4578

**CHANGE OF ADDRESS**

Donna Kaufman  
1129 East Central Ave. #115  
Redlands, CA 92373  
(909) 798-9382

**LWVSB WEBSITE LINKING**

**TO ONLINE ‘YOUR VOTER’ <[www.lwvsanbernardino.ca.lwvnet.org/](http://www.lwvsanbernardino.ca.lwvnet.org/)>  
or find site via google**

**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**



## **LWV of San Bernardino Board of Directors**

President	Micaela Cruz	(909) 887-9296
Vice President	Gloria Anderson	(909) 338-4163
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Membership Director		
World Trade/UN Studies, Off Bd. Dir.	Katharine Roberts	(909) 886-1983
Website Off Board Director	Jill Vassilakos-Long	(909) 880-7541
VOTER Distribution Off Board Dir.	John Weininger	(909) 885-2222
Nominating Committee: Brenda Frederick chair; Lee Manak, Teresa Para, Gloria Anderson		

### **LWVSB THANKS HARPER'S PRINTING FOR HELP IN REPRODUCING THIS 'VOTER' Harper's, 1956 No. E St., LWV exclusive printer and copy shop**

"Maybe they are not/ the actual perpetrators, but they possess/ the means to bribe their way./ Money has a long and sinister reach./ It slips into the system, changes hands/ and starts to eat away at the foundations/ of everything we stand for./ Money brings down leaders,/ warps minds and generally corrupts/ people and institutions....." -- *-Creon speaking in The Burial at Thebes (Antigone, ca BCE 442) by Sophocles, tr. by Seamus Heaney.*

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.

#### **CALENDAR**

Apr. 10 (Sun.)	Citizens of Achievement, 2 – 4 p.m., S.B. County Govt. Cntr., 385 Arrowhead, San Bdn
Apr. 12 (Tues.)	Board meeting, 1 p.m., Krueper Bldg., 568 No. Mtn. View, San Bdn
Apr. 12 (Tues.)	Deadline for pre-regis. LWVC convention, \$45 single day fee, Crown Plaza Resort, Anaheim <i>See – LWVC member website, details inside this VOTER</i>
May 14 (Sat.)	Annual meeting, 10 a.m. – 2 p.m., Arrowhead Country Club
May 20 – 22	LWVC State Convention, Crown Plaza Anaheim Resort

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

**APRIL 2005**

**YOUR VOTER**

