



# The VOTER

League of Women Voters of San Bernardino

Gloria Anderson President

Christina Wilkins, Editor

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April 2009 Vol. 35, No.1

## PREZ SEZ

We are the LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS, an organization of WOMEN AND MEN who want to MAKE A DIFFERENCE in the political future of our country. We are a DIVERSE, NONPARTISAN, POLITICAL GROUP with a long-standing tradition of EDUCATING VOTERS.

By the time you read this, our 33rd Citizens of Achievement event, our major fundraiser, will be history and we will be looking forward to our 54th Annual Meeting on May 30. You will be receiving your kit by May 1, giving you details of where it will be held and containing the reports of the nominating and the budget committees and recommendations on local program for the coming year. Meanwhile, on April 11, I spoke at a meeting of the Victorville chapter of AAUW on several issues of mutual interest to our organizations. One of them was the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act signed by President Obama and I also

talked about the League's longtime support for Title IX and other equal educational and employment opportunity issues. And as a result of a request by Lois Carson, who also belongs to Alpha Kappa Alpha, we will be collaborating on some issues of mutual interest to them and the League, beginning with their dissemination of Easy Voter Guides for the upcoming election. To help you prepare for the special election on May 19, we are including a copy of the *Easy Voter Guide* with this issue. You may also visit the Easy Voter web site at [www.easyvoter.org](http://www.easyvoter.org) for information. Finally, we had to reschedule our legislative interview with

Senator Bob Dutton to April 24 (originally scheduled for April 3) and we still have our interview with Assemblywoman Wilmer Carter on May 1. (We interviewed Assemblyman Bill Emerson on March 20 after our webcast.) Hope to see many of you at the Annual Meeting.

Gloria Anderson (Please be sure to check out Jill Vassilakos-Long's article on the Sunshine Week Open Government webcast we had at Cal State in March. Two of the questions we submitted were chosen to be answered - nationwide exposure for our League!)

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*You are cordially invited to attend*  
**AN EDUCATIONAL CONFERENCE ON  
 HEALTH CARE IN CALIFORNIA**  
 When: Saturday May 9, 2009, 9:00 a.m.-3:30 p.m.  
 Where: Pasadena Presbyterian Church  
 Cost: Free (nominal charge for boxed lunches)  
 Former Senator Sheila Kuehl, author of the Single Payer plan, is the keynote speaker and there will be seminars led by experts in their fields in the morning and afternoon. To receive an invitation and/or further information e-mail or call Dr. Irma Strantz [istrantz@charter.net](mailto:istrantz@charter.net) 626.798.8361  
 Interested in going there by train? Call Ruth Petrucci at 909.883.5991 Must register by May 1st.



**Can You Help?**  
 Kim Carter's Time for Change Foundation needs cash contributions and/or Office Max and Staples gift cards to replace items lost when their office was burglarized over the Easter weekend. If you want to help her to continue the work that she does to help women change their lives, you can send contributions to:  
 Kim Carter—time for Change  
 P.O. Box 5753  
 San Bernardino, CA 92412  
**Thank You!**

## FORTY YEARS OF OUR LEAGUE'S HISTORY

1960-2000

Following are highlights of memorable moments that coincided with memorable moments in the history of our country, from the tumultuous 60s to the new millennium. **1960:** We studied local water and published "The Why, the Who, the What, and the Where of Water." Margaret Chandler urged support for the State Water Project and a campaign to pass it appeared in the *Sun-Telegram* featuring Miss Filupa Faucet. **1967-69:** Our League's analysis of school desegregation problems was received by the school board "without further action." There was hostile reaction to the League's stand on desegregation. **1975:** Our League, with Marilyn Bonney's leadership, was instrumental in formation of the County Commission on the Status of Women. The first Citizens of Achievement fundraiser was held, honoring 36 women. **1978:** Our League held an air quality forum, for which we won a Clean Air Award from the Lung Association. We campaigned against Proposition 13 and for the Bottle Bill. **1980:** We celebrated our 25th Anniversary with a 93-year-old suffragist as our Annual Meeting speaker. **1986:** The Women's Commission Executive Director spoke on Comparable Worth, which is now called Pay Equity. **1990:** Our League co-sponsored a forum on malathion spraying, moderated by Jennifer McMullen, who ably controlled the impassioned crowd lined up to speak. **1995:** Our League focused on Redevelopment, touring the city's redevelopment areas by bus and publishing *Spotlight on Redevelopment*. **1997-99:** Our first male president, Jim Mulvihill, served a term

### **THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS RECOMMENDS...**

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#### **NO ON PROPOSITION 1A -- Restrictions on State Budget Process**

Prop 1A is touted by its proponents as the way to bring stability to the state budget process. However, it would actually make it more difficult for future governors and legislatures to enact budgets that meet California's needs and address state priorities. It would amend the state Constitution to dictate restrictions on the use of funds put into the reserve and limit how "unanticipated" revenues can be used in good years. It could lock in a reduced level of public services by not taking proper account of the state's changing demographics and actual growth in costs. Prop 1A would also give future governors new power to make budget cuts without legislative oversight. Like the other propositions opposed by the League on this ballot, Prop 1A came from a deeply flawed process that resulted in measures written in haste and without public input or analysis. The League would support real budget reform, but we regretfully conclude that this measure would only make things worse. Most of its provisions would not take effect for two years; we should spend that time working on real budget reform.

#### **NEUTRAL ON PROPOSITION 1B -- Education Funding. Payment Plan**

This measure requires the state to make \$9.3 billion in supplemental payments to K-14 education over approximately five to six years beginning in 2011-12. This funding is intended to address uncertainty about what the Proposition 98 school funding guarantee requires. The League supports full funding of public education and believes that making up for the devastating cuts of recent years must be a priority. Prop 1B is not needed, however, and even if passed by the voters, it would take effect only if Prop 1A is also passed. The legislature has the power to restore funding to education in a more straightforward way that is not tied to Prop 1A.

#### **NO ON PROPOSITION 1C -- Lottery-Based Borrowing**

This measure makes changes in state lottery operations intended to increase its profitability and allows the state to issue \$5 billion in bonds that are "securitized" by future lottery profits. The lottery would no longer be a source of revenue for education, and the state General Fund would be required to make up for the loss to education of lottery funds. League positions on long-term financing anticipate the use of bonds for capital improvements, not borrowing, and call for prudent consideration of debt levels within the budget. In light of California's poor credit rating and the state of the economy, these bonds may have to be sold at interest rates very unfavorable to the state, if indeed they can be sold at all. The nonpartisan Legislative Analyst's Office says that in the long term, lottery profits probably would not cover the higher payments to education required by Prop 1C.

#### **NO ON PROPOSITION 1D -- Diverting Children's Services Funding**

This proposition would redirect tobacco tax funds reserved for First 5 early childhood programs by Proposition 10 (passed in 1998) to the state General Fund. \$608 million would be diverted in 2009-10 and \$268 million a year for the following four years, creating the illusion that more revenues are available. In reality, Prop 1D raids these funds in the short term in order to pay for some services, while taking funding away from other services. It also includes unnecessary provisions, such as new county baseline funding levels unrelated to population needs. We oppose this stopgap measure.

**NO ON PROPOSITION 1E -- Diverting Mental Health Services Funding**

For the next two years, Proposition 1E would redirect about \$230 million a year from the Mental Health Services Act (Proposition 63 of 2004) to the state General Fund to replace state funding for an existing screening, diagnosis and treatment program. As with Prop 1D, it raids existing programs to create temporary "savings," but makes less money available for some services. It may even result in the loss of federal matching funds. The League opposes this short-sighted measure.

**NO POSITION ON PROPOSITION 1F --Elected Officials' Salaries**

Because League positions do not cover the issues in Proposition 1F, "Elected Officials' Salaries. Prevents Pay Increases During Budget Deficit Years," the LWVC is taking no stand on this measure.

**VOTE WITH THE LEAGUE ON MAY 19**

League of Women Voters of California 1107 Ninth Street, Suite 300 Sacramento CA 95814  
916-442-7215 FAX 916-442-7362 Email: [lwvc@lwvc.org](mailto:lwvc@lwvc.org) Website: <http://lwvc.org>

The League of Women Voters is always nonpartisan: It does not support or oppose candidates or political parties. However, we are political because we support and oppose legislation, lobby legislators and take stands on ballot measures. The League of Women Voters of California gives permission to print, copy, or link to this web page in its entirety.

**LWVSB MAKES THE NATIONAL SCENE!**

The San Bernardino League and Cal State's Pfau Library sponsored a simulcast site for the March 20 [Open-TheGovernment.org](http://www.openthegovernment.org)'s 4th Annual Sunshine Week National Dialogue. Participants were welcomed by CSUSB President Al Karnig, who spoke about the university's partnerships with the local community, including with the League of Women Voters. Dr. Karnig set the context for the simulcast with a brief discussion of government policy and the challenges faced by the new administration. Then LWVSB President Gloria Anderson spoke briefly on citizen communication with our elected representatives. Panelists discussed open access to government information, including the plans of the Obama administration, which emphasizes citizen participation in government information-gathering and information dissemination, as well as precedents set by the openness of the Obama transition team and some hard issues of citizen access to information and the initiatives that are currently underway. Two of the questions submitted by our League were answered through the interactive setup for the Sunshine Week telecast. (E-mail)



1. **Marion Vassilakos:** I am concerned about the storage of federal documents and even e-mails. What will historians of the future access in order to write future biographies and histories? Will information be stored and accessible to future historians? **Answer:** One panelist spoke about the need to archive the dynamic Web 2.0 discussions that the administration will use to gather information and opinion from citizens. She mentioned that the Government Printing Office will archive and make available finished documents, but acknowledged that there is work to do to find a way to preserve discussions and make them available for historians and other policy analysis.

2. **Barbara Sokoloff:** Is there any nation in the world that is already doing open government well? Have we looked at models that work? **Answer:** Several panelists mentioned other countries that are doing a better job than the US in terms of citizen participation and open access to government information. Among them are Singapore, India, and Indonesia. Great Britain, concerned about the lack of citizen participation in government, is implementing ideas that would compel more interest in open government. One panelist focused on the cell phone as the new window onto the world and spoke about other countries customizing government information access for individual point-of-need use via cell phone.

The last part of the webcast was devoted to a short presentation on the release of the new "10 Most Wanted Documents in Government" poll results in the report "Show us the Data." This report is available at <http://www.openthegovernment.org/otg/TopTenReport.pdf>. This year's webcast will soon be available on the [www.openthegovernment.org](http://www.openthegovernment.org) web site. ——— Jill Vassilakos-Long

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Harper's, 1956 No. E St., LWV's EXCLUSIVE PRINTER AND COPY SHOP**

## **CALENDAR**

AN EDUCATIONAL CONFERENCE ON HEALTH CARE IN CALIFORNIA Saturday May 9, 2009, 9:00 a.m.-3:30 p.m

### **KNOW YOUR ELECTED OFFICIALS**

President Barack H. Obama, The White House, Washington, DC 20500  
Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger, State Capitol, Sacramento, CA 95814, (916) 445-2841  
Senator Barbara Boxer, 201 No. E St., San Bdno 92401, (909) 888-8525  
Senator Dianne Feinstein, 11111 Santa Monica Blvd #915, LA, CA 90025, (310) 914-7300  
Representative Jerry Lewis, 1150 Brookside #J-5, Redlands, CA 92373 (909) 862-6030  
Representative Joe Baca, 201 No. E St., San Bernardino, 92401 (909) 885-2222  
State Senator, Bob Dutton, 8577 Haven Ave., Rancho Cuc., 91730 (909) 466-4180  
State Senator Gloria Negrete McLeod, 4959 Palo Verde St. #100B, Montclair, CA 91763, (909) 621-7483  
Assemblyman Assemblyman Anthony Adams, 135 W. Lemon Ave. #A, Monrovia, CA 91016 (626) 359-8305  
Assemblywoman Wilmer Carter, 335 No. Riverside Ave., Rialto, CA 92376 (909) 820-5008  
Assemblyman Bill Emerson, 10681 Foothill Blvd. #325, Rancho Cuc 91730 (909) 466-9096  
Assemblyman Paul Cook, 34932 Yucaipa Blvd. Yucaipa 92399 (909) 790-0479  
San Bdno County Supervisors: #1 Brad Mitzelfelt (909) 387-4830, #2 Paul Biane (909) 387-4833, #3 Neil Derry (909) 387-3018, #4 Gary Ovitt (909) 387-4866, #5 Josie Gonzales (909) 387-5392, 385 No. Arrowhead, San Bdno 92415