



# The VOTER

League of Women Voters of San Bernardino

Gloria Anderson President

Christina Wilkins, Editor

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October 09 Vol. 38, No.1

**PREZ SEZ**—Be sure to read ALL of this issue of the Voter for news you can use and to find out what the League will be doing in the next few months.

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.**

We will be kicking off the fall's activities with a Candidates Forum for the 1st, 2nd, and 4th wards city council races in San Bernardino on **OCTOBER 8** from 7:30 to 9 PM in the council chambers at City Hall. It will be broadcast on Channel 3 but we encourage you to come and question the candidates.

In November the thorny problem of how to provide a stable source of funding will be discussed at a meeting on **NOVEMBER 7** from 1:30 to 4:30 PM at the Highland Library. (See article for details.)

In December, we will have our annual holiday party, tentatively set for December 5. You will receive an invitation in November.

Another thing I want to mention is the letter you should have received by now asking for your fi-

nancial support as we embark on another year of making a difference in the political future of our country. We are thankful for any amount that you can give. Finally, those of you who have e-mail addresses should have received a message from our national president, Mary Wilson, about the group calling itself the League of American Voters campaign against health care reform that seeks to undermine public support by sowing fear and mistrust. Their response to an LWVUS letter to them taking them to task for using a name clearly designed to be confused with the League of Women Voters was an e-mail blast to their supporters condemning the League of Women Voters. Disruptive and threatening phone calls from supporters of the

League of American Voters have resulted in the national office having to arrange for greater security and exploring legal options to protect our name in the face of those who are misusing it. If any of you have received anything from the League of American Voters, please let us know. Meanwhile, if you haven't been active, we hope this will be the year you want to get involved in the League, but regardless, we thank you for supporting the League by just being a member. And do feel free to give us your ideas and suggestions.

-Gloria Anderson

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909-338-4163

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## WANTED!

**WHO?** League members interested in San Bernardino Redevelopment  
**WHY?** To be on a committee to look into what's happening in the redevelopment areas that cover much of San Bernardino and to present the findings to the members in February 2010

If you are interested, Contact Susan Nieblas  
[snieb0818@aol.com](mailto:snieb0818@aol.com), 909-338-8260

## LEAGUE REPRESENTED ON SB COMMUNITY COLLEGE BOND OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE

By Susan Nieblas

Did you know that we have a representative from the League serving on a committee to oversee the expenditures of \$690 million in bonds (Measures P and M) to improve safety and infrastructure at San Bernardino Valley and Crafton Hills Colleges? There are 10 members on the committee and we receive administrative and clerical support from the SBCC District. Our job is to assure that the bond expenditures are used only for the purposes set forth in the ballot measures and that no bond proceeds are used for any teacher or administrative salaries or other operating expenses. The Oversight Committee receives quarterly program reports from the District and an annual audit report from an independent auditing firm. We also present an annual report to the District's Board of Trustees/ Another League member, Lois Carson, also serves on the committee, representing the SBVC Foundation. Other members include representatives of students, business, the Crafton Hills Foundation, taxpayers, and the community at large. One of the issues that I have been pursuing as your representative has been the number of jobs awarded locally through multiple contractors and subcontractors proving the day-to-day work on the various projects. I am pleased to report that 80% of the contracts awarded so far are with Inland Empire employers who employ mostly local workers. The various projects so far have employed 88,700 workers! I am confident that this massive effort has been good for the local economy. There are 42 projects ongoing or completed between both schools. The projects are being done in phases, with final completion expected by 2025. Three of the projects were completed this past August. Drive by one or both the campuses and see the progress for yourself. I am very proud that our League has a role in this significant improvement of local education opportunities for our citizens.

## OUR LIBRARIES.....QUO VADIS?

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Are you concerned about the future of libraries in San Bernardino?

By Susan Nieblas

Our libraries are in serious trouble. The City Council has balanced the budget at the expense of public access to library services and board is not happy about that! Assuring a stable funding base for local libraries has long been a priority of our local League. We have supported several recent tax increases to assure funding for libraries. These measures have received majority votes, but not the two-thirds required under state law. This has left our city libraries dependent on general fund monies, in competition with local police, fire, and other agencies. The result has been a critical cut in library hours and vital services to the community that libraries provide.

On Saturday, November 7, the League will be hosting a forum on library funding— past, present, and future. We will have experiences experts, Q and A, a group discussion and a final half-hour devoted to League members present, looking at how the League can make a positive difference in this important community service.

Please plan to attend and bring your friends, neighbors, and anyone else who would like to see libraries receive the funding they need. The Highland Library is a new facility with many fascinating displays and services.

**Help save our libraries by joining us on November 7.**

**1:30 to 4:30 PM**

**Highland Library and Environmental Learning Center**

**7863 Central Avenue. Highland**

**Light refreshments will be served**

How to get there: From San Bernardino, take 5th Street east and proceed past the city yards to Central Ave. Where 5th Street develops a right turn lane, turn north past the city yards to the next driveway. The library is a yellow building.

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***News from LWVC***

From LWVC President Janis Hirohama's letter to local League members in the September Update: Reflecting on some of the striking political events that took place over the summer, she says "It is discouraging to see the coarsening of public discourse, the ugly and divisive tone, the deep mistrust of government, and the just plain incivility that is increasingly prevalent in the discussion of public policy issues.

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I felt it personally when I read some of the vitriolic online comments in response to my recent Sacramento Bee op-ed piece supporting the California Fair Elections Act\*. But then I think about how much the League of Women Voters has to offer, especially in this current atmosphere of polarization, public incivility, disinformation, and 24/7 media spin. We can be proud that the League only takes action on issues - such as health care reform -based on positions adopted through our careful process of study and consensus. That quality of deliberation and thinking-before-you-speak seems in short supply these days. Just as important, the League of Women Voters continues to provide a safe forum for civil discourse and for fair and open debate on issues of public concern - just as we have for the past 90 years. And we're determined to stay that way by remaining an island of reason, fairness, and civil discussion - **especially** in turbulent times." \* California Fair Elections Act: Would establish a voluntary pilot public financing program for the 2014 and 2018 Secretary of State races to mitigate the influence of big money and special interests in elections. (It will be on the June 2010 ballot.)

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## SOUND OFF - WHAT DO YOU THINK?

- At a workshop in late August, County Supervisor Neil Derry proposed the creation of an Ethics Commission as well as a Sunshine Ordinance. The workshop outlined the history and principles of public sector ethics, current county ethics commissions operating in other local jurisdictions and heard a presentation on the proposed Ethics Commission. Another workshop is to be scheduled to hear from other Ethics Commissions representatives. A summary of the provisions of Supervisor Derry's proposal:
  - The commission would have five members each serving one four-year term. They would be unpaid.
  - Qualifications: Residents of San Bernardino County, not public officials or participating in an election, not county employees, or having done business with the county in three previous years prior to applying, have a college degree from an accredited university, have no prison record
  - Seats are in three categories: legal - 2 positions; business - 2 positions; education - 1 position. Candidates must have a background in one of the three categories.
  - An independent group will review each application to put each in a category and members would be selected by lottery.
  - Duties and authority include: Initiating and conducting investigations, audits, and public hearings, issuing subpoenas, collecting and making available to the public economic interest statements and campaign finance disclosure forms, proposing new regulations to the Board of Supervisors, educating and training county officials and staff
  - Other provisions: restrictions on commissioner activities, commission's operations, vacancies
  - Staff and budget: Three positions - An executive director, an analyst, an administrative assistant. Budget: \$500,000 the first year.
  - Legal direction: County counsel except for conflict - an outside firm would be hired.



The Grand Jury's finding was that neither the Sheriff's Public Integrity Unit nor the County's Office of Compliance and Ethics is tasked with the responsibility of monitoring improper, but not necessarily illegal behavior by the County's elected officials, their staffs, or appointees. Their recommendation, therefore, was to support the establishment of an effective and independent ethics commission and to establish a credible selection process for members of the ethics commission that is untainted by political influences and biases. Such a selection process must result in an independent ethics commission.

**THE QUESTION: What do you think about establishing an Ethics Commission?** Would it prevent or discourage the kind of behavior that is just short of illegal? Is it possible for it to be truly independent? What are your comments on this particular proposal? What questions do you have about it?

Respond to Gloria Anderson at [glorand@juno.com](mailto:glorand@juno.com) or snail mail her at: P.O. Box 1662, Crestline, CA 92325.

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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 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