



The Voter

Your guide to local issues, action, and information

League of Women
Voters
of San Bernardino
1955-2011

July 2011

Focus: Redistricting

Inside this issue:

- Working the Jigsaw 2
- Meet new board member Dennis Baxter 2
- Charter Schools 3
- Meet new board member Amy Ellison 3
- Sites of interest 4

Get involved!

- *New redistricting maps will come out this month. There is still time to comment and the are listening!*
- *The SB League is starting a study on Charter Schools. If you are concerned about education in SB now is the time to step forward.*

ALERT! On July 14, 2011, the Citizens Redistricting Commission will release a second set of maps of California's 53 Congressional districts, 40 Senate districts, 80 Assembly districts, and 4 Board of Equalization districts. They may also hold a second round of public hearings in this historic effort.

You can see them discuss the map drawing by going to www.wedrawthelines.ca.gov.

It is apparent when you hear them that they really are considering the public input to ensure that district lines are drawn to keep communities whole and grouped with nearby communities with similar interests. Proposition 11 established this and other criteria that they must follow. As I mentioned in a previous message, the June 19 hearing in San Bernardino sent a message from the mountain communities that they should not be split up. Redlands also made a case for why the city should remain whole as well. What about San Bernardino? The first draft maps split San Bernardino on Waterman Avenue. Only one person spoke against dividing San Bernardino. How do you feel about that?

If you are concerned that legislators will be working behind the scenes to influence Commissioners and take control of the redistricting process, the answer is NO! The law is very clear that no non-public communication may occur between legislators and Commissioners regarding redistricting issues. Any comment from legislators must take place in a public Commission meeting – just like any other citizen.

Does the law require that districts be more competitive, rather than dominated by one political party? No. District competitiveness is not on the list of criteria that the Commission must consider. Additionally, they shall not draw districts for the purpose of favoring or discriminating against an incumbent, political candidate or political party. The focus is on keeping communities of interest together in a district so they can get fair and effective representation.

The final maps will probably be posted toward the end of July and the deadline for their approval by the Commission is August 15. The maps must have the affirmative votes of at least 3 of 5 of

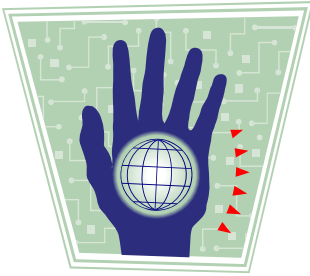
its Democrat Commissioners, at least 3 of 5 of its Republican Commissioners and at least 3 of 4 of its Decline-to-State Commissioners. In the unlikely scenario that the Commission does not agree on the final boundaries, the California Supreme Court will appoint three masters to draw the lines.

There is still time for you to get involved. Public comments can be sent in writing

via email to voters-firstact@crc.ca.gov or via mail or fax: Citizens Redistricting Commission, 901 P Street, Suite 154A, Sacramento, CA 95814, Fax: 916-651-5711.

Questions? Call me at 338-4163 or email me at glorand@juno.com.

*Gloria Anderson,
President LWV SB*



14 of our fellow Californians are re-drawing our voting districts. They need your recommendations now!

Board members Bert Fox and Shirley Harlan scouted out San Bernardino's Redistricting Assistance Site—you can too!

"an educated and informed voter can make a difference in our community"

Working the Jigsaw

July 7, 2011

As we sat before the computer at the Redistricting Assistance Site, 475A South Arrowhead Avenue, San Bernardino looking at our California Assembly District we saw a jumble of colorful names, lines and numbers. What did this all mean? John Lavallee, Site Manager, helped us understand the map.

When the final maps are drawn using 2010 Census that is taken every ten years it effects the distribution of federal funds and the distribution of political power not only at the Assembly level but all levels of government.

We found it mysterious, complex and challenging.

We were there to learn because we do not think about the boundaries and how they effect our every day lives. But they certainly do!

Realize that the new 2010 Census data reveals that our nation has undergone great demographic changes and is becoming increasingly diverse.

Drawing the maps are fourteen citizens. What a job they have to follow the required six criteria. For example each assembly district must have 464,000 persons representing one-person one vote. Must be compliant with Federal voting rights act. The district must be contiguous. There must be respect for place; the geographic area must not be broken up. Keep the area compact and nesting.

We did not prepare ourselves enough in order to critique their first draft. However on our own computers at home there are websites that have helpful information. These are as follows:
www.wedrawtheline.ca.gov,

www.swddb.berkeley.edu; and redrawca.org.

Our experience was very rewarding and started us thinking about how citizens feel if their city is divided. When you are adding numbers or subtracting them there is a domino effect so that someone is in or out of a geographical area.

This is a democratic process that we keep ourselves informed and active drawing maps and voicing our concerns to the redistricting commission.

There are six state sites and we are lucky to have one in San Bernardino open Tuesday and Thursday 3 to 9 p.m. and Saturday 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. The phone number is 909 388 7444.

Bert Fox and Shirley Harlan LWVSB Board Members

Meet new board member Dennis Baxter

Dennis Baxter is a San Bernardino "Native Son", graduated from Pacific High School, studied Broadcasting at San Bernardino Valley College and became an award-winning Broadcast Journalist. He served on the San Bernardino City Council from 2006 to 2010. He is Host of the award-winning "Inland Empire Alive" talk

show on the I.E. Media Group (Channel 3) and works in the Financial Services Industry. Dennis says he has long respected and admired the educational work the League provides with unbiased and objective analysis of National, State and Local issues. "I am proud to serve on the San Bernardino League of

Women Voters Board along side those past and present who hold firm the belief that an educated and informed voter can make a difference in our community".

Charter Schools in San Bernardino

HOW CAN THE LEAGUE BE INVOLVED IN THIS ISSUE?

At this year's Annual Meeting, members directed the board to commence a study on Charter Schools in San Bernardino. Since we cannot take action unless and until we do a study and adopt a position, it is now our highest priority to get this effort underway and provide timely input to the community.

What do we know about local Charter Schools? How does the public evaluate the effectiveness of Charter Schools? What controls and accountability measures are in place? Do Charter Schools serve an important educational purpose in our community? What is the relationship between Charter Schools on the public school system? What position should the League take on the Charter Schools controversy? These are just a

few of the questions that need to be answered before the League takes an advocacy position in the current and upcoming debates on Charter Schools.

If you are interested in serving on the Charter Schools study committee, **WE WANT YOU** to volunteer **NOW**. Here's what the study will entail:

- * Select a chairperson or co-chairs.
- * Attend approximately two committee meetings a month, starting in August, 2011.
- * Determine the scope of the study, which must be approved by the Board.
- * Set timelines for completion of the study.
- * Divide into sub-committees to focus on different aspects of the study.
- * Conduct research, interview experts, etc.
- * Plan member meeting(s)

to present information to LWVSB membership.

- * Formulate an LWVSB position statement on Charter Schools in San Bernardino for approval by the Board.

For some of us, this is the reason we joined the League -- to study the issues and influence public decisions from an informed and well-thought-out perspective. Val Lichtman, Bert Fox, Barbara Sokoloff, and Marilyn Patterson have already expressed an interest in working on this very timely study.. Please contact Susan Nieblas at snieb0810@aol.com or (909) 338-8260 if you can lend your energy to this committee. This is a good opportunity to get involved in something very important to our community.

*Susan Nieblas,
Vice President, LWV SB*



Studying area schools...

"this is the reason we joined the League — to study the issues and influence public decisions from an informed and well thought out perspective."

Meet new board member Amy Ellison

Amy Ruth Ellison is a long time resident of San Bernardino. She is a Fine Arts Resource Teacher at two Fine Arts Magnet Elementary Schools in the San Bernardino City Unified School District (Palm Avenue and Roger Anton) where she implements an Artist-in-Residence Program working with the *Arts Teach Education Division* of the

Seegerstrom Center for the Arts in Orange County. She is an Adjunct Faculty member at San Bernardino Valley College and is the Inland Empire Area League Coordinator for the United States Tennis Association.

Amy serves as Vice-President of the San Bernardino Valley Concert Associa-

tion and Elementary Choral Clinic Representative on the Board of the San Bernardino County Music Educators Association. She is Chairperson of three scholarships for seniors at San Geronio High School, as Chairperson of an art scholarship for seniors at Pacific High School "The Ryan Wesley Craig Memorial Scholarship".

Amy is the recipient of *The BRAVO Award* from the Los Angeles County Music Center Education Division and has been recognized as a *Citizen of Achievement* by the League of Women Voters.

She is honored to be part of the LWV Board!

**League of Women Voters
of San Bernardino 1955-2011**

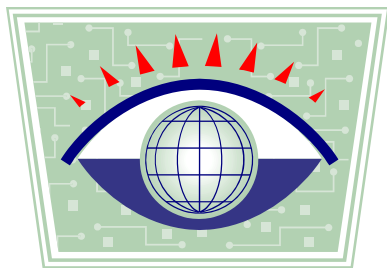
League of Women Voters of San Bernardino
568 N. Mt. View Ave. Ste 150
San Bernardino, CA 92401

Phone: 909-338-4163
Message phone: 909-889-8600
E-mail: jvlong@csusb.edu



**The League of Women Voters:
Because Democracy is not a
spectator sport.**

We're on the web: [http://
lwvsanbernardino.ca.lwvnet.org/](http://lwvsanbernardino.ca.lwvnet.org/)



**Use the web to view council
your government in action.**

Sites of Interest

Want to see what happened at the June 29 San Bernardino City Council Budget meeting? Go to: <http://iemediagroup.org>. Right now it's on the first page along with other new files. It is archived on this site, so it will be available even when it is no longer new. To find an archived file so that you can watch it, just search using the search box in the upper right hand corner. If you type in June 29 a link to this program will pop right up - just click on it to view it over your computer.

San Bernardino City Council meeting agendas and summaries can be found at: http://www.ci.san-bernardino.ca.us/cityhall/city_clerk/council_meeting_agendas.asp

For the meeting agenda and upcoming meeting dates (as well as video of past meetings) of the San Bernardino County Board of Supervisors go to: <http://www.sbcounty.gov/bos/default.asp>

Information on the redistricting efforts for the State of California

is at: <http://wedrawthelines.ca.gov/> (the revised drafts of the redistricting maps should be up July 14, 2011.

To see upcoming San Bernardino League of Women Voters events go to: <http://lwvsanbernardino.ca.lwvnet.org/> and click on "Calendar."