

LWV Whittier

VOTER

The League of Women Voters of Whittier serves Whittier, La Habra Heights, La Mirada, Montebello, Pico Rivera, Santa Fe Springs, Los Nietos, South Whittier and surrounding communities.

LWV Whittier
562-947-5818

LWVwebsite www.whittier.ca.lwvnet.org

Editor: Ginny Holloway
562-777-4343

JULY/AUGUST, 2010

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MISSION

The League of Women Voters, a nonpartisan, political organization, encourages informed and active participation in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy.

DIVERSITY POLICY

The League of Women Voters of Whittier in both its values and practices, affirms its belief and commitment to diversity and pluralism, which means there shall be no barriers to participation in any activity of the LWV on the basis of gender, race, creed, age, sexual orientation, national origin or disability.

ANNUAL MEETING

LWV Whittier Chapter

The Annual Meeting of the League of Women Voters, Whittier, was held on Thursday, May 27th at De Luca's Ristorante in Whittier. There was a good turnout of the membership, and several new members were welcomed to the chapter.

The slate of officers was approved as presented by the Nominating Committee. The proposed budget for 2010-11 was presented, discussed, and approved. One cutback in the Chapter will be having six issues a year of the VOTER, instead of the previous seven, and encouraging people to receive their copies by e-mail to cut down on printing costs.

Several topics were suggested for the Chapter to emphasize in the coming year, including the issue of drilling for oil in the Whittier Hills. It was unanimously decided to study mental health and the homeless.

Sally Seven from LWV Claremont was the evening's speaker, and she gave an informative presentation on "Health Care Reform: The US and Other Countries", and she gave several handouts on the subject.

Although the summer months are relatively dark for the Chapter, members are reminded of the L.A. County 2010 Annual Summer League Day on Saturday, July 31, 2010, at the Pasadena Women's City Club in Pasadena. A flyer is enclosed with this issue of the VOTER.



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS® LOS ANGELES COUNTY

An Inter-League Organization ▫ Beach Cities • Claremont Area • East San Gabriel Valley • Glendale/Burbank • Long Beach Area
Los Angeles • Palos Verdes Peninsula • Pasadena Area • Santa Monica • Torrance • Whittier

2010 ANNUAL SUMMER LEAGUE DAY POPOVERS IN PASADENA

WOMEN'S CITY CLUB
160 NORTH OAKLAND, PASADENA
ENTRANCE in rear off N. Madison Avenue
1-1/2 blocks north of Colorado Blvd.

SATURDAY, JULY 31, 2010
9:30 AM TO 2 PM
LUNCHEON



Speaker
JUDGE MICHAEL NASH
Presiding Judge Juvenile Court

WORKSHOPS
Redistricting Observer Corps
& Media Watch
Presidents & Treasurers
21st Century Communications
County Jail Study

✂ -----

Please send form and check payable to **LWV/LAC**
Mail to **LWV/LAC Treasurer, 427 E. Walnut Ave., Burbank 91501**

League Name _____

Attendee Name(s) _____

Deadline is July 16, 2010

Reservations # _____ @\$25.00 Total enclosed \$ _____

If postmarked after July 16th and if available

Reservations # _____ @\$30.00 Total enclosed \$ _____

Chicken Luncheon # _____ Vegetarian Luncheon # _____ W/O NUTS or other allergens # _____
(name food)

PLEASE SIGN UP FOR A MORNING WORKSHOP

Redistricting # _____ Pres. & Treas. # _____ 21st Cent. # _____ County Jails # _____

Nonpartisan Policy

(Readopted by LWVW Board, September 2008)

The League of Women Voters of Whittier shall not support or oppose any political party of any candidate. The Board and each Board member has the responsibility to maintain the nonpartisanship of the organization. The President and Voter Service Director will not take an active, visible role in or make a financial contribution to any political candidate's campaign. A local Board member or member of the Nominating Committee may not run for or hold public office. Potential political activity shall be reported to the Board and decisions will be made on the basis of the specific situation.

Diversity Policy

(Proposed and adopted by LWVW Board, September 2008)

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The LWVW recognizes that diverse perspectives are important and necessary for responsible and representative decision-making. LWVW subscribes to the belief that diversity and pluralism are fundamental to the values it upholds and that this inclusiveness enhances the organization's ability to respond more effectively to changing conditions and needs.

Welcome New Members

(Please add to your roster)

John Pringle
930 N. Las Flores Avenue
Montebello, CA 90640

323-726-2410

Suffragist Level Chapter members

- Jan Baird**
- Joan Ewing**
- Ann Farmer**
- Susan Given**
- Sam Guyan**
- Helen Haines**
- Jois Hofmann**
- Kathie Kingett**
- Judith Rader**
- Karin Reed**
- Margo Reeg**
- Carole Restovich**
- Sally Rivera**
- Marcia Scully**
- Beverly Walker**
- Celeste Zabala**

What the right to vote means to me... (responses from the 90th Birthday celebration)

Voting means I have a say in the government.

Voting means the right to have a voice in democracy.

The right to vote means I have a say, I am important in choosing the outcome.

I am equal, and I can speak and make myself heard.

The right to vote is the foundation of our nation.



MEET THE JUDICIAL CANDIDATES

People expect and trust State and Federal courts to be impartial, but attempts to politicize the courts are increasing, according to Justice Judith McConnell, Presiding Judge of the 4th Appellate District, who addressed the public at the Meet Your Judicial Candidates Reception at Southwestern Law School in Los Angeles on May 20th.

Most states have restricted judges and judicial candidates from stating their views on public issues that might come before them. However, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled in *Republican Party of Minnesota v. White* that the Minnesota law violated the candidates' 1st Amendment right to free speech.

Today judicial candidates are peppered with questionnaires from various interest groups probing opinions on many controversial topics with the intent to use the responses in print or online to influence voters. Candidates used to refuse to answer by relying on the canons of judicial ethics, but today, due to the *White* case, they can't use that reason. However, McConnell feels it is very risky for judicial candidates to answer questionnaires, so she suggested they may still refuse to answer based on personal ethics.

Justice McConnell was appalled to learn from one of the 18 candidates that it would have cost \$98,000 to place a ballot statement in the LA County sample ballot. None of the judicial candidates chose to place a statement in the sample ballot. Some candidates claimed that the cost to run in the primary and November elections in Los Angeles County would come close to \$250,000, due to the size of the County.

McConnell stated that a candidate may jeopardize his impression of impartiality by having to accept campaign funds from political or corporate donors.

During the Q and A with Val Zavala of KCET, the focus was on recommendations from the

report from the Commission on Judicial Performance that was released in December, 2008. Justice McConnell commented that Civics education for both students and voters is one of the key recommendations. She averred that part of a judge's duty is to do outreach to the public.

Speaking about judicial campaigns, McConnell stated that judges have to avoid making statements that would indicate their positions on issues, but attorneys running for judge can express their positions. However, if they become a judge they may be expected to recuse themselves from cases involving those issues.

Of the 21 candidates for the six judicial offices, 18 brought campaign materials and chatted with the attendees representing the public, judicial campaign teams, representatives from law schools, public policy schools, and the League.

Frances Talbott-White demonstrated the SmartVoter site live using the judicial candidates' pages. In addition, the Registrar Recorder's office demonstrated the current Inka Vote Plus system and the audio booth, which some of the attendees had never seen.

The League of Women Voters of Los Angeles County and southwestern Law School intend to do more education on Judicial offices in the Fall.

Healthcare Q&A: How taxpayers may be affected

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By Noam M. Levy Tribune Washington Bureau
May 1, 2010 | 7:37 p.m.

In their recently enacted healthcare overhaul, congressional Democrats and the Obama administration rely on multiple sources of money to offset the cost of insuring more than 30 million more people over the next decade. Much of the money — an estimated \$575 billion — come from projected cuts in Medicare spending designed to make the program more efficient. (Continued)

How taxpayers may be affected
(Continued)

There are a host of new taxes, as well. Many are on industries, such as drug makers and insurers. And notwithstanding charges from some critics, most Americans will not see a tax hike. But here are answers to questions about the main tax provisions that could affect individual taxpayers.

Whose taxes are going to go up because of this new healthcare law?

Individual Americans who earn more than \$200,000 and couples earning more than \$250,000 a year will see the most immediate effect. Most taxpayers now pay 1.45% of their income to support Medicare, the federal insurance program for the elderly. Starting in 2013, those upper-income taxpayers will see that percentage rise to 2.35%. Such taxpayers will also have to pay a new 3.8% tax on unearned income, such as the sale of investments.

What about these tax penalties I've heard of?

Beginning in 2014, Americans who do not get health insurance, as mandated under the new law, could face a penalty. The penalty is phased in over three years, rising in 2016 to \$695 per person or 2.5% of income, whichever is more.

The nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office, which is charged with analyzing legislation, has estimated that some 21 million people will still not have insurance by 2016. But there are many exemptions from the penalty — for religious beliefs, low income or other factors.

And the CBO estimated that only about 4 million people would actually be subject to the penalty in 2016.

I heard the Internal Revenue Service would be hiring more than 16,000 agents to enforce the law and could put people in jail.

Those rumors, fanned largely by Republican critics of the legislation, are false. There is no provision in the healthcare bill to hire these

agents, a claim the nonpartisan FactCheck.org called "wildly inaccurate."

What about the "Cadillac tax"?

Beginning in 2018, there will be a new tax on employer-provided, high-end health plans that offer generous benefits. Plans worth more than \$10,200 for individuals and \$27,500 for families would be subject to the tax, which imposes a 40% levy on any value that exceeds the threshold. For example, a worker with a plan worth \$11,200 would pay a 40% tax on \$1,000 (or \$400), because the plan is \$1,000 over the \$10,200 threshold for individual plans.

The thresholds, which are scheduled to increase annually at the rate of inflation, will be higher for workers over 55 and those in certain high-risk professions, which often have higher value health plans.

Comments in a Discussion on Involving Younger Women and Men in the League

Younger members may be more interested in the controversial issues and become engaged in a study of one, but then learn from the older members the value of our established positions along the way. Our advantage over other organizations is how our positions and vision of the world and nation connect the dots and bring these controversial issues into a perspective that you rarely see in other advocacy and good government groups. And our national positions have stood the test of time for excellence in good policy. Assignment for all new board members: Read IN LEAGUE and the IMPACT ON ISSUES booklet before you attend your first board meeting. Older members need to reread them every few years, also.

Sylvia Hampton Management Training Advisor
League of Women Voters of San Diego County

OUR ADVERTISERS

This space is reserved for members and friends of the League who want to advertise in the VOTER. The people and businesses that do so help make our education projects possible. Please support them. To place an ad in the VOTER, please call Margo Reeg at 562-947-5818.

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Join The Whittier League Of
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 Cut out this coupon and mail with your
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Beverly Walker, Membership Chair
8104 Arrington Avenue, Pico Rivera CA
90660

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Membership in LWVW includes membership
in all levels of League: Whittier, California,
Los Angeles County, and United States.

Dues:

Member	\$55.00
2nd Household Member	\$25
Suffragist Member	\$80
Student	\$20

Please make check payable to LWV Whittier

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Many Voices, One Vision



