

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 LWV website <u>www.whittier.ca.lwvnet.org</u> Editor: Ginny Holloway

November 2010

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OIL DRILLING IN THE WHITTIER HILLS

November 3, 2010

Whittier Area Community Church

8175 Villaverde Drive, Whittier

Join the Friendly Hills Homeowners Association to hear a presentation on the Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR) and listen to a debate between representatives of Matrix Oil and Whittier Hills Oil Watch.

Moderated by Tim Traeger, Editor ,Whittier Daily News

HIKE THE PROPOSED OIL DRILLING AREA

Saturday, November 6 or 13

9:30 am

Led by Bob Henderson

(Finalized date will be given at the November 3rd presentation)

See the actual areas proposed for drilling and the potential routes for truck traffic. Learn where the pipelines are and ask questions about the impacts.



MIJJON

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 it 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.

President's Message

Thanks to everyone who made our Kick-Off Brunch a success. The eggs, breads, fruit, and other goodies were delicious and people enjoyed getting better acquainted.

Our speaker Councilmember Owen Newcomer gave a very informative and provocative talk on "Good Constitution, Bad Constitution" using the federal Constitution as the Good example and California's Constitution as the Bad. Several examples of the "good" constitution were difficulty of amendment, broad clear principles for government to follow, brevity and flexibility to adapt to modern issues.

The "bad" constitution in California is excessively long and is filled with specific details that can only be changed by amending the document by the people. Among the items that Newcomer cited as not belonging in the constitution are specific tax rates, specific spending projects, and all forms of "Ballot box budgeting." Nevertheless, because ballot box budgeting is the "norm" and Newcomer represents the city of Whittier, he explained his reasons for supporting Prop. 22, which would guarantee funding to cities, even though as a political science professor he recognizes that this is not a sound government practice. He also mentioned the 2/3 vote requirement to pass a budget in CA as being a problem and recommended voting for Prop. 25.

Sally Rivera and I taped a thorough presentation of the ballot measures for Whittier Cable TV on October 8. That program will be shown frequently until the election. In addition, I interviewed the candidates for LA County Superior Court judge at Whittier City Hall. This program is being shown on Whittier Cable during the weeks before November 2. It will also be distributed throughout the county to other cable channels and to each League for their use. A copy of each program is at the A/V desk at Whittier Public Library for check out also.

City of Bell Voter Empowerment

The Whittier League was representing **LA County** Leagues along with the Los Angeles League to provide current and accurate voter information to the Madeline Shapiro residents of Bell at a community forum on October 16 at South Regional Middle School #2 in Bell.

The **League's** presentation focused on the sample ballot and resources that voters can use to get information about candidates and propositions. The Registrar Recorder's Office (RR-CC) discussed Vote-by Mail and in person voting and protecting your ballot. The National Association of Elected and Appointed Latino Officials (NALEO) informed people of the common questions on Election Day and how to get answers; and Common Cause will present details on voter protection hotlines. We have done similar presentations in Compton on the 16th and in South Gate on October 23.

After the November election the coalition will work on issues specific to Bell at additional public forums. This is an exciting opportunity to be involved in teaching democracy and citizen responsibility.

The **ELECTION INFO** publication on Pros and Cons of the state ballot measures and information on county elective offices is now available at the Whittier Public libraries, all LA County library branches. and through Margo and Sally Rivera. We have distributed to members. Pros and Cons are online at www.cavotes.org in the right hand column under What's on the Ballot? Everything on the ballot is available at www.smartvoter.org . Just type in your address to get to your ballot.

We all take our citizenship seriously. I know you will all cast your ballots on November 2. The League's recommendations on measures are in this VOTER.

Margo

Welcome New Members

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LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF 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 Area • Whittier

JAIL STUDY PREPARATION/TRAINING



LUNCHEON GUEST SPEAKER

LOS ANGELES COUNTY
DEPUTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY
BEATRIZ DIERINGER

TAIX RESTAURANT 1911 W. SUNSET BLVD. LOS ANGELES, CA 90026 Tel. 213-484-1265

SATURDAY NOVEMBER 20, 2010 9:30 AM to 2 PM

Note: \$2.50 valet fee, carpooling recommended.

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Please send form and check payal Mail to Georganne Thomsen , 125	ble to LWV/LAC			
League Name				
Attendee Name(s)				
Postmarked by Nov. 8, 2010 Reservations # @\$25.00	Postmarked AFTER Nov Reservations #	•	Total enclosed \$_	
Chicken Luncheon # Ve	getarian Luncheon #	W/O NUTS	S or other allergens	#(name food)

Study Presentation for Unit and Consensus training for Local League Jail Study Committees and all interested Leaguers

VOTER SERVICE

The Whittier League is well into Voter Service mode as the November 2nd General Election approaches. We scheduled 13 presentations of the Pros and Cons for the nine state ballot measures. Our speaker team has shared the responsibilities for these events ranging from retirement communities and church groups to the California Council for the Blind and political clubs. League speakers include Sally Rivera, Kathie Kingett, Sheila Hartfield and Margo Reeg.

Sept. 28 Mark Twain Democratic Club

October

- **4 Hollenbeck Palms Retirement**
- 5 The Palms Retirement Community
- 8 Pros and Cons at Whittier City Hall
- 9 CA Council for Blind ELA Group\
- 11 Fullerton Soroptimists
- 13 Lowell Joint School District Forum
- 16 Bell Voter Empowerment Forum
- 18 Voter Registration at Whittier DMV
- 18 Registration at Bell Gardens DMV
- 20 Posada Whittier
- 20 East Whittier AM Kiwanis Club
- 21Peace and Justice at St. Matthias
- 28SoCal Independent Living Centers
- 28Shields for Families-Lynwood
- 28Pio Pico Progressive Democrats
- 31 First United Methodist Church

November 2nd ELECTION DAY

LOWELL JOINT SCHOOL BOARD FORUM

On Wednesday October 13 at 7 pm at Rancho Starbuck Inter-mediate School, candidates for the Lowell Joint School District Board participated in a forum sponsored by the North Orange County LWV and the Whittier LWV. In the race for three seats on the board, only one incumbent is running. The Forum featured all eight candidates. The forum was taped and is being shown in Whittier and La Habra Heights.

LOOK FOR SMART VOTER THIS NOVEMBER

Smart Voter, the California League's premier online voter information service, is sporting a new and streamlined look for the November 2nd election. All League members are invited to check out the new look. Just go to www.smartvoter.org and type in your address to see your ballot. Every measure and many candidates will be in blue, which indicates a link to their page. Try It!

The new home page can be found at our regular location http://smartvoter.org where you will also find updated information on all of the local as well as federal and state elections for November in participating counties. Smart Voter is your most comprehensive and accurate single source of election information, and officially partnered with the Secretary of State and county registrars as well as the LWVCEF and local Leagues.

Exciting features include links to videos of Statewide candidate interviews conducted by League members on the California Channel. The Judicial Interviews for LA County Superior Court can be found when you click on each race—Office 28 and Office 117. You can also find your polling place using the Polling Place lookup.

And please remember to tell your friends and family that they should go to Smart Voter to get the most comprehensive and accurate online election information available in California!

www.smartvoter.org

Did You Know?

Women gained the right to vote in California on October 10, 1911, nine years before the federal constitutional amendment passed., with only a 3,500 vote margin, the equivalent of one vote per precinct. This emphasizes the point that voting makes a difference: what if only one or two people in each precinct had not gone to the polls that day?

(Excerpted from the California Perspective, AAUW California, Fall 2010).

What the League of Women Voters Means to Me

by Jan Baird

What the League of Women Voters means to me? The League means that I am going to get the correct information that I need to vote intelligently. I know that a study has been done and that I am being given the correct information on the propositions . I know that candidates are never endorsed but that the League, in their effort to make information available to all voters, holds candidate forums.

I also know that the League of Women Voters was started by women who campaigned to obtain the right to vote for women in the United States. They wanted women to use their new right to vote well. The League began in 1920 by providing women with information they would need to make intelligent decisions in the polling booth - and they are still providing that information today!

DONATIONS

FOR THE

Chapter

"NON-BAKE

BAKE SALE"



How Would a Single Payer Tax Structure Work?

October 7th, 2010

The Lewin Group study of 2005 proposed an employer payroll tax of about 8% and an individual income tax of about 3% with floors of \$7,000 (no tax on the first \$7,000 of earnings) and a ceiling of 1% on earnings over \$200,000. But because the bill was not signed by Gov. Schwarzenegger in 2006 or 2008, the cost basis that was used to determine those percentages has changed. Healthcare costs have risen rapidly since then, so the tax structure would have to be somewhat higher. accrue Still, because of the savings that would from the elimination of private insurance companies, single payer taxes would be less than private insurance premiums regardless of when single payer took effect, and coverage would be comprehensive with no deductibles or co-pays.

At present, the actual tax portion of the single payer legislation has yet to be determined. SB 810 had a provision that would create a commission that would determine the tax structure for the plan which would then have to be approved by a 2/3 vote of the legislature or by a ballot initiative. Presumably, the next—iteration of the bill that Senator Leno will introduce next year will contain the same provision.

Don Schroeder, Co-Chair California OneCare Campaign

\$1,510 raised to date. Thank you everyone!

VOTE November 2nd YOUR VOTE COUNTS!

POVERTY Data for Whittier's Congressional Districts

From Half in Ten

September 30, 2010

Washington, D.C.—The Half in Ten campaign, a joint partnership of the Center for American Progress Action Fund, The Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights, and the Coalition on Human Needs that seeks to cut poverty in half in 10 years, has released a new interactive map that breaks down the 2009 poverty data by state and congressional district. The map shows both the poverty rate and number of people living in poverty for each state as well as each congressional district, breaking statistics down by race, gender, and age.

Earlier this month the Census Bureau released the 2009 poverty data, which indicated that 43.6 million people in the United States lived in poverty last year, including 15.5 million children, the largest number on record.

California 39th District Rep. Linda Sanchez

Poverty Rate 14.3% (92,446) Child Poverty Rate 20.4% (38,664)

- 53,363 women (15.97 percent) in the district live in poverty
- \bullet 5,430 African-Americans (18.21 percent) in the district live in poverty
- ullet 74,990 Latinos (17.27 percent) in the district live in poverty

4,072 Asian-Americans (5.73 percent) in the district live in poverty

California 38th District Rep. G. Napolitano

Poverty Rate 13.9% (87,211)

Child Poverty Rate 19.5% (34,018)

- ullet 45,744 women (14.11 percent) in the district live in poverty
- 73,277 Latinos (15.27 percent) in the district live in poverty

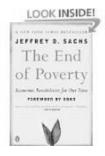
 $5{,}747$ Asian-Americans (9.2 percent) in the district live in poverty

California 42nd District Rep. Gary Miller

Poverty Rate 5.4% (35,187)

Child Poverty Rate 5.7% (9,606)

- 19,840 women (5.86 percent) in the district live in poverty
- 15,803 Latinos (8.28 percent) in the district live in poverty
- 6,701 Asian-Americans (5.38 percent) in the district live in poverty.



Recommended Reading:

The End of Poverty

By Jeffrey Sachs

Coming soon to the Whittier Chapter:

Plans are in the making for a book group for the Whittier Chapter of the League of Women Voters.

Several ideas on the format for the group have been presented to the Board and are being taken into consideration.

Look for further developments in the next issue of the VOTER, and consider coming to the book group.

VOTE November 2nd YOUR VOTE COUNTS!

Vote with the League!

The League of Women Voters of California (LWVC) has recommendations on six of the nine measures on the statewide ballot in November.

The LWVC **Supports** Propositions 24 and 25, **Opposes** Propositions 20, 23, 26, **Strongly Opposes** Proposition 27, is **Neutral** on Propositions 21 and 22, and has **No Position** on Proposition 19. For details about the positions, refer to the LWVC website. Information about the ballot measures and about candidates is available at www.smartvoter.org . Just type in your address to bring up your ballot. Videos of Judicial candidates for Superior Court and Supreme Court are posted for each race.

NO on Prop 20: The League believes that Proposition 20 is well-intentioned but premature. California is in the midst of a major reform of our redistricting process, with a new independent Citizens Redistricting Commission drawing the lines for state Senate and Assembly districts. Proposition 20 would significantly increase the commission's workload by adding Congressional redistricting and shortening the time it would have to do its work.

NO on Prop 23: The LWVC **opposes** Proposition 23, the Dirty Energy Proposition, funded by out-of-state oil companies, because it would virtually kill the landmark Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006, AB 32. This dangerous proposition would get rid of clean energy standards that will cut air pollution and protect the public health. Proponents say Prop 23 is needed to preserve jobs, but in fact it will jeopardize hundreds of thousands of clean-energy jobs.

YES on Prop 24: The League of Women Voters **supports** Proposition 24, which would repeal the corporate tax cuts that were passed in closed-door budget deals of 2008-09. These tax breaks benefit only two percent of California's businesses. Proposition 24 will make big multi-state corporations pay their fair share and put \$1.3 billion back into the treasury to help our schools, health care, and other essential services that have suffered severe budget cuts in recent years.

YES on Prop 25: The LWVC **supports** Proposition 25, which would change the vote required for the Legislature to pass a budget from the current two-thirds to a simple majority. Majority rule is a fundamental part of democracy. The majority should set priorities for spending and take responsibility for them. This measure will change the negotiations over the budget and reduce the stranglehold the minority now exercises over the process.

NO on Prop 26: The League of Women Voters **opposes** Proposition 26. This measure redefines payments made by companies for harm done to the environment or public health as tax increases. This would make these payments much harder to implement because it would require a 2/3 vote to implement these payments, thus leaving taxpayers to foot the bill for those who pollute or create a public nuisance.

NO on Prop 27: The League of Women Voters **strongly opposes** Proposition 27. This measure would kill the major redistricting reform voters just approved in 2008 and return the authority for redistricting to the backrooms of the Legislature. Proposition 27 would allow politicians to draw their own districts to protect their jobs. It would take us back to the days when bizarrely shaped districts were drawn in secret, carving up neighborhoods and communities to keep incumbents safely in office.

VOTE WITH THE LEAGUE ON NOVEMBER 2!



CLIMATE CHANGE FORUM SCAQMD

Implementation of **AB 32**, provisions of **SB 375**, and Federal Climate Change Programs constituted the agenda of the Climate Change Forum sponsored by the South Coast Air Quality Management District and Jan Perry, LA City Council on October 14.

Panelists Jill Whynot of the SCAQMD, Lee Wallace, Southern California Gas Company, Lorraine Paskett, LA DWP, and Wendy James, Better World Group gave their perspectives on the progress that has already been made on implementing AB 32, the Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reduction Law.

Ms James noted that California is the 3rd largest user of fossil fuels after the United States and China, so reducing California's consumption of fossil fuels by 17% by 2020 can make a significant difference. She also stated that California is a trendsetter for the US and everything California does in energy policy does make a difference because other states will follow our lead.

As an example, California clean air policy led to the development of the catalytic converter. California is the home of Clean Technology with 500,000 jobs today. Massachusetts in second in clean technology. And the California clean-green industry is growing.

The final set of rules for implementation of AB 32 will be passed by the California Air Resources Board in December. Cap and Trade on emissions of GHGs will constitute 20% of the rule.

Lew Wallace stated that SoCal Gas is opposed to Prop. 23 because of the uncertainty it will create for industry. They want to know the rules and the dates by which they must achieve reductions.

SB 375 requires the development of regional greenhouse gas emission reduction targets for passenger vehicles for 2020 and 2035. Strategies to achieve those targets will become part of Sustainable Communities Plans and Regional Transportation Plans. Panelists included Hasan Ikhrata, SoCal Assn. of Governments, Arthur Leahy, Metropolitan Transportation Authority, Jim Arnone, Latham and Watkins, and Denny

Zane, MoveLA. **Mr. Ikhrata** stated that the major challenges for SCAG are the budget, aging infrastructure, regional growth, air quality and congestion. The Regional Transportation Plan for 2008 will cost \$531.5 Billion. The 2012 RTPlan is yet to be determined.

He noted that the "demand for oil is sky-rocketing" but that if the price gets high enough people will drive less. He reminded the audience that SB 375 links transportation to land use so market trends and population data have to be considered and planned for. By 2035 the region is expected to have 17% of its population over 65 and 29% under 21. From 2000-2009 69% of the regional population increase of 2.195 million was due to births in the region and 31% due to immigration.

The SCAG regional Sustainable Communities Strategy is composed of 1) Land Use Plan 2) Transportation Policy 3) and Transportation Investment. So it is crucial to this area that Sacramento not take Transportation funds for other uses.

Art Leahy, CEO of METRO, said that "METRO is revolutionizing LA" by expanding use of trains and transit. Measure R, the most recent ½ cent sales tax devoted to transit projects, targets some money to each region for mass transit, though several regions think they were shortchanged.

Project 30/10 strives to get more money for transportation from Washington. Some has already been promised for the "Subway to the Sea." Leahy agrees that the goals of AB 32 and SB 375 cannot be achieved if the state continues to appropriate transportation funds for other state use.

Jim Arnone, a land use and environmental lawyer, works for real estate owner/developers. He stated that "SB 375 is a powerful tool for regional planning." Focusing on reduction of greenhouse gases doesn't appeal to the public, but focusing on sustainability has greater appeal. He acknowledges that fuel costs will go up again which will help get people out of their individual

(Continued, Page 9)

CLIMATE CHANGE (Continued)

vehicles. He also suggested that because SB 375 is non-binding on cities it will have marginal effect unless there are regional plans. Cities will look toward the regional plans for guidance. If developers choose not to comply they will face consequences from CEQA. He suggests that local and regional governance not "chill the creation of the greenest projects by making them too expensive."

Danny Zane of MoveLA began by praising the SCAQMD and CARB for making amazing strides in cleaning up the air in Southern California. MoveLA became involved in addressing Climate Change because they care about the urban environment. Zane, former mayor of Santa Monica, cited that the Measure R 0.5 cent sales tax in LA County will generate \$40 million for fixed rail and fixed route transportation projects. In addition, SB 375 will help concentrate shopping and housing near transit lanes. This will facilitate reinvestment in LA. In the last 20 years Santa Monica has revitalized itself with more transportation, more mixed use areas and more walkable downtown.

The final panel of the morning addressed **Federal Climate Change Programs**. The panelists included Debbie Jordan, Director of the Air Division Region 9 EPA and Sharon Rubalcava, of the law firm Alston and Bird.

Dr. Jordan stated that the EPA oversees the implementation of 5 major areas including the Clean Air Act.

New GHG reporting program which affects 10,000 stationary facilities including landfills, factories and refineries, power plants and natural gas suppliers begins in March 2011.

The decision was reached in December 2009 that GHG gases lead to climate change and that the emissions from new cars can affect health. The EPA relies on sound scientific studies to bolster this conclusion.

Transportation support measures include engine and control technology, fuel types and activity levels. The renewable standards which apply to new cars and light trucks have been established for the 2012 - 2016 models. A second stricter emissions standard is being developed for cars and trucks from 2017 – 2025 and for heavy duty trucks beginning in 2014. Some stimulus money was directed to fund research into batteries for electric vehicles.

Stationary industrial sources which are revamped or built new will have to use BACT (best available control technology) for greenhouse gases.

Clean Air Act requires that once a pollutant is declared then all sources have to address reduction of that pollutant. The EPA is now developing guidelines for energy efficiency processes to help facilities comply.

Sharon Rubalcava works with industry on the permitting process. The House has passed the Waxman-Markey Energy bill but the Senate has not brought up the Kerry-Lieberman bill. So one problem is that the quantity of GHG reductions has not been set. Industry is hoping for a single federal standard rather than standards set state by state.

Presently major emitters of pollutants have been power plants and refineries. But under GHG rules large office and government buildings will be defined as major sources of GHG emissions due to air conditioning, heating and lighting. Thus these buildings will have to adopt BACT, but so far they do not know what they will need to do get permits and reduce emissions. She suggested that new GHG reporting requirements will encourage changes to make plants more energy efficient. Meeting GHG reductions will be harder for eastern states that rely on coal for power.

Margo Reeg

Our ADVERTISERS

This space is reserved for members and friends of the League who want to advertise in the VOTER.

To place an ad in the VOTER please call Margo Reeg at 562-947-5818 (\$50 per year for a business card-sized space



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LWV California <u>www.lwvc.org</u>

LWV United States www.lwv.org

LWV LA County www.lacilo.ca.lwvnet.org

Smart Voter <u>www.smartvoter.org</u>

LA County Registrar www.lavote.net

EdSource

www.EdSource.org

Secretary of State <u>www.sos.ca.gov</u>

California Assembly www.assembly.ca.gov

LWVC Ed Fund site

California Senate <u>www.senate.ca.go</u>v

California Budget Project www.cbp.org

CA Legislative Analyst www.lao.ca.gov

Many Voices, One Vision



www.cavotes.org

League of Women Voters of Whittier 13611 Walnut Street Whittier, CA 90602



CALENDAR PROS AND CONS

October 28 11:30 AM Southern California Independent Living Center Downey

October 28 2 PM Shields for Families—Lynwood

October 28 6:30 PM Pio Pico Progressive Democrats Greenleaf Café 7203 Greenleaf

October 31 11:30 am First United Methodist Church—Wesley Lounge

November 2 ELECTION DAY VOTE!

November 3 7 pm Whittier Hills Oil Drilling Debate

Whittier Area Community Church, Villa Verde Dr.

Just north of Mar Vista & east of Colima

November 6 9:30 AM Hike the Oil Fields (tentative)

November 7 Daylight savings ends, move clocks back one hour

November 20 9:30 AM-2 PM Jail Study Workshop for Local League Committee People , Taix Restaurant Sunset at Alvarado \$25

SEE FLYER, page 3