



# 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 [www.whittier.ca.lwvnet.org](http://www.whittier.ca.lwvnet.org)

Editor: Ginny Holloway 562-777-4343

SEPTEMBER 2010

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League of Women Voters of Whittier

## Fall Kick-Off Brunch

### Perspectives on the US Constitution



**Owen Newcomer**

*Whittier City Council Member and Political Science Professor*

## Saturday, September 18

### 10 AM to Noon

Brunch at 10AM Program at 10:45 AM

## St. Matthias Church Chase Hall

7056 Washington Avenue, Uptown Whittier

**League members and the public are invited to attend**

Please bring a friend

**Please RSVP by Sept. 15 to Beverly Walker 562-949-2010,**

**Sally Rivera 562-696-1344, or the League phone at 947-5818**

Members are asked to contribute fruit, pastries, juice, quiche, or other brunch dishes

#### 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.

# President's Message

Summer is nearly over and with it the lazy days and fewer responsibilities are over. I am relaxed and happy to be home from our cabin in northern Minnesota where we had a family reunion. Now it is time to jump start the new League year with our Kick-Off Brunch on Saturday, September 18.

First I'd like to thank everyone for our successful Annual Meeting at DeLuca's Ristorante on May 27. We passed a budget for 2010-11 that included an increase in the dues for Suffragist members to \$90, to reflect our 90 years of service, but held the regular member dues, second household member, and student at their current levels of \$55, \$25, and \$20.

We thanked outgoing **Treasurer Lois Czuba** and **Action Director Sam Guyan** with potted rose plants. We elected four new members to the Board:

Secretary: **Ruth Kadota**

Treasurer: **Sheila Hartfield**

Action Director: **Carole Restovich**

Program Coordinator: **Terry Cleary**

Thank you ladies for taking on duties which will make our League more responsive to you, the members.

**Homelessness in the area, the County Jail Study and Light Rail Transportation** were suggested as issues for study and education for the coming year. In addition, the LWVUS convention adopted a study of **The Role of the Federal Government in Education** as well as a study of **Privatization of Services**. We have plenty of topics to whet our appetites and keep us busy during the year in addition to **Voter Service**.

## Looking at Health Care Reform

**Sally Seven**, our speaker, presented compelling arguments for a Single Payer form of health insurance for California and the United States. She pointed out the provisions of the recently passed federal Health Care bill which requires people to obtain and maintain coverage beginning in 2014 or pay a penalty. Premium assistance will be available for low income families, and Medicare Taxes will increase on higher income people.

Possible criteria for this new health plan are universal and reliable coverage, portability, comprehensive care including drugs, vision, dental, and mental health care, and affordability.

Sally compared present day U.S. health care quality and costs to those in other countries that have universal health coverage paid with taxes. She shared charts and graphs that show that in overall quality of health care as evaluated by the World Health Organization, France and Italy come in 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> while the U.S. lags at 37<sup>th</sup> behind Germany, 25<sup>th</sup>, and Canada, 30<sup>th</sup>. In addition she demonstrated that the U. S. life expectancy lags 4 years behind Japan's 82.1 years, but we spend \$6400 per person compared to Japan's \$2360. Another sobering statistic is that infant mortality rate in the U.S. has not improved at the same rate as in other industrial countries so we now rank 42<sup>nd</sup> among nations whereas our rate was 29<sup>th</sup> 20 years ago. The infant mortality rate today stands at 6.8/1000 live births compared with Japan at 2.8 and the United Kingdom at 5.1.

Sally Seven is a spokesperson for the League of Women Voters and California One Care. The League **supports SB 810 (Leno) Single Payer Health Care Coverage**. Research done by the Lewin Group in 2002 showed that Single Payer would save Californians money and reduce the growth in health care spending significantly. Had it passed then, savings would have amounted to \$8 Billion in 2006 and \$28 billion by 2010. By 2015 a savings of \$68 billion could have been achieved. Sally's concluding question to us was **"Is Health Care a Right or a Commodity?"**

Thank you, Sally, for reawakening us to the need for single payer health care. The California One Care bill, **SB 810 (Leno)** is scheduled to be heard in Assembly appropriations on Tuesday, August 31, the last day of the regular Legislative session. League members have been asked several times over the summer to call our representatives to vote YES. So far, Assem. Curt Hagman is likely to vote NO, Assem. Mendoza is a co-author and voting YES, and Assem. C. Calderon has voted YES in committee.

**Late breaking news is that SB 810 was not brought up for a vote on August 31 so Senator Leno plans to reintroduce it in the 2011 session.**

We are looking at a busy fall with the Gubernatorial election on November 2. LWV Whittier will be taping Pros and Cons on the 9 statewide ballot measures for replay on local cable TV. We will also be involved in doing interviews of the candidates for two Superior Court races. Statewide Court of Appeals and Supreme Court justices will be up for confirmation on that ballot also.

Margo



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

# **BALLOT BRIEFING PROS & CONS**

**on November ballot measures**



**Saturday, September 25, 2010**

**9:30 AM to 12:00 NOON**

**Hollenbeck Palms**

**573 S. Boyle Avenue**

**Los Angeles, CA 90033**

Be sure to come early to pick up your Pros & Cons.  
You will be directed to your stacks inside the Parking Garage.

*There will be a separate room set aside for Action/Advocacy.*

## News from LWVUS

### League Celebrates Women's Equality Day

In celebration of Women's Equality Day, national **League President Elisabeth MacNamara** was invited to provide special guest commentary on the National Conference on Citizenship website. She shares insights on the enduring legacy of the suffrage movement and also celebrates the League's role as a long-lasting outgrowth of the grassroots spirit that made it possible for women to attain the right to vote. She also shared her thoughts in a Women's Equality Day message (read it [here](#).)

The **League of Women Voters of the District of Columbia**, with area Leagues and supporters, **marched in front of the White House to celebrate the 19th Amendment** to the Constitution, guaranteeing women the right to vote, and reminding the public that the District's women and men still do not have a vote in Congress!

In celebration of the League's 90th anniversary, author Robert Cooney has written an article about the roots of the League in the woman suffrage movement, based on his presentation at the League's 2010 National Convention. For a limited time, Mr. Cooney and his publisher are making available to members and friends of the League auto-graphed copies of his award-winning, richly illustrated history, *Winning the Vote: The Triumph of the American Woman Suffrage Movement* (no charge for shipping).

<http://www.lwv.org/Content/ContentGroups/Membership/CarrieCattanttheLWV.pdf>

## News From LWVC

### Are Greenhouse Gas Emissions Targets High Enough?

On June 30, the California Air Resources Board (CARB) released their proposed regional greenhouse gas emissions reduction targets mandated by Senate Bill 375 (Steinberg).

Hearings will be held by the Metropolitan Planning Organizations throughout the state before CARB will set regional reduction targets for most areas of the state by this September. These targets will influence regional planning to reduce vehicle miles travelled by households. By locating homes near jobs and reducing sprawling new development, California can take a significant step toward curbing global warming.

Representatives from community, environmental, and public health groups have expressed concerns that the proposed targets were not high enough and would not lead to actual reductions in greenhouse gas emissions. The proposed targets could create a per capita decrease in emissions, but with a growing population they would not achieve an overall reduction. If the proposed targets are not ambitious enough we will miss this opportunity to truly combat climate change.

### LWVC Action Positions on November Ballot Measures

The LWVC has stands on seven of the ten measures on the November ballot, is neutral on two, and has no position on one.

- **Oppose** Proposition 18, 2010 Water Bond Measure—*this measure has been withdrawn until 2012*
- **Oppose** Proposition 20, **Redistricting of Congressional Districts**
- **Oppose** Proposition 23, **Suspends Clean Energy and Air Pollution Standards**
- **Support** Proposition 24, **Tax Fairness Act**
- **Support** Proposition 25, Simple Majority Vote for Budget
- **Oppose** Proposition 26, **Polluter Protection Act**
- **Strongly oppose** Proposition 27, **Eliminates State Commission on Redistricting**
- **Neutral** on Proposition 21, **\$18 Vehicle License Fee for State Parks and Wildlife Programs**
- **Neutral** on Proposition 22, **State Government Prohibited from Taking Local Funds**
- **No applicable League position** on Proposition 19, **Legalize and Regulate Marijuana**



LEAGUES OF WOMEN VOTERS  
ORANGE COUNTY  
Invite You to Attend an LWV  
California Regional Workshop

Saturday, October 23 from 9:30am to 2:30pm  
Irvine Ranch Water District  
15600 San Canyon Ave, Irvine CA 92618-3012

**TOPICS INCLUDE:**

- Redistricting—Tracking and Mapping:**  
What the League & the Public Can Do to Help the New Process Succeed.
- Advocacy—When, Where & How does the League do it?**  
Using as Examples, Measures on the 11/02/10 Ballot
- Membership & Leadership Development**
- Political, Yes; Partisan, NO! – Walking the Fine Line.**

Please register and pay by credit card at the LWVC website [www.lwvc.org](http://www.lwvc.org) by  
October 15 or write check **payable to LWVC** and mail form to:  
Diane Thomas, 2506 Calle Jade, San Clemente CA 92673

**Questions? Call Sharon Holdt (949) 496-3088 or email [srholdt@cox.net](mailto:srholdt@cox.net)**

✂----- Cut here and return reservation form -----

\_\_ I will attend & buy lunch **\$25** (\$30 after 10/15) \_\_ I will attend & bring lunch **\$15**

Name \_\_\_\_\_ League \_\_\_\_\_

Phone and/or Email \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_ League \_\_\_\_\_

Phone and/or Email \_\_\_\_\_

Enclosed is my check to LWVC for \$ \_\_\_\_\_; Reservations held at door.

# Friends Outside and L. A. County Agencies Introduce Incarcerated Parents Project at Century Regional Detention Center

By Betsey Coffman, LWV LA County Co-Chair Jail Study

On June 17, 2010, Friends Outside, an organization which works with Los Angeles County Jail inmates and their families to alleviate problems associated with family members' incarcerations, held a meeting to introduce The Incarcerated Parents Project.

In conjunction with the L.A County Department of Children and Family Services and the Sheriff's Department, Friends Outside presented plans to reduce children's placement in foster care when parents are incarcerated by arranging supervised

visitation, assistance with dependency court matters, liaison between incarcerated parents and their children's case workers, and services for these children and their caregivers. Since foster care placement is more apt to occur when mothers are incarcerated, this program is being introduced at the County's only women's jail – the Century Regional Detention Center or CRDC.

Poignant talks by a mother and her adult daughter highlighted the importance of maintaining bonds between parent and child. They described how their visits during the mother's incarceration helped the Mom to change her behavior and the daughter to realize she was loved and would be reunited with her mother.

The existing TALK program, in which CDRC women attend a series of classes to learn about child development and parenting, will continue. In these sessions the women prepare activities for playing and interacting with their children and are allowed visits without the usual restriction of a glass barrier between inmates and visitors.

Prior to the presentation of the Friends Outside and County agencies' plans, a CRDC Deputy Sheriff -- Sergeant David Haney-- played piano medleys, while attendees were offered a buffet lunch and exhibits containing information about the sponsoring groups. Subsequent to the program, attendees divided into two groups for a tour of the CRDC facility. Sgt. Haney's group visited one of the modules or "pods" where women inmates were housed.

At this time, the women were in their cells surrounding a central common room, with the exception of the many women who occupied bunk beds around the perimeter of the central room. There was a woman Deputy at a table in this room in an area marked off by red tape, which the inmates must receive permission to enter. There was a vending machine, which apparently contained food items which the incarcerated women could purchase with plastic cards, if they had money on deposit with the jail system.

The women seemed curious about our presence, with many standing behind their cell doors or propped up on their elbows in their bunks looking at us. The Sergeant pointed out a toilet and bathing area – I walked over and looked in, and it was clean and tidy. There was an adjoining recreation-exercise area, which we did not enter. According to a report I had read in the 2009 *26th Semi-annual Review by the Police Assessment Resource Center* (PARC), this area contained a basket ball hoop, chairs and telephones.

The module looked very much as described in the PARC report, which stated that these units were designed for 96 inmates, but their capacity has been increased to 124 with the addition of the bunks. The one exception was the lights were dimmed, while the report described the modules as well lit. I concluded that this might be a rest period for the inmates.

**Chapter members who have recently joined at the  
suffragist level:**

Joan Ewing  
Sam Guyan  
Jois Hofmann  
Julie Hutchins  
Ruth Kadota  
Margo Reeg  
Donna Smith

**A Big Thank You!**

**Welcome back to the Chapter!**

Jetta Vasak  
870 Morningside Drive #G-123  
Fullerton 92835  
714-256-5775

**In Memoriam**

**Al Rosenstein**

November 1917 – July 2010

Husband of long time member Mary Rosenstein  
who passed away earlier this year



## **League of Women Voters Speaker Training: *Pilot Project for 2010-11***

It's time to get ready for election season. With nine controversial propositions on November's statewide ballot, plus local measures in many of our cities and school districts, there will be great demand for League-trained speakers.

Meanwhile, in *any* season, trained speakers are needed for League meetings and outreach to community groups. LWV / L.A.County and LWVLA (city) are collaborating to bring you a comprehensive and enjoyable way to prepare.

*Sign up NOW for all three sessions.* Each one leads into the next. Enrollment is limited.

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### **A Series of Three Sessions on How to Present Civic Education Topics**

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#### **I. Principles of Public Speaking (September 17)**

General guidelines – with an illustrative exercise – will be presented by Claudette Payne, DTM, QS, Speakers Bureau Chair and Past District Public Relations Officer of District One Toastmasters International.

#### **II. Preparing Your Presentation (September 24)**

Experienced speakers will show how to use League materials and other resources to prepare nonpartisan talks on ballot measures and other timely issues. Participants welcome at LWV/L.A.County / LWVLA Speakers Briefing on September 25 (see separate flyer).

#### **III. Practice With Your Peers (October 1)**

Everyone will give a five-minute talk on a simplified ballot measure or issue under consideration by the League. Friendly critiques will account for differences in personal style and level of audience.

**Dates:** Fridays September 17 & 24; October 1, 2010

**Time:** 9:30a.m. to noon

**Place:** Culver City Julian Dixon Public Library  
4975 Overland Avenue, Culver City, CA 90232 (see [map](#))

**To sign up, or for more info:**

Frances Talbott-White, talbwhite@yahoo.com; 310-397-4970



## VOTER SERVICE

With both the Governor and U. S. Senator on the ballot this fall as well as all Assembly members, Congress members, and our state Senator, the November 2 election stands to bring significant changes to California. We also have two Superior court judges to choose, a new Assessor, and Supreme Court and Court of Appeals members to confirm.

League's job is to help voters understand what is on the ballot and how to find good information to help them make informed decisions. To facilitate our job, League will be distributing **Pros and Cons** on the nine state ballot measures and speaking to the membership and the public on the measures.

We will be able to disseminate information on judicial candidates through the Judicial Interviews for LA County Superior Court candidates.

Ballot Briefing is the first event for all League speakers. On Sept. 25 at Hollenbeck Palms League experts, some of whom have written the **Pros and Cons** demonstrate points to use in a presentation. Supplementary information about each measure can be found at our new LWVC Ed Fund site

[www.cavotes.org](http://www.cavotes.org) . It is an excellent resource for voting information. Or we can consult the LWVC member's site at [www.LWVC.org/lwvonly](http://www.LWVC.org/lwvonly) under Voter Service, November 2, 2010 Election.

### Speaking Engagements

Sept. 28 7 pm Mark Twain Democratic Club--Mimi's

Oct. 5 4 pm The Palms Senior Residence  
East Whittier A.M. Kiwanis Club

Oct. 28 7 pm Pio Pico Democratic Club

### Candidate Forums

Lowell Joint School District TBD

Central Basin Water District Div. 2 TBD

### Nonpartisan Voter Outreach

The nonpartisan Nonprofit California Participation Project is conducting a training session for volunteers to teach people how to do voter registration and voter outreach. The League of Women Voters partners in this project.

I encourage those of you who would like to be more active but are a bit reluctant and need to brush up on skills to attend a workshop on Wednesday, September 22, at the California Endowment's Center for Healthy Communities at 1000 Alameda Street, LA. 9:30 to Noon.

You will

- ★ Learn easy steps to integrate nonpartisan voter participation into your ongoing work.
- ★ Get up-to-date resources and materials on voter education and voting rights.

Register at [www.caparticipates.org](http://www.caparticipates.org).

# How to Amend the Constitution

By Emma Dumain

How hard is it to amend the Constitution? Imagine last year's health care battle, multiplied by 50.

Sen. Lindsey Graham (R-S.C.) recently said he would like to see the repeal of the 14th Amendment, which allows children born in the United States to automatically become citizens even if their parents are not legal residents. The suggestion has caused quite an uproar among immigration activists, pundits and other lawmakers, but if history is a guide, nothing is likely to come of it.

Amendments must be passed by a two-thirds vote of both chambers of Congress and then approved by three-fourths of all 50 state legislatures. (The president has no formal role.) In addition, Congress can put a deadline on a proposed amendment, so if it is not approved within, say, seven years, the proposal is dead.

That's been the fate of a handful of amendments lucky enough to make it that far in the process. Dozens of others are introduced each year without even getting through one chamber of Congress. Over the past half-century, amendments which have passed have been ones for which there was an unusual amount of agreement or a perfect political storm.

This week, **Congress.org** took a look at the stories behind some of the many efforts to amend the Constitution: with success, with near-success, and with failure.

## ***Successful amendments***

### **Amendment Lowering the Voting Age to 18**

As the increasingly unpopular Vietnam war raged on, fewer numbers of eligible men were enlisting for service. The draft was put in place and thousands of young men who were barely out of high school were forced into the army.

But the 18-year-olds being sent overseas to fight and possibly die for their country could not even vote for the lawmakers sending them there because the voting age at that point was 21.

"Old enough to fight, old enough to vote," became the slogan used by those who favored lowering the voting age in the late 1960s.

Ultimately, in 1971, Congress passed the resolution establishing the creation of the 26th Amendment, which guarantees any American citizen the right to vote who is at least 18 years of age. The states ratified it in the shortest time ever. The constitutional amendment was, in addition, also intended to override a 1970 Supreme Court decision that ruled that states could set their own age limits for local elections.

### **Equal Rights Amendment**

Though at first glance the Equal Rights Amendment seems relatively uncontroversial—it would guarantee that all the laws apply equally to men and women—the push for its passage has been a 90-year effort that continues today.

Congress only passed the amendment once, in 1972, before it failed ratification, just shy of three states. The amendment was first brought to Congress in the early 1920s thanks to suffragist Alice Paul, who believed the 19th Amendment, which guarantees women the right to vote, did not do enough to ensure the absence of gender discrimination.

Though it was introduced in every subsequent Congress thereafter, it was not adopted by both chambers until 1972. Until that time, even feminists who would otherwise have supported Constitutional amendments guaranteeing gender equality were wary, arguing that women needed unique government protection independent of their relationship to men.

Critics also worried that the language of the amendment would override labor protections, many intended expressly for women workers. When the amendment did pass the House and Senate, it was after a decade of heavy campaigning on its behalf.

But the amendment was never ratified, even after the expiration date of 1979 was extended through the middle of 1982 so that proponents could work on shoring up backing by other states. In the end, one of the major reasons why the amendment fell short of support was that opponents saw the language, in its simplicity, as opening the floodgates to the invalidation of countless laws and precedents, from deeming the all-male military draft as unconstitutional to banishing single-sex public restrooms.

**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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Join The Whittier League Of Women Voters

Cut out this coupon and mail with your check to

LWV Whittier  
 Beverly Walker, Membership Chair  
 8104 Arrington Avenue, Pico Rivera CA 90660

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ Phone (day) \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
 Email \_\_\_\_\_ Phone (eve) \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 Fax \_\_\_\_\_

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

Dues:

Member	\$55
2 <sup>nd</sup> Household Member	\$25
Suffragist Member	\$90
Student	\$20

Please make check payable to LWV Whittier

**INTERNET RESOURCES**

- LWV Whittier [www.whittier.ca.lwvnet.org](http://www.whittier.ca.lwvnet.org)
- LWV California [www.lwvc.org](http://www.lwvc.org)
- LWV United States [www.lwv.org](http://www.lwv.org)
- LWV LA County [www.lacilo.ca.lwvnet.org](http://www.lacilo.ca.lwvnet.org)
- Smart Voter [www.smartvoter.org](http://www.smartvoter.org)
- LA County Registrar [www.lavote.net](http://www.lavote.net)
- EdSource [www.EdSource.org](http://www.EdSource.org)
- Secretary of State [www.sos.ca.gov](http://www.sos.ca.gov)
- California Assembly [www.assembly.ca.gov](http://www.assembly.ca.gov)
- California Senate [www.senate.ca.gov](http://www.senate.ca.gov)
- California Budget Project [www.cbp.org](http://www.cbp.org)
- LWVC Ed Fund site [www.cavotes.org](http://www.cavotes.org)
- CA Legislative Analyst [www.lao.ca.gov](http://www.lao.ca.gov)

**Many Voices, One Vision**



**League of Women Voters of Whittier**

**13611 Walnut Street**

**Whittier, CA 90602**



**Constitution Day September 17**

CALENDAR—September 2010

**Fri. 17** Constitution Day

**Fri. 17** 9:30 AM – 12 PM Speaker Training Session 1  
Culver City Public Library, 4975 Overland Ave., Culver City

**Sat. 18** 10 AM – 12 PM Whittier League Kick-Off Brunch St. Matthias Church, Chase Lounge

**Mon. 20** 7:30 PM. States of Delinquency, a talk on the History of Nelles School and  
Racial Studies Villalobos Hall, Whittier College

**Tues. 21** 9 AM. Tour of Nelles Facility Meet in parking lot at Nelles RSVP: 562-907-4200 ext. 4307

**Wed. 22** 9:30 AM – 12 PM Voter Participation Training—California Participation Project--

**Fri. 24** 9:30 AM – 12 PM Speaker Training Session 2 Culver City Public Library

**Sat. 25** 9:30 – 12 Ballot Briefing, Hollenbeck Palms (see flyer inside)  
573 Boyle Ave., East LA

**Tues. 28** 7 PM Pros and Cons at Mark Twain Democratic Club Mimi's, Whittwood

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**Fri. Oct 1** 9:30 AM – 12 PM Speaker Training Session 3 Culver City Public Library

**Tues. Oct 5** 7PM Board Meeting at Margo's