



**League of Women Voters Torrance Area**  
*Serving Carson, Gardena, Harbor City, Lomita and Torrance*

# LWVTA *Voter*

<http://torrance.ca.lwvnet.org>

Tel. 310-223-689 email [lwv.torrancearea@um.att.com](mailto:lwv.torrancearea@um.att.com)

April/May 2011

### Diversity Policy

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

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The **LWVTAVoter** is published monthly. All LWVTA members are encouraged to provide relevant articles and calendar events for publication in the **LWVTAVoter**. Articles must be nonpartisan and are subject to editing. Email submissions to address above. The editor is not responsible for verifying the accuracy of the information reported.

Editor: Geneva Martin

## Special Election Candidates Forum U.S. Representative 36<sup>th</sup> Congressional District Monday, May 2, 2011 7 to 9 PM Dave's Garage – Pelican Products 23215 Early Ave., Torrance 90505

Presented by



League of  
 Women Voters  
 Beach Cities &  
 Torrance Area

*Members: We will need your help as timers, question card distributors, question reviewers, and ushers. Call Pat Kromka*

### Prior to Special Election on May 17

- Last day to register: May 2
- Review your Official Sample Ballot Book
- First date to request VOTE BY MAIL: April 23
- Last day to request VOTE BY MAIL: May 10
- Find your polling place at [www.lavote.net](http://www.lavote.net) or on the back cover of your sample ballot
- Voting hours: 7 AM to 8 PM

Go to <http://www.smartvoter.org> for election information



## Education Report By Tom Rische

### Questions and answers from Dr. George Mannon, Torrance Superintendent:

*Things were relatively quiet, except in terms of teacher layoffs--see question 2 below.*

1. *What's new in the Torrance Schools this month and any thoughts on the continuing budget hassles?* We are still holding our collective breaths as to the outcome of the State budget process. We have no new information from the State.
2. *How many teachers and employees got possible lay-off notices?* We will be reducing 48 teaching positions because of teachers returning from leaves of absence, declining enrollment (200 students), and six teachers, who were paid by stimulus funds that have been exhausted. (Note: maybe the teachers are exhausted too.)
3. *Anything else of note?* The new Hull Middle School is on time at budget.

The last rites for ex-Superintendent Lloyd G. Jones, 93, were held at the Rolling Hills Country Club before a large audience. A 35-year Torrance employee, he spent his last seven years as superintendent. During the somewhat turbulent 70's. Known as the "singing principal" (sometimes at faculty meetings), he was also a talented musician and landscape designer.

In the state, continuing budget disputes between the Governor and State Legislature over the possibility of a state tax election leave the schools and other agencies in limbo. Class size increased 10 per class on most levels last year.

And, state college officials said 400,000 students might not be admitted or transferred this coming year, due to budget problems. Class reductions may make graduations more problematic as well.

Nationally, attacks on teacher and public employee pensions continued, particularly in Wisconsin. It appears that some pension abuses occur, but have been much overblown as "typical" when they are not.

Much of it seems to be a smokescreen to divert attention from some of the major corporations who paid little or no taxes last year. Some of them were engaged in questionable business practices, adding to the financial problems of the country.

Many conservatives are pushing for educational vouchers, and the Supreme Court, by a 5-4 decision, just recently allowed the use of education funds for religious schools.



### About the League

The League of Women Voters, a nonpartisan political organization, encourages the informed and active participation in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy. The League has two separate and distinct roles. The League of Women Voters of California Education Fund, which conducts our voters service and civic education activities, is a 501(c)(3) corporation, a nonprofit educational organization.

Keep up to date with important League of Women Voters communications. Check out national, state and county issues on-line at:

National: [www.lwv.org](http://www.lwv.org)

Smart Voter: <http://www.smartvoter.org/>

California: <http://ca.lwv.org/>

California Education Fund: [www.cavotes.org](http://www.cavotes.org)

Los Angeles County: [www.lacilo.ca.lwvnet.org](http://www.lacilo.ca.lwvnet.org)

Torrance Area: <http://torrance.ca.lwvnet.org>

## President's Message

During this busy month, we attended lots of meetings and look forward to those coming up as well as finding time to complete our tax forms. Here are some highlights.

**Los Angeles County Boundary Review Committee** - On March 30, I attended a meeting of the L.A. County Boundary Review Committee. This committee of 10 with 10 alternates was appointed by the full Board of Supervisors, 2 each nominated by each Supervisor. Their purpose is to redraw Supervisorial District lines according to the new census figures (There are 5 in Los Angeles County, ours include the 2nd and the 4th Districts). There were lots of statistics and I shall be writing an article for our next newsletter giving you more information. For starters, The Census Bureau Data released on March 8, 2011 reveals: The State of California's population is approximately 37.2 million people and the current population of Los Angeles County is 9,818, 605. Frank Cheng, Manager, Chief Executive Office, stated that the ideal population per Supervisorial District, which is calculated by taking the current population in LA County divided by 5 is 1,963,721. The deviation of current population versus ideal population by District is as follows: First District -3.60%, Second District -0.95%, Third District +0.42%, Fourth District -2.23%, and Fifth District +6.37%. More about age and ethnicity next time...

**County Convention** - On Saturday, March 26, at Recreation Park Golf Course in Long Beach a number of LWVTA Leaguers heard Santos H. Kreimann, Director of L.A. County Department of Beaches and Harbors talk to us about Privatization (The transfer of any government function to the private sector, i.e., libraries, law enforcement, prisons, etc.) . Well, it seems like this department is a very appropriate example of privatization for it appears that the department spends most of its time negotiating contracts. Though, when I asked who tested the waters of our beaches and harbors, the answer was the Health Department; and who oversaw development, the answer was the Dept. of Building & Safety. Privatization has become a LWVUS national concern. At this time, a national Privatization study is being prepared by a LWVUS committee for local leagues to take part in the near future.

**LWVTA Annual Meeting** - We hope to see many of you on Saturday, April 30, at 8:30 AM at our annual breakfast meeting at Marie

Callender's Restaurant at Torrance and Hawthorne Blvds. Our keynote speaker will be Leroy Jackson, Torrance City Manager, who will talk about the Pros & Cons of Privatization related to the City. Please join me in honoring our retiring board members and electing our new board members including Athena Paquette Cormier as Co-President.

**LWVCalifornia Convention** - Finally, Barbara Barker, slated as incoming LWVC Communications Chair, and I will be attending the Convention on May 12, 13 and 14. We hope to bring back lots of marvelous information and enthusiasm as we go forward in celebration of 100 years of women voting in California!

Sincerely, **Lola Ungar**

### **Board of Directors 2010-11**

*President: Lola Ungar\**  
*1<sup>st</sup> Vice President, Voter Service: Pat Kromka\**  
*2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President, Voter Editor: Geneva Martin\**  
*Secretary: Kay White\**  
*Treasurer: Sue Martin\**

*\*Executive Committee*

#### **Directors**

*Natural Resources: Margaret Carter*  
*Fundraising/Program: Athena Paquette Cormier*  
*Communications: Sydne Morrison*  
*Education/Social Policy: Gerry Rische*

#### **Off-Board Portfolios**

*Agriculture: Judith Gerber*  
*Government: Dee Hardison*  
*Health Care: Barbara Barker*  
*Land Use: Lola Ungar*  
*Libraries: Judith Gerber*  
*Redistricting: Lola Ungar*

#### **Committees**

*Budget: Dick Smisek*  
*County Jail Study: Lola Ungar, Emma Simmons,  
& Mary Lou Busch*  
*Nominating: Barbara Barker*

**Facebook:** Emma Simmons

**Webmaster:** Barbara Barker

**Tri-League Liaison:** Linda Brown & Sue Martin

**Members & Relatives! Join us!**  
**LWVTA Centennial Committee**  
**100 yrs. of Voting in Torrance Area Video**  
**Call Lola at 310-408-1870**

## HOW THE FEDS IMPACT OUR KIDS' EDUCATION

**What is the purpose of federal funding of public schools?**

**What are the pros & cons of No Child Left Behind?**

**What does the future hold?**

**TUESDAY, APRIL 26, 2011**  
**7:00 - 8:30 PM**  
**REDONDO BEACH WOMAN'S CLUB**  
**400 SOUTH BROADWAY at Pearl**  
**(one block south of Torrance Blvd.)**



### LISTEN.....LEARN.....ASK THE EXPERTS

- Dr. Don Brann – Superintendent Emeritus, Wiseburn School District
- Tom Cox – Chief Business Official, Wiseburn School District
- Debbie Johnson – Principal, Lennox Middle School
- Bob Farran – South Bay Director, Special Education

*Light refreshments provided*

For more information email [harriet@beachvoter.org](mailto:harriet@beachvoter.org)



League of Women Voters  
[www.beachvoter.org](http://www.beachvoter.org)

Sponsored by:



Redondo Beach Woman's Club  
[www.redondobeachwomansclub.org](http://www.redondobeachwomansclub.org)

## Redistricting



**Redistricting: The League is There** - The League has been present at the early organizational meetings of the Citizens Redistricting Commission and has given suggestions as the commission establishes its procedures.

We described our efforts to engage the public in the redistricting process during a [commission session](#) about nonprofits' educational and outreach efforts.

We offered [a list of four ways the commission could help](#) ensure its success through strengthening transparency and public input:

- improve the commission's Web site with timed meeting agendas and quick posting of public comments, meeting handouts and summaries
- adopt a hearing schedule that provides all Californians an equal opportunity to have their voices heard
- ensure sufficient opportunities for the public to provide input during the course of commission meetings, whether in person or electronically
- prioritize the employment of staff and consultants who have previously demonstrated a commitment to upholding the core values of the Voters First Act and who will promote public trust in the Commission's work

### Redistricting: You Be There

The moment we've been waiting for has arrived. The Citizens Redistricting Commission is starting to travel around the state to take testimony from the public about their neighborhoods and communities. This is everyone's chance to tell the commission about their neighborhood and where they want district lines drawn. [See the full schedule](#). Read the [Redistricting Toolkit](#) for important information about how to describe your community.

Source: LWVC News April 6, 2011



The Citizens Redistricting Commission is coming to our region to take public testimony on the districts our communities would like to see. The hearing will be **Wednesday, April 27th, Long Beach City Council Chambers (City Hall) 333 W Ocean Blvd. Long Beach from 6:00 pm to 9:00 pm** or until closing. Let's show the Commission and California that we care about our communities. Please join the League of Women Voters Torrance Area in spreading the word and getting a big attendance.

Links available in the online edition on the LWVTA website.



# County of Los Angeles Hazard Mitigation Plan Update Town Hall Meetings

## Disasters

Throughout the history of civilization, natural and human-caused disasters have led to increasing levels of death, injury, property damage, and interruption of business and government services. The toll on families and individuals can be immense and damaged businesses can fail or decrease in their abilities to contribute to the economy. The time, money, and effort to respond to and recover from these disasters also diverts public resources and attention from other important programs and problems.

## DMA 2000

Recognizing the consequences of disasters and the need to reduce the impacts of natural and human-caused hazards, the U. S. Congress passed the Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000 (DMA 2000) which mandates the preparation of a Local Hazard Mitigation Plan by each state and local government. In 2005, the County of Los Angeles prepared and received approval, by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), of its first All-Hazard Mitigation Plan. Because DMA 2000 regulations also identify the need for five-year updates, **an analysis is currently underway to update the County's All-Hazard Mitigation Plan.**

## Public Outreach

A critical component of the plan update process is to involve the public in the planning process. During the 2005 planning process, Public Outreach included a variety of Town Hall meetings, disaster expos, and the distribution of a hazards questionnaire. This year's strategy includes the delivery of six (6) Hazard Mitigation Town Hall meetings to interested citizens. Hazard Mitigation is defined as the actions taken to minimize or eliminate threats associated with hazards. A mitigation plan

includes a thorough analysis of hazards posing a significant threat against the region, a review of vulnerability to those hazards, and the development of past, present, and future "action items" that mitigate the hazards. The County of Los Angeles 2005 Plan identified the following as "high risk" hazards:

- Earthquake
- Flooding
- Tsunami
- Dam Inundation
- Wildland Fire
- Terrorism – Weapons of Mass Destruction
- Utility Loss
- Drought
- Biological/Health Emergencies
- Wastewater and Water Emergencies
- Economic Disruption
- Data/Telecommunications Emergencies
- Civil Unrest

The 2011 mitigation plan update process involves assessing the status and threat of each of the above listed hazards.

*Your input is needed to complete this process, as well as to help identify any additional hazards and mitigation strategies.*

This year's public outreach will involve the delivery of six Town Hall meetings, utilizing each of the Board of Supervisor Districts. One Town Hall meeting will be delivered in District 1, District 2, District 3, and District 4. Because of the size of District 5, two Town Hall meetings will be delivered.

**Please plan on attending one of the listed Town Hall meetings in your area to provide input and participate in the development of the updated Hazard Mitigation Plan. The locations, dates, and times are indicated below.**

<b>1st Supervisorial District – April 11</b>	<b>3rd Supervisorial District – April 26</b>
<p><b>Location:</b> Florence Firestone Service Center 7807 S. Compton Ave. Los Angeles, CA 90001</p> <p><b>Date:</b> Monday – April 11, 2011</p> <p><b>Time:</b> 6:00-7:30 pm</p>	<p><b>Location:</b> <i>Diamond X Ranch</i> at King Gillette Ranch 26800 West Mulholland Highway Calabasas, CA 91302</p> <p><b>Date:</b> Tuesday – April 26, 2011</p> <p><b>Time:</b> 6:00-7:30 pm</p>
<b>5th Supervisorial District – April 12</b>	<b>2nd Supervisorial District – April 27</b>
<p><b>Location:</b> Larry Chimbole Cultural Center 38350 Sierra Highway Palmdale, CA 93550</p> <p><b>Date:</b> Tuesday – April 12, 2011</p> <p><b>Time:</b> 6:00-7:30 pm</p>	<p><b>Location:</b> A.C. Bibrew Public Library 150 E. El Segundo Blvd. Los Angeles, CA 90061</p> <p><b>Date:</b> Wednesday – April 27, 2011</p> <p><b>Time:</b> 6:00-7:30 pm</p>
<b>5th Supervisorial District – April 13</b>	<b>4th Supervisorial District – April 28</b>
<p><b>Location:</b> Sports Complex 23920 Valencia Blvd. Santa Clarita, CA 91355</p> <p><b>Date:</b> Wednesday – April 13, 2011</p> <p><b>Time:</b> 6:00-7:30 pm</p>	<p><b>Location:</b> Burton Chaco Park Community Room 13650 Mindanao Way Marina Del Rey, CA 90292</p> <p><b>Date:</b> Thursday – April 28, 2011</p> <p><b>Time:</b> 6:00-7:30 pm</p>

**April 27<sup>th</sup> - 2nd District includes Carson & Gardena  
April 28<sup>th</sup> - 4th District includes Harbor City, Lomita & Torrance**

THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS PRESENTS  
a Film Screening & Panel Discussion Event



# CLIMATE CHANGE: GLOBAL CONSEQUENCE - LOCAL ACTION

Complete Form & Send with Check to:  
League of Women Voters of Los Angeles  
Climate Change Event Registration  
3303 Wilshire Blvd., Suite 310  
Los Angeles CA 90010-1700

### REGISTER BY MAIL

\_\_\_\_\_ Date

First Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Last Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Organization: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

No. of Tickets @ \$10 \_\_\_\_\_ \$5 \_\_\_\_\_  
with Student ID

Amount Enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Make Checks Payable to LWVLAEF

Barnsdall Gallery Theatre  
4800 Hollywood Blvd.  
Hollywood, CA 90027



ASSOCIATION for WOMEN in ARCHITECTURE



Featuring Michael P. Nash's award winning documentary:  
*CLIMATE REFUGEES*

WEDNESDAY MAY 11  
BARNSDALL GALLERY THEATRE  
HOLLYWOOD 6:30 PM

Register On-Line  
[www.lwvlosangeles.org](http://www.lwvlosangeles.org)  
ADMISSION \$10 / \$5 STUDENTS

630 PM RECEPTION 7PM SCREENING/PANEL



From the Sundance Film Festival  
"Climate Refugees is an agent for  
social change"

Robert Redford



Also OXFAM AMERICA'S  
*SISTERS ON THE PLANET*

Advance registration required  
Need More Info? [green@lwvlosangeles.org](mailto:green@lwvlosangeles.org)



Generously made possible by a Grant from The League of Women Voters US, Oxfam America, & The League of Women Voters of Los Angeles Education Fund

## JOIN THE LEAGUE

**Be a part of an organization where smart,  
active leaders create lasting change in  
their communities.**

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Preferred Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Cell Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Check here if you want to begin or continue to receive  
your VOTER (newsletter) by E-MAIL. (*E-mail saves us  
printing and postage expenses*).

Dues paid to **LWVTA** automatically include membership  
at the national, state and county levels.  
Please check membership category:

INDIVIDUAL DUES \$70  
HOUSEHOLD DUES \$105  
STUDENT DUES \$ 35  
CONTRIBUTION TO LWVTA  
\$ \_\_\_\_\_ (*Dues + contribution are not tax deductible*).  
Please send form and check payable to **LWVTA**  
TAX DEDUCTIBLE DONATION TO  
**LWVTA - EdFund - separate check**  
\$ \_\_\_\_\_  
TOTAL AMOUNT OF ENCLOSED CHECK(S)  
\$ \_\_\_\_\_

Mail to **LWVTA**, P. O. Box 964, Torrance, CA 90508  
Membership in the League of Women Voters is open to all  
men and women of voting age who are U.S. citizens.  
Others are welcome to join the League as associate  
members.

Board Meetings are open to all members and held on the  
first Thursday of the Month.

For protection of privacy, when sending emails that  
include anyone outside this membership, please address  
the names on the Blind CC (BCC) line so that the  
addresses do not show.

**Calendar**

Tuesday, April 26, 7-8:30 p.m. **How the Feds Impact Our Kids Education**, Beach Cities League at the Redondo Beach Woman's Club, RB

Wednesday, April 27, 6-9 p.m. **Citizens Redistricting Committee**, Long Beach City Council Chambers (City Hall) 333 W Ocean Blvd, LB

Wednesday, April 27, 6-7:30 p.m. **County of Los Angeles Hazard Mitigation Plan Update Town Hall** for 2nd Supervisorial District, A.C. Bibrew Public Library, LA

Thursday, April 28, 6-7:30 p.m. **County of Los Angeles Hazard Mitigation Plan Update Town Hall** for 4th Supervisorial District, Burton Chace Park Community Room, Marina del Rey

Saturday, April 30, 8:30 a.m. - **Annual Meeting** , Marie Callender's, 21211 Hawthorne Boulevard, Torrance

Monday, May 2, 8 a.m. - 4 p.m. **Keeping Our Heads Above Water**, One Space Park, RB

Monday, May 2, 7 p.m. - 9 p.m. **Candidate Forum, 36th Congressional District**, 23215 Early Avenue, Torrance

Thursday, May 5, 7 p.m. - **Board Meeting** (Call for location)

Wednesday, May 11 6:30 p.m. **Film Screening: Climate Refugees**, Barnsdall Gallery Theatre, Hollywood

Friday-Sunday, May 13-15 - **65th State Convention**, Crown Plaza Ventura

Thursday, June 2, 7 p.m. - **Board Meeting** (Call for location)

Friday-Monday, June 17-20 **National Council**, Leesburg, Va



**League of Women Voters Torrance Area**

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*Post Office Box 964*

*Torrance, CA 90508*

Address Service Requested

Time Dated