



League of Women Voters Torrance Area
50th Anniversary
Serving Carson, Gardena, Harbor City, Lomita and Torrance
<http://torrance.ca.lwvnet.org>
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LWVTA Voter

June 2012

Table of Contents

President's Message..... 1
 Education Report 2
 Support Election Day Registration in California... 2
 Los Angeles County June Ballot Measures 3



50 year members: Marilyn Van Oppen, Mike Terre, Tibby Lanzer, Laura Dubrow, and Ruth Nadel

Calendar

Sunday, June 3, 3 p.m. - **Old/New Board Meeting**, at Lola Ungar's home

Tuesday, June 5, 7 a.m. to 8 p.m., **Presidential Primary Election**

Tuesday, June 12, 7 p.m. **Torrance City Council** makes appointments to vacancies on the Commission on Aging, Environmental Quality Commission, Cable Television Advisory Board (4), Cultural Arts Commission and Traffic Commission (2). Applications are due in the City Clerk's office no later than 5:30 p.m. on Wednesday, June 6. All applicants must be currently certified.

Saturday, July 28, 9:30 a.m., **Popovers in Pasadena**, Women's City Club, Pasadena

President's Message

Dear Members,
 Here it is June 1st and the year is shaping up to be an exciting one. Our annual meeting was held at a new location that not only had a nice room but great food prepared by The Depot's staff. My vision of supporting local businesses in our gatherings is really taking shape. The annual meeting featured a look back at the beginning of the League by the always clever Ruth Nadel. We also honored the 50 year members of the LWVTA. We are blessed that so many of them could attend the meeting. We were honored to have Sue Herbers, our Torrance City Clerk, awarding the 50 year certificates.

Sue Herbers made suggestions on how to present local voter issues. This will be a focus for the Local Action Committee and Voters Services Committee. 2014 will be a big year in Torrance politics.

On May 17th the Amore Vino fundraiser went well. We honored Jeanette Pierson and played a short video of her interview with me in June 2011. To see the video, you can go to our website <http://www.torrance.ca.lwvnet.org>. Or for \$5 we can send you a copy on DVD. Just go to the website and donate \$5 and we will send it to you.

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 Los Angeles County
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This is just a small preview of the documentary on the LWVTA's first 50 years and those members who made contributions through the years in the shaping of the city of Torrance. If you love this short video, you will love the documentary. Thanks to Nancy Mannon who donated two hand-painted wine glasses as fundraiser items.

With primary elections June 5th right around the corner we encourage everyone to go to SmartVoter.org to see who is running. It's easy to use and you can put in your address and your candidates will pop up. PLEASE pass this along as many people will miss vital information and be sorely disappointed in November. You can also follow us on twitter for latest news. Go to twitter.com and enter league-of-women-voters-torrance-area.

In September we are planning an event for National Voters Registration Day. This is September 25th. We are looking for ideas and committee members.

Well there's a lot going on and I am honored to be the President of the LWVTA with such a rich history and legacy to carry forward.

Cheers and Happy Summer!
Athena Paquette Cormier

Education Report

By Tom Rische

Questions for TUSD Superintendent George Mannon:

1. What's new on the education agenda this month? Any funding developments for

Curriculum: *We are developing plans to move to the Common Core Standards at all levels, which is a part of a national program. Many of the Common Core Standards are the same as the California Standards.*

Pensions: *Watching what the State does or does not do with it.*

November elections: *Watch and see if the initiatives make the ballot. If the Governor's initiative does not make the ballot or is defeated, then the effect on TUSD is a loss of \$10 million on Jan. 1, 2013 in funding.*

Number of teachers? *We do not have staff reduction for the 2012-13 school year.*

2. Summer school plans? How will they be carried out? *TUSD only runs summer programs for ELD students, ESY for special education students, and some Title I limited programs. All other*

summer classes are offered by the Torrance Education Foundation on a fee basis.

Thanks to Marilyn Van Oppen for her donation.

Board of Directors 2012-13

*Presidents: Athena Paquette Cormier
Vice President, Smart Voter: Pat Kromka
Secretary: Kay White
Treasurer: Angela Sayers*

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*Communications: Sydne Morrison
Health/Webmaster: Barbara Barker
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Social Policy/Education: Gerry Rische
Voter Service/Pros & Cons: Jackie LaBouff
At Large: Eunice Hargrove
Social Media: Emma Simmons*



New Board: Kay White, Gerry Rische, Pat Kromka, Athena Paquette Cormier, Lola Ungar, Margaret Carter, Jackie LaBouff, Angela Sayers, and Emma Simmons

Support Election Day Registration in California

The California League of Women Voters support AB 1436 (Feuer), to allow eligible Californians to register to vote on Election Day and during the two weeks leading up to it. [Sign our petition.](#)

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

Editor Changing: This is the last issue that I will be editing. Thanks to all of you who have helped. Please welcome the new editor, Gillian Zali.

Los Angeles County June Ballot Measures

LWV/LA County Recommends Support for Measure H –Hotel Occupancy Tax Continuation and Support for Measure L—Landfill Operators’ Tax Continuation.

SUPPORT FOR Measure H - L.A. County Hotel Occupancy Tax Continuation Measure — County of Los Angeles (Ordinance – Majority Approval Required)

Shall the existing unincorporated county hotel room tax be readopted to ratify, continue, and update the existing ordinance at the current rate of 12% to fund essential County general fund services, such as parks, libraries, senior services, and law enforcement; to continue exempting hotel stays longer than 30 days, to add exemptions for emergency shelter referrals, and for individuals on official government business pursuant to federal law?

This is a continuation of a tax first imposed in 1983 at a rate of 10% and increased to 12% in 1990. The measure is on the ballot as a response to a possible court decision challenging its validity because it wasn't adopted by a vote of the people.

This measure is already in place. The County League supports this issue because our LA County Budget section of our positions, in part reads: “#2 m. Maximum use of existing sources of revenue and pursuit of all potential revenue to fund programs and services within adopted policy.” This measure will affect mainly non-residents of the County of LA at a similar rate to Occupancy taxes charged by cities in the County and it only affects hotels in the unincorporated areas. It would not increase the cost of staying at a hotel. Other cities in Los Angeles County charge similar or higher hotel taxes: Los Angeles, Santa Monica, Inglewood, 14%; Pasadena, 12.11%; Long Beach, Hawthorne, Monterey Park, 12%. If Measure H fails, the Occupancy tax in unincorporated parts of the County would revert to the 1983 rate of 10%, not 0, but the County would lose significant revenues -- \$2.1 million --which are needed for basic County services. And, the entire County would be affected by the loss of the revenue.

SUPPORT FOR Measure L - L.A. County Landfill Tax Continuation Measure — County of Los Angeles (Ordinance – Majority Approval Required)
Shall Los Angeles County’s existing tax on landfills be readopted to ratify and continue the existing 10% tax on landfill operators’ gross receipts from waste disposal in landfills in the unincorporated county, to fund essential general fund services,

such as parks, libraries, senior services, and law enforcement; and to update the administrative appeal process, and clarify definitions to ensure the tax is properly calculated?

This measure is also already in place. The County League supports this issue because our Waste Management position, in part reads: “#6 Adequate funding for waste management programs by a combination of sources, including user fees, local industry taxes, penalties, federal and state super funds, state or county general funds, as appropriate.”

The measure is a continuation of a tax or fee that has been in place since 1991 and is on the ballot as a result of a later ballot measure at the state level that says all fees must be voted on and LWV/LA County believes that the measure will not increase costs to individuals or landfill operators. It is a renewal or extension of a tax already being paid.

Landfill Operator’s License Tax is levied on all Landfills in unincorporated areas, but not to MRFs or Transfer stations. These landfills take in the vast majority of all trash in the county because they are large. Some examples are: A part of Sunshine Canyon near Sylmar that is not in LA City is operated by BFI and is taxed as well as Chiquita Canyon in Valencia operated by Republic. The part of the Lancaster Landfill that is in unincorporated area, not in the city of Lancaster, is also taxed. Puente Hills Landfill off the 60 and 605 Freeways is the largest landfill in the County. It is in unincorporated territory so it is taxed. Calabasas Landfill near Calabasas is another Sanitation District facility that is taxed. They are operated by the Sanitation Districts which is not a part of the County. (Puente Hills Landfill will be closed by the end of 2013. It will not be allowed to petition to extend its license to operate.)

According to a source at the LA County Department of Public Works, the Landfill tax costs individual haulers about \$3.50 to \$4.00/ton. Tipping fees vary according to the volume that each hauler brings in per month. Fees for Municipal Solid and Inert Waste range from \$28/ton for large volume haulers (>18,750 tons/mo) to \$41 at Calabasas for smaller volumes. Other items like tires (\$82/ton) and large bulky items(\$46/ton) cost more. This 10% Landfill operator tax could represent from \$0.50 to \$1/ month on residential trash bills. But whether the major haulers like Waste Management, Consolidate, Republic Athens would actually lower their rates if the tax was eliminated is questionable. The County would lose approximately \$12 million if this measure is not approved and, the entire County would be affected by the loss of the revenue.

HOW TO JOIN SPEAKERSOURCE

Go to the state League Members Only website at www.lwvc.org/lwvonly if you would like to take part in responding to groups in the area who would like to learn about these issues as well as Proposition 28 and Proposition 29 on the June 5 ballot.



League of Women Voters Torrance Area

Serving Carson, Gardena, Harbor City, Lomita and Torrance

Post Office Box 964

Torrance, CA 90508

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JOIN THE LEAGUE

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

Name(s): _____

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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.

Dues for 2012-2013 are due.

Please check membership category:

- INDIVIDUAL DUES \$70
- HOUSEHOLD DUES \$105
- STUDENT DUES \$ 35
- CONTRIBUTION TO LWVTA \$ _____

(Dues + contribution are not tax deductible).

Contributions can be tax deductible by making out a separate check to the LWVTA EdFund. We are part of the LWVC Education Fund and can use these donations for Voter Service, public meetings and to offset some of our Voter (newsletter) expenses.

TAX DEDUCTIBLE DONATION TO **LWVTA EdFund**
\$ _____

TOTAL AMOUNT OF ENCLOSED CHECK(S)
\$ _____

Please send form and check payable to **LWVTA**

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. **NOT FOR WOMEN ONLY**