



**League of Women Voters Torrance Area**  
**50th Anniversary**  
*Serving Carson, Gardena, Harbor City, Lomita and Torrance*  
<http://torrance.ca.lwvnet.org>  
 Tel. 310-223-6897 email [lwv.torrancearea@um.att.com](mailto:lwv.torrancearea@um.att.com)

# LWVTA Voter

May 2012

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## President's Message

**COUNTY CONVENTION** – On Saturday, March 31, at Pickwick Gardens in Glendale we heard from Trudy Schaefer, LWVC's Lobbyist in Sacramento and LWVCalifornia Senior Director for Program. Trudy's talk was called a "Sacramento Update: What is the Legislature Up To?" Trudy is so well-versed on so many issues that it was difficult to keep up with all the issues mentioned. You can check on special issues that you are interested in at <http://www.cavotes.org/> where there are updates on bill numbers with links to current information on their status. Some of the subjects she talked about were: the Clean Money Campaign and the League's insistence on showing the top 3 funders of any initiative; AB18 on Education; Fracking and our right-to-know; and Redistricting, the Commission and its related policies. She detailed the two measures on the June 5 statewide ballot – Proposition 28, the Legislative Term Limits Reform Act and Proposition 29, the California Cancer Research Act and the LWVC's recommendations. Other subjects she spoke about were Health Care as we wait for word from the Supreme Court in June, the California Fair Political Practices Commission (FPPC), and the probable November statewide ballot propositions -- the League supports Governor Brown's Tax Initiative as opposed to the Advancement Project backed by civil rights attorney Molly Munger which might confuse the average voter.

**LWVTA ANNUAL MEETING** – We hope to see many of you on **Saturday, May 5, at 8:30 a.m.** at our annual breakfast meeting, this time at **The Depot in downtown Torrance** at 1250 Cabrillo Avenue. Parking is free at the Depot's lot. Our featured speaker will be **Ruth Nadel, LWVTorrance's First President**, who will talk about The Torrance League – The Early Years. Please join me in honoring Ruth and our other 50-year members Laura Dubrow, Celia Kellman, Tibby Lanzer, Sydne Morrision, Mike Terre and Marilyn Van Oppen at our **50th Anniversary Celebration**, members of our board who are retiring and welcoming our new board members

### Calendar

- Thursday, April 26, Hold Election for **Normont Terrace**
  - Saturday, April 28, 9:30 a.m.- noon, **Ballot Measure Training**, Hollenbeck Palms - see flyer
  - Thursday, May 3, 7 p.m. - **Board Meeting\***
  - Saturday, May 5, **LWVTA Annual Meeting and 50th Anniversary Celebration**, The Depot
  - Thursday, May 17, **Eat to Educate**, Amore Vino see flyer
  - Sunday, June 3, 3 p.m. - **Old/New Board Meeting\***
- \*(Call for location)

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 Los Angeles County  
 Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk

led by our incoming President, Athena Paquette Cormier. The high spot of the meeting will be a special video montage memorializing our 50 years of League activism coordinated by Athena Cormier and Cinematographer Tuan Tran.

**AMORE VINO CLASS** – Later in the month, on **Thursday, May 17 at 5:30 p.m.**, we will be hosting a wine tasting class at Amore Vino, 1441 Marcelina, Torrance 90501. Tickets are \$25. Come drink, converse and enjoy school the way we always wished it could be! See flyer- deadline is May 10th. Call Athena at 310-218-6855 or pay online at <http://torrance.ca.lwvnet.org/>

**LWVUS CONVENTION** – Athena will be attending the LWVUS Convention that will take place on June 8 to 10. I'm sure she will bring back lots of marvelous information and enthusiasm as we go forward in celebration of our 50th Anniversary, over 100 years of women voting in (1911-2011) in California and the City of Torrance's Centennial, too!

**JEANETTE PIERSON** – Finally, I would like to say a few words about dear Jeanette Pierson who slipped away from us quietly in February. Throughout the years, Jeanette was a stalwart of the Torrance League. While Jeanette guided the political career of Katy Geissert, Torrance's first woman mayor, she was also the LWVT's Treasurer for 20+ years and her membership in the Torrance League was not quite 50 years. Through flush and lean times, it was Jeanette's budgets that kept the League together. Having held office for a number of years, I know full well that it is the Treasurer who keeps the officers of the board aware of the available funds on a month-to-month basis and encourages wise judgment, prudent activism and fiscal responsibility. Jeanette epitomized those attributes. We will miss her guidance.

*Lola Ungar  
President*

## LWVCalifornia Recommends on June Ballot Measures

The LWVC supports **Proposition 28, the Legislative Term Limits Reform Act**. This measure would reduce the total number of years an individual could serve in the legislature from 14 to 12, but allow all 12 years to be in one house of the legislature. Legislators would focus on serving their

districts rather than running for a new office. Proposition 28 won't solve all the problems in Sacramento, but it brings positive change to make the Legislature more effective and accountable.

The League has taken a neutral position on **Proposition 29, the California Cancer Research Act**. This measure would add a \$1 per pack tax on cigarettes sold in California, with proceeds to be used for cancer and other smoking-related health issues, anti-smoking campaigns, enforcement and administration. While the League supports these causes, we believe that earmarking state revenue for specific expenses reduces the legislature's flexibility to set budgets that respond to current needs. If funds are earmarked for specific expenses, we strongly prefer that this be accompanied by a sunset clause, requiring review of the expenditures on a regular basis.

Read more about the League's recommendations at <http://ca.lwv.org/action/prop1206/index.html>

Like the [LWVC on Facebook](#).

Source: LWV California website

### **Board of Directors 2011-12**

*Co-presidents: Lola Ungar\* & Athena Paquette Cormier (Fundraising)\*  
1<sup>st</sup> Vice President, Smart Voter: Pat Kromka\*  
2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President, Voter Editor: Geneva Martin\*  
Secretary: Kay White  
Treasurer: Sue Martin\**

*\*Executive Committee*

#### **Directors**

*Communications: Sydne Morrison  
Health/Webmaster: Barbara Barker  
Membership/Land Use: Lola Ungar  
Natural Resources: Margaret Carter  
Social Policy/Education: Gerry Rische  
Voter Service/Pros & Cons: Jackie LaBouff  
At Large: Eunice Hargrove  
Social Media: Emma Simmons*

## Volunteers Needed

We have been asked to monitor and facilitate a nominating process and election for the Board of Directors of Normont Terrace Coordinating Council. The election will be held on Thursday, April 26. The location is: New Life Center, 25420 Vermont Avenue, Harbor City, CA 90710.

Please contact Jackie LaBouff, 310.346.6252, [sticher61@hotmail.com](mailto:sticher61@hotmail.com) for further details.

## The Rules Have Changed: Elections 2012

By Lianee Campodonico, LWVC Voter Service Director

There are significant changes for the 2012 elections. The Top Two primary system will be used in June, online voter registration could be up and running in the summer, and redistricting means that many voters will see different names on the ballot and/or new district lines and numbers. This is the time for voters to do their homework and avoid confusion at the ballot box. You can keep in touch with the latest election information by going to League of Women Voter websites, including SmartVoter.org and CAVotes.org.

### Redistricting

With the new state district maps drawn by the Citizens Redistricting Commission last year for Congressional, state Senate, Assembly and Board of Equalization districts, many voters will find themselves in a new electoral geography with new district boundaries for the upcoming election cycle. Some voters in the state will see unfamiliar names listed on their ballot as incumbents; for some there will be no incumbents running; others will see multiple incumbents listed on their ballots for a single contest. For example, there are three dozen new districts in the state with no incumbents living in them. In the Los Angeles area, there are five newly drawn districts with two incumbents sharing the same district. To learn more, see the CAVotes redistricting update: <http://cavotes.org/issues/redistricting-implementation> There you will find links to the new maps for Assembly, state Senate, and Congressional districts, as well as important information about the challenges to the new redistricting maps that may affect implementation at election time.

### Top Two Primary System

There are actually two primary elections taking place on June 5, 2012: a) the Presidential Primary, which is a partisan party nomination process used to select candidates for President and county central committees and b) the statewide Top Two Primary elections for congressional and state elective offices. The Presidential Primary produces "party-nominated candidates" for president who then appear on the November General Election ballot by party. This is the type of primary that California voters are used to. The Top Two primary system, however, produces two "voter-nominated candidates" who have received the two highest vote counts and who then advance to the November General Election. Even if one of the candidates receives more than 50 percent of the votes, there is still a "runoff" between the top two vote getters. With the Top Two Primary system, all candidates running for an office are listed on one ballot, regardless of their party preference. All voters may vote for any candidate in the list.

Here are some of the special features of balloting in the Top Two system that need to be understood by the voters:

- The Top Two system was placed on the June 2010 ballot by the legislature as a result of state budget negotiations and was passed by the voters.

- Voters will not see a "straight party ticket" on the ballot, but rather a list of names for the different contests with each candidate's party preference indicated. The candidate's party preference or no preference on the ballot must be consistent with the candidate's voter registration card.
- It is possible for two voter-nominated candidates with the same party affiliation to appear on the November ballot.
- Political parties may endorse candidates in the Top Two primary. Sample ballots must include a section listing these party endorsements.
- Although votes may be cast for write-in candidates in the Top Two primary election, no write-in votes are allowed in the November general election for the Top Two contests.

As of this writing, there are court challenges to the Top Two Primary system currently pending, based on the ban on write-in votes in the General Election for Top Two offices and on constitutional issues of third party access to the ballot and voters' right of choice.

For frequently asked questions about the primary elections in California, you can go to this link on the Secretary of State's website: <http://www.sos.ca.gov/elections/2012-elections/june-primary/faqs-primary-2012.htm>

May 21, 2012 is the last day to register to vote in the June 5, 2012 primary elections.

### Online Voter Registration

The Secretary of State would like to see Californians able to register to vote online sometime in the summer of 2012, in time for the November General Election. In October the Governor signed into law SB 397 (Yee) that allows the state to begin registering voters online before the completion of a planned new statewide voter registration database. State elections officials and the Department of Motor Vehicles are currently working on the technical details of using DMV digitized signatures for matching registrations submitted online.

The League, along with many other good government groups, has long supported online voter registration as a way of allowing more people to participate in elections and of protecting against fraudulent paper registration. Online registrants will be required to provide their birth date, the number from their valid California driver's license or California ID card, and the last four digits of their social security number. Dean Logan, Los Angeles County Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk, has called this development "a game changer." In the last statewide election in Los Angeles County, his office received 64,000 registration affidavits the day after the deadline. He was certain that if online registration had been in force, many more people would have voted in that election.

**League of Women Voters of California • 1107 9th Street, Suite 300 • Sacramento, CA 94814 • [www.lwvc.org](http://www.lwvc.org)**



**League of Women Voters Torrance Area**  
Serving Carson, Gardena, Harbor City, Lomita and Torrance  
 Post Office Box 964  
 Torrance, CA 90508

Address Service Requested  
 Time Dated

**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).*

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**

# Eat to Educate Wine Tasting & Class



Honoring Jeannette Pierson past treasurer of LWVTA  
& campaign manager for Katy Geisert!

May 17<sup>th</sup> 5:30 - 7:30 pm  
LWVTA is celebrating 50 years !



**5:30 pm Champagne & Mingling**

**6:00 pm Class begins**

4 Wines

4 kinds of meat

6 artisan cheeses

And of course, you would be supporting the  
burgeoning and hip downtown Torrance area!

Come Drink, Converse and Enjoy school  
the way we always wished it could be!

*Classroom style, so you will be seated*

**Tickets \$25**

To purchase tickets call Athena Paquette Cormier at: 310-218-6855  
or to pay online go to

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

**Please Reply by May 10<sup>th</sup>**

*(limited seating so buy your tickets now)*

**Amore Vino, 1441 Marcelina, Torrance, CA 90501**

[Facebook.com/ League-of-Women-Voters-Torrance-Area](https://www.facebook.com/League-of-Women-Voters-Torrance-Area)

*LWVTA is a nonpartisan political organization, encouraging the informed and active participation of citizens in government.  
LWVTA actively seeks transparency in all levels of government. We never support or oppose any political party or candidate.*



# LWV/LA County

**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 • Whittier

## **BALLOT BRIEFING**

**Saturday, April 28, 2012**

**9:30 to Noon**

**Hollenbeck Palms  
573 S. Boyle Avenue  
Los Angeles**

**Expert presentations of**

**Prop. 28 Term Limits + Prop. 29 \$1 Cigarette Tax  
Laurie Collins and Sandra Wolber, LWVLA**

**County Measures**

**H—Hotel Occupancy Tax and L—Landfill Tax**

**Sally Seven, LWV Claremont Area**

**Explanation of the Top Two Primary**

**Marcia Schneider and Rebecca Beatty(invited)**

## **ACTION WORKSHOP**

**Lola Ungar, Action Director, LWV/LAC**

**Explanation of the League's support of each ballot measure.**

**Pick up your ELECTION INFO 9-9:30**

The League of Women Voters of Los Angeles County, 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.