



# Voter

[www.lwvpalosverdes.org](http://www.lwvpalosverdes.org)

(310) 784-7787

November/December 2014

## Calendar 2014

<b>Tuesday Nov 4</b>	Election Day	All Day - Your Polling Place
<b>Wednesday Nov 12</b>	Board Meeting 12 Noon	Joan Hogan's
<b>Friday Nov 14</b>	Elected Officials Party 5:30 PM - 7:30 PM	Pt. Vicente Interpretive Center
<b>Wednesday Dec 10</b>	Board Meeting Holiday Party 12 Noon	Joan Hogan's
<b>Wednesday Jan 14</b>	Board Meeting 12 Noon	Joan Hogan's
<b>Saturday, Jan 31, 2015</b>	Winter League Day 10 AM -2 PM	Carson Community Center 801 E Carson Street Carson, CA 90745

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## This Month's Co-Presidents' Message

Midterm election season is almost over. Nancy Mahr is ready to take a breather—we thank her for a most successful Voter-Service season with numerous informational meetings , candidate forums, distribution of our voter guides and all the other activities of a busy season. She even went to some high schools to help register students but eventually left that activity to the PTA who was very enthusiastic about this activity.

Our Elected Official's Party is almost here as well and we hope to see many of you at this event on November 14. We are fortunate to have the Chamber of Commerce sponsor this event with us and have a wonderful selection of food and drink that has been donated for the party. It is not too late to help set up if you are so inclined. You can call or email Jo-Anne Waller, [jo-annewaller@cox.net](mailto:jo-annewaller@cox.net). It's the perfect way to start the holiday season.

We have now submitted most of the paperwork for changing our tax status. This will allow dues and other fund raising to be tax deductible for you. We will keep you informed as to when this is actually in place. And we thank Tom Carson of Glendale for helping us through this process.

We have put off to January many of what we hope will be new programs, so that everyone can enjoy the holiday season. We will try to implement our traditional "souper supper" for program planning again and also look at some new ways to attract new members. We continue to encourage anyone so inclined to join in our studies – the state education study is coming up, a county voting study is in process and our local lands committee continues to be active. There are plenty of concerns for all of us and some local leagues are starting to present programs on human trafficking, climate change (including our drought problems), and concerns about the continuing division of our population into a more divided group of "the haves and the have-nots".

If any of these subjects interest you or you would like to see a program discussing any of these subjects or other ones—let us know as we set up our new year activities. You can find our email address and phone numbers on the back page.

Have a very Happy Holiday Season and we hope to see all you soon!

*Vi Jungerich and Jo-Anne Waller*

Co-Presidents

## Natural Resources Items

By Jack Sullivan LWV/LACounty Natural Resources Director

**Water Bond:** Proposition 1, the Water bond, will appear on the November ballot. LWVC has taken a **neutral** position. The LWVC statement said that there is much to support in this proposition, including cleanup of polluted groundwater, wastewater treatment projects and money for rainwater capture. However, LWVC has serious concerns about the amount of money allocated for large surface storage projects and the fact that the proposition designates the California Water Commission as in charge of spending for surface storage. The California Water Commission is a body appointed by the governor and there is no legislative oversight of the Commission's spending decisions. For a description of Proposition 1 and the text, go to:

<https://cavotes.org/vote/election/2014/november/4/ballot-measure/proposition-1>

**The Tunnels:** Department of Water Resources and Bay Delta Conservation Program have postponed the proposed tunnels around the Delta. The tunnels were intended to take water from the Sacramento River around the Delta for export to Southern California. In light of intense criticism in the public comments, they will rework the Environmental Impact Report and re-issue it for public comment. This will likely happen in 2015. One issue they will have to address is water flows through the Delta. Such flows are deemed essential for the various fish populations in the Delta and many claimed that the original EIR did not adequately address this issue.

**Groundwater:** The State Legislature passed historic groundwater legislation. On September 16, the Governor signed the bills. Now, the legislative package will set up a plan for regional authorities to develop groundwater management plans. This is a big first for California. Unlike other western states, California has had no statewide groundwater management plan. Regionally, there are

adjudicated basins (mostly in So Cal) but these arose in the face of groundwater depletion and were instigated by water rights holders. There is no state involvement in them. In this time of severe drought, over-pumping in the Central Valley has accelerated and the water table continues to drop. This is having a negative impact on poorer people who are finding that their wells are running dry and they cannot afford to drill deeper. Agriculture is covering its loss of surface water by drilling deeper and deeper. Now that the bills are signed, they will be the first step in groundwater management.

**BYOB:** The State legislature passed a bill to ban use of plastic bags by stores and markets. If signed by the governor, we will all have to bring our own bags to market or purchase paper bags from the market. Hopefully, this will result in less litter and less non-biodegradable items ending up in landfills.



## **New Voting Machines**

By Vi Iungerich

In September, the three South Bay Leagues heard about the new voting system being developed by the county's Registrar-Recorder's Office. Phillip Verbera and Efrain Escobedo, both from the Registrar-Recorder's Office, brought a mock-up of the new system to explain the many issues that have been worked into a new system.

In order to entice more young people to vote, a new design is being implemented that can also be eventually downloaded to phones, tablets and other computers while still maintaining a free standing machine. It was felt that the new system had to be available to meet the needs of the entire county and their 55 cities, be accommodating to a variety of languages, available for the blind, deaf and other handicapped persons etc. This tall order has resulted in a review of other voting systems in the US, public meetings and input from citizens, including our Nancy Mahr and Margo Reeg, as well as technical consultations. Due to concerns that some company might "own" the system which would open the controversy that a company could tamper with the results of an election, it was decided that the county and the public would develop, control and "own" the system.

Currently the new system contains a new ballot design which simplifies the overall voting experience. A sample ballot can be downloaded at home and information is embedding in the form. For example, one can click on the name of a person running and a screen will open giving you information about the person or the office. It is easy to change a vote and nothing remains in the system until the person voting reviews and marks it the final vote. Before marking the final ballot- the system will highlight the votes, indicate missing votes, allow as many changes as the voter wishes to make,

To help in designing the new system, the county hired IDEO to help with the design process. IDEO is a company that provides new and innovative solutions. This is the company that designed the "mouse" used by most of us at our computers. The new voting system will print just our votes as a paper ballot, which will be the counted ballot at voting sites. While voting by mail will still be an option- The County is moving to specialized voting sites with the new machines. They will slowly be closing our local polling sites. Also no ballots will continue to be counted until the election is officially over—so that results will not deter people from voting. Also to prevent fraud a serial number will be assigned to each voter and matched somehow to the ballot.

The mock-up is done and soon this new system will be in place. It should be ready by 2018 and the next presidential system of 2020.



## Human Trafficking

At the LWVUS Convention in Dallas in June of 2014, the delegates approved the following concurrence with the Human Trafficking position of the LWV of New Jersey.

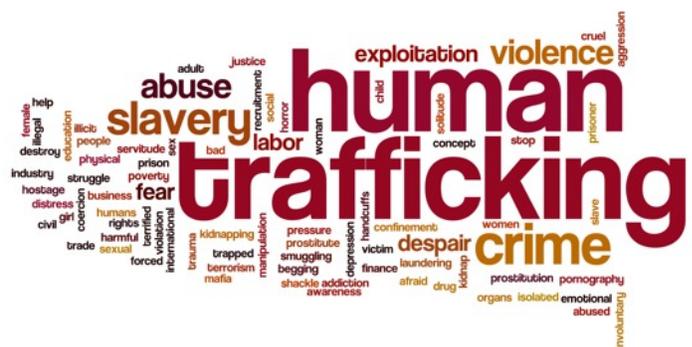
*The League of Women Voters opposes all forms of domestic and international human trafficking of adults and children, including sex trafficking and labor trafficking. We consider human trafficking to be a form of modern day slavery and believe that every measure should be taken and every effort should be made through legislation and changes in public policy to prevent human trafficking. Prosecution and penalization of traffickers and abusers should be established and existing laws should be strictly enforced. Extensive essential services for victims should be applied where needed. Education and awareness programs on human trafficking should be established in our communities and in our schools.*

League member Jean Thomson is now chairing a committee of the LWV of the city of Los Angeles to study human trafficking in the L. A. area. She anticipates holding a large community forum in April with speakers discussing the extent of local trafficking problems, what solutions have been working, and what other solutions are needed. In the meantime, on Wednesday, October 22, 2014, Sandy Banks of the *L.A. Times* will be speaking about trafficking at a brown bag lunch at the LWV/L.A. City office; and on Saturday morning, December 6, 2014 Lt. Dawson of the LAPD Detective and Vice Division will present a video on this topic to LWV members at the LAPD Headquarters. Local LWV members who are interested in attending either of these presentations may call Betsey Coffman at (909) 626-1540 for more details.

A recent effort to prevent youth who “age out” of our L.A. County foster-care system from becoming trafficking victims (or falling into other bad situations) is being made by the County Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS). They are hiring retired social workers to return to part-time employment to work with

soon-to- be “emancipated” foster youth with the goals of finding living places, school and/or work programs, and economic and social support systems. According to LWV member Viola lungerich, who recently returned to DCFS in this capacity, foster children make up 50-75% of local young people who become victims of traffickers. They “are taken by pimps who pay attention to them, offering love and a ‘home’.... Once attached to a pimp they are controlled in brutal ways by denying them food, sleep etc. until they produce a certain amount of money. They are often tattooed so if they run away they can be returned by gangs – they often produce an income of \$200,000 or more a year each for a pimp and if the pimp is caught the penalties are low compared to selling drugs or other crimes. Of great interest to traffickers are gay or lesbian kids who are desired by the public.”

In November 2012, California voters passed Proposition 35, which did increase penalties for traffickers and provide some services for victims. More information is available at <http://californiaagainstslavery.org>



## Sexual and Gender Minority Children in Foster Care

By Vi Iungerich

The County of Los Angeles has just completed a study of youths in foster care that identify as “gay” or question their sexual orientation. The study was done by the Williams Institute, a national think tank at UCLA School of Law and Holarchy Consulting. The study was done with funding from the federal government and the County’s RISE program, a specialized Unit that serves lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and questioning youth (LGBTQ) in the county DCFS. Although studies have been done over the last three decades on a national basis or state and school-wide groupings—no study up to now has been done on foster-care youth.

The study was intended to help policy makers make better decisions and also to indicate where resources should be allocated to help such youth. It is known that LGBTQ youth face discrimination and stigma unique to their sexual orientation and expression, however, in the foster care system this adds to the burden most foster youth face in growing up under court jurisdiction. The results of this study were based on 786 randomly sampled youth ages 12-21 living in foster care in Los Angeles County.

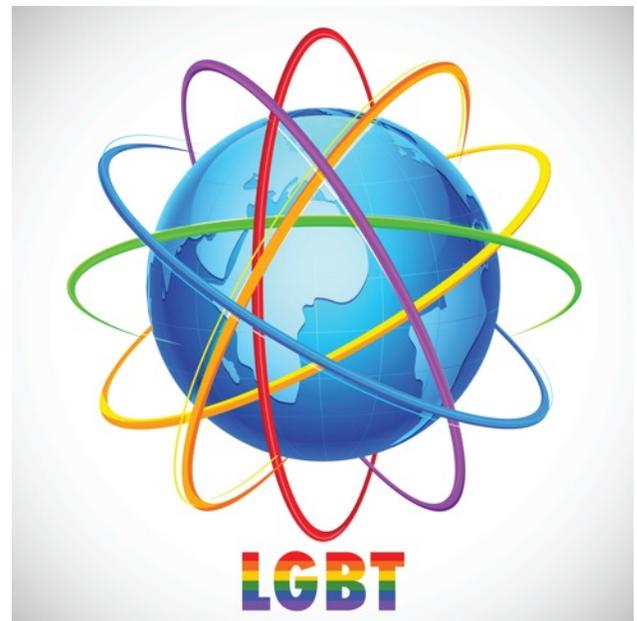
Information was collected about a range of demographics including sexual orientation, gender identity, and gender expression. Also youths were assessed for risks related to their orientation such as the search for permanency, well being, schooling, placements and homelessness.

The results indicated that around 7,400 youth in this age bracket are in out of home foster-care and that about 19% or about 1400 identify as LGBTQ. This is about 2X to 1.5X the number of youths in the population that are not in foster-care. (Most surveys calculate about 7.2 % of the total US population is LGBTQ.) Like most children in foster care, the majority were youth of color. However, unlike most foster-youths, 10% of the LGBTQ were born outside of the US and

nearly 1/3 had a biological parent born outside of the US. While this is interesting, it is unknown why this should be the case. Other disturbing facts, however, indicated these youths had more placements, more group-home placements (25.7% vs 10.1%), more hospitalizations for emotional reasons (13.5% vs 4.2%), and were more likely to become homeless (21.1% vs 13.9%).

Additional research will now focus on solutions for this population that will help these youths both in foster care and when they emancipate. It will also look at policy solutions to prevent the stigma and abuse these youths now face in our “out of home care”. Hopefully these solutions will not only help these youths but also decrease the cost of caring for them. (Group homes are especially expensive -- I recently had a child assigned to me who was in a group home for the blind—cost was about \$8600 a month.)

This beginning survey is part of a five year study to find solutions for foster children who have the most serious barriers to permanency.





## Join The League!

### WHO ARE OUR MEMBERS?

Membership in the League of Women Voters, the most respected and effective grassroots organization in the country, is open to all men and women who are registered voters.

Our members make a visible difference by serving as community leaders using their experience to create positive, lasting change in our communities.

### HOW DO I JOIN?

Just fill out the membership form below and mail it to:

LWW PVP, PO Box 2933, Palos Verdes Peninsula, CA 90274.

Please make checks payable to *LWW PVP*

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### Membership Form

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Name(s) of additional member(s) in household \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (home) \_\_\_\_\_ Phone (work/day/cell) \_\_\_\_\_

Email address \_\_\_\_\_

Amount enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_

\$65.00 one member

\$32.50 additional member in the same household.

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