



Voter

www.lwvpalosverdes.org (310) 784-7787 November / December 2015

Calendar 2015

Wednesday	Nov. 11	Board Meeting	Noon	Nell Mirels' House
Friday	Nov. 13	Elected Officials' Party	5:30-7:30PM	Pt. Vicente Interpretive Center 31501 Palos Verdes Dr. East Rancho Palos Verdes, CA (see flyer)
Wednesday	Dec. 9	Board Meeting	Noon	Nell Mirels' House Holiday Pot Luck
SAVE THE DATES				
January 16, 2016		Consensus for MONEY IN POLITICS		TBD
January 30, 2016		County League Day		TBD

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This Month's Co-Presidents' Message

President's Message:

Politics is in the air and we are watching a favorite sport of candidate debates. National debates are proving to be very popular with media commentators and news programs. On the hill we held three forums under the able leadership of our Voter Service person, Nancy Mahr. The first was for PV School board, followed by RPV City Counsel and lastly for the Rolling Hills Estate City. There was a good turn-out and as usual these forums help us (the public) to see and hear the local candidates and make a decision on who should be elected.

We also accomplished a major task this year of updating our roster with the amazing help of our interns and Linda Herman. Hopefully by the time you read this—they will be in your home. We also want to thank three members helping us with donations to pay for the printing and mailing of the same. So many thanks to Mary Ellen Barnes, Susie Park and Pat Colby!!

In October we had two outstanding presentations. Our first tri-league event was on October third with Luke Reidenbach from the California Budget Project. He spoke on "How the State of CA budget would be affected by Upcoming changes in Propositions". This is of special importance to us as we are supporting the Make It Fair proposal to adjust Proposition 13. The problem with Prop.13 is that some businesses pay almost no property tax (those older established properties) while a new business has a hefty tax depending on where they are located.

Our second program, Human Trafficking, was held at the main library on October 15, and was sponsored by a coalition of groups including our league, the Chamber of Commerce, PTA, AAUW as well as the PVP counsel, Suzy Zimmerman Insurance, Wright 1 and Supervisor Don Knabe's office that helped with arranging a panel of experts.

Coming up this month is our Elected Official's Party at the Interruptive Center on November 13. This event is being co-sponsored with the Chamber of Commerce.

If you notice that we have holding more events with a co-sponsor you are right! Fewer member of our league are active with our events and although we cherish each and every one of you, we need the help and support of other organizations to bring you the programs you deserve. Coming up soon is our Educational Study and Money in Politics. We will be sending out information about these meetings for consensus as they are planned and urge you to join a study if you wish.

Since this will be our last Voter before the holidays we wish you all a very happy and healthy Holiday Season.

Katy Watkins (310-408-6211) and *Vi Jungerich* (310-541-5092)
Co-Presidents

Advocacy Portfolio Update

League Opposes Senate Attempts to Block Clean Power Plan

The League sent a [letter](#) to the U.S. Senate opposing any attempt to block the implementation of the Administration's Clean Power Plan. Under the Congressional Review Act, Congress can review the implementation of regulations developed by the Administration. Members of the LWVUS Lobby Corps will be visiting Senate offices to discuss this groundbreaking regulation that will save lives and protect the environment. Visit the LWVUS Climate Change Toolkit for [background on the Clean Power Plan](#) and a section outlining [what Leagues and League members can do](#) to help build support for, and promote compliance with, the Clean Power Plan.

League Submits Comments to EPA Science Advisory Board

The League submitted [written comments](#) to the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Science Advisory Board (SAB). The comments are in regard to the EPA SAB's study on the effects that hydraulic fracturing has on drinking water sources.

Support the EPA'S Methane Pollution Regulation

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has proposed the first-ever proposed pollution standard for new and modified oil and gas facilities. These regulations are an important step forward to protect public health and our planet. [Thank the EPA for their efforts to protect our children by cutting methane emissions.](#)

- Arlene Block

A SPECIAL THANKS!!

Our treasurer and the board thank **Mary Ellen Barnes, Pat Colby and Susie Park** for their donations which paid for the printing and copying of our new roster.

League-a-thon

Please consider a donation to our League-a-thon. ***We are using our reserves for our programs.*** Almost all of our money is used for paying for Pros and Cons, maintaining our web site, and renting meeting rooms for programs and forums. The money from our dues – a little over \$5.00-- is insufficient to meet these costs. Most of our dues money is sent to the National League, the State League and a small amount to the County League. Each year as they increase their cost we lose more dues monies.

LWVC Celebrates Passage of AB 1461, California's New Motor Voter Program

The League of Women Voters of California joins with [Secretary of State Alex Padilla](#) in celebrating the historic passage of [AB 1461](#), which will provide California citizens additional opportunities to participate in democracy through exercise of the basic right to vote. Voting is a fundamental citizen right that must be guaranteed. Bringing as many eligible Californians into our election process as possible has great rewards for our democracy.

The League stands firmly behind efforts to make [voter registration](#) easy and accessible to all eligible citizens. California ranks 38th among the states in voter registration, a dismal record that must be improved. [AB 1461](#) could potentially bring the 6.6 million eligible, but unregistered, voters in our state—who are predominantly Latino, African American and Asian-Pacific Islanders—into the electoral process.

The LWVC has worked relentlessly for full implementation of the National Voter Registration Act (NVRA) in state agencies including Covered California and, currently, at the Department of Motor Vehicles. We were encouraged that, during the course of NVRA negotiations with the Governor's office, the Secretary of State's office, the DMV, and the Department of Transportation, funding for the DMV to implement online voter registration during driver's license transactions was included in this year's budget. That momentum to implement an automated system must not be lost! This includes ensuring that the DMV will implement efficient, streamlined voter registration before the June 2016 primary.

FOOD & THOUGHT AT THE 2015 FALL TRI-LEAGUE FALL BRUNCH

By Pat Colby

This year the October 3, 2015 Fall Tri-League brunch was once again hosted at the Zagat-rated Depot Restaurant by Chef Shafer; pity the poor League members who missed the delicious array of food and speaker Luke Reidenbach of the California Budget & Policy Center (formerly the California Budget Project). As we delighted in mouth-watering eggs, flavorful sides and the best French toast in the South Bay, Mr. Reidenbach directed his remarks to **“How the California state budget would be affected by upcoming changes in propositions.”**

Benefits of Proposition 30

Mr. Reidenbach recounted the benefits of 2012's Proposition 30 which temporarily increased personal income tax for the highest earning Californians until the end of 2018 and temporarily increased the state sales tax rate by ¼ cent until the end of 2016. Those Prop. 30 benefits flowed primarily to education and held back a disastrous 6.8% cut in the 2012-13 state budget had the proposition failed. Revenues accrued from Prop. 30 were estimated at \$6 - \$8 billion annually, declining in later years due to the sales tax rate expiration.

Proposition 30 Replacement Options

With Proposition 30 set to expire, a number of revenue-raising ballot initiatives for 2016 are being proposed.

- Proposal #1: The School Funding and Budget Stability Act: boosts income rates on couples earning more than \$500,000 a year for 12 years, with the proceeds deposited into an account to support K-12 schools and colleges. The ¼ cent sales tax increase would not be touched, and expire as planned in 2016. Supported by a coalition of education and other groups.
- Proposal #2: The Investment in California's Children Act: continues existing income taxes on the wealthiest and establishes modest new rates for “super-earners” making more than \$2 million and \$10 million a year. It eliminates the

sales tax portion of Prop. 30 and establishes a Rainy Day Fund modeled on Governor Jerry Brown's Proposition 2. Supported by a coalition of health and children's advocates.

A number of Other Tax Proposals are Under Consideration

- Reform of Proposition 13's Commercial Property Taxes (“Make It Fair Campaign”): The intention is to place a “split roll” measure on the 2016 ballot keeping Prop. 13's limits in place for homes, residential rental properties and farms, but allowing upward revisions in taxable values on other properties. Supported by a coalition of liberal groups seeking \$8 - \$10 billion to be raised annually in additional revenue from commercial and industrial property.
- Extending California's sales tax to services: SB8 proposes to extend the sales tax, which currently applies to goods (like scissors) to include services (like a hair-cut).
- Expanding the tobacco tax: A coalition called Save Lives California proposes to increase taxes on cigarettes by \$2 per pack with equivalent increases on other tobacco products. It would also tax electronic cigarettes.
- Creating an oil severance tax: Proposes to tax the extraction of oil and gas.

A recent California Budget & Policy Center study says low-income Californians who pay a disproportionate share of their income in taxes could benefit if adjustments were made to Proposition 30 and other tax policies. The bottom 20% of Californians pay more than 10% of their income in state and local taxes, while earning about \$13,000 a year on average.

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Tri-League Report - continued from 4

The top 1% pay just under 9%. They earn an average of \$1.5 million dollars per year. “Over time, income is increasingly concentrated at the top,” Luke Reidenbach, told the Tri-League audience. “Right now about 20% of income in the state goes to just the top 1%.” The study says the temporary sales tax increase under Prop. 30 disproportionately affects low income people and should be allowed to expire. The California Budget & Policy Center favors an earned income tax credit for low-income Californians.

The California Budget & Policy Center Study Supports a California Earned Income Tax Credit for Qualified Low-Income Individuals and Families

California now offers its own earned income tax credit (CA EITC) starting with calendar year 2015 tax returns. It allows taxpayers with total incomes below a certain level to reduce their tax liability by an amount that depends on their “earned income,” which primarily includes wages and self-employment income. The state’s CA EITC is “refundable,” meaning an individual will receive a refund if the amount of the credit is greater than the tax owed. This credit is available to California households with adjusted gross incomes of less than \$6,580 if there are no qualifying children, less than \$9,880 if there is one qualifying child or less than \$13,870 if there are two or more qualifying children. It is estimated that the CA EITC will reduce economic hardship for thousands in the state and help them meet basic needs.

What is the California Budget and Policy Center and what is its mission?

Established in 1995, the Center’s mission is to engage in independent fiscal and policy analysis and public education with the goal of improving public policies affecting the economic and social well-being of low-and-middle income Californians. The Center is a nonpartisan organization that neither supports nor opposes any political party nor any candidate running for elected office.

The Center believes in fact-based, nonpartisan analysis of fiscal and tax policies and their implications for Californians. Its work is grounded in the fundamental belief that government should work to improve the lives of the people it serves. The Center provides accessible, useable, and timely information on state fiscal, tax and related public policies in order to expand civic engagement in policy debates.



Human Trafficking Seminar

By V. Iungerich

On October 15, a panel of experts gave a presentation on the state of Human Trafficking to members of the local community at the PVP Library. This panel was assembled with the help and recommendations of Supervisor Knabe's Office. Although most of the presenters focused on sexual trafficking a small amount of time was also spent on Labor Trafficking. Each of five experts spoke about an aspect of this issue.

Edward Fithyan - Deputy County Counsel and Division Chief for Emergency Response Command Post

Mr. Fithyan gave a series of statistics on the extent of the problem and a history of changes in approaching the problem of sexual human trafficking. It is estimated that in the US somewhere between 100,000 and 300,000 children are being sexually trafficked. For most of the past, these children were considered perpetrators of sexual misconduct, not victims, and were arrested and treated harshly. In 2013 the county of LA and the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) started a program to de-criminalize these children and treat them as victims rather than delinquents or criminals. Today a specialized unit handles all such cases and including the Police, the Sheriff's Department, Public Health, Mental Health, DCFS and the court system. All are joined in a coordinated way, to reach these children and rescue them from being "in the life".

In Los Angeles County, DCFS has been tracking these children since January of 2013 and has identified 1312 potential victims and siblings. 75% have an open case with DCFS. In the last year 479 youth have been reported to the hotline. By ethnicity, 54% are Black, 28% are Hispanic, 14 % are White, 3% are Asian and 1 % are other. While most victims are female, there are a few boys who are also caught up in this trade. By age 1% are 6-10, 3% 11-12, 46% 13-15, 48% 16-17, and 2% over 18.

Maria Pachaeo - Children's Social Worker Emergency Response Unit

Ms. Pachaeo gave a generalized profile of the children rescued. Her unit responds within 90 minutes of a call into the hotline. She stated that most children averaged 12-14 years of age with a few in the 9-11 year range. Common characteristics were a background of poverty, a history of referrals to DCFS, prior abuse or neglect, runaway youth, gang involvement, substance abuse, gay or transgender issues, frequent school absences, unexplained gifts, reports of promiscuous activity, unexplained injuries, and tattoos or brands.

She spoke about the trauma of these victims and how needy they were –often needing food and medical care (from being put back outside without food until they met a certain \$ amount on the street). She also explained their distrust of authorities and how it took time to reach them and get them to talk.

Sargent Jeff Walker – Division Chief of Human Trafficking Bureau in County Sheriff Office

Sargent Walker is developing a new division to handle these cases. He expects that eventually his unit will have 50-70 people working on this problem. While there are a few cases of labor trafficking, most of the unit will be focused on sexual trafficking.

He explained that this has become a recent problem due to the fact that gangs have shifted their targets from drug deals to finding girls to traffic. The reasons for this is that the work is easier and safer. Getting caught as a pimp does not carry a major penalty and the money is good. An average girl brings in over \$100,000 a year— tax free. Young girls wanting and needing "love" are easy to seduce and once attached become "property" which is shown by a tattoo on the girl which indicates the "owner". Often girls are transported over county or state lines which make it difficult to track them.

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ELECTED OFFICIALS' PARTY

Friday, NOVEMBER 13, 2015

5:30 PM to 7:30 PM

The League of Women Voters of Palos Verdes Peninsula/SanPedro
and

The Palos Verdes Peninsula Chamber of Commerce

Invite you to a League party honoring

OUR LOCAL ELECTED OFFICIALS

at

Pt. Vicente Interpretive Center
31501 Palos Verdes Drive West, Rancho Palos Verdes

Please make check out to LWV-PVP

Mail to: Cindy Kondon, Treasurer
LWVPVP
P.O.Box 2933
Palos Verdes Peninsula, CA 90274

\$15.00 per person



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*

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.

Dues are tax deductible. LWW PVP is a 501(c)(3) organization.

LWV PVP Officers and Board Member Contact Information:

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