
The LWVLBA November 2017 Voter is Here!

1 message

LWVLBA <kimberlyritter8@verizon.net>
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Tue, Nov 7, 2017 at 5:00 PM



The Voter

*The League of Women Voters, Long Beach Area
Serving the Communities of Long Beach, Lakewood
and Signal Hill*

November 2017

Check out the LWVBA on Social Media!



Facebook



Instagram



Twitter



Website

In This Issue

President's Message

October Access to
Parks and Open Space
Event -- See it on
YouTube

LWVLBA Members- Call
For Volunteers!

California Enters New
Era For Elections

Setting the Table for
Civility

President's Message

By Kimberly Ritter-Martinez, President

Hats off to Lois Ledger and Lisa Swanson for their terrific program at our October member event! The program focused on access to parks and open spaces in Long Beach. Randy Zarn of [Partners of Parks](#) opened the meeting with a presentation about his organization. Partners of Parks is a nonprofit that was established by a group of Long Beach residents who were concerned that "clean, open park space be kept available to all residents at a time when large cuts were being made to park services." Randy spoke about the work of Partners of Parks and the many improvements they have brought to our city's parks and recreational facilities. Lisa Swanson introduced us to the "L.A. County Comprehensive Parks and Recreation Needs Assessment." This report considers parks to be a key infrastructure need to maintain and improve the quality of

Partisan Divide on
Political Values Grows
Even Wider

LWVC Legislative
Update

Calendar

November 4, 2017

Board Meeting

1:00 pm - 2:30 pm

Ella Mae Marble's Home

November 18, 2017

**Member Event: Love the
LBC? Learn how to
become a more
influential Citizen**

10:00 am - 12:00 pm

Los Altos Public Library
5614 E Britton Dr., Long
Beach 90815

For more information see
flier [here](#).

December 2, 2017

Board Meeting

1:00 pm - 2:30 pm

Ella Mae Marble's Home

life for all L.A. County residents and provided new metrics to improve the allocation for funding for parks and recreation.

Coming up at our November event, we will be discussing how to become a more influential citizen. If you or anyone you know feels discouraged by the state of politics today, then then this is the event for you! We will be featuring speakers from Mayor Robert Garcia's office and the Justin Rudd organization to explain how to engage with local government and community activists. We will also connect you with speakers from Long Beach protective services agencies who will speak about police-community relations and disaster preparedness. Please see the calendar for more details.

Looking forward to seeing you there!

**If you missed our October Event on Access to Parks
and Open Space in Long Beach, you can check it out
on YouTube:**

<https://youtu.be/YNwxcFC6ell>

**View or download Lisa Swanson's Parks Needs
Assessment presentation [here](#).**



Interesting Articles

[Why Invest in Teenage Girls?](#)
(Financial Times)

October 16, 1916
Margret Sanger opened the first birth control clinic in the U.S. Read more about Margret Sanger [here](#).
(New York Times Archives)

[We Should be Talking About the Effect of Climate Change on Cities](#)
(Long Reads.com)



Internet Resources

[Voters Edge](#)

[L.A. County Registrar](#)

[California Secretary of State](#)

NEW!

[California Initiative and Referendum Qualification Status](#)

NEW!

[Long Beach General Plan](#)

[Legislative Analyst's Office](#)

LWVLBA Members! Call for Volunteers!

We have had some conversation with CSULB staff and Student Government representatives regarding our supporting their student elections in March 2018. They are considering having physical polling locations because their online only voting has very low participation. The elections are scheduled for March 12 - March 14, and we anticipate having them open from 11:00 am to 6:00 pm on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday with an additional location open on Tuesday evening from 4:00 pm to 8:00 pm.

In order to support this request, we need to make sure we have enough people resources to participate. Please let me know if you would be interested and available to work at a polling location for a couple of hours on campus.

Jane Bemis (janebemis@gmail.com)

Get Involved!

**Donate or renew
your
membership
today!**

CALIFORNIA ENTERS A NEW ERA FOR ELECTIONS

By Margo Reeg, Voter Services LWVLAC ILO

The Future of Elections in California has arrived.

Beginning in the Fall of 2018 voters in 4 northern California counties will debut the newest model of voting in the technological age. All voters will receive Vote-by-Mail ballots. The voted ballots may be mailed to the county elections office or the voter may drop the sealed and signed VBM ballot at a secure, convenient drop-off location or vote center or may vote the ballot at a full-service Vote Center. Drop-off boxes and Vote Centers will be available 10 days before each election and voters may choose to use any Vote Center, not just the nearest to home.

Vote Centers and Drop-off boxes for ballots will be introduced in LA County beginning in 2018 in selected locations. The Registrar-Recorder's office will be surveying communities to determine where ideal locations for Ballot Drop-Off sites and Vote Centers should be. Vote Centers will become the norm in 2020 with neighborhood polling places phased out. Criteria for locating Vote Centers include parking, accessibility for disabled, public transportation, internet capability, in pockets of specific language groups, and large enough to serve many people. Depending on needs, a Vote Center could have 10, 25, or 50 Ballot Marking Devices and corresponding numbers of vote center staff. Electronic poll books will have registration data for all voters in LA County.

The new Vote Centers will utilize the new VSAP ballot marking devices developed using public input and design resources to maximize Voting Solutions for All People. The new ballot marking devices are user friendly touchscreens with a paper ballot that is voter verified, and secure ballot boxes. Voters will be able to be able to access an interactive sample ballot online, mark it and download their choices to their smartphone, and take the marked choices to the Vote Center to enter onto the ballot marking system.

Another new feature in 2018 will be new Vote-by-Mail ballots that have all candidates and ballot measures printed on the ballot. Voters mark the ballot by filling in the oval with a pen. The ballot is then placed in a secrecy sleeve and inserted into the ballot envelope which the voter signs and seals. The VBM ballot will require only one first class stamp. Alternatively, the VBM ballot may be dropped at a secure early drop-off box or taken to the Vote Center any time from ten days before the election through election day.

The League of Women Voters will be expected to partner with the Registrar-Recorder to educate the public about the new style of voting and to gather input on appropriate locations for Drop Boxes and Vote Centers.

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"Setting the Table for Civility" over the Holidays

As part of the League's partnership with the [National Institute for Civil Discourse](#), LWV members are invited to participate in "[Setting the Table for Civility](#)". It is an opportunity for individuals, as we gather with friends and family for the upcoming Thanksgiving and year-end holiday season, to take action to promote civility. These include exploring three basic questions:

What are you most thankful for about living in America?

How do you feel about the deep divisions and incivility we see now in our country?

What can we do to revive civility and respect and find more effective ways to listen to each other and work together?

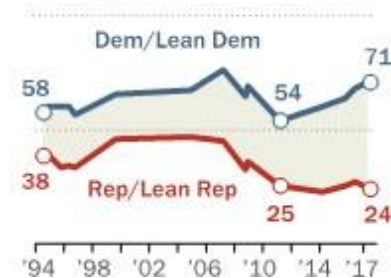
[Tools and materials](#) are available to support conversations at family gatherings, within faith communities, on campuses and on social media. This could be a great way to engage new members and to invite non-members to join the League in an activity that brings people together and helps us build more civil dialogue in communities.

Partisan Divide on Political Values Grows Even Wider

A New report from Pew Research shows sharp shift between Republicans and Democrats on aid to needy, immigration and race.

Read more [here](#).

Government should do more to help the needy



Opportunities for Service

Write an article or a book review for *The Voter*. Time commitment: low. Contact: [Phyllis O'Connor](#) or [Kim Ritter](#)

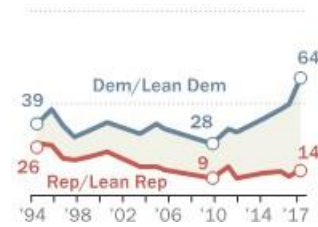
Volunteer to join the Board. Time commitment: moderate. Open positions: Voter Editor. Contact: [Kim Ritter](#)

Volunteer to serve as an Observer at City Council meetings, or at other meetings of government or agencies. Time commitment: variable. Contact: [Phyllis O'Connor](#)

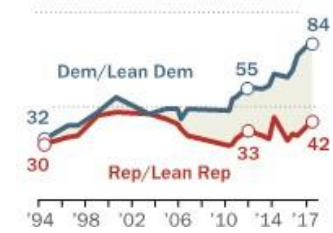
Volunteer to serve on a planning committee for a membership meeting. Time commitment: variable. Contact: [Kim Ritter](#)

Join a Committee: Voter Service (Renee Simon); Membership ([Ron Salk](#)); Speakers Bureau (Thelma Teitel); Committee on Homelessness ([Phyllis O'Connor](#)).

Racial discrimination is the main reason why many black people can't get ahead these days



Immigrants strengthen the country with their hard work and talents



LWVC Legislative Update

By Helen Hutchinson, President LWVC

The 2017 California legislative session is a wrap, and thanks to you, we have new laws addressing many of the critical issues we face in California. Because so many of you took action, we're celebrating major legislative victories:

- The California Values Act passed, ensuring state and local resources are not being used to fuel mass deportations, destroy families, and cripple our economy.
- The passage of SB 2 and SB 3 will generate about \$5 billion for more affordable housing over the next five years.
- Campaign ads will have to identify their big money donors prominently on tv, radio, online, and in print with the passage of the Disclose Act.
- Community college students will be assessed more fairly, creating a clearer path to success and preventing them from being tracked into unnecessary non-credit remedial classes thanks to AB 705.
- The passage of AB 918 means the millions of voters with limited English skills will have access to more information in their language, including facsimile ballots—a critical step in ensuring all voices are heard on election day.

In addition to the many action alerts we sent, the League was also advocating for other bills at the Capitol. This year, Governor Brown signed ALL of the bills supported by the League that came across his desk! [California now has 27 new League approved laws, improving California's policies on the environment, education, voting rights, and more.](#) Unfortunately, our efforts to reform California's broken bail system were stalled, but we'll have another chance to fix that when SB 10 is taken up again next year. We're also looking forward to ongoing efforts to address the housing shortage and progress on key higher education bills. The League is also ready to take action on campaign finance reform and any legislative responses to new federal activity.

Thank you again for speaking up!



NATIONAL FEDERATION OF FEDERAL EMPLOYEES
Affiliated with the International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers, AFL-CIO

Elizabeth "Liz" McDargh
National Vice President & President, Local 1450

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Shore Business Center

Ronald W Chambers

M-F: 8am - 7pm

Sat : 9am - 5pm

Sun: 10am - 5pm

Notary Public/Certified FP Roller

Phone: (562)987-4777

Fax: (562)987-4778

ShoreBizCenter@gmail.com

5318 E Second St. Long Beach, CA 90803

About the League

The League of Women Voters, a non-partisan political organization, encourages informed and active participation in government and influences public policy through education and advocacy.

We do not support or oppose any political party or any candidate. We do, however, take action on selected government issues in the public interest.

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