
The LWVLBA September 2017 Voter is Here!

LWVLBA <kimberlyritter8@verizon.net>
Reply-To: LWVLBA <kimberlyritter8@verizon.net>
To: pocphyllis@gmail.com

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The Voter

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

September 2017

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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President's Message

By Kimberly Ritter-Martinez, President

There are so many things going on in our country and the world right now, and so many ways to be involved, it can be both overwhelming and exciting. I attended two events in August that were not LWV-related but were relevant to two issues that are important to the League: climate change and immigration.

On August 16th, I attended a screening of *An Inconvenient Sequel* that was followed by a panel discussion at the [Art Theatre](#) in Long Beach. Before the film started, the audience was addressed by Long Beach Mayor, Robert Garcia and Congressman Alan Lowenthal (47th District). Mayor Garcia spoke about efforts environmental programs and initiatives in Long Beach including the city's Bike Share Program and the Port of Long Beach's recently updated Clean Air Action Plan.

Representative Lowenthal spoke of the frustrations he has with the current

on DACA
Reversal

Calendar

September 16, 2017

Member Event: Constitution Day

10:00 am - 12:00 pm

Los Altos Library

[5614 E. Britton Dr.](#)

Long Beach, 90815

(Click [here](#) for more
info)

September 26, 2017

National Voter Registration Day

October 7, 2017

Board Meeting

1:00 pm - 2:30 pm

Ella Mae Marble's

Home

administration's stance on climate change and the withdrawal of the United States from the Paris Accord. However, he repeatedly emphasized the fast-approaching 2018 mid-term elections and the need for people to get out and vote if they want to the federal government reverse course on climate change policy.

The film was a riveting follow up to the decade-old *An Inconvenient Truth*. It followed former Vice President Al Gore around the world documenting his efforts to train climate change "champions" to spread the message that climate change is real, and detailed his behind-the-scenes efforts at the Paris Accord talks to convince reluctant countries to sign on. The panel discussion that followed was a lively exchange featuring Ed Mazria founder and CEO, Architecture 2020; Michelle Mowery, Mobility & Healthy Living Programs Officer; Fern Nueno, Planner for the City of Long Beach; Sara Hickman, Sustainability Director, Studio 111 Architects; and Nate Taylor, Project Manager, SoCal Gas.

The second event I attended was an immigration forum at the Temple Israel in Long Beach (also in attendance from the LWVLBA was Renee Simon and Zhita Rea). The first speaker was Rabbi Johnathan Klein who spoke from a historical perspective about how experiences in the Jewish community have informed how it relates to immigrants (while acknowledging a wide spectrum of opinion among his fellow Jews). It was an extremely interesting talk and offered a perspective that was entirely new to me. The second speaker was Congressman Alan Lowenthal who opened his remarks by stating that for him, being Jewish was about a commitment to social justice. He addressed the past two decades of federal immigration policy and described two pieces of legislation that currently working their way through Congress, one co-sponsored by Congressman Lowenthal and the other a bi-partisan effort that seeks to preserve DACA through the legislative process by making it law. Given the administration's recent decision to rescind the DACA program, these efforts have taken on a new urgency. Representative Lowenthal concluded by saying that a humane immigration system does not have to be partisan.

Coming up September 16, is our first LWVLBA event of the year, a celebration of Constitution day. Please see Lillian Slater's excellent preview below and refer to the calendar section for more details. Please mark your calendars – you don't want to miss this one!

Internet Resources

[Voters Edge](#)

[L.A. County
Registrar](#)

[California
Secretary of
State](#)

[Legislative
Analyst's](#)

Celebrate Constitution Day with the League!

by Lillian Slater

We're proud to be hosting an event to celebrate the signing of the United States Constitution. It will be held at the Los Altos Neighborhood Library located at [5514 E. Britton Drive](#) in Long Beach from 10 a.m. to noon on Saturday, September 16. Attendees will receive a complimentary pocket-size edition of the U.S. Constitution.

Constitution Day is celebrated on the anniversary of the day the framers signed the document in 1797. First called Citizenship Day, it was renamed

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in 2004 and has become an opportunity for citizens to celebrate the success of a nation of free people whose rights and liberties are protected by a written Constitution.

Two constitutional scholars from California State University, Long Beach will provide an overview of the Constitution and the significance of constitutional supremacy including how it has generated conflict over the proper approach to constitutional interpretation as well as judicial selection.

Dr. Jason Whitehead is the director of the Legal Studies program at CSULB. After law school, he served for two years as a judicial clerk on the Oregon Court of Appeals and then as a staff attorney at the United States District Court in Los Angeles where he dealt with federal and state constitutional issues. While earning his Ph.D. in Political Science from the University of Southern California, he specialized in jurisprudence and judicial decision making. He currently teaches constitutional law, jurisprudence, and other upper division public law courses at CSULB.

Dr. Jared Perkins' research and teaching focuses on the relationship between democracy and the judiciary, especially on the role of interest groups in shaping law and policy. He teaches constitutional law courses and has expertise on the role of law and the Constitution in protecting the environment and conserving natural resources. Dr. Perkins stated, "I have a particular passion for understanding how citizens can engage with and shape our understanding of the Constitution."

Their presentation will be followed by a question-and-answer period and then a Constitution-quiz contest with prizes. Please confirm attendance by RSVP to lilliands@gmail.com or by text or voice mail to [714-287-3184](tel:714-287-3184).

Renew Your Membership Now!

Invoices have been mailed out to all members and we're hoping for a quick and overwhelming response!

Annual dues are \$55/individual, \$80/family, and \$25/student. Please make your check payable to LWV/LBA and enclose any changes to your address, telephone, or e-mail address. Also, let us know if you wish to serve on any committees for the upcoming year.

IMPORTANT: If you joined after Jan. 1, 2017, then you should send in a renewal at 50% off. So individuals, for example, would pay \$27.50, instead of \$55. (You, in effect, get credit for a half year membership.)

If you haven't already, please take a moment to renew your membership and mail it off to us today. You will be doing your LWV a real service. And your renewal, as always, will apply to the national, state, county, and local LWV organizations. We are counting on you to help us make this experimental renewal program a success.

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Opportunities for Service

Write an article or a
book review for *The
Voter*. Time
commitment: low.

Homeless Counts: Up in LA County, Down in Long Beach

by the Homelessness Committee

*We were very impressed by the difference between the Long Beach and Los Angeles County Homeless counts - the Long Beach count was down by 21% from 2015 to 2017, while the county in Los Angeles County (excluding Long Beach, Pasadena and Glendale) was up by 23% from 2016 to 2017. We asked **Elsa Ramos**, Multi-Service Center Coordinator for the Long Beach Department of Health & Human Services for some reasons for this difference, and here's her response:*

Thank you for reaching out on the matter. We have been very focused on the issue over the last couple of years and the success is really attributed to various factors.

Some items to highlight include:

- Between 2015 and 2017, permanent housing resources nearly doubled. Resources included supportive housing for Veterans, new housing units at the Villages at Cabrillo and the conversion of transitional housing programs to rapid rehousing programs which provide housing support for people in their own apartments.
- Interdepartmental Coordination: The city departments of Health and Human Services, Parks ,Recreation and Marine, Public Works, Police and Fire convene on a monthly basis to strategize and coordinate on homeless impacts throughout the city. This coordinated effort is a very proactive approach.
- Street Outreach Network: This multi-disciplinary team, comprised of City Health Dept staff, fire, police and partner agencies, is out in the community on a daily basis conducting street outreach and engagement of the street homeless population in Long Beach. The team is very effective in engaging individuals and helping them stabilize in alternative housing locations.
- Coordinated System of Care: Long Beach has a well-coordinated system of care with built in supports that assist homeless households with comprehensive services that are coordinated to ensure wrap around care up and through housing placement. This is done in a coordinated fashion and households are assessed and prioritized for housing based on their individual needs.
- Evidenced based best practices: Some recent innovations such as the Fire Department's HEART Team along with the expansion of the street outreach network, really help elevate the momentum of the work we are locally doing.
- Regional Coordination: We collocate regional partners at the MSC to ensure that Long Beach residents can also access countywide resources to help them quickly stabilize and retain their housing. The expansion in program for regional areas have been leveraged to support our local efforts.

The work of the Long Beach Continuum has been long standing but we had done a lot of restructuring of CoC (Continuum of Care)

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](#)).

dollars in recent years to ensure we are maximizing them to create as many housing opportunities as possible.

We are excited about the progress, but we know we have a lot more work to do.

Elsa Ramos | Multi-Service Center Coordinator
Long Beach Department of Health & Human Services

To learn more about citywide efforts to combat homelessness in Long Beach consider attending the Interfaith Summit on Homelessness presented by the Long Beach Rescue Mission and the City Health Department. For event information, click [here](#).

League Statement on DACA Reversal

Washington, DC - The Trump administration today announced their intention to reverse the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) policy, leaving the fate of 800,000 immigrants in jeopardy. League of Women Voters president **Chris Carson** issued the following statement:

"This administration's decision to rescind the 'Dreamers' program is shameful and does not serve national interest.

"As a country of immigrants, we are made stronger by our diversity. Yet time and time again, this administration has discriminated against immigrants and communities of color.

"Reversing the DACA policy will have a devastating impact on our economy. Ending this program will increase unemployment.

"Thousands of the Dreamers protected by DACA were brought to this country as babies and have no memories of their birth country. These individuals are paying taxes, contributing to Social Security and are Americans in everything but the name.

"The League of Women Voters is opposed to deportation of non-criminal undocumented immigrants and we urge congress to pass a clean Dreamers Act to protect, not turn away, the 800,000 young people who were brought to the United States as children."

Contact: Sarah Courtney | 202-263-1332 | scourtney@lww.org



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Our mailing address is:
235 Mira Mar Ave., #4

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