

# The Voter

Fall 2014

## Water, Water ... The Time is Now

As you well know, our League believes in "...public acquisition of the local water system, converting the privately owned company to a city-owned company by the use of public financing, believing that public control is worth the cost, even if high, and has long-range advantages to rate-payers and to the community."

The wording is from the position adopted in 2006 at the end of our most recent study of local water, but the viewpoint has held true almost from the beginning of our League, for more than 70 years now. That's a long time to wait for something so important.

Finally, thanks in large part to Marilee Scaff and Freeman Allen, the amazing core of our Water Committee, and after much effort, persistence, and concern, we have a chance to vote on the issue. I doubt any of our members need to be urged to turn their ballots in with "**Yes on Measure W**" clearly marked, but encouraging friends, neighbors, and relatives who live in Claremont to do the same thing is very important, too.

*As a reminder for such discussions, here are some of the facts to remember:*

- Local control of this natural resource is vital, for us and for future generations.

- The only actual appraised value of the water system is \$55 million; the other numbers you sometimes see are not valid appraisals but attempts to "muddy the waters".
- Water bills could decrease right away if the cost is less than \$80 million.
- \$135 million (the number on the ballot) is a credit limit, not an estimated cost.
- Revenue bonds paid from water revenue via our water bills will fund the purchase. No tax is involved – using the word is just a scare tactic.
- Because of guaranteed high rates of return to investors, high salaries, and other unnecessary expenses, our water bills are currently much higher than if we had a municipal system.
- Our money, via Golden State, is being used to fund a campaign of newspaper ads, expensive mailers, phone surveys, etc., designed to mislead and confuse us, hoping to keep us from voting "Yes on W".

Your vote is important. Every vote is important. If you have trouble getting to the polls, call another League member, call me. We must seize this long-sought, hard-fought opportunity.

~~ Sally Seven

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To cut costs the Voter will be available in electronic format in coming issues.

If you would like **to receive the Voter electronically**, you need do nothing!

If you would like **to receive it by mail**, call the office and leave your name and say the word MAIL.

## President's Message:

As you are acutely aware, the November 4, 2014, Mid-term Election is close-at-hand. As a **League** member, you are urged to ask new acquaintances in your area whether they have registered to vote. Remind them that **October 20, 2014**, is the **last** day to register to vote in this election. (Remember, registering to vote can be completed on-line.) If you have any questions about your voting status or location, call the **toll-free voter hotline at (800) 345-8683**. The polls open at 7:00am on November 4 and close at 8:00pm. The importance of your vote on **Measure W** shapes Claremont's future; however, no matter where you reside be informed in casting a vote for Propositions 1,2, 45, 46, 47, and 48. For those living in Los Angeles County, **County Measure P** needs careful consideration.

October 25, is **Village Venture Time** and we need you to help us staff a booth that will be located at the south end of the village, east of the train depot. We will need volunteers to do one/two hour shifts. New member information and information on the Propositions will be available at our location. Make a difference and volunteer to help staff the booth on Saturday, 10.25, for Village Venture. There are three shuttles available to bring you into the village from various parking areas. Call the office at 909-624-9457 and leave a message telling us your name and time desired. Thanks for your participation.

On November 9, 2014 from 1:30pm to 3:00pm, plan to attend a stimulating and informative afternoon with Dr. David Menefee-Libey at 1105 College Ave., Claremont. Dr. Menefee-Libey will voice his thoughts about the results of the November election and it's possible impact, Be a part of our **Food for Thought** and reserve your place now.

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### You can make a difference!

Be sure to vote in this important election, whether by mail or at the polls on November 4. Don't miss out; make your voice heard!

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**Food for Thought:  
A Community Event  
Sunday, November 9, 2014  
1:30-3:00 PM**

**University of LaVerne's  
President's House  
1105 College Avenue, Claremont**

**League of Women Voters  
of the Claremont Area Presents**

**The November Election  
What Does it All Mean?**

**David Menefee-Libey**

**Dr. Menefee-Libey, a Pomona College professor of American politics, is a five time recipient of the Wig Distinguished Professor Award for Excellence in Teaching.**

**Enjoy tasty bites in an unforgettable setting.**

Your invitation is coming in the mail!

### LWV Observer Report

We have a new observer for the Montclair Community Action Committee: Benjamin Wood. The mission of the committee is much like Claremont's Community and Human Services Committee: "CAC serves as an advisory body to the City Council on matters relating to the recreational, cultural, and social needs of the residents of the community. Makeup: 7 Montclair residents, appointed by the Mayor with the approval of the City Council." Ben first attended our Observer reports presentation May 2014. Thank you, Katie Gerecke, for the publicity that brought him to us.

We are still hoping for volunteers to cover the city councils and school districts for La Verne, Glendora, San Dimas, Montclair, Chino Hills, and Ontario. If you know any "likely suspects," please let me know: Barbara Rugeley, 626-9833, [b.rugeley@verizon.net](mailto:b.rugeley@verizon.net).

An observer just observes the content and process of a board, doesn't speak, and reports to the membership annually in May. The goal is to attend at least half of all meetings per year. Observers are the eyes and ears of the League. One does not need to be a member to be an observer. Surprise: Observers usually join. It's a great recruiting tool!

## LWV/LAC supports Proposition P

Proposition P is designed to provide funding to improve, acquire, and develop park and recreation facilities in neighborhoods throughout Los Angeles County to replace funds that will be lost as 1992's Proposition A expires at the end of June 2015.

The 1992 measure has been raising about \$52 million per year. A second measure with similar aims and funding ("little Prop A"), passed in 1996, has been bringing in about \$28 million per year. Both the 1992 and the 1996 measures used a complex funding formula, with assessments ranging from under a dollar to thousands, that was ended by the restrictions of Proposition 218 (also passed in November 1996).

Proposition P is expected to raise about \$53 million per year. The new measure differs from the 1992 and 1996 measures in that it would assess each parcel within the County a flat \$23 per year and it specifies categories of funding rather than specific projects:

- 30% to County regional projects and open space; foothill, mountain, trail, river, wetland, and stream projects;
- 20% to cities and unincorporated County areas, apportioned on a per parcel basis, for park and recreation facilities and park safety improvements;
- 15% for County parks, beaches, and clean water/park projects;
- 15% for maintenance and servicing of the projects funded by the 1992 and 1996 assessments;
- 10% to the County for increasing open space and recreational opportunities in underserved communities;
- 5% for competitive grants to public agencies and non-profit organizations for projects such as trails, senior citizen/youth facilities, urban tree planting, graffiti prevention, river and stream recreation, and natural land restorations, with priority given to proposals that employ local youth and at-risk youth;
- 5% administration.

Under Land Use, LWVC has a vertical position saying, "Local government should plan for the preservation of open space and provide for adequate parks and recreation." Support for the aims of this measure, under this and other, less specific League positions, is clear.

Supporting the funding mechanism chosen for this measure is more complex. Proposition P calls for an annual assessment of \$23 per parcel throughout Los Angeles County, with the exception of government land and land used for public purposes. League positions call for tax practices and policies that are simple and easy to understand, that meet current and future needs, that promote a progressive tax structure, and that provide benefits primarily to those paying for them. Clearly, a flat tax is not progressive, but the assessment, \$23 per parcel, is simple and clear, not exorbitant, and will provide access to a broad range of recreational opportunities not otherwise available to many County residents.

On balance, the League of Women Voters of Los Angeles County believes passage of Proposition P is in the best interests of County residents and urges a "YES" vote on P.

*~~Sally Seven*

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Note: League is usually careful to include the same number of arguments for each side. In the case of Proposition P, under "opponents say", the third item was inadvertently omitted:

"Too little of the available funds benefit the most underserved communities."

## **Election Time**

Now that California voters have become acquainted with the top-two voting system, in which the two candidates with the most votes in each race in the June Primary Election move on to the Fall General Election, and now that we've become somewhat adjusted to the redrawn election district lines, it's time to familiarize ourselves with the candidates and issues on the November 4<sup>th</sup> ballot. And Claremont Area League is ready to help you. Our Voter Service Director, Cindy Reul has been hard at work – she and her minions have put on two City Council Candidate Forums – one in Upland, and one in Pomona. LWV Voter Guides for Los Angeles County, highlighting candidates for County offices as well as ballot measure explanations, and Easy Voter Guides with information about state office candidates and ballot propositions are being distributed.

The Office of the Los Angeles County Registrar, which serves 4,890,072 voters, is busy registering new voters, training poll-workers for over 4,600 precincts, and sending out sample ballots and absentee ballots (now usually referred to as "vote-by-mail" or VBM ballots). The San Bernardino County Registrar's Office is also busily serving its over 800,000 voters. Both Counties will be handling elections for statewide offices (Governor, Lt. Governor, Secretary of State, Controller, Treasurer, Attorney General, Insurance Commissioner, Supt. of Public Instruction) as well as Representatives to the U.S. Congress, State Senators, State Assembly Members and Members of the State Board of Equalization. There is a contest for a County Supervisor seat in each of the Counties, as well as judicial elections. Los Angeles County will be electing a new Sheriff and Assessor, and Pomona voters will choose City Council members from 3 Districts. In San Bernardino County, City Council races will be held in Chino Hills, Montclair, Ontario, Upland, and Rancho Cucamonga. The latter city will also be electing a Mayor. Both Counties will be running Water District elections, including Three Valleys Municipal Water District in Claremont, where three Directors are uncontested, but still appear on the ballot. There are also Community College District Board and School District Board elections to be decided. In San Bernardino County these include the Chaffey Joint Union High School District, and the Chino Valley and Upland School Districts.

Last but not least are the six state Propositions that appear on this November's ballot, explanations of which are included in the above mentioned LWV Guides and also the Voter Information Guide sent out by the California Secretary of State. In Los Angeles County there is a Parks and Recreation bond measure for voters to decide, while Claremont voters are asked if they will approve a revenue bond issue for purchase of the city water system. Our local LWV has a volunteer Speakers' Bureau, headed by Karen Rosenbaum, and will provide speakers on request. Call Karen at (909) 626-2045.

~~ Betsey Coffman

### **League Party**

'Tis the season to enjoy time with friends and for the presentation of the Ruth Ordway Award.

Sunday, December 20 , 2-4 p.m.

Garner House, 840 N. Indian Hill Blvd., Claremont



THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS  
**RECOMMENDS**

November 4, 2014 GENERAL ELECTION

**PROP 2      Rainy Day Fund—State Budget Reserves      SUPPORT**

The League of Women Voters of California supports Prop 2 because it takes an important step toward fiscal discipline in our state government. It requires the state to make contributions to its rainy day reserve fund and pay down debts and liabilities when times are good, with increased contributions in years when revenues spike upwards.

**PROP 47      Safe Neighborhoods and Schools Act      SUPPORT**

Prop 47 will ensure that prison spending is focused on violent and serious offenses and will maximize alternatives for non-serious, nonviolent crime. The savings generated will be invested in prevention programs in K-12 schools, victim services, and mental health and drug treatment. The League believes alternatives to imprisonment should be explored and utilized.

**NO RECOMMENDATION ON THE OTHER MEASURES ON THIS BALLOT**

**PROP 1      Water Bond      NEUTRAL**

The LWVC could enthusiastically support many of the projects funded by Prop 1, such as the cleanup of polluted groundwater. However, we have serious concerns that the measure favors large surface water storage projects, giving control over that spending to political appointees. Balancing the positive and negative aspects of the measure, we remain neutral.

**PROP 45      Healthcare Insurance. Rate Changes**

**PROP 46      Drug and Alcohol Testing of Doctors. Medical Negligence Lawsuits**

**PROP 48      Referendum on Indian Gaming Compacts**

Because League positions do not cover the issues in Propositions 45, 46, and 48, the LWVC is taking no stand on these measures.

**Los Angeles County Measure P      Parcel Tax for Parks      SUPPORT**

Measure P would provide funding to improve, acquire, and develop park and recreation facilities throughout Los Angeles County, as the League supports. The flat parcel tax is not progressive, as the League would like, but it is simple, clear and affordable.

**City of Claremont Measure W      Water Revenue Bond      SUPPORT**

Measure W would provide up to \$135 million in bonds to purchase the local water company. The League's position advocates support for purchase of the local water system by the city with the use of public financing, believing that public control is worth the cost, even if high, and has long-term advantages to rate-payers and to the community.

**City of Pomona Measure PPL      Library Special Tax      SUPPORT**

The League supports "reliable sources of long term funding for full service public libraries." This ten year parcel tax would help to keep the Pomona City Library open 38 hours per week with adequate professional staff.

**VOTE WITH THE LEAGUE ON NOVEMBER 4!**

## Opening Meeting

The Claremont Area LWV opened its 2014-2015 year on September 14 with a panel that addressed Water: Preserving the Resource, Locally and Regionally. Mayor Joe Lyons reminded us of the city's due diligence in responding to the community's concern about escalating water costs and total lack of local control of our water future by putting Measure W on the November ballot. By voting on that measure, residents will signal their awareness of the importance of water to us as individuals and to the welfare of the community as a whole, now and in the future.

Pomona Professor Char Miller spoke of watershed commonwealths, noting that the declining snow pack is our "canary in the mines". In the last five years, 18 million new people have moved to the southwest, the driest part of the United States; about 40 million people depend on Lake Powell for their water. Over a century ago, John Weston Powell, in his Report on the Lands in the Arid Region, told us that our area should be organized into hydrographic districts. A map designed by hydrology shows far different states than our existing ones.

Professor Miller criticized Mulholland and others for asserting that where water falls doesn't matter, that there is no need to depend on local water because we can just import money, that all it takes is money. Part of local control is recognizing that there are local waters to control. From the beginning we have ignored the reality of the water at our feet. The San Gabriel Valley and elsewhere have lost cisterns and water collections. Once they are cleaned up, they are the cheapest source of water.

Professor Miller urged us to look at northern Mexico's climate to see what we are becoming.

Bob Ohlund (VP, Infrastructure and Water Resources, Dudek) noted that, for us, it's more regional than local, and the time frame is 20 to 40 years, not 80. We use a lot of water and need more. Lake Mead is at an historic low. Ground water basin levels are at historic lows. The imported water supply is being curtailed. In an extended drought, landscaping is the first thing to go, and property values drop.

He reassured us that Southern California water planners are the best in the world, will learn from experience, and make even better decisions in the future. From 60% to 70% of our water use is outside. As the cost of water increases, the culture of water use will change. There are vast underground reservoirs, with huge storage capacity. Storm-water capture is another source, as is desalination, expensive, but the ocean's there; Carlsbad does it. The Sacramento River, a major water source in California, receives waste after secondary treatment, and the water is used downstream. In Mr. Ohlund's view, Prop. 1 on the November ballot is the way to go. The cost is down to \$7.5 billion, and it includes funding for two new reservoirs.

During the Q & A period, Joe Lyons reminded us that by 2024, every drop of runoff in Claremont will have to be clean. Char Miller noted that even the ocean needs replenishment and that Orange County is recycling about 5 times what L.A. does, having been working on it there since the 1990's; LA is about 15 years behind.

~~ Sally Seven

## 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 Iungerich, 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://californiaagainstsavery.org>

~~ Betsey Coffman



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**Fall 2014**

Return Service Requested

Have you seen the new Voter's Edge site? Just go to [votersedge.org](http://votersedge.org) enter your name and address, and the appropriate ballot will appear on the screen. Check it out!

LWV Claremont Area 2014-15 Program/Events

<b>Date/Time</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Topic/Theme</b>	<b>Other</b>
Tuesday, Nov. 4 7 a.m. – 8 p.m.	Your polling place	General election	Vote!
Sunday, Nov. 9 1:30-3 p.m.	University of La Verne's President's House 1105 College Ave., Claremont	Food for Thought: The November Election: What Does it All Mean?	Talk by Prof. David Menefee-Libey
Saturday, Dec. 20 2-4 p.m.	Garner House 840 N. Indian Hill, Claremont	League Party	Ruth Ordway Award presented
Thursday, Jan. 15 9:30-11:00 a.m.  7-8:30 p.m.	Mt San Antonio Gardens 875 E. Bonita Ave., Pomona Building D, 4 <sup>th</sup> floor lounge  Sue Schenk's home 845 N. Indian Hill, Claremont	Unit discussion Sustainability: Antibiotic Crisis	Issues discussion unit meetings are where League action starts