

The Voter

February 2017

From the President

written before the inauguration and march

When a new year begins, I always wonder how it will unfold. For those of us interested in political affairs, 2017 is uncharted waters with a new President who has an unpredictable political track record and prides himself on being unpredictable. On the local level, we have city council elections in Claremont, and new laws which will impact all the cities in our area. We have many League events that are on calendar.

For me, one event which I am anticipating is the Women's March LA. This event is national and international with marches planned in cities in 46 states and 25 countries. The LWVUS Board has voted unanimously that the League will participate officially in the Women's March on Washington. Many members will be participating; I hope that includes many of you. I also hope that the March will highlight women's issues that have not been adequately addressed by either of the Democrats or Republicans.

I haven't participated in a March since the Vietnam War, so why now? Many people think that the March is "sour grapes" and disappointment with the election. There is a concern that it will be viewed as partisan because it is the day after the inauguration. Certainly, I am disappointed with the election, but I have been very disappointed before and have not marched. For me, the timing is to coincide with the beginning of the new President's term.

I am marching now because of my disappointment with how little has really changed for women since I became an adult over 40 years ago. The US is the only western industrialized country that doesn't have paid parental leave. Many diseases such as stroke, heart disease and diabetes effect women differently; research is lagging as to how. Adequate health care is viewed by many as an individual responsibility rather than a right. Elderly women are much more likely to be impoverished than men. Victims of sexual assault and domestic violence are treated differently than other crime victims. In the work place, women still fight for equal pay and job opportunities. Our culture still reinforces stereotypic parental roles that view men who stay home to raise children as somehow less. Women still argue with each other on whether it's best to be a "stay-at-home" mom or a working mom. The homeless population continues to grow as housing becomes less affordable. Many women and children in our advanced country live with an environment which threatens their health and well-being.

For the sake of all women, men and children, we need to stand together and demand that politicians work to improve life in these United States not just "bring back jobs." That's why I'm marching. That's why League members should support and participate in the March.

WOMEN'S RIGHTS ARE HUMAN RIGHTS

~Tressa Kentner, president

Civil Discourse Unit

A hardy group of LWV members met on a rainy Thursday morning (1/12/17) to discuss civil discourse. Most of us support the idea of civil discourse, but find defining it more complex than affirming it. A former Claremont Area LWV member who relocated to the San Luis Obispo area some years ago, Emily Penfield, was deeply involved in the LWVSLO study of civil discourse and in its presentation at the 2015 LWVC convention.

After a year of research and discussion, LWVSLO added three words to their Government position so that it reads, "The League supports policies and actions that achieve a responsive and representative government, promote civil discourse," . They also added to the position elaboration a paragraph clarifying the concept:

"#5. Promote civil discourse through action and education for all government bodies, staff, and citizens for the purpose of improved public policy decisions and processes. Civil discourse means, at a minimum, mutually respectful, courteous, constructive, and orderly communication."

Following spirited and wide-ranging interchanges about what constitutes civility and incivility in human discourse, Thursday's group agreed unanimously that the Claremont Area LWV should take advantage of the opportunity to use the concurrence process and adopt the LWVSLO position on civil discourse and add it to our list of local positions. Since "member understanding" is an important aspect of concurrence, focusing on that task seems more realistic than redoing the whole study.

Let Claremont Area board members know your thoughts about this suggestion for concurrence and about how and where we need to encourage civil discourse.

~~Sally Seven

Welcome to new members! Political Responsibility through Informed and Active Participation

Christy Anderson
Centia Batz
Sherwood Best
Danielle Centeno
Betty Hagelbarger
Michelle Lias
Lori Paley
Roxane Simonian
Sorrel Stielstra

Directory updates available from the office

Giving Tuesday

Giving Tuesday is a day that has been designated as a day following Black Friday and Cyber Monday for people around the country to think about giving to charities. This year the League of Women Voters of the Claremont area participated with downtown Claremont merchants. Each 501c3 organization who requested to participate was paired up with a merchant. The merchants gave space, part of sales and other perks. We paired up with Aromatique on First Avenue. The wonderful owner Lori Paley was very generous to us. She provided us a nice space in her lovely shop, 10% of her sales that day, delicious snacks, and a personal check to us. We were able to participate in this event because we became a 501c3 tax deductible organization last year. Our new tax status will give us more opportunities for sharing our mission with others as well as more fund raising opportunities. We thank Lori Paley and the staff at Aromatique for making us feel so welcome and providing this support.



THE 2016 RUTH ORDWAY AWARD PRESENTATION

At their Holiday Party on December 17, the League of Women Voters of the Claremont Area presented the annual Ruth Ordway Award. The award goes to a community member or members who work, as Ruth did, to promote the common good. This year's honorees are Sue and Jim Keith, who are ubiquitously involved in making things better for residents of our communities. The couple has lived in Claremont for over forty years.

Sue served on the Claremont Unified School District (CUSD) Board of Trustees for twelve years, twice taking her turn as President, as well as serving on the Baldy View Regional Occupational Program Commission. From there she was elected to the Citrus Community College District Board of Trustees, a position she holds to this day, along with serving as fund developer for some local organizations which help persons in need – Uncommon Good, Project Sister, and House of Ruth.

Since his retirement, Jim has spent much of his time on two local programs – Claremont After-School Programs (CLASP) and the Committee for Safe and Healthy Housing. Jim serves as a site supervisor where elementary age children come on three afternoons a week for homework help from volunteers. Jim also serves as CLASP's Program Coordinator, being in charge of tutor staffing and tutor education.

Jim is the Chair-person and guiding spirit of the Claremont Committee for Safe and Healthy Housing, which deals with deteriorating conditions in local apartment complexes. Along with city staff, the group has instituted the Crime Free Multi-Housing Program, resulting in a decrease in crime in participating local complexes.

Sue's crusading spirit and Jim's perceptive and genial approach have proved to be a wonderful combination in making a difference in community matters.

~~Jerry Klasik

A final few words about November 8th election...

Final total of registered voters for LA Co.	5,103,353
Ballots Cast (inc. Vote by mail ballots)	3,544,145
Total Vote by Mail	1,283,648
Turnout percentage	69.45%

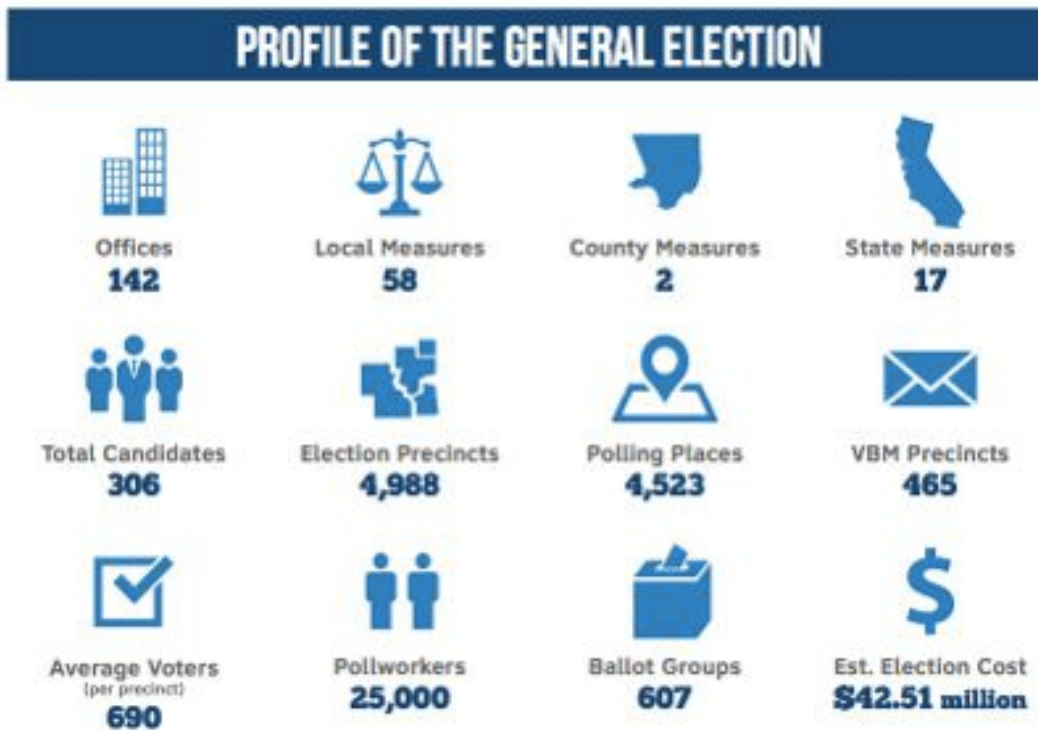
The turnout percentage was lower than in 2008 or 2012 but more people actually cast a ballot this year and the number of people registered was at an all time high. There were long lines at some polling places but few complaints about the election process. Ninety-six percent of the poll workers who volunteered to work at polls in LA Co. did show up. This was a great reason for the relatively smooth voting process in this Presidential/General election as compared to the Primary Election in June (1 in 4 poll workers were no-shows in June).

You can check the status of your own vote by mail ballot by going to the sos.ca.gov/elections website and click on My Voter Status.

REMEMBER to vote on March 7th, 2017 for LA Co. Municipal Elections and County Ballot Measure H. Our service communities in San Bernardino Co. do not have any elections in March.

~~Cindy Reul, VP Voter Services

Provided by Los Angeles County Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk



CALIFORNIA STATE STATISTICS



Total Population of CA (2014)

38.8 million

US Census Bureau

Eligible Population of Voters

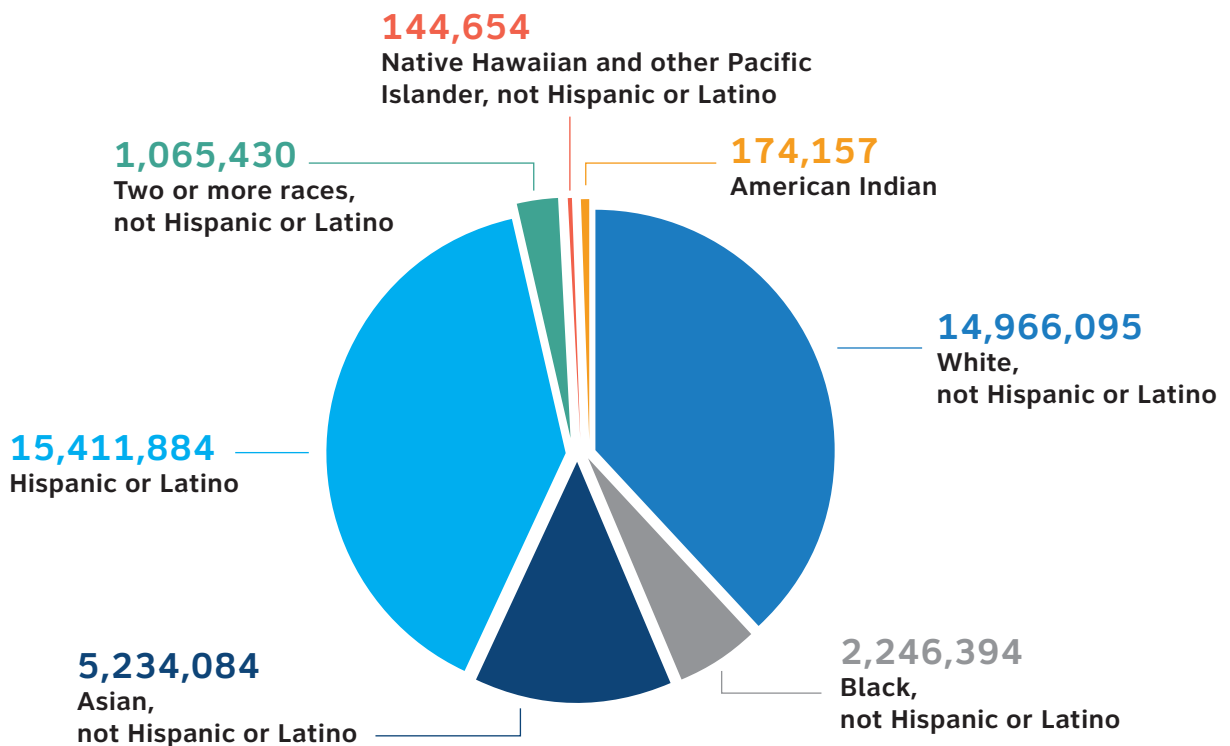
24.4 million

Registered Voters

18.2 million

Percent: 73%

Estimates of Population of Race and Ethnicity in CA





FOOD FOR THOUGHT

On November 13, 2016 The League of Women Voters of the Claremont Area hosted a fund-raiser in the Padua Room at the Hughes Center. Our speaker was Zachary Courser who addressed the question: Election 2016: Will Washington Work Now?

Dr, Courser is Research Director of the **Dreier Roundtable** and a visiting assistant professor of government at Claremont McKenna College. He has published articles on the connection between political parties and democratic participation, and is a contributor and editor of the forthcoming volume *Parchment Barriers: Political Polarization and the Limits of Constitutional Order*. The result of a year-long, multi-disciplinary research project organized by the Roundtable, *Parchment Barriers* seeks to understand the dynamics of polarization through an examination of conflicts over the American constitutional order.

Dr, Courser pointed out to us that the result of the election can be viewed from the history of the last several elections that demonstrate dissatisfaction with Washington. The dissatisfaction is likely the result of income stagnation in the white middle class. He also discussed the health status of that group pointing out that depression, drug addiction and stress have impacted that group more than any other resulting in worse health status and increased death rates at earlier ages.

At the end of his talk he encouraged us to continue our work to make democracy work.

~~Barbara Nicoll, Chairperson, Development

League Statement on Claims of Voter Fraud

01/25/2017 | by Sarah Courtney

Washington, DC – The League of Women Voters president, **Chris Carson**, issued the following statement in response to the unsubstantiated claim from the White House that millions of illegal votes were cast in the past election:

“President Trump is calling for a major investigation into voter fraud - in an election that h We know that wide-spread voter fraud is a myth perpetuated to push election laws that res voting. We cannot allow false claims to drive policies that will limit participation in our ele process. There is no need for an investigation into a non-existent problem. The issue has been studied and put to rest.”

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

See more about protecting and engaging voters at <http://lww.org/issues/protecting-and-engaging-voters-0>

2017 Women's March Los Angeles – Op-Ed by Cindy Reul

The Claremont Area League participated in the historic Women's March in Los Angeles on January 21, 2017.

My day began at 7:00am at the Gold Line station's first stop at the APU/Citrus station. My husband and I boarded the 7:20 train. We were joined by my Anglo American daughter and her Chinese American husband and later with my niece and her Mexican American boyfriend. My gay son was going to meet us at Pershing Square. We are representative of American families. The train was full by the third stop with hundreds of other proud Americans waiting on the platforms to join us.

The organizers wanted to send a message to the officials in Washington that women and men of all ages and ethnicities are united on issues of social justice and human rights. These are the ideals that the League of Women Voters has championed for nearly 100 years. I was proud to wear my LWV badge and carry a banner for the LWV of the Claremont Area.

Crowd estimates range from 100,000 to 500,000. I just know that it was a very large, peaceful and hopeful group of individuals joining together to underscore the ideals of democracy and the Constitution.

So what can we do next? The LWVUS gave us some guidelines.

1. Get others to join the League.
2. Call Congress and call them often. Elected officials work for us. I have made it my personal goal to call 5 random Congress members daily.
3. Register to vote and help others register. Check you own status at www.soc.ca.gov/elections
4. Make a donation to defend our democracy. The League is on the front lines defending voting rights across the country. We need your help.
5. Become an e-Activist. Read the updates from the LWVUS and local League.

Finally, I am hopeful and I will not become hateful. I love my country and will march, call, donate and make my voice heard.

We remember

Long time League member Nancy Arce passed away on December 7. After graduating cum laude from Stanford, Nancy moved to Claremont and taught in the Claremont special education department at the junior high level. Among her wide-ranging activities, Nancy took on leadership roles for the Claremont Presbyterian Church, Campus Women's Association and Recording for the Blind and Dyslexic. A memorial service was be held in January at the Claremont Presbyterian Church.

We also remember Hal Harter, Anne Davenport, and Bill Andrus, all long-time League supporters.



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 VP of Administration: Jerry Klasik
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February 2017

Return Service Requested

LWV Claremont Area Late Winter 2017 Program/Events

Date/Time	Location	Topic/Theme	Other
Thurs., Feb. 9 9:30 a.m. and 7 p.m.	Mt San Antonio Gardens 875 E. Bonita Ave., Pomona <u>Building D, 4th floor lounge</u> Garner House 840 N. Indian Hill Blvd., Claremont	Unit meeting: Voting Rights Then and Now	
Thurs., Feb 23 7-9 p.m.	Benson Auditorium Pitzer College	Claremont City Council Candidate Forum	With the Pitzer Student Government
Tues., March 7	Your polling place	Election Day	Vote!
Thurs., March 9 9:30 a.m. and 7 p.m.	Mt San Antonio Gardens 875 E. Bonita Ave., Pomona <u>Building D, 4th floor lounge</u> Garner House 840 N. Indian Hill Blvd., Claremont	Unit meeting: Organic Waste	