



# The Voter

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Serving the cities of Brea, Buena Park, Cypress, Fullerton, La Habra, La Palma, Placentia, Yorba Linda

## Big wins! Legislative wrap-up from LWVC

The 2017 California legislative session is a wrap, and thanks to supporters like 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! Make sure you are [signed up to receive our action alerts](#) on the issues you care about.

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# Just Take the Time to Listen

by Maurice Tafolla-Cunningham

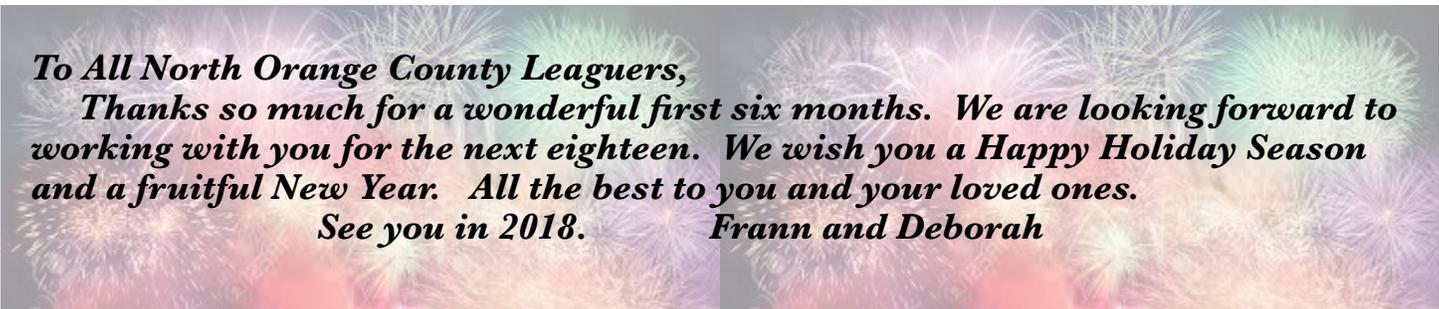
I stumbled upon the League of Women Voters in my last year of undergrad at Cal State Long Beach. My Political Communication professor Pat Ganer (you may know her) mentioned the organization in class. Shortly I went searching for an internship, as one was necessary for graduation. I made contact with Jodi Balma, and she put me to task. My project was to reach out to former presidents of the North Orange County League and interview them. I wrote a paper on my experience where I highlighted the need for political organizations to remember the people who work to build them up. I gained a newfound respect and appreciation for groups such as the League. It was during this time that I realized not only was the North Orange County League led by some extremely accomplished women, but I aspired to reach a similar level of civic engagement. When I was done, the stories were featured in the monthly edition of the Voter, and then I graduated.



Normally, this is where most stories of a successful internship would end, but not for me. What drew me to the League of Women Voters was the ability to finish my education and gain a little experience, but what made me stick around was interest in being around other civically-focused individuals. It was at one of the Lunch with League events that I was approached by Cheryl Quadrelli-Jones, who recruited me to assist her with the annual kick off luncheon and silent auction. I learned a lot about project management, fundraising, and the virtues of organization to better accomplish tasks, skills that continue to serve me to this day. It was such a rewarding experience that I helped Cheryl again with the same event the following year. Working on projects will always supply one with practical skills, but for me the truly valuable experience was learning from League members. I had the opportunity to meet and speak with the women (and men) who devote their time to creating a better informed electorate. Their mentorship served as a catalyst for my own interest in government and discovering a career path I enjoy.

To me, the League of Women Voters as a non-partisan political educational organization is truly a rarity when considering the state of American politics today. However, the League's mission is the reason I think it is so important. In a time where discourse in his country is so confrontational and objective fact is subject for debate, the LWV's mission to provide voters information before they make critical decisions at the ballot box is more important than ever. Reader, I encourage you to be active in your community and to lead. Embody the mission of the League; however, learn from the people who have worked to make the League what it is today. They have a wealth of experience that may offer you guidance the same way they did me, just take the time to listen.

We are all in this together.



# Orange County LWV Leagues are Promoting Civil Discourse

by Jan Wagner

Our Civil Discourse efforts thus far have primarily been in collaboration with our Orange County Inter-League Organization, or ILO.

## **Here's an update from the ILO Civil Discourse Chair, Petti Van Rekom, on our progress so far:**

1. We attended two Sips and Civility events (community discussions) hosted by the San Diego League in San Diego. This gave us a model for community civil discourse events. They've shared all their planning and promotional documents, etc. with us.
2. We held a planning meeting in San Clemente to hear what the San Diego League has done and to discuss what we might do here in Orange County; 15 League members from all 3 Leagues attended.
3. We held an informational and basic facilitation training event in Santa Ana for League members and guests; fifty-five League members from all three Leagues (and guests) attended.
4. We have researched best practices in civil discourse and discussion models and attended webinars on civil discourse.
5. We have scheduled our first civil discourse event in Laguna Beach in late January.
6. In collaboration with the National Center for Civil Discourse (NCCD) and the national League of Women Voters, we are supporting the Revive Civility efforts. We have promoted their holiday program "Setting the Table for Civility" to our members and asked them to promote it with other organizations. (For more info go to [www.revivecivility.org](http://www.revivecivility.org))
7. We have sent a letter to the Los Angeles Times encouraging their and their readers' support of the Setting the Table for Civility program.

## **Our Next Steps are:**

1. We need to form a planning committee with members from all three Leagues. The committee will determine:
  - a. Goals for 2018 [Note: each League may have separate goals]
  - b. Discussion model to use in 2018
  - c. Additional education and/or training needed for 2018
  - d. Planning and scheduling of events
  - e. Collaboration partners for event
2. We need to identify and train those members (and others) who want to act as facilitators for civil community discussions.

Additionally, our own LWV North Orange County has formed a committee to explore a forum or panel discussion on some aspect of education, such as student debt, the charter school movement, or costs and accessibility in higher education. The forum would be followed by an opportunity to discuss the issues raised in an open, civil manner. Our committee will begin meeting in early 2018 and will first look at deciding on a topic that will both benefit and engage our greater community. We will then begin the critical search for key partners.

If any league member would like to join our efforts in the focus area of Civil Discourse, please contact Jan Wagner at [janwagner@me.com](mailto:janwagner@me.com).

# Affordable Care Act Under Attack Again

by Sarah Courtney, LWVUS  
11/15/2017

**Chris Carson** issued the following statement in response to the Senate's plan to repeal the Affordable Care Act as part of a tax overhaul bill:

"After repeatedly failing to move forward with a misguided attempt to repeal the Affordable Care Act (ACA) Congress is once again attempting to undermine a law that provides quality, affordable health care to millions of Americans.

"Under the guise of cutting taxes for everyday Americans, this newest attack on the ACA would cut health care coverage for 13 million people and increase premiums by double digits. It would also trigger \$25 billion in cuts to Medicare and raise costs for middle class families and seniors with high medical expenses.

"It's time for Congress to start listening to the American people, who have rejected attempts to roll back provisions of the ACA multiple times this year. We need to fix the Affordable Care Act so that it works for the millions of Americans who need quality affordable care, not cut coverage and raise costs for those that really need it.

"It's time to stop playing political games with people's lives."

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## News From LWVC

November 8, 2017

Last week we appeared before the California State Teachers' Retirement System (CalSTRS) Investment Board to offer our support on [California State Treasurer Mr. Chiang's proposal to divest from companies that deal in weapons](#) that are illegal to own or sell in California.

Our statement made by staffer, Elizabeth Leslie:

The League of Women Voters of California supports Mr. Chiang's proposal to divest from companies that deal in weapons that are illegal to own or sell in California.

The unchecked proliferation of handguns and semi-automatic assault weapons is a major health and safety threat to Californians. The League supports strong federal measures to limit the accessibility and regulate the ownership of these weapons by private citizens. The League supports regulating firearms for consumer safety.

While this current proposal does not specifically limit accessibility of weapons, we do believe that divestments and boycotts such as this one, make a public statement, and serve to change public policy.

We encourage the board to support the proposal, and ensure that California teachers' retirement money is not invested in companies that sell or promote banned weapons.



**LWVNOC** **CALENDAR OF**  
**EVENTS**

**December**

**3 Sunday**  
**1:30 - 4:30**

**League Holiday**  
**Pot Luck Party**

At the home of Sue Fisher, located at 148 W. Wilson Avenue, Placentia 92870. Tel. (714)996-9508

**January**

**10 Wednesday**  
**10:00 - 12:00**

**Executive Board Meeting**

At the home of Deborah Vagts, located at 1291 S. Carl Lane in Anaheim 92806

**17 Wednesday**  
**10:00 - 12:00**

**Board Meeting**

Fullerton Joint Union School District Office at 1440 W. Bastanchury Road in Fullerton 92831.

**25 Thursday**  
**11:00 - 1:00**

**Lunch with League**

At **Coyote Hills Golf Course**, located at 1440 E. Bastanchury Road in Fullerton, 92831. Our speaker is Paul Leon. As a Public Health Nurse with the County of Orange Health Care Agency, Mr. Leon spearheaded a unique program to bring health access and wrap-around services to the underserved homeless population in Orange County. He is CEO and founder of the Illumination Foundation, a non-profit organization whose mission is to break the cycle of homelessness.

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## ***Annual March on Washington, D.C. Here in Santa Ana***

*The OC Women's March Coalition is proud to announce the date for the 2nd Annual March On Washington - Orange County!!*

*On January 21, 2017 we marched and lifted up our voices letting the nation know, Womens' rights are human rights! Since then, we have built a movement, called governmental officials, and written letters, all to protect women's rights on so many levels. The time has come to march again, grow our movement and continue the change we started. Will you be a part of the change?*

To make sure you are in the know, please register to stay updated on the OC Womens March, and you'll also learn how to March to the Polls!

*Event Information*

- *When:* Saturday, January 20, 2018 from 9:00am-1:00pm
- *Where:* Still To Be Determined

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE VISIT [WWW.OCWOMENSMARCH.ORG](http://WWW.OCWOMENSMARCH.ORG)

**LWVNOC Current Officers and Directors**

**Officers**

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 Vice-President Deborah Vagts  
 Secretary Karen Hill  
 Treasurer Marilyn Buchi  
 Past President Jan Wagner

*Voter* Editor Jim Hill  
 Co-Publicity Carol Bittle  
 Lyn Liby  
 Ed Smith  
 Web Master Wanda Shaffer  
 Observer Corps Jennifer Trafford  
 Special Projects Marguerite Lyon  
 Excursions Marge Imbler  
 Nominating Comm. Barbara Orosz

Speakers Pearl Mann  
 Student Outreach Jodi Balma  
 Facebook Jodi Balma

**Directors**

Action/Advocacy Mary Fuhrman  
 Development Program  
 Lunch w/ League Marge Imbler  
 Lois Smith  
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 Sue Fisher  
 Co-Voter Service Deborah Makin  
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 Tributes Marguerite Lyon  
 League Phone Satya Khouri  
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 Buena Park  
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 Fullerton Eileen Moore  
 La Habra  
 La Palma  
 Placentia  
 Yorba Linda  
 OC BOS  
 Wanda Shaffer  
 Carol Bittle



**LEAGUE of WOMEN VOTERS of NORTH ORANGE COUNTY  
 Membership Form 2017 - 2018**

Name(s) of Member(s) \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 City \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Cell \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Individual member	\$65.00	Renewal ___	New member ___	\$ _____		
Additional household member	\$32.50	Renewal ___	New member ___	\$ _____		
Student member	\$32.50	Renewal ___	New member ___	\$ _____		
Additional donation to League (To cover our operating expenses, etc.):						
	\$25	\$50	\$75	\$100	other	\$ _____
Donation to Educational Fund (Separate tax-deductible donation):						
	\$25	\$50	\$75	\$100	other	\$ _____
Total enclosed ( <i>Make checks payable to LWVNOC.</i> ) Thank you.					\$ _____	

**How can you serve the League? How can the League serve you?**

Please complete this member survey. Circle your choices or fill in the blanks.

Our areas of emphasis this year are: **Voting Issues, Civic Engagement, Education, and Housing and Homelessness.**

I am interested in working on: \_\_\_\_\_

I would also be willing to work on special events and other League projects. Yes No

I have special skills (for example: graphic art, computers): \_\_\_\_\_

I am currently: Working \_\_\_ Retired \_\_\_ My job/profession: \_\_\_\_\_

I prefer to attend League events: During the day In the evening Weekdays Weekends

Suggestion for an activity or speaker: \_\_\_\_\_

I wish to support the work of the League by renewing my membership or by making a donation, but I am currently unable to participate in League events. Yes No

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_

**Please send this completed form with your check to LWVNOC, P.O. Box 3073, Fullerton, CA 92834**

For Treasurer's Use Only: Check # \_\_\_\_\_ Amount \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_



**League of Women Voters**

**P. O. Box 3073**

**Fullerton, CA 92834**