



# The Voter

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[www.lwvnoc.org](http://www.lwvnoc.org)

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

## From League of Women Voters Florida

*The National Popular Vote bill would guarantee the Presidency to the candidate who receives the most popular votes in all 50 states and the District of Columbia. Explanation It has been enacted into law in 11 states with 165 electoral votes (CA, DC, HI, IL, MA, MD, NJ, NY, RI, VT, WA). This interstate compact will take effect when enacted by states with 105 more electoral votes.*

**Tallahassee, Fla.** —The majority of Floridians believe that the President and Vice President of the United States should be elected by the national popular vote, as are all other public officials at local, state, and national levels.

The survey of 1,000 registered voters was conducted late last year by Florida Atlantic University on behalf of the League of Women Voters. When asked how they thought the country should elect the President, 68 percent of registered voters said it should be the candidate who gets the most votes in all 50 states, while less than a third said the current Electoral College system. Although Independents and Democrats heavily favored the national popular vote, so did nearly half of Republican respondents.

“The findings of this survey are consistent with other polls conducted over the past 50 years which have found the majority of Americans believe the President and Vice President should be chosen directly by the American people,” noted Dr. **Kevin Wagner**, Chair, Department of Political Science, at FAU. “This is not the case today under our current system.”

The U.S. Constitution gives states sole authority to select the president by instructing their electors how to vote. Because of the way in which the Electoral College formula works, the votes of residents in the least-populous states are worth 3-4 times more than the votes of residents in more populous states, which marginalizes the Florida voter.

“Despite the fact that Florida is the third largest state, Floridians’ voices are not equal to those of residents of other states,” said **Pamela Goodman**, president of the League of Women Voters of Florida. “Floridians’ voices are further diminished by the ‘winner-take-all’ rule, common to 47 other states, which awards all of a state’s electoral votes to the candidate who wins in that state, no matter how slim the margin.” She added that in the past several national elections, the votes of up to a half of Florida voters were thus made meaningless by this rule.

The results of the poll were announced today [Jan. 17, 2017] at a press conference held by Rep. **Joseph Geller** of Miami-Dade and Senator **Victor Torres** of Orlando. They have introduced HB 367 and SB 1374, respectively, for consideration by the Florida Legislature in the 2018 session to enact the National Popular Vote Interstate Compact (NPVIC) in Florida. States enacting the Compact can award their electors to the Presidential candidate who wins the national popular vote, thus ensuring the votes of each American are equal, regardless of where they live. States accounting for 165 of the 270 electoral votes needed to activate the Compact have passed such legislation, with more considering it.

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## Dear Leaguers

 by Frann Shermet, LWVNOC President

Are you aware of the fact that LWVNOC has the most dynamic speakers in Orange County!

Our January Lunch With League featured **Paul Leon**, Executive Director of Illumination Foundation who gave us current and proposed stats on homeless and housing in Orange County. We are donating a book of his choice to one of the Orange County libraries as a thank you to him for speaking.

In February our Speaker will be **Judge Hernandez** who will speak on human trafficking. Please be sure to go on the website to make your reservation as this promises to be very informative and enlightening. February is our birthday month. Come and help us celebrate. Don't forget that we meet at Coyotes Hills Golf Club in Fullerton. Cost is \$20.00

Do you want to make a Tribute to honor or memorialize someone? If so, send your check in any amount made out to LWVNOC Ed Fund to our P.O. Box. **Paula Ames** is the new Corresponding Secretary, and she will send the Tribute to the honoree and a Thank You note to you for your tax return.

**Mary Fuhrman** is doing Interviews with Elected Officials. If you would like to join her and get your questions answered email her at [maryfuhrman@pacbell.net](mailto:maryfuhrman@pacbell.net).

The Children's Mental Health Forum is being held at the Titan Center of Cal State Fullerton on Thursday, February 1 from 9:00 am until 11:00 am. Since we don't have a meeting that day you will be able to attend.

Our tour of the Illumination Foundation facilities will be held on Tuesday, February 13. No meeting on that day either. A flyer will be sent out shortly. The tour is under the direction of Special Events Coordinator, **Jennifer Trafford**. Email her at [jmtbrea@aol.com](mailto:jmtbrea@aol.com)

Voters Edge training is being held on Sunday, February 25 in West Covina for new and returning members. Email **Wanda Shaffer** at [wshaff6676@aol.com](mailto:wshaff6676@aol.com) for further information.

LWVCoast's luncheon is being held on Wednesday, February 28. Their speaker will discuss Charter School History. Check their website for additional information. Cost is \$20.00.

Elections are right around the corner. Our Voter Service team is gearing up to assist our eight cities. If you would like to volunteer to help, email **Deborah Makin** at [DTOMPMAKIN@sbcglobal.net](mailto:DTOMPMAKIN@sbcglobal.net)

Much more to come in March so stay tuned and get involved.



We honor the memory of Dorian Hunter, sixteen year member of LWV.

And we honor Pat (Anna) Irot who passed away at 95 after years of helping others through her military service, teaching and school administration posts, uncountable hours of volunteering in Placentia, and ardent support of LWV voter services.

## February

- 7 Wednesday**      **Executive Board Meeting**      At the home of Jan Wagner, located at 3025 San Juan Dr.  
**10:00 am - 12:00 pm**      Fullerton CA 92835
- 14 Wednesday**      **Board Meeting**      Fullerton Joint Union School District Office at 1051 W.  
**10:00 - 12:00**      Bastanchury Road in Fullerton 92833.
- 20 Tuesday**      **Read with League**      We are reading **Killers of the Flower Moon; the Osage**  
**1:00 - 2:30**      **Murders and the Birth of the FBI** by David Gann. We  
will meet at the home of Frann Shermet, located at 9525  
Normandy Way, Cypress CA 90630. Reviewer is Penny  
Brown. For more information call Penny Brown at (714)  
828-4667 or email to [LibraryPRB@aol.com](mailto:LibraryPRB@aol.com).
- 20 Tuesday**      **SOKA University**      **"Race, Justice and Mercy: Can They Coexist in**  
**7:00 pm**      **America?"** We have a group going to SOKA  
University to hear a discussion on this topic. Check with Jan  
Wagner if you want to carpool. See flyer below.
- 22 Thursday**      **Lunch with League**      At **Coyote Hills Golf Course**, located at 1440 E.  
**11:00 - 1:00**      Bastanchury Road in Fullerton, 92831. Our speaker is Judge  
Maria Hernandez. She will talk about the fight against the  
trafficking of women and children in Orange County in  
what amounts to modern day slavery.

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## 2017-18 CRITICAL CONVERSATIONS @SOKA SERIES

Tickets: \$28 (\$14 student/senior/military)

Location/Configuration: Concert Hall/Quasi-Thrust

### Race, Justice & Mercy: Can They Coexist in America?

**Tuesday, February 20, 2018, at 7:00 p.m.**

### **With Bryan Stevenson: Acclaimed activist, public interest lawyer, and MacArthur "Genius Grant" Award recipient**

Moderated by NPR's Karen Grigsby Bates

Referred to as "America's Nelson Mandela" by Archbishop Desmond Tutu, Bryan Stevenson's relentless work fighting poverty and challenging racial discrimination in the criminal justice system has won him prestigious awards and transformative legal victories. He has also initiated major projects to educate communities about slavery, lynching, and racial segregation. He was named to the 2015 *Time* 100, which recognizes the world's most influential people, and in *Fortune's* 2016 and 2017 World's Greatest Leaders lists. He is the author of the award winning, *New York Times* bestseller, *Just Mercy*. In addition to founding and serving as executive director of the Equal Justice Initiative, he is a professor at NYU School of Law.

Karen Grigsby Bates is a correspondent for NPR's *Code Switch* team, based at NPR West, where she covers race and identity issues. She earned a BA from Wellesley College, and completed Yale School of Management's Executive Program. She is the co-author of a best-selling etiquette book and has written two mystery novels.

**CARPOOL WITH LWVNOC: CONTACT JAN WAGNER at 714-319-4235, [janwagner@me.com](mailto:janwagner@me.com)**

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## Lunch With League by Marge Imbler

Join us in February for our Lunch With League. Not only will it be Washington's Birthday, but it will be the day of our luncheon. So keep Thursday, February 22, open and join us for a delicious meal and a wonderful speaker. We will be meeting at the Coyote Hills Golf Course, located at 1440 E Bastanchury Rd. in Fullerton 92831. Come at 11:00 for socializing with your fellow Leaguers and enjoy a lunch and our speaker starting at 11:30. The cost is \$20.00 per person.

Our honored speaker will be Judge Maria Hernandez, Presiding Judge of the Juvenile Court, County of Orange. Judge Hernandez is a graduate of UC Irvine and Western State University College of Law. After practicing for 12 years with the Orange County Public Defender's Office, she was named a Superior Court Commissioner. In 2009, she was appointed judge and has supervised the Juvenile Drug Court and the Dependency Drug Court and developed the innovative Boy's Court program. Judge Hernandez chaired the Commercially Sexually Exploited Children Task Force, and has served on Chief Justice Cantil-Sakauye's Keeping Kids in School and Out of the Courts program, as well as the Judicial Council's Advisory Committee on Access to Justice. She served as Presiding Judge of the OC Superior Court's Juvenile Panel from 2014-2017.



Judge Maria Hernandez

Judge Hernandez has lectured and taught widely including as a faculty member of the Judicial Council Center for Judiciary Education and Research and has been an adjunct faculty member at Western State. In 2017, she was invited to join the Distinguished Fellows Program at UCI's Center for Psychology and the Law, and was instrumental in forming the partnership of various organizations to launch the Orange County Campaign to Raise Awareness of Child Sex Trafficking and Exploitation.

**Reservations:** Email us at [lunchwithleague@lwvnoc.org](mailto:lunchwithleague@lwvnoc.org) prior to 10:00 on Tuesday, Feb. 20th. For more information, please check our website, [www.lwvnoc.org](http://www.lwvnoc.org) or call us at 714-254-7440.

**Guidelines:**

- 1) Los Coyotes requires our reservation counts by 10:00 AM on the Tuesday before the luncheon.
- 2) No reservation or cancellation can be accepted after the above time.
- 3) Any mail-in reservation must be accepted by the Monday before the lunch
- 4) A reservation made is a reservation paid. This includes late cancellations.

## Seventeen Findings From the Pew Research Center

2017 was a year full of events and controversies that continue to stir strong emotions. The Pew Research Center recently released a report titled "Seventeen Striking Findings from 2017" that provides an intriguing analysis of how we think and feel as Americans and inhabitants of our world today. The link below will take you to the article.

[http://www.pewresearch.org/fact-tank/2017/12/26/17-striking-findings-from-2017/?utm\\_source=Pew+Research+Center&utm\\_campaign=56eb70a58b-EMAIL\\_CAMPAIGN\\_2017\\_12\\_26&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_term=0\\_3e953b9b70-56eb70a58b-399781477](http://www.pewresearch.org/fact-tank/2017/12/26/17-striking-findings-from-2017/?utm_source=Pew+Research+Center&utm_campaign=56eb70a58b-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2017_12_26&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_3e953b9b70-56eb70a58b-399781477)

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## **Civil Discourse Needs All of Us** by Jan Wagner

The three Orange County Leagues have begun planning to bring more civil discourse to meetings and groups in Orange County. After a planning meeting in August, a basic facilitation training was held in September for about 55 members. Additionally, our national League has become an official supporter of the National Center for Civil Discourse.

The Coast League will host/facilitate a Civil Discourse event for the Laguna Beach Senior Center on Tuesday, February 27, from 6-8 pm. The topic will be “Talking Across the Partisan Divide: What You Can Do”. We will begin with a speaker who is well known on the topic, UCI professor Peter Ditto, followed by facilitated discussion in small groups. League members from all three leagues are requested to participate as facilitators.

To prepare facilitators for this event, there will be a focused training on Saturday, February 3, from 9:30 to noon at the Back Bay Conference Center, 3415 Michelson Dr, Irvine. (Located between Culver and Jamboree off the 405) Continental breakfast and a facilitator guide will be provided. This training will utilize the “conversation café” method of facilitation.

For additional information and to make reservations for the training, please contact Petti Von Rekom at ([petti.vanrekom@petti.com](mailto:petti.vanrekom@petti.com)).

## **Court Extends Grand Jury Application Deadline to February 5**

**Santa Ana, CA** – Orange County Superior Court Assistant Presiding Judge Kirk Nakamura has extended the application deadline to Monday, February 5, to serve on the next 19-member Orange County Grand Jury. The Court typically receives applications from about 150 residents. So far, just 70 individuals have applied for the panel that will serve from July 2018 through June 2019.

Judge Nakamura said, “One of the best opportunities to get an insider’s view of local government and to improve the lives of your fellow citizens is to become a grand juror.” He added, “I encourage Orange County residents to take advantage of this exciting opportunity.”

The Grand Jury panel serves as a public watchdog over local government entities, investigates citizen complaints, evaluates conditions at our county’s jails, and issues indictments for serious crimes. The panel prepares and publishes reports which include recommendations for improvement of local government agencies. The appropriate government agency must respond to the report in writing.

The final selection of the 19-member panel is achieved by a random drawing of 25 to 30 candidates who are nominated and confirmed by Superior Court judges to proportionally represent the five supervisorial districts in Orange County. A committee of judges reviews applications and interviews qualified candidates.

Qualifications to serve on the Grand Jury include being an Orange County resident, a United States citizen, and at least 18 years old. Grand jurors receive a \$50 per day stipend, mileage reimbursement, and onsite parking at the Central Justice Center in Santa Ana where the 19-member panel meets. The panel sets its own schedule, which typically includes working 30 to 35 hours per week, observing the 13 Court holidays, and taking two additional weeks off during the term.

An application form and additional information are available on the Grand Jury website at [www.ocgrandjury.org](http://www.ocgrandjury.org), by calling the Grand Jury Hotline at 657-622-6747, or in person at the Jury Commissioner’s Office, 700 Civic Center Drive West, Santa Ana, 92701.

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## Beaches, Beer and... Ballistic Missiles? by Sue Fisher

On January 13, my husband and I were winding down from our 11-day vacation on Maui. We had no set schedule, but we managed to see most of the sites, enjoy some great Maui-brewed beer, wander fabulous beaches and generally have a great relaxing time. Well, nearly. I was packing for our afternoon flight when my cell phone emitted an emergency alert. I was familiar with the sound – it is the one that comes with the Amber Alerts that we all receive about potential local child abductions. They are always worrisome and, as a parent, sad, but when my husband, who was near my cell phone in the kitchen said, “Um, ah, I think you might want to see this...” I stopped. “Why? Isn’t it an Amber Alert?”

“Well, ah, actually, it says that there is a ballistic missile headed to Hawaii...”

*“Emergency Alert BALLISTIC MISSILE THREAT INBOUND TO HAWAII.  
SEEK IMMEDIATE SHELTER. THIS IS NOT A DRILL.”*

What?!

For those who may not know, I am the emergency manager for Cal State University, Fullerton. Investigating and planning for disasters is what I do every day. But I have to say that this gave me pause... Let’s see. I have written plans for earthquakes, fire, civil unrest, floods, pandemics. Dang, not one for ballistic missiles! What should we do?

Actually, I did what most people were evidently doing-- Going out on the balcony and shouting to other (probably) vacationers – “What does this mean? What should we do?”

The condo where we were staying came with a binder on how to do laundry, requests to keep sand out on the beaches, best places to eat breakfast, but, perhaps not surprisingly, not a thing about ballistic missiles.

Then I did what any tech-savvy person does. I turned to Twitter. Something must be out there. So when I searched for anything “missile” I got what my trip to the balcony got me – “What does this mean? What should we do?” And, of course, “Is this a hoax?”

We finally turned on the TV and found, perhaps logically, that the owner had gotten the “sports package” and only thing on every channel was some type of sporting event. Now, I know that some people live and breathe sports, but somehow I thought maybe something like a missile strike MIGHT interrupt them for a moment. After flipping through the channels for several minutes, a scrolling message eventually appeared with the same message, along with “If you are indoors stay indoors, if you are outside, seek shelter indoors.”

The scientist in me kicked in, and I started to contemplate just where the safest place would be. After considering several scenarios, I realized that on some level it really didn’t matter. In fact, it seemed more like a situation of “luck” in terms of where you were in relationship to where the missile landed. My thought was, “Is sitting in this condo on the top floor any better than sitting on the beach a few hundred yards away? And one has a much better view!”

After a seemingly very long 20 minutes or so, the TV announced that indeed it was a “mistake” and that no missile was on its way. Because of some technical or procedural obstacle, the actual Amber-like alert to recall the first message was not sent until 38 minutes after the first warning, which, for those not getting other “oopsy” messages earlier, must have been agonizing and terrifying.

While it certainly makes for an interesting vacation story, it really did give me pause. Given our adversarial posturing with North Korea, it was certainly plausible in my mind. It also gave me some work to do. While it never seemed that necessary a few years ago, adding “missile strike” is now something that I am working on as an addition to the University’s emergency plan. On one hand, it seems a little crazy, but on the other, well, it’s best to be prepared.

**LWVNOC Current Officers and Directors**

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 La Habra  
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**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 (Make checks payable to LWVNOC.) 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**