

WISPPA
Women Involved in South Pasadena Political Action
October 1, 2016 Minutes
Cavalry Presbyterian Church

Attendance:

Janet Braun, Clarice Knapp, Harry Knapp, Carrie Adrian, Dollie Chapman, Gary Pia, Yvonne Pine, Barbara Sinclair, Ron Rosen, Ellen Wood, Jon Primuth, Yvonne Cronin, Gail Maltun, Suzie Abajian, Sean Abajian, Diana Mahmud, Bianca Richards, Vicky Bartlett, Sally Kilby, Marina Khubesrian, Lynda Sullivan, Connie Wardlow, Lela Bissner, Gretchen Robinette, Judith Harris, Betty Emirhanian, Dana Ferrar, Ellen Diagle, Kim Hughes

Welcome

Janet opened the meeting at 9:06 a.m. and introduced new members and guests. Everyone is encouraged to invite new members to join the organization. Dana Farrar created a great fact sheet that outlines the benefits of the organization, as well as its mission and goals.

League of Women Voters Presentation

Ms. Yvonne Pine from the League of Women Voters was introduced. She has an extensive background with the League of Women Voters. The organization has been in place for decades. For 130 years of democracy in the United States, women were not part of the voting public. Women gained the right to vote in 1920.

The purpose of the League of Women Voters is to help people become informed voters. The organization takes positions on ballot issues. The organization is a 501 C3. The organization separates their roles in education and advocacy.

The presentation of October 1st is part of their educational focus.

Yvonne shared that the initiative process in California is to help make decisions about things of interest to the California voters. The right to vote on initiatives has been in place since 1911. The process was started as the Governor of California, at the time, was worried about "robber barons" dominating the legislature and the public was being left out of the process. From 1911 to the 1960s there were few initiatives presented to the public.

Since the 1960s, the movement in placing initiatives on ballot as skyrocketed. Now we are in a position, where special interests are getting behind and putting initiatives before the public.

Promoters of initiatives want to put their propositions on general election ballots, as they tend to get better voter turnout, so that the propositions can pass.

The State's Secretary, produces an election voter guide that provides pros and cons on all of the propositions. The League of Women Voters also produces a voter guide with their opinions on propositions and candidates.

There is also a good web site to visit for voter information, which is Voter's Edge. The site provides information about funding behind the propositions. One can also visit the California Secretary of State's web site for voting information.

Ms. Pine provided the following points on a number of this year's ballot propositions. Ms. Pine pointed out that some propositions are Initiative Statutes, while others are Constitutional Amendments.

Proposition 62

This eliminates the death penalty in California. The claim is that it will save money. Death penalties are always appealed and the process takes often a long time.

Proposition 66

The proposal would change the death penalty appeals time-frame. The proposition will set a time limit on the appeals process.

There is a conflict between proposition 62 and 66. The one that gets the most votes would win.

Proposition 67

Plastic bag ban proposition. The legislature passed a ban on plastic bags, but the plastic bags manufacturers got enough signatures to put the issue before the voters. If it passes there will be a ban on plastic bags. Some cities already have a ban in place. If the proposition does not win, local city bans could continue.

Proposition 65

This conflicts with proposition 67. This proposition would be that if there is a ban on plastic bags, the money that is charged by grocery stores for paper or reusable bags would have the funds go an environmental fund and not to the grocery stores, as is the process right now.

If both propositions fail, the plastic bags will be OK with the exception of local cities that have bans.

Proposition 51

This is a school bond proposition. \$9 billion would be directed to schools K-12 and community colleges for facilities. The proposition would allow for state to sell bonds. There are still outstanding current school bonds that are still being paid on, but the funds have been spent. The construction industry helped support this proposition.

Proposition 53

The proposition asks that every expenditure of Revenue Bonds paid by the users of \$2 billion or more must be voted on by the public. Right now the legislature can vote on Revenue Bonds without voter approval.

Proposition 52

The proposition extends fees to private hospitals. Funds that are gathered from the fees are leveraged and put into Medical. These would be permanent fees. The fees had been temporary and passage would make the fees permanent. The fees have been extended 4 times up to this point. Right now the fees make up \$95 billion in funds and help to cover the 13 million low income people covered under Medical.

Proposition 61

Support the state to be able to negotiate for drug prices like the Veteran's Administration. The VA negotiates for prescription prices, as does private insurance companies and Medicare. The concern over the proposition is that the negotiating will cause prices to go up for everyone.

Proposition 55

The proposition extends Proposition 30-2012 income tax rates, which taxes higher income earners. The taxes on the high earners will be extended to 2030. This was to be a temporary tax that was to expire in 2018.

Proposition 56

The proposition increases taxes on tobacco products and e-cigarette products. \$2.00 more per pack would be added to the cost of a pack of cigarettes. The current tax is \$.87. The new tax would be \$2.87 per pack. The funds would go to health care and non-smoking programs.

Proposition 57

This proposition has a focus on criminal justice. This proposition would provide more credit for good behavior for prisoners in jail and prison. It would also make sure that juveniles go before a Youth Court judge before being charged as an adult. This proposition would amend the constitution. There would also be changes to release timing, as prisoners who serve the minimum for their non-violent crimes could get an earlier release. This could help to reduce prison

populations. The claim is that it would save money and that the savings would go to the courts.

Proposition 60

This proposition would require that all actors in the adult film industry wear condoms. The current policy is not policed. If passed, the producers could be sued. The industry provides \$6 billion of business for LA County.

Proposition 63

The proposition provides for more limitations on guns and ammunition. A four year permit would need to be purchased to buy ammunition.

Proposition 54

The proposition would require that laws be posted for 72 hours on-line for the public to review before the legislature can vote on the law. It also would require that all public meetings be videotaped and available to the public.

Proposition 58

The proposition increases bilingual options for schools. This changes the “all English” program that was passed a number of years ago.

Proposition 64

This proposition would legalize recreational marijuana for those 21 years of age or older. Individuals could have 6 plants. It would also establish a tax system on the products. It also permits the re-sentencing of individuals previously convicted for activities now made legal.

Proposition 59

Advisory measure that would show the citizens of California support the state legislature in voicing opposition to the Supreme Court decision in Citizens United.

League of Women Voters Recommendations

- P51 Yes
- P54 Yes
- P55 Yes
- P57 Yes
- P58 Yes
- P59 No
- P62 Yes
- P63 Yes
- P65 No
- P66 No
- P67 Yes

They also support P50, as the local South Pasadena SP, as well as the other local area school measures.

Linda Wah shared that the Community College District supports Proposition 51. Pasadena City College has a building that has been red tagged and the funds could be used to assist the campus, as the college is first in line for the bond funds.

WISPPA Elections

The WISPPA board election will take place at the November meeting. The proposed candidates for the board are as follows:

President:	Dana Farrar
Vice President:	Bianca Richards
Secretary:	Kim Hughes
Treasurer:	Ellen Wood
Founding Advisor:	Barbara Sinclair
City Council Chair:	Ron Rosen
Media Chair:	Betty Emirhanian
Events Chair:	Ellen Daigle
Membership Chair:	Dollie Chapman
Political Liaison Chair:	Linda Wah
Member-at-Large:	Judy Harris
Past President:	Janet Braun
Publicity:	Open

New additional nominees can be placed before the membership at the November meeting.

Membership Report

There is an emphasis to get new members. Dana developed a great fact sheet about the organization that is available to share with prospective members. The sheet will be put on the WISPPA web site.

City Council Report

At the September 21, 2016 council meeting, the contract for City Manager Sergio Gonzalez was extended one year with a 3% raise. A new amendment goes into effect next year with the Mills Act, This helps historical properties, so they can get repairs done and get tax breaks. There are 12 qualifying historical properties in the city. There is a concern over the length of the tax breaks.

There was a discussion about parking spaces for a property at 1803 Hascom and the public right of way.

The City Council drafted a letter in support of Proposition A for county parks, as well as support for Measure M and no freeway tunnel.

There was discussion about having to move the city's general elections from odd years to even years in order to garner for voter turnout. This is a state mandate. The next election would be in 2018.

The city council discussed moving from Stage 1 for water use to Stage 2. There can be more watering, but this takes into account the encouragement of a reduction of 20% for water use.

The city council is drafting a letter to encourage the sale of the surplus Caltrans properties.

September Minutes

Motion for approval was made by Bianca Richards and seconded by Ellen Wood. The vote was for approval of the minutes.

Development Committee Report

Gail Maltun reported that the Monterey Road improvement project is underway with re-surfacing being done from Fair Oaks to Meridian. This is not the road diet.

Public Works will have a public meeting about the construction and the mitigation efforts.

Arts Committee Report

Bianca Richards reports that SPARC and SPEF are working together on the painting of the utility boxes. There will be a fundraiser on November 13, 2016. Bianca is collecting funds/individual donations from WISPPA members to sponsor a Box Art, plaque will read "Sponsored by individual members of WISPPA." There will have more information at next meeting.

Comments

The "South Pasadena Democratic Party" group has been formed. Information can be found at sopasdems.org. The group is open to members

There are openings on some of the city's commissions. Interested parties can find information on the city's web site.

Meeting was adjourned at 11:13 a.m.
Minutes respectfully submitted by Kim Hughes.