



# Escondido Area VOTER

**SAN DIEGO NORTH COUNTY, CENTRAL**

**SEPT., 2006**

LWV of Escondido Area

*Serving the communities of Escondido, Fallbrook, Pala, Pauma Valley, Rainbow, Ramona, San Marcos and Valley Center*

## CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

Board Meetings are generally held on the second Saturday of every month. All members welcome.

**President:**  
JUNE RADY

**Vice President/Administration:**  
ELIZABETH GABRYCH

**Secretary:**  
MAY FONG HO

**Treasurer:**  
ARLENE MEADOWS

**Education:**  
VIVIAN DOERING

**Natural Resources:**  
YOLANDA FLEET

**Health Issues:**  
LORRAINE BOYCE  
Asst.: KATHLEEN CLOONAN

**Voter Service:**  
PATRICK COONY

**Voter Editor:**  
MARGARET LILES

**Honorary Director:**  
HELEN POLATCHEK

**Directors Emeritus in Perpetuity:**

ELIZABETH KORNHAUSER  
1908-1998

MARGE WEST  
1928-2006

**League voicemail:**  
760 599-3211



**The League of Women Voters**

Escondido Area  
and

**The Escondido Citizens' Ecology Committee**

*invites you to*

**ESCONDIDO CITY COUNCIL AND MAYORAL CANDIDATE  
FORUM**

**Monday, October 9, 2006,**

**7:00 to 9:00 PM**

**Escondido City Council Chambers,  
201 North Broadway, Escondido.**

All Candidates have been invited.:

**City Council Candidates**

**Mayoral Candidates**

**Two positions:**

Darol Caster  
Dick Daniels  
Olga Diaz  
Elizabeth Gabrych  
Carmen Miranda  
Erik Richard  
Marie Waldron

Tom D'Agosta  
Lori Pfeiler

**Moderator: Judge Patrick Coony,**

**Escondido resident and Director of Voter Services for the LWV, Escondido  
Area**

**The public is welcome –  
and the audience is invited to ask questions of candidates.**

For further information please contact the League of Women Voters  
voice mail: 760/ 599-3211

**Oct. 14, 2006: Board Meeting:**

Escondido Public Library, .248 S.Kalmia  
10:15 AM to 12:30 PM.

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## CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

Continued:

### How Safe Is Your Vote?

#### The Pros and Cons of Electronic Voting

*The County of San Diego has signed a contract with the Diebold Co. for Direct Record Electronic (DRE) machines and is committed to this company.*

**The County League of Women Voters and  
The California Protection Network**  
*are sponsoring a panel discussion of this issue on*

**Wednesday, October 25<sup>th</sup> at  
6:00 p.m.**

**San Diego County Office of Education,  
Joe Rindone Regional Technology Center  
Building 2 in the Communication Labs.  
6401 Linda Vista Rd., 92111.**

*A map and directions are at [www.sdcoe.net](http://www.sdcoe.net). or call Beryl at 858-459-4406. Linda Vista Rd. runs between Hwy. 5, 163, and 805 just north of Mission Valley.*

***This meeting is open to the public – bring your friends.***

***No reservations are necessary but you should reconfirm by calling or going to [www.lwvsandiego.org](http://www.lwvsandiego.org) because not all speakers are confirmed.***

**How did we get here?** The Help America Vote Act (HAVA) was passed by Congress in 2002 in response to the “hanging chads” debacle of 2000. Among other things, it eliminated the use of punch card and lever voting machines. The result is that most states are switching to electronic scanners and eventually computers that will present the ballot in official languages of the area. HAVA also mandated equipment enabling voters with disabilities to vote independently and privately in federal elections by the 2006 primary.

**So what’s the problem?** Concerns about the security and accuracy of DREs have developed across the country. Communities are also concerned about malfunctions and inability to provide a recountable audit trail. They have brought numerous lawsuits and resolutions, and a number of voter organizations trying to protect the validity of everyone’s vote.

**What does the LWV say?** Among those resolutions is one adopted by the LWVUS Convention last June stating that the League’s position on Citizens’ Right to Vote affirms that the organization supports only voting systems designed so that:

1. they employ a voter-verifiable paper ballot or other paper record, an official record of the voter’s intent,
2. the voter can verify, either by eye or with a suitable device for those with impaired vision, that the paper ballot/record accurately reflects his or her intent,
3. such verification takes place while the voter is still in the process of voting,
4. the paper ballot/record is used for audits and recounts,
5. the vote totals can be verified by an independent hand count of the paper ballot/record,
6. routine audits of the paper ballot/record can be conducted in randomly selected precincts in every election, and the results published by the jurisdiction.

The invited panelists will include:

Someone from **Diebold**

Someone from the **California Secretary of State’s Office**

**Pam Smith**, Nationwide Coordinator, Verified Voting Foundation

**Mimi Kennedy**, California Election Protection; Actress (Abby in Dharma & Greg)

Topics to be covered are:

- the precautions being made by the Registrar of Voters to keep the Diebold machines secure
- the changes and speed of counting ballots after an election
- the financial challenge to switching from DRE machines
- local and national experience in various elections
- transparency of the process
- alternative machines from other companies and how they differ
- recommendations for auditing elections, securing machines, and making electronic voting more transparent
- suggestions for voting at the polls on November 7<sup>th</sup>
  - **Join us on Wednesday, October 25, for a lively discussion of this timely and thought-provoking subject!**



## LWV President Denounces Passage of Voter ID Legislation

### September 21, Washington, D.C. League Denounces Passage of Voter ID Legislation H.R. 4844 is a Means to Discriminate Against Voters—

National League President Mary G. Wilson strongly denounced House passage of the so-called "Federal Election Integrity Act" (H.R. 4844). The legislation requires eligible citizens to present government-issued, current and valid photo identification at the polling place in 2008 and proof of citizenship by 2010.

"This is a truly sad day for our nation. The House of Representatives voted in favor of legislation that masquerades as protection against voter identity fraud. In reality, this bill is a means to discriminate against legal, eligible voters," said Wilson. "Any proposal that restricts voter registration or raises barriers to voting is a fear-based approach instead of a fact-based solution," Wilson stated. "Some would have you believe that this legislation cures voter identity fraud," continued Wilson. "But there remains a lack of evidence of instances in which voters misrepresent their identity at the polls."

"It sounds good to stand on the floor of Congress and demand equality and fairness in elections, but when one takes a closer look behind the political smokescreen, **it is clear that this bill's restrictions will disproportionately impact those who are least likely to have a current photo ID: the elderly, young people, people of color, rural voters and others,**" said Wilson.

"In modern society, it is easy to assume that everyone has appropriate ID or can prove their citizenship. But it is more difficult than one might think," Wilson said. "The costs in time and money of obtaining proof of citizenship and photo ID would clearly discourage voter participation."

"The League hopes members of the Senate will do the right thing for all voters by voting against this legislation and a return to the dark days of exclusion, which relied on such measures as literacy tests and poll taxes," Wilson stated.

The League sent two letters to members of Congress over the past few months strongly urging them to oppose H.R. 4844. "Congress should not be playing politics with our right to vote. The League and our members in communities nationwide will work to keep this bill from passing the Senate and becoming the law of the land," concluded Wilson.

## League Also Criticizes Congressional Abdication on Civil Liberties

### "Detainee" Bill Going to President

Washington, D.C. – Congress is poised to pass and send to the President legislation to ease restrictions on interrogation techniques and trials for "detainees" who may be involved in activities related to terrorism. The President is expected to quickly sign the legislation, which bars challenges in federal court on a number of issues, from interrogation techniques that some have called cruel and inhumane to the right to a speedy trial.

"The House and Senate have abdicated their responsibilities under the Constitution while stripping the courts of the tools that protect the liberties of all," said Mary G. Wilson, President of the League of Women Voters. "Checks and balances among the branches of government and the separation of powers form the very basis of American government," she said.

"It is critical that Congress conduct adequate oversight actions of the executive branch. It is critical that the courts review the actions of national security and law enforcement agencies. It is truly a sad day when Congress fails to fulfill its constitutional responsibilities," stated Wilson. On September 28, by a vote of 65-34, the United States Senate determined that it would bar detainees from the right to a speedy trial and the right of habeas corpus, the common law right to challenge imprisonment. The House is set to pass the Senate legislation today.

"For more than 85 years, members of the League have been steadfast in their conviction that the need to protect against security threats to America must be balanced with the need to preserve the very liberties that are the foundation of this country. There are fundamental principles that guard our liberty -- from independent judicial review of law enforcement actions to prohibitions on indiscriminate searches -- that must be preserved," Wilson said. This legislation "seriously diminishes the power of the judicial branch to protect civil liberties," Wilson charged.

"The President and Congress are chipping away at basic protections for civil liberties that distinguish the United States from many other nations. These are the protections we should be fighting for," concluded Wilson.