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League of Women Voters of Santa Monica

VOTER

January 2012

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Our Mission

The League of Women Voters, a nonpartisan political organization, encourages informed and active participation in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy.

Diversity Policy

The League of Women Voters of Santa Monica in both its values and practices, affirms its belief and commitment to diversity and

January 2012

Happy New Year! We hope everyone had a happy and relaxing holiday season as we prepare for an interesting election year

Our first event of the new year will be participating in the Involvement Fair at the **Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day Celebration** on Monday, January 16th. Stop by our table and say hello. Introduce a friend and prospective member. A full list of activities is [here](#).

The annual **Luncheon with the Mayor** this year will feature Mayor Pro-tem **Gleam Davis**. This event is Saturday, February 11th at the Sheraton Delfina on Pico. Save the date and watch for your official invitation.

March is Women's History Month and we will again be recognizing **Women Who Shape Santa Monica** with a reception on Monday evening, March 26th at 7:00p.m. Invitations will be in the mail later this month, but save the date. This event is one of the highlights of the year.

We are starting preparation for our consensus meeting on the **LWVUS Study of Privatization of Public Services**. Additional committee members are welcome, just email the League address at the bottom of the letter for more information. Study materials are available at <http://www.lwv.org/member-resources/privatization>.

Just a reminder, all LWVSM memberships are due for renewal in September of each year. Those not renewed are now past due. Renewal now at http://www.lwvsantamonica.org/join_form.html will keep you in the formal roster.

Initiative and Referendum

An update of our current position on the **Initiative and Referendum** process is just underway at LWVC. Supporting this study the Los Angeles County Inter League Organization's Winter League Day is on this topic. Featured speaker is Bob Stern, late president of the Center for Governmental Studies.

pluralism, which means there shall be no barriers to participation in any activity of the LWV on the basis of gender, race, creed, age, sexual orientation, national origin or disability.

A reservation form is [here](#) or contact the League office for more information and car pooling.

For more information on the study scope, process and a link to the Facebook page dedicated to the study go to the [LWVC website](#). Related to this a Zocolo program, Can Direct Democracy Be Saved, was presented October 5, co-hosted by the League of Women Voters of Los Angeles. The program was moderated by Trudy Schafer, Senior Program Director of LWVC. Panelist were Joel Fox, Judge Carlos Morenos, Peter Schrag and Robert Stern. Full coverage plus video and audio recordings is available [here](#).

Death Penalty

The LWVC supports the [SAFE California Initiative](#), currently in circulation to collect the necessary signatures to qualify for the ballot. This initiative would stop executions and **replace the death penalty with permanent imprisonment** (life without the possibility of parole), including the conversion of existing death sentences to that alternative. More information is available [here](#). Contact the League office if you would like to circulate petitions among your contacts.

Did You Know?

Not League events but of interest to our members:

State of the City Program, Thursday, January 26, SGI-USA World Culture Center, 525 Wilshire Blvd. For tickets and more information go to www.smchamber.com/SOTC.

State of Our Schools, Monday, January 30, Malibu City Hall at 6:30p.m. and Tuesday, January 31, Virginia Avenue Park Thelma Terry Center at 6:30p.m.

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