



# Conservation Voter

November 2005

## Big Wins for the Environment!!

### BIG Victory for Environment, for Maywood

In an overwhelming victory for local environmental issues and public need, LALCV-endorsed candidates for Maywood City Council, Thomas Martin, Felipe Aguirre and Sergio Calderon, were the top-three vote getters in the November 8th election, defeating two incumbents and preserving the seat of one by wide margins. Martin, the only incumbent supported by LALCV, garnered 21% of the vote, followed by Calderon and Aguirre who received 20% and 19% respectively. The two other incumbents in the race, Steve Garcia and Chava Zuniga, received 12% and 11% respectively. When the three winners are sworn in for their terms, they effectively change the balance of power on the Maywood City Council from one that serves a couple of elected officials and other individuals to one that serves the community, which the city of 28,000 desperately needs.

Maywood is among a number of small cities that have a myriad of environmental problems that have been ignored by city decision-makers. Maywood has been grappling with air and water quality issues, lead paint and other housing problems, and a Superfund site, all within its 1.14 miles. Residents have been trying to bring these issues to the forefront for years; with LALCV's participation in campaign messages and outreach, the LALCV-endorsed slate of Martin, Aguirre and Calderon finally gained a foothold.

The victory in Maywood was largely attributable to the combination of significant environmental issues and a strong LALCV presence. LALCV not only provided cash contributions to the three candidates, LALCV also hired a full-time campaign coordinator to work on media, press and community outreach in Maywood, and produced two full-color mail pieces in Spanish and English to educate voters about the differences between the LALCV-endorsed candidates and the other two incumbents. LALCV's efforts were strengthened by support from the United Farm Workers and other immigrants' rights groups who came to view the Maywood election as a potential watershed for change and progressive leadership. Dolores Huerta also participated in the campaign on behalf of Martin, Calderon and Aguirre by visiting the City and emphasizing the importance and power of voter participation.

In declaring victory, Martin, Aguirre and Calderon thanked LALCV for its help in framing the issues and reaching out to the electorate. In their victory speeches, they pointed out that LALCV's focus on this election proves that when the issues are presented to the voters, the voters will act. LALCV hopes to bring this type of change to other small cities where environmental justice and health issues exist but do not receive attention. *Please remember that your contributions to LALCV help make change possible where it's needed most.*



Pictured from left: Felipe Aguirre, Thomas Martin, Moe Stavnezer (LALCV), Susana Reyes (LALCV), Sergio Calderon, Andi Liebenbaum (LALCV), Marc Stirdivant (LALCV), Christina Chavez



Pictured from upper left: Sergio Calderon, Thomas Martin, Felipe Aguirre



### Huizar Elected to Succeed Villaraigosa in 14th District

José Huizar, who was endorsed by LALCV, was elected to represent L.A.'s 14th Council District by a decisive margin on November 8th garnering 54% of the vote. His closest competitor, Nick Pacheco, received 26% of the vote. Huizar was an elected member of the LAUSD School Board for the past four years and much of that district overlapped the 14th. Huizar was strongly supported by Mayor Villaraigosa and many of his positions echo those of the Mayor. He was also endorsed by ten members of the L.A. City Council, four members of the School Board, Hilda Solis, Judy Chu, and the County Federation of Labor among many others.

(See Huizar page 2)

# The Los Angeles League of Conservation Voters

(Huizar cont'd from page 1)

His environmental achievements on the LAUSD Board have centered around recycling and his role in creating an eight acre park adjacent to the Belmont High School. In his role on the School Board, Huizar was committed to promoting environmental education programs, encouraging the construction of environmentally friendly facilities, promoting environmental purchasing policies, and protecting District employees and students from environmental hazards. He has voted in support of resolutions to support greater efforts toward waste reduction, reuse and the purchase of environmentally friendly products. He sponsored policies to identify any potential environmental risks for all school sites, including any applications for permits for industrial activity adjacent to school sites.

## Landslide Victory for Wesson



Voters in the 10th Council District affirmed their support for LALCV-endorsed Herb Wesson, Jr. at the polls on Tuesday, November 8th. Through his political work, locally and as a California Assembly Member, Wesson has already served the 10th Los Angeles City Council District and the people of Los Angeles for nearly 20 years. Wesson garnered an overwhelming 79.82% of the vote on Tuesday's election. LALCV endorsed his candidacy believing that his legislative experience will help push environmental issues to the forefront, not just in the district, but in the City of Los Angeles beset by major air pollution, water quality, open space and parks, transportation, and environmental justice issues.

Recommending Wesson as an LA City Council Member were some of his accomplishments in Sacramento. One of his major successes as Speaker of the California State Assembly was the passage of landmark legislation AB 1493 aiming to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from motor vehicles to combat global warming. He presided over other significant legislative successes during his tenure, as well, specifically in the areas of open space in the Baldwin Hills, education and health care. "Local politics will suit Herb Wesson well. He thrives on challenges and he knows how to get things done. His commitment to issues of environmental justice and air quality will enhance the greening of Los Angeles," remarked Andi Liebenbaum, LALCV president.

Wesson, who was termed out of the Assembly last year, will complete the two years left on the 10th District seat of Councilman Martin Ludlow, who left his council post to take over as secretary-treasurer of the Los Angeles County Federation of Labor. His election to City Council marked Wesson's return to LA City Hall, where he began his career in local politics as an aide to former Councilman Nate Holden.

## ANNOUNCING ... the Los Angeles Working Group on the Environment

A new coalition is forming to help Los Angeles Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa forge important changes in local environmental policy. The coalition, called the Los Angeles Working Group on the Environment (LAWGE), is bringing together community-based organizations, environmental science and advocacy groups and decision-makers to transform the Mayor's ambitious goals to protect LA's environment into concrete progress. (For more information on the Mayor's vision, visit [www.antonio2005.com](http://www.antonio2005.com)).

The Los Angeles League of Conservation Voters, an early and strong supporter of Mayor Villaraigosa, is participating in the new LAWGE coalition. LALCV will use the LAWGE as a platform to emphasize the importance of transparency in local government, an effort that would enable members of the public to see how policies are made and to become active participants in the city government that exists to serve them. Transparency in municipal government has been an LALCV priority for the past two years.

Preliminary support for LALCV's vision of making LA city government more understandable and "user-friendly" has come from our informal talks with Council Members Eric Garcetti, Bill Rosendahl, Alex Padilla and Tony Cardenas. Through our participation with the LAWGE, we hope to crystallize this effort and make LA City government an example of responsive and inclusive leadership for the state's most important political and economic engine.

With the assistance of Administration officials, LAWGE will develop policy recommendations and an action plan by February 2006. A project of the Liberty Hill Foundation and Environment Now, LAWGE's inaugural meeting took place Friday, November 18. A second meeting is scheduled for December 9. For more information about the LAWGE including guiding principles, plans and participants, contact Michele Prichard at the Liberty Hill Foundation [chard@libertyhill.org](mailto:chard@libertyhill.org), or 310-453-3611 x104).

## Board of Directors of the Los Angeles League of Conservation Voters

David Allgood (secretary)	Andi Liebenbaum (president)	Anthony Rendon	Mitchell Schwartz	Effie Turbull
Maria Armoudian	Don May	Susana Reyes (vice president)	Ericka Smith	Cara Kodoshima Vallier
Bob Blumenfield	Mel Nutter	Joan Satt (endorsement	Moe Stavnezer (treasurer)	Lee Wallach
Janine Hamner	Jonathan Parfrey	committee chair)	Marc Stirdivant	Donna Wells
Joshua Holst				

The Los Angeles League of Conservation Voters is a 527(e) political organization. Our FPPC filing number is 810317. Your contributions to LALCV are valuable. However, they are not tax-deductible. We can be reached at PO Box 6218, Altadena, CA 91003 [info@lalcv.org](mailto:info@lalcv.org)

# LALCV at Work in Your Communities

## *It's Time You Got Your Just Desserts!*

It's hard to know the best way to thank people. A bottle of wine? A box of candy? LALCV has come up with the perfect solution - a PARTY featuring a CHOCOLATE FOUNTAIN and bottles of CHAMPAGNE!



**Why a party?** To thank and honor the candidates we endorse for municipal office who do so much for the environment. LALCV-endorsed candidates are chosen because they are dedicated to conserving our natural resources and to protecting and promoting a healthful environment for residents throughout the County. "It's critical that we take the time to recognize and appreciate the contribution that each of our endorsed candidates has already made at the local level in helping to achieve global environmental sustainability," said Andi Liebenbaum, President of LALCV. The highlight of the party is the wickedly delicious chocolate fountain donated by our dear friends at Dipped in Chocolate L.A. ([www.dippedinchocolatela.com](http://www.dippedinchocolatela.com)). We'll also have many bottles of good champagne so we can raise a toast to environmental leaders.

**Who is invited?** You are, of course, as are elected officials and endorsed candidates, all of whom have demonstrated their passion for improving LA's environment. We are also inviting as many members of the environmental community as we can. We want to celebrate the great work we all do every day, and we sure hope you'll join us!

As you might have guessed, space is limited and chocolate and champagne are popular, so please order/reserve your Golden Tickets today! Golden Tickets, available for a very affordable \$25 each, will help offset the costs and help us raise a small amount of money for races in early 2006.

✂

## *Chocolate and Champagne? Count us in!!*

I would like \_\_\_\_\_ Golden Tickets at \$25 each. Enclosed is my check, payable to LA League of Conservation Voters, for \$ \_\_\_\_\_.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Daytime phone \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

For more information about *JUST DESSERTS*, see our website ([www.lalcv.org](http://www.lalcv.org)). To reserve your Golden Tickets and pay at the door (just \$25 each - that's a sweet deal), send an email to [desserts@lalcv.org](mailto:desserts@lalcv.org), or send your check, payable to LALCV, in the remit envelope in this newsletter to PO Box 6218, Altadena, CA 91003.

## A Word from LALCV's President



If you're an environmentalist, you're a little bit sweet *and* a little bit sassy. I haven't met one who isn't, which is why a party in your honor, particularly with chocolate and champagne, makes so much sense! It's not often enough that we celebrate ourselves and the hard work we do. And while we are not always successful and we're not always in agreement, we *can* always agree that at the very foundation of what we stand for are the rights of all people to breathe clean air, to swim in a clean ocean, to drink clean water, to play in clean parks, and to have access to beautiful natural lands. We know that we are all richer if one more mountain lion is sighted and protected, even if we never get to see it. We know we are better off if folks in other cities have fewer toxins to live with even if we live in relative good health.

So, this holiday season, we'd like to throw you a party to thank you, to honor you and to reward you - even with just a glass of champagne and some chocolate - for your incredible and indelible efforts on our behalf. The work you do makes the work we do at LALCV - identifying and endorsing those candidates who will protect and improve the environment - fully rewarding. Your support of our work at just \$25 for a Golden Ticket means more resources for us to do our good work.

Please join us on December 4th. We're throwing a party in your honor, and you deserve to be there when we raise our glasses (and our chocolate-smudged faces) to a toast to how much you are appreciated. For more information on our "Just Desserts" party, please visit our website at [www.lalcv.org](http://www.lalcv.org), and to RSVP, use the tear-away form on the back of this page and send it in with your check today. See you on the 4th!

*Andi Liebenbaum*

Andi Liebenbaum, President

Visit us on the web at [www.lalcv.org](http://www.lalcv.org)



Los Angeles League of Conservation Voters  
PO Box 6218  
Altadena, CA 91003

Return Service Requested

Presorted First  
Class  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
Permit # 50  
Arcadia, CA