



Elizabeth Rhea <erhea@cluela.org>

## Victory for Domestic & Farm Workers! Plus, local battles in Santa Monica, Long Beach: CLUE's Just & Sacred Vol. 1 No. 4

Rabbi Jonathan Klein, CLUE <jklein@cluejustice.org>  
To: Elizabeth Rhea <erhea@cluejustice.org>

Thu, Sep 15, 2016 at 4:18 PM



*"Woe to those who make unjust laws, to those who issue oppressive decrees"*

הוֹי הַחֻקִּים הַחֻקִּיִּים אֲנִי וְיִמְכַתְּבִים עִמָּל כְּתָבוֹ:

- Isaiah 10:1

Dear Elizabeth,

This fall is abuzz with massive legislative efforts. Seventeen statewide ballot measures, at least three more in Los Angeles City, at least one in the county, and one particularly challenging one in Santa Monica... and politicians striving to win voters' hearts! Overall, we think that these ballot measures represent unique opportunities to move the needle toward more justice, but at the same time, it is painful to recognize the inability for government to function sufficiently and for elected leaders to lead the way, special interest groups resorting to the ballot box to pass the most progressive legislation.



Take the time to learn more about each measure, and do not discount the ability of city and county initiatives to make significant improvements in our society! Here's a quick list of some of my personal positions on ballot measures, which I reckon will be shared by most Progressives (only some have been endorsed by CLUE's board or committies; these are my opinions alone):

- **CA State Ballot 62 YES, 66 NO Death Penalty:** Proposition 62 will abolish the California death penalty; Proposition 66 will speed up executions. CLUE's board joins me in demanding an end to state-sanctioned executions, knowing that many innocent people have been killed along the way throughout the course of history.
- **CA State Ballot 55 YES Extend Proposition 30:** Extends the temporary personal income tax increases on incomes over \$250,000 by Proposition 30, which helped to fund our schools.
- **CA State Ballot 57 YES "Public Safety and Rehabilitation Act:"** Increases parole opportunities for felons convicted of non-violent crimes and gives them more opportunities

to earn credits for good behavior.

- **CA State Ballot 59 YES End Citizens United:** Put California on record as supporting an end to the "Citizens United V. Federal Elections Commission" decision which gave corporations the same constitutional rights as human beings, resulting in a massive influx of special interest dollars into our elections.
- **CA State Ballot 61 YES Lower Healthcare Costs:** Prohibits state agencies from spending more on prescription drugs than the lowest price paid by the US Department of Veteran Affairs.
- **CA State Ballot 63 YES "Safety For All" Gun Control:** Prohibits large capacity ammunition magazines, requires stronger background checks for ammunition.
- **CA State Ballot 67 YES Plastic Bag Ban:** Prohibits plastic single-use carryout bags, which pollute our land and waterways.
- **Los Angeles City HHH YES Homeless Housing:** \$1.2 Billion bond for homeless housing!
- **Los Angeles City JJJ YES Build Better LA:** Good jobs, encourage affordable housing.
- **Los Angeles City RRR NO DWP Reform:** This is a tough one, and while some reform seems necessary, too many elements are combined in this policy and many of CLUE's allies in labor will be injured as a result of this measure. In some ways, this is a union jurisdictional fight, and as a result, CLUE will not likely place an endorsement on this as a matter of board policy. Nevertheless, my dear friend **Pastor William D. Smart, Jr. of the SCLC** and our allies at both SEIU and AFSCME strongly oppose the impact on their members' civil service protections, and for that reason, I personally am concerned with this one. I continue to explore this issue with allies and friends in labor and the environmental movement, but for now, I am not convinced that this ballot measure is the best way to address problems at the LA Department of Water and Power. A better step forward might be to separate the governance issues that this addresses from the workforce issues that it also confronts.
- **Santa Monica--LV NO!** Require all building over 32 feet to go through City Council. This will effectively halt all development in Santa Monica, which means affordable housing and job-creating construction will screech to a halt. This blanket provision will hurt many low income community members.

There are other ballot measures that we will explore over the next two months, and CLUE will issue both our own positions as well as broadcast those of various denominational organizations in the community. PLEASE read the measures, consider the perspectives, and VOTE!

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## Victory for Domestic and Farm Workers in California!

Earlier this week, Governor Jerry Brown signed SB 1015 and AB 1066, historic bills guaranteeing overtime pay to domestic and farm workers, respectively. After decades of racially-motivated exclusion from worker protections (the vestiges of a thirties racist US Congress that would not pass worker protections for Black Americans), California is demonstrating its commitment to equity and inclusion!



[Read the Full Story on Our Blog >>](#)

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## TONIGHT : CLUE's Santa Monica Committee Takes a Stand Against Measure LV

Santa Monica area residents are invited to join a special presentation of the case against Measure LV. The ballot measure LV claims to curb overdevelopment, but it impacts our city far beyond a few buildings and it cuts at the root of the tenets of our spirituality-based traditions.

### "What's Love Got to Do With It?"

Thursday, September 15, 2016 - 7pm

Unitarian Universalist Community Church of Santa Monica (18th and Arizona)

Free parking at the UCLA Hospital parking structure, 16th and Arizona

#### Speakers:

- Rabbi Neil Comess-Daniels – Beth Shir Shalom
- Rev. Kikanza Nuri-Robins – Presbyterian Minister
- Dennis Hardwick – Chairman of JustFaith at St. Monica's Catholic Community
- Leslie Lambert – Planning Commission Member, Retired Urban Planner
- Dr. Juan Matute – Professor in Urban Planning at UCLA
- Barbara Inatsugu – Chairperson of the League of Women Voters

[Read the Committee's 10 Objections to Measure LV >>](#)

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## Wage Enforcement Moving Forward in Long Beach

In a complicated motion, Long Beach decided to scale back their progressive minimum-wage increases to match the new state level– but they also offered hopeful new provisions for enforcing those minimums for even the most vulnerable workers.

[Read the Full Story on Our Blog >>](#)

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We believe that voters and other policy-makers have a fundamental responsibility to build a just and sacred society. We're glad to have you by our side in this work.

Blessings,



Rabbi Jonathan Klein, CLUE



<http://www.cluejustice.org/>

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This email was sent to [erhea@cluejustice.org](mailto:erhea@cluejustice.org). To stop receiving emails, [click here](#).

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