



*Working for a Better World*  
*a grassroots advocacy organization founded in 1984*

## **June 2023 Newsletter**

### **Report on the Great American Write-In 2023**



The 35<sup>th</sup> Annual Great American Write-In (GAWI) was held on May 6<sup>th</sup> at the Delhi Community Center in Santa Ana. Fifty-five organizations with issue information attended and approximately 300 attendees came to write to their representatives. Mail turned in included about 1550 letters and postcards. In addition, many organizations used QR codes to contact their representatives via e-mail. The event also garnered media coverage afterwards and the attending organizations were able to do a lot of networking, according to GAWI Chair Felicity Figueroa.

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### **Women For: Orange County Supports PBOC**



#### **The People's Budget Orange County 2023 survey is now live!**

PBOC is committed to economic and racial justice. They fight for a participatory county budget that is transparent, in alignment with community values, and responsive to community needs. They want to know what your county budget priorities are!

Orange County has a total budget of approximately \$8.8 billion. In Orange County, the Board of Supervisors has total control over the county's approximately \$1 billion discretionary budget, which is funded by OC residents' tax dollars.

**Tell them what you would like the OC Board of Supervisors to spend the County's discretionary funds on by completing the survey found at**

**[BIT.LY/PBOC-2023SURVEY.](https://bit.ly/pbo-2023-survey)**

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**June meeting, we hope you will consider attending:**

**Americans United for Separation of Church and State-OC  
Saturday, June 17<sup>th</sup>, 4:30 pm Zoom ONLY**

**Barry Lynn, former AU executive director,  
“My Life Preserving the First Amendment”**

Lynn’s life as a fighter for the First Amendment is chronicled in his 3-volume memoir, “Paid to Piss People Off,” which he will discuss.

To Join Zoom: Register at <https://www.mobilize.us/au/event/563702/>

For more information, [www.au-oc.org](http://www.au-oc.org)

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## **2023 Calendar**

We will continue to email our monthly newsletters and meeting flyers. Meeting flyers, monthly newsletters, our webpage, and Facebook will provide more detailed meeting and event information.

### **Meetings**

will continue to be offered on the **3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of the month**

### **July 17**

The Dismantling of Public Education & Why you should care

### **October 16**

Is there Justice in the Criminal Justice System?  
(including the plight of women in prison)

Please note that meeting topics, locations, and/or dates may change if our speakers or panelists have unavoidable changes in their schedules.

Meetings will be via Zoom, hybrid, or in-person.  
Hybrid and in-person meetings will take place at the  
Irvine Ranch Water District Duck Club  
15 Riparian View, Irvine

### **Events**

**41<sup>st</sup> Annual Suffrage Day Luncheon**  
at the Hacienda in Santa Ana  
**Saturday, August 26, 2023**

➔ Anyone who wants to help with any of our events should contact our president, Carol Tuch, at (949) 242-0253 or email [womenforoc@aol.com](mailto:womenforoc@aol.com)

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### Other events and organizations that might interest you:

**Planned Parenthood of Orange and San Bernardino Counties** has a monthly newsletter listing upcoming events and ways to become more involved in local Planned Parenthood advocacy work. Information available at (800) 230-7526 or (714) 922-4100 and <https://www.plannedparenthood.org/planned-parenthood-orange-san-bernardino>

**Supporters of Public Education-OC** presents meetings and activities to provide opportunities to learn about advocacy on issues in Orange County schools. Information on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/SOPEOC/> or email: [sope.oc@gmail.com](mailto:sope.oc@gmail.com).

**UCI School of Law** is a visionary law school committed to enriching our communities through public service. They present many excellent free-to-the-public events with online registration. For more information: <https://calendar.law.uci.edu/>

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## Membership

Women For: Orange County 2023 membership letter: [bit.ly/3RFOyZI](http://bit.ly/3RFOyZI)

If you would like to renew your membership or are not a current member and would like to join, go to <http://www.womenfororangecounty.org> *membership*, then print the membership application, fill it in, and mail it with your check to:

### W4OC

P.O. Box 5402  
Irvine, CA 92626-4502

Annual membership dues remain at \$40.00 and \$20.00 for students/low-income individuals.

As always, any donation will be gratefully accepted and are much appreciated.  
Thank you for your continued support.

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## Board of Directors

We currently have eight members on our board of directors who plan and take care of the business of Women For. If anyone is interested in finding out more about becoming a board member, contact any current board member: Carol Tuch @ 949-242-0253, Londa Woods, Peggy Goetz, Ellen Tewell, Marilyn Vassos, Steph Campbell, Sharon O'Hara, or Felicity Figueroa.

Other contact information is on our website at <http://www.womenfororangecounty.org/>.

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## Legislative Update for 2023

Women For: Orange County supports the following legislative bills.

\*\* Denotes new legislation involvement since last Newsletter

### **SB 94** (Cortese) Recall & resentencing: special circumstances

This bill allows judges to review life without parole and death penalty sentences for people with special circumstances before June 5, 1990. This would apply the law more fairly.

Update: 5/24/23 Passed Senate. 5/25/23 Assembly Public Safety Committee

[https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill\\_id=202320240SB94](https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=202320240SB94)

### **SB 616** (Gonzalez) Paid Sick + Sick Days

This bill would require employers to allow employees to use seven or more paid sick days without wage loss or retaliation which will lead to a healthier, more productive workforce, and protect public health by significantly reducing the spread of communicable diseases in the workplace.

Update: 5/31/23 Passed Senate. 6/1/23 Assembly read 1<sup>st</sup> time

[https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill\\_id=202320240SB616](https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=202320240SB616)

Although not legislation, Women For: Orange County has also supported:

### Stop the **ACO/REACH** pilot program.

Support letter sent to Honorable Xavier Becerra (Sec. of HHS) & Honorable Chiquita Brooks-LaSure (Admin for CMS) supporting their opposition to the ACO/REACH pilot program.

### **UCI Hydrogen Blending Project**

Support letter sent to Irvine representatives in opposition to UCI hydrogen blending project which would cost ratepayers nearly \$13 million dollars and has the potential to harm students and faculty.

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[womenforoc@aol.com](mailto:womenforoc@aol.com)

<http://www.womenfororangecounty.org>

Please 'like' our WF:OC Facebook page:

[www.facebook.com/Women-For-Orange-County-180712315298354/](http://www.facebook.com/Women-For-Orange-County-180712315298354/)