

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE 10/24/2012**

**LOCAL HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS PARTNER TO HOST CANDIDATE/ISSUES FORUM ON EDUCATION**

*Featuring: 50<sup>th</sup> Assembly District Candidates Richard Bloom and Betsy Butler  
and discussions with proponents of Propositions 30 and 38*

**EVENT DETAILS:**

**WHAT: The Right To Education: A Candidate and Issues Forum**

**WHEN: Thursday, October 25, 7:00 pm- 8:30 pm**

**WHERE: MLK Auditorium at the Santa Monica Main Branch Library; 601 Santa Monica Blvd.,  
Santa Monica, CA (Parking entrance off 7<sup>th</sup> St.)**

**Jointly sponsored by the Human Rights Watch Student Task Force and the League of Women Voters of Santa Monica. For more information: Pam Bruns 310-454-6321; Barbara Inatsugu 310-720-8761**

Santa Monica, October 16, 2012 - Recognizing that education is a central issue confronting California voters in November, high school students in Santa Monica and Pacific Palisades are co-hosting a candidate/issues forum focused on the right to education, in the **MLK Auditorium at the Santa Monica Main Branch Library at 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, October 25.**

The unique forum – “The Right to Education: A Candidate and Issues Forum” – is jointly sponsored by the Human Rights Watch Student Task Force (HRW/STF) and the League of Women Voters of Santa Monica. High school students initiated the idea as part of their campaign to protect the “Right To Education.”

The 50<sup>th</sup> Assembly District candidates, **Richard Bloom** and **Betsy Butler**, will share their views on education. **Eloy Oakley**, President of Long Beach City College and Board Member with the Campaign for College Opportunity, representing Proposition 30, and **Sandy Escobedo**, a Senior Policy Analyst with the Advancement Project, representing Proposition 38, will talk about the importance and potential impact on education of their respective ballot measures. Presentations will be followed by student-led Q&A sessions.

HRW/STF is a youth leadership-training program that empowers Los Angeles area high school students to advocate for human rights issues through annual campaigns, especially the rights of children. Last year’s campaign, The Right To Education, focused on the lack of education in international combat zones. This year, students requested that STF bring the campaign home, asking “What about our right to education here in Los Angeles and California? How do we protect our right to educational opportunity in California?”

“The League of Women Voters of Santa Monica is thrilled to partner with such a committed group of high school students to sponsor a forum focused on the right to educational opportunity,” said League spokesperson Barbara Inatsugu. “These students are the reason we work so persistently for education reform and increased funding - yet, we don’t hear directly from them enough. We need to hear their voices!”

Forum attendees will have that opportunity. Students from local high schools will introduce the forum, share their daily experiences, moderate, and lead interactive discussions with the candidates and representatives of Propositions 30 and 38.

Students want to know what the Assembly candidates will do to help create equal educational opportunities for all students in Los Angeles, and how the ballot initiatives will help insure all kids their right to a quality education.

The League of Women Voters, a nonpartisan 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.

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