

League of Women Voters of Cupertino-Sunnyvale
Meeting Summary – January 7, 2017
LWV Public Policy Work – Part 1: Getting Ideas on the Table
Last Updated by Linda Davis: 1/19/2017

Discussion Leader and Assistant: Linda Davis, Sue Graham

Participants: Cheryl & Robert Bartholomew, Peter Botsford, Daniel Bremond, Harold Brown, Bena Chang, Tracey Edwards, Suzanne Ford, Jane Gregozek, Roberta Hollimon, Bruce Kendall, Elaine Manley, Virginia Merry, Nancie Plumb, Serge Rudaz, Marilyn Sherry, Marieann Shovlin, Carol Stanek.

Goal of this Meeting: Get League program ideas on the table as a first step in League program planning

Ideas that came up in the meeting are listed below, along with starter notes about what might be done. All of the “program” ideas will come back to the next meeting on Feb 11, and will be prioritized by the group. Some Jan 7 participants will present short proposals on some of the ideas on Feb 11. In addition, short write-ups of each idea will be available about a week before the meeting: watch for an email announcing pre-meeting materials by about Feb 4. The “voter service” and “capacity” ideas will be discussed this spring at board meetings and at a member meeting (date to be determined).

Requests from Linda: I have put in brackets [] the people I understand to be working on write-ups of each idea. Please let me know by email if I’m mistaken about who is doing what. If participants who are NOT listed in brackets have ideas on a proposal, they should share them ASAP with the person(s) working on the write-up of the relevant idea.

PROGRAM ideas

- **Development + Transportation + Housing** – small group meetings => member/community meetings + possible advocacy (dependent on sufficient existing League positions). [Tracey Edwards, Marieann Shovlin?, others?]
 - **Local position on Hwy 85** – advocacy based on this position was proposed on Jan 7; one member who could not attend proposed deleting this position. [Linda will flesh out the opposing arguments.]
- **Civil Discourse** – small group to organize community education. [Marieann Shovlin, Carol Stanek, Marilyn Sherry]
- **Sunnyvale City Charter** – review by small group => member meeting & written report [Serge Rudaz, others?]
- **State and Local Finance** – statewide League update study => community education & member consensus [Roberta Hollimon, others?]
- **LWV Advocacy** – member education on state/national LWV advocacy work and supporting online resources [Linda will do write-up, with help from others?]
- **Affordable Housing** – small group => member/public meetings + advocacy (existing LWV positions are adequate). [Linda to assess possible proposal separate from first bullet point above after Bay Area League Day Jan 28.]
- **ID Requirement for Voting** in person – Daniel Bremond suggested LWV advocacy on this. [Linda will clarify relationship of this idea to existing LWV positions and what would be needed.]
- **Initiative & Referendum Reform** – state advocacy (existing state LWV position is adequate) [Linda will summarize likely State League action on this.]
- **Prop 13 Reform** – state advocacy (existing state LWV position is adequate) [Linda will summarize likely State League action on this.]
- **High Speed Rail & Twin Tunnels projects** – state advocacy and/or public education [Linda will consult with LWV people about relevant state positions & likelihood of action/education.]
- **Marijuana** – state study or involvement with local implementation of new law [Linda will check whether there are existing League positions that could provide basis for local action.]

VOTER SERVICE ideas

- **Local Ballot Measure Presentations** – improvements needed [work to be assigned this spring, if sufficient interest]
- **Voter Registration and Voter Turnout** – identify needs for improvement in our communities and what to do in our communities to effect change [work to be assigned this spring, if sufficient interest]

- **Local Campaign Finance** – work with VotersEdge.org to provide local information comparable to what is available on that website for state and federal offices [Linda + Bruce to flesh out what we want from the VE project]

Organizational CAPACITY ideas

- **LWVCS communications** – improve efficiency via changes in LWVCS website, LWVCS email & social media communications, use of survey tools (e.g. Survey Monkey), [Marilyn Sherry spoke to this item on Jan 7. Elaine Manley was recently doing initial communications to convene a group to flesh out a proposal. Is that effort proceeding? If not, might Marilyn flesh this out? Not needed for the Feb 11 meeting.]
- **Recruit younger members** – Suggested on Jan 7 to ask other local Leagues how they are doing this. Might doing the bullet above be one pathway toward accomplishing this? Fact determined since Jan 7: average age of our members currently exceeds 70 years.

Suggestions on PROGRAM proposals

For the Feb 11 meeting, we need starter proposals on program ideas under consideration. The goal of a proposal on Feb 11 is to garner support among meeting participants toward the ultimate goal of adopting the program item at our Annual Meeting in June. The group response to various program ideas on Feb 11 will inform choices of recommended local program by the LWVCS board. The prioritization will also inform the LWVCS board’s decisions about our League’s program input to the county and state levels.

A starter program proposal should provide an outline of what would be done, plus an estimate of how many members would be needed. The proposal would be strengthened by identifying actual members who would work on the program item. The proposal should indicate whether a League study, advocacy, community education, and/or other member education might be involved. If the activities would be dependent on existing League positions, relevant positions should be identified. The proposal should also address “considerations” listed at the Jan 7 meeting, given below.

Some Considerations – in prioritizing PROGRAM proposals

- 1) Is governmental change needed and possible on this program item?
- 2) Would this program item attract participation by LWV members and the community?
- 3) Is this program item timely? Would it be timely once LWV was equipped to act (via advocacy or education)?
- 4) Can the LWV play a significant role on this issue? Does this program item involve a need that is not being met by other groups?
- 5) Does the LWVCS have sufficient capacity (members, money, expertise) to do this program item, or can what’s needed be acquired? Have the needed resources been identified? If community partners are needed, do they already exist or would they need to be cultivated?

Deadline: Starter proposals are due to Linda by Jan 27. (1-2 pages maximum for each proposal)

Linda will work with the originators of proposals to package all the proposals into one document, which will be available starting about Feb 4 via the Feb 11 listing at calendar.lwvcs.org: go to the 2/11 calendar listing and look for “Meeting Preparation”.

– Next Meeting –

League Public Policy Work – Part 2: Forging Ideas into Proposals
Saturday, 11 February 2017 • 10 am to 12 pm
 Sunnyvale Presbyterian Church, Room 501, 728 W Fremont Ave