



THE VOTER

THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF CUPERTINO-SUNNYVALE

November 2009

Volume 37 Number 4

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ELECTION DAY NOVEMBER 3, 2009

Lost your sample ballot? To find your polling place and view information on candidates and ballot measures, go to www.smartvoter.org, and enter your address. You will find all you need to help you vote.

LEAGUE SPONSORS FOUR CANDIDATE FORUMS



Candidates for Cupertino City Council participate in Candidate Forum. From left, Barry Chang, Roberta Hollimon (moderator), Marty Miller, Orrin Mahoney, Mahesh Nihalani, Daniel Nguyen, Darcy Paul, and Mark Santoro.

More than 250 people attended one of the the four Candidate Forums, Cupertino City Council, Sunnyvale City Council, Cupertino Union School District, and Cupertino Sanitary District, sponsored by the League of Women Voters of Cupertino-Sunnyvale. Voters were able to submit questions to candidates during the forums and then talk to them individually following the forums.

One attendee said, "There is nothing like seeing and hearing a candidates in person to help me make up my mind and whom I will vote for."

Special thanks to those who make these forums possible: Forum Coordinator, Marilyn Howard; Moderators, Elaine Manley and Roberta Hollimon; publicity, Delores Carson; timers and question sorters, Nancy Burnett, Suzanne Ford, Andrea Harris, Russ Howard, Sandy Howard, and Rose Marie Twu.

LWV Cupertino-Sunnyvale Board of Directors

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

We have had a very productive election season already. We've moderated the Cupertino City Council Candidates, the Cupertino School District, the Sunnyvale City Council, and the Cupertino Sanitary Board. It has been great to have the City Council forums recorded and played on cable TV and on the internet. The more opportunities for the public to learn about the candidates, the better their decision will be. Thank you to the local TV stations and to the Sunnyvale Chamber of Commerce for co-sponsoring the Sunnyvale City Council event.

A big thank you for all of the volunteers that helped make it a productive election season especially Marilyn Howard.

Save the date for the December Holiday brunch Saturday, December 5. We'll be having a delicious and festive lunch at Thai Basil on Murphy Street in Sunnyvale from 11:30 am til 1:30 pm. The cost is only \$20 per person. Please be sure to RSVP to lwvcseditor@comcast.net.

Elaine Manley

THE LEAGUE RECOMMENDS

Based on study and analysis the League of Women Voters of Cupertino-Sunnyvale has taken positions on two measures on the November 3, 2009 ballot.

Measure B Utility Users Tax – City of Cupertino YES

The League of Women Voters supports measures to ensure revenues both sufficient and flexible enough to meet changing needs for state and local government services; that contribute to a system of public finance that emphasizes equity and fair sharing of the tax burden as well as adequacy; that include long range finance methods that meet current a future needs while taking in account the cumulative impact of public debt. We feel that Cupertino's Tax Measure meets our criteria and deserves our support.

Measure G Parcel Tax - Fremont Union High School District YES

The League of Women Voters believes that an education system should meet the needs of each individual student; challenge all students to reach their highest potential; and develop patterns of lifelong learning and responsible citizenship. We feel that the Fremont Union High School District meets our criteria and deserves our support.

Go to www.smartvoter.org for the text of the measures.

For more information on Measure B go to www.cupertino.org/measureB

For more information on Measure G go to www.aboutmeasureg.org

Board Briefs

At its October meeting your board:

- Heard plans for the League's 90th anniversary event on Feb 13th, 2010.
- Learned that the Speaker's Bureau presented a talk on the state budget.
- Agreed to send the VOTER by email to members for whom we have an email address.
- Learned from the Smart Voter coordinator, Jason Spiller, that 17 of the 21 candidates in our service area put their information on Smart Voter.

Membership News

Thank you for renewing your membership: Josephine Borucki, Pat Castillo, Joan Coston, John and Elsie Hasling, Andrew Kao, Barbara Rogers, and Leonard Williams.

Thank you for including a donation with your dues: Scott and Elaine Manley and Carol Weiss.

The Cupertino-Sunnyvale VOTER

Published 10 times a year by the League of Women Voters of Cupertino-Sunnyvale.

Yearly subscriptions: \$10/year to non-members.

Members subscribe through annual dues.

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LaVerne Prentice

**ENDING THE DEATH PENALTY:
HOW TO MAKE CHANGE AT THE LOCAL LEVEL**

Tuesday, November 17, 2009 7-9 PM

**Congregation Beth Am, Beit Keillah Room
26790 Arastradero Road, Los Altos**

Speakers: **Judy Kerr**

Spokesperson, California Crime Victims for
Alternatives to the Death Penalty

Natasha Minsker

Death Penalty Policy Director of the ACLU of
Northern California.

Sponsored by the League of Women Voters of Palo Alto

THE VOTER IS GOING DIGITAL

Next month, the VOTER goes digital. The board made this decision to reduce costs of printing and mailing, reduce the amount of labor required to insert, fold and fasten the VOTER, and practice sustainability by using less paper and saving more trees and power.

Those of you for whom we have an email address will start receiving your VOTER by email next month. If you prefer to have a paper copy mailed to you, please notify the editor at lwvcseditor@comcast.net. Some of you have already indicated you prefer the paper VOTER and you will continue to receive it in that form.

You can help the environment and your VOTER mailing team.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

The Bylaws of the League of Women Voters of Cupertino-Sunnyvale require that the members be given a financial report once a year within five months of the end of the fiscal year. We operate on a fiscal year of July 1 to June 30. Following is a report of the Assets and Liabilities of the League of Women Voters of Cupertino-Sunnyvale as of June 30, 2009. This financial report has not been reviewed.

League of Women Voters of Cupertino-Sunnyvale

Assets & Liabilities on June 30, 2009

	General Fund	Education Fund	GF&EF
<u>ASSETS</u>			
General Fund	3,505.89	----.--	3,505.89
Permanent Reserves Fund	2,500.00	----.--	2,500.00
Board Discretionary Fund	1,000.00	----.--	1,000.00
Education Fund		<u>2,161.55</u>	<u>2,161.55</u>
TOTAL ASSETS	\$7,005.89	\$2,161.55	\$9,167.44
<u>LIABILITIES</u>			
Payments to LWVUS & LWVC	0.00	0.00	0.00
Other Bills	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>
TOTAL LIABILITIES	\$0.00	0.00	\$0.00
<u>NET WORTH</u>			
Net Worth on 6/30/2008	7,887.50	3,467.89	11,355.39
Revenue-Expenditures	<u>(881.61)</u>	<u>(1,306.34)</u>	<u>(2,187.95)</u>
CURRENT NET WORTH	\$7,005.89	\$2,161.55	\$9,167.44
TOTAL LIABILITIES & NET WORTH	\$7,005.89	\$2,161.55	\$9,167.44

Cash in Bank Accounts June 30, 2009

Checking Account	854.87	854.87
Franklin Money Fund Account	5,632.83	5,632.83
Savings Account	502.97	502.97
Bulk Mail Account	15.22	15.22
LWVC Education Fund Account		2,161.55

The reduction in net worth from fiscal year 2007-2008 reflects the board's decision to use reserves to fund community activities.

LWVC OBSERVES HIGH SCHOOL DROPOUT RATE HEARING

Ellen Wheeler,

“Defining the Problem” was the title of Assemblymember Alyson Huber's first of a planned series of hearings on lowering California's high school dropout rate. In a packed hearing room at the state capitol on August 28th observers heard from experts in the field. Some highlights and nuggets:

1. Keric Ashley, Director of Data Management, CA Dept. of Education, explained how CALPADS (CA Longitudinal Pupil Achievement Data System) is now able to give data to school districts regarding their dropout rates. "Data doesn't solve the problem, but spotlighting the issue helps."

2. Russ Rumberger, Director, CA Dropout Research Project (www.cdrp.ucsb.edu): [a] The single best predictor of high school dropouts is failure in 9th grade. Additional key factors are low GPA or a student being retained, resulting in being older than his/her grade level peers. [b] There's an economic cost to high school dropouts to the individual, to society, and to our tax system. (The highest unemployment rate in the nation is from high school dropouts.) [c] English Language Learners are 15% of high school students, but 30% of dropouts. [d] 1% of schools (25) account for 21% of dropouts. [e] 10 school districts in CA account for 36% of dropouts. [f] Schools matter. (Low income areas have much higher rates of dropouts than high income areas.) [f] KEY IMPLICATIONS: Start before high school. Focus on individuals and institutions that support students (families, schools, communities). [g] The biggest predictor of high school dropouts is family dynamics. (Is the family poor? On welfare? Are family members in gangs? Did family members complete school? etc.)

3. Rick Braziel, Sacramento Police Chief on the social consequences of high school dropouts: [a] Dropouts are 3.5 times more likely to be arrested. [b] If we reduced dropouts by 10% we could reduce 500 murders and 20,000 assaults in CA. [c] The sooner we get kids into preschool, the better. (Preschoolers learn social skills like "Don't take my toy; let's share.")

Some solutions? Shift the focus away from being punitive to a whole child/whole system approach; keep kids engaged through mentoring, sports, and leadership programs; give students job training. ("Training them today is a good investment in tomorrow.") Chief Braziel's conclusion: We can't arrest away the problem. We need to invest in children, beginning in preschool.

4. Anthony Amato, Superintendent, Stockton Unified School System, reported how his school district used explicit steps to move from being a "dropout factory" to being a community that was invested in a college-going culture for their kids. One action? Their community banded together to help all high school students take the SAT.

Lastly, a few Community Comments bear particular attention: [a] Don't focus on the "achievement gap"; focus on the

rate of dropouts. [b] Thousands of students are dropping out because they cannot pass the high school exit exam. There should be alternative methods available for students to show their proficiency. [c] The decrease in vocational education programs has resulted in an increase in high school dropouts. It's critical that we bring back Career Technical Education. [d] Don't forget GATE kids (gifted and talented). When classrooms teach to a standardized test many of these kids check out mentally or drop out.

Ellen Wheeler is an observer for LWVC Education Committee, Chair of the Education Committee for LWV Santa Clara County, and member LWV Los Altos Mountain View

LWV-US OBSERVERS TO ATTEND UN CLIMATE CHANGE CONFERENCE IN COPENHAGEN

LWV recently secured its official Observer status for the United Nations Framework Climate Change Conference (UNFCCC) in Copenhagen this December. The following League members were selected to serve as delegates to the conference: Carole Conors, (MD), Chair of the LWV Lobby Corps; Sarah Diefendorf, former LWVUS Board member and Chair of the Climate Change Task Force (CA); Ellyn Murphy, (WA), LWVUS Climate Change Task Force; Jennifer Searfoss, (CA); Ellen (Mel) Bromberg, (WI); Claire Vanderslice, (WI); and Lauralee Barbaria, (CA). All of these delegates have taken an active role in working on climate change issues both for the LWV and in their professional work; they are making this trip at their own expense as representatives of the LWV. Special thanks to Doris Schapira, LWV UN Observer, for her work in navigating the successful application process. We are proud to have our own delegation on the ground keeping us informed! Contact Board Member Judy Duffy with questions at jduffy@lww.com.

SAVE THE DATE — BALD 2010

**Bay Area League Day, Saturday, January 30, 2010,
Metro Center at Lake Merritt BART Station**

Big Steps, Little Steps to Addressing Climate Change: Air Quality, Transportation, Housing, Land Use

LWVBA has secured outstanding speakers for a look at Climate Change in the Bay Area. Mark your 2010 calendar and watch for a flier with more information coming soon.

ON ALERT: SEASONAL HAZARD LOOMS

By Alec MacDonald

If you have ever been curious about how exactly your fireplace is connected to air pollution, here's an illuminating exercise to try next time you're online.

Log on to www.epa.gov/oar/particlepollution, the page of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Web site that deals with particulate matter. You probably already have a basic understanding of what particulate matter is, but you can read an exact definition, along with information about its detrimental health effects, through this page.

Scroll down to the "Air Emission Sources" link, which will offer you a window into the EPA's national database of air emissions; specifically, you'll be able to find out how much particulate matter came from different sources according to the agency's most recent inventory in 2002.

You can sort the inventory results by location, and if you live in the Bay Area, you'll want to take note of just how much residential wood combustion (the use of fireplaces, woodstoves, and outdoor fire pits) surpasses other sources in the production of fine particulate matter (particles of 2.5 micrometers in diameter and smaller). Residents of Santa Clara County, for instance, will observe that wood burning there gave rise to more than twice as much fine particulate matter as did on-road vehicles. Those in San Mateo and Alameda counties will see the same ratio, while residents of Marin, Contra Costa, San Francisco, and Solano counties will notice a ratio of three to one. The disparity was even greater in the counties of Napa (four times as much) and Sonoma (five times). Of all the nine Bay Area counties, in fact, residential wood combustion tops the list for each, with the exception of Contra Costa, where it was eclipsed only by industrial processes.

The figures are rather surprising, but then again, the region is home to an estimated 1.4 million fireplaces and woodstoves. One would expect these to have a substantial collective impact, especially when temperatures drop. As the Bay Area Air Quality Management District (Air District) reports, residential wood burning represents the region's largest primary source of fine particulate matter in winter, accounting for roughly one third of it on any given cold day.

In order to help alleviate this seasonal hazard, the Air District passed a wood burning regulation in July of 2008, and then rolled out a corresponding outreach program later that year. As part of the regulation, Bay Area residents were prohibited from burning wood on those days between November 1 and February 28 when the Air District issued Winter Spare the Air Alerts. Based on forecasts of the agency's Air Quality Index pollution measurement scale, these alerts were broadcast via a multitude of communication channels, primarily television, radio, Internet, and newspapers. Individuals could also sign up to

receive alerts directly via phone or e-mail, while a hotline was set up for people who preferred to call in and check for themselves.

All told, the Air District ended up issuing just 11 alerts, lower than average for a season that could easily yield 15 to 20, depending on weather. If the region experiences heavier rainfall than usual in the coming months, for example, then the number could again be low.

Whatever lies in store for the second winter of wood burning regulation, the Air District looks to be prepared. Starting in November, alerts will be announced the day before they go into effect, so that news outlets have greater lead time to spread the word (last winter, alerts were publicized day of). And now, awareness about the program has already taken hold, with 12,000 residents currently on the phone alert list and 100,000 more on the e-mail one. Education about this issue should continue to increase, leading more Bay Area residents to change the way they view their fireplaces, and thereby improve the air they breathe.

Wood Burning Regulation

In addition to prohibiting Bay Area residents from burning wood fires during Winter Spare the Air Alerts, the Air District's regulation also: requires cleaner burning EPA-certified stoves and inserts in new construction and remodels; limits excessively thick (more than 20 percent opacity) smoke from residential and commercial sources; prohibits the burning of garbage, plastic, and other harmful materials; requires that firewood sold in the Bay Area be labeled with disclosures about its moisture content; and requires manufactured logs or pellet fuel be labeled with announcements about the regulation.

Residents found in violation of the regulation will receive a warning letter, and with a second violation may face a \$400 fine. There are exemptions for buildings or homes whose sole source of heat is wood, as well as for outdoor grills, pizza ovens, and barbecues.

Individuals can sign up to receive Winter Spare the Air Alerts via e-mail by visiting <http://baaqmdsparetheair.enviroflash.info> or via phone by calling (800) 430-1515. The Air District also encourages people to call (877) 4-NO-BURN before using their fireplaces to check if an alert is on; this hotline may also be used to report violations.

This article is reprinted with permission from the Bay Area Monitor, October/November 2009. To read the entire publication go to www.bayareamonitor.org.

LWVUS TASK FORCE ON ARMS CONTROL

The purpose of the LWVUS Task Force on Arms Control is to review the arms control position adopted in 1983 for relevance and effectiveness in today's world. Some may remember that several Bay Area Leagues were active in the 80s in study and adoption of the position.

With the change of Administrations in Washington, and with several treaties in limbo so to speak, this is a time for the League to become active again on this issue. The League was lobbying for ratification of the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT) from 1997-1999 when the Senate voted down ratification. The Obama Administration plans to bring it to the Senate again. The Bush Administration withdrew from the Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty (ABM) Treaty.

The Task Force on Arms Control is made up of 3 national board members and 6 others from around the country. Two of the six members are from the Bay Area--Dr. Ralph Kuiper and myself, Lois Requist.

I'd like to see this issue brought to the attention of Bay Area League members. LWVUS convention is next June. I'm hoping by then many Leagues have asked that arms control issues become a priority.

One program is already planned. Sponsored by the Peninsula Chapter World Affairs Council of Northern California, the LWV Los Altos/Mountain View, and the Los Altos Public Library. Wednesday, December 16th. "Arms Control: The Need for Urgency to Lead in Global Security as Nuclear Treaties Expire." (Info: www.itsyourworld.org)

Early in 2010 would be an ideal time to have programs on this subject, when local Leagues are doing program planning. Please let me know if you'd like to discuss this further.

Lois Requist
lois@requist.com

LEAGUE GEEKS NOW AVAILABLE TO AID MEMBERS

The League Geeks are League members who have volunteered to help other members with technical computer problems. Such problems might be: (1) registering or logging into www.lwv.org, (2) locating information on www.lwv.org, or (3) subscribing, unsubscribing or receiving LWVUS discussion list email. You may now contact the League Geeks by sending an email to Geeks@lwv.org. You may also use the "Contact Us" link in the top line of every page of www.lwv.org. A volunteer will email or call you back within a day or so. Please contact LWVUS Board Member Norman Turrill at lwvturrill@mac.com with additional questions.

TAKE ACTION: HEALTH CARE REFORM UPDATE

Carol Kuiper, Social Policy Director,
LWV Los Altos-Mountain View

Good work last month contacting Congressional representatives urging their support for comprehensive health care reform **including universal coverage and cost containment through a public option**. Senator Dianne Feinstein has now joined Senator Barbara Boxer in support of these measures.

As the Senate Finance Committee prepared to vote on their proposal—which does NOT include a public option—on October 8, 30 U.S. Senators, including California Senators Boxer and Feinstein, have signed on to a letter sent to Majority Leader Harry Reid, **urging the inclusion of a public option in any health reform legislation considered on the Senate floor**. An additional 14 senators at least have expressed support for the public option through a resolution, letter or by voting for a strong public option during committee markups. Drafted by Senator Sherrod Brown (D-OH), the letter expresses the Senators' concern that "...*absent a competitive and continuous public insurance option—health reform legislation will not produce nationwide access and ongoing cost containment.*" (For full text, google U.S. Senator Sherrod Brown, 10/08/09 Press Release)

YOUR HELP IS NEEDED now. Call, email or write Senators Boxer and Feinstein TODAY **thanking them for their leadership in keeping the public option alive as Senate committees continue their work**. Keep yourself informed as this critical issue continues to progress through the legislative process and make your voice heard.

The Honorable Barbara Boxer
United States Senate
112 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510-0505
202-224-3553 <http://boxer.senate.gov/contact>

The Honorable Dianne Feinstein
United States Senate
331 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510-0504
202-224-3841 <http://feinstein.senate.gov/email.html>

LEAGUE NEWS

National – LWVUS has issued its First Call to Convention which will be held June 11-15, 2010 at the Atlanta Marriott Marquis in Atlanta Georgia.

State – The California League will hold its Leadership Council May 15-16, 2010 in Sacramento.

League Websites

National	www.lwv.org
State	www.ca.lwv.org
Bay Area	www.lwvba-ca.org
County	www.scc.ca.lwvnet.org
Local	www.cs.ca.lwvnet.org

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

This is the second installment of our volunteer opportunities column. See if there is a job that fits your talents and interest and volunteer by contacting the editor at: lwvcseditor@comcast.net.

Bay Area Representative - We are still looking for someone to represent our League at Bay Area League meetings. Regional meetings are held every other month in Palo Alto and Bay Area-wide meetings are held twice a year usually in Oakland. If you are interested in regional issues such as water, air, or transportation, consider volunteering for this job.

Coordinator - 90th Anniversary Event - We will celebrate the League's 90th Anniversary February 13, 2010. A facility has been reserved, we have members who are willing to work, all we need is someone to coordinate the event.

Historian - Do you collect memorabilia? Are you a scrapbooker? Our League could use your help to organize and preserve our history.

Join the League of Women Voters

Membership in the League of Women Voters is open to all men and women of voting age who are U.S. citizens. Others are welcome to join the League as associate members.

Send your check payable to LWVCS to LWV Cupertino-Sunnyvale, P.O. Box 2923, Sunnyvale, CA 94087.

___ \$60 Individual member

Name(s): _____

___ \$90 Two members in a household

Address: _____

___ \$30 Student

City: _____ State: ___ ZIP: _____

___ Contribution \$ _____

Phone(s): _____

Email(s): _____

Membership checks are made out to LWVCS and are not tax deductible.

To make a tax-deductible donation, write a separate check to LWVCS Education Fund.

CALENDAR

November

- Mon 9 7:30 pm **Board Meeting**
Board Room at Pacific Business Center
19925 Stevens Creek Blvd. Cupertino
- Tue 17 7 – 9 pm **Ending the Death Penalty**
Congregation Beth Am, Beit Keillah Room
26790 Arastradero Toad, Los Altos

December

- Sat 6 11:30 - 1:30 **Holiday Lunch**
Thai Basil Restaurant
101 S. Murphy Street, Sunnyval
- Wed 16 **Arms Control: The Need for Urgency To League in Global Security and Nuclear Treaties Expire**
Los Altos Public Library, Los Altos

WHO REPRESENTS YOU

UNITED STATES

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- Senator Dianne Feinstein** 415-393-0707
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- Rep. Anna Eshoo** 650-323-2984
annagram@mail.house.gov
- Rep. Mike Honda** 408-558-8075

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THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS, a nonpartisan political organization, encourages the informed and active participation of citizens in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy.

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FIRST CLASS