



THE VOTER

THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF CUPERTINO-SUNNYVALE

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YES FAIR ELECTIONS: PROPOSITION 15

The League of Women Voters of California is a cosponsor of the California Fair Elections Act, a proposition on the June 2010 ballot. This act will create a pilot project to make voluntary public financing available to Secretary of State candidates in 2014 and 2018. League members are encouraged to be part of the campaign to help pass this measure.

The recent Supreme Court decision that would allow unlimited corporate spending on federal campaigns makes public financing even more necessary as the long-term solution to the influence of big money in campaigns.

We need to act now to ensure that the big money interests don't take over our political system. This is a grassroots campaign, and it's important for every League to be involved.

There will be a south bay campaign kick-off from 4:00-6:00 PM on Saturday, March 27th at the Unitarian Universalist Church at 160 No. 3rd, San Jose.

CITY COUNCIL ACTIONS ON CAMPAIGN FINANCE AND AFFORDABLE HOUSING

The League of Women Voters of Cupertino Sunnyvale testified to the Sunnyvale City Council on public financing of campaigns of City Council members and to the Cupertino City Council on a proposal for affordable housing for seniors.

At a study session the Sunnyvale City Council agreed to continue studying public finance of city council candidate campaigns.

On a vote of 3 to 2 the Cupertino City Council turned down the proposal for building affordable housing for seniors on Mary Avenue.

SAVE THE DATE LUNCH AND LEARN

On Saturday April 17 our League's experts will present the Pros and Cons of the ballot measures that will appear on the June ballot. Plan to attend and hear this informative discussion.

LWW Cupertino-Sunnyvale Board of Directors

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VOTER labels	Dorothy Givens

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

February 14th was the LWV's 90th anniversary. As I mentioned, we will be hosting a celebration in September. We need a committee to really make this successful so please contact me at president@cs.ca.lwvnet.org and let me know you'd like to help. In the meantime, I encourage each of you to share your passion for League by asking someone to join. Take a moment to reflect, enjoy the pride that comes with being a League member and share that pride by asking someone to join. After all, the League of Women Voters is the organization where hands-on work to safeguard democracy leads to civic improvement.

We will be working on the ballot measures as well as hosting a candidate's forum over the next few months. Please contact Susan Hough or Marilyn Howard if you'd like to help out and be sure to attend so you are an informed voter.

At the national level, LWVUS President Mary Wilson has spoken before Congress to urge them to update the campaign finance laws now that the Supreme Court opened the door to much wider spending by corporations and lobby groups. Please take 5 minutes and write to your representatives urging them to update the laws. For more information, please go to www.lwv.org.

Elaine Manley

CALLING ALL COOKS

The Washington DC League is preparing a recipe book in conjunction with the 90th birthday of the National League. The book will be edited by Goody Braun, whose byline, Goody Solomon, has appeared on food and nutrition articles in the local and national press for many years. "Old Ways Made New" and "Modernizing the Old Fashioned" are working titles for the volume, which will contain members' and friends' favorite recipes (often made with heavy doses of fat, sugar and salt) converted into modern, healthier, still delicious versions. All categories – appetizers, snacks, soups, salads, entrees, vegetables, desserts, etc. – will be included.

Here's a chance to share your culinary skills and interests with others while benefiting the LWV. Please send your recipes to Goody (her email and snail mail addresses are below). She will update them and return revisions to you for review. If you already have updated and old versions, please send both to her. Brand new 21st century recipes also would be welcome. Ask your friends for contributions, too.

Please note: these should be recipes of individuals and/or families. If a favorite comes from a cookbook, be sure to give an accurate reference. Also please indicate whether you want your name on the recipe – and include any anecdotal information you may wish, such as family history related to the recipe.

Email is preferred: goody.solomon@verizon.net. Or send by regular mail to Goody Braun, 1712 Taylor St. NW, Washington, DC 20011.

Billie Day, President, LWVDC

Board Briefs

At its February meeting your board:

- Learned that the the League will hold a forum for candidates for District Attorney and Sheriff on Wednesday May 12 in the Cupertino Community Hall.
- Heard that Bylaws changes will be reviewed by the a state League representative and presented to members for approval at Annual Meeting.
- Decided to withhold support on the petition and resolution on Alternatives to Death Penalty.
- Set Monday March 8 as the date for the next Board Meeting.

Membership News

Thank you for renewing your membership: Dolors Ayala, Delores Carson, Elsie Conly, Susan Hough, Alex Mennen, Sonja Messner, June Padilla, and David Whittum.

Thank you for including a donation with your dues: Sharon Jenks and Dianne and Regis McKenna.

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THE LEAGUE THROUGH THE DECADES

This is the first in a series of articles celebrating the League's 90th birthday. Look for more articles in the next months on the League, the women's movement and the women who fought for women's right to vote. editor

[The Founding](#)

From the spirit of the suffrage movement and the shock of the First World War came a great idea - that a nonpartisan civic organization could provide the education and experience the public needed to assure the success of democracy. The League of Women Voters was founded on that idea.

[The 1920's](#)

Since the League had inherited its structure from the National American Women Suffrage Association, in 1920 it was a federation of affiliated state Leagues, most of which had been in existence as state headquarters of the NAWSA.

[The 1930's](#)

The depression of the 1930s and the onset of World War II brought far-reaching change to the League.

[The 1940's](#)

The 1944 convention made major changes in the basic structure of the League, proclaiming it an association of members, rather than a federation of state leagues, and abolishing the department system of managing the various facets of the League program.

[The 1950's](#)

The witch hunt period of the early fifties inspired the League to undertake a two-year community education program focusing on the individual liberties guaranteed by the Constitution.

[The 1960's](#)

In response to the growing civil rights crisis of the 1960s the League directed its energies to equality of opportunity and built a solid foundation of support for equal access to education, employment and housing.

[The 1970's](#)

The 1974 convention also amended the bylaws to allow men to join the League as full voting members.

[The 1980's](#)

The League was in the forefront of the struggle to pass the Voting Rights Act Amendments of 1982 and contributed significantly to enactment of the historic Tax Reform Act of 1986.

[The 1990's](#)

The League launched "Take Back the System", a voter campaign to reclaim government and elections and sponsored a Presidential Primary Debate in 1992.

[The 21st Century](#)

The League was instrumental in the enactment of the Help America Vote Act of 2002 and the Bipartisan Campaign Finance Reform Act of 2002. The League worked to renew the Voting Rights Act, and filed a number of amicus briefs relating to campaign finance reform issues, racial bias in jury selection and Title IX.

[Education Fund and the Overseas Education Fund](#)

In the late 1940s and 1950s, the League established two 501(c)(3) educational organizations that, like the LWVUS, are nonprofit, tax-exempt organizations, but, unlike the LWVUS, also can accept contributions that are deductible for income tax purposes.

[Conclusion](#)

While the League's programs, priorities and procedures have changed over the years to meet changing times, a League pamphlet written in 1919 describes with remarkable accuracy its basic aims today: The organization has three purposes to foster education in citizenship, to promote forums and public discussion of civic reforms and to support needed legislation.

ONLINE *PROS & CONS* AND IMPROVED TOOLS FOR BALLOT MEASURE SPEAKERS BY LINDA R DAVIS

At its January meeting, the LWVCEF board approved a comprehensive package of recommendations developed last fall by the Voting Information Working Group (VIWG), an ad hoc group of 3 state board members and 6 experienced local League voter service workers. The approved package includes both an online version of the *Pros & Cons* on state propositions and improved tools to help

League speakers who offer presentations on state ballot measures. The online *Pros & Cons* is the state board's response to a resolution passed by local League delegates at the 2009 state League convention, which called on the board to consider reinstating the *Pros & Cons* publication. The state League will develop the *Pros & Cons* content and make it available online. The content will be similar to past issues, except that it will be updated throughout the two months prior to an election as new information comes to light. Local Leagues will be able to download a PDF that can be used to make hardcopy *Pros & Cons* for distribution in their communities. Leagues will also be able to incorporate the state *Pros & Cons* into local voter guides. The intention is to offer Leagues customization options, such as adding their own contact information to the PDF.

The online *Pros & Cons* is being offered as a compromise between the needs of local Leagues and the state League. Local Leagues will still have a high-quality publication on state propositions that they can use to garner community support as well as deliver service to voters. The state League will no longer need to arrange for orders, printing, order fulfillment, and payment.

The state board approved the online *Pros & Cons* as a pilot project for the June 010 election, with the intention of seeking feedback from local Leagues about how well it serves their needs before deciding whether to continue it for the November 2010 election. The June issue of the LWV Leaders Updates will contain a link to a voter service survey where local Leagues will be able to share their experiences with the online *Pros & Cons* and make suggestions.

The state board also approved VIWG recommendations that will offer increased support to local League ballot measure speakers via refocused *In Depth* content and a new "Pro/Con Speakers Network" webspace. The content of the *In Depth* publication on state propositions will be shifted to supplement the analysis of the Legislative Analyst's Office with contextual information (e.g., how/why this proposition came to the ballot, legal history of similar measures, previous or anticipated legal challenges), necessary clarifications, and prioritized key points.

In addition, condensed arguments for/against and references will still be supplied. The new speakers' network will be an online place where League speakers can exchange information about propositions and presentation tools they have developed. This

network will help supply the state League with information for updates to both the *Pros & Cons* and *In Depth* content.

The VIWG acknowledged that successful implementation of its recommendations would necessitate improvements in content development (writing, editing, and reviewing) for both the *In Depth* and the *Pros & Cons*. Throughout the two elections of 2010, state board member Linda Davis will lead the efforts to improve the guidelines for researcher/writers and editors, institute changes in review steps, and enforce deadlines to insure reliable delivery, with help from fellow board member Thea Brodtkin. Both Linda & Thea will also be working to identify and involve more League people in state-level voter service work.

The intention is to deliver all of the state League's content on propositions via a new LWVCEF website that is being developed under the guidance of state board member Jennifer Waggoner. The *Pros & Cons* and *In Depth* content will also be made available to the public via SmartVoter.org. Although all the possible new features may not be implemented by the June 2010 election, Jenny's "online overhaul" will be introducing new capacity for managing our online content & offering our users more control over that content.

Thea Brodtkin is working with Stacy Shepherd (LWV Santa Barbara) to develop the "Pro/Con Speaker Network," using the same free software that the online encyclopedia Wikipedia.org is based upon. The current goal for a launch of the speaker network is early April.

A new "Voter Service" section of the state League's members-only website will be created by mid-February 2010. League voter service workers will be able to find there a calendar of delivery dates for state League products and services for the June 2010 election. There will also be more information on the work of the Voter Information Working Group (VIWG), plans for the Smart Voter and Easy Voter projects, and more.

In summary, 2010 is going to be a pilot year for League voter service in California. We will be improving some products, introducing some variations on old products, and creating some completely new services. A successful implementation of all that has been recommended by the VIWG will necessitate greater levels of cooperation among League voter service workers statewide.

Local Leagues called on the state League to bring back the beloved *Pros & Cons*, and the state League is answering that call not only by giving Leagues a 21st century version of the traditional *Pros & Cons*, but also by offering League voter service workers opportunities to leverage their efforts at helping California voters make informed choices on state propositions.

CALENDAR

March

- Mon 8 7:30 PM **Board Meeting**
Levy's
10802 Wilkinson Ave, Cupertino
- Fri 19 8:30 AM - 3 PM **EdSource Forum**
California at a Crossroads
Santa Clara Marriott, Santa Clara
- Sat 27 4 - 6 PM **Campaign Kickoff for Prop 15 CA Fair Elections**
Unitarian - Universalist Church
160 N. 3rd Street, San Jose

April

- Sat 17 11:00 AM **Lunch and Learn**
Pros and Cons Presentation
Location TBA

WHO REPRESENTS YOU

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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