



# THE VOTER

THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF CUPERTINO-SUNNYVALE

April 2010

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## LUNCH AND LEARN PROS AND CONS OF BALLOT MEASURES

**Date:** Saturday, April 17  
**Time:** 11 AM - 1 PM  
**Place:** American Diner  
 415 E El Camino Real, Sunnyvale  
**Cost:** \$12.00  
**RSVP:** lwvcseditor@comcast.net

Our League's experts will present the Pros and Cons of the state ballot measures that will appear on the June ballot. Plan to attend and hear this informative discussion.

Polly Bove, Superintendent of the Fremont Union High School District, will present the pros of the District's Parcel Tax measure which will be a mail-only ballot in May. We will have a speaker present the cons of the measure.

**SAVE THE DATES**

### LWV Cupertino-Sunnyvale Board of Directors

President	Elaine Manley
Vice President	Susan Hough
Secretary	Louise Levy
Treasurer	Roberta Hollimon
Directors	Suzanne Ford Russ Howard Marilyn Howard LaVerne Prentice Jason Spiller Laurel Stell
Off Board	
Dues Secretary	Evelyn Lundstrom
VOTER labels	Dorothy Givens

### DISTRICT ATTORNEY AND SHERIFF

**Date:** Wednesday, May 12  
**Time:** 7:00 - 9:00 PM  
**Place:** Cupertino Community Hall  
 10305 Torre Avenue, Cupertino

Sponsored by LWV Cupertino-Sunnyvale

### SUPERIOR COURT JUDGE OFFICES 7, 11, AND 19

**Date:** Saturday, May 15  
**Time:** 9:30 - 11:30 AM  
**Place:** Campbell Community Center  
 Roosevelt Room  
 Corner of Winchester and  
 Campbell, Campbell

Sponsored by LWV SW Santa Clara Valley

### ANNUAL MEETING

**Date:** Saturday, May 22  
**Time:** 11:00 AM - 1:00 PM  
**Place:** TBA

Note that the Annual Meeting will be held two weeks earlier than our usual first Saturday in June. Mark your calendars.

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

This year is full of opportunities to make a difference. The health care reform continues to be the focus of the nation. The League wants quality, affordable health care for all. The current plan is not quite what the League had in mind and many members have continued to contact their representatives to keep them on task and working towards a better plan. Hopefully you have contacted your representative as well. This will have significant effects whether it passes or fails so it's important to work towards the best solution we can.

As for local issues, we will have a Pros & Cons luncheon on April 17th at the American Diner. What a great way to spend a Saturday - learning about the ballot measures and discussing issues over lunch. I hope you'll join us.

We've set the date for our Annual Meeting and will have a special guest speaker discussing "Ways to fix California." The media reminds regularly of the mess our state is in so this will be an educational meeting with constructive ideas on what we can do about it. Also we will be voting for our new Board members. If you have an interest in being on the Board, please contact [lwvcseditor@comcast.net](mailto:lwvcseditor@comcast.net). We do have some openings we will need to fill so please let us know you are interested.

I look forward to seeing you soon.

*Elaine*

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## LETTER FROM MARY WILSON PRESIDENT LWVUS

Dear friend,

Last fall we let you know about the start-up, copycat organization "League of American Voters" and its deceitful attack on health care reform while abusing the League of Women Voters' good name.

You and so many of our members responded in full force, saying you wanted an honest, open debate about health care reform—not attack campaigns funded by unknown sources that mislead, confuse and scare Americans.

But now the "League of American Voters" is at it again—spreading lies and misinformation to intimidate 13 members of Congress into voting against health care reform—just as the debate is reaching its most critical point. The group, a 501(c)(4) that does not disclose its funders, is targeting the Representatives in a last-ditch, desperate attempt to stop reform through a widespread and costly ad buy.

As I said in a recent interview with **POLITICO**, people are rightly confused—again—as to who exactly this organization represents, where their money comes from, and if the League of Women Voters is somehow involved. Until we know who is funding these ads, there is no reason to believe the "League of American Voters" is anything other than a conduit for big-money special interest attacks on health care reform.

***Enough is enough.***

Sincerely,

*Mary Wilson*  
LWVUS President

### Board Briefs

At its March meeting your board:

- Learned that the Community Appeal will be sent out in April.
- Approved Bylaws changes to be presented to members for approval at Annual Meeting.
- Agreed to sponsor the Campaign Kickoff for Prop 15 CA Fair Elections.
- Discussed program ideas for our 90th Birthday Celebration.
- Set Monday April 12 as the date for the next Board Meeting.

### Membership News

Thank you for renewing your membership: Roberta Flood and Ann McElroy.

Thank you for including a donation with your dues: Joyce Bartlett and Peter Botsford.

Welcome new members Lois Blair and Michael Gottwald.

### The Cupertino-Sunnyvale VOTER

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Yearly subscriptions: \$10/year to non-members. Members subscribe through annual dues.

Editor: Roberta Hollimon  
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Mailing: Dorothy Givens  
LaVerne Prentice

## ELECTION NEWS



### SMART VOTER ELECTION COVERAGE

This month Smart Voter continues its coverage of contests in Los Angeles County. The upcoming April 13th election there includes contests for city officials in over a dozen cities, members of school and community college districts, and several tax and charter amendment measures. In addition, there is a special election to fill the 43rd State Assembly District seat formerly held by Paul Krekorian. Stay tuned to [SmartVoter.org](http://SmartVoter.org) for continuing information on local candidates and issues that you can't obtain anywhere else.

*Special Alert:* Last month Smart Voter highlighted its new strategic plan to create the "next generation" of Smart Voter. If you are interested in being part of the team that will make that exciting vision a reality, please contact us today at [director@smartvoter.org](mailto:director@smartvoter.org).

### THE EASY VOTER GUIDE PROJECT INTRODUCES THE *FAST FACTS* EDUCATIONAL SERIES

The [Easy Voter Guide Project](#) has launched a new series of educational materials called *FAST FACTS* to help Californians better understand their government and elections. These materials are nonpartisan and subjected to the same community review process and fact checking by the California Legislative Analyst's Office as the *Easy Voter Guide*. The *FAST FACTS* are not election specific and can be used year round for voter education and outreach efforts, classroom curriculum and individual use. The *FAST FACTS* are available in English and Spanish with more topics and languages coming soon.

Read [FAST FACTS on taxes and the budget](#) and [FAST FACTS on ballot measures](#).

Questions or suggestions on other topics to cover? Contact us at [easyvoter@lwvc.org](mailto:easyvoter@lwvc.org) today.

### ARE YOU REGISTERED?

June 8 primaries are coming. Are you registered to vote? Have you moved? Be sure your voter registration information is up to date. To check, go to: [http://www.sos.ca.gov/elections/elections\\_vr.htm](http://www.sos.ca.gov/elections/elections_vr.htm)

In addition, if you are registered as a "decline to state" you can request a ballot for either the Republican or Democratic party for the June 8 primary. The explanation below is from the California Secretary of State's website.

If you are a voter who has declined to state an affiliation with a political party, you may be able to vote for a candidate of a specific party in the upcoming June 8, 2010, Statewide Direct Primary. You may request, from your county elections official (Registrar of Voters) or at your polling place, the ballot of a political party if authorized by the party's rules and duly noticed by the Secretary of State. You may not request more than one party's ballot. To obtain information on how to request the ballot of a participating political party, contact your county elections office.

If you do not request such a ballot, you will be given a nonpartisan ballot, containing only the names of all candidates for nonpartisan offices and measures to be voted upon at the primary election. The following qualified political parties have notified the Secretary of State that they adopted a party rule permitting decline-to-state (or unaffiliated) voters to request their party ballot in the June 8, 2010, Statewide Direct Primary Election to participate in the primary election for partisan offices (except for county central committee candidates):

- \* Democratic Party, letter dated January 7, 2010
- \* Republican Party, letter dated January 25, 2010

From the website of the California Secretary of State [http://www.sos.ca.gov/elections/elections\\_decline.htm](http://www.sos.ca.gov/elections/elections_decline.htm)

## REDISTRICTING COMMISSION MOVES FORWARD

### Applicant Review Panel (ARP)

Over 30,000 Californians applied to serve on the Citizens Redistricting Commission before the initial application period closed February 16. Public response at the end was so great — 600 applications in one eight-hour period — that the State Auditor extended the deadline four days. Using webinars, workshops, and personal outreach, League members throughout the state enthusiastically recruited applicants. Now the Applicant Review Panel (ARP) begins the work of sifting through the applications to select pools of the most qualified candidates who represent the diversity of our state. Visit the [Auditor's Web site](#) to learn more and to watch webcasts of the public meetings of the ARP that began February 25.

### Prop 11 Observer Corps

We are recruiting members from the Sacramento region and Bay Area to be observers at the ARP public meetings held in Sacramento. LWVC also needs League members in other parts of the state to watch these hearings as backup, monitor press coverage, and prepare to observe the work of the commission in 2011. Training via webinar will be provided. The Observer Corps will act as an impartial watchdog to make sure the spirit and letter of Prop. 11 are followed and will provide information about the process to the League and the public. Interested? Want to sign up for this unique project that truly reflects the spirit of League? [Contact Chris Carson](#), LWVC Redistricting Program Director. Not a League member? [Join the League](#) and train to be part of the Corps.

### Prop. 11 Threatened

Yes! You read that right! Even before the Citizens Redistricting Commission is implemented, forces are moving to get rid of it. The LWVC opposes the so-called FAIR Act initiative that would undo Proposition 11 by eliminating the Citizens Redistricting Commission and giving the authority to draw state Assembly, Senate, and Board of Equalization seats back to the legislature.

Although the official proponent of the initiative is UCLA law professor Daniel Lowenstein, the real force behind the measure is Rep. Howard Berman. Donations to qualify the initiative for the ballot have been made by members of Congress from California and former Assembly Speaker Karen Bass. Tell your friends and family to refuse to sign petitions for this outrageous attempt to put redistricting back into the hands of politicians who want to continue to draw their own districts.

## EDSOURCE FORUM: CALIFORNIA AT A CROSSROADS

More than 400 people attended the 33rd Annual EdSource Forum on California education policy, held at the Santa Clara Marriott Hotel on Friday March 18, heard Davis Campbell, forum moderator, start with a quote from Machiavelli, "Never waste the opportunities offered by a good crisis." Campbell went on to say that in today's state budget crisis virtually everything is on the table. "We are in a new reality and we can shape that reality or let it shape us. We need to focus on the future and make a commitment to provide the highest quality education for our children."

The Legislative Analyst, Mac Taylor, did not have much good news regarding funding for education. He said, "Our ongoing structural problem means that we either need an ongoing increase in revenue or an ongoing decrease in spending."

Trish Williams, Middle Grades Study Project Director and EdSource Executive Director, and Michael Kirst, Principal Investigator, Middle Grades Study and Emeritus Professor of Education and Business Administration Stanford University, presented the findings of a EdSource study "Gaining Ground in the Middle Grades: Why Some Schools Do Better." This was a large-scale study of 303 middle grades schools in California. Researchers surveyed 303 principals, 3,752 English Language Arts and math teachers in grades 6-8 and 157 superintendents of the districts and charter management organizations that oversee the schools. This was one of the largest studies of its kind covering educational practices and their relationship to student outcomes.

The study found that what differentiates the higher-performing schools most from the lower-performing schools is a shared district and school wide culture that:

- places its primary focus on improvement in academic outcomes for all students, from the lowest performing to the highest;
- designs its instructional program to prepare all students for a rigorous high school education..

The report concluded with implications for districts and schools and implications for state policy.

To read more about this study, go to [www.edsource.org](http://www.edsource.org).

Two candidates for the office of State Superintendent of Public Education presented their views on the state of education today. Larry Aceves, retired school district superintendent and past president of the Association of California School Administrators (ACSA) said he supports Early Childhood Education and Career Tech. He feels that the federal Race to the Top does not serve California. He wants to have a smooth seamless transition between high school and community college.

Tom Torlakson, California Assembly Member, Chair of the Assembly's Select Committee on Schools and Community, member of the Education and Appropriations Committees, and former Senator said he voted against the Race to the Top legislation because it was too top-down and not collaborative. He feels we need to look at an education that provides multiple pathways for students as they leave high school.

Comments on the Community College system by Jack Scott, Chancellor, California Community Colleges and Hal Plotkin, Senior policy advisor to Under Secretary of Education Martha Kanter, will be presented in the next VOTER.

*Roberta Hollimon*

## LEAGUE NEWS

**National** – League President Mary G. Wilson sent a letter to the House urging them to update campaign finance laws, with particular attention to requirements governing corporate and union spending.

**State** – The League is co chair of the campaign to pass Proposition 15, the California Fair Elections Act, on the June 2010 ballot. The measure will create a pilot project to make voluntary public financing available to Secretary of State candidates in 2014 and 2018. Prop 15 will get politicians out of the fundraising game so they will focus on California's priorities. Elections should be won, not bought by special interests.

### Message About Email VOTERS

All of our VOTERS are archived on our local League website. If you need to refer to an old VOTER for the date of an event or to read an article, go to [www.cs.ca.lwvnet.org](http://www.cs.ca.lwvnet.org) and click on "THE VOTER NEWSLETTER" in the left hand column.

## DID YOU KNOW?

*Another in our series of articles celebrating the League's 90th birthday*

During the post World War II period, the League helped lead the effort to establish the United Nations and to ensure U.S. participation. The League was one of the first organizations in the country officially recognized by the United Nations as a non-governmental organization (NGO); it still maintains official observer status today and has special consultative status to the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC). The League also supported the creation of the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund, as well as NATO, economic aid to less developed countries and the Marshall Plan.

Today the League continues its international work, most recently as official non-governmental organization delegates to the UN's Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP15) in December, and through its Global Democracy program, which has sponsored cultural exchange programs and leaders from Azerbaijan, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Colombia and Brazil.

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## RUTH S. SHUR FELLOWS TRAINED IN WASHINGTON, DC

On February 25-28, the 12 national coaches, known as the Ruth S. Shur Fellows, were in Washington, DC for 3 days of training. Working with LWVUS Board members Judy Davis, Marcia Merrins and Carol Reimers and LWVUS staff, the Fellows discussed leadership development tactics, coaching techniques and outreach strategies. The Fellows will help LWVUS to expand the number of state and local Leagues that can participate in our successful model for organizational and leadership growth. Later this spring, the Fellows will participate in regional and state training sessions for Leagues organized by LWVUS. We extend our thanks to the Ruth S. Shur Fellows: Julie Arneth (WI), Georgia DeGregorio (NY), Caroline Emmons-Schramm (FL), Lynn Gordon (VA), Nikki Harris (CA), Diana Haskell (MD), Florence Hedeem (MN), Marcia Hirshberg (MA), Shayna Howell (SC), Donna Marie Lossing Jones (OH), Gini McGirr (AZ) and Carolie Mullan (TX). LWVUS Board member Carol Reimers will coordinate the Fellows.

## 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

### March

Sat 27 4 - 6 PM **Campaign Kickoff for Prop 15 CA Fair Elections**  
Unitarian - Universalist Church  
160 N 3rd Street, San Jose

### April

Mon 12 7:30 PM **Board Meeting**  
Spiller's  
10372 Plum Tree Lane, Cupertino

Sat 17 11:00 AM **Lunch and Learn**  
**Pros and Cons Presentation**  
American Diner  
415 E El Camino Real, Sunnyvale

### May

Wed 12 7:00 PM **Candidate Forum - District Attorney and Sheriff**

Sat 15 9:30-11:30 AM **Candidate Forum - Judges**

Sat-Sun 15-16 **LWVC Leadership Council**  
Sacramento

Sat 22 **Annual Meeting**

## WHO REPRESENTS YOU

### UNITED STATES

**President Barack Obama** 202-456-1414  
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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.

The League of Women Voters  
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**FIRST CLASS**