



# VOTER

THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF CUPERTINO-SUNNYVALE

October 2010

Volume 38 Number 3

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LWV Cupertino/Sunnyvale  
Invites you to the

## LWV 90th Anniversary Celebration

For members as well as guests

**Featured Speaker: Barbara Murray**  
(see her bio on page 2)  
will speak on

**Fashion and the Women's Movement**

*Special Guest speakers from  
Sunnyvale City Council  
Cupertino City Council*

**Join us at Sunnyvale Heritage Park Museum  
570 E Remington Dr, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor**

**Saturday, October 9, 2010**

2 – 4 PM

Delicious refreshments

to RSVP

Call 408-230-9928 or [lwvcseditor@comcast.net](mailto:lwvcseditor@comcast.net)

### LWV Cupertino-Sunnyvale Board of Directors

President	Susan Hough
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Dues Secretary	Evelyn Lundstrom
VOTER Mailing	LaVerne Prentice

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The president is busy doing voter service work making 23 presentations of the Pros and Cons of ballot measures on the November ballot. Her message will return next month.

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### IT'S A NEW LOOK FOR SMART VOTER THIS NOVEMBER

Smart Voter, the California League's premier online voter information service, is sporting a new and streamlined look for the November 2<sup>nd</sup> election. Work has been underway since the spring on "beta" testing to simplify the website's traditional home page and make it even easier for new visitors to use its unique and powerful resources to become informed about candidates and ballot measures.

These changes are just the first wave to be released in a series of exciting enhancements to Smart Voter's design and features that are in development! This redesign of the new home page focuses on the features most heavily used by the millions of people that visit the service each year -- the customized lookup by address that tells you exactly what will be on your own upcoming ballot, and the ability to browse all of the other elections occurring in your area. Most other kinds of information have been tucked away into a compact menu to provide a cleaner look that is also easier to navigate. For those visitors interested in greater detail on specific subjects, those menu choices will lead to additional "landing" pages.

All League members are invited to check out the new look. The new home page can be found at our regular location <http://smartvoter.org> where you will also find updated information on all of the local as well as federal and state elections for November in participating counties. And please remember to tell voters at League events that they should go to Smart Voter to get the most comprehensive and accurate online election information available in California!

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### BARBARA MURRAY

Barbara Murray, our speaker at the October 9th celebration, is the Chair and Costume Designer for the Department of Theatre & Dance at Santa Clara University. She earned her B.A. in Theatre Arts from Santa Clara University, and received her M.F.A. in Theatre Design and Production from Southern Methodist University. With over thirty five years experience in Costume Design, Barbara has designed costumes for Milwaukee Repertory Theatre, Children's Theatre Workshop, Cabrillo Stage, Summer Repertory Theatre, Lyric Theatre and Opera San Jose. She has worked as a cutter/drafter and crafts artisan for Milwaukee Repertory, the Pacific Conservatory for the Performing Arts, and Lyric Theatre, and worked as assistant Dyer/Painter in the San Francisco Opera costume shop.

Barbara has a particular interest in the social history of fashion, teaching a class for Women and Gender Studies entitled, *Fashion, Politics and Issues of Gender* and she is working on a book about women's clothing during the Gold Rush period in California.

### Board Briefs

At its September meeting your board:

- Agreed to support Measure E Foothill-DeAnza Community College Parcel Tax.
- Agreed to support. Measure A County Children's Health Parcel Tax.
- Took no position on Measure B Increase in Vehicle License Fee and Measure C Santa Clara Valley Water District Term Limits.
- Heard reports from Marilyn Howard on plans for candidate forums, Jason Spiller on progress with getting candidates on Smart Voter, and Susan Hough scheduling 23 Pros and Cons presentations.

### Membership News

Thank you for renewing your membership: Suzanne Ford and Frances Grabau.

### In Memorium

We sadly report the passing of Don Burnett. Don was active in bicycle and pedestrian causes in Cupertino. Don served as Mayor and as a member of the city council. Our condolences go to his wife Nancy and his children and grandchildren.

### The Cupertino-Sunnyvale VOTER

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Members subscribe through annual dues.

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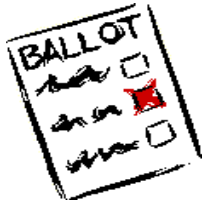
**The League of Women Voters  
Presents  
Candidate Forums**

**FREMONT UNION HIGH SCHOOL  
DISTRICT BOARD AND  
SANTA CLARA COUNTY  
BOARD OF EDUCATION  
SEATS 2, 6, AND 7**

**SANTA CLARA VALLEY  
WATER DISTRICT BOARD  
DISTRICT 7 AND  
22<sup>nd</sup> ASSEMBLY DISTRICT**

**Date:** Wednesday, October 6  
**Time:** 7:00 - 9:00 PM  
**Place:** Fremont Union HS District Office  
589 W Fremont Avenue, Sunnyvale

**Date:** Saturday, October 16  
**Time:** 3:00 PM  
**Place:** Los Altos Library  
13 South San Antonio Road, Los Altos



**Pros & Cons on Ballot Measures**

*League speakers will explain ballot measures and answer questions*

**Monday September 27, 7:00-8:30 PM**  
Cupertino Community Hall  
10350 Torre Ave, Cupertino

**Thursday October 7, 1:00-2:00 PM**  
Union Church of Cupertino  
20900 Stevens Creek Blvd, Cupertino

**Wednesday September 29, 7:30-9:00 PM**  
Sunnyvale Presbyterian Church  
728 W Fremont Ave, Sunnyvale

**Monday October 11, 7:00-8:30 PM**  
Unitarian Universalist Church/  
Congregational Community Church  
1112 S Bernardo (at Remington), Sunnyvale

**Tuesday October 5, 7:00-8:30 PM**  
Sunnyvale Library  
665 W Olive Ave (at Pastoria), Sunnyvale

**Tuesday October 12, 3:00-4:30 PM**  
St. Thomas Episcopal Church  
231 Sunset Ave, Sunnyvale

**The Better Part: Televised Pros & Cons on Statewide Propositions**

Members of the LWV of Cupertino-Sunnyvale explain the State Propositions on the November ballot.

Airing on community access cable channels in Santa Clara County from October 4-9.

**Cupertino TV-15 October 4, 4:30 PM, October 5, 7:00 PM, October 8, 7:00 PM**

Visit [www.smartvoter.org](http://www.smartvoter.org) for comprehensive election information.

Free copies of the *Easy Voter Guide* are available at public libraries.

*All events are open to the public, free of charge, and conducted by the League of Women Voters.*

# THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS RECOMMENDS

November 2, 2010 STATEWIDE GENERAL ELECTION

## **PROP 20 Redistricting of Congressional Districts**

**OPPOSE**

The League **opposes** Proposition 20, which we believe is well-intentioned but premature. California is in the midst of a major reform of our redistricting process, with a new independent Citizens Redistricting Commission drawing the lines for state Senate and Assembly districts. Proposition 20 would significantly increase the commission's workload by adding Congressional redistricting and shortening the time it would have to do its work. We believe the commission should draw Congressional district lines in the future, but the new process should be fully implemented before the commission's responsibilities are expanded so dramatically. In addition, a new definition in this measure could make it harder for the commission to respect California's diverse neighborhoods and communities as it draws district maps. Let's give redistricting reform a chance to work the way the voters intended before we take the next step and add Congressional redistricting.

## **PROP 23 Suspends Clean Energy and Air Pollution Standards**

**OPPOSE**

The LWVC vigorously **opposes** this Dirty Energy Proposition, funded by out-of-state oil companies, because it would virtually kill AB 32, the landmark Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006. Proposition 23 would suspend the implementation of AB 32 until the state unemployment rate is 5.5 percent or lower for four consecutive calendar quarters. That has happened only three times in the last four decades! This dangerous proposition would get rid of clean energy standards that will cut air pollution and protect the public health. Proponents say this measure is needed to preserve jobs, but in act it will jeopardize hundreds of thousands of clean-energy jobs. We must promote California's role as an innovator and investor in a clean-tech economy.

## **PROP 24 Tax Fairness Act**

**SUPPORT**

Proposition 24 would repeal the corporate tax cuts that were passed in closed-door budget deals of 2008-09. These tax breaks cost approximately \$1.3 billion in revenue to the state, while benefiting only two percent of California's businesses. There is no requirement that they actually result in the creation of private-sector jobs. Proposition 24 will make big multi-state corporations pay their fair share and put \$1.3 billion back into the treasury to help our schools, health care, and other essential services that have suffered severe budget cuts in recent years. The League **supports** repealing these tax cuts because this budget crisis cannot be solved by expenditure cuts alone, let alone expenditure cuts combined with tax cuts with no demonstrated value to the economy.

## **PROP 25 Simple Majority Vote for Budget**

**SUPPORT**

The LWVC **supports** this measure, which would change the vote required for the Legislature to pass a budget from the current two-thirds to a simple majority. Majority rule is a fundamental part of democracy. The majority should set priorities for spending and take responsibility for them. This measure will change the negotiations over the budget and reduce the stranglehold the minority now exercises over the process. Under Proposition 25, legislators will forfeit salary if they fail to meet the deadline for passing a budget. Budgets that are late and full of gimmicks harm all Californians, damage our economy, and hurt the state's credit rating.

## **PROP 26 "Polluter Protection"**

**OPPOSE**

Proposition 26 would redefine regulatory fees imposed on companies for harm done to the environment or public health as taxes. Since taxes, unlike fees, require a two-thirds vote for approval, it would be much harder for state and local governments to seek such payments from those making harmful products or creating public nuisances. The likely result is that the fiscal burden of the harm to the environment or public health will fall on the public rather than the businesses involved. The League **opposes** Proposition 26 because we believe that decisions on all revenue measures should be made by a simple majority vote.

## **PROP 27 Eliminates State Commission on Redistricting**

**STRONG OPPOSE**

This measure would kill the major redistricting reform voters just approved in 2008 and return the authority for redistricting to the backrooms of the Legislature. Proposition 27 would allow politicians to draw their own districts to protect their jobs. It would take us back to the days when bizarrely shaped districts were drawn in secret, carving up neighborhoods and communities to keep incumbents safely in office. **Vote NO** to keep the power with voters and the voter-approved independent Citizens Redistricting Commission.

(continued on page 5)

## LEAGUE NEWS

**National** – The League and coalition partners sent letters to [House Speaker Pelosi](#) and [House Minority Leader Boehner](#), urging them to make a public commitment to the American people to support the continuation of the Office of Congressional Ethics (OCE) as well as oppose any efforts to prevent the OCE from effectively carrying out its mission and basic responsibilities. The coalition also thanked Speaker Pelosi for her leadership in establishing the Office of Congressional Ethics in 2008.

**State** – Believing that school children all across the United States should have access to the same high academic standards, a commission of education experts in California voted to join 28 other states in approving "*Common Core*" standards. The League was there, extending its critical practice of being the public's watch dog at public meetings. LWVC Social Policy Director Ellen Wheeler observed the last day of deliberations by the California Standards Commission.

## BALLOT MEASURES

(continued from page 4)

### **NO RECOMMENDATION ON THE OTHER MEASURES ON THIS BALLOT**

**PROP 18 Water Bond Measure REMOVED FROM THE BALLOT**  
On August 10, the Legislature and the Governor moved Proposition 18 from the November 2010 ballot to the November 2012 ballot.

**PROP 19 Legalize and Regulate Marijuana** **NO POSITION**  
Because League positions do not cover the issues in Proposition 19, the LWVC is **taking no stand** on this measure.

**PROP 21 \$18 Vehicle License Fee for State Parks and Wildlife Programs** **NEUTRAL**  
Proposition 21 establishes a new earmarked fee. The League does not generally support earmarks but is **neutral** on this measure because there is little left that can be done to raise money for the state parks, which provide a valuable recreation and natural preservation resource for the state.

**PROP 22 State Government Prohibited from Taking Local Funds** **NEUTRAL**  
This measure would provide some stability in funding for local government. However, it would freeze in place the current dysfunctional system of funding local governments in California. The League will remain **neutral** on Proposition 22.

### **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  
\_\_\_ \$90 Two members in a household  
\_\_\_ \$30 Student  
\_\_\_ Contribution \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

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

### October

Mon	4	7:00 PM	<b>Board Meeting</b> Hollimon's 11155 La Paloma Drive, Cupertino
Wed	6	7:00-9:00 PM	<b>Candidate Forums FUHSD &amp; SCCBOE</b> Fremont Union High School District - Board Room 589 W Fremont Avenue, Sunnyvale
Sat	9	2:00-4:00 PM	<b>90th Birthday Celebration</b> Sunnyvale Heritage Park Museum, 2nd Floor 570 E Remington Drive, Sunnyvale 94087
Sat	16	3:00 PM	<b>Candidate Forums</b> <b>Santa Clara Valley Water District Board, District 7</b> <b>and 22nd Assembly District</b> Los Altos Library, 3 South San Antonio Road, Los Altos

See page 3 for dates and locations of **Pros and Cons** presentations.

## WHO REPRESENTS YOU

### UNITED STATES

<b>President Barack Obama</b> <a href="mailto:comments@whitehouse.gov">comments@whitehouse.gov</a>	202-456-1414
<b>Senator Barbara Boxer</b> <a href="mailto:senator@boxer.senate.gov">senator@boxer.senate.gov</a>	415-403-0100
<b>Senator Dianne Feinstein</b> <a href="mailto:senator@feinstein.senate.gov">senator@feinstein.senate.gov</a>	415-393-0707
<b>Rep. Anna Eshoo</b> <a href="mailto:annagram@mail.house.gov">annagram@mail.house.gov</a>	650-323-2984
<b>Rep. Mike Honda</b>	408-558-8075

### CALIFORNIA

<b>Gov. Schwarzenegger</b> <a href="mailto:governor@governor.ca.gov">governor@governor.ca.gov</a>	916-445-2841
<b>Senator Elaine Alquist</b> <a href="mailto:senator.alquist@senate.ca.gov">senator.alquist@senate.ca.gov</a>	
<b>Senator Joe Simitian</b> <a href="mailto:senator.simitian@senate.ca.gov">senator.simitian@senate.ca.gov</a>	650-688-6384
<b>Assemblyman Paul Fong</b> <a href="mailto:assemblyman.fong@assembly.ca.gov">assemblyman.fong@assembly.ca.gov</a>	

### SANTA CLARA COUNTY

<b>Supervisor Dave Cortese</b> <a href="mailto:dave.cortese@bos.sccgov.org">dave.cortese@bos.sccgov.org</a>	408-299-5030
<b>Supervisor Liz Kniss</b> <a href="mailto:liz.kniss@bos.sccgov.org">liz.kniss@bos.sccgov.org</a>	650-965-8737

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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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of Cupertino-Sunnyvale  
P.O. Box 2923  
Sunnyvale, CA 94087

## FIRST CLASS