



VOTER

THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF CUPERTINO-SUNNYVALE

February 2011

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REDISTRICTING CALIFORNIA 2011

Redistricting: Who is responsible and how does it work?

The Citizens Redistricting Commission will draw the political boundaries for all California state districts in 2011.

In 2008, California voters passed the Voters First Act and transferred the responsibility for drawing political boundaries for the state senate, assembly and Board of Equalization from the state Legislature to a newly formed Citizens Redistricting Commission.

In 2010 voters passed the Voters First for Congress Act, adding congressional districts to the commissions responsibilities.



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What is Reapportionment? One person, one vote.

The United States Constitution directs Congress to count the total population in a federal census every ten years to determine representation in Congress. The 435 Congressional seats are then reallocated based on states' populations. Equal population is the primary criteria for Congressional districts.

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

As I write this, Sacramento is buzzing with Governor Brown's proposals to address California's gargantuan budget problems. If a solution is to be found, it will require sacrifices from every constituency. It will require goodwill and compromise from bitter political rivals. In these hard times, the League is more valuable than ever. We are a place where people with different visions of what a just and equitable society looks like can debate without rancor. We are a place where people can learn about public policy without bias or insult. I ask you to take seriously the possibility of being part of the solution. No doubt you feel strongly about policy decisions—you wouldn't be League if you didn't! But please make an extra effort to try to see your opponents' point of view. Please, when you argue, give the other person enough room to change their position if they choose, and try to hear their very real concerns. We can't fix the mess. No individual can, nor even any one group. But we can be a viral force for cooperation and civility. It doesn't make much of a slogan, I admit. We won't make a sound bite out of considering someone else's point of view. But it may be just the prescription we need right now.

Susan

DO YOU LIKE COOKIES?

Our League's secretary, Louise Levy, has been faithfully taking minutes of the board meetings for the past six years and would like a rest. The board is looking for someone to take her place.

What does this have to do with cookies? In addition to the other benefits of serving on the board—satisfaction of serving the organization, enjoying the camaraderie of fellow board members, and joining in spirited discussions—there are cookies at every meeting.

The responsibilities of the secretary are to take minutes of the board meetings and the Annual Meeting. The board meets 10 times a year on the second Monday of the month in the evening.

Are you looking for a way to serve the League? Would you like to get to know other board members? Are you able to listen and write? Do you like cookies?

Please volunteer to be the Secretary on the Board of the LWV Cupertino-Sunnyvale. Contact Susan Hough, at 408-737-8192 or shough@mennen.org.

EDUCATION STUDY COMMITTEE TO MEET

A Committee is being formed to participate in the LWVUS study of the "Federal Role in Education." The first meeting will be held Wednesday, February 9, 2:00 PM at Le Boulanger, 20488 Stevens Creek Blvd. Cupertino.

Members and non-members are invited to come and learn more about the scope of the study and the process we will use. For further information, contact lwcvseditor@comcast.net.

Board Briefs

At its January meeting, your board:

- Appointed Kathi Turner to be our representative to the Bay Area League.
- Learned that our League is responsible for scheduling the legislative interview with our Member of Congress, Mike Honda.

Membership News

Thank you for renewing your membership: Elsie Conly, Dorothy Givens, Sherry Howd, Estelle Incociati, MarieAnn Shovlin, Jason Spiller, Peter Warburton.

Thank you for including a donation with your renewal: Linda Davis and Serge Rudaz, Charles and Leanne Untilus, and Judith Pogue.

Welcome new member Betty Green-Heffern and thank you for your donation.

Thank you for your donations: Patricia Dentinger, Mary Forrest, and Holly Lofgren.

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HISTORY OF THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF THE BAY AREA

The League of Women Voters of the Bay Area, first organized in 1959, is one of the oldest organizations in the San Francisco Bay Area dedicated to the concept of regional solutions to areawide problems.

In the 1940s, concern about the overlapping problems between city and county services resulted in formation of League county councils. In 1953, as urban dwellers moved to the ever-expanding suburbs, the League of Women Voters of the United States (LWVUS) issued a study outline, A Guide to a Metropolitan Area Study, calling attention to the new political and social problems related to economic regions, rather than to existing governmental jurisdictions.

First steps toward an areawide or regional League in the San Francisco Bay Area came in 1956 and 1957. Enough interest was generated among local League members that a study of Bay Area problems and possible governmental solutions was adopted by 8 local leagues in 1959. In 1960 a follow up study evaluating proposals relating to metropolitan government in the Bay Area was adopted by 10 Leagues. In addition to the steering committee which had formed to guide the studies, an executive committee was created to carry out administrative duties.

April 1961, saw the formal establishment of a permanent organization, the LEAGUES OF WOMEN VOTERS OF THE BAY AREA (LWVBA). An "Inter-League Organization," an ILO, was the official title given to such a group of Leagues organized to address areawide or regional problems.

In 1970, standards developed by the League of Women Voters of California (LWVC) were used to prepare new bylaws. The major change was that LWVBA program would be adopted at annual conventions, similar to state and national programs and each League would be expected to participate in the program. Local League representation at conventions would be on a proportional basis, and delegates would come informed, not instructed. Funding would be provided by a per member dues assessment, paid by local Leagues. At the LWVBA annual meeting in May 1970, delegates adopted the new bylaws, and the LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF THE BAY AREA, a League, not a group of Leagues, was established.

During the early development of LWVBA, the state and national League boards were permissive and interested observers, allowing the organizers of LWVBA to pioneer and make their own rules. After early attempts to gain voting status for ILOs had failed, state bylaws were amended in 1971 to permit each ILO to send one voting

delegate to state convention and council; LWVUS bylaws were similarly amended in 1972 to allow ILOs a voting delegate at national convention and council. Recognition standards for ILOs were adopted by both LWVC and LWVUS.

In 1974, LWVBA bylaws were amended to provide for a biennial convention, with a council meeting of board and local League presidents in alternate years.

Thus, the LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF THE BAY AREA emerged, not as a directive from state and national Leagues, but at the instigation of local Leagues and their members, seeking to form a level of League structure to manage studies of regional problems and to take action at the regional level of government to attain the goals of League program, adopted through traditional procedures.

LWVBA's Local Leagues

- Alameda: <http://alameda.ca.lwvnet.org/>
- Berkeley, Albany, Emeryville: <http://lwvbae.org/>
- Benicia: <http://www.lwvbenicia.org/>
- Cupertino, Sunnyvale: <http://cs.ca.lwvnet.org/>
- Diablo Valley: <http://www.lwvdv.org/>
- Eden Area: <http://www.lwvea.org/>
- Fremont, Newark, Union City:
<http://www.lwvfnc.org/>
- Livermore, Amador Valley:
<http://www.lav.ca.lwvnet.org/>
- Los Altos, Mountain View Area: <http://lwvlamv.org>
- Marin County: <http://lwvmc.marin.org>
- North & Central San Mateo County:
<http://www.ncsmc.ca.lwvnet.org/>
- Oakland: <http://www.lwvoakland.org>
- Palo Alto: <http://www.lwvpaloalto.org>
- Piedmont: <http://www.lwvpiedmont.org/>
- San Francisco: <http://www.lwvsf.org/>
- San Jose, Santa Clara:
<http://www.lwvnet.org/ca/sjsc/>
- Solano County ----
- Sonoma County: <http://sonco.ca.lwvnet.org/>
- South San Mateo County: <http://www.lwvssmc.org/>
- Southwest Santa Clara Valley: <http://www.lwv-sw-santaclara-valley.org/>
- West Contra Costa:
<http://www.lwvnet.org/lwv/ca/wccc/>

*Reprinted from the League of Women Voters of the Bay Area "Action on Issues 2010-2012."
For more information on LWV Bay Area go to www.lwvbayarea.org*

Continued from page 1

California is the most populous state and has 53 representatives in the Congress of the United States.

What is Redistricting?

States and communities must also realign political district boundaries with equal population and comply with the Voting Rights Act. Each elected official should represent approximately the same number of people maintaining the principal of ‘one person, one vote’.

This process is generally known as “redistricting.”

How does redistricting work in California?

The following rules and criteria for redistricting were set by the 2008 and 2010 Voters First redistricting initiatives:

- Establish a 14 member Citizens Redistricting Commission to draw the state political boundaries.
- Give the commission responsibility for drawing lines for the 53 congressional districts, 80 state Assembly districts, 40 state Senate districts and the Board of Equalization.
- Set specific criteria to be used for mapping new district lines that conform with strict, nonpartisan rules designed to create districts of relatively equal population that will provide fair representation for all Californians. Districts must comply with the United State Constitution and the Voting Rights Act as specified in Section 2 of Article XXI of the California Constitution.
- Require the commission to maintain an open and transparent process fully accessible to the public. The commission must hold public hearings around the state and accept public comment and conduct themselves with integrity and fairness.
- After hearing from the public and drawing the maps, the Commission must vote on the new maps to be used for the next decade.
- Establish a timeline for the work to be done every 10 years beginning with the 2010 census. The 2011 redistricting maps are due August 15, 2011.

Who is responsible for local redistricting?

Local redistricting often draws little public attention. Yet, it is no less important for citizens to be represented and have fair districts drawn at the local level as it is at the state and federal level.

The local governing body (such as the board of supervisors, city council or school board) is generally responsible for adopting the new district lines. Charter cities and counties may set up their own process, such as a separate commission or task force.

How do I know who is responsible locally?

Ask your county registrar, county counsel, city clerk, city attorney, special district managers or government legal departments for information about local redistricting.



Reprinted from the LWVC website *CAVotes*. For more information on redistricting go to www.cavotes.org/issues/redistricting-implementation

LEAGUE NEWS

National – LWVUS sent the following message to members of the US Senate.

“The League of Women Voters urges you to oppose legislation to repeal the Affordable Care Act, the comprehensive health care law passed by Congress in 2010. The League believes that the Affordable Care Act is a major step forward in guaranteeing health care for all. It has already made a difference by improving health care access and coverage for millions of Americans. Repealing it now would be a step in the wrong direction.”

State – LWVC announced that the state League Convention will be held on May 13-15, 2011 in Ventura. All League members are welcome and encouraged to attend the convention and participate in workshops and other activities.

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 and click on “THE VOTER NEWSLETTER” in the left hand column.

LETTER FROM LWV PRESIDENT

Dear League Leaders:

Happy New Year!

Yesterday, the new Congress was sworn in. Nancy Pelosi passed the gavel in the House to John Boehner, and the League and Rachel’s Network hosted an event for the 74 women elected to this Congress. The sad news is that this number is lower than in the last Congress. The good news is that every one of our guests credited the League with giving her the foundation and skills to run for office and win! The highlight of the evening was a visit from Minority Leader Pelosi. I think she will forgive me for repeating the wonderful story she told about her first visit to the White House as Minority leader and her realization that she was not sitting at that conference table in that leadership role alone. She was sitting there with Susan B. Anthony, Elizabeth Cady Stanton, Carrie Chapman Catt, Sojourner Truth, Alice Paul and Lucy Stone!

As we begin a new year with new leadership in our nation’s capital and in state capitals around the country, let us remember that we are not facing the current challenges alone. We are the continuation of a long line of leaders dedicated to effecting real change and keeping our democracy vital and relevant by opening up opportunities for all Americans. It may take a long time, but we owe it to those historic leaders to keep up the fight and to keep getting in the way, as Congressman John Lewis reminded us at Convention 2010.

In League,

Elisaveth

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

February

Mon	7	7 PM	Board Meeting Ford's 110853 Wilkinson Ave Cupertino, 95014
Wed	9	12PM	Education Study Committee Le Boulanger 20488 Stevens Creek Blvd Cupertino, 95014

WHO REPRESENTS YOU

UNITED STATES

President Barack Obama comments@whitehouse.gov	202-456-1414
Senator Barbara Boxer senator@boxer.senate.gov	415-403-0100
Senator Dianne Feinstein senator@feinstein.senate.gov	415-393-0707
Rep. Anna Eshoo annagram@mail.house.gov	650-323-2984
Rep. Mike Honda mike.honda@mail.house.gov	408-558-8075

CALIFORNIA

Gov. Schwarzenegger governor@governor.ca.gov	916-445-2841
Senator Elaine Alquist senator.alquist@senate.ca.gov	408-286-8318
Senator Joe Simitian senator.simitian@senate.ca.gov	650-688-6384
Assemblyman Paul Fong assemblyman.fong@assembly.ca.gov	408-277-2003

SANTA CLARA COUNTY

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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