



# VOTER

THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF CUPERTINO-SUNNYVALE

November 2011

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## ELECTION DAY NOVEMBER 8, 2011

Voters in Cupertino vote for two candidates for City Council and Measure C - Transient Occupancy Tax.

Voters in Sunnyvale vote for candidates to fill Seats 4, 5, 6 & 7 on the Sunnyvale City Council and Measure A - Directly Elected Mayor.

Voters living in the Sunnyvale Elementary School District vote for two candidates for the Sunnyvale Elementary School Board of Trustees.

## CUPERTINO-SUNNYVALE LEAGUE EXCELS AT VOTER SERVICE

Once again during this election season the League did what it does best by providing unbiased election information so voters can be "educated and informed."

We do this in many ways. One is by supporting Smart Voter both financially and with volunteers who help post information from candidates and information on ballot measures. Jason Spiller, Smart Voter coordinator, was able to help 16 of the 18 candidates in our jurisdiction post their information on Smart Voter. Spiller reported that candidates are realizing how good the Smart Voter service is.

We produce candidate forums so that voters have a chance to hear candidates express their views and answer questions submitted from the audience. Marilyn Howard continues to do an outstanding job arranging for the facilities for the forums, recruiting the candidates and gathering a work crew to help everything go smoothly. Thanks to the following for volunteering to help: Nancy Burnett, Betty Green-Heffern, Anita Herrmann, Roberta Hollimon, Russ Howard, Alexander Howard, Elaine Manley, and Rose-Marie Twu.

Marilyn Howard and Bruce Kendall conducted Voter Registration at the Lakewood Home Owners Association event.

## SMART VOTER IS THERE FOR YOU

Smart Voter continues to provide voters with comprehensive election coverage that is not available elsewhere. It sometimes seems that the media buries local elections "below the fold." It is the city, school, or special district elections where many of the leaders and issues that most directly affect us are decided. Smart Voter is there for us with extensive coverage of the coming election.

We tend to think of elections occurring only in June and November but Smart Voter, being a statewide program, has covered elections in nearly twenty different weeks of 2011.

Be sure to take advantage of this service by going to [www.smartvoter.org](http://www.smartvoter.org) to learn about the candidates and issues that are on your ballot.

### LWW Cupertino-Sunnyvale Board of Directors

Vice President	Susan Hough
Vice President	Russell Howard
Secretary	Katharine Turner
Treasurer	Roberta Hollimon

Directors	Suzanne Ford
	Marilyn Howard
	Bruce Kendall
	Louise Levy
	Lois Smallwood
	Jason Spiller

### Off Board

Dues Secretary	Delores Carson
VOTER Mailing	LaVerne Prentice

## VICE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

As I write this, Election Day 2011 is just over two weeks away. A tremendous amount of effort went into the three successful Candidate Forums, highlighting the people and issues critical to our local communities. As members of LWVCS, we can all be very proud of the skillful and detailed preparation, organization and execution that showed the "public" face of the League at the Forums, two of which were even televised. An educated and informed electorate cannot but help to improve the process. Educated and informed. Hmmm. So, how can you, as League members, continue to assist in this process? Well, it's not ALL about Candidate Forums, Pro-Cons, etc. It's actually all about YOU. Read. Talk. Engage. Educate yourselves on the issues, and then be ready to direct others toward resources that they in turn can utilize to become an integral part of an "educated and informed electorate". When people discover that not everything can be as simple as a campaign soundbite or glossy mailer, then you, as a member of the League, will have provided a very valuable service to your community, State, and Nation.

*Russ Howard*

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## EDUCATION STUDY CONCLUDES

The Study of the Federal Role in Education concluded with presentations by the study committee and consensus reached by League members.

The next steps are for the board to approve the consensus report and then send that to LWVUS where it will be reviewed by the national board along with consensus reports from Leagues all over the country. From these reports a position will be developed and then voted on by delegates to the national convention in June.

Thanks to committee members Betty Green-Heffern, Roberta Hollimon, Lois Smallwood, Barbara Sullivan, and Bill Wilson for their work on the study.

### Board Briefs

At its October meeting, your board:

- discussed the placement of a Smart Voter icon (link) on our (and other Santa Clara County Leagues') websites for ease of access and clarity.
- heard a report on the candidate forums.
- learned that many candidates have posted their information on Smart Voter.

### Membership News

Thank you for renewing your membership: Pat Castillo, and Jack and Elsie Hasling.

Thank you for including a donation with your renewal: Eileen and Richard Grindeland, Elaine and Scott Manley, and Carol Weiss.

### The Cupertino-Sunnyvale VOTER

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Editor: Roberta Hollimon

lwvcseditor@comcast.net

Mailing: LaVerne Prentice

## LWVUS PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Dear League Leader:

Carrie Chapman Catt called for a League of Women Voters to “make our democracy so safe for the nation that every citizen may feel secure and great men will acknowledge the worthiness of the American Republic to lead.” A major effort to register new women voters and educate them in the political process was prominent on the newly formed League of Women Voters’ agenda.

In 1924, existing state Leagues were challenged to increase voter turnout by 25 percent. In September of that year, the LWV of Alabama sent in this report: “As you know it is a very difficult matter to qualify for the vote in Alabama, the registration books are only open three months during the even years and ten days during the uneven years, and the poll tax books are open only four months every year. Hence after February 1st of any year, it is a practical impossibility to increase materially the number of qualified voters in Alabama.”

In the Deep South of the early 20th century, this scheme was doubtless intended to limit qualified voters. Today, early in this 21st century, states are taking steps that will impact the number of qualified voters in the 2012 Presidential Election. Requiring voter ID, limits on third party voter registration drives, eliminating election day registration and curtailing early voting are all measures that have been proposed or passed in a disturbing number of states this year. Coupled with dramatic budget cuts which are closing driver’s license offices, democracy is growing increasingly unsafe for the nation.

This week I was a guest on the National Public Radio call-in show, “On Point,” featuring an hour-long program on voter suppression, “A War on Voting.” A number of callers pointed out the disproportionate impact these laws will have on underserved communities. An election official in rural Tennessee noted that she would be required to turn away voters with whom she is personally acquainted, if they lacked the requisite government issued ID.

Cash-strapped agencies can make seemingly innocuous decisions that impact the right of some Americans to vote. For instance, the U.S. Postal Service is proposing to close offices all across the country, including the reservation in South Dakota where Wounded Knee is located. That post office is a lifeline to the community, including vital voter services such as voter registration and requesting and returning absentee ballots. No one can accuse the USPS of deliberately impinging on voting rights, but regardless of the intent, the result is the same.

A complacent public may feel that democracy is safe for the nation because many live comfortable lives and have a wallet full of cards, but the League was founded to remove the “remaining legal discriminations ...in the codes and constitutions of the several states” that offered stumbling blocks to the “feet of coming women” voters.

We owe the nation our best effort to make democracy safe for every eligible voter!

In League,

*Elisabeth*

# 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, 2011. This financial report has not been reviewed.

## League of Women Voters of Cupertino-Sunnyvale Assets & Liabilities on June 30, 2011

	General Fund	Education Fund	GF & EF
<u>ASSETS</u>			
General Fund	2,955.88		2,955.88
Permanent Reserves Fund	2,500.00		2,500.00
Board Discretionary Fund	1,000.00		1,000.00
Education Fund		<u>1,918.19</u>	<u>1,918.19</u>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b><u>\$6,455.88</u></b>	<b><u>\$1,918.19</u></b>	<b><u>\$8,374.07</u></b>
<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>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>
<u>NET WORTH</u>			
Net Worth on 6/30/2010	4,809.55	1,713.19	6,522.74
Revenue-Expenditures	<u>1,646.33</u>	<u>205.00</u>	<u>1,851.33</u>
<b>CURRENT NET WORTH</b>	<b>\$6,455.88</b>	<b>\$1,918.19</b>	<b>\$8,374.07</b>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES &amp; NET WORTH</b>	<b><u>\$6,455.88</u></b>	<b><u>\$1,918.74</u></b>	<b><u>\$8,374.07</u></b>

### Cash in Bank Accounts June 30, 2011

Checking Account	959.44		959.44
Savings Account	5,502.11		5,502.11
Bulk Mail Account	(5.67)		(5.67)
LWVC Education Fund Account		19,18.19	1,918.19

Questions about the Financial Report should be directed to the Treasurer, Roberta Hollimon, rhollimon2@cs.com

## LEAGUE NEWS

**National** –On Oct.13, the LWVUS began a media campaign based on the results of nationwide poll with emphasis on voters in California to measure support for the EPA. Be familiar with the press release, titled “National Poll Shows Strong Disapproval for President Obama’s Smog Rule Delay, Unfavorable Ratings for Congress’ Assault on Clean Air Act.”

**State** - The LWVC supports the SAFE California Act, an initiative in circulation to collect the necessary signatures to qualify for the ballot.

The League supports abolition of the death penalty and therefore supports this initiative, which would stop executions and replace the death penalty with permanent imprisonment (life without the possibility of parole), including the conversion of existing death sentences to that alternative. Learn more on the campaign Web site.

## MEETINGS OF INTEREST

### Leadership Council

Please pull out your ipads, your iphones, your busy calendars or whatever device you use to make sure that you do not miss important dates. Add this one right now: Leadership Council, May 19 and 20, 2012 in Sacramento.

Leadership Council is a good time to come together to meet other leaders across the state as well as to get information and updates about the work that is being done by your state board. The program will give you an opportunity to attend workshops on the work that is now being done by the League as well as on hot topics that have arisen since the 2011 state convention. Last but not least, there are always wonderful opportunities to network with other League leaders.

More details will be available in the November Update. I am looking forward to meeting many of you in May 2012.

Sharon Holdt  
sholdt@lwvc.org

### The Changing Face of Local News

Presented by the League of Women Voters of  
Southwest Santa Clara Valley.  
November 9 - 7:15 PM  
Campbell Community Center  
Orchard City Banquet Room  
One West Campbell Avenue, Campbell

### 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

Tue	8	7 AM – 8 PM	<b>Election Day</b>
Wed	9	7:15 PM	<b>The Changing Face of Local News</b> Campbell Community Center Orchard City Banquet Room One West Campbell Avenue, Campbell
Tue	14	7:00 PM	<b>Board Meeting</b> Hollimon's 11155 La Paloma Drive, Cupertino 95014

## 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> <a href="mailto:mike.honda@mail.house.gov">mike.honda@mail.house.gov</a>	408-558-8075

### CALIFORNIA

<b>Governor Jerry Brown</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>	408-286-8318
<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>	408-277-2003

### 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>	

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

**FIRST CLASS**