



# VOTER

THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF CUPERTINO-SUNNYVALE

December 2011

Volume 39 Number 6

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## HOLIDAY OPEN HOUSE

at the home of Russ and Juli Howard  
 1020 Rockrose Avenue, Sunnyvale 94086.  
 Sunday, December 18th, 2 - 4 PM.

This is a "drop-in" event, but you are invited to stay however long you'd like. Along with the finger foods, etc. we will provide hot mulled cider, soft drinks, bottled water, and wine for those who choose.

Come and relax and visit with fellow League members. Bring a guest if you'd like. See you there.

RSVP to Marilyn Howard at [MJZHactivist@Yahoo.com](mailto:MJZHactivist@Yahoo.com) , or at 408-255-0977.

## LWW Cupertino-Sunnyvale Board of Directors

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

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

### Off Board

|                |                  |
|----------------|------------------|
| Dues Secretary | Delores Carson   |
| VOTER Mailing  | LaVerne Prentice |

## SAVE THE DATE!

## BAY AREA LEAGUE DAY

### Housing and the Bay Area's Future

Saturday, February 4, 2012, 9 - 2  
 MetroCenter, 101 Eighth Street, Oakland, 94607  
 one block from Lake Merritt BART

Presented by League of Women Voters Bay Area

The keynote speaker will be David Rosen, a leading expert in the field of affordable housing finance, policy, land use, lending and investment strategic planning.

There will be panels of experts on meeting regional housing needs in light of the sustainable communities strategy, difficulties of financing affordable housing, and how to serve the hardest to house.

## VICE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

We've made it through another election. I hope you voted! In Sunnyvale, some seats were decided by fewer than 500 votes. I know too many people who only vote in presidential elections, when it seems important to them. And yet, it's in our local elections that we affect the conditions right here around us. And it's here that our votes have greater impact.

Now we move on to holiday season. The League, for all its hard work, isn't just about duty. We like to party as much as anyone! Make sure you check out the announcement of the holiday party on the front page and plan to come. I don't know which winter holidays you celebrate, but I guarantee the LWV-CS holiday party will have some of the most interesting guests you'll meet all season. Pilots, police officers, professors and programmers, but all people interested in how society works and how to make it better. I hope to see you there!

Susan

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## SANTA CLARA VALLEY WATER DISTRICT CONSIDERS FLUORIDATION POLICY

Susan Graham

At its November 15, 2011 meeting after one and a half hours of input from the public, the Santa Clara Valley Water District Board voted to adopt the following policy: Provide fluoridated drinking water at the District's three water treatment plants and the Campbell well field.

According to Chair Gage, this will allow those who are in favor of fluoridating the water to proceed to find funding. The board pointed out that the District has huge problems in the future: dam seismic retrofit, the Delta uncertainty and population growth. These major issues will consume the District's resources and funds. There are no extra funds to pay for fluoridating so outside funding must be found, not only for the capital cost to install the fluoridation equipment but also for the ongoing operations and maintenance. The CEO was asked to find options for outside funding.

The Board voted to create an Ad Hoc Committee to work with the staff to find outside funding. In order to not slow down staff's work, staff will begin exploring funding options and when the committee is formed information will be available. Director Schmidt voted against the committee as he thinks it is premature.

*Susan Graham is a member of LWV Los Altos/Mountain View and serves as an observer of the Santa Clara Valley Water District for the LWVs of Santa Clara Valley.*

### Board Briefs

At its November meeting, your board:

- Learned that the tax returns had been filed for the 2010-2011 fiscal year.
- Approved the results of the consensus meetings on the Federal Role in Education and they will be forwarded to LWVUS.
- Discussed plans for the holiday event.

### Membership News

Thank you for renewing your membership: Joan Coston, Roselyn Friccero, and Jane Kroll.

Thank you for including a donation with your renewal: Donna and Scot Austin, Linda Davis and Serge Rudaz.

Thank you for your donation to the Community Appeal: Holly Lofgren and your donation to the Ed Fund: Peter Bostford.

### The Cupertino-Sunnyvale VOTER

Published 10 times a year by the League of Women Voters of Cupertino-Sunnyvale.

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

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## LEAGUE NEWS

**National** – The League of Women Voters joined with 277 organizations in a letter to members of the House and Senate opposing passage of a so-called Balanced Budget Amendment to the Constitution. The League has long opposed the balanced budget amendment as a danger to the economy and the balance of powers between the three branches of government.

**State** - LWVC announced that the new name for the regional workshops is Regional Meetings. The program will focus on key issues facing the state and the regional area. Thanks to the San Jose/Santa Clara League for offering to host the northern California meeting which is scheduled for February 25, 2012, at the Martin Luther King Library in San Jose. The program will include speakers on the State Budget and Preparing for the 2012 State Election, and a regional speaker on a topic that will be determined by the local League. Expect table topics during lunch and also networking time. The goal is to foster strong relationships among local Leagues through open dialogue and shared vision.

## DOES PRIVATIZATION MATTER?

Could our water be privatized? Or juvenile detention facilities? The parks or libraries?

We often hear that the private sector can do a better and less costly job than the government can. UPS seems to handle packages better than USPS. But in 2009 you may have seen a headline, “*Pennsylvania rocked by 'jailing kids for cash' scandal,*” where children, for minor incidents, were sent to jails that had been privatized, and the judges sentencing them received kickbacks. This was a wake-up call that privatizing some functions of government can be dangerous.

Privatization is the next League of Women Voters’ study topic. This issue is both timely and vitally important as governments, from local ones like our cities and states to the Federal government, are scrambling to fill deficits and save money. Privatization more and more often is seen as a solution. Let’s find out whether and when it *is* a good solution.

Consensus will be due by May 1, and study meetings will probably start early in 2012. The other Leagues in our county are all going to engage in this. Let’s form a group to learn about this important topic. It will affect our lives, so let’s study it, come to consensus, and have some input through our League of Women Voters.

To join this group, contact Roberta Hollimon at 408-253-6078 or [lwvcseeditor@comcast.com](mailto:lwvcseeditor@comcast.com).

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### 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

### December

Sun 18 2 - 4 PM **Holiday Open House**  
Russ and Juli Howard's  
1020 Rockrose Avenue, Sunnyvale 94086

### January

Mon 9 7:00 PM **Board Meeting**  
Burnett's  
729 Stendahl Lane, Cupertino 95014

**Program Planning**  
Time and Date to be Determined

### February

Sat 4 9 AM - 2PM **Bay Area League Day**  
**Housing and the Bay Area's Future**  
MetroCenter, 101 Eighth Street, Oakland 94607

## 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.

The League of Women Voters  
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P.O. Box 2923  
Sunnyvale, CA 94087

**FIRST CLASS**