



VOTER

THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF CUPERTINO-SUNNYVALE

February 2012

Volume 39 Number 8

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League of Women Voters Invites You to Attend an LWV California Regional Workshop

**Saturday, February 25, 2012
9:00am to 3:00pm
Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Library
150 E. San Fernando Ave. San Jose CA 95112**

- **The California State Budget – It’s Broken**
What the League and the Public Can Do to Fix the Problem
- **The Rules Have Changed: The 2012 Elections** --Preparing for the State 2012 Elections and Anticipating a Flood of Ballot Measures -
- **Privatization – Growing Trend in Government: Let’s Take a Closer Look from Two Perspectives**

Please register and pay by credit card at the LWVC website www.lwvc.org by Feb.18 or write check payable to LWVC and mail form to: LWV San Jose-Santa Clara, P.O. Box 5374, San Jose, CA 95150

Questions? Call Shelly Saini (408) 460-0320 or email shellyksaini@gmail.com

-----cut here and return reservation form -----

- I will attend & buy lunch **\$25** (\$30 after 2/18)
 I will attend & bring lunch **\$15**

Name _____

League _____

Phone and/or Email _____

Enclosed is my check to LWVC for \$ _____; Reservations held at door.

Event hosted by LWV San Jose-Santa Clara and with support from the Santa Clara County Council Leagues

To carpool contact Roberta Hollimon 408-253-6078 or lwvcseeditor@comcast.net

LWV Cupertino-Sunnyvale Board of Directors

President	Russell Howard
Vice President	Susan Hough
Secretary	Katharine Turner
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Directors	Suzanne Ford
	Marilyn Howard
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	Louise Levy
	Lois Smallwood
	Jason Spiller

Off Board

Dues Secretary	Delores Carson
VOTER Mailing	LaVerne Prentice

HELP ABOLISH THE DEATH PENALTY - SUPPORT THE SAFE CALIFORNIA ACT INITIATIVE

The League of Women Voters supports abolition of the death penalty and believes it's time to halt executions in California. The LWVC supports the SAFE California Act, an initiative being circulated for signatures to qualify for the ballot.

This initiative will replace the death penalty with permanent imprisonment (life without the possibility of parole), including the conversion of existing death sentences to that alternative. Some of the savings created by no longer seeking and imposing death sentences would be used to bolster the capacity of law enforcement to solve the serious crimes of rape and homicide. Convicted murderers would be required to work behind bars and pay restitution.

Get involved; visit the California Taxpayers for Justice campaign site-
safecalifornia.org

VOTER REGISTRATION

Andrea Harris worked at a Voter Registration table at the Jewbilee event, a day of study and enrichment, at the Jewish Community Center in Los Gatos. She reported that 15 new voters registered; some had never voted; some had moved; some were turning 18. Also a number of permanent absentee requests were given out. Harris reported, "it was worthwhile, and gratifying."

UPCOMING NEEDS

Our League needs members to serve on the Nominating Committee and the Budget Committee. Volunteer to serve. Feel you've done one thing to support the League. To volunteer, contact Roberta Hollimon at lwvcseeditor@comcast.net or 408-253-6078.

Watch this space for other ways you can help the League.

Board Briefs

At its January meeting, your board:

- Learned that May 21 is the last day to register to vote in the June election.
- heard that Roberta Hollimon participated in the LWV Santa Clara County Council interview of Senator Elaine Alquist on the Open Calendar issue.
- Agreed to hold a general meeting in April and invite the mayors of Cupertino and Sunnyvale to speak.
- Approved support of the SAFE Act Initiative which would abolish the Death Penalty.

Membership News

Thank you for renewing your membership:

Delores Carson, Judith Pogue, Peggy Quillinan, Barbara Rogers, Lois Smallwood, Jason Spiller, Flo Stafford, and Pete Warburton.

Thank you for including a donation with your dues: Len Doberne and Dianne and Regis McKenna.

Thank you for your donation to the Community Appeal: Nancy Burnett and Terry Grant.

The Cupertino-Sunnyvale VOTER

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Editor: Roberta Hollimon

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Mailing: LaVerne Prentice

LEAGUE NEWS

National – The Pennsylvania League last week spoke out in support of 13 Pennsylvania voters who have filed an appeal, calling upon the Pennsylvania Supreme Court to reject the Legislative Reapportionment Commission’s redistricting plan for the State House and Senate. The plaintiffs are appealing on the grounds that the plan unconstitutionally splits communities and places incumbent protection before voters’ needs. The voters offered up an alternative plan for consideration by the court. (Note-the Court upheld the appeal 1/18/12)

State- LWVC announced that Leadership Council will be held May 19-20 in Sacramento.

County - LWV San Jose-Santa Clara would like to host the 2013 State Convention and is looking for a co-chair for the event. If you would like to help with this, contact President Gloria Hon Choo at glocalifornia@yahoo.com.

LWV SAYS FIGHT SUPERPACS

A message from LWV President Elisabeth McNamara

Let’s fight back against the big money pouring into political campaigns this year. Let’s put the SuperPacs out of business. How? Sign the petition on The White House website urging President Obama to appoint new commissioners to the Federal Election Commission (FEC). NOTE: In order to successfully sign the petition, you will need to create an account on WhiteHouse.gov and respond to a confirmation email. If you need guidance on creating this account please use our helpful step-by-step guide to creating your account and signing the petition. (lww.org/content/step-step-instructions-signing-white-house-petition)

The FEC is supposed to be the government agency that enforces campaign finance laws, but it isn’t working and hasn’t for a long time. Of the six commissioners at the agency, three simply refuse to enforce the law, and five are serving despite the fact that their terms expired some time ago. It’s time to clean house and President Obama needs to do something about it.

We need at least 25,000 signatures of support by February 10, 2012 in order to get a response from The White House. Don’t just sign it yourself; post the petition on Facebook, Tweet about it and forward this message to all of your friends. Together, we can make sure that the votes of millions of Americans are more valuable to our elections than a big pile of money.

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. Donations to “LWVCS” are also non-deductible.

To make a tax-deductible donation, write a separate check to “LWVCS Education Fund.”

CALENDAR

February

- Sat 4 9 AM - 2 PM **Bay Area League Day**
Housing and the Bay Area's Future
First Unitarian Church of Oakland
685 14th Street at Clay, Oakland 94612
(See January VOTER for registration)
- Mon 13 7:00 PM **Board Meeting**
Burnett's
729 Stendahl Lane, Cupertino 95014
- Sat 25 9 AM - 3 PM **LWVC Regional Meeting**
Martin Luther King Jr. Library, San Jose
(see page 1 to register)

WHO REPRESENTS YOU

UNITED STATES

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

CALIFORNIA

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

SANTA CLARA COUNTY

- Supervisor Dave Cortese** 408-299-5030
dave.cortese@bos.sccgov.org
- Supervisor Liz Kniss**
liz.kniss@bos.sccgov.org

Permission is granted to reprint any part of this newsletter with credit to the League of Women Voters of Cupertino-Sunnyvale.

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