



# VOTER

THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF CUPERTINO-SUNNYVALE

April 2012

Volume 39 Number 9

## In This Issue

|                        |   |
|------------------------|---|
| Affordable Health Care | 4 |
| Ballot Measures        | 5 |
| Board Briefs           | 2 |
| Calendar               | 6 |
| League News            | 5 |
| LWVC Regional Meeting  | 4 |
| Member News            | 2 |
| President's Message    | 2 |
| Pros and Cons Events   | 1 |
| Redistricting          | 3 |
| Upcoming Needs         | 2 |

## PROS & CONS ON BALLOT MEASURES

*League speakers will explain ballot measures and answer questions*

Wednesday April 4 - 7 p.m.  
**Sunnyvale Library**  
665 Olive Ave (at Pastoria)  
Sunnyvale 94086

Monday April 23 - 7:30 p.m.  
**Sunnyvale Presbyterian Church**  
728 West Fremont Avenue  
Sunnyvale 94087

Tuesday April 24 - 7:30 p.m.  
**Congregation Beth David**  
14500 Prospect Rd.  
Saratoga 95070

Tuesday May 8 - 7:00 p.m.  
**Santa Clara Central Park Library**  
2635 Homestead Road  
Santa Clara 95051

Thursday May 17 - 2:30 p.m.  
**St. Thomas Episcopal Church**  
231 Sunset Ave. (at McKinley)  
Sunnyvale 94086

## LWV Cupertino-Sunnyvale Board of Directors

President Russell Howard  
Vice President Susan Hough  
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

Join our intrepid Pros and Cons team headed by Susan Hough with assistance from Mary Boyle, Michael Lusk, Judi Pogue, and Kathy Turner as they present background information on the two initiatives on the June ballot plus information on the Top Two Primary.

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



Visit [www.smartvoter.org](http://www.smartvoter.org) for comprehensive election information. Smart Voter is your trusted source of information about voting and the candidates and issues on your ballot. Smart Voter provides ballot coverage of all federal, state and local contests.

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Spring is right around the corner, and the very busy 2012 election year is in full swing. The voters that LWVCS services in Cupertino and Sunnyvale greatly appreciate efforts to educate and inform them on the many critical issues that will stare back at them from their ballot. Have you wondered though, in what ways might the League be able to provide learning opportunities for YOU? Here are just a few possibilities, presented by excellent speakers in workshops being planned at State Council:

**COMMUNICATIONS:** Are you familiar with Social Media? Do you use Facebook, Twitter or other such sites? Learn how to unlock the true power of these tools and show your local League how to communicate its message more effectively.

**VOTER SERVICE:** In this busy election year, come hear about the wonderful products and services provided to you by your State League, and how you can help connect voters with the League resources that best fit their needs.

**FUNDRAISING:** It is sometimes an uncomfortable fact that operating in our communities means that local Leagues must raise money to be active and effective. Whether you are a veteran fund-raiser or brand new to the excitement and challenges, this is the workshop for you.

**INITIATIVE and REFERENDUM STUDY:** So many issues these days are addressed by means of the initiative and/or referendum process. In accordance with the approval of the delegates at the LWVC 2011 Convention, the League is undertaking an update study. This workshop will seek to answer all of your questions about this important topic.

Does any of this sound intriguing? Email any member of your Board, and we will get you plugged into a workshop. The speakers are the best, and you will get a real feel for how other levels of League operate. You may be amazed at YOUR hidden talents!

*Russ Howard*

---

## UPCOMING NEEDS

Our League is looking for delegates to: LWV Bay Area Convention, Saturday May 5, 10 - 12 being held in the new award-winning Lafayette Library; LWVC Council, May 19-20, Holiday Inn, Sacramento, see President's Message above for workshops; and LWVUS Convention, June 8 - 12 Washington DC Hilton, a chance to see our nation's capital by spending an extra day in DC. If you would like to represent our League as a delegate to one of these conventions or council contact a board member and express your interest.

## Board Briefs

At its March meeting, your board:

- Learned that Santa Clara Unified School District is holding a special mail-in only ballot Parcel Tax election May 8 and that the Cupertino Union School District is placing a Bond Measure on the June 5 ballot.
- Heard that the Treasurer filed the Corporation Statement with the Secretary of State.
- Approved the addition of Marilyn Howard as a signer on the League checking account.

## Membership News

Thank you for renewing your membership: Janet Bertaina, Michael Gottwald, Ruth Mansberger, Ann McElroy, Alex Mennen, and MarieAnn Shovlin.

Thank you for including a donation with your dues: Peter Botsford, Tracy Edwards, Susan Hough, Sharon Jenks, Jo Loer, Sonja Messner, and LaVerne Prentice.

## 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.

Editor: Roberta Hollimon

lwvcseditor@comcast.net

Mailing: LaVerne Prentice

# WHO WILL REPRESENT YOU?

Confused by the the new redistricting lines? Want to know which districts you are in? With the new state district maps drawn by the Citizens Redistricting Commission last year for Congressional, state Senate, Assembly and Board of Equalization districts, many voters will find themselves in a new electoral geography with new district boundaries for the upcoming election cycle. Some voters in the state will see unfamiliar names listed on their ballot as incumbents; for some there will be no incumbents running; others will see multiple incumbents listed on their ballots for a single contest. For example, there are three dozen new districts in the state with no incumbents living in them. In the Los Angeles area, there are five newly drawn districts with two incumbents sharing the same district.

For those living in Cupertino and Sunnyvale there are few changes except for the district numbers. The greatest change is the Congressional district for parts of Sunnyvale which move from a district aligned with cities and districts to the north and west to a district aligned with cities to the south and east.

To find your new districts, go the the Santa Clara County Registrar of Voters' website, [scsvote.org](http://scsvote.org). Click on the box with a map and magnifying glass (look up your districts) and type in your address. A list of your districts will appear and then you can click "view the new district maps" and you will see the maps below. You can enlarge them on this website



**California Congressional District 17**



**California State Senate Districts 13 and 15**



**Santa Clara County Supervisorial Districts 3 and 5**



**California Assembly District 15**

## REGIONAL MEETING

Five LWVCS members joined more than 100 others on a Saturday at Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Library for the State League Northern California Regional Meeting.

Chuck Reed, mayor of San Jose, gave a welcome to the city and talked about one of the topics of the day—privatization. He said that there are times when privatization of government services makes sense because it can cut costs.

The **California State Budget** was one of the pressing topics covered at the workshop. The presentation by Syeda Reshmi Inamdar, LWV Government Director, on the state budget provided a broad-based overview of a complex topic while also listing resources for further in-depth analyses. The overarching goal of the presentation was to elicit participation around the question: How could the League provide effective community education on the budget specifically and other state and local finance issues in general?

The topic, albeit complex and convoluted, generated a lively discussion and brought out members who were interested in learning more and bringing information back to their Leagues and communities. The presentation incorporated highlights of Governor Brown's proposed budget for 2012-2013 and references to organizations such as the Public Policy Institute of California, The California Budget Project and the Legislative Analyst's Office which have done detailed analyses and include updated commentaries.

A panel consisting of Jane Light, San Jose Library Director, John Tang, San Jose Water Company, and Cathy Lazarus, LWV Los Altos-Mountain View spoke about **privatization**—should any government services be

privatized? They said that some of the reasons for privatization are: enhanced efficiency, economy of scale, risk transfer. It was noted that if an agency is considering privatization the following questions should be asked:

- What is the problem you are trying to solve?
- What will be gained?
- Have all the options been explored?
- Are there successful examples of privatization of service?

Some things that should not be privatized are city and county clerks, libraries—for a free and open society we need free and open access to information.

After lunch, presenter Lianne Campdonico, LWV Director for Voter Service, addressed the **Changes Coming for the 2012 Primary Elections**. We will have two primaries in one election. The Presidential Primary will cover party-nominated offices, formerly known as partisan offices—U.S. President and County Central Committees. This is the same as previous primary elections but the change is in the Top Two Primary which replaces party ballots in primary elections with a single combine ballot listing all candidates and provides that the top two vote-getters, regardless of party preference, advance to the general election. See the March VOTER for definitions of the offices covered in the Top Two Primary.

The other change coming in this election is the new districts created by the Citizens **Redistricting** Commission (CRC) instead of the legislature. See page 3 of this VOTER to find your districts.

Thanks to LWV San Jose/Santa Clara for hosting this energizing meeting.

---

## AFFORDABLE HEALTH CARE

March 22 is the second anniversary of the Affordable Care Act (ACA) so it seems appropriate that we step back and take stock of the law and its impact thus far. After all, the League played no small part in its historic passage!

- \* Medicare participants have annual checkups and mammograms covered at no cost to them.
- \* Children are no longer denied coverage due to pre-existing conditions.
- \* Insurance companies can no longer impose lifetime limits on coverage.
- \* Young adults can stay on their parents' health plans as dependents until age 26.
- \* The prescription drug coverage gap, the infamous Medicare "Donut Hole," is gradually being phased out.

To date, for millions of Americans, this historic law has made a difference to their health and in their lives. Let's celebrate and take note of the advances that have already taken place and those to come in the next few years.

*Elizabeth McNamara, LWVUS President*

## LEAGUE NEWS

**National** – The LWVUS Lobby Corps will be visiting Senate offices over the next few weeks to ask Senators to fully fund the Title X federal family planning program for the \$327 million requested in President Obama’s FY 2013 budget.

**State** - LWVC is one of the petitioners in a lawsuit just filed against the California Secretary of State. The suit seeks to clarify that people convicted of certain low-level, nonviolent felonies are entitled to vote. Under “realignment” legislation passed in 2011, these people no longer serve terms in state prison, but instead are sentenced to county jail and/or subject to community supervision. Represented by the ACLU and other civil rights attorneys, we ask that the suit be expedited so that these individuals will be able to vote this year.

## VOTE WITH THE LEAGUE ON JUNE ELECTION BALLOT MEASURES

We support **Proposition 28**, the **Legislative Term Limits Reform Act**. This simple reform will help make our legislature more accountable and effective. The current limits on how many terms an individual can serve in the legislature would be replaced by a twelve-year limit on the total number of years one could serve—whether in the Assembly, the Senate, or a combination of the two. Legislators would focus on serving their districts rather than running for a new office. Proposition 28 won't solve all the problems in Sacramento, but it brings positive change to make the Legislature more effective and accountable.

We have taken a **neutral position** on **Proposition 29**, the **California Cancer Research Act**. This measure would add a one-dollar per pack tax on cigarettes sold in California, with proceeds to be used for cancer and other smoking-related health issues, anti-smoking campaigns, and law enforcement.

While the League supports these causes, we believe that earmarking state revenue for specific expenses reduces the legislature’s flexibility to set budgets that respond to current needs. If funds are earmarked for specific expenses, we strongly prefer that this be accompanied by a sunset clause, requiring review of the expenditures on a regular basis.

### SAVE THE DATE

**Annual Meeting**  
Saturday June 2, 2012  
Laurel Room  
Sunnyvale Senior Center

### 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

### April

- Wed 4 7:00 p.m. **Pros and Cons Presentation**  
Sunnyvale Library  
665 Olive Ave (at Pastoria), Sunnyvale 94086
- Mon 9 7:00 p.m. **Board Meeting**  
Burnett's  
729 Stendahl Lane, Cupertino 95014
- Tue 24 7:30 p.m. **Pros and Cons Presentation**  
Congregation Beth David  
14500 Prospect Rd, Saratoga 95070
- Mon 23 7:30 p.m. **Pros and Cons Presentation**  
Sunnyvale Presbyterian Church  
728 West Fremont Avenue, Sunnyvale 94087
- Tue 24 7:30 p.m. **Pros and Cons Presentation**  
Congregation Beth David  
14500 Prospect Rd, Saratoga 95070

### May

- Tue 8 7:00 p.m. **Pros and Cons Presentation**  
Santa Clara Mission Library  
1098 Lexington St, Santa Clara 95050

## WHO REPRESENTS YOU

### UNITED STATES

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

### CALIFORNIA

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

### SANTA CLARA COUNTY

- Supervisor Dave Cortese** 408-299-5030  
[dave.cortese@bos.sccgov.org](mailto:dave.cortese@bos.sccgov.org)
- Supervisor Liz Kniss**  
[liz.kniss@bos.sccgov.org](mailto: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**