



VOTER

THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF CUPERTINO-SUNNYVALE

May 2012

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In This Issue

Annual Meeting	7
Ballot Measures	2
Board Briefs	2
Calendar	8
Candidate Forum	1
Council - Convention	7
Disclose Act	6
Education Position	4
League News	7
Martha Kanter Speech	5
Member News	2
President's Message	2
Pros and Cons Events	3

CANDIDATE FORUM FOR THE JUNE 5, 2012 ELECTION

Hear the candidates and ask your questions

State Senate Districts 13 and 15 State Assembly Districts 24 and 28

Friday May 18 2012
7:00 - 9:30 PM
Cupertino Community Hall
10350 Torre Avenue
Cupertino

This forum will focus on education and particularly on education funding at the state level.

If you live in Cupertino or Sunnyvale you will vote for candidates in one of these districts. Check your new districts by going to the Santa Clara County Registrar of Voters' website, sccvote.org.

LWW Cupertino-Sunnyvale Board of Directors

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	Marilyn Howard
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*APAPA (Asian Pacific Islander American Public Affairs Association),
De Anza College Institute of Civic and Community Engagement,
League of Women Voters Cupertino-Sunnyvale,
League of Women Voters Los Altos-Mountain View Area,
Parents for Great Education,
Santa Clara County Office of Education,
Sunnyvale School District*

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

We can never have too many reminders about important things so, in addition to several other mentions in this issue of the VOTER, let me say once again that June 2, 2012 is the date for our LWVCS Annual Meeting. Along with the business meeting, we have invited Robin Doran, Community Outreach Specialist at Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority (VTA) to address our League. Ms. Doran has an impressive history in the communications and public relations industry, and she will be providing interesting information regarding VTA and the future of public transportation in our area.

Please join us on June 2nd! Come with questions for Ms. Doran, enjoy a wonderful lunch, and network with your fellow League members.

Russ Howard

VOTE WITH THE LEAGUE ON JUNE ELECTION BALLOT MEASURES

Proposition 28 Legislative Term Limits Reform Act. Support

This measure would reduce the total number of years an individual could serve in the legislature from 14 to 12, but allow all 12 years to be in one house of the legislature. 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.

Proposition 29 California Cancer Research Act Neutral

This measure would add a \$1 per pack tax on cigarettes sold in California, with proceeds to be used for cancer and other smoking-related health issues, anti-smoking campaigns, enforcement and administration. 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.

Board Briefs

At its April meeting, your board:

- Agreed to co-sponsor with "My Vote Our Future" a Candidate Forum for State Senate Districts 13 & 15 and Assembly Districts 24 & 28.
- Heard a membership report from Linda Davis noting that our membership has declined from previous years and suggestions for recruitment from Lois Smallwood.
- Learned from Bruce Kendall that our website's calendar is up-to-date.
- Were informed by Susan Hough that as Pro-Cons scheduling is continuing for the June election, dates are also being set for November.

Membership News

Welcome new members: Russ Melton and Barbara Nunes.

NEXT VOTER

The VOTER goes on vacation during the summer. The next VOTER will be published mid-July and we'll be back to our regular schedule with the September VOTER.

The Cupertino-Sunnyvale VOTER

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THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS
PRESENTS



Pros & Cons on Ballot Measures

League speakers will explain ballot measures and answer questions

Tuesday May 8 – 7:00 p.m.
Santa Clara Central Park Library
Cedar Room
2635 Homestead Road
Santa Clara 95050

Monday May 14 – 7:30 p.m.
Unitarian Universalist Fellowship/
Congregational Community Church
1112 Bernardo
Sunnyvale 94087

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

Thursday May 24 – 7:00 p.m.
Cupertino Library
10350 Torre Avenue
Cupertino 95014

The Better Part: Televised Pros & Cons on Statewide Propositions

Members of the LWV of Cupertino-Sunnyvale explain the State Propositions on the November ballot.
Airing on community access cable channels in Santa Clara, Santa Cruz and Monterey Counties
beginning May 7

Cupertino, Los Altos, Mt. View TV-15 AT&T U-Verse Cupertino May 7 at 4:30 PM. Cupertino and Los Altos TV-15 May 8 and May 11 at 7:00 PM For other Santa Clara, Santa Cruz and Monterey County times and channels check www.thebetterpart.com

Visit www.smartvoter.org for comprehensive election information.
Free copies of the *Easy Voter Guide* are available at public libraries.

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

FEDERAL ROLE IN PUBLIC EDUCATION POSITION

The LWVUS Board approved a new Education position at the March 2012 Board meeting. The position is based on responses received from the 377 Leagues across the country who participated in the Education Study. Thanks to the many local and state Leagues and ILOs who held meetings, involved their communities and worked to reach consensus on this critical issue of importance to all Americans. Committee Chairs Peg Hill (TX) and Joanne Leavitt (CA) and their committee: Pat Aaron (IL), Carolyn Jefferson-Jenkins (CO), Patricia Libutti (NJ), Sanford Ostroy (MA), Jean Pierce (IL) and Janelle Rivers (SC) are to be commended for their excellent work and leadership.

LWV Cupertino-Sunnyvale participated in the study. Thanks to study committee members Anita Herrmann, Roberta Hollimon, Lois Smallwood, Barbara Sullivan, and Bill Wilson for their work in reviewing the study material and presenting it to our members.

POSITION

The League of Women Voters believes that the federal government shares with other levels of government the responsibility to provide an equitable, quality public education for all children pre-K through grade 12. A quality public education is essential for a strong, viable, and sustainable democratic society and is a civil right.

The League believes that the role of the federal government should include the following:

Provide leadership and vision to promote a quality education for all children;

Provide broad common standards developed by educational experts upon which states and local education agencies can build;

Provide a suggested curricular structure or framework as a guide to state and local education agencies to develop their own curricula;

- Provide a national assessment that clearly informs teachers, parents and students about how well individual students have mastered criteria established at the national level;
- Provide a national assessment that informs districts how well their populations compare to other populations similar to theirs; and
- Provide a combination of competitive grants and non-competitive funding to states and local school districts to achieve equity among states and populations.

The League of Women Voters believes that an equitable, quality public education is critical for students. While the League recognizes that there are instances where the federal government's involvement is the only way to achieve universal change (desegregation, special needs population, gender equity), we also recognize that primary responsibility for public education resides with the states. In accordance with the League of Women Voters' position on Equal Rights, we continue to support equity in public education for all through:

- Broad guidelines for accountability, leaving implementation to the state and local education agencies;
- Adequate funding sources that support the broad goals of national standards; and
- Mechanisms for local and state funding with adequate federal support for mandates that require less burdensome, compliance-based reporting and regulations.

The League of Women Voters believes a basic role of the federal government in funding education should be to achieve equity among states and populations on the basis of identified needs. This should be done with full understanding that equity does not mean equal, given that some populations are more expensive to educate than others and some localities have specific needs.

The League believes that the federal government should be primarily responsible for funding any programs mandated by the federal government on local education agencies. Although the League recognizes equity in education depends on meeting basic human needs of children and of their families, the costs associated with providing equitable access to safe neighborhoods and secure housing do not belong in the education budget. Major programs of federal funding for public education (i.e., Elementary and Secondary Education Act) should be targeted toward children living in poverty and/or children with special needs. The federal government has the responsibility to monitor and support access to the following:

- High quality teaching and learning, supported by quality current learning materials and well maintained educational facilities; and
- Access to health care needs (i.e., hearing, vision, dental, immunization, school-based health clinics at the secondary level, etc.) and nutritionally adequate food (i.e., school-based meals under "free and reduced meal programs").

(continued on page 5)

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The League of Women Voters believes that the first five years of a child's life are crucial in building the foundation for educational attainment and greatly impact success or failure in later life. Additionally, the League believes quality, developmentally appropriate and voluntary early learning experiences should be available to all children, with federally funded opportunities going first to children of poverty and/or with special needs. The League believes that the federal government should support the following:

- Early childhood education programs that include funding for parent education and involve child development, health, nutrition and access to other supportive services such as mental health care for all children and their families;
- Research that documents quality early childhood education programs; and
- Research that demonstrates the importance of linking state and local community partnerships with effective early childhood education programs and services.

MARTHA KANTER ADDRESSES HIGHER EDUCATION CHALLENGES

Martha Kanter, former president of DeAnza College and former Chancellor of Foothill-DeAnza Community College District, one of the largest Community College districts in the nation, and now Under Secretary of the U.S. Department of Education was in town recently and spoke to a gathering of 400 community members and education leaders at DeAnza College.

As Under Secretary of Education, Kanter oversees higher education as well as adult and career-technical education and federal student aid.

She spoke about four areas of higher education: access, affordability, quality, and completion. All of these are linked. There has been a 50 percent increase in college enrollment in the past two-and-a half years but the price of college has increased faster than the median household income and student loan debt has surpassed credit card debt for the first time ever. Kanter said that the Obama administration is doing what it can by changing Pell grants for the neediest students. As a result of raising the maximum award and simplifying the application process

the number of Pell grant recipients rose from about 6 million in 2008 to more than 9.5 million today.

She stated that higher education isn't just for the elite, it is an economic imperative. By 2018 more than 60 percent of the nation's jobs will require some higher education but we are producing 3 million fewer college graduates than what the economy needs in the next decade.

The administration has three education goals for 2020.

- 10 million more graduates from community Colleges,
- every American will have at least one year of post high school education,
- America will have the "best educated, most competitive workforce in the world."

The Obama Administrations' plan for education is laid out in the publication, "Education Blueprint: An Economy Built to Last," can be found on the web.

Kanter emphasized that it is important for the "West" to tell the "East" what is needed. "Great ideas don't come from inside the beltway."

A LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF CALIFORNIA

Dear League Members,

Force special interests to DISCLOSE who really pays for political ads!

Join the League in supporting AB 1648 (Brownley), the California DISCLOSE Act, on its way through the legislature.

The Assembly Appropriations Committee will hear the bill on April 18. If it is passed by Appropriations it will go on to a vote of the full Assembly.

Tell your representative that voters need to know who is paying for political ads.

1. Is your Assembly Member on the honor roll below? If yes, they are a supporter and you should thank them. Find their phone, fax, and email here.
2. If your Assembly Member is not on the list below, then copy this text for your email urging her or him to pass AB 1648. You can find their phone, fax and email here.
3. Share your support of the DISCLOSE Act: forward this email, and ask your friends on Facebook to contact their Assembly Members.

AB 1648, the California DISCLOSE Act:

- * Lets voters know who really is paying for political ads—on the ads themselves
- * Applies to all kinds of political ads, including television, radio, print advertising, and campaign websites
- * Requires political television ads to clearly list their three largest funders with their logos

Together, we will pass the California DISCLOSE Act as a first step towards fair elections, and keep the League voice loud and clear in Sacramento. Read more about the DISCLOSE Act by visiting the California Clean Money Campaign Web site.

Our success depends upon you, as it always has—please take action today.

Jenny

Jennifer A. Waggoner
President, League of Women Voters of California

P.S. Support is growing for the California DISCLOSE Act, but so is opposition by special interests who want to buy elections in secret. Support AB 1648.

Author of AB 1648
Assembly Member Julia Brownley
Principal Coauthors:
Assembly Member Paul Fong
Assembly Member Mike Gatto
Coauthors
Assembly Member Luis Alejo
Assembly Member Michael Allen
Assembly Member Tom Ammiano
Assembly Member Toni Atkins
Assembly Member Jim Beall, Jr.
Assembly Member Marty Block
Assembly Member Bob Blumenfeld
Assembly Member Susan Bonilla
Assembly Member Joan Buchanan
Assembly Member Betsy Butler
Assembly Member Nora Campos

Assembly Member Wilmer Amina Carter
Assembly Member Wes Chesbro
Assembly Member Mike Davis
Assembly Member Roger Dickinson
Assembly Member Mike Eng
Assembly Member Nathan Fletcher
Assembly Member Mike Feuer
Assembly Member Cathleen Galgiani
Assembly Member Rich Gordon
Assembly Member Mary Hayashi
Assembly Member Jerry Hill
Assembly Member Alyson Huber
Assembly Member Ben Hueso
Assembly Member Jared Huffman
Assembly Member Ricardo Lara
Assembly Member Bonnie Lowenthal
Assembly Member Holly Mitchell
Assembly Member Bill Monning

Assembly Member Richard Pan
Assembly Member Henry T. Perea
Assembly Speaker John Pérez
Assembly Member V. Manuel Pérez
Assembly Member Anthony Portantino
Assembly Member Sandré Swanson
Assembly Member Norma Torres
Assembly Member Bob Weickowski
Assembly Member Das Williams
Assembly Member Mariko Yamada
Senator Loni Hancock
Senator Mark Leno
Senator Ted Lieu
Senator Fran Pavley
Senator Leland Yee
Sponsor
California Clean Money Campaign

LEAGUE NEWS

National – The League joined coalition partners in calling on the President to respond and take action on the effort to nominate new commissioners to the Federal Election Commission (FEC). The effort collected over 27,000 signatures through the “We the People” petition process on WhiteHouse.gov. Petitions are required to reach a 25,000 signature threshold in order to solicit a response from the Administration. The FEC petition hit that goal 2 months ago.

State - LWVC announced that after hosting a very successful regional meeting, the LWV San Jose-Santa Clara has agreed to be the host for Convention 2013. The League thanks their members for their wonderful hospitality.

County - The County League will study the parcel tax proposed by the Santa Clara Valley Water District for the November election.

LWVC COUNCIL AND LWVUS CONVENTION

It's not too late to consider attending the LWVC Leadership Council being held on May 19th and 20th in Sacramento or the LWVUS Convention being held in Washington DC June 8 - 12.

The state Council will feature workshops on communications, Voter Service, fundraising, how to deal with the work load of a Leaguer, and the Initiative and Referendum study.

National Convention always has heated discussions from bylaws changes to study proposals. It's enlightening to watch League members at the pro and con mikes arguing for their issue.

For more information on these meetings, go to the LWVC members only website or the LWVUS website.

SAVE THE DATE

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

Our speaker will be Robin Doran of the Valley Transportation Authority (VTA). Learn about the transit system today and plans for the future.

The Annual Meeting Kit will be mailed in mid-May. Watch for it and register to attend this meeting and luncheon.

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

May

Tue 8	7:00 PM	Pros and Cons Presentation Santa Clara Mission Library 1098 Lexington St, Santa Clara 95050
Mon 14	7:00 PM	Board Meeting Howard's 867 E Estates, Cupertino 95014
Mon 14	7:30 PM	Pros and Cons Presentation Unitarian Universalist Fellowship/Congregational Comm. Church 1112 Bernardo, Sunnyvale 94087
Thu 17	2:30 PM	Pros and Cons Presentation St. Thomas Episcopal Church 231 Sunset Ave (at McKinley), Sunnyvale 94086
Fri 18	7:00 PM	Candidate Forum State Senate Dist. 13 & 15 Assembly Dist. 24 & 28 Cupertino Community Hall , 10350 Torre Ave, Cupertino 95014
Sat - Sun	19 - 20	LWVC Leadership Council Holiday Inn, Sacramento

June

Sat 2	10:00 AM	Annual Meeting Laurel Room, Sunnyvale Senior Center
Sat-Wed	9 - 12	LWVUS Convention Washington DC

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

Governor Jerry Brown 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.

The League of Women Voters
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FIRST CLASS