



# VOTER

## THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF CUPERTINO-SUNNYVALE

Summer 2012

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### ANNUAL MEETING



Speaker Robyn Doran is introduced by President Russ Howard

At our Annual Meeting on June 2, 2012, members conducted the business of the League for the ensuing year by adopting a budget, adopting Program and electing officers.

Following the business meeting we heard from Robin Doran, Community Outreach Specialist at Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority (VTA).

Ms. Doran spoke about planning for transportation communities of the future. Much VTA's work is based upon regional projections established by agencies such as ABAG and MTC. For example, ABAG has projected for Santa Clara County a growth of nearly 30% new residents and 46% growth in new jobs in the next 20 years, the highest in the Bay Area. Also the senior population is growing. In CA, the senior population is expected to reach 12.5 million by 2040 – an increase of 232% from 1990. Public transportation is one viable way to support this group. In the next 20 years there will be a 30% residential increase and 40% jobs increase in the valley. It is necessary to plan for the transportation needs of these increases.

VTA covers an area of 326 square miles of urban and rural Santa Clara County, with 75 different routes and 3,818 bus stops. Light rail service includes 42.2 miles of service with 62 stations.

VTA is the responsible agency for Santa Clara County's congestion management. Working with the 15 cities in the county to find congestion solutions, VTA oversees pedestrian and bicycle improvement projects, highway projects, and transportation planning.

For those who would like to get involved, VTA has a citizens advisory committee and always welcomes feedback from the community via email or telephone. Watch the VTA website for public meetings on projects and studies.

### LWV Cupertino-Sunnyvale Board of Directors

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VOTER Mailing LaVerne Prentice

## MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD

*Editor's note: This year, our League does not have a president. The tasks of the president have been divided amongst several board members. Russ Howard and Susan Hough will be writing the President's Message for the next year.*

About two months ago, on June 2, LWVCS members gathered for our 2012 Annual Meeting in Sunnyvale. It was a great time to socialize, connect (and re-connect!), as well as to conduct the business of our local League. We are very pleased to be financially "in the black", and through the dedicated efforts of Sharon Jenks and her budget committee, fiscal year 2012-2013 looks to be very solid...thank you again, Sharon!

We were fortunate to have a wonderful guest speaker at the event as well. Robin Doran, the Public Communications Specialist and Community Outreach contact for our Santa Clara County Valley Transportation Authority (and we're not really sure how she is able to fit all of that on her business card!) spoke to the group at length. Ms. Doran brought a wealth of information regarding VTA, its operations, goals, and strategic plans for the future. If you were not able to make the meeting, you are encouraged to visit <http://www.vta.org/> and explore the abundant resources. You may be surprised at what you may not have known!

Finally, a delicious lunch was served, with all the trimmings. Special thanks to Marilyn Howard, who took the lead as event coordinator, for putting together such a delicious way to wrap up after the business meeting.

Now, on we go into the busy part of campaigns, State propositions, and decision-making for our future. Rest assured, LWVCS will be right there in the thick of things, ever diligent in bringing clear, non-biased information to the electorate.

*Russ Howard*

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## UPCOMING NEEDS

LWV Cupertino-Sunnyvale has two immediate needs. One is an LWV Bay Area Representative. The Bay Area League holds meetings with representatives of the 9 Leagues in the Bay Area every other month. The meeting for the Leagues in the south Bay Area are held at the LWV Palo Alto office in south Palo Alto off of San Antonio Road and Charleston. At these meetings the Bay Area League reports on activities affecting the regional area and our representative reports on any activities in our area that affect the rest of the Bay Area.

Can you add and subtract? Are you a little bit analytical? Do you have a few hours to donate to the League? If yes, would you consider reviewing the LWV Cupertino-Sunnyvale books? This is not a full audit. You do not need to be a CPA. Instructions are available.

If you are willing to take on either of these jobs, contact Roberta Hollimon at [lwvcseeditor@comcast.net](mailto:lwvcseeditor@comcast.net).

## Board Briefs

At its July meeting, your board:

- Agreed to divide the president's duties and assign them to board members.
- Adopted its Nonpartisan Policy with the addition of an amendment regarding nonpartisanship in social media.
- Heard a report from convention delegate, Roberta Hollimon.
- Learned that the Initiative and Referendum study committee will be holding its first meeting..

## Membership News

Thank you for renewing your membership: Nancy Burnett, Elsie Conly, Joan Coston, Roselyn Friccero, Joan Gordon, Jim Griffith, Andrea Harris, Kristine Kelly, Evelyn Lundstrom, Roberta and Marshall Hollimon, Robyn Holmes, Marilyn and Alexander Howard, Louise Levy, Mona Norrins, Barbara Sullivan, Katherine Turner, Rose-Marie Twu.

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

Welcome new members: John Givens and Nancie Plumb.

## The Cupertino-Sunnyvale VOTER

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# PRIVATIZATION POLICY

## Background

The LWVUS Board approved a new position on Privatization at its June 2012 meeting. The position is based on responses received from the 227 Leagues across the country that participated in the Privatization Study. Thanks to the many local and state Leagues and ILOs that held meetings, involved their communities, and worked to reach consensus on this important issue. Committee Chair Janis McMillen (KS) and her Committee: Diane DiIanni (TN), Carole Garrison (VA), Ann Henkener (OH), Cathy Lazarus (CA), Nora Leech (WA), Muriel Strand (CA) and Ted Volskay (SC) are to be commended for their excellent work and leadership.

## Position

The League of Women Voters of the United States believes that when governmental entities consider the transfer of governmental services, assets and/or functions to the private sector, the community impact and goals of such transfers must be identified and considered. Further, the LWV believes that transparency, accountability, and preservation of the common good must be ensured.

The League believes that some government provided services could be delivered more efficiently by private entities; however, privatization is not appropriate in all circumstances. Privatization is not appropriate when the provision of services by the government is necessary to preserve the common good, to protect national or local security or to meet the needs of the most vulnerable members of society. While the League recognizes that the definition of core government services will vary by level of government and community values, services fundamental to the governance of a democratic society should not be privatized in their entirety. These services include the electoral process, justice system, military, public safety, public health, education, transportation, environmental protection and programs that protect and provide basic human needs.

The decision to privatize a public service should be made after an informed, transparent planning process and thorough analysis of the implications of privatizing service delivery. While specific criteria will vary by service and local conditions, the League believes the following considerations apply to most decisions to transfer public services, assets and functions to the private sector:

- On-going and timely communication with stakeholders and the public;
- Statement of the circumstances as they exist and what is to be gained;
- Definition of the quality, level and cost of service expected;

- Assessment of the private market; whether there are providers to assure competitive pricing and delivery; (in some cases there may not be multiple providers if a service is so specialized. i.e. high tech, airports.)
- Cost-benefit analyses evaluating short and long term costs of privatization, including the ongoing costs of contract administration and oversight;
- An understanding of the impact on customers, the broader community, environment and public employees;
- An open, competitive bidding process with clearly defined criteria to be used in selecting a contractor;
- A provision and process to ensure the services or assets will be returned to the government if a contractor fails to perform;
- A data-driven selection of private entities whose goals, purposes, and means are not incompatible with the public well-being;
- The careful negotiation and drafting of the controlling privatization contract; and
- Adequate oversight and periodic performance monitoring of the privatized services by the government entity to ensure that the private entity is complying with all relevant laws and regulations, contract terms and conditions, and ethical standards, including public disclosure and comment.

The League believes that the enactment of state laws and issuance of regulations to control the process and delivery of privatization within a state's jurisdiction is often appropriate and desirable. Best practices for government regulation of the privatization process should include the following requirements:

- An open process that allows for citizen input and oversight in a timely manner;
- A reasonable feasibility study and project evaluation appropriate to the size and scope of the project;
- The establishment of carefully crafted criteria for selection of the private-entity (beyond the lowest cost bid);
- Additional consideration for local bidders in order to support the local economy;
- The retention of liability and responsibility with the government entity;
- Allowance for and promotion of opportunities for innovation and collaboration; and,
- Provision for employment, benefits and training plans on behalf of employees displaced as a result of privatization.

*Statement of Position  
as Announced by National Board, June 2012*

## LWVUS 2012 CONVENTION

Roberta Hollimon

A highlight of the 2012 convention was the parade of excellent speakers. Two of these were Kathleen Hall Jamieson, Professor of Communications, in the Annenberg School of Public Policy at the University of Pennsylvania and Attorney General Eric Holder.

Jamieson said that it is necessary in this election year to check the facts. Third party attack ads funded by SuperPACs are targeted at the battleground states. We may never see these ads in California but she urged those in states where they are broadcast to monitor them and complain to the stations running the ads. Broadcast stations have a right to refuse deceptive ads. Two websites sponsored by the Annenberg Public Policy Center can help voters. Information on deceptive advertising, and in Jamieson's words "political sleaze," can be found on [www.flackcheck.org/](http://www.flackcheck.org/) and [www.factcheck.org](http://www.factcheck.org).

Attorney General Holder thanked the League for protecting voters' rights by fighting voter suppression initiatives. Holder said, "there is not only a legal requirement but a moral imperative to oppose deceptive election practices and dishonest efforts to keep certain voters from casting their ballots."

He says it is important to modernized voter registration. He states, "Making it easier for citizens to register to vote will not lead to voter fraud."

You can see videos of these speeches at <http://library.lwv.org/events-series/convention-2012>

One of the tasks of the convention delegates is to adopt program, both the positions we already have and proposals for future studies. Suggestions for study topics come from local Leagues. There were 46 non-recommended items presented to the delegates for consideration, everything from Agriculture to Voting Procedures. Of those only 5, Agriculture, Corporate Personhood, Drug Policy, Human trafficking and Nuclear Power were moved for consideration. And of those 5, only Agriculture was brought to the floor for consideration. Delegates adopted an update/study of our Agriculture Position focusing on genetic modification, consolidation in the food industry, money in the regulatory process and the consumers' right to accurate and comprehensive food labeling

For a process wonk like me, it was a bit disappointing to not have heated debates over Birthright Citizenship, Postal Services or U.S. Relations with Developing Countries complete with tactical plans for positioning speakers pro and con at the microphones and planning when to "call the question." Perhaps it was a reflection of the weariness of Leagues that had been through two full fledged studies in the past year. We

## SUPREME COURT DECISION PROTECTS HEALTH CARE FOR MILLIONS OF AMERICANS

*Washington, DC – The following statement is by Elisabeth MacNamara, national President of the League of Women Voters:*

"Today's decision by the U.S. Supreme Court in *Florida v. HHS* upholding the Affordable Care Act (ACA) was surprising, but deeply important. This decision protects the health of millions of Americans.

"The Court recognized health care reform for what it is: a legislative response to complex issues threatening the health and well-being of Americans that was best resolved by the elected branch of government – the Congress. The Court upheld this historic, transformative act of Congress.

"Upholding the ACA brings our nation closer to the goals of this law: to provide universal health care for all Americans. There are still threats to these critical reforms and the League will continue its work fighting for progress on many fronts.

"Now that the law has been upheld, children will no longer be denied coverage due to pre-existing conditions, young adults can stay on their parents' health plans as dependents until age 26, Medicare participants will have annual check-ups and mammograms, and many uninsured Americans will now have health care coverage.

"Leagues throughout the country will continue to educate communities and Americans on the ACA and its pivotal impact on their lives. Health care for all must be the goal as we expand coverage to millions of Americans and preserve the ACA's transformational reforms.

"We expressed great hope when the ACA passed Congress in 2010 after decades of struggle. Today, we look to a brighter future, a tomorrow that includes health care coverage for all Americans."

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needed a rest. The national board did recommend a concurrence with the Sentencing Policy of the LWV of the District of Columbia. This was approved and our position reads, "The LWVUS believes alternatives to imprisonment should be explored and utilized, taking into consideration the circumstances and nature of the crime. The LWVUS opposed mandatory minimum sentences for drug offenses."

On a personal note, I was pleased to be able to stand as a former Girl Scout and Girl Scout Leader when the League recognized the Girl Scouts' 100th Anniversary.

There is nothing like a League convention to instill pride in the work we have done and realize there is still a lot of work to do. I thoroughly enjoyed being a delegate for our League and encourage others to consider being a delegate in the future.

# VOTER ID LAWS = VOTER SUPPRESSION

By Helen Hutchison

LWVC Second Vice President for Program and Advocacy

The League of Women Voters is all about voting: encouraging voting, educating voters, helping people make their voices heard by voting. We educate and advocate about voting. Then why do we protest so loudly about voter ID laws? Because these laws are a form of voter suppression; they are a solution to a problem that doesn't exist.

Supporters of voter ID laws point to charges of voter impersonation or voter fraud. The facts simply do not support these charges. Despite many allegations and frequent careful examinations of voting records and patterns, **little or no evidence of voter fraud has been found.** When studies are done, they consistently point at vote by mail (absentee) voting as the place where most voter fraud might occur. Voter ID laws deal only with voters at the polls, and not vote by mail voting.

What has been shown, repeatedly, is that **voter ID laws reduce access to voting** and do this disproportionately among the elderly, students, women, people with disabilities, low income people, and people of color. In a study commissioned by the Brennan Center for Justice, eleven percent of those surveyed did not have a government-issued ID that would be required for voting. Using census data, this means approximately 21 million otherwise qualified voters who would be turned away at the polls. Of these 21 million:

- more than 70 percent are women
- over one-third are seniors
- approximately 20 percent are between 18 and 24 years old.

Even among those with a government-issued ID, many do not have an ID that shows their current address. This is even more likely among those who earn lower incomes and young people, regardless of income level, because they tend to move more frequently than average.

These same groups of people—women, the elderly, students, people with disabilities, low income people, and people of color—also are more likely to have difficulty obtaining the required photo ID to be able to vote. They may not have the required back-up documents, and they may have more difficulty taking time off work during business hours, getting transportation to the government offices that issue the IDs, and finding the money to pay the application fees.

Voting is a fundamental right. The League of Women Voters stands with those who protect access to voting rather than those who would disenfranchise eligible voters. **The impact of voter ID laws is to restrict voting, especially among certain groups of voters.** We do not need to protect ourselves against a problem that doesn't exist. **We do need to ensure that the greatest number of people possible is offered the chance to exercise their right to vote.**

For more information on voter ID laws: Project Vote: [www.projectvote.org](http://www.projectvote.org)

The Brennan Center for Justice: [www.brennancenter.org](http://www.brennancenter.org)

LWV Minnesota: [www.lwvmn.org](http://www.lwvmn.org) The Web site includes a series of videos produced by the LWV Minnesota.

## WINS FOR VOTERS IN MICHIGAN, ARIZONA AND THE NATION!

On the eve of the 4th of July, Michigan's governor vetoed voter suppression legislation that would have required ballot affirmation of citizenship, restricted voter registration drives and required photo ID to obtain an absentee ballot. LWVMI and its partners sent a message of thanks to Gov. Rick Snyder. Also, last week, the Supreme Court denied the state of Arizona's request for a stay to

block implementation of the 11th Circuit Court of Appeals decision, holding that the documentary proof-of-citizenship requirement for voter registration applicants does violate the NVRA. In other words, we won, at least for now. For more than six years, the League has been fighting against an Arizona law that requires voter registration applicants to provide documentary proof of their citizenship.

## REGIONAL AGENCIES GET WITH THE PLAN

By Alec MacDonald

The clock is ticking. A state mandate looms. Can the Bay Area come together to craft a sustainable vision for its future?

Stakeholders across the region expect to find out by April of next year, when the momentous Plan Bay Area is scheduled for final adoption. By then, they should know the plan's finer details for accomplishing two intertwining goals. The first goal: slash 7 percent of per-capita greenhouse gas emissions from cars and light trucks by 2020, and then cut an additional 8 percent by 2035. And the second: map out housing, jobs, and transportation to most efficiently accommodate a population swell of more than 2 million new residents by 2040. Both goals revolve around minimizing the miles that vehicles will travel in the Bay Area of tomorrow.

At a joint meeting on May 17, the Metropolitan Transportation Commission and the Association of Bay Area Governments took an important step toward adoption of Plan Bay Area by approving a key component, the Preferred Land Use and Transportation Investment Strategy. This mouthful actually represents a combination of two policies, one to manage development patterns and the other to guide transportation spending.

In terms of development patterns, the preferred strategy calls for 80 percent of new housing and 66 percent of new jobs to be concentrated within designated locations that collectively account for just five percent of the region's land. Nominated by local jurisdictions, these Priority Development Areas will receive funding and resources to support anticipated growth.

With respect to transportation spending, the preferred strategy will allocate money for climate initiatives, existing infrastructure, the needs of established transit operators, and proposed transit projects with special value.

### **Air District on Board**

MTC and ABAG have received the most attention for their roles in advancing Plan Bay Area, but they aren't the only regional agencies to have a hand in this effort or a stake in its success. Given that the plan confronts greenhouse gas emissions, the Bay Area Air Quality Management District would like to see it successfully implemented as well.

At the agency's May 2 board meeting, directors received a debriefing on the plan's formulation from MTC and ABAG staff, followed by remarks from their own deputy air pollution control officer, Jean Roggenkamp.

Roggenkamp listed the ways in which the Air District has been shaping Plan Bay Area, including participating in coalition working groups, contributing technical expertise through risk analysis, helping to set air quality performance

targets, and assisting on completion of an environmental impact report.

As it engages in these various collaborative activities, the Air District will look to incorporate protections of public health. Plan Bay Area's emphasis on concentrated development should result in less total emissions throughout the region as a whole, but this approach also has the potential to place more people in closer proximity to sources of air pollution. In order to safeguard residents from this threat, Roggenkamp asked her directors to consider "what can we as regional agencies do to provide funding and guidance and tools to help cities grapple with the very strong need to have infill, to have additional housing, to have affordable housing, but make sure we don't put people in harm's way?"

### **BCDC Shores up Support**

Harm doesn't just lurk in the air, either; it also laps at the Bay's shoreline. Sea level rise presents another risk to residents due to the global warming effect of greenhouse gases, as analysts forecast that more than 280 square miles around the rim of the Bay will be vulnerable to flooding by the year 2050.

Plan Bay Area may address this dilemma, too, given the involvement of the fourth regional agency partner, the San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission. charged with protecting and enhancing its namesake, BCDC regulates new development along the waterfront. Having successfully passed broad climate change policy with the amendment of its Bay Plan last October, the agency hopes to integrate similar provisions into Plan Bay Area, according to its former executive director, Will Travis.

At a May 5 gathering of the League of Women Voters of the Bay Area, Travis endorsed the plan as an apt method for facing up to the prospect of higher temperatures, storm surges, and ever-encroaching tides. "The best way to reduce our collective regional carbon footprint is to focus on where and how our region is growing," he declared.

In his new role as senior advisor to the Joint Policy Committee, he has been helping the four regional agencies align their individual objectives within Plan Bay Area. As Travis pointed out, an undertaking of this magnitude requires intense cooperation — and he thinks the Bay Area is up to the task.

"Our region is famous for building coalitions between diverse interests, embracing innovation, and looking at challenges as opportunities," he said. "If we succeed, an integrative regional climate strategy will not become an impossible dream. It will be a difficult but ultimately achievable goal."

*Bay Area Monitor, June/July 2012*

## LEAGUE NEWS

**National** – The League and its allies are working to finish the fight to protect Texas voters from an unnecessary and restrictive voter ID law. LWVUS also supports the DISCLOSE Act of 2012 because Americans deserve all the information they can get before they vote.

**State** - LWVC announced it supports the Brown/CFT tax measure, the Schools and Local Public Safety Protection Act of 2012, because it begins to move California toward financial stability and the ability to provide adequate funding for all the services we want from our government. LWVC is neutral on the Munger/PTA initiative, Our Children, Our Future. It provides significant funding for education, and for four years, provides money to help the other under-funded government services but it earmarks essentially all the money for education which needs to be adequately funded, but so do all of the government programs we support, from mental health programs to the court system to childcare.

## COMMUNITY APPEAL

Every year the League sends a fundraising appeal to League members and members of the community to support our work. This year we have raised \$1,815 to date. Thanks to the following for your donations:

Josephine Borucki	Jim and Pat Jackson
Harold Brown	Sharon Jenks
Nancy Burnett	Glenis Koehne
Lois Chestnut	Evelyn Lundstrom
Hilde DeMarco	Frances McDonald
Patricia Dentinger	Mona Norrins
Carl Dunlap	Judith Pogue
Eileen and Richard Grindeland	Sandra Rich
Roberta and Marshall Hollimon	Barbara Sullivan
Kirsten Holmquist	Rose-Marie Twu
Marilyn and Alexander Howard	Leanne and Charles Untulis
Russ Howard	

## INITIATIVE AND REFERENDUM STUDY COMMITTEE

Members of the Initiative and Referendum Study Committee have started their work with background reading. It is not too late to join the group. If you are interested in learning more about the Initiative and Referendum process in California and how or whether it can be improved contact Roberta Hollimon at [lwvcseditor@comcast.net](mailto:lwvcseditor@comcast.net) and come to the next meeting.

### 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

### August

Mon 13 7:00 p.m. **Board Meeting**  
Burnett's  
729 Stendhal Lane, Cupertino 95014

## 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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**FIRST CLASS**