



VOTER

THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF CUPERTINO-SUNNYVALE

September 2012

Volume 40 Number 2

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THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS PRESENTS



Pros and Cons on Ballot Measures

League speakers will explain ballot measures and answer questions

Wednesday September 12

7:30 p.m.

St. Thomas Episcopal Church

231 Sunset Ave (at McKinley)

Sunnyvale 94086

Saturday September 15

2 - 4 p.m.

Democratic Club of Sunnyvale

Fairbrae Swim & Tennis Club

696 Sheraton Drive

Sunnyvale 94087

Tuesday September 18

7:00 p.m.

Sunnyvale Library

665 W Olive Ave (at Pastoria)

Sunnyvale 94086

Monday September 24

7:30 p.m.

Unitarian Universalist Fellowship/Congregational Community Church

1112 Bernardo Sunnyvale 94087

Tuesday October 2

7:00 p.m.

Santa Clara Central Park Library - Cedar Room

2635 Homestead Road

Santa Clara 95050

Friday October 5

2:00 p.m.

Atria Senior Living

175 E Remington Dr

Sunnyvale 94087

Candidate Forum

Friday September 28 7:00 - 8:30

28th Assembly District

Cupertino Community Hall

10350 Torre Ave Cupertino 95014

The October VOTER will include a listing of more Pros and Cons presentations and Candidate Forums to be held in October.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF LWVUS

Dear Supporter,

Forty-seven years ago, President Lyndon B. Johnson signed the historic Voting Rights Act (VRA) into law. But, the law is not just history; it remains critical to ensuring that every American can cast a ballot and have it counted. Even as we celebrate the VRA, unnecessary and costly new state voting laws remind us that voter suppression and intimidation tactics continue to plague our nation.

Across the nation, the League is continuing to protect and defend voting rights, so that everyone who wants to vote can vote. We've helped defeat voter photo identification laws; where ID laws have passed, we've gone to court to block them; and we've fought to keep registering voters despite new laws designed to curb organizations like ours from reaching potential new voters.

When Americans head to the polls in November, the election isn't just about the day-to-day battles between candidates. It's about voters like you. This election will impact you and your community – it's about your job, your health, your future. It's your chance to stand up for what you believe in – and make sure your family and friends do, too.

The Voting Rights Act remains more important than ever. Join us in recognizing the importance of every American's vote by standing up for the right to vote.

Rooted in the movement that secured the right to vote for women, the League of Women Voters has always been committed to registering and turning out voters, and we're not stopping now. Join us in defending the VRA and ensuring all Americans have the right to vote!



Sincerely,
Elizabeth MacNamara, President
League of Women Voters

UPCOMING NEEDS

LWV Cupertino-Sunnyvale will be registering voters on Tuesday September 25, National Voter Registration Day, at the Safeway on Hollenbeck near Homestead. Road. Do you have an hour or two you could devote to helping keep democracy strong by registering voters so they will be able to vote on election day? Contact Marilyn Howard, 408-255-0977 or MJZHactivist@yahoo.com.

Board Briefs

At its August meeting, your board:

- Voted to support the Clean Safe Creeks Parcel Tax..
- Agreed to investigate the possibility of having a Voter Registration table at some location in the community on National Voter Registration Day, September 25.
- Heard that to date 25 Pros and Cons presentations have been scheduled.
- Discussed holding forums for candidates in the 24th and 28th Assembly Districts..

Membership News

Thank you for renewing your membership: Hobart Davis, Frances Grabau, Anita Herrmann, Jo Lucey, Margaret Quillinan, Leonard Williams.

Thank you for including a donation with your dues: Autumn Bea, Pat Boyle, Leslie Fitch, and Bill Wilson.

Community Appeal

We continue to receive donations for the Community Appeal. Thanks to: Linda Davis and Serge Rudaz, Gladys Garabedian, Frances Grabau, Jo Lucey, Elaine & Scott Manley, and Sonja Messner.

In Memory

We are sad to report the death of long-time member Ann McElroy.

The Cupertino-Sunnyvale VOTER

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REGISTRAR OF VOTERS TO HOST PUBLIC "MEET & GREET" MEETINGS, HELP VOTERS PREPARE FOR PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION

"

Santa Clara County's Registrar of Voters, Barry Garner, announced that he will host three Meet & Greet public meetings from September 19th – 29th. These meetings will allow the county's citizens to learn more about the voter registration and election process in preparation for the upcoming November 6th Presidential Election.

"The election process can sometimes seem complicated, but this will be a great opportunity for Santa Clara County's voters to get their questions answered from the ROV staff," said Garner. "Our goal is to make sure all citizens have a positive experience when they come in contact with the ROV office."

The three meetings will be held at locations throughout the county during the day, evening, and weekend to give members of the public more opportunities to attend:

SOUTH COUNTY

Wednesday, September 19th, 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm
Temple Emmanuel Church
16705 Butterfield Blvd
Morgan Hill, CA 95037

NORTH COUNTY

Thursday, September 20th, 10:00 am to 12:00 noon
Palo Alto Church of Christ, Main Auditorium
3373 Middlefield Rd
Palo Alto, CA 94306

SAN JOSE

Saturday, September 29th, 10:00 am to 12:00 noon
Registrar of Voters' Office, Auditorium
1555 Berger Dr, Building 2
San Jose, CA 95112

In addition to questions and answers, the meetings will include a presentation about the Registrar's Office explaining the variety of activities that go into conducting an election. The event will highlight the steps taken to keep the voter registration records accurate and the ballot counting secure.

"Transparency is important in everything we do. If voters understand how we conduct elections, then they can have full confidence in the accuracy and integrity of the results," said Garner.

For more information, contact the Registrar of Voters' Office at:

Toll Free:	(866) 430-VOTE [8683]	Spanish:	(408) 282-3095
English:	(408) 299-VOTE [8683]	Vietnamese:	(408) 282-3097
TTY:	(408) 288-9820	Chinese:	(408) 282-3086
Online:	www.sccvote.org	Tagalog:	(408) 282-3089



PROP 30 Schools and Local Public Safety Protection Act

YES

Proposition 30 begins to move California toward financial stability and adequate funding for all the services we want from our government; we can't continue to cut vital public services like schools and public safety. This measure will provide some much needed income from a temporary increase in income tax rates for the wealthy and a modest temporary sales tax increase. The plan is a part of a balanced approach to eliminating our deficit that includes \$8 billion in cuts, \$6 billion in new revenues, and \$2.5 billion in loans, deferrals, etc., this year. Proposition 30 also guarantees a stable source of funding for counties to pay for their new public safety responsibilities such as housing low-level prisoners and providing substance abuse treatment.

PROP 31 Government Performance and Accountability Act

NO

Proposition 31 is based on good intentions and has some pieces that, taken alone, the League could support. However, Prop 31 has several significant flaws. There are questions about whether or not the provisions allow local governments to suspend state environmental requirements. What is clear is that there will be significant legal uncertainty, and years of litigation. In addition, the measure prescribes the specific manner of state and local government budgeting and puts this process into the state constitution. Prop 31 has other questionable provisions, such as establishing a significant shift of power over appropriations to the governor at times of fiscal emergency.

PROP 32 Special Exemptions Act

NO

This measure is not the campaign finance reform measure its proponents say it is. Proposition 32 promises "political reform" but is really designed by special interests to help themselves and harm their opponents. It looks like a campaign finance reform measure but unfairly targets one set of large campaign donors while giving other donors unlimited power. Its ban on payroll deductions for political giving will affect unions but not corporations, and even the restriction it places on contributions to candidates by corporations is full of loophole exemptions. It does not fix the problem of money in politics; Super PACs and independent expenditure committees will continue to spend without limitation.

PROP 34 SAFE California Act

YES

The SAFE California Act will replace the death penalty in California with a sentence of life in prison without the possibility of parole. Convicted killers will stay in prison for the rest of their lives, eliminating the possibility of executing an innocent person in California. This will save over \$100 million every year—because the court and incarceration costs are so much higher for prisoners at risk for a death penalty. \$100 million of these savings will be allocated over the next four years to pay for increased investigation of unsolved rape and murder cases. Convicted killers will be required to work and pay restitution into a victims' compensation fund.

PROP 40 Referendum on Redistricting

YES

We strongly urge a "YES" vote on this referendum on the state Senate maps drawn by the independent Citizens Redistricting Commission. The question on a referendum is not intuitive; it asks if you want to retain the new law, or in this case, the maps drawn by the Citizens Redistricting Commission. So vote YES to affirm the maps drawn by the Citizens Redistricting Commission, YES—in support of the Commission, YES—to validate the open, transparent process, YES—to retain fair districts.

VOTE WITH THE LEAGUE ON NOVEMBER 6!

Adequate revenue to provide for the public good is critically needed. The League supports Prop 30 on this ballot as the best way to provide some relief from the endless cutting of vital government services. We see some merit in the following two measures, Props 38 and 39, but have taken a neutral position on them because of their earmarking of revenues.

PROP 38 Tax for Education and Early Childhood Programs

NEUTRAL

We are neutral on Our Children, Our Future, the measure supported by the California State PTA and activist Molly Munger. It provides significant funding for education and early childhood programs. In addition, for the first four years, this measure provides money to help the other underfunded government services. However, in the longer term, it earmarks essentially all the new money for education and early childhood programs. These programs definitely deserve to be adequately funded, but so do all of the government programs we support, from mental health programs to the court system to childcare.

PROP 39 Tax Treatment for Multistate Businesses

NEUTRAL

This measure will close a tax loophole for multistate businesses, generating revenues of about \$1 billion per year—a good thing. However, it earmarks about half the new revenue for the first five years, so that portion can only be used for energy efficiency and alternative energy projects. We are neutral on this proposition because we believe new revenue for the state should be available for all of the programs funded by state revenue—schools, law enforcement, health care, jobs programs, the judiciary system.

The League has not studied the issues in the following measures, and so has **no recommendation** on **Proposition 33** (Auto Insurance Rates), **Proposition 35** (Human Trafficking), **Proposition 36** (Three Strikes Reform), and **Proposition 37** (Genetically Engineered Foods).

VOTE WITH THE LEAGUE ON NOVEMBER 6!

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF CALIFORNIA • 1107 9th Street, Suite 300 • Sacramento, CA 95814
916-442-7215/916-442-7362 Fax/888-870-VOTE Toll-free • lwvc@lwvc.org • www.lwvc.org

SMART VOTER TO LAUNCH NEXT GENERATION SERVICE FOR NOVEMBER ELECTION

Smart Voter expects to launch the first version of its long-awaited Next Generation website in time for the November 6 presidential election! The new site will feature a new look and enhanced functions to better serve highly-connected 21st century voters and position the League with key strategic capabilities that will be essential for the League's future success as a preeminent source of election information.

The Next Generation website will include a special design and capabilities to support mobile devices such as smartphones and tablets, plus the ability to feature a changing array of content from local Leagues and partner organizations. Stay tuned for more details as we approach the launch date.

Websites to help you make voting decisions.

www.smartvoter.org

www.easyvoter.org

SILICON VALLEY WATERSHED SUMMIT

Saturday, September 22

8:30 am - 2:00 pm

Foothill College Cafeteria
12345 El Monte Road, Los Altos Hills
(Note: Free parking in Parking Lot 1)

Cost: \$10 (includes lunch)

Hosted by the Foothill Center for a Sustainable Future

Funding provided by the Santa Clara Valley Water District and the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District

The Silicon Valley Watershed Summit will plan the protection and enhancement of the waters and surrounding lands — the watersheds — of Santa Clara and San Mateo Counties. The Summit will build sustainability by identifying opportunities for on-going collaboration among agencies, organizations, businesses and individuals that takes advantage of our region's considerable human and biological resources.

Program Details

- 8:30 am - 9:00 am Registration
- 9:00 am Welcome & Orientation
- 9:05 am - 9:25 am Keynote Speaker: Brock Dolman, Director of the Occidental Arts and Ecology Center's Water Institute
- 9:30 am - 10:30 am Watershed Issues Panel
Steve Abbors, General Manager, Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District (moderator)
Len Materman, Executive Director, San Francisquito Creek Joint Powers Authority (flood protection)
Phil Bobel, Asst. Director of Public Works, City of Palo Alto (water quality)
Jim Fiedler, Chief Operating Officer, Santa Clara Valley Water District (water supply)
Jerry Smith, Associate Professor, San Jose State University (ecosystems)
- Break
- 10:40 am - 11:40 am Skill-Building Workshops
Watersheds 101 (an introduction to watersheds)
Hands-on Watershed Projects
Watershed Legislation & Policy
Advocating for Healthy Watersheds
- 11:40 am - 12:30 pm Lunch
- 12:30 pm - 12:50 pm Keynote Speaker: Lester Snow, former California Secretary of Natural Resources and current Director of the California Water Foundation
- Break
- 1:00 pm - 2:00 pm Watershed Break-Out Groups
- 2:00 pm Closing Remarks

Register at Brown Paper Tickets

LEAGUE NEWS

National – The U.S. Senate refused to allow full debate on the DISCLOSE Act twice in two consecutive days. The League was deeply disappointed and expressed its commitment to continue the fight for complete disclosure of spending on big-money advertising in candidate elections. Thanks to everyone who responded to our action alerts as well as our national Lobby Corps members, who carried our message to Senate offices. It's not too late to tell your Senators how you feel about their votes! Please take action and share it with your networks.

State - In March 2012, the League of Women Voters of California Education Fund was awarded a \$10,000 grant from the Silicon Valley Community Foundation to work with a coalition of Muslim organizations. The goal of the grant was for LWVCEF to provide training, education and resources to enable coalition members to work towards more effective civic participation by the Bay Area Muslim community.

WATER: WHERE DOES IT COME FROM, WHERE IS IT GOING?

TUESDAY-SEPTEMBER 11

7:00 PM

SARATOGA SENIOR CENTER

Multi Purpose Room
19655 Allendale Ave Saratoga 95070

DR. CHRISTINE SWANSON

Director, Science Center-NRDC

The League of Women Voters of Southwest Santa Clara Valley is honored to present Dr. Christine Swanson, Director, Science Center, San Francisco's Natural Resource Defense Council (NRDC) who has worked closely with NRDC staff on national, state, and local species protection and water issues for many years.

Upon her appointment in 2011 as the director of the Science Center, she oversees the implementation of the Science Centers dual mission of expanding NRDC'S scientific capabilities as well as increasing the visibility of environmental advocacy efforts across a range of priority issues, from reducing global warming pollution to protecting endangered species and support of advocacy programs to address today's most pressing environmental challenges.

Dr. Swanson, who earned a Ph.D. in Biology from U.C.L.A. is nationally renowned for her leadership on environmental, biological, water quality and water resource management issues.

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

September

Mon	10	7:00 pm	Board Meeting Burnett's 729 Stendhal Lane, Cupertino 95014
Tue	11	1:00 pm	Initiative and Referendum Study Committee Hollimon's 11155 La Paloma Drive, Cupertino
Tue	11	7:00 pm	Water: Where Does it Come From, Where Is it Going? Saratoga Senior Center - Multi Purpose Room 10655 Allendale Ave Saratoga 95070
Sat	22	8:30am-2pm	Watershed Summit Foothill College Cafeteria 12345 El Monte Road, Los Altos Hills

See Page 1 for Pros and Cons presentations and Candidate Forum

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

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

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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