



# VOTER

THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF CUPERTINO-SUNNYVALE

December 2012

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### In This Issue

Bay Area League Day	1
Board Briefs	2
Calendar	4
Consensus Meeting	1
Election Wrap Up	2
Holiday Party	1
League News	3
LWVC Convention	1
Member News	2
Message from LWVUS	2
Program Planning	1
San Jose Water Company Rate Increase	3

## Holiday Party

**Saturday, December 1, 2012**

**10:00 - 11:30 AM**

**Manley's**

**1075 Hamshire Court, Sunnyvale 94087**

**RSVP to Marilyn Howard**

**MJZHactivist@yahoo.com, or 408-255-0977**

Are you suffering from election fatigue? Come to our holiday party for instant relief. Join other League members for some good food and informal and lively conversation. Come alone or bring your spouse, children, friends, and neighbors.

We look forward to seeing you.

### LWV Cupertino-Sunnyvale Board of Directors

Vice President	Susan Hough
Secretary	Katharine Turner
Treasurer	Roberta Hollimon

Directors	Suzanne Ford
	Marilyn Howard
	Russ Howard
	Bruce Kendall
	Elaine Manley
	Jason Spiller

Off Board

VOTER Mailing LaVerne Prentice

### PLAN AHEAD

Mark your calendars for future League meetings. On January 12 we will have our program planning meeting to decide if there are issues we need to study at the state or local level.

February 14 is the date for the consensus meeting updating our Initiative and Referendum position. Study committee members have been working hard and want to share their findings with you. Then you are the ones to make decisions about whether or not we need to change our position.

The topic for Bay Area League Day, Saturday, February 2, 2013, is "Water: California's Gold 2013." There will be panels on sustainability, governance, and the Bay Delta Conservation Plan. Cost is projected as \$30 (advance registration) including luncheon and \$15 without luncheon.

State League Convention will be held in San Jose next year May 16 - 19, 2013. Take advantage of the closeness of the convention and attend one, two or all three days. Consider being a delegate for our League.

### The Cupertino-Sunnyvale VOTER

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Editor: Roberta Hollimon  
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## ELECTION WRAP UP

It's time once again to thank our volunteers who put in many hours to help us achieve our mission of encouraging the informed and active participation of citizens in government, working to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influencing public policy through education and advocacy.

**Voter Registration** - Marilyn Howard organized voter registration at three locations, Memorial Park, Cupertino, Loehmanns' Plaza Sunnyvale, and Lakewodd Park, Sunnyvale. She was helped by Sandy Howard, Elaine Manley, Bev Olsen, Nancie Plumb, and Rose-Marie Twu

**Forums** - Candidate Forums for Assembly District 24 and Fremont Union High School District Board of Trustees were organized by Marilyn Howard. Roberta Hollimon served as moderator at both forums; timers were Russ Howard and Sandy Howard; and Bev Olsen, Judi Pogue and a group of students from Homestead High School assisted.

**Pros and Cons** - In addition to presenting the Pros and Cons of ballot measures to 33 organizations with over 1,000 attendees. She was assisted by scheduler Judi Pogue, and researcher and presenter Michael Lusk. Susan also prepared a 30-minute show on all propositions. Susan and Elaine Manley taped the show at KMVT. In conjunction with other Bay Area Leagues and Cal Channel Susan produced 10 individual or dual short proposition videos. These were broadcast on Cal Channel and posted on YouTube and Smart Voter. Kathy Turner was one of the presenters

**Election Night Workers** - Roberta Hollimon, Jason Spiller, and Kathy and Terry Turner worked at the Registrar of Voters' office on election night. Kathy and Terry worked in the auditorium preparing ballots to go to the counting machines. Jason and Roberta worked in the back office answering phones that rang only once but were privileged to receive an escorted tour to view the rooms with machines that count the votes and the machine that opens and counts the "Vote-By-Mail" ballots. They were able to watch the staff who verify that the signatures on the ballots match the signatures on the Voter Registration forms.

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## A MESSAGE FROM LWVUS

All is well that ends, and, mercifully, Election 2012 ended this week. Americans turned out and voted against long odds, choosing their leaders and deciding numerous ballot issues. The odds that we would have a result on Election Day were long because of concerted efforts to make voting less accessible through the manipulation of election laws, last minute manipulation of the election process and by a massive storm that crippled election efforts in several states. But voters persevered.

There are many reasons for the League to be pleased with the Election Day. Leaving aside any personal, partisan preferences, we should be pleased because this election was decided by a diverse electorate, parts of which were most likely to have been deterred by the voter suppression efforts that the League so successfully fought to a standstill. We should be pleased because, in the end, grassroots, person-to-person outreach efforts were just as critical to turning out our communities as all the money spent carpet-bombing battleground states with negative advertising. We should be pleased because, in the battleground states, ballot initiatives designed to motivate a very narrow base and undermine equality, were largely rejected because those who turned out better reflected the diversity in America.

## Board Briefs

At its November meeting, your board:

- Set dates for meetings: Holiday Party December 1, Program Planning, January 12, and Initiative and Referendum February 9.
- Discussed the LWV Santa Clara County Council's policy on taking action and decided that if the vote is 3 to 2 then the County Council can take action.
- Considered the use of the "cloud" for some League information.
- Discussed the League's policy for not holding a candidate forum if only one candidate is able to attend.

## Membership News

Thank you for renewing your membership: Jane Kroll and Joan and Albert Wehde.

Thank you for including a donation with your membership renewal: Donna and Scot Austin.

Thank you for your donation to the Community Appeal: Holy Lofgren.

Most of all, we should be pleased because of the vital role the League played in this election. We stood up for voters in our statehouses and in our courthouses when politicians tried to manipulate election laws for their own benefit. We registered around a hundred thousand voters with a particular emphasis on first time voters in underserved communities. We challenged last minute efforts to purge voters from the rolls. We provided access to accurate fact-based voter information. We organized poll watchers and worked at the polls to protect the process. When and where the League was needed most, we were there protecting and defending democracy.

## LEAGUE NEWS

**National** – Through their intentional focus on the dual goals of strengthening democracy and strengthening the League, the LWV of Orange County (FL) registered 1,000 new voters AND grew from 240 League members in January 2012 to over 400 members in November 2012. LWVOC has become the second largest League nationwide and is very visible in its community!

At its most recent meeting, the LWVUS recognized the LWV of the Antelope Valley (CA) as a full-fledged local League! Congratulations to the new League and special thanks to the LWV of California for mentoring them through this process. As an MAL unit, the LWV of Antelope Valley has been extremely successful already – developing the Jeannette Rankin “Courage Award” to encourage community involvement in local governmental issues, hosting a televised Assembly debate, and conducting two events about the “state of public education.” Cheers & welcome to them!

## MEETING ON SAN JOSE WATER COMPANY RATE INCREASE

**On January 3, 2012 the San Jose Water Company proposed a 44 percent rate increase to be phased in over three years. This proposed increase is now before the California Public Utilities Commission for review**

The League of Women Voters of San Jose and Santa Clara along with the Loma Prieta Chapter of the Sierra Club and Councilmember Don Rocha are co-sponsoring a Town Hall meeting at San Jose City Hall on December 6th, 2012 at 7:00 p.m. where you will hear groups discussing the proposed increase. The agenda for this informative meeting will include:

- A presentation explaining the rate increase, the San Jose Water Company’s long range plans, and proposed infrastructure upgrades.
- A summary of the California Public Utility Commission review of the proposed rate increase by Richard Rauschmeir, Division of Rate Payer Advocates, CPUC
- Cynthia Jean Truelove, Director, Water Energy Research Initiative, Stanford University who will comment on water conservation initiatives and best practices in relation to the proposed rate increase
- Public comment

**Make your voice heard.  
Join us at this important Town Hall Meeting**

7:00 p.m. December 6, 2012  
San Jose City Hall - Council Chambers  
200 East Santa Clara Street, San Jose, CA

**Also Co-sponsored by the LWV of Cupertino/Sunnyvale  
and LWV of Southwest Santa Clara Valley**

## 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

### December

Sat	1	10:00 - 11:30 am	<b>Holiday Party</b> Manley's 1075 Hamshire Ct. Sunnyvale 94087
Thu	6	7:00 pm	<b>San Jose Water Company Rate Increase</b> San Jose City Hall - Council Chambers 200 East Santa Clara Street, San Jose
Wed	12	1:00 pm	<b>Initiative and Referendum Study Committee</b> Burnett's 729 Stendhal Lane, Cupertino 95014

### January

Sat	12	10:00 am	Program Planning Location TBD
Mon	14	7:00 pm	<b>Board Meeting</b> Burnett's 729 Stendhal Lane, Cupertino 95014

## WHO REPRESENTS YOU

### UNITED STATES

<b>President Barack Obama</b> <a href="mailto:comments@whitehouse.gov">comments@whitehouse.gov</a>	202-456-1414
<b>Senator Barbara Boxer</b> <a href="mailto:senator@boxer.senate.gov">senator@boxer.senate.gov</a>	415-403-0100
<b>Senator Dianne Feinstein</b> <a href="mailto:senator@feinstein.senate.gov">senator@feinstein.senate.gov</a>	415-393-0707
<b>Rep. Anna Eshoo</b> <a href="mailto:annagram@mail.house.gov">annagram@mail.house.gov</a>	650-323-2984
<b>Rep. Mike Honda</b> <a href="mailto:mike.honda@mail.house.gov">mike.honda@mail.house.gov</a>	408-558-8075

### CALIFORNIA

<b>Governor Jerry Brown</b> <a href="mailto:governor@governor.ca.gov">governor@governor.ca.gov</a>	916-445-2841
<b>Senator Elaine Alquist</b> <a href="mailto:senator.alquist@senate.ca.gov">senator.alquist@senate.ca.gov</a>	408-286-8318
<b>Senator Joe Simitian</b> <a href="mailto:senator.simitian@senate.ca.gov">senator.simitian@senate.ca.gov</a>	650-688-6384
<b>Assemblyman Paul Fong</b> <a href="mailto:assemblyman.fong@assembly.ca.gov">assemblyman.fong@assembly.ca.gov</a>	408-277-2003

### SANTA CLARA COUNTY

<b>Supervisor Dave Cortese</b> <a href="mailto:dave.cortese@bos.sccgov.org">dave.cortese@bos.sccgov.org</a>	408-299-5030
<b>Supervisor Liz Kniss</b> <a href="mailto:liz.kniss@bos.sccgov.org">liz.kniss@bos.sccgov.org</a>	

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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.

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of Cupertino-Sunnyvale  
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**FIRST CLASS**