



VOTER

THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF CUPERTINO-SUNNYVALE

March 2013

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Dinner With The League of Women Voters Of Santa Clara County

Excess & Hubris: How Money is Killing Democracy

Thursday, March 14, 6:30 PM

Michael's at Shoreline
2960 Shoreline Blvd.
Mountain View, CA



Speaker
Ann Ravel



Chair, California Fair Political Practices Commission
Deputy Assistant Attorney General for
Torts & Consumer Litigation in the
Civil Division of U.S. Justice Department
Santa Clara County Counsel Attorney from 1998 to 2009
Elected Governor on the Board of Governors
of the State Bar of California
Chair of the Commission on Judicial Nominees
Named 2007 Public Attorney of the Year
by the California State Bar

Moderator
Trixie Johnson

Former Two-term San Jose City Council Member
Past President of San Jose/Santa Clara LWV

Make your reservation now as space is limited!

For details on how to register for this LWV program, select your dinner entree and mail in your registration, please go to this link:
www.lwvlamv.org

LWV Cupertino-Sunnyvale Board of Directors

Vice President Susan Hough
Secretary Katharine Turner
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Marilyn Howard
Russ Howard
Bruce Kendall
Elaine Manley
Jason Spiller

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VOTER Mailing LaVerne Prentice

MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD

State Convention is coming in May

Please consider setting aside at least one day if not 3 to attend the events at our State Convention at the Hayes Mansion. It's a fabulous training opportunity and a great way to get to know other League members.

We need volunteers and we need attendees. You can find more information at the LWV State website at ca.lwv.org and click on State Convention to see the details. We will be sending more information as it becomes available.

Elaine Manley

MEETINGS OF INTEREST

Editors note: occasionally there are educational and informational meetings that may be of interest to our members but are not sponsored by our League. Information on those meetings will be included here.

International Women's Day Celebration

Speaker - Jane Roberts,

Co-founder of 34 Million Friends of the U.N. Population Fund.
(UNFPA)

Jane Roberts will highlight the work of the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), the largest reproductive health and family planning agency in the world.

Friday, March 8, 2013, 7-8:30 p.m.
St. Jude's Episcopal Church
20920 McClellan Road
Cupertino CA 95014

First Meeting of the Peninsula Watershed Forum

Tuesday, March 19, 3:30-5 PM
followed by refreshments
Peninsula Conservation Center
3921 East Bayshore Road, Palo Alto

Acterra is hosting what we hope will become a quarterly meeting of local citizens, agencies, and organizations working on watershed-related issues for the purpose of information-sharing and networking.

Includes all watersheds from Cordilleras Creek (Redwood City) to Stevens Creek (Sunnyvale/Cupertino).

For more info and to register: peninsulawatershedforum.eventbrite.com

Board Briefs

At its February meeting, your board:

- Approved the Initiative and Referendum Consensus Report to be sent to the LWVC Board.
- Reviewed the preparations for the Money in Politics County League dinner to be held on March 14.
- Appointed Jason Spiller and Kathi Turner to the Nominating Committee.
- Decided to hold a Community appeal in March
- Learned that Legislative interviews are being arranged with Assemblymen Paul Fong and Rich Gordon and State Senators Jim Beall and Jerry Hill.

Membership News

Thank you for renewing your membership: Len Doberne, Jim and Pat Jackson, Sharon Jenks, Evelyn Lundstrom, and Barbara Rogers.

Thank you for including a donation with your membership renewal: Joyce Bartlett, Delores Carson, Dorothy Normark, and Charles and Leanne Untulis.

In Memory

It is with great sadness that we report the passing of member Alexander "Sandy" Howard. Our thoughts are with his family, Marilyn, Russ, and Robin.

The Cupertino-Sunnyvale VOTER

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Editor: Roberta Hollimon
lwvcseditor@comcast.net
Mailing: LaVerne Prentice

WELCOME TO THE LWV OF CALIFORNIA CONVENTION

“The purpose of the convention is to be inspired and empowered and to increase active and informed participation in civic life.”

From the League of Women Voters of California website, announcing the 2013 convention, open to all, member or not, at the Hayes Mansion in San Jose. Details are starting to be fleshed out: check the official website at <http://ca.lwv.org/event/2013/may/event-may-2013-convention-myleague>

Registration opens on February 19. Speakers announced to date include:

Ann Ravel, head of the California Fair Political Practices Commission; Kim Klein, of Klein and Roth Fundraising on fundraising in tough times; and Chris Hoene, Executive Director of the California Budget Project, a nonpartisan public policy research group.

Many efforts are underway as the Cupertino-Sunnyvale League participates in the details of planning the state convention. As a reminder, Elaine Manley and Susan Hough represent our League on the local Steering Committee composed of participants from all the other Santa Clara County Leagues. Read further and help us make this conference the best ever.

- **Are you or your company/employer able to provide items or experiences for the Silent Auction?** Yes, every bit of income helps support our important work. Suggested donations might include event tickets, art, a weekend in a cabin, or a quilt.

- **Can your business or employer provide items for gift bags for all convention attendees?** How many? 400 These are typically small tokens or trinkets. Since convention goers are coming from all over California, we will be happy to accept items that reflect Silicon Valley.

- **Will you volunteer to assist during convention workshops?** We are looking for approximately 20 members available for a 3 hour shift sometime between 7:30 a.m.-6:00 p.m. on Friday, May 17 and/or Saturday, May 18 in San Jose. And they have requested that you come to the training for volunteers on Thursday, May 16 at 2 p.m. until 3:30 p.m. Luckily, our volunteers will be able to listen to the workshops at the same time you are helping with the logistics! If these particular times don't work for you, say you are available only in the morning, let us know. We can get you assigned to another task. (Thank you Cupertino-Sunnyvale members who have **already** volunteered to help out!)

Contact Elaine if you are able to support the conference through any of the options above! elaine.manley@comcast.net

It's time to add **May 17- 19, 2013** to your calendar so you too can attend the LWVCA convention nearby in San Jose. Stay tuned for more details next month!

INITIATIVE AND REFERENDUM CONSENSUS MEETING

On Saturday Feb 9, fifteen members of the LWV-CS gathered to find a consensus on initiative and referendum reform. We heard from the group that's been studying the issues and then had a lively discussion.

In general, the group agreed that it's valuable to have the ability for people to bring ballot measures to the voters, but noted there have been unintended consequences. We agreed with the current LWV position that pre-review of proposed laws would often improve them and should be mandatory. We also suggested that the legislature be allowed to amend initiatives in the spirit of the original measure. This would allow for simple fixes without going back to the voters every time.

We emphasized the absolute need for transparency, integrity and impartiality in the entire process of drafting initiatives and referenda, circulating them, and bringing them a vote. Other goals are also desirable, but these three seemed to us the most important in order to preserve the best of the initiative and referendum process.

At this point, we send the results of our deliberations to the League of Women Voters of California. Their job is to sit down with the results of all the local league consensus meetings and condense them into a statewide consensus. It's a big job, but it's that kind of process that keeps the League of Women Voters a true grass-roots organization. Thank you to all participants for bringing your voice and your commitment to democracy in action!

NOTICE OF PREPARATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT/ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

VTA will be preparing environmental studies for the El Camino Real Bus Rapid Transit Project. What is Bus Rapid Transit (BRT)? BRT consists of a number of enhancements to make bus service along El Camino Real faster, more reliable, more frequent, and to enhance pedestrian facilities in portions of the corridor. VTA is proposing to provide BRT improvements along 17.4 miles of El Camino Real between the HP Pavilion and Palo Alto Transit Center in the cities of San Jose, Santa Clara, Sunnyvale, Mountain View, Los Altos, and Palo Alto.

The El Camino Real BRT Project will consist of the following enhancements:

- Convert two general purpose lanes to bus-only lanes in a portion of the corridor.
- Reduce wait times for buses at traffic signals.
- Operate every 10 minutes during weekdays.
- Replace major bus stops with new stations featuring real-time information, ticket vending machines, and enhanced lighting.
- Add bike lanes, widen sidewalks, augment landscaping, and improve street lighting along portions of the corridor.

VTA is holding four environmental scoping meetings to listen to concerns. What are the biggest environmental impacts of this project? What can VTA do to avoid, minimize, or mitigate these impacts?

Copies of the document are available online at <http://www.vta.org/brt> and at the following location: Valley Transportation Authority, Building B-Lobby, 3331 North First Street, San Jose, CA 95134.

To learn more about the project, please attend the following public meetings. The same format and content will be offered at each meeting:

Thursday, February 21, 2013

8:30 a.m.-10:30 a.m. (Presentation begins at 8:45 a.m.)
5:30 p.m.-7:30 p.m. (Presentation begins at 5:45 p.m.)
Santa Clara City Council Chambers
1500 Warburton Avenue, Santa Clara, CA 95050
This location is served by VTA Bus Lines 22, 32, 60, and 522

Thursday, February 28, 2013

8:30 a.m.-10:30 a.m. (Presentation begins at 8:45 a.m.)
5:30 p.m.-7:30 p.m. (Presentation begins at 5:45 p.m.)
Mountain View City Council Chambers
500 Castro Street, 2nd floor,
Mountain View, CA 95041
This location is served by VTA Bus Lines 22, 34, 35, 51, 52, 522, and VTA Light Rail

If you are unable to attend these meetings, project information and presentations can be found online at <http://www.vta.org/brt>. Comments on the scope and content of the environmental studies must be received no later than 5:00 p.m. on Friday, March 8, 2013, at the postal or email address listed below:

VTA Environmental Programs & Resources Management
Attn: Christina Jaworski 3331 N. First Street, Building B-2,
San Jose, CA 95134 Email: ecbrt@vta.org

Individuals who require language translation, American Sign Language, or documents in accessible formats are requested to contact VTA Community Outreach at [408-321-7575](tel:408-321-7575) / TTY [408-321-2330](tel:408-321-2330) at least 5 business days before the meeting. The meeting facility is accessible to persons with disabilities.

For more meeting details please call VTA Community Outreach at [408-321-7575](tel:408-321-7575), or email community.outreach@vta.org

El Camino Real BRT Corridor

Palo Alto Transit Center
California Avenue
Arastradero Rd/Charleston Rd
Showers Dr
Castro St
Bernardo Ave
Hollenbeck Ave
Remington Ave/Fair Oaks Ave
Wolfe Rd
Lawrence Expwy
Kiely Rd
Scott Blvd
Santa Clara Transit Center
Naglee Ave
Julian Ave
HP Pavilion

LEAGUE NEWS

National – The League and other reform groups sent a letter to the Office of Congressional Ethics (OCE) urging them to stand fast on the OCE’s current rules of procedure. The OCE received suggestions from private attorneys who represent clients before the OCE. The letter calls the proposed changes “inappropriate for OCE as currently structured and would impede the agency’s ability to make the ethics process more accountable and transparent.”

State - State League announced that in the new legislative session in Sacramento the League will be fully engaged in efforts to strengthen California’s campaign disclosure requirements, will continue to work on reforms to the state budget process as well as working to make voting more accessible to all potential voters. Other issues garnering attention include: changes to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), a water bond, fracking, changes to education funding (Weighted Student Formula), and early childhood education.

SAVE THE DATE!!

What: Transforming Public Education: What's Next for California Students, Teachers and Schools, EdSource's annual symposium, in partnership with the California State PTA.

When: Saturday May 4th, 2013. 9:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Registration and breakfast start at 9:00 a.m.; program begins at 10:00 a.m.

Who: Leading education policy experts and thinkers, with panels moderated by education journalists, along with parents, teachers, school leaders and policymakers who care about public education -- and you!

Where: San Jose Convention Center.

Why:

- To learn more about upcoming changes in testing and accountability, controversies over teacher quality and evaluations, and the latest on Gov. Brown's sweeping reform proposals for school financing.
- To participate in vital discussions about California's education future with a diverse group of education leaders.
- To devise strategies to engage parents, schools and communities.

Watch for more details and registration information soon!

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

March

Fri 8	7:00 p.m.	International Women's Day (see p. 2)
Mon 11	7:00 pm	Board Meeting Burnett's 729 Stendhal Lane, Cupertino 95014
Thu 14	6:30 pm	County League Dinner Money in Politics Michael's at Shoreline 2960 Shoreline Blvd. Mountain View 94043
Tue 19	3:30 p.m.	Peninsula Watershed Forum (see p. 2)
Thur 21	8:30 a.m. & 5:30 p.m	Bus Rapid Transit Environmental Scoping Meetings (see p. 4)
Thur 28	8:30 a.m. & 5:30 p.m	Bus Rapid Transit Environmental Scoping Meetings (see p. 4)

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 Jim Beall senator.beall@senate.ca.gov	408-286-8318
Senator Jerry Hill senator.hill@senate.ca.gov	650-688-6384
Assemblyman Paul Fong assemblyman.fong@assembly.ca.gov	408-277-2003
Assemblyman Rich Gordon assemblyman.gordon@assembly.ca.gov	650-691-2121

SANTA CLARA COUNTY

Supervisor Dave Cortese dave.cortese@bos.sccgov.org	408-299-5030
Supervisor Joe Simitian joe.simitian@bos.sccgov.org	408-299-5050

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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
of Cupertino-Sunnyvale
P.O. Box 2923
Sunnyvale, CA 94087

FIRST CLASS