



VOTER

THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF CUPERTINO-SUNNYVALE

April 2013

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THE CONVENTION IS COMING!

Get Ready for the California Leagues' Most Exciting Event of the Year!

The **California State League Convention** will be held this year at the **Dolce Hayes Mansion** in San Jose from **May 16 through May 19**, and the worker bees are already busy buzzing around getting the Mansion ready and all the plans in place!

What is our job?

We are in charge of volunteers which means that we (together with the other five leagues in this area) will be assigning and coordinating the tasks of all the volunteers at this big state convention. Sounds easy, doesn't it? Well, yes—but, first, we have to find all these energetic volunteers—and that means YOU. You can volunteer for the convention, and you won't have to pay the registration fee.

What else can YOU contribute?

Besides volunteering to work at the convention, there are several other ways you can contribute.

- Get a company to donate high-quality "goodies" for the giveaway bags.
- Think hard about the generous companies or individuals whom we might ask for financial contributions to help pay expenses. We have someone on the committee who is not afraid to ask; we just need an introduction to the "right" person from YOU.

- You might also ask an artist you know for some beautiful art work or any other appropriate item for the SILENT AUCTION.
- Or maybe YOU could create something beautiful that you would like to contribute.

Why should YOU come to the convention?

1. There will be great speakers:

Ann Ravel, our March speaker, in case you missed her or want to hear her speak on a more expanded topic.

Kim Klein – Health Care and the Health of the Economy

Chris Hoene – The California Budget Project

And many more.....

2. And Workshops galore:

- Advocacy
- Smart Voter
- Communication
- Budget Questions & Answers
- Fundraising
- 501(c)(3) status
- Caucuses & Marketplace
- Plenary Sessions
- Receptions, Luncheons, & Dinners

Elaine Manley and Susan Hough

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VOTER Mailing LaVerne Prentice

CALTRAIN ELECTRIFICATION

Thanks to Onnolee Trapp, LWV South San Mateo County, for background information in this article.

Caltrain is updating the 2000 Environmental Impact Report (EIR) that was completed in 2004, with a final draft in 2009. The update only has to be done for the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and the plan is to complete it in less than a year.

Caltrain is looking at three separate projects: a Positive Train Control System, Caltrain Electrification, and eventually having a “blended” system with High-Speed Rail. Electrification means the construction of an overhead catenary system, three types of power stations between San Francisco and San Jose, and replacing trains with Electric Multiple Units (EMUs), lighter weight than present trains. Trains will still run at 79 mph but the end-to-end time will be faster, due to less time spent starting and stopping. Most of the goals of the update are the same as the 2000-2004 EIR study but there is an addition—to provide High-Speed Rail Compatible Electrical Infrastructure.

At this point in the EIR process, stakeholders express their concerns that then must be addressed in the EIR. At its March meeting the LWVs of Santa Clara County approved a letter to be sent to the Peninsula Corridor Joint Powers Board (Caltrain) regarding its concerns for the project some of which are: the case for Electrification must be able to stand alone even if High-Speed Rail does not come to the Peninsula Corridor and the financial feasibility of Caltrain.

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 are included here.

Education Roundtable: Funding our Future

Hosted by Assemblymember Jim Beall

Thursday April 18, 2013, 6:30-8:00 PM

Quinlan Community Center
10185 N. Stelling Road, Cupertino

Learn how Prop 30 and the Governor’s proposal to restructure California’s school funding will impact our classrooms.

Introduction to Eco-Districts.

Wednesday, April 17; 7-9 PM
Sunnyvale Heritage Park Museum
570 East Remington Drive Sunnyvale.

The eco-district concept is emerging as a promising way to create a more sustainable city, not building-by- building, but neighborhood-by-neighborhood. Kate McGee, Lead Planner for the City of San Francisco's Sustainable Development Program, will share what she has learned about the eco-district concept and discuss San Francisco's Central Corridor Eco-District, now in the early stages of the planning process. Q&A to follow. Free. Pre-registration requested: <http://introtocodistricts.eventbrite.com/>

Board Briefs

At its March meeting, your board:

- Learned that Sharon Jenks will chair the budget committee and that the committee has started meeting.
- Heard that the Money in Politics County League dinner is sold out.
- Set March 28 as the date to send out the Community Appeal
- Discussed the possibility of changing the format of the VOTER.
- Set Saturday June 1 as the date for Annual Meeting.

Membership News

Thank you for renewing your membership: Kathi Turner.

Thank you for including a donation with your membership renewal: Pete Botsford and Dianne and Regis McKenna.

Welcome new member Terry Turner.

The Cupertino-Sunnyvale VOTER

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League Prepares to Launch New Approach to Online Voter Information

Big changes are coming soon to the Internet near you! Building on last fall's successful test of Smart Voter's new "Next Generation" web technology, the state League is poised to launch a brand new way of engaging and informing California voters online later this year. Detailed plans are currently being finalized and are expected to be announced at the state League Convention in San Jose on May 16-19.

The new approach is expected to incorporate the most current techniques from both online journalism and interactive web technology to create a completely new experience for the 24 million Californians who will be eligible to vote in 2014. Regular updates and news stories based on some of the best coverage and analysis of election-related subjects in the Golden State will be featured at the completely-redesigned Smart Voter® website, along with the award-winning personal ballot lookup that California voters have used for more than fifteen years. Visitors will be able to enjoy a robust range of streaming videos, audio clips, interactive graphics and carefully-selected stories about upcoming election issues and contests, ballot measures and changes to the voting process.



Importantly, the new Smart Voter® will allow the League at all levels to partner more extensively with other leading civic groups and news media outlets around the state, and to provide information tools and content that can be easily shared on the websites, mobile apps and social media of those organizations to greatly expand our impact. The Next Generation design will make all of this valuable information just as easy to explore on the touch screens of smartphones and tablet computers as the biggest flat panel monitor.

By spearheading these capabilities to expand and innovate in how we will provide voter service, the leadership of Smart Voter® hopes to ensure that local Leagues throughout California will have the tools to be a vital source for voters well into the 21st century. A campaign to raise additional support to complete this important transition to the League's future in online voter information is currently underway. Right now, thanks to a \$25,000 challenge offered by a group of longtime Smart Voter® supporters, every new or increased donation to Smart Voter for the Next Generation project by June 30, 2013 will be matched until the challenge goal is met. Checks should be sent to LWVC Education Fund, 1107 9th Street, Suite 300, Sacramento CA 95814-3608, with a notation that you wish to designate your gift to Smart Voter. We appreciate your support!

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS INTERVIEW WITH RICH GORDON, 24TH ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

Editor: At the beginning of new legislative sessions, local Leagues interview their state representatives about issues of interest to the League. Here is the interview with Rich Gordon. Others will appear in future VOTERs.

Q. California has both an ongoing structural imbalance, with insufficient revenue for the programs we would like to support, and an ongoing problem with the actual process of passing a budget. Even though we just passed Proposition 30, we recognize that this is just a first step towards financial stability for California.

a. What measures would you support to continue the progress that Proposition 30 represents?

b. What measures would you support to change the budget process?

Assemblyman Gordon used the analogy of a patient in explaining California's state budget; the patient is no longer on life support but is still in ICU. In the previous budget twenty billion had to be cut in the form of frozen state salaries, reduced budgets to the UC and CSU systems, some pension reform, flat K-12 spending, etc. The new budget submitted by the governor is a "break-even budget." He believes some of the income projections are optimistic but overall there are no "smoke & mirrors." Sequester could be very harmful to the state.

With Prop 30 the increase in income taxes by the top earners will end in seven years and the sales tax increase will end in five years so the state needs to plan ahead. If the economic recovery continues Assemblyman Gordon wants to use the extra income to pay off the debt and institute a reserve fund. He believes the legislature must be prudent in restoring programs that have been cut. He cannot support new taxes with the recent passage of Prop 30.

Assemblyman Gordon believes that we should have a two year budget cycle and believes very strongly in performance based budgeting. He would like to see zero based budgeting phased in over time. When he was chair of the budget subcommittee, departments had to present their budgets of the last five years.

Assemblyman Gordon basically favors the governor's education budget proposal of eliminating categorical funding in order to give more local control of spending. He believes that there needs to be equality in funding for all of California's school children between rich and poor districts. But the funding for Palo Alto Unified and Mountain View Los Altos Union High School Districts would be frozen at current levels under the governor's plan.

Q. There was an unprecedented amount of money spent in this election in California. What measures would you support to address the problem of money in politics? What improvements are needed to disclosure rules in California?

Assemblyman Gordon is currently working with Ann Ravel and the Fair Political Practices Committee and will be carrying two bills—one regarding disclosure of individuals who are giving large amounts of money to 501(c)(4) advocacy groups and the other regarding the enforcement of reporting procedures.

Q. During the last legislative session, efforts were made to change the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). In particular, an end-of-session attempt at a significant rewrite of CEQA was attempted but was not successful. What is your view of CEQA? What changes do you think it needs, if any?

State Senator Rubio was leading efforts in reforms to CEQA but he just resigned so the future of additional legislation in this area is unsure. Assemblyman Gordon is in favor of some minor changes.

Q. What are your personal priorities?

Assemblyman Gordon has been appointed to chair the Business, Profession and Consumer Protection Committee. It regulates 120 professions. With the implementation of ACA, he and the committee will be exploring various options within professional categories and what services each profession should be able to administer; he is concerned that many more people will have access to care while the number of doctors will remain the same.

At the local government level, he will carry legislation to help local governments reduce greenhouse emissions.

Assemblyman Gordon will carry legislation to institute regulations for Community Supported Agriculture (CSA). Currently some counties are shutting down the direct delivery of produce to consumers by many farmers because there are no provisions for inspection or regulation.

The recycling program administered by the California Recycling Agency (Cal Recycle) is projected to go bankrupt in approximately 18 months. When the program began, the income projections were that 70% of the funds would be returned to consumers who were recycling bottles and cans with the remaining 30% set aside for administration and other expenditures in support of recycling. Currently there is an 85% recycling rate. The program cannot be sustained at that rate of recycling and the required level of expenditures.

Notes by Natalie Elefant

LEAGUE NEWS

National – So far this year 1,896 election related bills have been introduced in state legislatures across the country. Not all of the bills are harmful to voters but the continuing trend of voter suppression legislation is clearly evident as legislators push new and/or resurrected bills that create new barriers to voting. Among this legislation are photo ID bills in Missouri, Alaska, North Carolina, Mississippi and Virginia, all of which could pass this year. The struggle to protect Election Day registration in Wisconsin continues and Florida is attempting to “fix” the problems that were created by bad election laws passed in 2011. .

State - LWVC is sponsoring with California Common Cause the Sunshine in Campaigns Act, a package of bills which addresses three broad areas:

1. Election filings and disclosure [money in politics]
2. End the “dark money” loophole
3. Enforcement

CELEBRATING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE WOMEN’S SUFFRAGE MARCH



On March 13, 1913, 5,000 suffragists from across the country gathered in Washington, DC, to demand the right to vote. The elaborate parade, which marched from the U.S. Capitol to the Treasury Building, included nurses, college students, academics, and clergywomen united in the struggle for women’s suffrage.

Throughout the three-hour parade down Pennsylvania Avenue, marchers faced strong opposition from antisuffragists among the crowds. Insults and lit cigarette butts were hurled at them, and marchers were tripped, groped and beaten. The violence was so intense that army troops were called in to restore order, and 100 marchers were hospitalized.

Yet even amid the abuse and opposition, many suffragists completed the parade route, and their voices were heard. Reverend Anna Howard Shaw, president of the National American Woman Suffrage Association (NAWSA), underscored the women’s perseverance: “I have never seen greater dignity under trying conditions; greater coolness under insult and oppression than was displayed by the marchers for suffrage today.”

In the end, the opposition faced by the marchers only helped their cause. Their mistreatment, including their lack of protection by police, led to a public outcry that strengthened press coverage of the women’s suffrage movement for weeks to come. Ultimately, the Washington march succeeded in reinvigorating the suffrage movement, which had stalled at a national level.

It would be a number of years until the 19th amendment gave women the right to vote, but the 1913 suffrage parade helped pave the way for renewed attention to fight for women’s suffrage.

Renee Davidson, LWVUS

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: _____

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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

April

Mon	8	7:00 pm	Board Meeting Burnett's 729 Stendhal Lane, Cupertino 95014
Wed	17	7-9 pm	Introduction to Eco-Districts. Sunnyvale Heritage Park Museum, 570 East Remington Drive Sunnyvale.
Thu	18	6:30-8 pm	Senator Beall's Education Roundtable Quinlan Community Center 10185 N Stelling Road, Cupertino 95014

May

Sat	4	9 am - 3 pm	EdSource: Transforming Public Education San Jose Convention Center
Mon	13	7:00 pm	Board Meeting Burnett's 729 Stendhal Lane, Cupertino 95014
Thu-Sun	16-19		LWVC Convention Dolce Hayes Mansion Edenvale Avenue, San Jose

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.

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