



VOTER

THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF CUPERTINO-SUNNYVALE

May 2013

Volume 40 Number 10

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FIRST CALL TO ANNUAL MEETING

SATURDAY, JUNE 1, 2013

9:30 - 11:30 AM

**SUNNYVALE HERITAGE MUSEUM
570 EAST REMINGTON DRIVE, SUNNYVALE**

COST - \$10.00

9:30 Registration and Continental Breakfast

10:00 Speaker Dan Whisenhunt

10:30 Annual Meeting

11:30 Adjourn

RSVP Marilyn Howard 408-255-0977

or

Russ Howard - russhoward911@hotmail.com

LWV Cupertino-Sunnyvale Board of Directors

Vice President Susan Hough
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We are thrilled to have Dan Whisenhunt, who is a Senior Director of Real Estate & Development for Apple Computer, speak with us at our Annual Meeting. He will discuss the plans for the new Apple Campus. He will also discuss some of the issues that will affect our communities from the building of this campus such as the impact on the traffic patterns.

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.

DRAFT PLAN BAY AREA AVAILABLE FOR PUBLIC COMMENT TROUGH MAY 16

March 22 marked the release of the draft of the Plan Bay Area, the 25-year plan for integrated land use and transportation across the nine-county region. The draft is available for download at www.OneBayArea.org.

The public has until May 16 to comment on the draft, either by email (Info@OneBayArea.org), web (www.OneBayArea.org), regular mail (101 8th Street, Oakland, CA 94607), or at public meetings throughout the region:

- Mirage Ballroom, 4100 Peralta Boulevard, Fremont (May 1)
- Hilton Hotel, 300 Almaden Boulevard, San Jose (May 1)

Each meeting will consist of an open house from 6 to 7:30 PM to be followed by public hearings through 9 PM.

The draft of the plan's environmental impact report was released on March 29; it has the same May 16 deadline for comment as the plan.

For more information, call (510) 817-5831.

NAVY ANNOUNCES PROPOSED PLAN TO AMEND GROUNDWATER CLEANUP REMEDY

The Navy is seeking comments from the public on its proposed action to modify the groundwater cleanup remedy in place at ***Installation Restoration (IR)*** Site 26 at the former Naval Air Station (NAS) Moffett Field in Moffett Field, California. In addition the Navy invites the public to a Proposed Plan Public Meeting on May 16, 2013, where the ***Proposed Plan*** will be presented and verbal comments recorded.

-NOTICE- PROPOSED PLAN COMMENT PERIOD AND PUBLIC MEETING

Public Comment Period

April 15 to May 29, 2014

Proposed Plan Public Meeting

May 16, 2013

Mountain View Senior Center
266 Escuela Avenue
Mountain View, CA
7:00 to 9:00 PM

Board Briefs

At its April meeting, your board:

- Learned that eight members of our League attended the Money In Politics dinner.
- Approved the budget to be presented to members at Annual Meeting.
- Heard the the Community Appeal was sent to 210 members of the community and League members.
- Recommended placing an update of the Instant Runoff Voting position on the Annual Meeting Agenda.
- Agreed to send a donation of \$250.00 to the state Convention.
- Learned that Annual Meeting will be held at the Sunnyvale Heritage Museum.

Membership News

Thank you for renewing your membership: Michael Gottwald, James Griffith, Andrew Kao, Jo Loer, and LaVerne Prentice.

Thank you for including a donation with your dues: Jo Lucey

Community Appeal

Thank you for your donation to the Community Appeal:

Peter Botsford, Mary Boyle, Harold Brown, Delores Carson, Ann Croll, Suzanne Ford, Anita Herrmann, J.C. Hodges, Roberta and Marshall Hollimon, Marilyn Howard, Russ Howard, Kristine Kelly, Elaine Manley, Judi Pogue, Inge Roberts, Daryll and Dorothy Stow, Barbara Sullivan, Rose-Marie Twu, and Carol Weiss

CIR JOURNALIST TO ADDRESS SMART VOTER DINNER ON MAY 16TH



Meghann Farnsworth, Center for Investigative Reporting

A key figure at one of the nation's most innovative 21st century news organizations will headline the Smart Voter® dinner on Thursday evening, May 16th just before the opening of Convention. Meghann Farnsworth, Senior Manager for Distribution and Online Engagement at the renowned Center for Investigative Reporting (CIR), will speak to dinner attendees about how CIR achieves exceptional public impact by combining its groundbreaking content,

innovative collaborations with other organizations, and creative social media engagement. As the nation's oldest nonprofit investigative reporting organization, CIR creates engaging documentaries, videos and animated features to demystify complex topics and enable people to demand accountability from government, corporations and others in power. Its information on local, national and international issues is distributed through hundreds of news outlets such as NPR News, PBS FRONTLINE, PBS NewsHour, Los Angeles Times, Washington Post, The Daily Beast, and American Public Media's Marketplace. In California, CIR initiatives include California Watch and The Bay Citizen.

To register, go to lwvc.wordpress.com/registration2/

BOARD GIVES GREEN LIGHT TO SMART VOTER® NEXT GENERATION TRANSITION

2nd Vice President Kathy Armstrong led a presentation and board discussion about plans to fully transition Smart Voter® and other LWVCEF voter service activities to the so-called "Next Generation" approach to online voter information. This new approach focuses on:

- Deciding what is the most important information to offer and how best to deliver it based on a clear understanding of the needs of voters;
- Building collaborations with other civic and media organizations to increase the League's overall public impact by leveraging the strengths and resources of each partner;
- Employing flexible, easy-to-use 21st century technologies for constant innovation in engaging ways to present content and support rapidly-changing mobile/social platforms.

The board was briefed on planned organizational and technology changes that are to take place over the course of this year. These include a gradual shift of all LWVCEF online information to the Next Generation approach and a closer integration with Smart Voter®, changes in staffing to include a senior editorial function, and a reconstituted oversight structure for Smart Voter®. The extent and specific timing of the changes will be dependent on achieving various milestones along the way.

Next Gen transition cont.

More details about the Next Generation transition will be presented at the Smart Voter® May 16th pre-Convention and May 18th Convention workshops. See the Convention Workshops schedule for further information.

Even if you aren't planning on attending convention, you can attend the extensive pre-convention workshop "The Future of Voter Service: Learn How to Use Smart Voter's 'Next Generation' for Your League" is being offered Thursday afternoon. More information is on the Workshop section of the convention blog.

Stay for the evening and join fellow League members and guests at the Smart Voter reception and dinner.

VOTER SUPPRESSION BILLS IN NC: WHAT'S HAPPENING, AND WHAT IT MEANS FOR OUR COUNTRY

Early this month, multiple voter suppression bills – constituting one of the broadest attacks on voting rights we've seen this year – were introduced by members of the North Carolina Legislature, including proposals to require voter photo IDs, eliminate Sunday voting and reduce the same-day registration and early-voting periods. LWV North Carolina has been working hard to challenge the bills. But unfortunately, the problem goes deeper than just North Carolina, as similar bills are popping up in many state legislatures across the country. As we await the Supreme Court's decisions regarding challenges to the Voting Rights Act and the National Voter Registration Act, the actions in North Carolina serve as a powerful reminder that we must continually fight to protect the right to vote.

LWVUS

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS INTERVIEW WITH ASSEMBLYMEMBER PAUL FONG, 28TH 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 Paul Fong. Others will appear in future VOTERS.

Q 1. 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 Fong said California has both an ongoing structural imbalance, with insufficient revenue for the programs he 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.

Assemblyman Fong stated the Legislature will be reviewing various tax proposals this year. He supported Proposition 30 and also supports an oil severance tax to support Higher Education. He wants to include the state park system in funding. Also this year, a measure to tax sugar sweetened beverages a penny, at most at the retail level, has been introduced.

He also supports a split roll tax to update commercial rolls. The big corporations are getting 1978 tax rates. This needs to be updated.

He also supported middle class scholarships. The bill was defeated in the Senate but did get through the Assembly. The bill dealt with the tuition situation. Assemblymember Fong said that he will support something like that again.

Currently, there are proposals under consideration that the budget must be in the hands of the legislature 72 hours before approval. He feels three days is too long and one day to review and vote on the budget is sufficient amount of time. Assemblymember Fong feels the legislature has heard the budget multiple times and is tracking all amendments through various committees including the Joint Committee on Budget. The public elected the legislature to represent their interests. He supports a two-year budget process if there is the ability to amend the second year budget.

Q 2. 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 Fong introduced AB400. It would require listing on the petition for that measure the five top contributors to the ballot measure. He supports transparency in the initiative process all the way to end. He is the principal co-author of the Disclose Act.

His assistant mentioned the Fair Political Practices Commission and AB552. This bill will expedite the process for the commission to collect unpaid fines.

Q 3. California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA): During the last legislative session, efforts were made to change the California Environmental Quality Act. 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?

Assemblyman Fong supports CEQA laws but he feels they should be amended. He wants to keep the intent of CEQA to protect our environment because CEQA is a good law.

He mentioned he supported AB900. For any projects over \$100 million, the period of time to file a lawsuit is reduced to six months. He also wants to lower the threshold from \$100 million to \$5 - \$10 million to be included in the shorter time period to file a lawsuit.

Q 4. Local League Questions about issues of particular local concern.

The League brought up the issue of the San Jose Water District's proposal to increase fees by over 40 percent. Assemblyman Fong mentioned the California Public Utilities (CPUC) Rate Payers Advocate's counterproposal to increase fees of less than ten percent per year over several years. Assemblyman Fong's office has been in contact with the San Jose Water District and CPUC.

He also touched on hazardous waste, proper pill disposal, and fracking in California. He agrees with the environmentalists that fracking is dangerous to the environment.

Q 5. What other major issues do you think the Legislature must deal with in 2013? What are your personal priorities?

Assemblyman Fong stated initiative reform is a high priority along with Campaign finance reform. He supports full disclosure of any moneys coming in.

Assemblyman Fong feels the initiative process is being abused. It only costs \$200 to file an initiative proposal and he feels the cost should be higher, such as \$2,000 or \$2,500 to try to discourage the abuse.

He supports public financing to level the playing field.

LEAGUE NEWS

National – The League sent a letter to the U.S. Senate on April 18, 2013 regarding immigration reform and citizenship in a Democracy. The League is urging Senators to ensure that a path to citizenship is available to all who remain legally in the United States. Members of the Grassroots Lobby Corps will also be holding meetings with Senators on this issue.

State - Wanted: Open Government Specialist Are you passionate about the public right to know? A champion of open records and open meetings laws? We could use you on the LWVC team. We don't have anyone following this issue, and so sometimes miss opportunities to speak out. If you want to know more, contact Helen Hutchison hhutchison@lwvc.org.

Bay Area - LWV Bay Area Council will be held on May 4, 10:00 a.m. – 12 noon, Woodside Independence Hall. 2955 Woodside Rd., Woodside



Saturday, May 4th, 2013 - 9:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.
San Jose Convention Center.

Check-in and continental breakfast start at 9:00 a.m.
Program begins promptly at 10:00 a.m.

To register go to www.edsource.org/event-symposium13.html

Don't miss this important education policy event. EdSource has assembled a dynamic lineup of speakers who will provide timely information about the three big issues reshaping California's public schools: creating a more equitable funding system, new approaches to testing, and ensuring teacher quality.

The program will feature:

- A keynote address from Linda Darling-Hammond, professor at Stanford University and chair, California Commission on Teacher Credentialing
- Update from Jennifer Kuhn, Legislative Analyst's Office, on the latest developments on the state budget and its impact on school funding
- What does Governor Brown's "Local Control Funding Formula" mean for schools? A diverse set of voices to discuss this crucial issue, including State Board of Education Pres. Michael Kirst and Richard Carranza, Superintendent, San Francisco Unified School District
- A high-profile panel on new approaches for measuring California student and school performance featuring NYU professor Pedro Noguera, a leading voice in the testing debate. Plus, a panel on ensuring teaching quality featuring California Assemblymember and chair of the Assembly Education Committee Joan Buchanan, Tim Melton of Students First, and others.

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

May

Sat	4	9 am - 3 pm	EdSource: Transforming Public Education San Jose Convention Center
Sat	4	10:00 am	LWV Bay Area Council Woodside Independence Hall 2955 Woodside Rd, Woodside
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

June

Sat		19:30-11:30 AM	Annual Meeting Sunnyvale Heritage Museum 570 East Remington Drive, Sunnyvale
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WHO REPRESENTS YOU

UNITED STATES

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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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FIRST CLASS