



# VOTER

## THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF CUPERTINO-SUNNYVALE

Summer 2013

Volume 41 Number 1

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### ANNUAL MEETING

Annual Meeting started with a presentation by Dan Whisenhunt, Senior Director of Real Estate and Development for Apple Computer, of the plans for the new Apple Campus 2 which will be built on the former Hewlett Packard site in Cupertino bounded by Homestead Road, Wolfe Road, Hwy 280 and Tantau. Whisenhunt described the project as turning an old parking lot and low buildings into an Oak Savannah parkland setting.

Design guidelines have been: ease of use, beauty, and innovation. The former site had 20% landscaping; the new site will have 80% landscaping. Today there are 4,273 trees on the site and that will be increased to 6,000 trees. Many existing trees will be moved but remain on the site. Vegetation will be drought-tolerant reducing the use of water.

The campus is designed to be environmentally friendly. The buildings will be the most energy-efficient ever designed with open windows, radiant cooling with chilled water and 100% renewable energy. The project will not produce any net increase in greenhouse gas emissions. All excavated materials will be used onsite. No dirt will leave the site; it will be used to build berms around the property.

Alternative transportation for employees is being proposed. They will walk, bike, use public transportation and shuttles provided by Apple.

Comments or questions about the project can be sent to [applecampus2@apple.com](mailto:applecampus2@apple.com).



During the meeting members approved existing County and Local Positions and turned down an update of the County Position on Instant Runoff Voting. They adopted the 2013-2014 budget and elected officers and directors.

### LWV Cupertino-Sunnyvale Board of Directors

President Elaine Manley  
 Vice President Susan Hough  
 Secretary Carol Weiss  
 Treasurer Roberta Hollimon

Directors Suzanne Ford  
 Marilyn Howard  
 Russ Howard  
 Bruce Kendall  
 Michael Lusk  
 Nancie Plumb  
 Katharine Turner  
 Jason Spiller

Off Board

VOTER Mailing LaVerne Prentice

### The Cupertino-Sunnyvale VOTER

Published 10 times a year by the League of Women Voters of Cupertino-Sunnyvale.

Yearly subscriptions: \$10/year to non-members.  
 Members subscribe through annual dues.

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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I am excited to be the President of our League this year. We have a lot of things happening in our communities.

We will be presenting the Pros and Cons on ballot measures, hosting Candidate forums, and doing some advocacy on some important measures. I hope you'll attend and even help with some of our events.

One of our goals is to increase our number of active members this year. There are many more things we can be doing with enough people helping in some way. Please consider volunteering with our League this year and please take time to talk with your friends to encourage them to join us as well.

I look forward to seeing you.

*Elaine Manley*

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## OPPORTUNITIES FOR INVOLVEMENT

**Membership** – A group is forming to work on member recruitment and engagement. There will likely be meetings every 2-3 months. Please contact us if you are interested in working with this group or have ideas for us to explore: [league@cs.ca.lwvnet.org](mailto:league@cs.ca.lwvnet.org) or 408-253-6978

**Voter Service** – We will need people to organize and execute activities associated with the upcoming Sunnyvale election. Although the board has yet to decide exactly what we'll be offering, we are likely to need help in August and September with forum planning, facility logistics, media communications, measure analysis, document layout, and more. Please let us know ASAP if you can contribute to these efforts, so we can slot you into the plans as they develop: [league@cs.ca.lwvnet.org](mailto:league@cs.ca.lwvnet.org) or 408-253-6978

### Board Briefs

At its July meeting, your board:

- Received board training from our Management Training Advisor, Kathee Tyson.
- Approved the formation of a Finance Committee consisting of Linda Davis, Roberta Hollimon, Serge Rudaz and Leanne Untulis and President Elaine Manley ex officio, with responsibilities to revise the LWVCS bookkeeping and reporting procedures.
- Agreed to purchase copies of *Guide to Government* from the state League.

### Membership News

Thank you for renewing your membership: Nancy Burnett, Joan Coston, Suzanne Ford, Dorothy and John Givens, Joan Gordon, Roberta and Marshall Hollimon, Robin Holmes, Louise Levy, Ruth Mansberger, Mona Norins, Barbara Nunes, Nancy Plumb, and Barbara Sullivan.

Thank you for including a donation with your dues: Marilyn Howard.

Welcome new members: Polly Bove and Alan Herrmann.

### Community Appeal

Thank you for your donation to the Community Appeal:

Nancy Burnett, Linda Davis, Patricia Dentinger, Patricia Lisin, Evelyn Lundstrom, Norma Medlin, Barbara Nunes, Pat Plant, Nancie Plumb, Serge Rudaz, Jean Schwab, Leanne and Charles Untulis.

## SUSAN HOUGH WINS AWARD



President Elaine Manley presents Susan Hough a superhero shirt.

At the League of Women Voters of California May convention, the voter service committee recognized Susan Hough with the 2013 Voter Service Award for her awesome leadership of the LWVC/CalChannel collaboration that produced the November 2012 ballot proposition video segments, as well as her long-standing commitment to the LWV Cupertino-Sunnyvale Pros and Cons video. Her work not finished, she presented a convention workshop about lessons learned from the Cal Channel project, which sparked many ideas and much enthusiasm for future video projects.

Ernie Ting presented the Smart Voter® award to all of those indispensable and hardworking county coordinators and local coordinators, including our Jason Spiller, who do the crucial work to support excellent ongoing coverage of local elections on the Smart Voter® website!

## SMART VOTER® CONVENTION ACTIVITIES AND NEXT GENERATION UPDATE

Several Smart Voter® events were available to League members and friends around the convention, including the Smart Voter® dinner featuring guest speaker Meghann Farnsworth from the Center for Investigative Reporting, and two workshop sessions on the Next Generation of Smart Voter®. More information on the events, including links to additional materials as they are posted, can be found on Smart Voter's Convention blog.

Planning and work to transition the League to the Next Generation of Smart Voter® is scheduled to continue throughout 2013. This includes further development and testing of the innovative technologies that will add many valuable new capabilities and features. In addition, there will be a major push to add staffing and volunteers to complement the existing dedicated Smart Voter corps – including a new editorial function. Informational briefings and trainings on SV Next Generation for local and state League groups will be available this summer and fall. If your local League is interested in receiving a presentation about the Next Generation of Smart Voter®, please email [ernie@smartvoter.org](mailto:ernie@smartvoter.org).



Smart Voter® Director, Ernie Ting, conducts workshop at convention.



The Next Generation enhancements are vital to the League's ability to reach and impact 21st century voters. A group of devoted Smart Voter® supporters have created a \$50,000 challenge campaign – and we are now more than 80% of the way there! Anyone who makes a new or additional contribution to Smart Voter® Next Generation by June 30, 2013 will have the gift matched dollar for dollar, helping us reach our goal. Donations can be made online or checks can be made out to "LWVCEF – Smart Voter" and mailed to the LWVC office.

*Editor's note, the campaign reached it's goal of \$50,000 on June 30, the last day of the campaign but donations are still being accepted.*

# LWVC CONVENTION

Nancie Plumb

Over 260 attendees from across the state including our very own Roberta Hollimon, Susan Hough, Elaine Manley and Nancie Plumb joined the 2013 California LWV convention at the beautiful Hayes mansion in south San Jose. Nancy Burnett, Andrea Harris, Kathi Turner and her husband Terry, Rose-Marie Twu, and Carol Weiss from our League were volunteers—thank you.

The state level education and advocacy priorities were confirmed:

1. Money in politics (our focus is the Sunshine in Campaigns Act; we are cosponsors of SB 2 and SB 3).
2. K-12 education (our focus is on financing, content and quality)
3. Health care (our focus is on the Affordable Care Act education and Single Payer advocacy)
4. Water (our focus is on preparation for expected water bond measure on 2014 ballot)

An updated Initiative and Referendum (I&R) position was approved by the Board and ratified by the delegates. Our local League can be gratified that our work on the I&R consensus was reflected in the update. Our belief in the value of the people being able to bring ballot measures to voters was affirmed. Three recommendations we had submitted were included: 1) an indirect initiative procedure 2) mandatory pre-review for clarity, constitutionality and single subject and 3) allowing the Legislature to amend initiatives in the spirit of the original measure to allow simple fixes without going back to the voters.

Delegates added a study of California's higher education system which is in crisis due to funding cutbacks. (This was quite exciting procedurally- more on this later.)

A highlight was the state level Voter Service award given to Susan Hough for her outstanding contribution to providing unbiased information to voters to enable them to make informed choices. Her work (and the League's) is

critical to democracy where “the votes of the uninformed and misinformed count as much as the informed.” Congratulations, Susan, and thank you.

There were several excellent speakers including Kim Klein on fundraising (the key leverage point is values), Ann Ravel from the Fair Political Practices Commission (the Commission is aggressively pursuing violations of the law); Chris Hoene from the CA Budget Project (the state is in much better shape than it was and there are still many people in need), and Cheryl Graeve from LWVUS on Membership (there are all kinds of creative things that can be done to increase membership and there are states that have succeeded in adding new members.)

This was my first LWV convention. I did struggle to engage with some of the parliamentary procedures though I do understand the necessity for this process in ensuring justice to all, courtesy to all, respect for the majority and opportunity for a minority to be heard. I felt lucky to see the process in exciting action twice. First, a resolution to ban internet voting was brought from the floor and the leadership's Resolution Committee recommended not entertaining it. This recommendation was not accepted by the delegates who opted for discussion of the resolution and then voting on it. The resolution did not pass because the

majority felt the issue was too important for a mere resolution—it deserves study and taking a formal position. A second, not recommended topic was introduced—a study of higher education. The leadership expressed their concern about bandwidth and the study was initially voted down by one vote. A recount was requested and granted when someone who had originally voted “no” made the motion. The study was approved on the recount—again by one vote.

The next state convention will be held in 2015. Next year is the League's national convention which will be held June 6-10 in Dallas and I hope you will consider attending one or both of them.

Our local League can be gratified that our work on the I&R consensus was reflected in the update.

## LEAGUE NEWS

**National** – President Obama’s plan to fight climate change is a turning point in the fight against climate change. After months of calling on the President to move forward with life-saving measures to protect our children, our nation and the world from the damaging effects of climate change, the League was proud to stand by while he announced his plan to cut carbon pollution.

**State** - LWVC is cosponsoring SB 2 (Lieu) and SB 3 (Yee), the Sunshine in Campaigns Act. In addition, the League supports SB 27 (Correa). The three bills provide a comprehensive approach to improving California’s campaign disclosure laws.

**County** - The Leagues of Women Voters of Santa Clara County will not be reviewing our Instant Runoff Voting position this year.

## LWVUS AGRICULTURE UPDATE STUDY DETAILS ANNOUNCED

### SCOPE:

The Agriculture Update will focus narrowly on: 1) current technology issues in agriculture including genetically modified organisms (GMOs), herbicides, pesticides, agriculture water pollution, aquifer depletion, antibiotics in livestock, and accurate food labeling; and 2) current agriculture finance issues including consolidation in agriculture industries, crop subsidies and the federal agricultural regulatory process.

### TIMELINE:

The timeline identifies September 2013-April 2014 as the period during which state and local Leagues may form study committees, examine study materials, hold public meetings, hold consensus meetings, etc.

### LOCAL INVOLVEMENT:

The county League is considering forming a county study committee with one or more representatives from each of the five Leagues in the county becoming the study committee which would do the research and then present it to each League for consensus.

If you would like to join this committee, contact Roberta Hollimon, rbhollimon@comcast.net or 408-253-6078.

## 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

### August

Mon 12 7:30 pm

**Board Meeting**  
Clubhouse at the Commons  
Cupertino 95014

## WHO REPRESENTS YOU

### UNITED STATES

**President Barack Obama** 202-456-1414  
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**Assemblyman Rich Gordon** 650-691-2121  
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### SANTA CLARA COUNTY

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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