



VOTER

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF CUPERTINO-SUNNYVALE

September 2013

Volume 41 Number 2

SUNNYVALE ELECTION NOVEMBER 5, 2013

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Sunnyvale voters have some important choices on their ballots this fall. They will be electing three council members, plus deciding about three city measures and one school bond.

The City Charter limits council members to two consecutive four-year terms, although a person may run again after being off the Council for at least four years. Consequently, two of the seats to be filled this year have no incumbent running. Seven candidates will appear on the ballot:

- Seat 1 – Andy Frazer, Gustav Larsson
- Seat 2 – Steve Hoffman, Glenn Hendricks, Gustavo Magaña
- Seat 3 – Jim Griffith, Tap Merrick

The League of Women Voters will be conducting a forum for these candidates, in conjunction with the City of Sunnyvale, on Tuesday, October 15 at 7 pm in the City Council Chambers. The forum will be televised live on the City's government channel KSUN (cable channel 15) and available on demand from the City's website afterwards.

The ballot measures can be summarized as follows:

- Measure A – Amends the Sunnyvale City Charter to move city elections to November of even years, with the next election occurring in 2016.
- Measure B – Increases the Sunnyvale hotel tax from 9.5% to 10.5%.
- Measure C – Implements a set of gun safety ordinances in Sunnyvale.
- Measure G – Authorizes \$96 billion in bonds for the Sunnyvale School District.

The Sunnyvale Library will be sponsoring a League presentation of the Pros & Cons on the Ballot Measures on Tuesday, October 8 at 7 pm in the program room.

Sunnyvale is the only city in the county still holding its regular election in odd years. Neighboring cities, plus school districts and many special districts have moved their regular elections to even years, to save money.

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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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Please Send Your Questions to the League

Do you have a question you'd really like for the candidates to address? Or, do you have an unanswered question about one of the measures? If so, please email those questions to the League:

Questions for Sunnyvale City Council candidates

candidatequestions@cs.ca.lwvnet.org

Questions on Sunnyvale ballot measures

measurequestions@cs.ca.lwvnet.org

Or call 408-253-6078

We'll be drawing from your candidate questions for our forum, and we'll be answering questions on the measures in a FAQ that will be available on our website, www.cs.ca.lwvnet.org.

A MESSAGE FROM LWVUS PRESIDENT



Elisabeth McNamara

August 15, 2013

Dear Leaguers,

There has been more news on the voting rights front this week, especially as we prepare to celebrate the anniversary of the March on Washington. The Governor of North Carolina signed an omnibus voter suppression bill into law on Monday. This new law restricts voting not just by requiring the most restrictive voter photo ID, but also significantly cuts back on early voting and restricts voter registration.

North Carolina has a proud tradition of forward thinking election administration. Early voting and Election Day registration during the early voting period have worked well for voters in the state. The new law cuts early voting periods in half and ends registration at the polls during the early voting period. With a stroke of his pen, the governor eliminated North Carolina as a model of good election administration practices and made it the subject of lawsuits aimed at returning the state to Justice Department preclearance under the Voting Rights Act. The League of Women Voters of North Carolina is the lead plaintiff in one of the lawsuits that have already been filed.

It is truly sad that as we gather to celebrate the achievements of the Civil Rights movement, states are continuing to curtail voting rights and erecting barriers to voting that disproportionately impact the young, the elderly, poor and minority populations. The March on Washington was not just about voting, it was about equality of opportunity. It is up to all of us who care about this issue to be alert and active in insuring that equality of opportunity is the hallmark of our election laws.

In League,

OPPORTUNITIES FOR INVOLVEMENT

Please respond by email to league@cs.ca.lwvnet.org.

Social Media – We're looking for people to help get word out via Facebook or Twitter. In September and October, we'll be promoting events and services related to the Sunnyvale election. Just drop us an email, and we'll send you some text to use in crafting your messages, along with recommended time windows for each message.

Video Production – Have you done video production? Have you video-taped a meeting? Are you interested in helping to create videos on ballot

measures? If you can answer "Yes" to any of these questions, please tell us about your experience, skills, or interests.

Computer Skills: Word – We are always looking for people to do layouts of various documents. Let us know if you have good Word skills and could donate a few hours—monthly, quarterly, or even annually. We also need people who are familiar with mail-merge documents and could print occasional mailings. If you'd like to apply your Word skills to League work, please tell us about your skills and your availability.

Board Briefs

At its August meeting, your board:

- Accepted Strategic Priorities for 2013-2014: Voter Service, Membership, Board Development and Engagement, and Ongoing Activities (Membership, Finance, Fundraising).
- Based on its local Education position, agreed to take a position in favor of the Sunnyvale School District Bond Measure .
- The board took no position on Measure C, the gun safety measure, and will only provide educational content on that issue for this election.
- Learned that pros and cons of the City of Sunnyvale ballot measures are being prepared..
- Agreed to cosponsor the Education Symposium being presented by the Santa Clara County Office of Education.

Membership News

Thank you for renewing your membership: Barbara Beyda, Hobart Davis, Leslie Fitch, Russ Howard, Kris Kelly, Jo Loer, Elaine and Scott Manley, Margaret Quillinan, Dolly Sandoval, and Leonard Williams.

Thank you for including a donation with your dues: Autumn Bea, Pat Boyle, Tracy Edwards, and Andrea Harris.

Thank you for your donation to the Community Appeal: William Krohn and Jean Schwab.

Spokesperson – Would you enjoy delivering League messages during the public announcement segment of meetings of city commissions, school boards, neighborhood associations, and the like? You would be given the message and sometimes supplied with materials to distribute. This would usually occur within two months of an election. If this sounds like a fun way to serve the League and the community, please drop us an email.

HAPPY 95TH BIRTHDAY EVELYN

LWVCS MEMBER EVELYN LUNDSTROM CELEBRATES HER 95TH BIRTHDAY ON SEPTEMBER 3



Celebrating Over 50 Years in the League: Age 89

A friend invited me to attend some meetings and, as I am a political “junkie,” I went and was thoroughly “hooked.” I was, at first, not used to listening and being unbiased. Since then, I have met many wonderful people and have served in several offices.

Now, at 89, I can no longer do as much as I once did. I answer the phone for our League and direct the caller to the proper person, if I cannot answer the question. I send out dues notices, collect them from our post box and deposit them in the bank, then take the information to our current treasurer.

Yesterday, I attended a lunch meeting with speakers from our two cities and our Voter Service Chair. I sat there stunned as I was presented a lovely gift with the good wishes of my fellow Leaguers.

The League of Women Voters is a wonderful organization for men and women of all ages. No matter how much time you have available, or the skills you offer, or the experience you want to gain - you can find a home in the League! You will be appreciated for what you have to offer.

Lasting Friendships: Age 95

And now more years have passed and I am “just a member.” I’ll be 95 in September, so have become less able to carry on. Over the years, the communications within our League have gone from mimeograph, to cut stencils with a hand operated printer, to electric printer, to the age of computers. Hooray! Now if only the progress of the people in playing their roles as citizens were as improved (i.e. registering to vote and VOTING, as well as attending forums and learning about qualifications of candidates and pro-and-con presentations regarding measures presented to the voters).

As a special bonus I have met many wonderful people and made lasting friendships in this organization.

VOTER SERVICE ACTIVITIES

Our League will be offering a full spectrum of services this fall to help Sunnyvale voters make informed choices:

- Pros & Cons on Sunnyvale Ballot Measures – Tuesday, October 8, 7 pm
- Sunnyvale City Council Candidate Forum – Tuesday, October 15, 7 pm
- SmartVoter.org – will cover the candidates and measures

To get the word out about these events and services, we will need help from others. Community organizations and interested citizens can promote informed voting by announcing our events and sharing links to our websites – in newsletters, on websites, in emails, and via social media. If you would like to help your fellow voters in this way, please write to league@cs.ca.lwvnet.org and request our election services promotion package. You’ll get in return a file of text and images that you can use to craft your messages.

In addition to the 10/8 Pros & Cons presentation, we will be doing talks to community groups. If you would like to schedule our ballot measure presentation for your group, please send your date/time/location to league@cs.ca.lwvnet.org and we’ll get back to you.

Although the LWVCS has scheduled only one candidate forum, we recognize the need for more. If your group would like to host a candidate forum, but would like help conducting it, send us an email detailing your needs. We’ll do our best to help.

League members who would like to help or to know more are invited to attend a meeting about our voter service activities: Wed, August 28, 7:00-8:30 pm, Sunnyvale School District office, 819 W Iowa Ave.

BEING BOLD: THE STORY OF LUCAS, MAX AND HIGHER EDUCATION OR AN ANATOMY OF THE STUDY APPROVAL PROCESS

At the LWVC State Convention May 16-19 in San Jose, the State Board and staff urged delegates to “Be Bold” just like our forbears when they fought for suffrage. New members Lucas Ramirez and Max Beckman-Harned heeded this call to action, boldly proposing and passing a new State League study on California higher education.



Lucas and Max were joined by numerous key supporters who advised on the strategy and tactics for jumping through all the right parliamentary hoops at the convention. It’s no easy feat to get a “not recommended by State Board ” motion approved by delegates. In pictures and words, you will see what was passed and how they beat the odds. Be Bold!

The back story

Lucas Ramirez first proposed that the the League position on Community Colleges should be expanded to include UC and CSU at his very first event as a member of LWVLosAltos-Mountain View. This was the annual program planning meeting January 26.

Lucas had seen first-hand the impact of university governance in the dramatic changes made to the Santa Clara University Music Department during his time at the school. He began investigating the governance of the UC and CSU systems. He saw that the boards were opaque and insular and started working to change them. Lucas reasoned that because there was no League position on the California higher education system (apart from the community college system), the League could take no action nor take any stance on issues relating to the university system.

Lucas and Max go to Convention...

In April the Los Altos – Mountain View League selected Lucas and Max Beckman-Harned, both new members, to be two of their six State Convention delegates. Lucas began to ask experienced Los Altos – Mountain View members how the League could become active on his prized issue. Their advice was that the way to expand the state position was to start with a study. Because the State Board had not proposed the study in their Proposed Program 2013-2015, Lucas would have to propose the study as a “not-recommended” item on the floor of the Convention. Lucas convinced Max of the need for the study, and they agreed to work on the issue together at convention.

Friday – Lucas & Max learn procedures and protocols

On the first full day of convention, Lucas and Max came early to the 8:45 am parliamentary briefing to learn the procedures and protocols to follow at convention. They learned the full process to follow, which started with the optional but recommended step of participating in the Notice of Intent to Move Not-Recommended Items in that afternoon’s caucus, where Lucas would let the other delegates know of his intention to propose the new study. Two other delegates also intended to move for new studies and positions. One wished to study marijuana, the other wished to expand the League’s natural resources position. The field of not-recommended items was heating up!

Saturday 9:00 am – Fill out the Motion Form at Plenary Session

As the 9 am plenary session started, Lucas carefully crafted the language of his motion, and Max seconded it.

Lucas approached the computer operator with the filled-out the form (in quadruplicate). The computer operator kept the original form. The first copy went to the secretary.

The next step was to wait patiently for the time slot for Motions to Consider Not-Recommended Program Items. At that time Lucas would go the the floor microphone and make the case to the delegates that the motion warranted consideration for discussion.



Saturday around 10 am – Higher Ed, the only “not recommended” item to pass



Finally Lucas makes his case for his motion to study higher education with a brief speech. Then he answered several clarification questions from the delegates.

After all of the three “not-recommended item” proposals were made – higher ed, marijuana, natural resources – three voice votes were taken. Lucas’ motion was the only one that passed. The motion was placed on the agenda for discussion in the afternoon session and for a vote the following morning.

Lunch – Planning to amend for clarity

After listening to the clarification questions asked that morning, Lucas felt that an amendment to clarify the language and meaning of the motion was in order. He discussed the matter over lunch with one of his most vocal supporters and the Parliamentarian. They eventually came up with an amendment with two changes:

- to limit the proposed study to public universities, ruling out private or for-profit ones
- to explicitly include the community college system in his proposal with the goal of producing a unified Higher Education program.

1:30 pm Plenary Session – Present the motion to amend

Lucas filled out another motion sheet in quadruplicate, performing the same multi-step submission process, and when the time came for him to present his motion, he announced the amendment to the item instead.

After some debate, the amendment item was passed by voice vote.

2:30 pm Plenary Session – Present the Motion (as amended)



Next was a spirited debate. Pro speakers underscored the urgent need for a study – higher ed would sink further without action sooner than later.



The con speakers highlighted how thinly-spread the League already was with four planned issues for Advocacy and Education – money in politics, pre-k education, healthcare, and water. Con speakers suggested that Lucas come back in two years with a more detailed proposal. After the debate time had elapsed, Lucas saw the need for further planning. He submitted an announcement form to the secretary – supporters of the bill should meet outside on the Patio at 5 pm. How could they achieve a final vote of a three fifths majority (60%) and pass the motion?

Post Plenary – Gathering of Supporters on the Patio

The supporters, many of them also new League members, had a lively discussion on the patio planning next steps. California League President Jennifer Waggoner also made an appearance, explaining the logistical difficulties of studies. She suggested the supporters examine the official study procedure as found in the convention workbook.

Sunday 9 am Plenary – a flyer for all delegates

As the delegates returned to their plenary tables on Sunday, the final day of the convention, they found flyers describing the higher education study scope and names of supporters.

Plenary : Lucas introduces his motion for DISCUSSION

Finally, the time was at hand! The final discussion and voting on Lucas’ motion began with supporters and opponents lining up. Lucas used his opening time to present the slides made the night before detailing the scope of the project, then let others speak on behalf of his plan.

VOTE

Voice vote inconclusive, even with a standing vote the outcome was still too close to call So the the Board officers moved to the last method, a ballot vote (the first of the conference). Delegates cast either a yellow “Yes 1” card or a blue “No 1” card. Once taken, the elections committee took the assembled ballots and left to count them.



Vote Count is returned –

Argh! Got 98 of the 99 Votes Needed – FAILED by 1 vote.

Motion for reconsideration

With the motion for the higher ed study just barely defeated, the plenary then continued with other business. However, the story was not yet over—Donovan Steutel asked as a point of order whether the vote could be re-taken due to the closeness of the vote and the knowledge that some delegates abstained.



Parliamentarian Jackie Jacobberger investigated her copy of Robert's Rules of Order and then determined that yes, it was possible. The parliamentarian says it takes only a majority to agree to a "reconsideration" of the Vote. In other words to request a new vote.

A motion for reconsideration could be made, but only by a member who voted in the majority (that is, someone who voted NO). Once made, a majority vote would allow the defeated motion to return to the order of business one last time. The motion to reconsider passed by voice vote, and the study received one more shot.

Round 2 – short discussion & ballot voting

The vote was taken again. This time, 165 votes were cast (one more), with 100 (60.6%) voting in favor. So the motion was passed because one delegate who had abstained decided to participate and vote yes, and one delegate who had voted no decided to vote yes the second time.



Sweet Victory – 100 votes in favor

How to Help the Higher Ed Study Move Forward

But now the hard work has just begun—the League now has a new three-year study. You can help Lucas and Max by donating seed money to start the Higher Ed study, by helping with fundraising know-how, and by indentifying other relevant contacts inside and outside the League. Contact Lucas for more information. lucas.a.ramirez@gmail.com.

Excerpted and reprinted with permission from LWVC NEWS

*To read the whole story with more photos go to
lwvlamv.info/bold-new-members-pass-motion-to-study-uc-and-csu/*

LWVC'S MONEY IN POLITICS BILLS ARE KEEPING ON TRACK

Our campaign disclosure bills, SB 2, SB 3, and SB 27, are making progress! The Assembly Appropriations Committee passed SB 2 on August 21 and will vote on SB 3 and SB 27 by August 30. Please respond to our call for contacts from local Leagues and individual members to their Assembly members who are on that committee. Let's

keep up the momentum toward passage before the legislature's recess in September!

The bills were passed by the Assembly Elections and Redistricting Committee on August 13. Thanks to all who responded to our Call to Action and contacted their representatives!

LWVC Update August 2013

LEAGUE NEWS

National – The League joined a brief to the U.S. Supreme Court in the case of *McCutcheon v. FEC*. The Supreme Court will hear arguments in this case during their fall session. The outcome of *McCutcheon v. FEC* will determine whether the overall caps on the amount of money that individuals can donate to multiple candidates or political parties are a violation of the First Amendment.

State - At the LWVC May Convention, the following issues were adopted for education and advocacy in the coming year: money in politics, education, health care, and water.

County - The Leagues of Women Voters of Santa Clara County is planning an educational meeting on the Affordable Care Act to be held in October.

LWVC PRESIDENT SERVES ON CIVIC LEARNING TASK FORCE

The California Task Force on K-12 Civic Learning was established by Chief Justice Tani G. Cantil-Sakauye and State Superintendent of Public Instruction Tom Torlakson. The President of the League of Women Voters of California, serves on the task force.

The League's task force member, President Jennifer Waggoner, serves on a sub-committee to create a blueprint to address curriculum, instruction, and resources. We'd like local League members involved throughout the process, including:

- advising President Waggoner for participation in the Task Force sub-committee
- providing testimony at regional meetings
- encouraging community input to the Task Force

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/lwvc-civic-ed/>

The chairs of the joint task force have announced a schedule of public hearings and a timeline to produce recommendations on revamping civics curriculum in California schools.

“Our Task Force on K-12 Civic Learning has a year to perform its work,” said co-chair Justice Judith McConnell, Administrative Presiding Justice of the Court of Appeal, Fourth Appellate District. “The Chief and the Superintendent have charged our committee with finding a way to elevate the importance of civic learning in California, and we plan to engage the public in this endeavor.” The task force met for the first time on July 2 to set out a timeline for activities. The first public hearing will occur September 25 in San Francisco.

Get involved!

California Task Force on K-12 Civic Learning Site

<http://www.myboe.org/go/group/name/CivicLearningTaskforce>

California Task Force on K-12 Civic Learning Facebook Page

<https://www.facebook.com/CACivicLearning>

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

Wed 28, 7:00-8:30pm **Voter Service Meeting**
Sunnyvale School District office
819 W Iowa Ave Sunnyvale

September

Sat 7 11:00 am **Sunnyvale State of the City**
Plaza Del Sol
200 W Evelyn Ave, Sunnyvale

Mon 9 7:30 pm **Board Meeting**
Clubhouse at the Commons
21116 Freedom Drive, Cupertino 95014

October

Tue 8 7 pm **Pros and Cons of Sunnyvale Ballot Measures**
Sunnyvale Library, Program Room
665 W Olive, Sunnyvale

Tue 15 7 pm **Sunnyvale City Council Candidate Forum**
City Council Chambers
456 W Olive, Sunnyvale

WHO REPRESENTS YOU

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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