



# VOTER

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF CUPERTINO-SUNNYVALE

October 2013

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## Sunnyvale Election – November 5, 2013

*Voters will elect three City Council members and decide on four local measures.*

## City Council Candidate Forum

*Candidates respond to questions about the issues.*

**Tuesday • October 15 • 7pm**  
**Sunnyvale City Hall • 456 W Olive Ave**

— The Candidates —

Seat 1: Andy Frazer • Gustav Larsson

Seat 2: Glenn Hendricks • Steve Hoffman • Gustavo Magaña

Seat 3: Jim Griffith • Tap Merrick



*Televised live on KSUN-15 and webcast on [www.sunnyvale.ca.gov](http://www.sunnyvale.ca.gov).  
Three-minute candidate statements also showing on KSUN-15.*



## Pros & Cons on Measures

*LWV speakers explain the measures and answer questions.*

**Tuesday • October 8 • 7pm**  
**Sunnyvale Public Library • 665 W Olive Ave**

— The Measures —

- A – Sunnyvale elections changed to even years
- B – Sunnyvale hotel tax increased to 10.5%
- C – Gun safety measures for Sunnyvale
- G – \$96 million in bonds for Sunnyvale School District



*For other pro/con presentations, check the calendar at [www.cs.ca.lwvnet.org](http://www.cs.ca.lwvnet.org).*



**SmartVoter.org**

*Unbiased Information on the candidates & measures.*

*Links to recordings of the candidate forum and pro/con presentation.*

*Polling place lookup and election results.*

## LWV Cupertino-Sunnyvale Board of Directors

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## The Cupertino-Sunnyvale VOTER

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## Please Email Your Questions

To be asked at the forum: [candidatequestions@cs.ca.lwvnet.org](mailto:candidatequestions@cs.ca.lwvnet.org)  
For online FAQ on the measures: [measurequestions@cs.ca.lwvnet.org](mailto:measurequestions@cs.ca.lwvnet.org)

For more election information see page 3.

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

As we head into election season, I ask that you take time to talk with at least 3 people that you know in Sunnyvale and encourage them to attend our events and check out SmartVoter.org.

Susan has spent hours researching the facts behind the measures and Linda Davis, Nancie Plumb, Roberta Hollimon and I have spent quite a bit of time coordinating the Voter Service activities.

Be sure to also check out our website at [www.cs.ca.lwvnet.org/](http://www.cs.ca.lwvnet.org/). Bruce Kendall has done a great job of keeping it current.

There is a lot happening and we'd love your support and participation.

*Elaine Manley*

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## OPPORTUNITIES FOR INVOLVEMENT

**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.

*Please respond by email to [league@cs.ca.lwvnet.org](mailto:league@cs.ca.lwvnet.org).*

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## 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.*

Senator Beall invites you to a free **Medicare and Health Forum** on Saturday, Oct. 5, 9am-12pm at Campbell Community Center, Orchard City Banquet Hall, located at 1 West Campbell Ave, Campbell, CA. Learn important tips to help you find an affordable health plan that fits your needs. Avoid mistakes that could cost you hundreds of dollars in healthcare and prescription costs!

### **Guest speakers include:**

Medicare expert Connie Corrales, from Sourcewise, previously Council on Aging Silicon Valley, will explain Medicare's new changes.

Certified Educators from Covered California will explain whether you are one of the 5 million Californians who will benefit from health coverage offered by Covered California and if you qualify for financial assistance.

*Co-hosted by Sourcewise (previously Council on Aging Silicon Valley) & SEIU Local 521*

## Board Briefs

At its September meeting, your board:

- heard that Jason Spiller was presented with an award that was given at the LWVC Convention for his work on Smart Voter .
- agreed to have an educational event explaining Instant Runoff Voting (IRV) in February.
- accepted the resignation of secretary Carol Weiss from the board.
- received a report from President Manley on the Voter Services Activity meeting of 8/28 and thanking the board members involved for their efforts; and heard Linda Davis discuss issues raised by the meeting including the need to get into social media.
- learned that the League will have a voter registration booth at Cupertino's Fall Festival, will hold a pro/Con presentation at Sunnyvale Library on October 8 and will hold a Candidate Forum at Sunnyvale City Council Chambers on October 15.
- heard that the County Council will hold an event explaining the new Affordable Care Act.

## Membership News

Thank you for renewing your membership: Janet Bertaina, Frances Grabau, Jim and Pat Jackson, and Bev and Ric Olsen,.

Thank you for including a donation with your dues: Harold Brown, Kirsten Holmquist, and Bill Wilson.

Thank you for your donation to the Community Appeal: Josephine Borucki.

## SUNNYVALE BALLOT MEASURES

While 2013 is not a big year for elections, Sunnyvale residents will have four measures on their ballots. The League of Women Voters will be offering Pro Con talks as usual, and of course Smart Voter is always at your service, but here is a brief overview.

**Measure A** would move Sunnyvale local elections from odd years to even years by extending Council terms by one year and inserting one single-year mayoral term. The proponents argue that this will save the city money, since its elections would be held at the same time as other cities and the state. No one filed arguments against Measure A.

**Measure B** would raise the transient occupancy (hotel) tax from 9.5% to 10.5%. Proponents say that Sunnyvale's hotel tax is lower than that of surrounding areas, and visitors should help pay for city services that they benefit from. Opponents say that raising hotel taxes discourages visitors, and that city finances would benefit more from raising other taxes.

**Measure C** is a package of gun control measures. If Measure C passes, people in Sunnyvale would need to report theft or loss of a firearm within 48 hours, keep firearms in gun safes or use a trigger lock, and not own

magazines that hold more than 10 rounds, while ammunition sellers would need to record ammunition purchases. Proponents say that these changes will increase safety and don't overlap with state gun control laws, while opponents say the changes will not reduce gun violence but will lead to lawsuits against the city.

**Measure G** Sunnyvale School District has placed a bond issue on the ballot. This, like most school bond measures, will require 55% Yes votes to pass, and would authorize the district to issue \$96 million in bonds to fund renovation and capital equipment projects. Proponents say by continuing to invest in the renovation and expansion of our local schools, we are able to provide our students with an educational environment which supports achievement and success. No argument was filed against Measure G.

If you want more information, we'd love to see you at one of the Pro Con talks, which will be held in various locations throughout October. But, whatever research method you use, please take the time to learn about the issues before you vote, so that your local government reflects the things you want to have happen.

*Susan Hough*

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## MORE ELECTION INFORMATION

**Other Events** – There are several forums being sponsored by other groups and two other pro/con presentations open to the public. All of those events are listed on the calendar at [www.cs.ca.lwvnet.org](http://www.cs.ca.lwvnet.org).

**Voter Registration** – The deadline to register to vote in this election is Monday Oct 21. Registration cards are available at the Sunnyvale Library. People may also register online: [www.registertovote.ca.gov](http://www.registertovote.ca.gov). Once you're a voter, you need to fill out a new registration card only if you move, change your name, or want to change your party affiliation.

**ROV Services** – At the Registrar of Voters' website, [www.sccvote.org](http://www.sccvote.org), you can check whether you are registered to vote and whether your vote-by-mail ballot has been received.

**SmartVoter.org** – Unbiased Election Information

Enter your address to see what's on your ballot. Then, follow links to learn about the candidates and measures. In addition to information about their background, priorities, and endorsements, candidates have the option of responding to five questions set by the local LWV. Links to recordings of the candidate forum and pros and cons presentation listed on page 1 will be available, in case you cannot attend. Information and links are added up to election day. So, you might want to check SmartVoter.org more than once. You might even want to return after the election to see detailed election results.

## LEHIGH CEMENT

On September 5, the Cupertino City Council held a study session on Lehigh Cement to provide an update on issues around Lehigh Cement.

Jim Karas, Director of Engineering for the Bay Area Air Quality Management District (BAAQMD), reported on permit activity since 2010 related to reducing pollutants at Lehigh Cement. A new rule requires Lehigh not to go above trigger levels for cancer which requires reducing some pollutants by up to 90%. They need to be able to show they will be below trigger level or reduce capacity.

To meet these new rules it will be necessary to build a new stack. The new high stack will bring together all air pollution and makes it easier to monitor. BAAQMD is monitoring all pollutants with the exception of particulates.

Commenting on Compliance status, BAAQMD investigates all complaints. There are weekly compliance inspections and there are no ongoing violations. Over the last three years there were 15 emission related violations and, according to Karas, all were corrected expeditiously.

The California Water Board was unable to send a representative to the meeting but did send a letter which was read. Following are excerpts from that letter.

“Lehigh is regulated by three permits that have requirements to protect surface water in Permanente Creek. The Regional Water Board permits Lehigh’s mining operations (Order No. R2-2008-0011) and its use of a wastewater treatment facility (Order No. R2-1994-0038), and is subject to the requirements of a statewide general permit for industrial storm water discharges (Water Quality Order No. 97-03-DWQ NPDES [National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System] General Permit No. CAS000001).

“An individual NPDES permit for Lehigh will be released for public comment later this year. This permit will consolidate requirements in existing permits and specify effluent limits for Lehigh’s discharges to

Permanente Creek, including its discharge of quarry water. The permit will recognize upgrades that Lehigh has planned for its facility pursuant to the Consent Decree with the Sierra Club

“(Order No. R2-1999-0018). Restoration will be continuing as part of the Consent Decree with Sierra Club. The Regional Board will need to issue permits for this work and will be reviewing all proposals as part of the permitting process.

“Lehigh is required to submit technical reports to the Regional Water Board (Order No. R2-2013-1005 amended to R2-2013-1005-A1) that will, among other things, help to advance the cleanup efforts that may be required to address legacy pollution from historic operations and mining waste and to evaluate the fate and transport of selenium in Permanente Creek.

The MidPeninsula Regional Open Space District gave an update on the

following legal issues: The California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) challenge of the Environmental Impact Report (EIR) which include air/water impacts, toxics, visual impacts, insufficient analysis of impacts to sensitive species and stated that the board authorized filing an amicus brief in support of the Bay Area for Clear Environment (BACE) lawsuit regarding Lehigh vesting rights.

The Santa Clara County Department of Planning and Development regulates Land Use by the Lehigh Cement Plant and Permanente Quarry. The Use Permit for the Cement Plant was issued in 1939. There was a Vested Rights Determination for the Quarry in 2011. The 1985 Reclamation Plan encompassed 330 acres and addressed mining activities and stockpiling areas. An amendment to the plan was approved in 2012.

Community members at the meeting expressed concern about continuing pollutants in the air and in the aquifer.

For further information go to

<http://cupertino.org/index.aspx?recordid=956&page=26>



## LEAGUE NEWS

**National** – The League submitted a statement to the Presidential Commission on Election Administration outlining the five key suggestions the League proposes for improving the polling place experience for voters. These suggestions include Secure Online Voter Registration, Permanent and Portable Statewide Voter Registration, Expanded Early Voting, Improved Polling Place Management and Electronic Streamlining.

**State** -LWVCEF announced that it received another grant of \$10,000 from the One Nation Foundation for the League to work with the local Muslim community. Part of the funding will be awarded as mini-grants to local Leagues in the San Francisco Bay area. These mini grants are geared to promote civic engagement and collaboration and will range from \$100 to \$1000.

**Bay Area** - The Bay Area League is distributing its new LWVBA Directory and Action on Issues, with special note of the record of achievement in Action on Issues.

## COUNTY LEAGUES SPONSOR AFFORDABLE HEALTH CARE ACT FORUMS

The Leagues of Women Voters of Santa Clara County are sponsoring two educational forums about The Affordable Health Care Act (ACA):

Saturday, October 12, 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM

Saratoga Senior Center

19655 Allendale Avenue, Saratoga

Wednesday, October 23, 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM

Unitarian Universalist Church of Palo Alto

505 East Charleston, Palo Alto

Bob Brownstein, Policy Director of Working Partnerships will present an overview of the new health care model and provide practical information about how the uninsured can obtain health insurance and demystify the impact to people already insured or covered by Medicare.

According to Karen Douglas, County League President, "Implementation of the ACA is a time of optimism for the 18% of Californians who are uninsured. It is also a time of uncertainty for Californians who have insurance and are concerned about future cost and accessibility to their doctors and other medical services. We hope these forums will clarify what people can expect with the new program."

"The League of Women Voters believes that a basic level of quality healthcare at an affordable cost should be available to all U.S. residents, Douglas added. "The ACA is the first opportunity to reach that goal on a national level."

### 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

### October

- Tue 8 7 pm **Pros and Cons of Sunnyvale Ballot Measures**  
Sunnyvale Library, Program Room  
665 W Olive, Sunnyvale
- Sat 12 10am-12pm **Affordable Care Forum**  
Saratoga Senior Center  
19655 Allendale Avenue, Saratoga
- Mon 14 7:30 pm **Board Meeting**  
Conference Room, Quinlan Center  
10185 N Stelling Road Cupertino 95014
- Tue 15 7 pm **Sunnyvale City Council Candidate Forum**  
City Council Chambers  
456 W Olive, Sunnyvale
- Wed 23 7 - 9 pm **Affordable Care Forum**  
Unitarian-Universalist Church of Palo Alto  
505 East Charleston Palo Alto

### November

- Tue 5 7am-8pm **Election**  
City of Sunnyvale and  
Sunnyvale Elementary School District  
See [smartvoter.org](http://smartvoter.org) for your polling place

For dates of other pro/con talks or candidate forums sponsored by other groups,  
please see our online calendar at <http://www.cs.ca.lwvnet.org/>.

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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**