



# VOTER

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF CUPERTINO-SUNNYVALE

May 2014

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### The Cupertino-Sunnyvale VOTER

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Editor: Roberta Hollimon  
lwvceditor@comcast.net  
Mailing: LaVerne Prentice

## CANDIDATE FORUMS

### Congressional District 17

Saturday May 3, 6:45 PM

Fremont City Council Chambers

3300 Capital Avenue, Fremont 94538

### Superior Court Judges

#### Office #21 and Office #24

Monday May 5, 7:00 PM

Mountain View City Hall

500 Castro Street, Mountain View 94041

### Assembly District 28

Wednesday May 7, 7:00 PM

Cupertino Community Hall

10350 Torre Avenue, Cupertino 95014

Submit questions for these candidates at

[candidatequestions@cs.ca.lwvnet.org](mailto:candidatequestions@cs.ca.lwvnet.org)

## PROS AND CONS OF BALLOT MEASURES

Monday May 12, 7:30 PM

Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Sunnyvale

1112 Bernardo Sunnyvale

Located on the grounds of the Congregational Community Church

## PROS AND CONS ON TELEVISION

Information on this program produced in collaboration with the Cupertino Senior Center's "Better Half" can be found on page 4.

## SAVE THE DATE

### Annual Meeting

Saturday May 24, 9:45 AM - 12:Noon

Sequoia Room, Sunnyvale Senior Center

550 E. Remington, Sunnyvale, CA 94086

Your Annual Meeting Kit will be mailed next week.



## LWVUS PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Leaguers,

By now, we are all aware that the Supreme court struck down aggregate contribution limits in *McCutcheon v. FEC*. It came as no surprise that the Roberts Court continued its systematic dismantling of the protections against corruption that limits on money in politics provide. Significantly, the decision embraces multiple aspects of the first Amendment, from freedom of speech to freedom of association in reaching its conclusion.

The temptation to stage protests and demand action to reverse this line of decisions is great. But in the cold light of day, there are not clear or easy answers. The law and the Constitution mean whatever the Supreme Court says they mean. The problem of money in politics has been with us since the constitution was ratified and it will be with us so long as people with money see elected officials as a source of power. Just as the law protecting political rights, from speech to association to petitioning the government is complicated and interwoven, so the solution to the problem of money in elections will be complex and never final.

Now more than ever, the thoughtful approach of the League of Women Voters is needed to help voters understand the issues at stake. Now more than ever, we need to fight to make every vote count and give every eligible voter free and fair access to the polls. In the end, the only reliable response to a flood of money in our elections is a flood of voters at the polls, each voter armed with the kind of reliable, unbiased information that the League provides.

### Opportunities for Involvement

- Spend two hours staffing a booth at the Sunnyvale Art and Wine Festival, Sunday June 8. Promote Voter Services and invite people to join the League.
- Provide refreshments for Annual Meeting.
- Help at the May 7 Candidate Forum. Greet candidates and answer questions from attendees.
- The nominating committee is still looking for a Membership Chair and a Voter Service Chair. We have members working on Pros and Cons, Voter Registration, and Smart Voter but we need someone to manage Candidate Forums and someone to oversee all these activities.

*To help contact the League at [league@cs.ca.lwvnet.org](mailto:league@cs.ca.lwvnet.org).*

### Board Briefs

At its April meeting your board:

- Heard a report on the candidate forums that our League is sponsoring.
- Approved the budget developed by the Budget Committee to be presented for adoption by members at Annual Meeting.
- Learned that the Community Appeal was sent on April 9 and six donations have come in already.
- Approved a bylaws amendment to be presented to members at Annual Meeting which would switch from renewing membership by anniversary month to September renewal for all members.
- Discussed the possibility of staffing a booth at the Sunnyvale Art & Wine Festival on Sunday June 8. We will need eight people to help for a portion of the day.
- Heard that our League will help the Registrar of Voters register voters at the naturalization ceremony May 22. Two or three more volunteers needed.

### Member News

Thank you for renewing your membership: Len Doberne, James Griffith and Barbara Nunes.

Thank you for including a donation with your membership renewal: Susan Hough.



## THE LEAGUE RECOMMENDS

### **Measure A - Cupertino Union School District Parcel Tax - May 6 mail-in ballot**

**YES**

If passed, this ballot measure would replace the Measure C tax with a new parcel tax, taking effect July 1, 2015, and expiring June 30, 2023 (the Measure B tax will have just expired at the time the new tax takes effect). It would levy \$250/parcel per year, the same as currently paid under B and C. As with Measures B and C combined, the new tax would raise about \$463 per student per year.

*To see a review of the issue prepared by the League of Women Voters of Cupertino-Sunnyvale, go to [smartvoter.org](http://smartvoter.org), enter your street address, click on May 6 election, click on the title Measure A, in the right column under Review of Issue by LWVCS, click on "Read the full review."*

### **Measure AA - Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District Bond Measure**

**YES**

The measure is to improve access to hiking and biking opportunities, protect and preserve redwood forests, natural open spaces, the scenic beauty of our region and coastline, critical wildlife habitat, restore creeks to protect water quality, and reduce forest fire risk.

### **Proposition 41 Bonds for Veterans' Housing and Homeless Prevention**

**YES**

Prop 41 authorizes \$600 million in bonds for affordable multifamily supportive housing for low-income and homeless veterans. All Californians should have safe, adequate housing.

### **Proposition 42 Public Records, Open Meetings, State and Local Governments**

**YES**

Prop 42 makes access to public meetings and public records a constitutional requirement for local governments. It's a common-sense measure that helps us hold our elected officials accountable.

*To read analyses of Propositions 41 and 42 by the League of Women Voters of California, go to [smartvoter.org](http://smartvoter.org), enter your address click on "find your ballot" and then click on the title of the proposition.*

## HOW THE LEAGUE TAKES A STAND ON BALLOT MEASURES

Action policies and positions have their roots in the League's study and consensus process and serve as the basis for action/advocacy. A position is the stand of the League on a specific, often narrowly defined, public issue. Action policies have been adopted after extensive review of existing local, state and national positions in recognition of the interdependence among public policy issues.

A League position is established after members have studied an issue and achieved consensus on policies and practices that would best serve the public interest. The League acts only within its positions; if the members have not studied and come to consensus on an issue, the League has no position and therefore does not have a stand on that issue.

The League of Women Voters of Cupertino-Sunnyvale supports Measure A based on its local positions on Financing Local Education that support justifiable proposals for funding those districts whose boards actively endeavor to achieve quality education, to alleviate racial imbalance, to maintain responsiveness, and to develop administrative effectiveness and community participation.

The Leagues of Women Voters of Santa Clara County support Measure AA based on positions to ensure adequate parks and the protection of natural resources, open space, and agricultural land, both outside urban growth boundaries and in urbanized areas.

The League of Women Voters of California supports both state measures on the June ballot. Our support for Prop 41 is based on our position on housing, and the need for more affordable housing in California. Prop 42 will guarantee the public's right to know and make it clear that adherence to both the Brown Act and California Public Records Act is a basic cost of doing business for governments.

## SMART VOTER AND MAPLIGHT LAUNCH PILOT PARTNERSHIP



As part of the work we have been doing to deliver the Next Generation of Smart Voter, we are pleased to announce that LWVCEF is partnering with MapLight to enhance the voter outreach we currently achieve through Smart Voter. MapLight is a nonpartisan research organization whose goal is to reveal money's influence in politics. Most of you are familiar with Maplight's Voter's Edge Website which many League speakers access to obtain ballot measure campaign funding information. The League's new collaboration with MapLight is an exciting opportunity to serve more Californians and enhance the quality of nonpartisan information and resources available to voters. Although still a work in progress, our team is working hard to have an initial pilot in place for the upcoming June election. A webinar briefing on the project was offered to Smart Voter County and Local Coordinators in early April and recorded for those not able to attend. In the coming weeks, additional information about the June pilot will be shared through our volunteer leaders and via LWVCEF communications channels. Stay tuned!

### PROS AND CONS OF BALLOT MEASURES ON TV



Susan Hough left and Elaine Manley

Once again our fearless ballot analysts present a program on the state ballot measures, budget basics and a review of top-two primaries. To see the show, check the schedule at [www.thebetterpart.com](http://www.thebetterpart.com).

To see a printed version of the pros and cons go to Easy Voter Guide, [www.evg.org](http://www.evg.org). A videotaping of the Pros and Cons by CalChannel will be posted on the LWVC YouTube channel and posted on the LWVC "Members-Only" website.

To learn how to access the "Members Only" website, write to [league@cs.ca.lwvnet.org](mailto:league@cs.ca.lwvnet.org).

### READ THE LATEST ABOUT STATE LEGISLATION

You can see an up to date list of bills on which the League has a position by checking the League's Bill Status Report. Sign up for the League's newsletters and action alerts in your particular area of interest.

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### CALTRAIN SEEKS PUBLIC COMMENT

Caltrain has released a draft environmental impact report for its Peninsula Corridor Electrification Project, which would (1) electrify the Peninsula Corridor from the Caltrain San Francisco 4th and King Station to approximately two miles south of the Tamien Caltrain Station 2) convert trains from diesel power to electric power, and (3) increase service up to six Caltrain trains per peak hour per direction by 2019. The public is invited to review the draft report and provide comments until April 29. Visit [www.caltrain.com](http://www.caltrain.com) to view the draft report, or contact Caltrain at 650-508-6200 or [electrification@caltrain.com](mailto:electrification@caltrain.com) for more details.

## LEAGUE NEWS

**National** – The League reminds us that the Congressional recess is a time to contact our representatives and ask them to move the Voting rights Act forward.

**State** - The LWVC celebrates a victory for voting rights in a settlement with Covered California, the California health care exchange, to ensure that everyone who has applies for insurance is offered the opportunity to register to vote, and that those who applied for insurance up to now are mailed a voter registration form.

**County** - The LWVs of Santa Clara County held two county-wide meetings. One was a *Moderator Training Workshop* attended by 30 members, for moderators of candidate forums. The other was a meeting on the *Bay Delta Conservation Plan* which drew 100 attendees.

## CONVENTIONS, COUNCILS AND ANNUAL MEETINGS

Do you wonder how the League makes decisions and conducts its business? As a grassroots organization, policy and financial decisions are made by members or delegates representing local League members at annual meetings, conventions, and councils.

At the local level, members gather at their League's Annual Meeting where they elect board members, adopt a budget, ratify positions and amend bylaws.

The Regional, State, and National Leagues hold conventions and councils to conduct the same activities. These conventions are held every other year. State conventions are held in odd numbered years and national and regional conventions are held in even numbered years. Councils are held in the years that are not a convention.

You are able to voice your opinion at your League's Annual Meeting. Other levels of League are models of representative government. Local League boards select delegates to send to conventions. The number of delegates is proportional to League membership.

Here are this year's meetings. Look for locations in Calendar

LWV Cupertino-Sunnyvale - Annual Meeting, May 24

LWV Bay Area - Convention, May 3

LWV California - Council, May 17-18

LWVUS - Convention, June 6-11

Watch for reports on these meetings in future VOTERs.

### 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	3	10:00 AM	<b>LWVC Bay Area Convention</b> Bay Model, 2100 Bridgeway, Sausalito 94965
Sat	3	6:45 PM	<b>Candidate Forum 17th Congressional District</b> Fremont City Council Chambers 3300 Capital Avenue, Fremont 94538
Mon	5	6:45 PM	<b>Candidate Forum Judges Seats 21 &amp; 24</b> Mountain View City Council Chambers 500 Castro Street, Mountain View 94041
Wed	7	7:00 PM	<b>Candidate Forum Assembly District 28</b> Cupertino Community Hall 10350 Torre Drive, Cupertino 95014
Mon	12	7:30 PM	<b>Board Meeting</b> Burnetts 729 Stendhal Lane, Cupertino 95014
Sat/Sun	17-18		<b>LWVC Council</b> Fairmont Hotel, San Jose
Sat	24	9:45 AM	<b>Annual Meeting</b> Sunnyvale Senior Center - Sequoia Room 550 Remington, Sunnyvale, CA 94086

## WHO REPRESENTS YOU

### UNITED STATES

<b>President Barack Obama</b> <a href="mailto:comments@whitehouse.gov">comments@whitehouse.gov</a>	202-456-1414
<b>Senator Barbara Boxer</b> <a href="mailto:senator@boxer.senate.gov">senator@boxer.senate.gov</a>	415-403-0100
<b>Senator Dianne Feinstein</b> <a href="mailto:senator@feinstein.senate.gov">senator@feinstein.senate.gov</a>	415-393-0707
<b>Rep. Mike Honda</b> <a href="mailto:mike.honda@mail.house.gov">mike.honda@mail.house.gov</a>	408-558-8075

### CALIFORNIA

<b>Governor Jerry Brown</b> <a href="mailto:governor@governor.ca.gov">governor@governor.ca.gov</a>	916-445-2841
<b>Senator Jim Beall</b> <a href="mailto:senator.beall@senate.ca.gov">senator.beall@senate.ca.gov</a>	408-286-8318
<b>Senator Jerry Hill</b> <a href="mailto:senator.hill@senate.ca.gov">senator.hill@senate.ca.gov</a>	650-212-3313
<b>Assemblyman Paul Fong</b> <a href="mailto:assemblyman.fong@assembly.ca.gov">assemblyman.fong@assembly.ca.gov</a>	408-277-2003
<b>Assemblyman Rich Gordon</b> <a href="mailto:assemblyman.gordon@assembly.ca.gov">assemblyman.gordon@assembly.ca.gov</a>	650-691-2121

### SANTA CLARA COUNTY

<b>Supervisor Dave Cortese</b> <a href="mailto:dave.cortese@bos.sccgov.org">dave.cortese@bos.sccgov.org</a>	408-299-5030
<b>Supervisor Joe Simitian</b> <a href="mailto:joe.simitian@bos.sccgov.org">joe.simitian@bos.sccgov.org</a>	408-299-5050

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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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of Cupertino-Sunnyvale  
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Sunnyvale, CA 94087

**FIRST CLASS**