



VOTER

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF CUPERTINO-SUNNYVALE

October 2014

Volume 42 Number 3

In This Issue

Board Briefs	2
Calendar	6
Candidate Forums	1
League Recommends	3
Election Resources	1&4
League News	5
Meet the Candidates	4
President's Message	2
Pros and Cons on Ballot Measures	4
Public Higher Education in CA	5
Take Action	2
Volunteers Needed	2



The League of Women Voters Presents Candidate Forums

CUPERTINO UNION SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD

Date: Monday, October 13
Time: 7:00 - 8:15 PM
Place: Cupertino Community Hall
10350 Torre Avenue, Cupertino

JUDGE-SUPERIOR COURT OFFICE #24

Date: Monday, October 13
Time: 8:20 - 9:00 PM
Place: Cupertino Community Hall
10350 Torre Avenue, Cupertino

CUPERTINO CITY COUNCIL

Date: Thursday, October 16
Time: 7:00 - 8:30 PM
Place: Cupertino Community Hall
10350 Torre Avenue, Cupertino

*Sponsored by LWV Cupertino-Sunnyvale
APAPA (Asian Pacific Islander Public Affairs), and
Cupertino-Fremont-Sunnyvale Council of PTAs*

Send questions for the candidates to: candidatequestions@cs.ca.lwvnet.org

*All events are open to the public, free of charge,
and conducted by the League of Women Voters.*

OTHER ELECTION RESOURCES

Visit www.smartvoter.org for comprehensive election information.

Free copies of the *Easy Voter Guide* are available at public libraries.

The City of Cupertino presents *Meet the Candidates*, two minute speeches by candidates for Cupertino City Council on the government channel and City website.

See page 3 for **Pros and Cons** presentations and
Meet the Candidates in Los Altos

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Naturalization Ceremonies Suzane Ford

Pros and Cons Scheduling Judi Pogue

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Editor: Roberta Hollimon
lwvcseditor@comcast.net

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Election season is upon us. This issue of the VOTER is filled with resources to help you become informed about the issues and the candidates. See page 1 for candidate forums. If you have never been to a forum, try one. There is nothing like seeing and hearing the candidates live to help you decide who is the best for the office. In both the school district contest and the the city council contest, you can vote for three candidates.

Learn about the ballot measures. Once again you have the opportunity to attend a live discussion of the issues. See page 4 for a listing of the events being presented by Susan Hough. If you can't attend one of those you can see a presentation on television or read about them online. How to find that is on page 4.

Our advocacy side of the organization does take stands on issues we have studied. Below you see a request from the state League to urge Governor Brown to sign bills we have supported as they have gone through the legislative process and on the page opposite you will see the League's recommendations on ballot measures.

Be sure to vote November 4.

Roberta

TAKE ACTION! ASK THE GOVERNOR TO SUPPORT OUR BILLS!

Thanks to you, many of the bills you've supported made it to the Governor's desk as the Legislature wound up its two-year session. You can still help!

Call or email Governor Brown and urge him to sign these bills:

- SB 1253 to make the initiative process more voter-friendly and transparent and allow legal flaws to be corrected in initiatives before they appear on the ballot.
- AB 1866 and the other bills in the Attorney General's package address the chronic absence and truancy that disproportionately impact low-income students and children of color.
- After the landmark "dark money" disclosure bill, SB 27, was enacted earlier this year, the legislature reacted to corruption scandals with a record number of measures to reduce the power of money in politics and campaigns.
- SB 29 will minimize one of the major reasons vote-by-mail ballots are not counted. It allows elections officials to accept ballots up to three days after Election Day if they are postmarked by the day of the election.

Board Briefs

At its September meeting your board:

- Heard that board members had made their calls to members to alert them to the new membership renewal schedule and that many renewals have been received.
- Learned that we will be holding candidate forums for Cupertino City Council, Cupertino School Board and Superior Court Judge Office #24.
- Changed the October board meeting date from October 13 to October 6.
- Heard that there was not enough interest in the 49ers stadium tour to organize a group to participate.
- Were told that there will be a new format for the treasurer's report which will be presented quarterly.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

We need helpers at the candidate forums on October 13 and 16. Can you take two hours out of your busy schedule to help pass out and collect question cards at one or both of our candidate forums?

THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS

RECOMMENDS

November 4, 2014 GENERAL ELECTION

PROP 2 Rainy Day Fund—State Budget Reserves

SUPPORT

The League of Women Voters of California supports Prop 2 because it takes an important step toward fiscal discipline in our state government. It requires the state to make contributions to its rainy day reserve fund and pay down debts and liabilities when times are good, with increased contributions in years when revenues spike upwards. In bad times, those reserves can be used to reduce cuts in spending on schools, health care, public safety, and other vital services. Prop 2 requires joint action of the Governor and the Legislature to reduce the amount put in or to take money out of the rainy day fund.

PROP 47 Safe Neighborhoods and Schools Act

SUPPORT

Prop 47 will ensure that prison spending is focused on violent and serious offenses and will maximize alternatives for non-serious, nonviolent crime. The savings generated will be invested in prevention and support programs in K-12 schools, victim services, and mental health and drug treatment. Prop 47 will change low-level nonviolent crimes such as simple drug possession and petty theft from felonies to misdemeanors; sentences for people convicted of dangerous crimes like rape, murder, and child molestation will not be changed. The League believes alternatives to imprisonment should be explored and utilized, taking into consideration the circumstances and nature of the crime.

NO RECOMMENDATION ON THE OTHER MEASURES ON THIS BALLOT

PROP 1 Water Bond

NEUTRAL

The LWVC could enthusiastically support many of the projects funded by Prop 1, such as the cleanup and prevention of polluted groundwater; drinking and wastewater treatment projects; and water recycling, rainwater capture, conservation, and water-use efficiencies that will help reduce demand on water resources over the long term. However, we have serious concerns that the measure favors large surface water storage projects and gives control over that spending to a commission composed of political appointees with no budgetary oversight by the legislature. Balancing the positive and negative aspects of the measure, we remain neutral.

PROP 45 Healthcare Insurance. Rate Changes

PROP 46 Drug and Alcohol Testing of Doctors. Medical Negligence Lawsuits

PROP 48 Referendum on Indian Gaming Compacts

Because League positions do not cover the issues in Propositions 45, 46, and 48, the LWVC is taking no stand on these measures.

Local Measures

THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF CUPERTINO-SUNNYVALE

RECOMMENDS

Measure J Fremont Union High School District Parcel Tax.

SUPPORT

This measure proposes a tax of \$98 per year from 2016-2022 (extension of original parcel tax approved in 2004). This tax pays for core programs and staff salaries.

Measure K Fremont Union High School District Bond Measure

SUPPORT

A proposed \$295 million (approximately \$21/\$100,000 of assessed property value) bond would pay for building construction, facilities renovation, and increased access to technology.



Pros & Cons on Ballot Measures

LEAGUE SPEAKERS WILL EXPLAIN BALLOT MEASURES AND ANSWER QUESTIONS

Thursday October 2, 2:00-3:30 PM

St. Thomas Episcopal Church
231 Sunset Ave, Sunnyvale

Tuesday October 7, 7:30-9:00 PM

AAUW and Sunnyvale Presbyterian Church
Sunnyvale Presbyterian Church
728 W Fremont Ave, Sunnyvale

Wednesday October 15, 7:00-8:30 PM

Cupertino Community Hall
10350 Torre Ave, Cupertino

Monday October 6, 7:00-8:30 PM

Unitarian Universalist Fellowship/
Congregational Community Church
1112 S Bernardo (at Remington), Sunnyvale

Tuesday October 14, 7:00-8:30 PM

Sunnyvale Library
665 W Olive Ave (at Pastoria), Sunnyvale

*All events are open to the public, free of charge, and
conducted by the League of Women Voters.*

MEET THE CANDIDATES

Date: Sunday, September 28

Time: 1:00 -3:00 PM

Place: Los Altos Youth Center
1 N. San Antonio Rd, Los Altos

The League of Women Voters of Los Altos-Mt. View
Area presents the candidates for the following races:

El Camino Healthcare District

Judge of the Superior Court, Office No.24

Santa Clara Valley Water District

This format will begin with statements from each of
the candidates, a brief question and answer period, followed
by an open reception where voters can talk one on one with
the candidates.

THE BETTER PART: TELEVISED PROS & CONS ON STATEWIDE PROPOSITIONS

Members of the LWV of Cupertino-Sunnyvale
explain the State Propositions on the November ballot.

Airing on community access cable channels in Santa
Clara County from October 5-18.

- Cupertino and Los Altos, Comcast Cable Channel 15
- Cupertino, AT&T U-verse Channel 99

Mondays, 4:30 PM, Tuesdays and Fridays 7:00 PM

For other cities go to www.thebetterpart.com for
schedules

CONFUSED BY THE BALLOT MEASURES? LWV CALIFORNIA CAN HELP!

Check out our two best resources to help you understand the ballot measures:

Our Pros & Cons, cavotes.org/vote/ballot-measures, provides an unbiased analysis of each ballot measure by
summarizing key facts along with arguments on both sides of the issues.

Our Easy Voter Guide, easyvoterguide.org, provides a simple explanation of each ballot measure along with
voting tips in five languages.

You can find many other nonpartisan resources to help you register and vote on our Web site.

LEAGUE NEWS

National – For 49 years, the Voting Rights Act (VRA) has protected the right to vote regardless of race or language, but legislation to repair damage from the Supreme Court’s decision in *Shelby v. Holder* is currently stalled in the U.S. House. Tell your Representative to stop stalling and move the Voting Rights Amendment Act forward!

State - The League of Women Voters of California has been so positively reviewed by our community of members, users, and donors that it has been recognized for the second year in a row as a “2014 Top-Rated Nonprofit.”

LWVCEF STUDY OF PUBLIC HIGHER EDUCATION IN CALIFORNIA

At the LWVC Convention in 2013, a Study of Public Higher Education in California was approved. A sub committee was formed to more fully develop the proposal and submit it to the LWVC Board for final approval, which was given in February 2014. By June 2014, a Study Committee has been approved.

The Study Committee held a two-day kick off meeting in August 2014. It was most productive and accomplished the following:

- Scope of the study more fully developed.
- Sub groups formed to research 5 areas identified in the scope: funding, affordability, preparedness, equity and opportunities and barriers to success.
- Each sub group did an initial outline of its scope and identified sources for information. These outlines will be developed further and presented at next meeting.
- The Study Committee will hold its next one-day meeting in October, 2014 for each sub group to share out the final scope of its research: sources of information, articles to sent out for local Leagues to use in their Voters, outreach to local political and educational leaders in their area, and outreach to students.
- Each member of the committee has been encouraged to approach their local League about hosting a kick off meeting for the study in the Spring of 2015.
- More information will be posted on the study’s website after the LWVC Board meeting in late September.

*Eleanor Yick, Chair
Study of Public Higher Education in CA*

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

September

Sun 28 1:00-3:00 PM **Meet the Candidates**
Los Altos Youth Center
1 N San Antonio Road, Los Altos

October

Mon 6 1:30 PM **Board Meeting**
Burnett's
729 Stendahl Lane, Cupertino

Tues 23 **Voter Registration**
Sunnyvale Library
665 W Olive Ave, Sunnyvale

Mon 13 7:00 - 8:15 PM **Candidate Forum- Cupertino School District**
Cupertino Community Hall
10350 Torre Ave, Cupertino

Mon 13 7:00 - 8:15 PM **Candidate Forum - Judge Office #24**
Cupertino Community Hall
10350 Torre Ave, Cupertino

^r
Thur 16 7:00 PM **Candidate Forum - Cupertino City Council**
Cupertino Community Hall
10350 Torre Ave, Cupertino

WHO REPRESENTS YOU

UNITED STATES

President Barack Obama 202-456-1414
comments@whitehouse.gov
Senator Barbara Boxer 415-403-0100
senator@boxer.senate.gov
Senator Dianne Feinstein 415-393-0707
senator@feinstein.senate.gov
Rep. Mike Honda 408-436-2720
mike.honda@mail.house.gov

CALIFORNIA

Governor Jerry Brown 916-445-2841
governor@governor.ca.gov
Senator Jim Beall 408-286-8318
senator.beall@senate.ca.gov
Senator Jerry Hill 650-212-3313
senator.hill@senate.ca.gov
Assemblyman Paul Fong 408-371-2802
assemblyman.fong@assembly.ca.gov
Assemblyman Rich Gordon 650-691-2121
assemblyman.gordon@assembly.ca.gov

SANTA CLARA COUNTY

Supervisor Dave Cortese 408-299-5030
dave.cortese@bos.sccgov.org
Supervisor Joe Simitian 408-299-5050
joe.simitian@bos.sccgov.org

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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.

FIRST CLASS

League of Women Voters
of Cupertino-Sunnyvale
P.O. Box 2923
Sunnyvale, CA 94087