



VOTER

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF CUPERTINO-SUNNYVALE

Volume 43 Number 2

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Come to the County Wide Launch of the LWVCEF Study

Featuring Keynote Speaker

Dr. Carol Christ

Director, UC Berkeley, Center for Studies in Higher Education

Panelists

Chris Funk

Superintendent, East Side Union High School District

Laura Casas

Trustee, Foothill-De Anza Community College

Loo Loo Amante

President & CEO Associated Students SJSU

Dr. Patricia Lopez

Associate Professor, SJSU Educational Leadership

Moderator

Wade Ellis

Former Professor, West Valley CC, Author, National/International Math Consultant

Saturday, September 19, 2015

9:00 - 11:45 A.M.

Foothill Community College

Hearthside Lounge

Hearthside Lounge, 12345 El Monte Road, Los Altos Hills

!Everyone Welcome!

R.S.V.P. league@cs.ca.lwvnet.org

From the North Travel south on Interstate 280; exit El Monte Road; travel west to campus entrance, **or** travel south on U.S. Route 101; exit San Antonio Road; left turn on Foothill Expressway; right on El Monte Road; travel west to campus entrance.

From the South Travel north on Interstate 280; exit El Monte Road; travel west to campus entrance, **or** travel north on U.S. Route 101; exit San Antonio Road; left turn on Foothill Expressway; right on El Monte Road; travel west to campus entrance.

Enter campus from El Monte Road entrance and follow one-way campus Perimeter Road. Circle the campus on Perimeter Road and park in **parking lot 5**, there is a **\$3.00 parking fee**, credit cards and cash are accepted. Walk east to the **Campus Center. Hearthside Lounge, Room 2313**, is below the cafeteria. There is an elevator.

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Pros and Cons Scheduling	Judi Pogue
Voter Registration	Suzanne Ford

The Cupertino-Sunnyvale VOTER

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This newsletter is posted on our website: cs.ca.lwvnet.org.

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PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE

As I reported last month, at Annual Meeting, members adopted two Issues for Emphasis: Development in our two cities and Local Campaign Finance. Two studies by the national League: the Constitution and Money in Politics are natural preludes to our local Campaign Finance. Therefore we will be holding meetings on these topics in the near future and then address our local study.

We plan to dedicate pages of the VOTER to development in Cupertino and Sunnyvale to aid in our understanding of what is happening in our two cities. You will see many references to what is happening on pages 3 and 4 of this issue.

We never lose our interest in education. This month we go from early education (see article on page 5) to a forum on higher education in California (see page 1).

As I said last month, “this will be a busy year.”

Roberta

OPPORTUNITIES FOR INVOLVEMENT

Help register voters at Sunnyvale Library on National Voter Registration Day, Tuesday September 22, 2015. Reply to league@cs.ca.lwvnet.org.

Attend *Forum on Higher Education in California*. See p. 1

Investigate some of the websites mentioned in Sunnyvale News p. 3

CORRECTION

In last month’s article, *Plan What You Want or What You Need?*, it was reported that, “in the next 50 years there will be an additional 320,000 people in the county.” It should have read “in the next **15** years,” a much faster growth rate.

Board Briefs

At its July and August meetings your board:

- Leaned that last fiscal year’s revenues have comfortably exceeded expenditures as many costs have come in under budget.
- Discussed acquiring a League phone number using Google phone.
- Adopted its Nonpartisan Policy and its Conflict of Interest Policy.
- Agreed to support the kick-off program for the Higher Education Study.

Member News

Welcome new member Bena Chang.

Community Appeal

Thank you to the following for your donations to the League:
Nancy Burnett and Norma Medlin.

In Memorium

We are saddened to report the deaths of long-time members Albert “Ted” Wehde; Fran Grabau, who had served as president and co-president and was a vital member of the VOTER production team; and past member Robert “Bob” Levy, husband of long-time member Louise Levy. Our condolences go to their families.

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN SUNNYVALE

The Sunnyvale Council and staff are currently working on a wide range of issues. Visit the city website, sunnyvale.ca.gov, for information and tools to help you stay informed about how Sunnyvale is planning to adapt to a changing world.

Two city publications help keep residents in the loop:

- CityManagerBlog.inSunnyvale.com (biweekly)
- QuarterlyReport.inSunnyvale.com

You may also participate in online city surveys at sunnyvale.peakdemocracy.com

City Council study sessions and workshops for members of boards/commissions are a great way to get informed about key issues. Detailed staff presentations, interactions among decision-makers and staff, and input from members of the public all help to inform those who attend these meetings. See the adjacent box for some upcoming meetings on key issues.

Butchers Corner – The City Council decided in late July to move forward with annexation of this “island” of county land at the intersection of El Camino, Wolfe, and Fremont. There has been some resistance to annexation, due to concerns about the project being planned for the site. A final Council decision on annexation is likely this fall. More information: ButchersCorner.inSunnyvale.com.

Town Center – Litigation finally concluded in August. This key downtown project has been stalled for years, but should now be able to move forward. The City is assessing whether current market conditions still support the original project proposal. More information: downtown.inSunnyvale.com.

City Property – A citizen’s initiative entitled “Public Lands for Public Use Act” has qualified for the November 2016 ballot. The proposed initiative would require voter approval before sale or lease of city property used as a park or community service amenity.

League’s Sunnyvale Group – Our local League is in early stages of forming a member group to follow and report on development issues in Sunnyvale. Linda Davis will be coordinating the group’s work. Group members will be attending various public meetings and reporting to one another about what they learn. The group will also meet with community leaders and others with special expertise to gain knowledge and perspective. The group will be sharing what it learns with other League members and the public via the League’s monthly VOTER newsletter and email updates. A major goal of this effort is to foster civic participation in Sunnyvale. If you would like to be involved with this work please let Linda know of your interests: SunnyvaleGroup@cs.ca.lwvnet.org.

Upcoming Sunnyvale Meetings

*Agendas, meeting packets, audio/video links: meetings.inSunnyvale.com
Location: Sunnyvale City Hall Council chambers, unless otherwise noted.
Meetings in the Council chambers are usually available live on TV channel 15.*

Wastewater Treatment Plant SunnyvaleCleanWater.com

- 8/25 • 6 pm Council study session on master plan
City Hall, west conference room
- 9/15 • 7 pm City Council – public hearing on city code amendments

Next steps: public input on Environmental Impact Report

Civic Center Modernization Project CivicCenter.inSunnyvale.com

- 8/26 • 6:30 pm Workshop for boards/commissions
Sunnyvale Community Center, ballroom
- 9/22 • 7pm City Council – public hearing & approval of plans to date
- 10/3 Community Workshop #3 – testing scenarios
Time and location to be determined

Next steps: scenario decisions, public input on financing options

CUPERTINO NEWS

INNOVATIVE TRANSIT: NEW MODEL FOR SILICON VALLEY

A panel of experts on transit convened in Cupertino to discuss alternative means of transportation in Silicon Valley. Cupertino Mayor Rod Sinks moderated the panel composed of Stefan Heck, a consulting professor at the Precourt Institute for Energy at Stanford University; Rod Diridon Sr, former chair of the Mineta Transportation Institute and member of many national, state and local programs related to transit; Dan Whisenhunt, Apple's vice president of real estate and development; Ryan Kauffman, head of transportation and commute at Apple; and Jason Dowlatabadi, Uber policy research. The panel discussed transportation issues in Silicon Valley. They all agreed that building more roads or more lanes on current roads is not the answer to our traffic problems. The roads would just fill up in a short period of time.

Professor Heck spoke about demographics and how much driving we will be doing in the future. He said people are moving back into cities and driving less, fewer people under 30 are getting drivers licenses, they are not using personal cars to get around.

For public transit to work it needs a minimum amount of density but not extreme density. It needs frequency, a shorter interval between vehicles, 7 minutes not the 30-45 minutes in San Jose, and stations 1 mile apart. We also need to look at urban planning. Now we have jobs near freeways and houses near transit stations but there is no connection. Innovative options to reduce dependence on personal cars are shared and autonomous cars and electric bikes.

The future is an Intermodal model with convenient schedules, automated routing and online payments.

Diridon talked about the Federal Transit Administration Environmental Clearance Process which is needed to develop new transit corridors in Silicon Valley. The last formal environmental clearance was over a decade ago therefore obsolete because of the Valley's rapid growth, and would need to be updated. The process is long and costly but "by including extensive community outreach...the

result will be a selection of a preferred corridor and mode alternative justified by fact rather than emotion and supported by most of the citizens."

Diridon went on to describe and give examples of various types of transit: **High Speed Rail**; **Commuter Rail**, Caltrain and Capitol Corridor Train; **Metro Rail**, BART; **Light Rail**, VTA Light Rail; **Automated Transit Network**, ATN/Podcar; and **Express Bus**. Silicon Valley has some of these but not all.



Whisenhunt and Kauffman presented Apple's plans for integrating transit with the new Apple Campus II. In answer to an audience question about sharing the Apple buses with other Silicon Valley companies, Kauffman said that is not an option. Their buses are full. There are no empty seats for picking up riders at Google, Facebook or Yahoo.

Dowlatabadi said that Uber helps public transit by expanding its reach and addressing the first and last mile problems of transit. The first mile is from your home to public transit, the last mile is getting from public transit to your job. Uber could fill these gaps and increase transit ridership.

The bottom line of these presentations was that we need to move to greater use of public transit in one of its many forms.

DEVELOPMENT IN CUPERTINO - THE OAKS

Ken and Mark Terisini, new owners of the Oaks Shopping Center, invited residents to a community meeting to learn about their vision for a multi-use center on the site and to provide input on the project.

The site is seen as the western gateway to Cupertino and the developers wish to make it a boutique retail site. It is zoned for mixed use. The plan that will be taken to the city for approval, includes an office building, a hotel and housing over retail. Parking will be provided on two floors below grade.



TWO GRANTS, AN APPOINTMENT AND ADVOCACY- NEWS FROM LWVC AND LWVCEF

The LWVCEF Receives Irvine Foundation Grant

The LWVC Education Fund was awarded a two-year grant from The Irvine Foundation. This grant will help our voter service activities through the presidential primary and general election. We intend to use the funds for our Voter's Edge California project which is the partnership between Smart Voter and MapLight, for our continuing efforts with the Best Practices Manual for Official Voter Information Guides, and other projects to support our work to increase voter participation.

The James Irvine Foundation is a private, nonprofit grantmaking foundation dedicated to expanding opportunity for the people of California to participate in a vibrant, successful and inclusive society. The Foundation's grantmaking focuses on three program areas: Arts, California Democracy, and Youth. Since 1937, the Foundation has provided over \$1.5 billion in grants to more than 3,600 nonprofit organizations throughout California.

The LWVCEF Receives California State Library Grant

In more good funding news, the LWVC Education Fund received a grant for FY 2015/16 for our Easy Voter Guide Project. This is part of our ongoing collaboration with the California State Library, who we have been working with since 1994.

The LWVCEF Communications Manager Named to Action Civics Regional Advisory Committee in Sacramento County

Elizabeth Leslie, the LWVCEF Communications Manager, was appointed to the Sacramento County Action Civics Regional Advisory Committee. In that capacity, she has already participated in the Action Civics Summer Institute at the Secretary of State's office in July, where she provided government and civics teachers with information on the LWVC/EF's nonpartisan resources. The LWVC/EF hopes to continue involvement with this vital program.

The Action Civics program arose from the California Task Force on K-12 Civic Learning that was established by California Chief Justice Tani G. Cantil-Sakauye and State Superintendent of Public Instruction Tom Torlakson to explore and elevate the status of civic learning and engagement in California.

*Carol Moon Goldberg, Second Vice President for
Voter Service
cmoongoldberg@lwvc.org*

Voting Rights Action

Earlier this month we celebrated a historic legal victory that restored voting rights to nearly 60,000 people in California who have been disenfranchised since 2011. As a result of our action, formerly incarcerated people who are on post-release community supervision or mandatory supervision, two new and innovative local supervision programs, can register and vote. The outcome of the Scott v. Bowen case is a major step in our struggle to achieve suffrage for ALL Californians!

Make It Fair

The LWVC has joined a coalition, Make It Fair, to close the commercial property tax loophole in Prop 13. This movement to reform California's property tax system protects home owners and renters as well as small business owners. The first step is educating people and communities about the need for this change. Watch for ideas about how your League can get involved. More information is available on their Web site.

Get Involved in Legislative Activity

Did you know that the California League supports bills to improve the vote-by-mail process, require further reduction of greenhouse gas emissions, increase funding for affordable housing, remove the cap on school district reserves that was imposed last year, and more? Check out the LWVC Bill Status Report that lists all the bills on which the League has taken a position and links to more information about each bill.

Action will be fast and furious from now until September 11 when the Legislature adjourns for the year. Be alert for possible calls for action as we move into these critical days.

*Joanne Leavitt, Second Vice President for
Advocacy and Program
jleavitt@lwvc.org*

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LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF SANTA CLARA COUNTY – EDUCATION COMMITTEE EARLY EDUCATION UPDATE – JULY, 2015

By Julie Cates, LWV-LAMV

Local League of Women Voter Members Help Advance Policies for Early Education

Due to advocacy efforts across the state during the last year, California's 2015-2016 budget includes an increase of over \$300M in state funding toward early education. Low income families with infants, toddlers and preschoolers will benefit from the increased spending. At the same time, local county-based initiatives grew support for increasing access to quality preschool for low income children.

Our League of Women Voters California (LWVC) and multiple local League members are actively advocating for increased early education support through these county-based initiatives. This fall, Julie Cates of the League of Women Voters Los Altos-Mountain View, will set up a meeting for early education advocates in our local Leagues to share information and align our advocacy efforts during the coming year.

In the meantime, below are highlights of last year's advocacy efforts by the League of Women Voters California and local Leagues.

League of Women Voters California Advocates for Early Education

- Trudy Schafer, Program Director for LWVC, has participated in multiple legislative hearings in support of increased funding for early education.
- LWVC participated in multiple written appeals to Legislators in support of AB 47 (State funded preschool for all low income children.)
- For information on the resulting state budget expenditures for early education, see the EdSource June 17, 2015 [article](#). It lists the key components of the budget deal announced by the Governor and legislative leaders on June 16th.
- Expansion of early childhood programs: Policymakers agreed to use \$265 million to fund 7,000 additional preschool slots and 6,800 child care slots, plus a rate increase for childcare providers.

Santa Clara County: Strong Start Coalition

Hosted by the Santa Clara County Office of Education and in partnership with First 5, the Strong Start collaborative is looking at potential to raise public funds starting 2016 to expand access to quality preschool for 3- and 4-year olds.

- Visit the Strong Start website <http://strongstartsantaclara.org/> for updates on the coalition.
- On June 8, 2015 representatives from the Strong Start Coalition spent the day in Sacramento talking with Gov Brown Staff members and Legislators about the need to expand funding for early learning. Article at <http://www.sanjoseinside.com/2015/06/17/silicon-valley-coalition-plays-key-role-in-funding-early-education/> Julie Cates, League of LAMV Board member participated in the Sacramento meetings.
- Ellen Wheeler, who heads the LWV Santa Clara County Education Committee, Julie Cates of the LWV LAMV and Diane Rolf of the LWV PA are regular League participants in the Strong Start monthly meetings.

Across the Bay Area multiple county-based initiatives are funding early education.

In addition to Santa Clara County's Strong Start Coalition, multiple counties have their own programs in place to expand access to quality early education.

- San Mateo County: Big Lift Initiative www.thebiglift.org/
- San Francisco County's Preschool For All program.
- Marin County Strong Start Initiative.

LEAGUE NEWS

Bay Area – The LWV Bay Area sent a letter to the Bay Area Air Quality Management District (BAAQMD) supporting their Five Point Action Plan to Address Refinery Emissions. In particular, the LWVBA supported the open process the Board used to involve the public in the consideration of new regulations, which will implement new health standards, and have a goal of reducing refinery emissions by 20%. The new regulations will include permit review for any existing refinery experiencing changes in its crude oil composition, and will add new measures designed to limit methane emissions.

LWVBA spoke on July 29, 2015 in support of the BAAQMD Climate Action Strategy. We were pleased that the District is moving forward to regulate greenhouse gases (GHG) within the region, and agree with the priorities of energy efficiency, electrification and moving toward low/no-carbon energy sources. Sources of GHG within the Bay Area have been documented, by production source, and we look forward to the development of new rules and regulations.

VOTING RIGHTS VICTORY

The following article was sent from the LWVC Sacramento Office on August 4, 2015.

“Join our voting rights victory celebration! Right now, the League of Women Voters of California, the American Civil Liberties Union of California, All of Us or None, the Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights of the San Francisco Bay Area, and Legal Services for Prisoners with Children are on the steps of the downtown Alameda Courthouse with Secretary of State Padilla announcing the withdrawal of a challenge to the voting rights of the formerly incarcerated.



Left California Secretary of State Alex Padilla right LWVC President Helen Hutchison

What better way to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Voting Rights Act than to send a message to the rest of the nation that California is expanding our democracy and will not stand for discrimination in voting?

Today, by withdrawing a challenge to the voting rights of the formerly incarcerated, Secretary of State Alex Padilla sends the nation a message that California will not stand for discrimination in voting and that he will fight to protect the right to vote for all eligible Californians.”

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 “LWVC Education Fund.”

CALENDAR

July

Sat	12	11 am-2 pm	Sunnyvale “State of the City” event Washington Park Pastoria & Washington, Sunnyvale
Mon	14	7:30 pm	Board Meeting Burnett’s 729 Stendhal Lane, Cupertino 95014
Sat	19	9 - 11:45 am	Public Higher Education in California Foothill Community College Hearthside Lounge Room 2313 12345 El Monte Road, Los Altos Hills

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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

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