



VOTER

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF CUPERTINO-SUNNYVALE

November 2015

Volume 43 Number 4

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MONEY IN POLITICS

Monday • November 9, 2015 • 7:00 p.m.

Sunnyvale Public Library

665 Olive Ave • Program Room

Find out how campaign finance law has aimed to protect our democracy from negative impacts of political campaign money, while facing staunch defense of political speech by the Supreme Court. Hear about current trends in campaigns and attempts at regulating campaign finance. Bring your questions.

This presentation kicks off our League's efforts on the current update study of campaign finance. (See page 3 for more about the study.) Although we encourage League members to attend as preparation for our consensus discussion meeting in January, anyone concerned about the role of money in election campaigns should find it interesting.

Print [this flyer](#) as a meeting reminder.

Share the flyer with a friend.

LWV Cupertino-Sunnyvale Board of Directors

President	Roberta Hollimon
Vice President	Susan Hough
Secretary	Michael Lusk
Treasurer	Serge Rudaz

Directors	Linda Davis
	Bruce Kendall
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Pros and Cons Scheduling	Judi Pogue
Voter Registration	Suzanne Ford

The Cupertino-Sunnyvale VOTER

Published 10 times a year by the League of Women Voters of Cupertino-Sunnyvale.

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

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I was happy to see so many members at our Constitutional Amendment consensus meeting. We exceeded the new minimum number required to adopt consensus. I hope that all of you who were there will come back and be joined by more members when we hold a consensus meeting in January on Money in Politics. In preparation for that be sure to read the article on page 4 and attend the Money in Politics informational meeting on November 9 at the Sunnyvale Library.

Our Bylaws require that we inform members of our financial situation no later than five months following the end of the fiscal year. You will find the Finance Report on page 6 of this VOTER. The new format of the report was developed by the Treasurer based on recommendations made by the Finance Committee.

We continue to follow development in Cupertino and Sunnyvale as you will see in the reports on pages 4 & 5.

I have finally mastered hyperlinks. Try them.

Roberta

Board Briefs

At its September meeting your board:

- Adopted a policy requiring a minimum attendance of 10% of our members at consensus meetings for the consensus to be valid.
- Heard details on the Constitutional Amendment consensus meeting and the "Money in Politics" presentation from the Program Director. Both of these will be preparation for our work on the Local Campaign Finance Study.
- Decided to hold a Program Planning meeting in February.
- Set December 5 as the date for our Holiday Party.

Member News

Thank you for renewing your membership: Janet Bertaina, Nancy Burnett, Delores Carson, Patricia Castillo, Suzanne Ford, James Griffith, Roberta and Marshall Hollimon, Russell Howard, James Jackson, Jane Kroll, Louise Levy, Jo Loer, Ruth Mansberger, Norma Medlin, Arthur Norins, Nancy Plumb, Judith Pogue, LaVerne Prentice, Margaret Quillinan, Dolores Sandoval, Marieann Shovlin, Jason Spiller, Florence Stafford, Rose-Marie Twu, and Leonard Williams.

Thank you for including a donation with your renewal: Donna and Scot Austin, Joyce Bartlett, Peter Botsford, Polly

Bove, Patricia Boyle, Harold Brown, Joan Coston, Linda Davis and Serge Rudaz, Tracey Edwards, Dorothy and John Givens, Joan Gordon, Anita and Alan Herrmann, Kirsten Holmquist, Susan Hough, Marilyn Howard, Sharon Jenks, Andrew Kao, Kristine Kelly, Bruce Kendall, Michael Lusk, Elaine and Scott Manley, Dianne and Regis McKenna, Dorothy Normark, Barbara Nunes, Beverly and Richard Olsen, Joan Schulze, Kathi and Terry Turner, Joan Wehde, Leanne and Charles Untulis, and Carol Weiss.

Welcome back to Lois Smallwood who has rejoined our League.

Opportunities for Involvement

- Attend the "Money in Politics" meeting Monday November 9, 7 p.m. at the Sunnyvale Library. See page 1 for details.
- Print "Money in Politics" flyer from the link on page 1 and share with friends or post at your favorite coffee shop.
- A proofreader for the VOTER is needed. Once a month spend an hour or two proofing our newsletter. Training provided.

LWV UPDATE STUDY OF MONEY IN POLITICS

Leagues across the nation are engaged in study of “Money in Politics” to update the League’s longstanding position on campaign finance.

Adopted in 1974, the League’s position seeks to regulate financing of election campaigns in order to protect democratic process. It focuses on combating corruption and undue influence, encouraging equitable competition for elective office, and protecting the citizens’ rights to know and to fully participate in the political process.

In contrast, Court decisions on challenges to campaign finance regulation have focused on the free speech rights of candidates, candidates’ donors, and others who want to sway votes in accordance with their views. To the Court, campaign spending by candidates or others is equivalent to political speech, and the freedom of political speech is central to American democracy.

For almost 40 years the Supreme Court’s approach to campaign finance regulation and the League’s campaign finance position intersected in an important aspect. The Court recognized the risk that campaign contributions can be or appear to be corrupting, especially if contributions are very large or come from corporations or unions. As a result, for decades the Court upheld reasonable contribution limits and the exclusion of corporations from direct participation in the election process.

That changed with the Supreme Court’s 2010 decision on *Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission*. This decision entirely discounted any danger from undue influence other than quid pro quo (“this for that”) corruption, thereby narrowing the concept of political corruption to the point of its being essentially equivalent to bribery.

In *Citizens United*, the Court ruled that the First Amendment prohibited restrictions on corporate independent expenditures, which cannot corrupt since they are independent of candidates’ campaigns, according to the Court. This opened the door to unlimited independent spending in candidate elections by corporations and unions. Subsequent Court decisions have enabled the identity of donors to be shielded through super PACs. In summary, the impact of Court decisions on campaign finance since 2010 has been to radically transform the election landscape.

Proposed constitutional amendments in response to *Citizens United* and subsequent decisions have focused on reversing the Court’s rulings that corporations have full political speech rights and that funding a political campaign is protected speech. The proposals would give Congress



League Position on Campaign Finance

(adopted January 1974, revised March 1982)

The League of Women Voters of the United States believes that the methods of financing political campaigns should ensure the public’s right to know, combat corruption and undue influence, enable candidates to compete more equitably for public office, and allow maximum citizen participation in the political process.

and the states the authority to regulate “the raising and spending of money by candidates and others to influence elections,” which the Court has deemed protected speech.

The original League study of campaign finance did not address First Amendment concerns. What about the First Amendment interests of candidates, donors, independent spenders, and issue advocates? How should First Amendment protections be balanced against concerns about equitable competition, preventing corruption and undue influence, and enhancing voter participation? These are questions the League update study is considering.

The LWVUS study committee has developed a set of consensus questions that will explore the extent to which our members believe that financing a political campaign is speech protected by the First Amendment. Leagues are being asked to consider: (1) whether individuals and organizations have First Amendment rights to express their political views through financing of election campaign activities; and (2) how those rights, if any, should be protected and reconciled with the interests set out in the current League position.

The League of Women Voters of Cupertino-Sunnyvale will conduct its member discussion of the campaign finance consensus questions in January. Watch the December VOTER for the date, time, and location.

To prepare for the January consensus meeting, members may want to check out the wealth of resources available on the LWVUS website: [Money in Politics](#). You may also want to attend our presentation at the Sunnyvale Public Library on 11/9 at 7 p.m.

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN SUNNYVALE

Major Plans – Three long-range planning efforts are in final stages: Lawrence Station Area Plan (LSAP), Peery Park Specific Plan (PPSP), and the Land Use and Transportation Element (LUTE) of the City's General Plan. The draft LSAP is currently in public review, staff is working on an update of the draft LUTE, and the draft PPSP is being prepared. Draft Environmental Impact Reports (EIRs) are also underway for each plan. These EIRs evaluate the potential impacts of proposed changes in each plan. Once a draft EIR is released, state law mandates a 45-day public review period, to allow for public scrutiny of environmental impacts and their possible mitigation prior to approval of a plan. The interconnectedness of the traffic impacts for the LSAP, PPSP, and LUTE has resulted in a two-month delay in the release of the three draft EIRs. The next public hearings on these plans are now expected in April 2016 for LSAP, in May 2016 for PPSP, and in July 2016 for LUTE. You can read more about each of these big planning efforts on the City's website: [LSAP](#), [PPSP](#), [LUTE](#).

Butchers Corner – The City Council voted in October to annex this 5 acre island at the intersection of El Camino, Wolfe, and Fremont. De Anza Properties (owned by John Vidovich) is proposing to build 153 residential units (39 townhomes, 114 flats) and 6,936 square feet of retail/office space. An Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the proposed development is underway, with public review of a draft EIR expected to begin in January. Public hearings are expected next May for the final EIR and May to June for the proposed development. More information: [ButchersCorner.inSunnyvale.com](#).

Civic Center – The 10/3 workshop on this project was attended by 50-60 residents, including several LWVCS members. This was the third and final workshop intended to solicit community input in this first year of planning for the civic center area on either side of Olive Ave between Pastoria and Mathilda. The next opportunities for citizens to get a look at how plans are shaping up will be on 11/17 at a City Council study session: see the meeting box. Our League's Sunnyvale Group is following this project and its community outreach components. Feel free to contact us with input or questions that might inform our work: SunnyvaleGroup@cs.ca.lwvnet.org

New El Camino Real Plan – Another major planning effort is getting underway this fall: re-examination of the El

Upcoming Sunnyvale Meetings

Agendas, meeting packets, audio/video: [meetings.inSunnyvale.com](#)
Location: City Hall Council chambers, unless otherwise noted.
TV channel 15: live broadcast of many meetings.*

Civic Center Modernization Project (CCMP) [CivicCenter.inSunnyvale.com](#)

11/17 • 5:30p Council study session: CCMP site planning opportunities and constraints

** Council agendas change often, so check at the meetings link.*

Camino Real corridor through Sunnyvale. A plan for this area was last issued in 2007. A Plan Advisory Committee for this new endeavor held its first meeting in September, and city staff has conducted two pop-up workshops to initiate exchanges with the public about needs and opportunities along El Camino Real. Our League's Sunnyvale Group will be keeping members and the public informed about this plan via this monthly column. More information: [El Camino Corridor](#).

Planning Staff Changes – Community Development Director, Hanson Hom, has been appointed Chief Downtown Project Manager to lead the City through the downtown development. This move follows the recent end to years of litigation that put the Town Center project in limbo. Planning Officer Trudi Ryan is being promoted to the head position in the planning department. The City will soon begin a process to fill the Planning Officer vacancy.

Public Access TV – A two-year pilot program will soon bring community programming to Comcast cable channel 26. SV26 will be operated by KMVT15 Silicon Valley Community Media, the nonprofit that has managed access services for Cupertino, Mountain View, and Los Altos since 1982. This will enable Sunnyvale residents to see locally produced programs for the first time, including the ballot measure programs our League has done for years in partnership with a community access group working out of the KMVT facility. Might this Sunnyvale pilot project present our League with new opportunities to provide local programming? For more about community media, read the FAQs at www.kmvt15.org.

Stay informed and make your voice heard:

- [Give input via City surveys on current topics](#)
- [Subscribe to email notices on City meetings](#)

NEW DEVELOPMENT PROPOSALS IN CUPERTINO AND VALLCO EIR

There are several new developments proposed for Cupertino. We will be reporting on them in the VOTER and will post dates of public hearings or community meetings. **The Hamptons**, an apartment complex at the corner of Wolfe and Pruneridge is requesting a Development Permit to allow the demolition of 342 apartments (the Hamptons) and the construction of 942 apartments in a Planned Residential Zoning.

The proposal from **Marina** food market, on Bandlely near Stevens Creek Blvd, would allow the demolition of approximately 44,000 square feet of commercial space, and the construction of a mixed-use development with the following uses:

- 20,000 square feet of commercial uses, including retail and restaurant uses
- 122 room hotel

- 205 residential units, including 17 below market rate units

The City of Cupertino has announced that there will be a meeting for residents to comment on the scope of the Environmental Impact Report for **The Hills at Vallco** on Tuesday, November 10 at 6:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. Cupertino Community Hall 10350 Torre Avenue.

According to the City, “The purpose of the meeting is to gather input on the scope of the environmental review.” If unable to attend, comments may be emailed to planning@cupertino.org or mailed to City Hall at 10300 Torre Ave. Cupertino CA 95014 by November 16.

Project description, plans, and Notice of Preparation available on the project website. Sign up at project website, www.cupertino.org/vallco for updates.

LWV BAY AREA NEWS

Save the Date

Bay Area League Day

Reinventing Bay Area Transportation
for the 21st Century

Saturday, February 6, 2016

Comment on ABAG/MTC Planning Staff Consolidation.

LWVBA supports full funding for ABAG, pursuant to the executed contract. We favor developing a plan for consolidation of regional planning efforts, in a process that considers all interests within a public process.

LEAGUE DONATES BOOKS TO LIBRARY

The League of Women Voters of Cupertino-Sunnyvale donated 2 copies of *Guide to California Government*, a publication of the the League of Women Voters of California Education Fund, to the Sunnyvale Library.



Librarian Rachel Schmidt (left) receives books from members Marieann Shovlin (center) and Carol Weiss.

Updated in its 15th edition, the *Guide to California Government (G2CG)* is designed to engage and inform readers by emphasizing the public’s role in California government. This unique edition has handy info graphics explaining complicated structures of government, icons in the margins to link and highlight topics along with related websites so readers can find and access their government easily.

CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT CONSENSUS MEETING

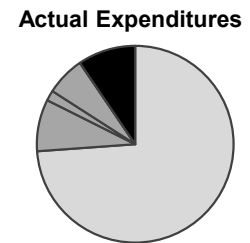
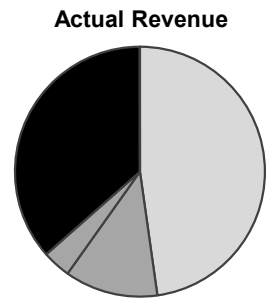
Eleven members participated in the Constitutional Amendment consensus meeting. There was lively discussion as members addressed criteria for evaluating Constitutional Amendment Proposals, under what conditions would we support or oppose a Constitutional Convention, and whether we would support a Constitutional Amendment that advances a League position even if there are problems with the amendment or it is being put forward by a procedural process the League would otherwise oppose.

The results will be sent to our board for approval and then forwarded to LWVUS. The national board will gather results from Leagues across the country and consolidate them into a new League position. At that point we will have a position on which we can advocate if there is a proposal for a Constitutional Amendment on a topic on which we have a position. on a proposal for a Constitutional Convention on a topic or topics on which we have a position.

League of Women Voters of Cupertino-Sunnyvale
Financial Report: July 1, 2014 to June 30, 2015

	Balances 6/30/2015	Notes
LWVCS Cash	9,730	5
Education Fund Account	851	
Assets	\$10,581	
Liabilities	0	
Net Worth	10,581	
Liabilities & Net Worth	\$10,581	

	12-Month Actuals	Annual Budget	Notes
Revenue			
Member Dues	3,653	4,650	3
Member Donations with Dues	923	1,250	3
Member Community Service	280	360	
Community Appeal Contributions	2,790	2,040	2
Other Revenue	1	0	
	\$7,646	8,300	
Expenditures			
Payments to levels of LWV	4,263	4,776	4
Office Costs & Administration	492	606	
Fundraising	98	320	
VOTER newsletter & Service to Members	371	1,078	1
Delegates to State Convention	0	750	1
LWV Program: Study & Advocacy	0	50	
Voter Service & Citizen Education	548	720	
	\$5,771	8,300	
Net Revenue	\$1,875		1



Explanatory Notes

- 1 For this past year, revenues far exceeded expenditures. The main reasons: no delegate was sent to the State LWV Convention; cost savings on the Annual Meeting, VOTER, and Community Appeal.
- 2 Community Appeal receipts exceeded budget. We got \$430 in late donations to the 2014 Appeal and \$2,360 from the 2015 Appeal. Of all Appeal revenue received, 70% came from members and 30% from non-members.
- 3 Dues and donations with dues fell short of budget mostly because in 2014 we started to renew everybody in September: we budgeted for all to pay \$60 as usual, but it turned out that many members owed less than \$60 this first year under the new renewal system.
- 4 Our bills from other levels of LWV were paid in full: the budget was just miscalculated.
- 5 The board typically keeps in reserve \$2,500 to insure payments to levels of LWV and \$1,000 for non-budgeted goals or needs. Subtracting these "reserves" from LWVCS cash leaves \$6,230 in unrestricted cash.

If you have questions about this report, contact Serge Rudaz : sergelrudaz@yahoo.com, 408.737.1033.

LEAGUE NEWS

National – The League submitted written comments to the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Science Advisory Board (SAB). The comments are in regard to the EPA SAB's study on the effects that hydraulic fracturing has on drinking water sources.

State - League members fought hard to pass two major climate change bills, SB 350 and SB 32, which drew some of the strongest fire of the session as they attempted to build on California's landmark greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions law, AB 32 of 2006. The oil industry spent millions to influence business-friendly Democrats to oppose SB 350's requirement of a 50 percent reduction in petroleum use for transportation by 2030, and in the end that provision was removed from the bill. Even with that setback, though, SB 350 is an enormously important bill requiring 50 percent of our electricity from renewable energy sources and a doubling of energy efficiency in buildings by 2030. SB 32, which would have expanded the AB 32 GHG reduction targets through 2050, fell victim to attacks on the Air Resources Board's authority and was shelved.

MEET THE NEW LWVUS EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear Leaguers,

Life can often throw us curveballs. Right when we are settling down into a situation and starting to get comfortable, opportunity comes knocking at the door. And, we are faced with the question, will we stay in our comfort zone or delve into the unknown world of possibilities? I recently chose to pursue the world of possibilities and excitedly accepted the position of executive director of the League of Women Voters.

I was drawn to join the League because of its noted impact on American history and politics coupled with my desire to continue to serve and support mission-focused organizations that work on issues about which I am passionate. I wanted an organizational home committed to principles that are important to me – inclusion and empowerment. And, I wanted to help protect the fundamental right to vote that my foremothers and forefathers made so many sacrifices to attain. I'm excited to help continue the League's fight to protect the right to vote, most notably our need to restore the Voting Rights Act which became law 50 years ago and ensured that every American citizen, regardless of race, ethnicity or language, had equal access to the right to vote.

Since starting just over three weeks ago...I have become more intimately familiar with the League's work, and as a result, my interest in and passion for the organization has grown. My closet activist from my college days has been reignited as I have come to understand better what is at stake in this next election cycle and how League supporters, like you, are integral to helping voters have a say on the issues that matter most to them.



Sincerely,

Wylecia Wiggs Harris

Executive Director, League of Women 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 "LWVC Education Fund."

CALENDAR

November

Mon 9 7 p.m. **Money in Politics**
Sunnyvale Public Library
665 W Olive Ave • Program Room
Sunnyvale 94086

Mon 16 7:30 p.m. **Board Meeting**
Hollimon's
11155 La Paloma Drive
Cupertino 95014

December

Sat 5 10 a.m. - Noon **Holiday Party**
Hough's
1452 Owensound Dr
Sunnyvale 94087

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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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