



VOTER

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF CUPERTINO-SUNNYVALE

February 2016

Volume 43 Number 7

In This Issue

Board Briefs	2
Calendar	4
League News	3
Make It Fair	3
Opportunities for Involvement	2
President's Message	2
Program Planning	1

Member Meeting PROGRAM PLANNING

Saturday February 6, 2016

10:00 am – noon

**Olsens' Home
611 Hubbard Avenue
Santa Clara 95051**

All League Members Welcome!
R.S.V.P. appreciated, but not required:
league@cs.ca.lwvnet.org

LWV Cupertino-Sunnyvale Board of Directors

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Off Board

Pros and Cons Scheduling	Judi Pogue
Voter Registration	Suzanne Ford

Join fellow League members as we look ahead and plan our activities for next year. Do we want to propose studies or areas of interest and education for national League and Bay Area League? What needs attention in Cupertino and Sunnyvale? Where should our League put its energy in the coming year?

Come, express your opinion. Be part of the planning process.

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

In the past, I have used the February President’s Message as a primer on Program Planning. What is it, why do we do it, how do we do it, what is the outcome. I would even occasionally go back to previous messages and just copy and paste the text because the process was always the same. I can’t do that this year because things have changed. National and Bay Area Leagues are proposing a different outcome for Program Planning.

The national League points out, “We have a large number of positions in many areas. Over the years, we have studied and come to consensus on topics within Representative Government, International Relations, Natural Resources, and Social Policy. We need to more fully utilize the positions we have...it is clear that a main goal for which we are striving is Making Democracy Work®. Voting rights, voter protection and service, and election reform are crucial elements in achieving the goal, and the League is particularly noted for action in these areas. Currently, as part of the three-part Key Structures of Democracy program adopted at the 2014 Convention, Leagues nationwide are: engaging in the Money in Politics Review and Update of LWV’s campaign finance position, studying the process of amending the U.S. Constitution; and reviewing the redistricting process for U.S. Congress, through the existing Redistricting Task Force, for the purpose of developing action steps...To free up resources and unite Leagues across the country, we must focus. We suggest that, during your program planning efforts, you strongly consider the need to act versus adding new studies or reviews to the agenda for the 2016-2018 biennium. Let’s focus on taking action.”

The Bay Area League also feels this is a time to use the positions we have and not engage in further study in this biennium.

But this is a grassroots organization and if you feel we need a new study or a different focus at the national and Bay Area levels of League, come and speak up.

If we agree that we don’t need to study new issues to arrive at a position at the National and Bay Area level, we will have more time to look at our local program and see what we would like our League to do in the next year or two.

Roberta

Board Briefs

At its January meeting: your board:

- Finalized plans for the Money in Politics consensus meeting.
- Discussed the Program Planning meeting to be held February 6.
- Set June 4 as the date for Annual Meeting.
- Appointed Nominating Committee Chair

Opportunities for Involvement

- Attend the Program Planning Meeting on Saturday, February 6 (See p. 1).
- Help register voters at the new citizen ceremonies in March and May. More information on this in the March VOTER.
- Attend legislative interviews with our state representatives.
- Say yes when the nominating committee asks you to serve on the board.

LEAGUE NEWS

National – A message from President Elisabeth MacNamara, “Last week, President Obama delivered his final State of the Union (SOTU) address. We were particularly excited by the attention given to the need to invest in civic engagement and improve our voting and elections systems. Most recently, we’ve urged the Obama Administration to come into compliance with the National Voter Registration Act by providing the opportunity to register to vote to those signing up for health insurance through the health care exchanges set up by the Affordable Care Act and also suggested five ways to improve our elections system to make it work better for voters, including online voter registration for all and expanded early voting.”

State - The LWVC supported strong regulations adopted by the Fair Political Practices Commission (FPPC) to prevent coordination of political campaigns with independent expenditure committees.

MAKE IT FAIR CALIFORNIA UPDATE

The Make It Fair Coalition was formed to work for reform of Proposition 13 by changing the unfair way in which commercial property is taxed in California. The League of Women Voters of California joined the Make It Fair campaign because school districts and local governments in California desperately need more revenue to rebuild services and restore educational opportunities for the state’s children.

Together, over the past several months, the Make it Fair Coalition has made huge progress in bringing real reform of Prop 13 to the forefront of public debate.

Even with this significant and encouraging progress, the Make It Fair coalition has decided not to pursue an initiative for the November 2016 ballot. Instead, Make It Fair will work to build an even more powerful coalition, expand public education, make the electorate reflective of California’s diverse population, and raise funds to ensure the success of any future initiative.

Make It Fair is serious about reform and will continue to be in touch as plans for the coming months take shape.

League members embraced the Make It Fair campaign strongly; we anticipate that that support will continue and grow, as the whole coalition works to keep this issue vibrant and expand public support.

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

February

Sat 6 10:00 a.m.

Program Planning

Olsens' 611 Hubbard Avenue
Santa Clara 95051

Mon 8 7:30 p.m.

Board Meeting

Hollimons'
11155 La Paloma Drive
Cupertino 95014

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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

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