



# VOTER

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF CUPERTINO-SUNNYVALE

May 2016

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## ANNUAL MEETING

**Saturday, June 4, 2016**

**Sunnyvale Presbyterian Church  
728 W. Fremont Ave. Rm. 702  
Sunnyvale, 94087**

**9:45 Refreshments**

**10:00 Annual Meeting**

**11:00 Program**

**Topic: Silicon Valley Clean Energy  
SVCE**

**Become knowledgeable about this program  
that is coming to your home in 2017**

**Public is welcome**

**RSVP to Marilyn Howard at (408) 255-0977  
or email [league@cs.ca.lwvnet.org](mailto:league@cs.ca.lwvnet.org)**

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### The Cupertino-Sunnyvale VOTER

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This newsletter is posted on our website: [cs.ca.lwvnet.org](http://cs.ca.lwvnet.org).

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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

As if you didn't already know it, this issue of the VOTER will tell you an election is coming. There's help analyzing ballot measures and a refresher on Top Two Primaries. On this page you will see the League's recommendations on the state, bay area, and county ballot measures.

Thanks to Suzanne Ford, Bev Olsen, Marieann Shovlin, and Carol Weiss for helping register voters at the new citizens ceremony.

We had a wonderful turnout for the April 17th event. If you weren't able to attend you can see the PowerPoint slides on our website.

The Annual Meeting Kit will be mailed to you mid-May. This year we will follow our usual practice of mailing it to all members and we will also send it by email. Next year we will mail it to only those who don't have an email account. All others will receive it by email. I look forward to seeing you at Annual Meeting.

There will not be a VOTER in June so this is my last President's Message. It has been an honor serving you but I'm not leaving the League. I'll be Chair of the County Council of the Leagues of Women Voters of Santa Clara County for the next two years, I'll continue to support Smart Voter/Voter's Edge, and I will help our League.

## THE LEAGUE RECOMMENDS

### Prop 50

**YES**

This measure would add rules to the state Constitution about how to suspend state lawmakers, not just how to expel them. Suspension would require a 2/3 vote of fellow lawmakers, and allow, but not require, legislators to require that a member of the legislature forfeit salary, benefits and privileges of office when suspended.

### Measure AA

**YES**

Measure AA is a \$12 per parcel tax that will be on the June 2016 ballot in all nine Bay Area counties. This measure needs two-thirds voter approval within the nine-county Bay Area to pass. It will generate funding for restoration of San Francisco Bay wetlands, benefiting people, wildlife, and the Bay Area economy. More wetlands will improve the SF Bay by filtering out pollution for cleaner water, increasing habitat for fish, birds and other wildlife. The measure will expand bay trails and shoreline access and protect low-lying communities and infrastructure from floods.

### Measure A

**YES**

Measure A amends the County Park Charter Fund of the Santa Clara County Charter. The changes proposed increase the county general fund set-aside from \$0.01425 to \$0.015 per \$100 of assessed value to support the county park system. It decreases the allocation of funds for acquisition of parklands from 15% to 10%, and it increases the portion of funds for development and infrastructure improvements from 5% to 10%. The percentage of funds currently allocated for operations remains at 80%. This measure is a reallocation of money from the county general fund and is not an increase in the property tax.

### Board Briefs

At its April meeting your board:

- Learned that we had four members help register voters at the New Citizens Ceremony.
- Approved the budget to be presented to members at the Annual Meeting.
- Were informed that the Community Appeal was mailed and we received 22 contributions from donors.
- Were told that candidates for the 17th Congressional District primary contest were invited to submit information about their campaign on Voter's Edge.
- Made plans for Annual Meeting on June 4.

### Opportunities for Involvement

- Help register voters at the New Citizens Ceremony, Tuesday May 24, 10:30 and 1:30.
- Join the Voter Service team to help with upcoming voter service projects in this big election year.
- Attend the LWV Bay Area Convention, Saturday, May 7.

Reply to [cs.ca.lwvnet.org](http://cs.ca.lwvnet.org) for any of the above.

### Community Appeal

Thank you for your contribution to the Community Appeal: William & Josephine Borucki, Harry and Paula Bettencourt, Harold Brown, Pete Botsford, Polly Bove, Delores Carson, Pat Castillo, Bena Chang, Fred and Pat Dentinger, Dorothy and John Givens, Eileen and Richard Grindeland, Roberta and Marshall Hollimon, Marlyn Howard, Jim Jackson, Andrew Kao, Jo Lucey, Elaine and Scott Manley, Barbara Nunes, Judi Pogue, Dolly Sandoval, Rose-Marie Twu, and Carol Weiss.



## VOTER SERVICE EVENT A GREAT SUCCESS

The LWV Sunnyvale-Cupertino presented the first of several Voter Service events that will be offered during the 2016 election year. As always, our purpose in Voter Service is to engage and educate. Specifically, our intention in this presentation was to:

- engage voters by reinforcing the importance of each and every vote, by providing a taste of the many important issues that will be on the ballot and by providing an opportunity for Assembly District 24 (AD 24) candidates to meet and greet the voters.
- educate voters by providing specifics on why an individual vote is so important, especially this year; by providing specifics on local initiatives and a list of those state level initiatives that have already qualified and some of the major ones likely to qualify; by providing specific guidance for evaluating a ballot measure (like knowing where the money is coming from) and sharing the multiple sources of non partisan information that is available online.
- provide an opportunity for voters to engage with the candidates.



The presentation, held at the Sunnyvale Library, was a resounding success with 67 attendees and vibrant conversation among attendees and between attendees and candidates for AD 24 following the close of the presentation.



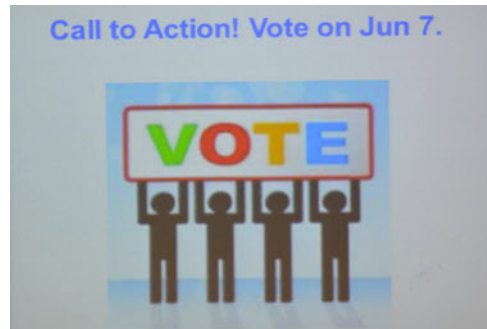
As with all our events, a team of League members worked very hard to make it happen. Significant time is spent in planning, actually putting the slides and talk together, doing the promotion, arranging for the space, printing flyers and handouts, putting information up on the web, recording the presentation, sending invitations and ground rules to candidates, and many other “behind the scenes” tasks that ensure success. Thanks to (in alphabetical order) Linda Davis, Roberta Hollimon, Susan Hough, Bruce Kendall, Holly Lofgren, Michael Lusk, Elaine Manley, Nancie Plumb, and Marieann Shovlin. As mentioned at the beginning of this article, we are planning several Voter Service presentations in 2016 so we need your help. Look for those opportunities in upcoming newsletters and our website or talk to any Board Member.

From the top, Elaine Manley opening the program, Candidates for Assembly District 24, Audience

*Nancie Plumb*

## SEE SLIDESHOW OF EVENT

To view the slides of this event, go to our website, [cs.ca.lwvnet.org](http://cs.ca.lwvnet.org) and click on “Calendar of Events” next to April 17, click on slides.



## TOP TWO PRIMARY

Voters approved the Top Two Primary system for statewide offices in June 2010. In the Top Two Primary system, the ballot lists all candidates running for an office on one ballot, regardless of their party preference. Voters are not limited by party preference and may vote for any candidate in the list.

The two candidates who receive the most votes qualify for the general election, hence the name “Top Two.” Because candidates are not appearing on the ballot representing a party, it is possible for two candidates from the same party to be the top two vote-getters and advance to the General Election.

The Top Two Primary applies to most of the offices that were previously known as “partisan” and are now known as “voter-nominated” offices. In California these offices include:

- United States Senator
- Congressional Representatives
- State Senators
- Assembly Members
- Governor
- Lt. Governor
- State Treasurer
- Secretary of State
- State Attorney General

The Top Two does not apply to elections for:

- President and Vice President
- Political Party County Central Committees

## WHO CAN VOTE FOR PRESIDENT IN THE JUNE 7 PRIMARY ELECTION?

Each political party has the option of allowing people who register to vote without stating a political party preference (“no party preference” voters, formerly “decline-to-state” voters) to vote in their presidential primary election.

### Are you a “no party preference” voter?

If you checked “I do not want to disclose a political party preference” on the voter registration form, you will not get a ballot containing the names of candidates running for president. Your ballot will contain all other races and ballot measures.

You can request the ballot of one of the following parties when you are at the polling place (or in your request for a vote-by-mail ballot from your county elections office):

- American Independent Party
- Democratic Party
- Libertarian Party

### Do you want to vote for the Green, Peace and Freedom, or Republican presidential candidates?

To vote for these candidates, voters must be registered with their respective parties.

### How can I change my registration or register to vote?

You can register to vote OR re-register to vote in the political party of your choice before May 23 online: [www.registertovote.ca.gov](http://www.registertovote.ca.gov) or fill out a voter registration form indicating party you wish to vote in and deliver or mail to the Registrar of Voters to be received by May 23, 2016.

## NONPARTISAN ELECTION INFORMATION

- [www.easyvoterguide.org](http://www.easyvoterguide.org)  
Concise explanations of state measures
- [www.lao.ca.gov](http://www.lao.ca.gov)  
government and fiscal analysis, not just for elections
- [www.sos.ca.gov](http://www.sos.ca.gov)  
online registration, election information
- [www.cavotes.org](http://www.cavotes.org)  
LWV Education Fund information site
- [www.cs.ca.lwvnet.org](http://www.cs.ca.lwvnet.org)  
Cupertino-Sunnyvale LWV
- [www.sccvote.org](http://www.sccvote.org) – Registrar of Voters  
Check status on registration & mail-in ballots

## HOW TO EVALUATE BALLOT MEASURES

- Examine what the measure seeks to accomplish and determine if you agree with those goals.
- Is the measure consistent with your ideas about government?
- Do you think the proposed changes will make things better?
- Determine who are the real sponsors and opponents of the measure.
- Who are the major financial contributors to the campaigns? Go to Secretary of State website: [sos.ca.gov](http://sos.ca.gov) ([cal-access.sos.ca.gov](http://cal-access.sos.ca.gov)) as well as [votersedge.org/ca](http://votersedge.org/ca)
- Decide if the measure is well written.
- Will it create conflicts in law that may require court interpretation or resolution?
- Is it “good government,” or will it cause more problems than it will solve?
- Consider the fiscal impact.
- Does the measure create its own revenue source?
- Does it earmark, restrict or obligate government revenues?
- Weigh the benefit of securing funding for the measure against the cost of reducing budget flexibility.
- Does the measure mandate a government program or service without addressing how it will be funded?
- Consider the complexity of the measure.
- Does it deal with one issue that can be decided with a “yes” or “no” vote?
- Or is it a complex issue that should be dealt with in the legislative arena?
- If the measure amends the Constitution, consider whether it really belongs in the Constitution.
- Would a statute accomplish the same purpose?
- All Constitutional amendments require voter approval; whatever we put into the Constitution would have to come back to the ballot to be changed.
- Be wary of distortion tactics and commercials that rely on image but tell nothing of substance about the measure.

## CALIFORNIA LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES 2016

Legislative priorities are set each year by the League of Women Voters of California board, based on recommendations from the Legislation Committee. The priorities apply only to the advocacy work we do in the legislature. The issues for education and advocacy—the priorities set every two years at the convention—inform our legislative priorities. However, they are broader, in that they include issues on which we are committing to work more broadly—community education, member education, advocacy—that may be broader than just the legislature.

In addition, the legislative priorities take into account our reading of what we think are going to be “hot” issues in the legislature in a given year.

### State and Local Finances/State Budget

Support equitable and adequate generation and distribution of tax revenues.

Support restoration of funding for selected government programs while also advocating for the need for healthy reserves.

### Election Administration and Voting Rights

Support measures to improve election administration and Californians' voting experience and access to voter registration.

Support extension of the protections of the state and federal voting rights acts.

### In addition, as a second tier of focus:

#### Education

Issues include early childhood education, education finance, and teacher recruitment and retention.

#### Environmental protection and sustainable management of natural resources

Issues include water, climate change, and the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).

#### Money in Politics

Issues include rebuilding the Cal-Access online campaign and lobbying disclosure system and stronger campaign disclosure requirements.

## LEAGUE AND MAPLIGHT LAUNCH VOTER'S EDGE CALIFORNIA FOR JUNE PRESIDENTIAL PRIMARY ELECTION - *GET THE FACTS BEFORE YOU VOTE.*



Just in time for the June Presidential Primary Election, the League of Women Voters of California Education Fund has launched [Voter's Edge California/ca](http://Voter's Edge California/ca), a comprehensive, nonpartisan online guide to elections covering federal, state, and local races in the state of California.

Like Smart Voter did in the past, Voter's Edge California provides unbiased, in-depth voting information on candidates and ballot measures. This year, we've added campaign funding information and a high quality Spanish translation to State and Federal races. Plus all of your trusted League Voter Service publications are on Voter's Edge California including the Pros & Cons and the Easy Voter Guide.

### **Using Voter's Edge California, voters can:**

- Access their full, personalized ballot by entering their address.
- Get in-depth information on candidates, measures, and who supports them.
- View candidate biographies, top priorities, answers to questions, photos, policy videos, endorsements, and detailed information about who funds their campaigns.

- Browse unbiased explanations of ballot measures; find out who supports, opposes, and funds them.
- Check where, when, and how to vote, including information on their local polling locations.
- Keep track of their choices to make voting easier.
- Share information about the election with friends and family.
- Access a Spanish language version of the website.

### **How does it work?**

Enter your **zip code** and your **street address** to access your complete ballot. Your address information is confidential. We are nonpartisan, nonprofit, and do not sell information.

Voter's Edge California will be rolled out county by county throughout April. This completely new website contains the traditional League information offered in Smart Voter plus campaign finance information on state level candidates from MapLight.

## LEAGUE NEWS

**National** - This week, the New York Times and Washington Post both highlighted the League's pending lawsuit against the Executive Director of the U.S. Election Assistance Commission, Brian Newby, who unilaterally decided to amend the national uniform mail-in voter registration form to require documentary proof of citizenship in three states. If allowed to stand, this illegal action could free other states to erect this new restriction on voter registration. Earlier this month, the New York Times also printed a letter by League President MacNamara calling out the hypocrisy of Speaker Paul Ryan on efforts to restore the Voting Rights Act.

**State** - LWV president Helen Hutchison announced, "When we launched the VEC (Voter's Edge California) prototype for the 2014 election, it was used by more than 725,000 voters—about 10% of the number of Californians who cast ballots in the election! In 2016 we anticipate millions of users—aided by dozens of partnerships with major media outlets and community organizations. "

## LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF THE BAY AREA



### CONVENTION

Saturday, May 7, 2016  
9:30 - 12:00

San Mateo College District Board Room  
3401 CSM Drive  
San Mateo, CA 94402

Presentation: History of the LWV Bay Area and  
Regional Governance Efforts

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### ASSEMBLY DISTRICT 24 CANDIDATE FORUM

Tuesday May 10, 7:00 PM  
Mountain View Public Library  
585 Franklin Street  
Mountain View, 94041

### 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

### May

- Sat 7 9:30 a.m. **LWV Bay Area Convention**  
San Mateo College Dist Brd Rm  
3401 CSM Drive  
San Mateo, 94402
- Mon 9 7:30 p.m. **Board Meeting**  
Burnetts'  
729 Stendhal Ln  
Cupertino 95014
- Tue 10 7:00 p.m. **AD 24 Candidate Forum**  
Mountain View Public Library  
585 Franklin Street  
Mountain View 94041

### June

- Sat 4 9:45 a.m. - noon **Annual Meeting**  
Sunnyvale Presbyterian Church  
728 W. Fremont Ave.  
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.

## WHO REPRESENTS YOU

### UNITED STATES

- President Barack Obama** 202-456-1414  
[comments@whitehouse.gov](mailto:comments@whitehouse.gov)
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[senator@boxer.senate.gov](mailto:senator@boxer.senate.gov)
- Senator Dianne Feinstein** 415-393-0707  
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- Rep. Mike Honda** 408-436-2720  
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### CALIFORNIA

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- Senator Jerry Hill** 650-212-3313  
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- Assemblyman Evan Low** 408-371-2802  
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- Assemblyman Rich Gordon** 650-691-2121  
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- Supervisor Joe Simitian** 408-299-5050  
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FIRST CLASS

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