



VOTER

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF CUPERTINO-SUNNYVALE

October 2016

Volume 44 Number 3

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BE AN INFORMED VOTER

Candidate Forums

Meet the candidates and hear them respond to questions from the public.

Send your questions for forums to CandidateQuestions@lwvcs.org.

Thursday, September 29, 7 p.m.

Sunnyvale City Council
Seat 5 - R. Melton, P. Meyering
Seat 7 - R. Banks, M Goldman,
T. Martin-Milius
City Council Chambers
456 W. Olive Ave. • Sunnyvale

Wednesday, October 5, 8 p.m.

Assembly District 24
M. Berman, V. Veenker
Sunnyvale Public Library

Monday, October 3, 7 p.m.

Sunnyvale City Council
Seat 4 - J. Davis, N. Smith
Seat 6 - J. Cordes, L Klein,
M. McCarthy
City Council Chambers
456 W. Olive Ave. • Sunnyvale

Thursday, October 13, 7 p.m.

6:30 p.m. County Board of Education
(area 1)

7:30 p.m. Foothill-DeAnza Brd of Trustees
Los Altos Library • 13 S. San Antonio Rd.

Local Ballot Measures Pro & Con

Send questions on local measures to MeasureQuestions@lwvcs.org.

Wednesday, September 28, 7 p.m.

Cupertino Community Hall
10350 Torre Ave.
Covers county and Cupertino measures.

Wednesday, October 5, 7 p.m.

Sunnyvale Public Library
665 W. Olive Ave.
Covers county and Sunnyvale measures.

State Ballot Propositions Pro & Con

Hear non-biased, plain-language explanations of the 17 propositions, including likely effects and what supporters and opponents are saying.

Monday, October 10, 7-9 p.m.

Sunnyvale Public Library
665 W. Olive Ave.

Thursday, October 13, 7-8:30 p.m.

Sunnyvale Presbyterian Church
728 W. Fremont Ave. Room 702

Monday, October 17, 7-9 p.m.

Congregational Community Church Chapel
1112 S. Bernardo Ave. • Sunnyvale

Check the calendar at www.lwvcs.org for event video links.



96 Years of Making Democracy Work®

LWV Cupertino-Sunnyvale Board of Directors

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Off Board	
Pros and Cons	Scheduling
	Judi Pogue

The Cupertino-Sunnyvale VOTER

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This newsletter is posted on our website: www.lwvcs.org.

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

We are well into our election events now. Many of them will be televised live on the relevant government cable channel, with live webcast on city websites. So, if you cannot attend, you can watch it from home. You can also watch events 24-7 via video links that will be added after an event to its calendar listing on www.lwvcs.org. This is the time we could really use your help. Please be a volunteer at one of our events and please tell your friends and neighbors about our events. Linda Davis sent a survey to find ways you might be interested in helping us via email. If you could please complete it, that would be ideal.

Please note that we are also staffing voter information and registration tables at the Sunnyvale Library on September 27 (National Voter Registration Day) and Cupertino Library on October 15 - 11 a.m. - 3 p.m. both days. Let Linda know if you can help at one of those.

And last but not least we will be offering a workshop on "Trusted Voter Resources" in the Fiction Room of the Sunnyvale Public Library on Wednesday, October 19 at 7 p.m. See article below for details.

This is a great time to be a League member and help others learn what's on their ballot. We appreciate your support whether it's in time or money. I look forward to seeing you at an event soon.

Elaine

Pilot Workshop Trusted Voter Resources Sunnyvale Library Wednesday – October 19 – 7 p.m.

This new offering is intended to help people find reliable online sources of the information they seek for their ballot decisions. People who bring a computer or device to this class will get individualized one-on-one assistance.

Opportunities for Involvement

We still need more volunteers for some events. If you are available on September 26 (Cupertino City Council forum) or any of the dates on page 1 and would like to help, please fill out your contact information on the survey at www.surveymonkey.com/r/x6J53K3. Susan Bremond will follow up with you about the remaining jobs.

You can also help our League by attending our events and telling others about our great election information resources.

Board Briefs

At its September board meeting your board:

- discussed ways to promote the candidate forums and Pros and Cons presentations
- learned a survey will be going out to League members to ask for volunteers for upcoming events
- heard that membership renewal notices have been sent out to all members
- received and approved review of the 2015-2016 books by Leanne Untulis, and approved the final Financial Report for last year.

Member News

Welcome new members Cheryl and Bob Bartholomew.

Thank you for renewing your membership: Autumn Bea, Janet Bertaina, Patricia Castillo, Dorothy and John Givens, Roberta and Marshall Hollimon, Kristine Kelly, Bruce Kendell, Jo Loer, Norma Medlin, Arthur Norins, Nancie Plumb, Margaret Quillinan, Dolores Sandoval, Jason Spiller, Rose-Marie Twu, Joan Wehde.

Thank you for including a donation with your dues: Donna and Scot Austin, Peter Botsford, Polly Bove, Harold Brown, Delores Carson, Bena Chang, Joan Coston. Linda Davis and Serge Rudaz, Tracey Edwards, Joan Gordon, Marilyn Howard, Dianne and Regis McKenna, Bev and Ric Olsen, Marieann Shovlin, Leanne and Charles Untulis, Carol Weiss.

Thank you for your donation: Lois Smallwood.

VOTE WITH THE LEAGUE

Descriptions of state measures are from the Secretary of State's site, www.voterguide.sos.ca.gov/en/propositions

League of Women Voters of California's "Vote With the League," www.lwvc.org/vote/elections/ballot-recommendations website has detailed information on the League's recommendations.

State Ballot Measures

Prop 51 - School Bonds.

Support

Authorizes \$9 billion in general obligation bonds for new construction and modernization of K–12 public school facilities; charter schools and vocational education facilities; and California Community Colleges facilities. Fiscal Impact: State costs of about \$17.6 billion to pay off both the principal (\$9 billion) and interest (\$8.6 billion) on the bonds. Payments of about \$500 million per year for 35 years.

Prop 52 - State Fees on Hospitals. Federal Medi-Cal Matching Funds.

No Position

Extends indefinitely an existing statute that imposes fees on hospitals to fund Medi-Cal health care services, care for uninsured patients, and children's health coverage. Fiscal Impact: Uncertain fiscal effect, ranging from relatively little impact to annual state General Fund savings of around \$1 billion and increased funding for public hospitals in the low hundreds of millions of dollars annually.

Prop 53 - Revenue Bonds. Statewide Voter Approval.

No Position

Requires statewide voter approval before any revenue bonds can be issued or sold by the state for certain projects if the bond amount exceeds \$2 billion. Fiscal Impact: State and local fiscal effects are unknown and would depend on which projects are affected by the measure and what actions government agencies and voters take in response to the measure's voting requirement.

Prop 54 - California Legislature Transparency Act.

Support

Prohibits Legislature from passing any bill unless published on Internet for 72 hours before vote. Requires Legislature to record its proceedings and post on Internet. Authorizes use of recordings. Fiscal Impact: One-time costs of \$1 million to \$2 million and ongoing costs of about \$1 million annually to record legislative meetings and make videos of those meetings available on the Internet.

Prop 55 - Children's Education and Health Care Protection Act.

Support

Extends by twelve years the temporary personal income tax increases enacted in 2012 on earnings over \$250,000, with revenues allocated to K–12 schools, California Community Colleges, and, in certain years, healthcare. Fiscal Impact: Increased state revenues—\$4 billion to \$9 billion annually from 2019–2030—depending on economy and stock market. Increased funding for schools, community colleges, health care for low-income people, budget reserves, and debt payments.

Prop 56 - Cigarette Tax.

Neutral

Increases cigarette tax by \$2.00 per pack, with equivalent increase on other tobacco products and electronic cigarettes containing nicotine. Fiscal Impact: Additional net state revenue of \$1 billion to \$1.4 billion in 2017–18, with potentially lower revenues in future years. Revenues would be used primarily to augment spending on health care for low-income Californians.

Prop 57 - Public Safety and Rehabilitation Act.

Support

Allows parole consideration for nonviolent felons. Authorizes sentence credits for rehabilitation, good behavior, and education. Provides juvenile court judge decides whether juvenile will be prosecuted as adult. Fiscal Impact: Net state savings likely in the tens of millions of dollars annually, depending on implementation. Net county costs of likely a few million dollars annually.

VOTE WITH THE LEAGUE (cont. from p. 3)

Prop 58 - English Proficiency. Multilingual Education.

Support

Preserves requirement that public schools ensure students obtain English language proficiency. Requires school districts to solicit parent/community input in developing language acquisition programs. Requires instruction to ensure English acquisition as rapidly and effectively as possible. Authorizes school districts to establish dual-language immersion programs for both native and non-native English speakers. Fiscal Impact: No notable fiscal effect on school districts or state government.

Prop 59 - Constitutional Amendment Advisory Measure.

Oppose

Asks whether California's elected officials should use their authority to propose and ratify an amendment to the federal Constitution overturning the United States Supreme Court decision in Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission. Citizens United ruled that laws placing certain limits on political spending by corporations and unions are unconstitutional. Fiscal Impact: No direct fiscal effect on state or local governments.

Shall California's elected officials use all of their constitutional authority, including, but not limited to, proposing and ratifying one or more amendments to the United States Constitution, to overturn Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission (2010) 558 U.S. 310, and other applicable judicial precedents, to allow the full regulation or limitation of campaign contributions and spending, to ensure that all citizens, regardless of wealth, may express their views to one another, and to make clear that corporations should not have the same constitutional rights as human beings?

Prop 60 - Adult Films. Condoms. Health Requirements. Initiative Statute.

No Position

Requires adult film performers to use condoms during filming of sexual intercourse. Requires producers to pay for performer vaccinations, testing, and medical examinations. Requires producers to post condom requirement at film sites. Fiscal Impact: Likely reduction of state and local tax revenues of several million dollars annually. Increased state spending that could exceed \$1 million annually on regulation, partially offset by new fees.

Prop 61 - State Prescription Drug Purchases. Pricing Standards. Initiative Statute.

No Position

Prohibits state from buying any prescription drug from a drug manufacturer at price over lowest price paid for the drug by United States Department of Veterans Affairs. Exempts managed care programs funded through Medi-Cal. Fiscal Impact: Potential for state savings of an unknown amount depending on (1) how the measure's implementation challenges are addressed and (2) the responses of drug manufacturers regarding the provision and pricing of their drugs.

Prop 62 - Justice That Works: Death Penalty Abolition.

Support

Repeals death penalty and replaces it with life imprisonment without possibility of parole. Applies retroactively to existing death sentences. Increases the portion of life inmates' wages that may be applied to victim restitution. Fiscal Impact: Net ongoing reduction in state and county criminal justice costs of around \$150 million annually within a few years, although the impact could vary by tens of millions of dollars depending on various factors.

Prop 63 - Safety for All Act

Support

Requires background check and Department of Justice authorization to purchase ammunition. Prohibits possession of large-capacity ammunition magazines. Establishes procedures for enforcing laws prohibiting firearm possession by specified persons. Requires Department of Justice's participation in federal National Instant Criminal Background Check System. Fiscal Impact: Increased state and local court and law enforcement costs, potentially in the tens of millions of dollars annually, related to a new court process for removing firearms from prohibited persons after they are convicted.

(cont. on p. 5)

VOTE WITH THE LEAGUE (cont. from p. 4)

Prop 64 - Marijuana Legalization.

No Position

Legalizes marijuana under state law, for use by adults 21 or older. Imposes state taxes on sales and cultivation. Provides for industry licensing and establishes standards for marijuana products. Allows local regulation and taxation. Fiscal Impact: Additional tax revenues ranging from high hundreds of millions of dollars to over \$1 billion annually, mostly dedicated to specific purposes. Reduced criminal justice costs of tens of millions of dollars annually.

Prop 65 - Sowing Confusion About the Plastic Bag Ban.

Oppose

Redirects money collected by grocery and certain other retail stores through mandated sale of carryout bags. Requires stores to deposit bag sale proceeds into a special fund to support specified environmental projects. Fiscal Impact: Potential state revenue of several tens of millions of dollars annually under certain circumstances, with the monies used to support certain environmental programs.

Prop 66 - Shortening Death Penalty Appeals.

Oppose

Changes procedures governing state court challenges to death sentences. Designates superior court for initial petitions and limits successive petitions. Requires appointed attorneys who take noncapital appeals to accept death penalty appeals. Exempts prison officials from existing regulation process for developing execution methods. Fiscal Impact: Unknown ongoing impact on state court costs for processing legal challenges to death sentences. Potential prison savings in the tens of millions of dollars annually.

Prop 67 - Protect California's Plastic Bag Ban.

Support

A "Yes" vote approves, and a "No" vote rejects, a statute that prohibits grocery and other stores from providing customers single-use plastic or paper carryout bags but permits sale of recycled paper bags and reusable bags. Fiscal Impact: Relatively small fiscal effects on state and local governments, including a minor increase in state administrative costs and possible minor local government savings from reduced litter and waste management costs.

County Ballot Measures

Descriptions of county and local measures are from the Santa Clara County Registrar of Voters site, www.sccgov.org/sites/rov/Info/Nov2016Info/Pages/Nov2016Info.aspx

County of Santa Clara

2/3 Vote

A

Support

To provide affordable local housing for vulnerable populations including veterans, seniors, the disabled, low and moderate income individuals or families, foster youth, victims of abuse, the homeless and individuals suffering from mental health or substance abuse illnesses, which housing may include supportive mental health and substance abuse services, shall the County of Santa Clara issue up to \$950 million in general obligation bonds to acquire or improve real property subject to independent citizen oversight and regular audits?

Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority

2/3 Vote

B

Support

To relieve traffic, repair potholes; shall VTA enact a 30-year half-cent sales tax to:

- Repair streets, fix potholes in all 15 cities;
- Finish BART extension to downtown San Jose, Santa Clara;
- Improve bicycle/pedestrian safety, especially near schools;
- Increase Caltrain capacity, easing highway congestion, improving safety at crossings;
- Relieve traffic on all 9 expressways, key highway interchanges;
- Enhance transit for seniors, students, disabled;

Mandating annual audits by independent citizens watchdog committee to ensure accountability.

(cont. on p. 6)

VOTE WITH THE LEAGUE (cont. from p. 5)

City of Cupertino Ballot Measures

Majority Vote

C

No Position

Shall an initiative ordinance be adopted amending Cupertino's General Plan to limit redevelopment of the Vallco Shopping District, limit building heights along major mixed-use corridors, increase to 45 feet the maximum building height in the Neighborhoods, limit lot coverages for large projects, establish new setbacks and building planes on major thoroughfares, and require voter approval for any changes to these provisions?

Majority Vote

D

No Position

Shall an initiative be adopted enacting the Vallco Town Center Specific Plan for the 58-acre Vallco Shopping District Special Area requiring residential (approximately 389-800 units, including approximately 20% senior housing), office (2,000,000 sf), commercial (640,000 sf), hotel, park, civic/educational uses; requiring funding/community benefits for transportation (approximately \$30,000,000), schools (approximately \$40,000,000), green roof (approximately 30 acres), recycled water; granting initial entitlements; establishing development standards and limited future approval process; and making related Cupertino General Plan and Municipal Code amendments?

City of Sunnyvale Ballot Measures

Majority Vote

M

No Position

Shall an ordinance be adopted to require the City to conduct a citywide special or general election requesting approval from a majority of voters for any sale, lease, lease extension, lease renewal, land swap, or transfer of any property, facility, or land that the City owns, leases, or uses for government administration, recreation, public park, or similar community purposes?

Majority Vote

N

No Position

SUNNYVALE ESSENTIAL SERVICES PROTECTION MEASURE. To maintain Sunnyvale's financial stability without increasing the existing 2% tax rate, and fund essential City services including police, fire and 911 emergency response, and pothole, street, sidewalk, and neighborhood park maintenance/repairs, shall Sunnyvale modernize its existing utility users tax to treat telecommunication taxpayers equally regardless of technology used, providing approximately \$1,500,000 annually on an ongoing basis, until ended by voters, with independent audits, and all funds used locally?

Sunnyvale School District Ballot Measure

2/3 Vote

BB

No Position

To renew the Sunnyvale School District parcel tax to support classroom programs including math, English, science and technology; to attract and retain quality teachers and keep class size small; shall Sunnyvale School District be authorized to renew its existing \$59 per parcel tax providing \$1 million annually for seven years beginning July 1, 2018, with exemptions for senior citizens and all expenditures audited and reviewed by a citizens' oversight committee with no funds spent on administrators?

Tackling the Ballot Measures and Other Ways to Prepare for Voting

Pro & Con Talks – Our talks on the state propositions or the local ballot measures are great supplements to written sources of information. Our speakers also can provide answers to many of your questions. Please take advantage of this wonderful resource. If you cannot attend our talks, check calendar listings at www.lwvcs.org for links to our videos on ballot measures and presentation materials.

Easy Voter Guide - www.easyvoterguide.org – This publication has concise but thorough explanations of the 17 state propositions. For busy voters, this may be all they need to make their YES/NO choices. For voters with more time, the *Easy Voter Guide* is a great starting place to help you decide which propositions merit a deeper dive via the *Voter Information Guide*. Hard copies of the *Easy Voter Guide* will be available in libraries starting in early October, but has been available online since late August.

Pros & Cons on State Propositions – This written publication offers more information than the *Easy Voter Guide* but less than the *Voter Information Guide*. You can access it via the State League’s educational website, www.cavotes.org.

Official Voter Information Guide – This booklet comes in the mail to every voting household and contains a wealth of information on state propositions. You can also find it online at voterguide.sos.ca.gov.

Voter’s Edge - votersedge.org/ca This new version of our old Smart Voter election information website has improved compatibility with mobile devices and information on the money behind the campaigns of candidates for federal and state offices, as well as state proposition campaigns. The project continues to be committed to offering robust information on local offices and measures.

Attend an Event - A flyer listing election-related events sponsored by our League is available on our website, www.lwvcs.org, click on “Elections,” scroll to November 8th election, and look for the link to the flyer.

Watch our Events Online – Our City Council Candidate Forums in both cities will be will be televised live on the relevant government cable channel, with live webcast on city websites. So, if you cannot attend, you can watch from home.

Election Coverage in Our Community Newspapers

Our two community newspapers are another source of information on your ballot choices. They have been including news articles on local offices, event announcements, and letters or opinion pieces on local measures.

In case you do not get these papers, you can find the current issue online at the following addresses:

Sunnyvale SUN – www.ifoldsflip.com/t/30701-the-sunnyvale-sun

Cupertino Courier – www.ifoldsflip.com/t/26696-cupertino-courier

From the current paper, you can look up back issues. Just click on folder icon (3rd from the left at the top of the screen), then select the back issue you want.

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.

___ \$70 Individual member

Name(s): _____

___ \$105 Two members in a household

Address: _____

___ \$35 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

September

Thu. 29 7 p.m. **Candidate Forum**
Sunnyvale City Council Seats 5&7
City Council Chambers 446 W. Olive Ave.

October

Mon. 3 7 p.m. **Candidate Forum**
Sunnyvale City Council Seats 4&6
City Council Chambers 446 W. Olive Ave.

Wed. 5 8 p.m. **Candidate Forum**
Assembly District 24
Sunnyvale Public Library, 665 W. Olive Ave.

Thu. 13
6:30 p.m. **Candidate Forum**
County Board of Education (area 1)
7:30 p.m. Foothill-DeAnza Board of Trustees
Los Altos Library, 13 S. San Antonio Rd.

Wed. 19 7 p.m. **Pilot workshop**
Trusted Voter Resources
Sunnyvale Library, 665 W. Olive Ave.

Mon. 24 7:30 p.m. **Board Meeting**
Sunnyvale Toyota
898 W El Camino Real, Sunnyvale

See page 1 for Ballot Measure Pros and Cons presentations.

Permission is granted to reprint any part of this newsletter with credit to the League of Women Voters of Cupertino-Sunnyvale.

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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