



VOTER

THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF CUPERTINO-SUNNYVALE

April 2005

Volume 32 Number 9

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CUPERTINO-SUNNYVALE WEB SITE

The League of Women Voters of Cupertino-Sunnyvale has created its own Web site. Using the "League Easy Web" template provided by the state League, our Webmaster, Jenny Lopresto, was able to install the Web site in less that two hours.

Check it out at www.cs.ca.lwvnet.org. Let us know what you think. Send suggestions for additional features to webmaster@cs.ca.lwvnet.org.

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The Cupertino-Sunnyvale VOTER

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DEMOCRACY DINNER

Friday, April 22, 2005

The Fairmont Hotel
170 South Market Street, San Jose

6:30 p.m. – No Host Reception and Silent Auction

7:30 p.m. – Dinner and Program

Ambassador Nancy Soderberg - Keynote Speaker

Global Challenges, Global Realities

VP for Multilateral Affairs for International Crisis Group

Congresswoman Zoe Lofgren – Master of Ceremonies

California State Senator Joe Simitian – Auctioneer

Dinner reservations – Regular Seat \$150, League Members \$100

To make a reservation, contact Roberta Hollimon,
rhollimon2@cs.com, 408-253-6078

President's Message

The big news this month is that we now have our own Web site. We have been talking about creating one for a year and a half and now we have finally done it. Thanks go to our newly appointed Webmaster Jenny Lopresto for installing it and to the state League for providing "League Easy Web" which makes it so easy for local Leagues to create a Web site. As Jenny said, "This is incredible. We didn't have to do anything. They make it so nice and simple."

As I browse through old VOTERS looking for items to put in the "Looking Back" column, I am struck by the number of issues that come up again and again. Housing, transportation, education, regional government are some that we see repeatedly. This month it is redistricting. Fifteen years ago we were working on the League's redistricting initiative. I remember being on the statewide committee and speaking on the proposition. Redistricting is in the news again. The League is taking an active part in drafting legislation that puts redistricting in the hands of an independent commission. Let's hope that this time we will prevail.

Evelyn Lundstrom writes that after her fall and hospitalization, "...the caring response from friends in LWVCS has humbled me. I'm fine. Thank you each and everyone."

VOTE WITH THE LEAGUE

County Measure A	Yes
County Measure B	Yes

The Santa Clara County Library serves cities in the county that do not have their own library. Cupertino is part of the County Library System and Sunnyvale operates its own library. Citizens of Cupertino are being asked to vote on a parcel assessment to continue the current assessment.

In 1994 voters approved by over a two-thirds majority vote an annual parcel assessment to fund the nine libraries that make up the Santa Clara County Library. This ten-year assessment expires in June 2005. It currently accounts for \$5.4 million or 20% of the annual operating budget.

This spring, voters have an opportunity to continue the support in two ballot measures. **Measure A** will continue the current \$33.66 annual tax to maintain current services. Without this funding the libraries will face additional closures and service reductions, including cuts in hours, books, story times, literacy programming, and bookmobile services. **Measure B** will increase the annual tax by \$12 per year. This funding restores the library hours, materials, and services that were recently cut. Measure B can go into effect only if Measure A passes.

Voters in Cupertino will consider both of these measures in an upcoming special mail-in ballot election. On April 4th registered voters will be mailed a ballot that must be returned and received no later than May 3rd to the Office of the Santa Clara County Registrar of Voters. A two-thirds majority vote is required to pass the measures.

Every dollar that taxpayers in Cupertino pay will be returned to the operation of the Cupertino library.

Based on our state League position, "support a public library system as a basic community service..." the League of Women Voters of Cupertino-Sunnyvale recommends a **YES** vote on both measures.

Board Briefs

At its March meeting, the Board:

- Voted to oppose the three initiatives regarding density, height and setback which will appear on the Cupertino ballot in November,
- Received the consensus reports on the Instant Runoff Voting study and the Voting Systems study,
- Set the date, time and location of the Annual Meeting for June 4, 10:00 am at DeAnza Park in Sunnyvale,
- Learned that our League's contribution to the silent auction at the Democracy Dinner will be a dinner for six at Firehouse 2 in Sunnyvale including a tour of the facility and a ride in a fire engine. Thanks to Marilyn Howard's son for arranging this auction item.

Looking Back

15 years ago: Members of our League were active in supporting Proposition 119, the Redistricting Initiative that called for a bipartisan commission to undertake redistricting in full public view and assured that partisan and incumbent interests would not prevail.

Membership News

Welcome new member Tony Spitalieri.

Thank you for renewing your membership: Sharon Jenks, Ruth Mansberger, Anne Mason, Shirley Ringen and Katharine Turner.

Thank you for including a donation with your renewal: LaVerne Prentice and Jane Taylor.

LEAGUE NEWS

National – On Wednesday, March 9th, the so-called “Clear Skies” legislation, S. 131, failed to pass the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee on a 9-to-9 tie vote. The League was an essential member of the coalition to defeat this bill, which would have weakened and delayed the implementation of the Clean Air Act. LWVUS thanks the many League leaders and members who carried the League message to their members of Congress and their constituents. This is a victory for the League and for our fight for clean, healthy air!

State – The state League recently contributed to the writing of a new report, “Drawing Lines: A Public Interest Guide to Real Redistricting Reform,” released by the nonpartisan organizations *Demos* and the *Center for Governmental Studies*. Go to the League redistricting Web page at <http://ca.lwv.org/lwvc/action/redistrict/> for a link to the report and to a press release featuring our endorsement. The League is also meeting with legislators and the press to make a case for a well-crafted legislative proposal that puts redistricting in the hands of an independent commission.

Bay Area – LWVBA continues to monitor the Casino issue near the Oakland Airport and to refine its stance on the Moffett Field restoration project (if interested, attend the Natural Resources/Water Committee meeting on April 8 at East Bay MUD)

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF THE BAY AREA CALL TO COUNCIL

Saturday, May 14, 2005
Refreshments & Registration – 9:30 am
Meeting - 10:00 - noon

Unitarian Universalist Church of Palo Alto
505 East Charleston Road, Palo Alto
(directions will be in the Council Kit)

Delegates to the Council give guidance to the board on program, methods of operation and budget.

Registration: \$15 per League

To pay in advance, send a \$15 check per League payable to LWVBA to: Tamra Hege, 80 Florada Ave., Piedmont CA 94610

Make reservations by Wednesday, May 11, 2005 by e-mail: tamhege@aol.com if you chose to pay at the door.

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF CALIFORNIA CONVENTION

May 20-22, 2005
Garden Grove in Orange County

“It’s a New World”

Crowne Plaza Anaheim Resort
12021 Harbor Boulevard
Garden Grove, CA 92840

[Contact information and maps](#)
<http://www.anaheim.crowneplaza.com/>

Help Make Government Work 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 to LWV Cupertino-Sunnyvale, P.O. Box 2923, Sunnyvale, CA 94087.

___ \$50 Individual member

Name: _____

___ \$75 Two members in a household

Address: _____

___ Contribution \$ _____

City: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____

Telephone: _____

Email: _____

Checks made out to LWVCS are not tax deductible.