



VOTER

THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF CUPERTINO-SUNNYVALE

April 2008

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PROS AND CONS ON BALLOT MEASURES

Wednesday, May 7, 2008

7:00–8:00 PM

Sunnyvale Library

655 W Olive (at Pastoria)

LWV speakers will explain ballot measures and answer questions. They will cover the two competing state propositions on eminent domain, as well as the school bond measure for Fremont Union High School District.

31ST ANNUAL EDSOURCE FORUM ON CALIFORNIA EDUCATION POLICY

Big Visions and Hard Realities
What We Can Do Now

Friday, April 18, 2008

Crowne Plaza Cabana Hotel

4290 El Camino Real, Palo Alto 94306

Check-in begins 7:30

Forum Program 8:30 a.m.-3 p.m.

Cost: \$70

LWV Cupertino-Sunnyvale Board of Directors

President	Elaine Manley
Vice President	Susan Hough
Secretary	Louise Levy
Treasurer	Roberta Hollimon
Directors	Marilyn Howard
	LaVerne Prentice
	Jason Spiller
Off Board	
Bay Area Rep	Fran Grabau
Dues Secretary	Evelyn Lundstrom

Forum Moderator: Davis Campbell, President, EdSource Board of Directors and CSBA Governance Institute

Speakers:

Jay Pfeiffer, Deputy Commissioner, Division of Accountability, Research & Measurement, Florida Department of Education

Andrew Calkens, Senior Vice President, Mass Insight Education & Research Institute

Elizabeth Hill, Legislative Analyst, California Legislative Analyst's office

Goodwin Liu, Assistant Professor, UC Berkeley School of Law

Michael Kirst, Emeritus Professor of Education and Business Administration, Stanford University.

The Annual EdSource Forum is the most important meeting of the year for education stakeholders including parent activists and reformers.

To register go to www.edsource.org

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Fellow League Members,

We have an opportunity to expand our League in membership and through new and consistent activities. We continue to do Candidate Forums and Pro/Con meetings. We have also found our periodic luncheons enable us to learn more about specific local issues, enjoy a good meal, and get a chance to talk with each other. We have the opportunity to record the Pros and Cons to be played on a local cable TV channel. With the diversity in our area, we have the opportunity to reach different cultures and unite around the desire to help keep democracy working. If we raise our dues by less than \$1 per month, we will have the funding to be able to do these things. As you may know, our dues have been at \$50 for six years. We are recommending the dues increase to \$60 (2nd member of a household remains at half price). I ask you to make the investment in our League and come to the Annual Meeting where we will discuss our budget and proposed dues increase and what we can accomplish with it. I would like your input on the proposed dues increase. While I know no one likes to pay more, I also know that when there is value in what is given then the price becomes an investment rather than an expense. I want to be very clear. We do not want to lose valuable members due to a \$10 per year increase. The Board recently passed a Scholarship Policy to help those who want to be a part of the League but find they are not in financial position to cover the full cost. Just let Roberta or Elaine know and we will work to do our best to accommodate people as needed.

We live in exciting times. We have a lot to do. Just look at the Presidential race and the new Super Delegate situation and you can see we need to keep going on our task of helping to keep democracy working. Save the date of June 7th for the Annual Meeting. We will have Linda Craig as a guest speaker. She has done a lot of work for the League for the entire state and especially the Bay Area and has a lot to tell us. Then we will have our business meeting. As we work together, we can help improve our areas in so many ways. I look forward to hearing from you and I hope you'll attend the Annual Meeting. We will announce the location of our Annual meeting in the next VOTER.

Thank you,

Elaine Manley

SAVE THESE DATES

May 8	Candidate Forum	Cupertino Community Hall
May 16, 17	LWVC Leadership Council	Sacramento
May 31	LWV Bay Area Convention	
June 7	LWVCS Annual Meeting	
June 14-17	LWVUS Convention	Portland, OR

Board Briefs

At its March meeting your board:

- Learned that candidate forums will be held on May 8 at Cupertino Community Hall
- Approved the creation of a committee to study the Fremont Union High School District Bond Measure with the possibility of having the League support the measure.
- Heard from the Nominating Committee that they have been successful in retaining current board members and adding two new board members.
- Received the proposed 2008-2009 Budget from the Budget Committee.

Membership News

Thank you for renewing your membership: Ruth Mansberger, Judith Pogue, and Jason Spiller.

Thanks for including a donation with your dues: Joyce Bartlett and Susan Hough.

Welcome new member: Nancy Noto.

Welcome returning members: Betty Mann and Harlan Sethe.

The Cupertino-Sunnyvale VOTER

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Fran Grabau
LaVerne Prentice

THINKING POSITIVELY

ARE YOU A COMMUTER? DO YOU WORRY ABOUT THE PRICE OF GAS? HAVING TROUBLE WITH ASTHMA? DOUBTFUL ABOUT MEETING THE CHALLENGES OF AN EVER-GROWING POPULATION?

You are not alone. The League of women Voters of the Bay Area has been listening to some suggestions from representatives of commissions, coalitions, and other groups looking into the possibilities as well as the immense funding challenges by an ever-growing inadequacy. The recent Bay Area League Day heard representatives from numerous commissions guiding our local governments through the roadblocks before us, showing us some new ideas. Fran Grabau and Louise Levy carpooled around the Bay to attend the gathering on February 22nd in downtown Oakland.

Transportation Solutions to Climate Change was the topic of the day. From 9:00 to 3:00 we heard about the future changes to the geography of the Bay Area with global warming, and what can be/is being done to ameliorate the effects. At best, it will probably take 20 years to start to counter the melting effects from glaciers and continental ice on the oceans, and the weather changes they will cause.

Speakers spoke on: Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) 2035, climate change, perspectives on the RTP and funding options, school commutes, traffic congestion, children's health and safety, and transportation initiatives that support climate protection. Stuart Cohen said that ideally we should go back to children walking or biking to school, but it is almost impossible to adequately fund many desirable plans. Therese McMillan is Deputy Executive Director of Policy for the MTC (Metropolitan Transportation Commission), which makes strategic financial planning and manages federal, state and regional fund sources for transit, highways, roads and other transportation modes. The agencies involved look at state

and federal legislative advocacy, public affairs and community outreach. The planning of her department looks at transportation, land use, air quality, and freight issues. RTP 2035 sounds different from previous plans. It takes into consideration various social functions and environmental policies – “Economy, Environment, and Equity” – that have often been neglected in looking at transportation. Getting responses from the public has been facilitated by Web availability. No longer do people have to sit through hours of discussion at night to be heard by the Commission.

Chris Augenstein of VTA (Valley Transportation Authority) presented a long-range countywide transportation plan. Recent controversy over changes in bus routes has placed the agency on the hot seat. Other speakers saw bicycle safety and school commutes as energized when students were consulted in the process. Even preliminary trials showed more interest and participation in plans when the kids became involved. Jim Smith, public information officer for the Bay Area Air Quality Management District, had results from several locations where trials of student participation brought increases in walking, bicycling and car-pooling.

The nine speakers had many useful perceptions. They also were forthcoming in their recognitions of desperate funding inadequacy, but they presented a positive approach to the possibility of real advances in transportation and related problems to help our wellbeing in the different world in which we live today. It is clear that we need creative thinking. And especially positive listening!

Reported by Fran Grabau and Louise Levy

URLs and E-Lists—Staying in the Environmental Loop

Eleanor Roosevelt admonished that to make a difference, “...you have to get in the game and play.” A League member herself, her strong analytical and advocacy skills became a hallmark of her leadership as an American spokesperson on many issues. Here are a few environmental and sustainability resources to “get you in the game.”

LWVC Sustainability E-List: to join, send a message to lwvc-sustain-subscribe@yahoogroups.com

LWVC Energy E-List: to join, send a message to lwvc_energysubscribe@yahoogroups.com

www.verdexchange.org - Developments in the Green Economy

www.EnvironmentCalifornia.org - Clean air, clean water, open spaces, energy

www.farmland.org - Agriculture, farmland protection, conservation

www.calinfrastructure.org - Infrastructure, conferences, local ballot measures

www.cclr.org - Discourages urban sprawl through creative planning

www.apolloalliance.org - Mission includes freedom from foreign oil, clean energy, and more

www.lgc.org - Transportation, energy, land use, air quality, green building, and more

www.CapitolBasement.com - Offers a daily newsletter on state government

(cont. on page 4)

NOT RECYCLED WATER? YUCK!

John D. Sullivan, LWVC Water Consultant

People often joke about water consumed today having once been in Alexander the Great's latrine. The joke does have a point: water is a flow resource that moves through the air, over the surface of the earth and underneath the earth as ground water. As it moves on the surface and beneath the earth, it is often cleaned of various impurities. Nonetheless, there is still a considerable "yuck" factor or when people discuss the issue of recycled water. (See High Country News, September 17, 2007 at http://www.hcnorg/servlets/hcn.PrintableArticle?article_id=17227).

The way that water flows and cleans itself on the surface and beneath the earth is important. As people in the state of California, and elsewhere in the country, cope both with the current drought and the increased demand for water, it will become increasingly important to consider using more recycled water. Soon, it will be come vital for us to accept that our water supply can be augmented by making use of sewer water that is currently flushed to the ocean, where it comes back to us as part of the hydrological cycle.

Treated sewer water is currently reused in parts of Los Angeles and Orange counties for the irrigation of industrial parks and golf courses. Some treated sewer water is returned to ground water aquifers where it ultimately is withdrawn for human consumption. Of course it is retreated both by passing through layers of earth and by treatment plants that prepare water for distribution to homes and businesses.

As California considers additional use of recycled water, it is important to focus on the quality of that water and on the emergence of new contaminants, particularly endocrine disrupters. On the quality issue, it is important that sewer water be treated to the highest degree possible before it is returned to the water environment.

On the endocrine disruptor issue, it is important to realize that our bodies do not utilize every molecule of the drugs that we take and we eject the residue back into the environment. There is some evidence that these endocrine disruptors are causing problems for fish and could cause problems for humans. So any policy on increasing our use of recycled water would have to take such contaminants into account.

It is also important to remember that the sources for some of our water (the Sacramento- San Joaquin Delta and the Colorado River) already receive output from sewer treatment plants. Of course, such treated water flows some distance through natural and constructed channels and is treated again before it is distributed for human consumption.

There have been both chemical and epidemiological studies done on treated, recycled water (National Research Council, Issues In Potable Reuse at http://www.nap.edu/catalog.php?record_id=6022#toc).

The general conclusion is that research to date does not suggest there is any danger in the consumption of such water but that there is considerable need for further research.

The State Water Resources Control Board has issued a draft policy for a statewide Water Recycling Policy to establish more uniform requirements for recycled water projects (http://www.swrcb.ca.gov/water_recycling_policy/index.html). The adoption of such a policy will lead to an increased use of treated water to augment existing supplies. As the state copes both with drought and with population growth, it will be important to pay close attention to these quality issues and to deal with the "yuck" factor.

Staying in the Environment Loop (cont. from p. 3)

www.next10.org - Check for *The California Green Innovation Index*

www.arb.ca.gov - List of ways to reduce your energy demands and cut costs; Flex Your Power

www.dot.ca.gov/hq/tpp/index_files/ctp_2030_oct_2007.pdf - CA Transportation Plan 2030

www.bondaccountability.ca.gov - 2006 bond implementation (1B, 1C, 1D, 1E, and 84)

www.waterplan.water.ca.gov - California Water Plan 2009

www.waterplan.water.ca.gov/docs/enews/2008/cwp_e-news011608.pdf - e-newsletter

www.columbia.edu/~jeh1/mailings/20071219_DearPrimeMinister.pdf - Letter to British Prime Minister Gordon Brown on sequestering carbon dioxide from coal

Charolette Fox, *Natural Resources Director*
natural_resources@lwvc.org

LEAGUE NEWS

National – The League urged Senators to strengthen and support S. 2191, America’s Climate Security Act, which would establish the basic framework that is necessary to curtail the pollution that is causing climate change.

State – LWVCEF announced that each local League will receive a community engagement toolkit, ***Give Schools the Tools to Succeed***. The toolkit has been compiled as part of the Ed Fund’s work with the School Finance Exploration Project, a partnership funded by the Hewlett Foundation that includes the California State PTA, the California School Boards Association, and Children Now, as well as the League of Women Voters of California Education Fund.

League Websites

National www.lwv.org
State www.ca.lwv.org
Bay Area www.lwvba-ca.org
County www.scc.ca.lwvnet.org
Local www.cs.ca.lwvnet.org

Other Websites of interest

EdSource www.edsource.org
Great Schools www.greatschools.net

LEAGUE EXPRESSES CONCERN WITH NEW ETHICS PROCEDURES

*Office of Congressional Ethics “Will Prove Inadequate”
Due to Lack of Subpoena Power*

Washington, DC– The League of Women Voters today expressed concerns about the new ethics procedures passed by a House vote of 229 to 182 last night.

“This does not provide the independent ethics enforcement process that is needed to clean up the House and protect the public interest,” said Mary G. Wilson, national president of the League of Women Voters.

“The investigative powers of the Office of Congressional Ethics are simply insufficient,” Wilson continued. “Without access to subpoena power, investigators will not be able to compel cooperation from outside entities and individuals, congressional staff and Members,” she said.

“Voters in 2006 clearly reacted to the ‘business as usual’ approach that Congress took to the scandals that plagued the House. Voters continue to have high expectations for ethics reform. They want changes that will be strong and effective,” Wilson said. “This agreement falls short,” she said.

“This proposal will prove to be inadequate and will have to be revisited, probably when the next wave of public scandals arrives,” Wilson said.

“The League is disappointed that this proposal is the best the House is willing, or able, to achieve,” Wilson concluded.

Press Release from LWWUS

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.