



# VOTER

THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF CUPERTINO-SUNNYVALE

December 2005

Volume 33 Number 5

## In This Issue

Board Briefs	2
Calendar	4
December Meetings	1
League News	3
Looking Back	2
Membership News	2
President's Message	2
Sunnyvale Issues Workshop	2
Toll Brothers' Project	2
Vehicle Donation Program	3
Voters Service Report	3

## HOLIDAY BRUNCH

**Date:** Saturday, December 10  
**Time:** 10:00 am – 12:00 noon  
**Place:** Hollimon's  
 11155 La Paloma Drive, Cupertino  
**Who:** Members and their families  
 Prospective members

Join other League members for some good food and lively conversation! Come alone or bring your spouse, children, friends and neighbors. This is our only event during the year that is primarily for fun. After the hectic election season we can relax and enjoy the holiday season. Who knows, there may even be some serious public policy discussion.

## LWV Cupertino-Sunnyvale Board of Directors

President	Susan Hough
Secretary	Louise Levy
Treasurer	Roberta Hollimon
Directors	Marilyn Howard
	Jenny Lopresto
	LaVerne Prentice
	Jason Spiller

*A free public forum introducing the LWVC Energy Update Study*

## FACING CALIFORNIA'S ENERGY FUTURE: GRIM OR GLORIOUS?

**Date:** Saturday, December 3  
**Time:** 9:30 am –Registration  
 10:00 - 12:00 noon, Forum  
**Place:** Eagle Theater, Los Altos High School  
 201 Almond Ave., Los Altos  
 (cross-street San Antonio Road)  
**Panelists:** John Geesman, *California Energy Commissioner*  
 William Ahern, *Former Director, California Public Utilities Commission*  
 Frank Wolak, *Chair, Market Surveillance Committee, CAISO (invited)*  
 Dana Appling, *Executive Director, CPUC Office of Ratepayer Advocates*

## The Cupertino-Sunnyvale VOTER

Published by the League of Women Voters of Cupertino-Sunnyvale.

Yearly subscriptions are \$10/year to non-members. Members subscribe through annual dues.

Editor: Roberta Hollimon  
e-mail: [RHollimon2@cs.com](mailto:RHollimon2@cs.com)

mailing Fran Grabau  
LaVerne Prentice

California's economy depends upon reliable, affordable, environmentally sound supplies of electricity, natural gas and transportation fuels. California's way of life is increasingly threatened by its growing dependence on oil and natural gas, spiraling energy prices, potential supply shortages, and an inadequate and aging energy infrastructure.

*2005 California Integrated Energy Policy Report*

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Whew! The election is over and we can get back to the everyday business of making sure our elected officials are working for us. I know that League members aren't the sort to sit back and say that one person's actions don't count, but I'll remind you anyway. These people we elect work for us. They are trying to represent us, and to do that, they need to know what we think. That doesn't mean they'll always do what we would -- after all, we elected them so that they can look at all the information, all the competing needs, and make responsible decisions on behalf of the larger community. But talk to them!

I look forward to seeing as many of you as possible at the holiday brunch!

*Susan*

### PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT ON STEVENS CREEK BOULEVARD

Several board members met with a representative of Toll Brothers to learn about their proposed urban infill project on 25.5 acres at the corner of Stevens Creek and Tantau. It is a mixed-use development with 402 dwelling units of which 20 percent would be affordable housing for very-low income seniors, a 3.5-acre park and 112,200 square foot new shopping center.

Toll Brothers has held several community meetings and public hearings will be held in early January 2006. The schedule for those meetings can be found at [www.cupertino.org](http://www.cupertino.org).

League members who would like to learn more about the development or form a committee to study it in relation to League positions should contact Susan Hough at [shough@mennen.org](mailto:shough@mennen.org) or 408-737-8192.

### SUNNYVALE STUDY ISSUES WORKSHOP

Sunnyvale's Study Issue Process is designed to assist the City Council with setting priorities for the coming calendar year. Study Issues are issues proposed for future study that have been generated by Council, Boards and Commissions or staff. Throughout the calendar year each proposed issue is submitted through established procedures from department, to City Manager, to related Boards and Commissions and finally, to Council for review and ranking. Each department then plans its workload for the coming year based on how the Council ranks the issues that have been brought forward at the annual December Study Issues Workshop.

The 2005 Study Issues Workshop is scheduled for Thursday, December 15, 8:30 am in the Council Chambers. For more information go to [www.sunnyvale.ca.gov/](http://www.sunnyvale.ca.gov/) and click on city council, study issues.

### Board Briefs

At its November meeting, the Board:

- Heard a recap of the November election season.
- Learned that the Los Altos Mt. View League will hold an Energy Forum in December.
- Was told that 21 of the 22 candidates on the Cupertino or Sunnyvale ballots placed their campaign information on Smart Voter.

### Looking Back

**25 years ago** the five Leagues in Santa Clara County held a Candidates Fair at DeAnza College. Twenty-five candidates spoke to more than 400 people who came to "shake the hands that will shape our future."

**10 years ago** the state League collected over 600,000 signatures to put a Campaign Finance Reform measure on the ballot.

**5 years ago** the local League held an introductory meeting for the Election Systems Study.

### Membership News

Thank you for renewing your membership: Donna & Scot Austin, Eileen Grindeland, Sherry Howd, Jane Kroll, Helen Morris, Barbara Rogers, and Joan and Albert Wehde.

### In Memorium

We are sad to report the death of Louise Otewalt, a long-time member and past president of the League of Women Voters of Cupertino-Sunnyvale.

## LEAGUE NEWS

**National** – LWVUS signed on to a letter urging members of the U.S. Senate to support full funding for the Help America Vote Act of 2002 (HAVA).

**State** – Immediately following the election, LWVC issued a press release stating that the League will continue to fight for redistricting reform. President Jackie Jacobberger said, "Although the need to change the current situation is well recognized, voters understood that Prop. 77 had too many flaws to be a viable option for reform." The League remains committed to pressing for a redistricting process that encourages public participation and scrutiny, has fair criteria for drawing the lines, and transfers responsibility for redistricting to an independent commission that reflects the interests and diversity of all California.

**Bay Area** – The topic for Bay Area League Day, Friday, January 27, 2006 is "State of the Bay – Restoration and Access." See the next VOTER for details.

**County** — The County Council will send a resolution supporting the placement of the County Parks Charter Fund tax on the June ballot.

A Community Workshop to develop a Regional Rail Plan for the Bay Area will be held on Wednesday, November 30 at the San Jose City Hall, Council Wing, Community Room, 200 East Santa Clara Street, San Jose. You can choose to attend from 3-5 or 6-8 pm.

## VOTERS SERVICE EXCELS AGAIN

The Cupertino-Sunnyvale League is known for its excellent service to voters and this year was no exception. Voters Service Director, Marilyn Howard, distributed Pros and Cons and Easy Voter Guides throughout the community. She organized four candidate forums for the city council contests in Cupertino and Sunnyvale and the school board races in the Cupertino and Sunnyvale Elementary School Districts. More than 150 residents attended these forums plus many more were able to view them on Community TV Channels. Thanks to Nancy Burnett, Suzanne Ford, Roberta Hollimon, Sandy Howard, Louise Levy, Elaine Manley, and LaVerne Prentice for helping with moderating, timing and question sorting.

Linda Davis and Susan Hough did yeoman service delivering 22 presentations of the Pros and Cons of the ballot measures to more than 400 people in Cupertino and Sunnyvale plus two televised presentations that went to even more people. They were assisted by Andrea Harris and Jason Spiller who scheduled their appearances; Dorothy Givens, Greta Heinemeier, Robin Holmes, Sharon Jenks, Elaine Manley, and Beverly Olsen who gave the arguments for and against the measures; Suzi Blackman, Nancy and Don Burnett, Roberta Hollimon, Marilyn and Sandy Howard, Evelyn Lundstrom, Linda Power, and Serge Rudaz who helped by filling a number of different roles: serving as audience for TV taping, and lending and operating equipment.

Thanks to all of them, residents of our two cities were better informed when they cast their vote.

We also want to thank Rose-Marie Twu for making presentations at naturalization classes held by the high school adult ed department

## EVERY CAR COUNTS

Donate your car, boat, RV or motorcycle by calling 1-800-320-0476. You'll get a deduction on your taxes, avoid a hassle at the DMV and provide a new source of funding for our organization.

From now until December 31, 2005, our League will automatically receive a portion of the proceeds from any vehicle donation made in our area.

## 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.