



# VOTER

THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF CUPERTINO-SUNNYVALE

January 2006

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## ENERGY STUDY

**Date:** Saturday, January 14  
**Time:** 9:00 am – 3:00 pm  
**Place:** Foothills Congregational Church, Parish Hall  
 Los Altos

Delegates to the 2003 state League convention voted to update our state energy position. Leagues will be holding information and consensus meetings early in 2006. Cupertino-Sunnyvale League members will join the Los Altos-Mountain View Area League members at their January 14<sup>th</sup> meeting as they present the study information. Following the presentation each League will come to its own consensus. Pages three through six of this VOTER provide background material for this study and page 7 lists the topics to be addressed.

Bring a brown bag lunch.

## LWV Cupertino-Sunnyvale Board of Directors

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

## MEMBER MEETING NATIONAL PROGRAM PLANNING Setting the League's Priorities on National Issues

**Date:** Tuesday, January 17  
**Time:** 10:00 am - 12:00 noon  
**Place:** Hough's  
 1452 Owensound, Sunnyvale

"A kettle of eels" was what President Maude Wood Park called the first LWV program of some 69 items adopted in 1920. You can help the League focus its energies by participating in this meeting. See page 2 for a description of League Program.

## The Cupertino-Sunnyvale VOTER

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## BAY AREA LEAGUE DAY: STATE OF THE BAY RESTORATION AND ACCESS

**Date:** Friday, January 27  
**Time:** 9:30 am - 2:30 pm  
**Place:** First Unitarian Church of Oakland  
 685 14<sup>th</sup> Street, Oakland  
**Registration:** \$30 includes morning refreshments and lunch

Learn "Why the Bay Matters." See page 7 for more information.

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Will return next month

## SMART VOTER NEWS

### A message from Director Trudell Een

Another election season has been successfully completed! Thank you, and congratulations on your fine work! Your civic contribution of providing voters with nonpartisan information on candidates and ballot issues is greatly appreciated by voters and candidates alike.

The Smart Voter site logged over 2 ½ million page views during the November 2005 statewide special election—evidence that many voters returned because of members' diligent work to consistently produce a rich site, chock-full of valuable election information! Read on for a sampling of thank you's.

*The League of Women Voters Smart Voter site is superb—a fabulous public service, as were the scores of professionally conducted candidate forums.*

*A most excellent public service! Thank you to all the volunteers and donors.*

*I would like to thank you for providing Smart Voter as a service to the community. I believe it has developed into a much relied upon and trusted source of voter information.*

*Once again I turn to you for factual information online. What a great site. Well done!*

*Editor:* Thanks to League members Jason Spiller and Marilyn Howard for seeing that 21 of the 22 candidates in Cupertino and Sunnyvale put information on Smart Voter.

## WHAT IS LEAGUE PROGRAM?

PROGRAM in the League of Women Voters is not a series of meetings with entertaining speakers. "League Program" is the term we use for those governmental issues chosen by our members for concerted study and action. League members study each issue and come to agreement before we adopt a position on which to base action. League program is, therefore, the positions we have adopted through the years on which we can take action, as well as issues for study that will lead to a position and action. When an issue becomes part of League program we are saying that a problem exists. It is through League program that we can work in the public interest.

Several months before convention or annual meeting, members are asked to look at all the program positions of the applicable level of League and decide their fate. Should those positions be kept or dropped? Should they be modified because of changed circumstances? Are there governmental problems that are not covered by our positions?

These are the questions that will be addressed at our January meeting. Join other members for a lively discussion.

### Board Briefs

The board did not hold a meeting in December.

### Looking Back

**25 years ago** members participated in a study of Juvenile Justice in Santa Clara County.

**10 years ago** members toured the Santa Clara County Children's Shelter.

**5 years ago** the state study of election systems was launched.

### Membership News

Thank you for renewing your membership: Elsie Conley and Marieann Shovlin.

Thank you for including a donation with your dues: Linda Davis, Kirsten Holmquist, Norma Medlin, Serge Rudaz, Ruth Sethe and George Tyson.

Welcome new member Frances S. Combe.









## LEAGUE NEWS

**National** – In an effort to protect our electoral processes through election reform, the League released the Next Steps on Election Reform report and started a new project to improve the performance of the election workforce.

**State** – State League was active during the recent election season. Staff Program Director/Advocate Trudy Schafer and/or other LWVC representatives participated in five editorial board visits with major metropolitan newspapers on Proposition 74; six on Proposition 76; five on Proposition 77; and four on Propositions 78/79. Other activities included outreach to League volunteers regarding work on the propositions, preparing and distributing flyers and press releases, working with campaign committees about the working of ads and “talking points.” Offering three newspaper op eds signed by LWVC board members, and testifying before three legislative hearings on propositions. Schafer and Government Director Chris Carson debated Proposition 77 proponents in person, and along with President Jackie Jacobberger, participated in approximately 20 radio and TV interviews and debates and at least as many interviews with print reporters.

**County** – The County Council urged the Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors to place the Santa Clara County Parks Charter Fund Measure on the June 2006 ballot. The Supervisors voted unanimously to seek a vote on the measure.

## ENERGY MEETING

The Energy Study meeting will address the following issues:

- Integrated planning for a partially deregulated industry
- State and federal conflicts of authority in the area of energy
- The specific responsibilities and relationships of investor-owned utilities and public utilities
- Issues of social equity
- The role of the public in planning
- Land use planning for energy infrastructure
- Direct access to alternative suppliers for some consumers
- The organization and inter-relationships of the planning, licensing, rulemaking and rate-setting processes
- The importance of regional interrelationships for energy reliability
- Emerging sources of energy – such as combined-heat-and-power – as distributed energy resources.

If these issues sound extremely complex – possibly even overwhelming, come to the energy consensus meeting and you will leave with a better understanding of the industry and these concerns.

## BAY AREA LEAGUE DAY

The focus of this year’s Bay Area League Day is the San Francisco Bay. Programs presented by the Bay Area League are always informative and provocative. In addition to the keynote speech “Why the Bay Matters” by Will Travis, Executive Director, Bay Conservation and Development Commission there will be panels on *History of Bay Issues*, *Stewards for the Health of the Bay*, *Commitment to the Future* and *Access to the Bay for Youth*.

To register send check payable to LWVBA by Tuesday, January 17 to LWVBA, 1611 Telegraph Ave., Suite 300, Oakland CA 94612.

### 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.