



VOTER

THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF CUPERTINO-SUNNYVALE

March 2007

Volume 34 Number 8

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CHILDREN AT RISK— WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE?

A Look at Juvenile Justice in Santa Clara County

Date: Saturday, March 17, 2007
Time: 10:00 am - 12 noon
Place: Mountain View City Hall
 Council Chambers
 500 Castro Street, Mountain View

Panelists

Supervisor Blanca Alvarado
 Judge Richard Loftus
 Chief Probation Officer Sheila Mitchell
 Chief Assistant District Attorney Marc Buller
 Public Defender Mary Greenwood

Join us in a discussion of changes regarding dependent and delinquent youth. What are the alternatives to lock-up?

Sponsors:

*Leagues of Women Voters of Santa Clara County (LWVSCC Council)
 6th District PTA (Santa Clara County) .*

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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.

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SAVE THE DATE

Ed Source Conference

MONEY MATTERS

Friday, April 20
 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 pm
 Crowne Plaza Cabana, Palo Alto

PRESIDENTS' MESSAGES

How quickly a year flows by! Already we are making plans for the new year that will start 1 July. Nominating committee is seeking people with the potential to be coached and nurtured into leaders (see, you don't have to be there yet!). Budget committee is taking a good look at income and expenditures so as to plan wisely for the future. In recent member meetings, we've taken a good look at both our state and local positions, to make sure that what we said in the past is still what we mean. And as we look at the past and plan the future, we never want to lose sight of the fact that we are a definitively grassroots organization, shaped by study, discussion and consensus among our members. It's never the wrong time to start getting more involved, asking more questions, or showing up or e-mailing to tell the board what you think.

Susan

This year seems to have many opportunities to make an impact. There are several proposals for health care for Californians. We need some members to help to coordinate a forum where everyone can learn about the Health Care for All Plan that the State has endorsed. Please contact me at 408-230-9928 if you or anyone you know are interested in this topic. Also, the Sunnyvale City Council has voted to provide health coverage for life for those over 50 with 5 years of service. It seems like now is the time to create a team to study the compensation of the Council. Please contact me if you'd like to do this. Many things are happening. Choose what interests you most and help make a positive difference in our community.

Elaine

LOCAL POSITION REVIEW

On February 13 and 14, League members engaged in lively discussions of our local positions. Do we still need our Highway 85 position? What about Urban Renewal? Is our position current?

There was general agreement that many of our local positions such as Education and Housing are current and useful. Others may need some tweaking or outright updating with a new study.

Based on the input from those at the meetings, the board will decide which positions need to be presented to members at the Annual Meeting for update or new study. Watch for these recommendations in the Annual Meeting Kit and be there on June 2 to voice your opinion on these items.

Board Briefs

At its February meeting your board:

- Approved Energy, Education, and Health Care as our priorities for state League Issues for Education and Advocacy.
- Announced that Annual Meeting will be held Saturday, June 2.
- Heard that we have been asked to have people at the DeAnza Flea Market and the Cupertino Library to promote "Health Care for All."
- Learned that the League of Women Voters of California Convention will be held in Bakersfield May 18-20. We are allowed 3 delegates.

Looking Back

15 years ago members took a walking tour of the San Francisco Presidio which was followed by a discussion of its transfer to the Golden Gate Natural Resources Agency.

Membership News

Thank you for renewing your membership: Delores Carson, Elsie Conly, Judith Pogue, and Karen Zimmerman.

Welcome returning member June Padilla.

Thank you for including a contribution with your renewal: Joyce Bartlett, Alice MacAllisterand Michael O'Quin, Dianne and Regis McKenna, Sonja Messner.

Thank you for your contribution: Harlan Sethe.

CONCERNED ABOUT GLOBAL WARMING?

LEARN HOW YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Come to the Cool Cities Campaign Kickoff Rally
to show your elected officials that you want them to take action on climate change and
find out how you can take action in your own community to solve global warming

Date: Sunday March 18th
Time: 2:30-4:30 pm
Place: Historic Carrington Hall at Sequoia High School
1201 Brewster Ave, Redwood City, CA
Two blocks from the Redwood City Caltrain station

Free and Open to the public

Keynote speaker: Sierra Club Executive Director Carl Pope

For more information, see: www.coolcities.us
<http://lomaprietaglobalwarming.sierraclub.org/>
RSVP (appreciated but not required) to globalwarming@lomaprieta.sierraclub.org

*Co-sponsored by: Leagues of Women Voters of San Mateo County,
Leagues of Women Voters of Santa Clara County, Sierra Club, Loma Prieta Chapter*

IMMIGRATION: OPPORTUNITIES AND CHALLENGES

Date: Saturday, March 31, 2007
Time: 9:00 Sign-in
9:15 a.m.– 12:15 Program
Place: Hewlett Packard HQ, Bldg 20, Auditorium
3000 Hanover Street, Palo Alto

Immigration: What are the issues and potential approaches?

Richard Hobbs, Director of the Office of Human Relations for Santa Clara County

The Demographic and Economic Impact of Immigration

Steve Levy, Director and Senior Economist of the Center for Continuing Study of the California Economy

The Impact of Immigration Policies on U.S.-Mexico Relations

Alex M. Saragoza, Associate Professor of Chicano Studies in the Ethnic Studies Department at the UC at Berkeley

Existing and Proposed Legislation Governing Immigration

Jayashri Srikantiah, Associate Professor of Law and Director of the Immigrants' Rights Clinic, Stanford Law School

Immigrant Community Challenges and Untapped Opportunities

Larisa Casillas, Director of the Bay Area Immigrant Rights Coalition (BAIRC)

*Co-Sponsors: Peninsula Chapter of the World Affairs Council,
Leagues of Women Voters of Los Altos/Mountain View and Palo Alto, and Avenidas*

REPORT ON BAY AREA LEAGUE DAY VISION FOR THE FUTURE OF THE BAY AREA; FOCUS ON HOUSING

When League members from the nine counties around the Bay get together for a day in which they engage in serious study of their common concerns, it is bound to be truly a day to be part of the audience. This year was again worth being there in the crowded conference room of the newly opened San Mateo public library. The focus of the gathering was “Vision for the Future of the Bay Area; Focus on Housing”

Linda Craig, President of the League of Women Voters of the Bay Area, moderated the program. First speaker to introduce us into the matters of the conference was John King, Urban Design columnist for the San Francisco Chronicle. “Getting Back to Basics, the Need for Focused Growth in the Bay Area,” brought us into some cities around the Bay that are following some new designs as they make unique space for housing, business areas and recreation, all with new looks, pleasant gathering places, still keeping transportation in focus. King said that one of the most frustrating things to him is that the region is not a region. We have “conflicting utopias—everyone knows what they want and the better good gets lost. The League of Women Voters is one of the only advocacy groups that looks at the whole and not a checklist of absolutes.”

He noted that in the North Bay the notion of a thriving downtown is coming back in vogue; the use of rail lines can bind communities; and the physical structure of a community is more important than dictating use. In the South Bay there is openness to open up zoning (five story buildings are not evil) which leads on to an acceptance of alternative architectural styles. We are beginning to think about quality and not about what we are adding to the landscape.

Subsequent speakers focused upon the “Vision Project” which the Association of Bay Area Governments (ABAG) has been working on for several years. The Planning Director of ABAG, Ken Kirkey, introduced the route taken in analyzing the problem and working toward a solution. This reviewer kept thinking of the current housing going up around her neighborhood, some of which has horrified her, and finding a different way of looking at it. Kirkey showed the ways in which locations were found, having some space for expansion to balance the locations that are already overflowing with housing, and all looking for ways to take care of a doubling of future population by about 2035. How do we protect open space, agricultural lands, plans for transit, water, sewers, business locations, and the many related aspects of development?

Gwen Regalia, Mayor of Walnut Creek, talked from a local government perspective. She favors a mix of housing and providing housing for all income levels. She pointed out the environmental consequences of adding housing in outlining areas. Adding one acre of housing results in taking away one acre of prime farmland which is replaced by clearing two to five acres of rain forest. Bettina Ring from the Bay Area Open Space Council presented priority conservation areas. The Open Space Council is working with the Green Belt Alliance and the ABAG on “Green Vision 2025.” She said that the land trusts and agencies are custodians of green space and are using a scientific basis for identifying open space areas. Open Space is part of our identity in the Bay Area and as stewards of the land we need to work together regionally. Open Space is not a luxury but a necessity. This pointed to the immensity of the task.

The topic following described how ABAG has worked on the requirements for Regional Housing Needs Allocation. Gillian Adams, Regional Planner, described the formulas they have developed. Adams was followed by Duane Bay, Housing Director in San Mateo County, who pointed out that the State requires all local land use authorities to plan for enough housing to support projected growth in California. After targets for housing growth have been set, ABAG has the unenviable task of distributing the accommodation of the demand for housing among all the cities and counties in its region. “Not surprisingly, even though ABAG involves its member jurisdictions in an open and participative process...for developing the base data and the allocation methodology, most cities and counties do not feel engaged and are not comfortable with the housing allocations that result.”* Paul Peninger, director, Nonprofit Housing of Northern CA, discussed the best practices for achieving affordable housing, a topic that the League has long focused upon for our growing Bay Area.

“...the League of Women Voters of the Bay Area supports planning criteria that promote compact growth, natural resource protection and social and economic equity, and a regional housing plan that provides for balanced and equitable housing throughout the region.” Questions in the evaluation review asked how well the theme was met and whether or not we could expand upon the aspects considered. I found a lot of substance for consideration and new places to investigate. I hope for fruition!

Frances Grabau

**Regional Housing Needs Allocation Process*, Richard Napier, Duane Bay

LEAGUE NEWS

National - At its January Board meeting, the LWVUS board voted unanimously to adopt the following 2007 Advocacy priorities: Campaign Finance Reform, Civil Liberties, DC Voting Rights, Election Administration, Ethics and Lobbying Reform, Global Climate Change, and Healthcare Reform. In addition, the Board reaffirmed the League's commitment to maximizing voter education and participation in the months leading up to the 2007 and 2008 elections.

State – Dialogue about reform of California governance continues with the Commonwealth Club Voices of Reform project. Along with Chris Carson and Trudy Schafer, President Jacobberger attended a post-election event in Sacramento. Panelists talked about redistricting reform, the initiative process, campaign finance reform, and the influence of decline to state voters. The programs have been broadcast on the California Channel and the audio can be heard at <http://www.voicesofreform.org>.

Bay Area – Bay Area Decision Makers, the LWVBA Education Fund's Directory of Regional & Subregional Agencies in the San Francisco Bay Area is now available on-line at www.lwvbayarea.org. It contains agency profiles, key phone numbers, and links to agency websites.

SCOPE OF IMMIGRATION STUDY

The national board has adopted the following scope for the Immigration Study:

Underlying values and principles regarding immigration

Reasons for migration from other countries, including but not limited to:

- Effects of global interdependence on migration
- Motivation of refugees and those seeking asylum
- Motivation of other immigrants

Current federal immigration policy, including but not limited to:

- Overview
- Effectiveness in uniting families
- Effectiveness in meeting needs of businesses
- Effectiveness of enforcement
- Human rights concerns

Impact of immigration, including but not limited to:

- Economic effects of authorized and unauthorized immigration
- Diversity
- Inclusion of immigrants in American society

Our League is forming a study committee to look at these issues. If you would like to join, call Elaine Manley at 408-230-9928.

In addition to the background article in the February 2007 National VOTER, the League has produced several excellent articles on immigration which can be found on the national website at www.lwv.org. Click on "For Members" (if this is the first time you have visited the members' site you will have to register), when you get to the members' site go to the blue box on the right and click on "LWVUS Immigration Study." At the bottom of this page under "Background Papers," click on "Get Informed."

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.