



VOTER

THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF CUPERTINO-SUNNYVALE

May 2005

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The Cupertino-Sunnyvale VOTER

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CALL TO ANNUAL MEETING

Date: Saturday, June 4
Time: 9:30 am - 1:00 PM
Place: DeAnza Park, Community Building
1150 Lime Drive at Rockefeller Drive
Sunnyvale
Cost: \$10.00 for lunch

Join fellow League members as we set the course for League activities next year.

The purpose of Annual Meeting is to adopt a budget, adopt program and elect officers, directors and three members of the nominating committee.

The business meeting will be followed by lunch served at noon.

DEMOCRACY DINNER A ROUSING SUCCESS

More than 250 people gathered at the Fairmont Hotel on Friday, April 22 to wish a Happy Birthday to the League. The Cupertino-Sunnyvale League was represented by ten members and guests at its table. Attendees heard Nancy Soderberg, former ambassador to the United Nations, speak on foreign policy issues and America's role in the world.

The evening also featured a silent auction and a live auction with State Senator Joe Simitian as auctioneer. Our League's contribution to the auction of a dinner for six at Firehouse #2 in Sunnyvale became one of the items for the live auction. Lively bidding raised the final bid to \$500.

Everyone enjoyed the chance to meet friends and elected officials, hear an intellectually stimulating speech and be entertained by an auction that raised money for the League's Education Fund.

Special thanks to Marilyn Howard for serving on the dinner committee and obtaining the auction item.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

May is a time for wrapping up the League year. I am organizing files, gathering material for the Annual Meeting Kit, and helping the nominating committee recruit board members. There is still time to put your name in for nomination. If you want to take a more active part in supporting the League's work call Suzanne Ford, 257-3787, and let her know what you are willing to do. There are openings in all areas.

Fran Grabau and I will be representing our League at the State Convention in Garden Grove. Delegates will adopt the State Program for 2005-2007 as the final step in the program planning process which started with our Program Planning discussion at our Holiday Brunch in December. All current LWVC positions are recommended for re-adoption. No state study or position update study is recommended. Three Issues for Education and Advocacy, Redistricting, State and Local Finances and Initiative and Referendum Process, are being recommended for approval. Of course no one knows what will happen when ardent delegates argue for their issue. Two years ago delegates responded to the fervent pleas of advocates by adopting two studies and three Issues for Education and Advocacy. We can hope cooler heads will prevail this year. We will also adopt a budget and elect officers for the next biennium.

This is the last monthly VOTER for the year. You will receive the Annual Meeting Kit in late May. There will be a summer VOTER and then in September we will resume sending out monthly VOTERS.

I hope to see you at Annual Meeting.

CALIFORNIA VOTER ON THE WEB

To subscribe to receive an e-mail notice when a new California VOTER is posted on the LWVC Web site, go to the LWVC Web site (www.lwvc.org) and click on "newsletters" at the bottom of the left hand column.

VOTE WITH THE LEAGUE

County Measure A	Yes
County Measure B	Yes

Do you live in Cupertino?

Have you voted on the County Library Bond Measures?

Ballots must be received at the Registrar of Voters office by 8:00 pm May 3. For your vote to be counted you must use ink to connect the arrows, place your ballot in the envelope and sign and date the envelope.

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 April meeting, the Board:

- Voted to support SB 280 Simitian, which would create a \$5 surcharge on vehicles registered in Santa Clara County to fund congestion management projects
- Approved a statement regarding solutions to the Caltrain budget shortfall
- Became members of the Advocates for a Better Cupertino (ABC) campaign committee
- Learned that the nominating committee is seeking officers and members for the board of directors.

Looking Back

10 years ago: The League reviewed its local Housing position in order to propose an update to make the language agree with the state Housing position.

5 years ago: Roberta Hollimon and Kathleen Weisenberg spoke to the PTA Convention on how Smart Voter benefits voters, candidates and election officials.

Membership News

Welcome new member John Howe.

Thank you for renewing your membership: Roberta Flood, Jo Gilbert, Joan Gordon, Sonya Messner, Betty Nelson, and Mona Norins.

Thank you for including a donation with your renewal: Jo Lucey, Evelyn Lundstrom, Joan Schulze, and RoseMarie Twu.

LEAGUE NEWS

National –The LWVUS received the 2005 Freedom Award given yearly by the National Association of Secretaries of State (NASS). The NASS Freedom Award recognizes those who contribute significantly to the cause of free elections in the United States.

The League sent a letter to the US Senate urging support of the 527 Reform Act of 2005 which would close a loophole in campaign finance rules that allowed “soft money” to influence federal elections.

State – The state League strongly supports Senator Sheila Kuehl’s SB840, the California Health Insurance Reliability Act (CHIRA) which will provide fiscally sound, affordable health insurance to all Californians.

The Education Fund issued its second Fact Sheet for Legislators on Community Colleges.

The League joined a number of other organizations in signing a statement of principles for achieving a balanced state budget and dealing with the ongoing structural budget deficit.

League Internet Sites

LWV California www.ca.lwv.org
Members www.ca.lwv.org/lwvonly
LWV United States www.lwv.org
Members: Type: LWV
password: Carrie Catt
LWV Bay Area www.lwvba-ca.org

TOWN HALL MEETING ON HEALTH CARE REFORM WITH ASSEMBLYWOMAN SALLY LIEBER

On Saturday morning, May 14th from 10:00 am to 12:00 noon, a public meeting on health care reform will be held at the Mountain View City Council Chambers, 500 Castro Street in Mountain View.

The meeting will feature a presentation and discussion of the features of the California Health Insurance Reliability Act (CHIRA, Senate Bill 840), which is currently under consideration in the state legislature. CHIRA will establish universal health care in California by creating the California Health Insurance System, a single payer for all health care in the state.

CHIRA is designed to provide affordable health insurance coverage with an extensive benefits package, while controlling health care costs and improving health care outcomes. Recent studies have shown that a single-payer system like that proposed in CHIRA can provide health care coverage for all state residents and still save money on overall health care expenditures.

Assemblymember Sally Lieber will speak on behalf of CHIRA, and a speakers panel will discuss the legislation in detail and answer questions.

The meeting is sponsored by Health Care for All - California and the Peninsula Democratic Coalition, the League of Women Voters of Cupertino-Sunnyvale, and the League of Women Voters of Los Altos-Mountain View Area. Admission is free. For additional information, call 650-856-7430.

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.