



VOTER

THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF CUPERTINO-SUNNYVALE

May 2007

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The Cupertino-Sunnyvale VOTER

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ANNUAL MEETING

Date: Saturday June 2, 2007
Time: 10:00 a.m.
Place: Arboretum, Sunnyvale Heritage Park
Cost: \$10 for lunch
Speaker: Berget Jelane

Come to Annual Meeting and conduct the League's business by adopting a budget, electing officers, and then learn the latest in health care.

Health care is at the forefront of issues before the legislature this year. To date, more than 15 health care coverage bills have been introduced. The chief new contenders are bills introduced by Senate President pro Tem Don Perata and Assembly Speaker Fabian Nunez, and Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger's plan. The Governor is currently seeking a legislator to author his plan.

Our guest speaker, Berget Jelane, will talk about SB840 the health care bill that the League is supporting. Berget is a member of HCA (Health Care for All) and has been working with them for universal health care under a single payer plan for the last 5 years. She is a former nurse and a psychotherapist in San Jose.

LWV BAY AREA COUNCIL

Date: Saturday, May 5, 2007
Time: 10 a.m. – 12 noon
Place: Northbrae Community Church
 941 The Alameda, Berkeley, CA 94708

Contact Elaine Manley if you wish to attend and represent the Cupertino-Sunnyvale League.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

This year we will have the LWVC convention in Bakersfield. I would highly encourage you to attend. They have several experts presenting on a wide array of subjects so you can focus on the issues that are most important to you. The convention will be May 18-20. Please let me know if you'd like to attend and we'll help you with the arrangements.

As we prepare for the Annual Meeting, I have reviewed many of the things we accomplished as a League this past year. It is quite impressive. I hope you'll take the time to join us on June 2nd for our Annual Meeting. We have a lot to cover. We reviewed all of our local positions and will need your approval for the updates. We also have a guest speaker who will discuss the Health Care for All bill (SB840) that is currently pending in our State Legislature. There are several bills out there that want to fix the health care crisis we are all witnessing (and in some cases experiencing personally). We will also be doing an in-depth study of the Immigration Issue and are looking for members interested in this topic to get involved in this study. We need your help to accomplish many worthwhile objectives. Please join us on June 2nd at 10 am in Sunnyvale. The details are listed in the Voter. I look forward to seeing you there.

Elaine Manley

IT'S IN THE MAIL

Each year our League sends a request for donations to members and friends of the League. These contributions to our "Community Appeal" help us do the work of the League, everything from advocacy to voter service. Our members volunteer a lot of time but it also takes financial support to help us serve the community.

When you receive your letter, consider making a donation. The League will thank you and the community will thank you.

Thanks to those who helped prepare this year's Appeal: Dorothy Givens, Fran Grabau, Roberta Hollimon, Bob Levy, and Louise Levy.

Board Briefs

At its April meeting your board:

- Approved the Annual Meeting Kit.
- Approved the budget to be presented to members for their adoption at Annual Meeting.
- Approved using funds from reserves to augment the budget for delegates to convention.
- Heard a report from the nominating committee.
- Heard that co-president Susan Hough attended a city of Cupertino workshop on North Vallco development and reported on the Leagues' position on housing.
- Learned that Elaine Manley and Roberta Hollimon attended the Immigration Forum held by the Palo Alto League and brought back material that can be used by the Immigration Study committee.

Membership News

Thank you for renewing your membership: Tracy Edwards, Jo and Ted Loer, and Joan Schulze.

Thank you for including a contribution with your renewal: Jo Lucey.

Welcome new members: Anne Bellioni and Maribel Munoz.

The League of Women Voters presents

KIDS DEMOCRACY DAY

Saturday
MAY 5
2-4 pm

Campbell's
Orchard City Green
Civic Center Dr. at N. First St.
Campbell, CA, by the library

This fun family festival will have hands-on activities for all ages.

- story-time
- button-making
- voting machines to try
- poster-painting
- read/write postcards
- kids' speeches

Learn about this and more:

- ❖ citizenship
- ❖ free speech
- ❖ local government
- ❖ law enforcement
- ❖ voting rights for kids in DC

*Sponsored by the League of Women Voters Education Fund,
the California Young Suffragists,
and the Government of the District of Columbia.
www.youngsuffragists.org*

CIVIC ENGAGEMENT—WHERE DO WE START?

State League president, Jackie Jacobberger, in a recent message commented on the League's efforts at increasing civic participation.

"We offer excellent tools to those who are motivated to vote but I find it discouraging to observe the indifference to civic participation in so many Californians. Now, instead of just attacking the problem among adults, there is a growing movement to begin early to encourage the sense of civic responsibility in our residents.

"State Superintendent of Schools Jack O'Connell, in his State of Education speech on February 6, 2007, said the following: 'I've also been doing a lot of personal thinking about our society and the obligation our school system has to prepare good citizens for our participatory Democracy. I've asked myself: is our only objective to get students ready for success in the workforce? Do we not also have a responsibility to prepare students to be active and engaged citizens?'

"He continued, 'Technology has given each of us the individual power to be seen, to be heard, and to make change while sitting at home alone in front of a computer. In fact, at a time when the individual is empowered as never before, it's more important than ever that we teach our children to work together as members of a larger community, as responsible citizens of this state, this nation and this world.'

"Recently the League of Women Voters of California signed on as a member of the California Campaign for the Civic Mission of Schools. I represented the League at the coalition meeting in Sacramento recently and was encouraged and energized by the people around the table. They are committed to making change and to ensuring that adequate resources are available to provide good civics education programs in our schools. This will be a big step in preparing our young people for participation in our democratic institutions when they become adults. For more information, check the Web site at www.cms-ca.org."

COGENERATION

Cogeneration, also referred to as combined heat and power (CHP), is the highly efficient use of one fuel source (generally natural gas, but sometimes biogas from anaerobic digesters) to produce two energy products (usually electricity and heating or cooling).

In California, there are currently more than 750 active cogeneration projects, representing 17 percent, or 9,130 megawatts, of generating capacity in the state. A number of hospitals, universities, food processors, dairies, refineries, and other industries use cogeneration to power their facilities. Excess electricity that is produced is sold under contract to the investor-owned utilities. Many of the larger projects are an outcome of the 1978 Public Utilities Regulatory Policy Act (PURPA) that was passed to foster renewable resources and increase energy conservation. As a number of sizable CHP contracts are currently being renegotiated, an industry association known as CogenWorks has been actively seeking changes in the structure of new utility contracts.

Cogeneration is an important element in the mix of resources that will be needed over the coming two decades. Most electrical generation systems, by themselves, have efficiencies of less than 40 percent, but the addition of the heating (or cooling) component increases the overall efficiency of fuel use to 85 percent. Along with CogenWorks, the LWVC Energy Committee has been represented at a number of meetings with staff and commissioners of the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC). CogenWorks' chief focus has been on ensuring that the large contracts are renewed with favorable conditions, while the Energy Committee's concern is for a policy that will foster smaller community projects such as by hospitals, multi-family communities, and commercial centers.

The California Energy Commission (CEC) has addressed cogeneration as an important concern in its Integrated Energy Policy Report (IEPR) process and sums up its benefits to California as "...reduced energy costs, more efficient fuel use, fewer environmental impacts, improved reliability and power quality, locations near load centers, and support of utility transmission and distribution systems."

Small CHP systems have been limited in southern California because the smaller generators lack catalytic controls and currently are not able to meet the nitrogen oxide (NOx) emissions attainment standards set by the South Coast Air Quality Management Board. Nevertheless, the California Energy Commission recognizes a near-term need to have the Public Utilities Commission develop a rate structure that will make it attractive for new and existing CHP developers to sell their excess generation into the state grid. It is important to acknowledge that utilities presently have no reason to encourage their existing customers to reduce their dependence on the utilities.

The recommendation of the CEC is that, rather than encourage a new program of subsidies, future contracts should provide both utility and CHP developer benefits. Additional research should be supported to ensure the availability of new gas turbines and internal combustion engines that can meet the environmental requirements of southern California. Export to the grid from CHP facilities should reflect the current wholesale electricity price, but new contracts could include a capacity payment to cover the assurance of additional power availability at times of peak power need, which would decrease the need for construction of new peaking power projects.

For more information, contact energy@lwvc.org

LWVC Update, March 2007

IMMIGRATION FORUM

Over 100 people attended a forum on immigration held in Palo Alto and sponsored by the Palo Alto League, The World Affairs Council and Avenidas. Panelists addressed the global issues of immigration, the economic issues, and legislation and law relating to immigration.

In addressing the economic impact of unauthorized immigrants, panelist Stephen Levy, Director and Senior Economist of the Center for Continuing Study of the California Economy, said that one perspective is that unauthorized immigrants cause job and wage losses for native Americans and they don't pay their fair share of government costs. He noted another perspective is that unauthorized immigrants fill jobs no one else wants. Over time they and their children will prosper and pay their fair share of taxes. He asked, "What if there is truth in both positions? What is the best way to fill the low-wage labor market?"

Jayashri Srikantiah, Associate Professor of Law and Director of the Immigrants' Rights' Clinic at the Stanford University Law School, spoke about the basic elements in immigration reform. She said border enforcement, "Prevention by Deterrence," hasn't worked; it pushes migrants to more dangerous crossings, the pace of undocumented immigrants has increased, there is increased smuggling, and less circular migration. Proposed solutions are a temporary worker permit and "earned" legalization. Other problems that need to be addressed are amnesty—who should be included/excluded—and what kind of quota system should we have for H1B workers?

The forum raised many questions that will be addressed by our immigration study. To work on this study contact Elaine Manley, 246-5022 or Roberta Hollimon, 408-253-6078.

LEAGUE NEWS

National – The LWVUS this week sent a letter to key Senate leaders, urging the passage of the OPEN Government Act of 2007. The legislation will expand the accessibility and accountability of the federal government by strengthening the Freedom of Information Act and making information more readily available to the public.

State – The League and its partners continue discussions on redistricting reform. We are increasing our efforts to work with key members and staff of the Legislature and with the Governor's staff to place a reasonable legislative redistricting proposal on the ballot. Several versions of a citizens' initiative petition have been filed with the Attorney General's office for title and summary in preparation for circulation for signatures. At this point, the LWVC board neither supports nor opposes any of these initiatives. A term limits initiative has been filed as well. Political considerations about how the term limits and redistricting reform proposals for the February 2008 ballot will mix are under discussion.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR DECADES OF SERVICE! - CELEBRATING NATIONAL VOLUNTEER WEEK

LWVUS would like to thank ALL League volunteers who do the hands-on work to safeguard democracy. No other volunteer-based group has the local, state, and national reputation of the League, and we are thrilled to celebrate the contributions of all our volunteer leaders. We all make up the organization that makes democracy work!

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

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.

<input type="checkbox"/> \$50 Individual member	Name: _____
<input type="checkbox"/> \$75 Two members in a household	Address: _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Contribution \$ _____	City: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____
Telephone: _____	Email: _____

Checks made out to LWVCS are not tax deductible.