



VOTER

THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF CUPERTINO-SUNNYVALE

May 2008

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Candidate Forums

Meet the candidates and ask questions

Democratic Candidates – 22nd Assembly District

Thursday, May 8, 7:00–8:30 pm

Cupertino Community Hall, 10350 Torre Ave

Televised live & rebroadcast on Cupertino City Channel TV-26.

Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors, District #3

Wednesday, May 7, 7:45–8:45 pm

Sunnyvale Public Library, 665 Olive Ave, Program Room

Superior Court Judge, Office #8

Saturday, May 17, 9:30–11:30 am

Campbell Community Center, 1 W Campbell Ave, Campbell Room

Pros & Cons on Ballot Measures

League speakers will explain ballot measures and answer questions

Monday, May 5, 6:30–8:00 pm

Santa Clara Mission Library

1098 Lexington St, Santa Clara

Wednesday, May 7, 7:00–7:45 pm

Sunnyvale Public Library

Olive & Pastoria, Program Room

Wednesday, May 14, 7:30–8:30 pm

Homestead High School, Auditorium

21370 Homestead Rd (at Mary Ave)

Thursday, May 15, 6:30–7:30 pm

St Cyprian Church, Conference Center

1133 W Washington Ave, Sunnyvale

Thursday, May 22, 7:30–8:30 pm

Mountain View Public Library

585 Franklin St, Program Room

LWV Cupertino-Sunnyvale Board of Directors

President	Elaine Manley
Vice President	Susan Hough
Secretary	Louise Levy
Treasurer	Roberta Hollimon
Directors	Marilyn Howard
	LaVerne Prentice
	Jason Spiller
Off Board	
Bay Area Rep	Fran Grabau
Dues Secretary	Evelyn Lundstrom

SMART VOTER

For answers to all election questions: polling place, candidates, ballot measures, go to www.smartvoter.org

The Better Part: Pros & Cons on Statewide Propositions

Airing on community access cable channels throughout

Santa Clara County from May 15 to May 21.

Cupertino TV-15: Friday 5/16 7:00 pm, Monday 5/19 4:30 pm,

Tuesday 5/20 7:00 pm

Visit www.smartvoter.org for comprehensive election information.

Free copies of the *Easy Voter Guide* are available at public libraries.

All events are open to the public, free of charge, and conducted by the League of Women Voters.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

We are getting closer to the June election. I hope you'll join us at one of the pro/con meetings and Candidate Forums. Please tell your friends when these are being hosted. The information is thorough and yet concisely presented. This is an area where we provide a tremendous benefit to our community. You can also refer them to our website so they can view the calendar on their own. The site is <http://www.cs.ca.lwvnet.org/>.

The National convention will be in Portland this year in June. If there is anything you would like to know from other Leagues or from the National officers, please let me know.

Last but not least, we are having our Annual Meeting on June 7th. We would love to have you attend and we welcome your input. Linda Craig does an excellent job of presenting. Please let me know you are coming by calling me at 408-230-9928 or elaine.manley@comcast.net.

Elaine Manley

SIGN UP FOR E-NEWSLETTERS!

Would you like to receive state League newsletters by e-mail? All you need to do is go to the LWVC home page, where you can click on the "Subscribe to E-News" button on the left. The site will look up your e-mail address, then prompt you to create an account or log into their existing account.

SAVE THE DATE

ANNUAL MEETING - SATURDAY, JUNE 7

Mark your calendar for our Annual Meeting which will take place at Arya restaurant from 9:30 – 12:00 followed by lunch from 12:00 to 1:00. Our speaker will be Linda Craig, Legislative Director on the state League board and also President of the Bay Area League. Craig will tell us about the process used in deciding on and advocating positions in the legislature and before state agencies, boards and commissions.

Board Briefs

At its April meeting your board:

- Learned that many Pros and Cons presentations have been scheduled.
- Approved the report from the committee studying the Fremont Union High School District Bond Measure and voted to support the measure.
- Approved the revised budget, which includes a \$10 dues increase, to be adopted by members at Annual Meeting.
- Heard a report from members who have looked at the Trumark development in Sunnyvale and decided to remain neutral on the project.

Membership News

Thank you for renewing your membership: Frances Combe, Tracy Edwards, Betty Nelson, and Mona Norins, Dorothy Stow, and Rose-Marie Twu.

Thanks for including a donation with your dues: Jo Lucey, Joan Schulze.

Welcome new member: Glenis Koehne,

Community Appeal

Thank you for your donations to the Community Appeal: Peter Botsford, Don and Nancy Burnett, and Rose-Marie Twu.

The Cupertino-Sunnyvale VOTER

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



NO ON PROPOSITION 98 -- Deceptive Measure Would Abolish Rent Control and Harm Environmental Protection

Californians deserve protection from eminent domain abuse, but Proposition 98 is a radical proposal that goes too far. Its extreme provisions would eliminate rent control and other renter protection laws; that is why wealthy apartment and mobile home park owners have contributed most of the money to qualify Proposition 98 for the ballot. In addition, Proposition 98 contains language that would make it difficult to protect the environment and regulate land use, growth and development. This hidden agenda would threaten water quality, hurt the environment, and thwart regulations that protect our neighborhoods.

YES ON PROPOSITION 99 -- Homeowners Protection Act

This measure is a real eminent domain reform measure that will protect homeowners, without the hidden agendas and adverse consequences of Proposition 98. Proposition 99 will prohibit the government from using eminent domain to take a home to transfer to another private party. It is supported by a broad coalition of homeowners, business, labor, cities, counties and environmentalists.

**Local Board Supports
Fremont Union High School District Bond Measure**

The Bond Measure proposed by the Fremont Union High School Board would allow the sale of \$198,000,000 in bonds to create a technology fund to upgrade classroom computers and technology; build science labs; improve energy efficiency; add solar power; build classrooms to avoid overcrowding; improve physical education and athletic facilities; and replace aging heating, lighting and electrical systems in the five high schools in the district.

A committee of local League members determined that the district meets the criteria set by our positions to warrant support of a bond issue. The LWV Cupertino-Sunnyvale endorses passage of this bond measure.

VOTE WITH THE LEAGUE ON JUNE 3

Prop 98	Government Acquisition, Regulation of Private Property	No
Prop 99	Eminent Domain. Acquisition of Owner-Occupied Residence	Yes
Measure B	Fremont Union High School District Bonds	Yes

LESS WATER IN THE NEAR FUTURE?

John D. Sullivan, Natural Resources Director, LWV/LAC

Current projections indicate that the population of California will continue to grow in the coming years. At the same time, California's economy appears to be faltering and the State's budget is in very bad shape. There is much talk in Washington at present about the need for the federal government to provide a stimulus for the flagging U.S. economy ...[by providing a] "tax rebate" to all taxpaying citizens... The hope is that those who receive the tax rebate will go out and buy new items such as cars and refrigerators and thereby stimulate growth in the economy. An increasing population should also have an effect on the economy in that more people lead to more demand for goods and services.

These two factors, population growth and economic growth, can place increasing pressures on the state's natural resources. In fact, a number of events in recent months indicate that the state may be reaching limits with respect to at least one natural resource, water (although there are indications of other limits such as clogged freeways and the unhealthy air we breathe). Some months ago, a federal judge ruled that less water must be pumped out of the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta to protect the Delta smelt (which is listed as endangered under the Endangered Species Act). A number of political entities with some water management responsibilities have reacted to this in an effort to reduce demand for water.

The City of Long Beach mandated that watering gardens outside of homes must be limited to night hours only. The Mayor of Los Angeles took a different approach by exhorting citizens of the city to reduce their consumption of water voluntarily. A water district near Hemet announced that a major commercial project had to be postponed because the district was uncertain whether water supplies were sufficient to meet the needs of this new development. The Southern California Metropolitan Water District (MWD) has announced that it is considering a shortage allocation plan that would reduce water deliveries to some member cities and agencies. Finally, as a further sign of limits, the L.A. Times ran an article providing strategies for homeowners to use to reduce the flow of storm water from their property during rain storms. By keeping storm water upstream, so to speak, homeowners could use that water to irrigate their gardens and replenish local groundwater systems and reduce pollution flowing to the beach areas (storm water picks up all manner of waste from roadways and transports it to beach areas where it can make beaches unusable). Every drop of storm water used for garden irrigation reduces demand for imported water.

These are just some of the indicators of a growing crunch on the state's water resources. Each raises important policy issues and each has implications for the people of Southern California. The twin engines of population growth and economic growth are placing increasing stresses on water resources. It is important to note that about 50% of the water consumed in southern

California is imported from the Colorado River and from the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta. Exports from the Delta have been reduced because of a threat to the Delta smelt. Diversions from the Colorado River could be limited because the Colorado River watershed is experiencing a serious drought (as is the rest of the Southwest, including southern California).

The cases mentioned raise important public policy issues and bear further examination. To begin with, the efforts by Long Beach and Los Angeles to get citizens to reduce water consumption point to an important question: how do public entities such as cities get citizens to change their behavior? Long Beach took what might be called a "command and control" approach. The city mandated certain times when gardens could be watered. L.A. took a different approach, relying on voluntary actions by citizens in response to the Mayor's call. The results in each case are quite different. Long Beach saw about a 6% reduction in water consumption, while water consumption in L.A. stayed almost flat (actually rising less than 1%). This strongly suggests that cities hoping to achieve reductions in water use cannot rely on the good will of citizens. It is not that the citizens of L.A. are in some sense "bad." It is likely that a "let George do it" attitude prevailed. That is, many conscientious citizens probably thought that their own water consumption was already low (after all, they put in a low flow toilet last year) and that others would reduce enough to make a difference. It seems clear that "command and control" will need to be used more to get southern Californians to reduce water consumption.

The MWD announcement has generated some controversy because the proposed plan involves providing water to L.A. and communities experiencing growth while at the same time reducing supplies to older, more fully built-out communities. These latter communities may also be home to minority groups and this brings up questions of equity. Clearly, the proposed MWD plan bears watching and also raises important questions about who should bear the brunt of water shortages.

There is a third policy tool (in addition to command and control and voluntary compliance) that water managers could use, and that is the price of water. That is, water could be priced using an increasing block structure in which small amounts are priced relatively low, while increasing amounts are priced at increasingly high rates. The goal here is to get consumers to respond to price and reduce consumption.

The upshot of all this is that all citizens will have to increase their awareness of their own water consumption. Whether mandated to do so by a city or water district, or because there is simply less water in the pipeline, or to become part of the solution by altering gardens to keep some storm water from flowing away, all citizens will have to reexamine their relationship with water and make adjustments to their behavior.

LEAGUE NEWS

National –The LWVUS/EF Board voted to establish a new *Leadership Fund*. The Fund will be initiated with special contributions made by League members, and will be further sustained by dedicating 5 percent of the income from all new planned gifts (e.g., bequests, charitable gifts annuities, and others) to the Fund. In the coming months, League members will be hearing more about this Fund and the activities it will help sustain, and will be provided opportunities to make contributions.

State – The state League announced that the list of the bills on which the LWVC has taken a position, and their status, is available at www.lwvc.org/lwvc/action/bsr/bsr.html.

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

TESTIMONY ON FEBRUARY 2008 ELECTION PROBLEMS

On Friday, March 7, at the Ronald Reagan State Building in Los Angeles, LWVC Communications Manager Elizabeth Leslie testified on behalf of the LWVC at an informational hearing on problems faced by California voters during the February 2008 presidential primary election. The joint hearing was conducted by the Assembly Committee on Elections and Redistricting, the Senate Committee on Elections, Reapportionment and Constitutional Amendments, and the Senate Select Committee on Integrity of Elections.

Leslie testified about the inquiries received by the LWVC office from frustrated voters who had problems in four key areas: registration problems (lifelong voters dropped from the rolls and party affiliations switched); no materials received from county elections offices and/or the Secretary of State; Decline to State (DTS) voters' inquiries about primary party rules and DTS vote-by-mail issues; and the lack of proper use of provisional ballots and the treatment of DTS voters by poll workers on Election Day.

Leslie announced the League's support of recommendations outlined by California Common Cause for the Secretary of State and county registrars of voters to conduct an audit of these problems. She also testified that the LWVC is committed to continuing to provide nonpartisan resources to voters and potential voters of California.

An audio recording of the hearing is posted on the Web site of Assembly Elections and Redistricting Committee Chair Curren D. Price: <http://democrats.assembly.ca.gov/members/a51>.

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.