



VOTER

THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF CUPERTINO-SUNNYVALE

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The Cupertino-Sunnyvale VOTER

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PRESIDENTS MESSAGES

Due to the importance of the election information contained in these messages, the Presidents' Messages have been moved to the front page. Editor

Are you ready for the election? There are 13 ballot propositions plus some city and county measures to vote on this November. I want to ask a favor of every member. We have enclosed the schedule of Pro-Con meetings that go over these measures. Will you please go to one and take a friend? Linda Davis and Susan Hough spend over 50 hours researching the facts and summarizing the information for voters. It's THE most efficient method of learning about the issues that I know. And the best part is you get to ask questions from someone that is unbiased and get a full answer. Please find a date on the schedule that works for you and attend a meeting. I know you'll find it worthwhile and by bringing a friend you will have helped to educate another voter. By the way, feel free to copy and distribute the schedule. If you have a group of 10 or more that you'd like to have presented to, please let me know at 246-5022. Thank you for your support!

Elaine

Here we are in the thick of election season again! My desk is covered with propositions and my calendar is covered with events. I want to encourage all of you to mention Smart Voter wherever you go. People around here just love to do their research at midnight the day before the election, and Smart Voter lets them procrastinate as long as they need to and still be informed voters. Of course it's better if they've been to a forum or a Pro-Con talk too, but realistically, many people won't give that kind of time to their ballot.

And speaking of time, the Registrar of Voters needs precinct workers! If you will have some free time on election day, consider helping out in the democratic process. Training is provided and, if you wish, your pay can be automatically sent to the League for a donation that costs you nothing but some time. If you want to help, contact the ROV at Bill.Gay@rov.sccgov.org. If you want to know what it's like to work at a precinct, contact me (shough@mennen.org) and I will put you in touch with a fellow League member experienced in election work.

Susan

For complete nonpartisan election information visit:

www.smartvoter.org
and
www.easyvoter.org

LEAGUE RECOMMENDS YES VOTE ON COUNTY MEASURE A

The County League recommends a yes vote on Measure A the Land Conservation Initiative on the November ballot. This recommendation is based on our County Land Use position that supports policies that control, direct, and limit growth and promote the preservation and conservation of natural resources.

Measure A would amend the Santa Clara County General Plan to:

- Protect hillsides, watersheds and wildlife habitat. The area covered is more than 400,000 acres.
- Prevent urban sprawl into rural lands. It provides longer-term certainty that rural unincorporated lands outside of city limits will remain rural.
- Preserve ranchlands and agriculture. It prevents the division of land into parcels too small for farming and ranching, and broadly permits agricultural uses while prohibiting conflicting uses.
- Protect ridgelines and scenic views. Structures would not be located on ridgelines, unless there is not other possible site on the parcel, overall development would minimize the visual impact from public roads and parks.
- Safeguard water and air quality. Uses are not permitted unless a safe, adequate, sustainable water supply is demonstrated.
- In general, maintain Santa Clara County as a desirable place to live and work.

The property covered has been regulated by the County, most of it taxed for agriculture and other low-intensity uses, not for development potential. The Initiative does not affect the validity of existing legal parcels, development, and land uses, and permits further development. It explicitly provides that it is not to be applied, despite its literal terms, if its application would deprive a property owner of legal rights.

Further information, and the text of the initiative, is available at <http://www.openspace2006.org/initiative.htm>.

LOCAL LEAGUE WEBSITE

Did you know that the Cupertino-Sunnyvale League has its own Website? The state League has developed League Easy Web (LEW) which allows local Leagues to create their own Websites. Comments from our Webmaster as she was setting up the site included, "Wow, this is so easy." Take a look, www.cs.ca.lwvnet and let us know what you think of it.

Board Briefs

At its September meeting the board:

- Heard that volunteers are needed to register voters at our booth at the Cupertino Jubilee.
- Learned that the Registrar of Voters needs more workers to work on election at polling places during the day and at his office in the evening.
- Received information on Voter Service activities being planned by our League.

Looking Back

15 years ago state and local leaders of Leagues of comparable size challenged each other to a two-year contest for growth in membership. New Jersey and California vied to see which League would have the greatest increase in membership. California League leaders expected to win and looked forward to being treated to a clambake by the New Jersey League. Another prize was a tour of the New Jersey Turnpike but it was unclear whether that would go to the winner or loser.

Membership News

Thank you for renewing your membership: Harold Brown, Pat Castillo, Sherry Howd, Laura Moore, Margaret Quillinan, Christine Wallis, and Leonard Williams.

Thank you for including a contribution with your renewal: Pat Boyle and Mavis Smith.

Welcome new members: Margaret Limberatos and Mary Martin.

LEAGUE NEWS

National

The League strongly opposed H.R. 4844, the "Federal Election Integrity Act of 2006," which would require all voters, beginning in 2008, to obtain and show government-issued photo ID that proves their citizenship in order to vote.

The League urged Congress to vote against the "National Security Surveillance Act of 2006," a program that would "rubber-stamp" the NSA's warrantless wiretapping program and weaken our system of checks and balances.

State

The state League is sponsoring a training session on Homeowner Association Elections to prepare League members to become election inspectors as required by new law SB 61.

For further information contact Elaine Manley at 246-5022.

NEXT TEN OFFERS NEW BROCHURE

The success of *Budget Choices*, Next Ten's nonpartisan brochure on the state budget, along with conversations around the state on infrastructure, prompted Next Ten to develop a user-friendly guide to basic infrastructure issues in California. The project began by conducting focus groups across the state to identify what the general public knows about infrastructure. The study found that while they are under-informed, there is a strong desire to better understand these issues.

To meet this need Next Ten developed *Investing in California*, a new nonpartisan brochure to help the average Californian understand what infrastructure is and give a basic overview of the state's infrastructure financing options. Like Next Ten's *Budget Choices* brochure, this new publication is free to everyone and available in five languages (English, Spanish, Chinese, Vietnamese, and Korean).

The brochure is available to order today along with a 2-page companion piece providing nonpartisan information on infrastructure-related measures in California's November 2006 election.

In addition to *Investing in California*, Next Ten announced that they have expanded their website to include a more in-depth overview on the subject of infrastructure. These online materials were developed to be used as a resource by everyone with a desire to learn more including those already engaged in the subject, students, and the media.

To compliment the new infrastructure products, a short online infrastructure quiz was developed with interesting facts and a few surprises. The quiz allows users a quick overview of infrastructure in California. You are encouraged to take the quiz today at www.nextten.org.

Next Ten online newsletter 9/20/06

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

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.