



# VOTER

THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF CUPERTINO-SUNNYVALE

October 2005

Volume 33 Number 3

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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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## CANDIDATE FORUMS

### SUNNYVALE CITY COUNCIL

**Date:** Wednesday, October 12  
**Time:** 7 – 9 pm  
**Place:** Sunnyvale City Hall  
456 West Olive, Sunnyvale

### SUNNYVALE SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD OF TRUSTEES

**Date:** Tuesday, October 18  
**Time:** 7 – 9 pm  
**Place:** District Office  
819 West Iowa Ave., Sunnyvale

### CUPERTINO CITY COUNCIL

**Date:** Wednesday, October 19  
**Time:** 7 – 9 pm  
**Place:** Cupertino Community Hall  
10350 Torre Ave., Cupertino  
(between City Hall and Library)

### CUPERTINO UNION SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD OF TRUSTEES

**Date:** Thursday, October 20  
**Time:** 7 – 9 pm  
**Place:** Lawson Middle School  
10401 Vista Drive, Cupertino

## PROS AND CONS OF BALLOT MEASURES PRESENTATIONS

Our Pros and Cons speakers will be making many presentations during the month of October. See the insert and select a meeting that is convenient for you to attend.

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

As we go further into the chaos of election season, the work that we as League do to inform voters becomes much more visible. These weeks are when we make a real difference to the communities we live in. A handful of LWVCS members will put in many hours so that we can hold candidate forums and ballot measure talks all around Cupertino and Sunnyvale. Your member dues support these efforts!

If you live in Cupertino, you will see three local measures on your ballot along with the eight state measures. If you live in Sunnyvale, you will see six local measures. You know from other writings in this and past Voters that your Board of Directors is urging a No vote on the Cupertino measures and has not taken a stand on any of the Sunnyvale measures. More important than voting according to League principles, though, is voting according to Your principles (though obviously I hope you share some principles with the LWV if you're going to be a member!). I cannot urge too strongly that you spend the time to inform yourself about candidates and ballot measures. If you can help out at a forum or ballot talk, wonderful, but the most important thing is for you to educate yourself on the issues and the candidates, make up your mind on the basis of something more than a 30-second commercial, and cast your vote. Come to a forum, come to a ballot talk, click on <http://www.smartvoter.org>, read the Easy Voter guide, visit the Secretary of State's website at <http://www.ss.ca.gov/> (you want to see where the money flows? It's on this site!), read the actual ballot measure text (I know, I can hear you groaning, but don't you complain when our representatives make laws without reading them?), talk with your neighbors...you have myriad ways to teach yourself what you need to know in order to be an informed voter. Some of them are even likely to be fun.

See you at a forum!

*Susan*

### VOTE WITH THE LEAGUE

#### State Initiatives

Prop 73	NO
Prop 74	NO
Prop 75	NO
Prop 76	NO
Prop 77	NO
Prop 78	NO
Prop 79	YES

#### Cupertino Initiatives

A	NO
B	NO
C	NO

### Board Briefs

At its September meeting, the Board:

- Heard a report from Hough and Hollimon on the Regional Workshops presented by the State League.
- Approved a letter to the Courier expressing our opposition to the three Cupertino initiatives.
- Accepted with regret the resignation of Anita Herrmann from the board.

### Looking Back

**25 years ago** the League held a Candidates Fair at DeAnza College. People had the opportunity to meet candidates for the offices of U.S. House of Representatives, State Senate, State Assembly, County Supervisor and Superior Court Judge at their "booths" and the hear brief speeches from the office seekers.

**15 years ago** the HazMat project won an HP grant to distribute its newly released videos, "Cleaning Up Toxics At Home" and "Cleaning Up Toxics at Business."

**10 years ago** as part of its concern about the environmental cleanup activities at Moffett Field, the League wrote to the Naval Facilities Engineering Command to express its concerns with the Feasibility Study site investigation.

### Membership News

Welcome new member Ann Thalls.

Thank you for renewing your membership: Pat Castillo, Nicol Lea and Jerry Thalls

Thank you for including a donation with your renewal: Harold Brown.

**THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS RECOMMENDS  
NOVEMBER 8, 2005 SPECIAL ELECTION**

**PROP 73**      *Waiting Period and Parental Notification before Termination of  
Minor's Pregnancy.*      **OPPOSE**

Parents rightfully want to be involved in their teenagers' lives and all parents want what is best for their children. But good family communication can't be imposed by government. Mandatory notification laws may sound good, but in the real world, vulnerable teenagers who can't talk to their parents may resort to unsafe, illegal abortions.

**PROP 74**      *Public School Teachers. Waiting Period for Permanent Status.  
Dismissal.*      **OPPOSE**

The League supports fair, rigorous, and effective teacher evaluation and tenure procedures. However, this measure raises questions of due process rights and may limit the use of dismissal for cause. It does nothing to encourage teachers to enter and remain in the profession.

**PROP 75**      *Public Employee Union Dues. Restrictions on Political Contributions.  
Employee Consent Requirement.*      **OPPOSE**

The League supports fair, even-handed campaign finance reform, but this measure is bad policy. It restricts public employee unions' use of member dues for political activity but has no similar constraint on corporations.

**PROP 76**      *State Spending and School Funding Limits.*      **OPPOSE**

This constitutional amendment changes the state's spending cap, increases the governor's power to make budget cuts, and revises the Proposition 98 minimum guarantees for state support of education. It reduces flexibility to address changing needs and will cause cuts in essential services. School funding will be permanently reduced by \$4 billion per year. Our system of checks and balances will be undermined by giving this and all future governors the power to make cuts unilaterally. This is not budget reform!

**PROP 77**      *Redistricting.*      **OPPOSE**

California needs to reform the way legislative and congressional district lines are drawn, but this flawed measure doesn't measure up. The makeup of its redistricting panel and its neglect of communities of interest in drawing plans are bad policy. This proposal calls for an immediate redistricting that would ignore three million new Californians, and it requires a cumbersome, wasteful ratification of every set of plans by the people.

**PROP 78**      *Discounts on Prescription Drugs.*      **OPPOSE**

There are two prescription drug initiatives on this ballot. Drug companies have contributed over \$50 million to support Proposition 78, an inferior program that depends on their voluntary participation.

**PROP 79**      *Prescription Drug Discounts. State-Negotiated Rebates.*      **SUPPORT**

Proposition 79 offers deeper drug discounts to nearly twice as many Californians as Proposition 78. It has an enforcement mechanism to hold drug companies accountable for providing discounts.

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Because League positions do not cover the issues in *PROP 80, Electric Service Providers. Regulation*, the LWVC is remaining neutral on this initiative. 9/13/2005

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## PLAN TO REDUCE SANTA CLARA COUNTY WATER OUTAGES IN A DISASTER

*The following article is reprinted from a Santa Clara Valley Water District News Release*

The Santa Clara Valley Water District has unveiled a plan to lessen impacts on the County's water supply system during a disaster.

According to the District's Water Infrastructure Reliability Project report, developed in coordination with water retailers and other water agencies, a magnitude 7.9 earthquake along the San Andreas Fault could damage pipes and disable pump stations and treatment plants that purify and deliver drinking water to municipal and private water companies in many areas of the county. Outages could last as long as two months.

To minimize those outages, recommendations in the report address short-term actions and longer-range capital improvements.

"Safeguarding our facilities that treat and deliver drinking water to Santa Clara County residents and businesses continues to be our top priority," said Water District CEO Stan Williams. "Our focus now is to work with our partners to invest in long-term improvements to ensure the reliability of the water supply system when we most need it."

In the near term, the Water District is spending \$2 million to purchase and store replacement pipes and hardware. With an adequate supply of replacement pipe, the study concluded, the Water District could cut in half the time it takes to restore water service.

Long-range projects include expansion of well fields on the west and east sides of Santa Clara Valley to take advantage of the county's groundwater basins, which would require additional investment.

To evaluate the vulnerability of the county's water supply infrastructure to a catastrophic event, the Water District led a two-year effort to analyze the system using complex computer models.

"The report is a good first step in the planning process to protect our water supplies against catastrophic failure from a manmade or natural disaster," said George Belhumeur, senior vice president of operations for the San Jose Water Co. "Our challenge now is to design, integrate and implement cost-effective and reliable improvements that meet the specific needs of each retailer's system."

The study looked at the implications of large earthquakes, both within Santa Clara County and to the surrounding area. It simulated two earthquake scenarios. For a massive earthquake on the San Andreas Fault, approximately 10 times greater than the 1989 Loma

Prieta earthquake it may take as long as 30 days to restore service to nearly full capacity if replacement pipe is available.

Pipelines and pumps used to import water into the county from the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta could be out of service for three to seven days and it may take as long as 60 days for water to be delivered from a different imported-water source.

In the second scenario, which includes a smaller magnitude earthquake on either the South Hayward Fault or Central Calaveras Fault, nearly full restoration of service is estimated within seven days.

The risks to Santa Clara County's water delivery system from regional power outages and flooding were not as severe as earthquake events, according to the study.

The Water Infrastructure Reliability Project is the latest in a series of endeavors over the past five years to protect the county's water supply from disasters.

When rolling blackouts in the summer of 2001 threatened to interrupt water treatment and pumping capabilities, the Water District and the county's 11 retailers formulated contingency plans to keep tap water flowing during power outages.

In response to the Sept. 11 airplane hijackings, the Water District took additional steps to protect local reservoirs and water-supply infrastructure. The District has also completed an asset management program to preserve the integrity of key county water facilities and is also in the midst of installing monitoring equipment to continually evaluate the conditions of the county's 10 dams as part of its Dam Safety program.

Participants in the development of the report included the cities of Gilroy, Milpitas, Morgan Hill, Mountain View, San Jose, Santa Clara and Sunnyvale; California Water Service Co.; San Jose Water Co.; Great Oaks Water Co.; California Department of Water Resources; U.S. Bureau of Reclamation; Alameda County Water District; Bay Area Water Supply and Conservation Agency; City of Palo Alto; Pajaro Valley Water Management Agency; San Benito County Water District; San Francisco Public Utilities Commission, and Zone 7 Water Agency. A summary of the report is available on the District's website, [www.valleywater.org](http://www.valleywater.org).

***The Santa Clara Valley Water District manages wholesale drinking water resources and provides stewardship for the county's vast watersheds, including a series of reservoirs, more than 800 miles of streams, and groundwater basins. The district also promotes flood protection for Santa Clara County's 1.7 million residents.***

## LEAGUE NEWS

**National** – LWVUS President Kay J. Maxwell recently sent a letter to President Bush expressing concern about the dilution of the UN Summit Outcome Document.

LWVEF will undertake a large-scale, multi-year public education effort to increase understanding of our nation's system of separation of powers and checks and balances. The project will cover a range of topics including the role that judges play in interpreting the law, the rights of citizens that are jeopardized by a weakened judiciary system, and the differences between the roles played by state and federal courts.

**State** – The Energy Study Guide and the Leader's Guide have been published in PDF files and are easily available from the "members only" site at <http://lwvc.org/lwvonly> - just click on "Energy Update Study"

### League Internet Sites

LWV Cupertino-Sunnyvale

[www.cs.ca.lwvnet.org](http://www.cs.ca.lwvnet.org)

LWV Santa Clara County

[www.scc.ca.lwvnet.org](http://www.scc.ca.lwvnet.org)

LWV Bay Area

[www.lwvba-ca.org](http://www.lwvba-ca.org)

Bay Area Monitor

[www.bayareamonitor.org](http://www.bayareamonitor.org)

LWV California

[www.lwvc.org](http://www.lwvc.org)

Members [www.lwvc.org/lwvonly](http://www.lwvc.org/lwvonly)

LWV United States

[www.lwv.org](http://www.lwv.org)

Members: Type: LWV

password: Carrie Catt

## CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT (CEQA)

*The following is an excerpt from a June 2005 letter from LWVC to the Governor*

The League of Women Voters of California supports CEQA because we believe:

- Growth management decisions should relate to and protect the overall quality of the environment.
- In carrying out land use planning and regulation, and throughout the growth management process, government must provide for:
  - involvement of citizens in the earliest planning and regulatory stages;
  - adequate funding of the public information process; and
  - development of mechanisms to minimize conflict of interest on the part of persons who make land use decisions.

CEQA is critical in assuring:

- full disclosure of a project's significant adverse impacts on the environment
- adoption of all feasible mitigation measures and alternatives
- public participation in the development review process
- protection of the environment consistent with providing safe, decent and adequate housing for all Californians
- integration of transportation and land use planning and regulation to reduce vehicle travel and facilitate use of mass transit and other transportation alternatives
- recognition of the interrelationship of regulation and decision making for air quality, energy, land use, waste management and water resources.

### Election Night Activity

Want a Behind the Scenes look at what goes on in the Registrar's office on election night? Join fellow League members as we earn money for the League by working for the Registrar of Voters on election night. To volunteer call Roberta Hollimon 408-253-6078.

### 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.