



# VOTER

THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF CUPERTINO-SUNNYVALE

October 2008

Volume 36 Number 3

## In This Issue

Benefits via Email	2
Board Briefs	2
Budget Challenge	3
Calendar	8
Debate Watching Party	3
Green Event	6
League News	7
LWVC Recommends	4&5
Membership News	2
President's Message	2
Pros & Cons of Ballot Measures	insert
Pros & Cons Presentations	insert
Simitian Town Meeting	6
Yes on Measure A	7

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## The Cupertino-Sunnyvale VOTER

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## THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS PRESENTS CANDIDATE FORUMS

### 15<sup>TH</sup> CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT JUDGES DISTRICT 8

Monday, October 13, 7:00-8:30 pm  
Cupertino Community Hall, 10350 Torre Ave  
(between City Hall & Library)

### COUNTY SUPERVISOR, DISTRICT 3

Monday, October 20, 7:00-8:30 pm  
Sunnyvale Library, 665 W Olive Ave (at Pastoria)

## PROS AND CONS ON BALLOT MEASURES

Wednesday, October 1

6:30-7:00 pm Registration

7:00-8:30pm Presentation with Q&A

Synopsys (Building 2) – 455 N Mary Ave, Sunnyvale

RSVP: <http://www.svvotes.org/wp/events/>

Cost: \$0 with RSVP, \$5 walk-in

## YOUR GOVERNMENT, YOUR VOICE: Your kid's education, your taxes, your vote!

Sunday 10/19/2008, 1:30-4:45PM

Santa Clara Central Park Library (Redwood Room)

2635 Homestead Rd, Santa Clara

Come learn about the critical issues impacting Californians today in a fun half-day event. Join our budget challenge where you'll have a chance to take a stab at balancing our budget. Listen to a panel discussing K-12 education issues and how you can be involved. Or, discuss the state initiatives that will be on the November ballot.

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See insert for other Pros and Cons presentations.  
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Visit [www.smartvoter.org](http://www.smartvoter.org) for comprehensive coverage of candidates and issues. For a quick overview of the ballot go to [www.easyvoter.org](http://www.easyvoter.org)

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

We had a terrific event with guest speaker Mr. Norman Kline on redistricting and Prop 11. Special thanks goes to Marilyn Howard and her family and Serge Rudaz and Linda Davis for creating a great ambiance and providing the tools to enable everyone to hear clearly with our new sound system. The League supports Prop 11 and I encourage you to study it and decide what you think is right.

October is full of Pro/Con presentations. One in particular that is new for us is co-sponsoring a Pro/Con event with Silicon Valley Votes which is an organization of Asian technology professionals interested in learning more about government and the issues. This will be held on Oct 1 from 7 to 8:30pm at Synopsys in Sunnyvale. Be sure to register in advance at <http://www.svvotes.org/wp/events/>. There will be a \$5 charge if you register at the door but no cost if you register in advance. Please review the calendar for the many forums to see when you can attend or help out. You can also visit our website for the most current listing of events at [www.cs.ca.lwvnet.org](http://www.cs.ca.lwvnet.org).

If you would like to work at the polls, your help would be greatly appreciated. And if you don't need the funds, our League would appreciate if you donate the proceeds to our group. Please contact [lwvcseditor@comcast.net](mailto:lwvcseditor@comcast.net).

Please invite your friends to our forums. They'll be glad you did.

*Elaine Manley*

## BENEFITS RECEIVED BY RELEASING YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS

When you join the League or renew your membership, you are asked if you want your email address to be released to the State League and the National League. When you do this you will receive monthly newsletters from the State and National League by email. This is the only way to receive these publications since they are not printed and mailed.

If you find that you do not want this email you always have the ability to opt out. The League never shares its member information with other organizations.

To give permission for our League to give your email address to other levels of League, send a message to [lwvcseditor@comcast.net](mailto:lwvcseditor@comcast.net).

## Board Briefs

At its September meeting your board:

- Adopted a student dues rate of \$15.00.
- Heard a report on the first meeting of Cupertino's Housing Update focus group.
- Agreed to participate in the LWVUS National Popular Vote .
- Heard a report on advertising to local neighborhood associations.
- Learned that 26 Pros and Cons presentations have been scheduled with the possibility of a total of 30.

## Membership News

Thank you for renewing your membership: Barbara Beyda and Louise Levy.

Thanks for including a donation with your dues: Harold Brown, Dorothy Normark, and Mavis Smith.

Welcome new members: Autumn Bea and Kim Rogers.

Sadly, we have learned of the passing of Margaret Limberatos and William Normark Our sympathy goes to their families.

## HAVE A PARTY

No pun intended since the League does not support political parties. The following articles are about the other kind of party. Check them out. It might be a great way to bring together your friends and neighbors.

### DEBATE WATCHING PARTY

The presidential race is in the home stretch, and that means **it's debate time!**

**The debates begin next week** – and it's your chance to become even more informed about the candidates and what they stand for. Bring your friends, colleagues, and family together for a debate watching party so they, too, can understand the issues at hand and be active participants in our democracy.

**Use the League's Debate Watching Party Kit to get your party planning started!**

The kit has everything you need to enjoy and get the most out of the debates, including:

- A music playlist to get things started
- Recipes (try the red, white and blue parfaits!)
- A sign-in sheet for your guests (a great time to encourage your guests to register to vote!)
- Debate watching party tips for hosts...and so much more!

There is so much at stake this election year. But, regardless of which candidate you support, the League of Women Voters will make sure that you're prepared for the debates and to cast your vote this Fall.

Get your Debate Kit today! Go to [www.lwv.org](http://www.lwv.org), under Elections 101 click on "Get Educated and Vote," click on "Debate Watching Party Kit."

### NEXT 10'S CALIFORNIA BUDGET CHALLENGE

The Sacramento Bee published a Sunday editorial featuring the California Budget Challenge asking readers to, "Invite some friends over, fire up your computer and show the capitol how it's done." They call the Budget Challenge a "smartly designed high-tech tool" and encourage readers to take the Challenge with some friends and neighbors - consider throwing a "Budget Challenge Bash" or a "break-the-impasse party."

Although a budget deal seems to have been agreed to, we wanted to share this editorial with you because we believe that the California Budget Challenge gives you a unique opportunity to decide how to address the key trade-offs in the state budget over the next five years, and then send choices directly to policymakers.

#### ***What are users saying?***

The Budget Challenge offers 15 key spending and revenue policy choices plus a display on each policy choice where you can see what other users have selected.

This year, many thousands of Californians have taken the Budget Challenge. Here's what they're saying:

*Really great review of the actual budget choices facing California...information was clear and accessible.*

*I just realized how difficult it actually is to make these kind of decisions.*

*It was helpful to see the impact of the different decisions and to see what percentage of respondents chose various options.*

*It's easy to e-mail all my legislative members this way.*

*I understood each section with the explanation of the pros-and-cons...Thanks for this great tool.*

**What can I do?** If you haven't already, please link to the Budget Challenge on your website. Consider sending a message to your network about how they can use the Challenge to learn more about the budget issues we will continue to face this fiscal year and next.



THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS  
**RECOMMENDS**  
NOVEMBER 4, 2008 GENERAL ELECTION

**PROP 1 High-Speed Rail Bonds**

**SUPPORT**

This \$9.95 billion bond act would partially fund a high-speed rail project segment between Los Angeles and San Francisco. Federal grants and public-private partnerships would be needed to fund the remainder of the total project cost (\$40 billion, including additional segments). Providing a transportation option that reduces greenhouse gas emissions and lessens the need to expand highways and airports is worthwhile. The high cost and financial uncertainties pose a problem. Legislation to require a new business plan, peer review, and other accountability provisions and to allow funding to be used for other segments was pending at the time of our review.

**PROP 3 Children's Hospital Bond Act**

**SUPPORT**

Proposition 3 authorizes \$980 million in bonds to fund children's hospitals. These regional centers provide specialized care for children with serious illnesses or injuries without regard to a family's ability to pay. They treat the majority of California's low-income children. Eighty percent of the proceeds would go to eight nonprofit children's hospitals and 20 percent to University of California children's hospitals. Prop 3 will address escalating construction costs and improve health care access for children who are indigent, uninsured, underinsured or eligible for government health programs.

**PROP 4 Waiting Period and Parental Notification before  
Termination of Minor's Pregnancy**

**OPPOSE**

Prop 4 requires a physician to notify the parent of a pregnant minor before performing an abortion. Mandatory notification laws may sound good but, in the real world, they put the health and safety of teens in danger. A frightened, pregnant teen who can't go to her parents may choose an unsafe, illegal abortion, or even contemplate suicide, instead of seeking the counseling and safe medical care she needs. Parents rightfully want to be involved in their teenagers' lives, but good family communication can't be imposed by government. California voters have rejected this proposal twice, but proponents have put it on the ballot again, adding more unreasonable provisions.

**PROP 5 Nonviolent Drug Offenses. Sentencing, Parole  
and Rehabilitation**

**SUPPORT**

Proposition 5 would require the state to expand treatment and rehabilitation for nonviolent drug offenders and parolees, and reduce the criminal consequences of nonviolent offenses. Additional costs of treatment would be offset by reductions in prison and parole operating costs, as well as in the need for capital outlay for prison facilities. The League's study of juvenile justice affirmed the need to give funding priority to prevention, early intervention and rehabilitation.

**PROP 6 Police and Law Enforcement Funding. Criminal  
Penalties and Laws (Runner Initiative)**

**OPPOSE**

This measure requires that nearly \$1 billion annually in state general funds be used for designated local law enforcement and probation programs. This will mean an increase of \$500 million a year for these programs and for operating prison and parole systems, and a \$500 million capital outlay for prison facilities. The League opposes the further restriction on the ongoing use of general funds. Harmful

policy changes in this initiative include prosecuting more 14-year-olds as adults and giving counties less flexibility in the use of drug and mental health funds for juveniles.

**PROP 7 Renewable Energy Generation**

**OPPOSE**

Proposition 7 requires all utilities, including government-owned utilities, to generate 50 percent of their power from renewable energy by 2025. While the League supports a renewable energy target, we feel this is too optimistic to be achieved, and well beyond the targets for implementing the landmark greenhouse-gas emissions reduction law, AB 32. Moreover, Prop 7 is poorly drafted. Experts say it will not achieve its stated goals and will actually disrupt the development of renewable power. It will force small renewable energy companies out of California's market and cause higher energy bills.

**PROP 8 Eliminates Right of Same-Sex Couples to Marry**

**OPPOSE**

This proposed limitation of marriage as only between a man and a woman infringes on the equal rights that should be available to all people. The California Supreme Court has concluded that there is a "fundamental constitutional right to form a family relationship." The League opposed Proposition 22 in 2000 and continues to oppose such limits on the basic civil rights that should be guaranteed to all Californians.

**PROP 9 Criminal Justice System. Victims' Rights. Parole**

**OPPOSE**

Proposition 9 would expand the legal rights of crime victims in various ways and could undo many of the rights of prisoners and parolees to due process and speedy parole revocation hearings. This initiative asks voters to support victims' rights that are already protected under state law and is unnecessary.

**PROP 10 Alternative Fuel Vehicles and Renewable Energy. Bonds**

**OPPOSE**

This measure would authorize the sale of \$5 billion in general obligation bonds to provide rebates to purchasers of certain high fuel economy and alternative fuel vehicles, and to fund grants and other incentives for technology development. The League favors the use of bonds to finance capital expenditures or the purchase of property for public purposes. The purposes of this bond are not an appropriate use for state-issued, bond-generated revenues.

**PROP 11 Redistricting Reform: California Voters FIRST Act**

**STRONG SUPPORT**

It is an inherent conflict of interest for legislators to draw their own districts to guarantee their reelection. Proposition 11 removes from the legislature the power to redraw district boundaries for the State Senate, Assembly and Board of Equalization after each census. Instead, it provides for the appointment of a 14-member independent citizens commission to perform this process, establishes clear criteria for how the boundaries shall be drawn, and requires an open and transparent process with due notice, public hearings, and no communications outside of the hearings. This measure will hold politicians accountable and help stop the gridlock in Sacramento that keeps pressing issues from being addressed.

Because League positions do not cover the issues in Proposition 2, Standards for Confining Farm Animals, and Proposition 12, Veterans' Bond Act of 2008, the LWVC is taking no stand on these measures.

7/24/08

**VOTE WITH THE LEAGUE ON NOVEMBER 4!**

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF CALIFORNIA ! 1107 9th Street, Suite 300 ! Sacramento, CA 95814  
916-442-7215/916-442-7362 Fax/888-870-VOTE Toll-free ! lwvc@lwvc.org ! [www.lwvc.org](http://www.lwvc.org)



**Saturday, October 18, 2008  
Noon 4 P.M.  
Tech Museum of Innovation in San Jose  
201 South First Market Street  
San Jose, CA 95113**

How can you help to make your home and garden more “green friendly”?

How can children help to reduce global warming?

Attend **Lets Go Green!** and explore up to 20 exhibits for children and families that will offer practical solutions to reduce your use of energy in your homes, gardens and transportation. This event includes demonstrations on home solar systems; tips on growing your own vegetables in small spaces; and how to make worm composting bins. The importance of wildlife habitat preservation will feature small live, touchable animals and insects. Many of the twenty exhibitors will have activities for children that raise awareness of greenhouse gases and ways to reduce our carbon footprint.

Join the League of Women Voters and its many sponsors in promoting sustainable practices for yourselves, the community and the earth.

This is a free event and does not require a Tech Museum admission ticket to attend.

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## **TOWN MEETING WITH SENATOR JOE SIMITIAN**

Wednesday, October 15, 2008

6:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.

Cupertino Community Hall, 10350 Torre Avenue  
(between City Hall and the Library)

Join State Senator Joe Simitian for a Town Hall meeting about issues of importance to you and your community. Joe will speak briefly about the outcomes of this year’s Legislative session and will answer questions from constituents. Light refreshments will be served after the event.

## LEAGUE NEWS

**National** – The League and coalition partners sent a letter to Senator Dianne Feinstein, Chair of the Committee on Rules and Administration, raising concerns about the Department of Veterans Affairs' new directive on voter registration activity in VA facilities calling the VA's directive an important but still inadequate step towards protecting the voting rights of veterans.

**State** – LWVC announced that Thea Brodtkin (LWV Los Angeles) has been appointed as the new Voter Service Director. Questions, suggestions, or concerns about election information, candidate forums, or other issues, can be directed to her at [voterservice@lwvc.org](mailto:voterservice@lwvc.org)

### League Websites

National [www.lwv.org](http://www.lwv.org)  
State [www.ca.lwv.org](http://www.ca.lwv.org)  
Bay Area [www.lwvba-ca.org](http://www.lwvba-ca.org)  
County [www.scc.ca.lwvnet.org](http://www.scc.ca.lwvnet.org)  
Local [www.cs.ca.lwvnet.org](http://www.cs.ca.lwvnet.org)

## YES ON MEASURE A

The Santa Clara County League of Women Voters' Board has taken a position of support for Measure A on the Nov. 4 ballot based on League positions supporting emergency preparedness, including adequate medical facilities, as part of national security, especially in times of natural disasters such as earthquakes or terrorist attacks.

Requiring a two-thirds vote for passage, Measure A would approve \$840 million in bonds, \$790 million of which is critical to Valley Medical Center meeting state mandates passed in 1994 to seismically retrofit older buildings by 2013. If they were closed, the remaining 250 beds could not keep open the burn and trauma centers, one of only two burn-trauma centers north of Los Angeles, serving both adults and children.

The closure of San Jose Medical Center's 302-bed hospital in 2004 has left a significant hole in the safety net of county-wide, medical facilities and has over-burdened Valley Medical Center. The remaining \$50 million from the bond measure would fund construction of an outpatient medical facility in downtown San Jose, to serve San Jose State University as well as San Jose City and South County residents.

According to a Sept. 8, 2008, San Jose Mercury News editorial urging passage of Measure A, the cost to property owners would be slightly less than \$14 per \$100,000 in assessed value, annually for 80 years.

Silicon Valley already has just 1.5 hospital beds per thousand population one of the lowest ratios in California and the nation. At the same time, Valley Medical Center's patient load has increased nearly 50 percent this decade.

There is no cure available for the valley to meet its future medical needs other than swallowing hard and passing Measure A on Nov. 4.

*LWV Los Altos-Mountain View Area*

## 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.

\_\_\_\_ \$60 Individual member

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_ \$90 Two members in a household

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_ Contribution \$ \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Checks made out to LWVCS are not tax deductible.

## CALENDAR

### October

- Wed 1 6:30-8:30 **Pros and Cons Presentation**  
Synopsis (Building 2)  
455 N Mary Ave, Sunnyvale
- Mon 6 7:00 pm **Board Meeting**  
Spiller's  
10371 Plum Tree Lane, Cupertino
- Mon 13 7:00-8:30 pm **Candidate Forum**  
15<sup>th</sup> Congressional District, Judge Dist 8  
Cupertino Community Hall,  
10350 Torre Ave, Cupertino
- Mon 20 7:00-8:30 pm **Candidate Forum**  
County Supervisor, District 3  
Sunnyvale Library  
665 W Olive Ave, Sunnyvale
- Sun 19 1:30-4:45 pm **Your Government Your Voice**  
Santa Clara Central Park Library  
2635 Homestead Road, Santa Clara

See insert for more **Pros and Cons presentations**

Save the Date – Mon. Nov. 17<sup>th</sup>, Professor Pamela Karlan speaks on  
“The Supreme Court: Political and Voting Regulations: How Might a  
National Popular Vote Effect the Country?”

Permission is granted to reprint any part of this newsletter with credit to the League of Women Voters of Cupertino-Sunnyvale.

THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS, a nonpartisan political organization, encourages the informed and active participation of citizens in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy.

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## WHO REPRESENTS YOU

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