



Voter of Southwest Santa Clara Valley



December, 2011

League of Women Voters

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December 10, 2011

Saturday, 5-8 P.M.

LWVSSCV

Holiday Party

Brookside Tennis Club

19127 Cox Avenue, Saratoga

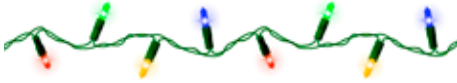


See page four for more information.



President's Letter

December... Winter Solstice...
Darkness ... Lights.....



As we move into this holiday season, with lights shining so brightly throughout our communities, I am reminded once again of Martin Luther King, Jr.'s profound wisdom, "Darkness cannot drive out darkness; only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate; only love can do that."

Regardless of religious persuasion, I believe the lights also symbolize a mind and attitude that the League of Women Voters embodies and promotes. We shine the light by providing information, by being open and tolerant of different opinions, by studying issues and developing policy statements, and, by helping to promote citizenship for a strong democracy. Our recently-held and very well attended, program event on The Changing Face of Local News highlighted how we work to enlighten our citizenry about changing technologies which impact our knowledge of current local, state, national and international events.

We are living in a time of great civil unrest throughout the world and in our own country as shown by the growing Anti-War Movement and the Occupy Wall Street Movement. Whether we agree with these movements or not, it is certainly significant that so many of our citizens have taken to the streets to protest against violence, economic greed and injustice. They are shedding light on incredible social problems — homelessness, poverty, unemployment — facing so many of our

citizens. The need for civil discourse is needed more than ever! The need for light is great!

The League also shines the light by celebrating what it has accomplished for women in our country and by standing with our sisters throughout the world as they fight for the same rights, justice, and respect.

Recently, *Women, War & Peace*, a bold new PBS mini-series challenging the conventional wisdom about war and peace, aired and shed light on strong women who are fighting for peace and justice. *Women, War & Peace* places women at the center of an urgent dialogue about conflict and security and reframes our understanding of modern warfare.

The series reveals how the post-Cold War proliferation of small arms has changed the landscape of war, with women becoming primary targets and suffering unprecedented casualties. Simultaneously, they are emerging as necessary partners in brokering a lasting peace and as leaders in forging new international laws governing conflict.

Episodes include: *I Came to Testify, Peace Unveiled, The War We Are Living*, and the capstone, *War Redefined*, which challenges the conventional wisdom that war and peace are men's domain through incisive interviews with leading thinkers, Secretaries of State, and seasoned survivors of war and peace-making.

I believe Light symbolizes the Divine spark in each of us. We all have the power to illuminate a relationship, a room, a town, a state, a country, or the world. I hope this column encourages you to continue your work with the League to shine your light and to know, as Fred Rogers, a.k.a. "Mister Roberts," so wisely taught us: "All I know to do is... to light the candle that has been given to me."

Happy Holidays to all and a Peaceful, Happy, Healthy and Light-filled 2012! I'm looking forward to seeing all of you, our members and guests, at our Holiday Party on Saturday, December 10 at the Brookside Tennis Club from 5:00 P.M. to 8:00 P.M.

Eleanor Yick, President LWVSSCV
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2011-2012 Board of Directors

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First VP – Administration, Dale Hill
Second VP – Program, Shirley Hill
Third VP – Membership, Jane Ellis
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Meg Giberson
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2011-2012 Elected Officials

United States

President Barack Obama
(202) 456-1414

www.whitehouse.gov

Senator Feinstein
(415) 393-0707

<http://www.feinstein.senate.gov>

Senator Boxer
(415) 403-0100

<http://boxer.senate.gov>

Rep. Anna Eshoo
(650) 323-2984

<http://eshoo.house.gov>

Rep. Mike Honda
(408) 558-8085

<http://honda.house.gov>

California

Governor Jerry Brown
(916) 445-2841

<http://gov.ca.gov>

Senator Joe Simitian
(650) 688-6384

www.senatorsimitian.com

Senator Sam Blakeslee
(805) 549-3784

<http://cssrc.us/web/15>

Assemblyman Rich Gordon
(650) 691-2121

<http://asmcd.org/members/a21/>

Assemblyman Jim Beall, Jr.
(408) 282-8920

www.jimbeall.com

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Supervisor Ken Yeager
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LWVC Guide to Government

Locate your elected officials by your street address:

<http://www.guidetogov.org/>

Board Bytes

Board Meeting of November. 2, 2011

- Treasurer Gorrell reported October 31 balance of \$20,603.12.

- President Yick noted LWVUS

was protesting the proposed oil pipeline from Canada to the Texas Gulf. Dale Hill was appointed to the Budget Committee.

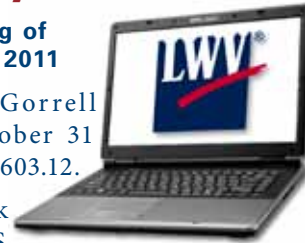
- The Board approved Carol Petersen's write-up of our League's response to the LWVUS consensus questions on the role of the Federal Government in Public Education. It will be sent to the LWVUS for policy setting.

- Nancy Hobbs reported that the Santa Clara Valley Water District is proposing a parcel tax for November 2012 to succeed the one expiring in 2016. The District is divided on support for a tunnel versus fixing levees to export Delta water to state users. Santa Clara County uses over 40% of Delta Water. Clean Safe Creeks is seeking federal and state dollars for aid.

- Josei Geisen publicized the November Local News program to the journalism club and Barbara Lea publicized to the language arts and political science instructors at West Valley College. Consequently, we had a great turn out of political science students.

A county proposal was made and approval given for consistently listing Smart Voter in our newsletter.

- The Initiative and Referendum Study will not be required until 2013.



The Board will continue to poll for interested participants.

- Jane Ellis is organizing the helpers for the Holiday Party December 10. The Board wants to encourage potential members to attend the party. There was discussion on setting up smaller meetings for socializing with potential new members to learn and inquire about the League.

- Shirley Hill polled the Board on their preferences and suggestions for future programs. Her committee will look at the results and be meeting to plan for 2012 programs.

- Voter Editor Nelson noted suggestions by members for shorter articles. These are being considered.

- Bay Area Rep Meg Giberson said that Orange County had been recycling its own water for 30 years. Regarding open public meetings, some cities are adopting sunshine ordinances. Four regional agencies (MTC, ABAG, BCDC and BAAQMD) have formed a Joint Policy Committee to consider issues such as jobs, energy saving, adapting to sea level changes, and resilience to natural disasters. A Sustainable Communities Strategy has goals of reducing miles traveled and reducing greenhouse gas emissions and may embrace the JPC goals, too.

- Observers Chair Raquel Durand noted Campbell is looking to put ashtrays outside in public venues for smokers to prevent trashy throwaways. Saratoga and Monte Sereno want better white lines on highways for protection of bike riders.

Marge Bunyard, Secretary

Along with other Leagues in the county, we're going to be displaying the Smart Voter icon in our newsletter and on our web sites.

Smart Voter is one of the most comprehensive and reliable sources of unbiased information for voters on the Web. The service is made available to the public through



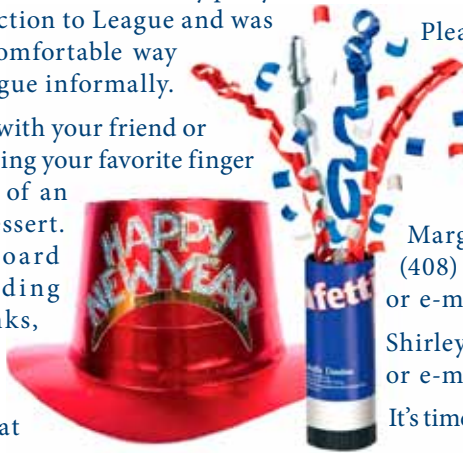
partnerships with the League of Women Voters and election officials of various states and local communities around the U.S. <http://www.smartvoter.org/>

LWVSSCV Holiday Party

The holiday season has arrived! It's time for our League's annual Holiday Party on December 10 from 5:00 to 8:00P.M. This is an annual event for all members to get together to meet and chat with old friends and new ones. It's a cheerful time to bring along friend and prospective members to introduce them to the League. As the editor of this newsletter, the holiday party was my introduction to League and was a welcoming, comfortable way to meet the League informally.

Besides coming with your friend or spouse, please bring your favorite finger food consisting of an appetizer or dessert. The League board will be providing wine, soft drinks, coffee and tea.

This year's event will be at



the Brookside Tennis Club, 19127 Cox Avenue, Saratoga. To get there from Saratoga Avenue turn west (right) on Cox. Driving past residences, right after Saratoga Creek Drive on the right, look for the Tennis Club sign indicating a private road. Follow that road to the parking lot for the Club. If you see Homes Avenue on the right, you've gone too far.

Please R.S.V.P. by December 5 with the number of people attending, so the committee can plan appropriately. Call or e-mail:

Marge Bunyard, at (408) 255-3594 or e-mail gmbun@pacbell

Shirley Hill, at (408) 356-4460 or e-mail shilca@aol.com

It's time to PARTY! All are welcome.

SCVWD Special Board Meeting

Sue Graham from the Mt. View/Los Altos League submitted these notes from the Santa Clara Valley Water District (SCVWD) Special Board Meeting on November 15, 2011.

Item 2.1 on the agenda was a discussion of a fluoridation policy. After one and a half hours of input from the public, the Board voted to adopt the following policy:

Provide fluoridated drinking water at the District's three water treatment plants and the Campbell well field.

According to Chair Gage, this will allow those who are in favor of fluoridating the water to proceed to find funding.

The Board pointed out that the District has huge problems facing it in the future: dam seismic retrofit, the Delta uncertainty and population growth. These major issues will consume the District's resources and funds. There are no extra funds to pay for fluoridation; so outside funding must be found, not only for the capital cost to install the fluoridation equipment, but also for ongoing operations and maintenance. The CEO was asked to find options for outside funding.

The Board voted to create an Ad Hoc Committee to work with the staff to find outside funding. In order not to slow down their work, staff will begin exploring funding options; and when the committee is formed, information will be available. Director Schmidt voted against the committee as he thinks it is premature.

Item 9.6 on the agenda was a discussion of an audit of the Clean, Safe Creeks Program. The Clean, Safe Creeks Program was created by a parcel tax passed in 2000 for a duration of 15 years. The parcel tax generated \$32.9 million in 2009-2010; a total of \$259 million has been collected since the program started. An Independent Monitoring Committee (IMC) was formed to review the implementation of the intended results of the program. The League is represented by Nancy Hobbs.

A concern that has been raised by the IMC is whether the Water District has made reasonable progress toward meeting the outcomes of the program. This, in and of itself, is important, but it becomes more so as the Water District plans to

LWV Program Planning Meeting

With the holiday season coming up, you are going to be very busy. But let's remember, the most important meeting for League members is the upcoming Program Planning Meeting, scheduled for Thursday, January 12, 2012, from 10 A.M. to 2 P.M. at the Saratoga Federated Church. Mark your calendar now.

Our annual Program Planning Meeting is vitally important because it's the time when all League members get together to decide what issues are most important for us to emphasize, with forums, studies and/or advocacy for the coming year. This is the meeting where all members have an opportunity to express what issue they deem most critical for study for League policy making.

Each one of us joined the League because we felt a passion for a particular issue, and wanted very much to do something about it. Perhaps it is job equality for women, the funding of our local schools, where commercial zoning should or should not be, or many other subjects dear to our hearts. This is your opportunity to make known what you believe ought to be really important to our League.

All League members are encouraged to participate and add your voice to the process. We will be discussing positions that the League currently holds at local, county, Bay Area, state, and National League levels. Also, as a group, we will also decide on new areas of concern proposed for new League studies. Plan to share your passion with us as we plan our next League's emphases for next year.



Patty Weber, Program Planning Committee

put another bond on the ballot in November, 2012. Many years ago, the Santa Clara County Leagues of Women Voters, under Chair Pat Khan, was the first listed as a signer in favor of Measure B under the argument in favor. Surely, we will be asked to support a new bond measure in 2012.

LWVUS Study on Privatization Begins

At the LWVUS 2010 Convention, delegates voted to undertake a National Study of Privatization. The purpose of this study is to identify those parameters and policy issues to be considered in connection with proposals to transfer federal, state or local government services, assets and/or functions to the private sector. The study will review the stated goals and the community impact of such transfers and identify strategies to ensure transparency, accountability, and preservation of the common good. Again, the intent of the study to identify parameters and policy issues.

The study committee will be chaired by Eleanor Yick, facilitator; Patty Weber, scribe, who will write or submit articles for the *Voter*; and Shirley Hill, logistics and scheduling. We are hoping many of our members will participate with this very important study committee.

The first organizational meeting of the study committee is scheduled for Wednesday, December 14, 1:30 P.M. at the Saratoga Library. Please come to learn more about the scope, the suggested and/or provided readings, time line, and consensus questions. Please confirm your attendance and participation on this committee to one of the tri-chairs.

Eleanor Yick, President LWVSSCV

LWV No on Balanced Budget Amendment

The League of Women Voters joined with 277 organizations in a letter to members of the House and Senate opposing passage of a so-called Balanced Budget Amendment to the Constitution. The League has long opposed the balanced budget amendment as a danger to the economy and the balance of powers between the three branches of government. The full text of this letter can be accessed at: http://www.lwv.org/AM/Template.cfm?Section=Take_Action&TEMPLATE=/CM/ContentDisplay.cfm&CONTENTID=18027

2012 Bay Area League Day

Housing and the Bay Area's Future

Saturday, February 4

9A.M. to 2P.M.

MetroCenter, 101 Eighth Street
Oakland, 94607

This event is presented by the League of Women Voters Bay Area. The keynote speaker will be David Rosen, a leading expert in the field of affordable housing finance policy, land use, lending and investment strategic planning. There will be panels of experts on:

- meeting regional housing needs in light of the sustainable communities strategy,
- difficulties of financing affordable housing, and
- how to serve the hardest to house.

There will be plenty of time for questions from the audience during each panel.

The MetroCenter is one block from the Lake Merritt BART station. Cost in advance is \$30 or \$15 without lunch; at the door, it will be \$35 or \$20 without lunch.

To register please write a check payable to LWVBA. Include your name and any guest names; mail to LWVBA, 1611 Telegraph Avenue, Suite 300, Oakland, CA 94612. Registration is also available online through January 27 via PayPal at: www.lwvbayarea.org. For more details, call (510) 839-1608 or send an e-mail to editor@bayareamonitor.org.

DISCLOSE Act Kickoff

Support disclosure in political ads! Hear from Assembly member Rich Gordon and other legislators about the importance of passing AB 1148, the California Disclose Act.

Saturday, January 7, 2 to 4 P.M.

Unitarian Universalist Church
505 E. Charleston,
Palo Alto, 94306

Presented by California Clean Money Campaign, Palo Alto League and many sponsors. For more information and to RSVP, contact Nancy Neff, 858-2436.

Lillian Nerenberg

She was a teacher, author, and attorney. Lillian Nerenberg died on November 2 in Los Gatos. She was a Charter Member and a 50-Year Member of the Southwest



Santa Clara Valley League of Women Voters and an Honorary Lifetime Member of the American Association of University Women.

Coauthor of a high school text, *American Government in Action*, Lillian started law school at age 54, completing the

University of Santa Clara program in four years while continuing her 25-year career teaching Political Science at West Valley College. As a Charter Member of the California State Bar, she spent her entire legal career doing pro bono work for Senior Adult Legal Assistance.

Barbara Lea

Campbell Council

September 20, 2011

An ordinance to amend the existing firearms regulations was postponed to the next council meeting.

There was discussion regarding a Tobacco Retailer Permit to allow smoking in outdoor areas. Eight speakers were opposed to any smoking being allowed; two were in favor of freedom of choice. Roll call of council showed most questioned the enforceability of such a restriction, especially in parks. The discussion evolved toward the logic of allowing ash trays in parks. Ash trays being allowed in parks won over having cigarettes strewn on the ground.

The local Campbell businesses were polled for their opinions; only two responded. A motion was passed and seconded that the staff update the *Municipal Code* to issue a Tobacco Retailer Permit Program. Margaret Rezowalli, Observer

Saying Goodbye to Renate Lytle



Hostess Dale Hill and Renate Lytle



Margaret Rezowalli, Clip 'n Come Chair

Clip n' Come

Our gatherings have been well attended of late. Our Clip 'n Come chair, Margaret Rezowalli, requests a reminder to let the hostess know you will be attending in advance. The hostess really needs to know how many coffee cups to set out. Last month's Clip 'n Come at Dale Hill's home had a special event that was toasted with a special German wine. Fourteen

of our members gave Renate Lytle an emotional farewell as she told us about her plans to leave very soon for her new home near St. Louis where her daughter lives. We had the usual good lunch, with a special chocolate cake, and very interesting discussions—but the big event was saying goodbye to our wonderful member Renate.

Silicon Valley Reads

Presented by the Santa Clara County Office of Education, the Santa Clara County Library, and the San Jose Public Library Foundation, Silicon Valley Reads is designed to promote reading and literacy, to foster appreciation of good literature, and to build community. Our league, along with others, has agreed to be one of their community partners advertising these events.

"2012 is the 10th anniversary of **Silicon Valley Reads**, and we are celebrating with a special provocative theme—Muslim and American: Two Perspectives. We are asking everyone in Santa Clara County to read one or both of our featured books: *The Muslim Next Door* by Sumbul Ali-Karamali or *The Butterfly Mosque* by G. Willow Wilson. Companion books for children of all ages will also be publicized." During January through April, about 75 free community programs will be presented throughout the region.

- The initial kick-off program for this community event will take place on January 25, 2012 at the Campbell Heritage Theater at 7:30 P.M. The authors will be present for conversation, questions and answers.

- Another event that might be of interest to the League of Women Voters will be held on Tuesday, April 3, at 7 P.M. at the Jewish Community Center in Los Gatos. The title is *Paranoid Politics Islamophobia, McCarthyism and the Yellow Peril*.

"Muslims are not the first group in America to be targeted by paranoid people who are afraid and looking for someone to blame. This panel discussion will cover three periods in U.S. history when groups who are "different"—Muslims since 9/11, Jews during the McCarthy Communist witch hunts, and Asians during World War II—were persecuted in politics and the media. Panelists include Wajahat Ali, a writer for Center for American Progress, Congressman Mike Honda, and Dr. Larry Gerston, emeritus professor at San Jose State University and political analyst for NBC11. This event is cosponsored by Islamic Networks Group, the Jewish Community Relations Council, and Asian Americans for Community."

Visit <http://www.siliconvalleyreads.org/2012-13/>

Submitted by President Yick, LWVSSCV

Event Video

If you missed the October panel on **The Role of the Federal Government in Public Education: Whose Job Is It**, you missed a wonderful opportunity to hear four distinguished and articulate education experts discuss the federal government's impact on education in Santa Clara county. Dr. Chuck Weis, Santa Clara County Superintendent, was the special guest for this discussion. Luckily, the County Office of Education (COE) has uploaded a film of the event to their website so now you can watch it in the comfort of your own home. Go to the COE website at <http://www.sccoe.org/>. You will find the video under their Highlights section.

Coming of Age

In the coming years, more than 70 million people will be retiring from full-time work and seeking meaningful ways to connect and contribute in their communities. Is your organization ready to harness this powerful force?

Several League leaders have attended a two-day training session which provides tools to help organizations do more with less. They got ideas on how to:

- Craft compelling opportunities-volunteer or paid
- Publicize & market those opportunities and recruit skilled candidates
- Get the best from an inter-generational workforce
- Revitalize a volunteer program and create a doable, outcomes-driven action plan.

Where will your road take you? Coming of Age offers an array of programs to explore possibilities, impact communities, connect with others, and chart pathways to a fulfilling, engaged future.

Visit and explore the Coming of Age Bay Area web site for opportunities and events at: www.ComingofAge.org/BayArea or call toll-free (888) 308-1767 for more information.

Marion Taylor, President, LWVBA



Keystone XL Pipeline Project

Decision to Seek Additional Information

Thanks to the on-going, grass roots actions of many citizens, including many LWV members, on November 10, the State Department announced that as part of its ongoing review process, it will seek additional information about this proposal. From the State Department's announcement:

"After obtaining the additional information, the Department would determine, in consultation with the eight other agencies identified in the Executive Order, whether the proposed pipeline was in the national interest, considering all of the relevant issues together. Among the relevant issues that would be considered are environmental concerns (including climate change), energy security, economic impacts, and foreign policy."

On the same day, November 10, President Obama released the following statement:

"I support the State Department's announcement today regarding the need to seek additional information about the Keystone XL Pipeline proposal. Because this permit decision could affect the health and safety of the American people as well as the environment, and because a number of concerns have been raised through a public process, we should take the time to ensure that all questions are properly addressed and all the potential impacts are properly understood. The final decision should be guided by an open, transparent process that is informed by the best available science and the voices of the American people. At the same time, my administration will build on the unprecedented progress we've made towards strengthening our nation's energy security, from responsibly expanding domestic oil and gas production to nearly doubling the fuel efficiency of our cars and trucks, to continued progress in the development of a clean energy economy."

Kudos to League members and fellow citizens across the US who brought this issue to the public's attention!!

LWVC Bay Delta Concerns

November 15, 2011

Dear Secretary Salazar and Secretary Laird:

The League of Women Voters of California (LWVC) is concerned that the first amendment to the BDCP MOA, which was recently executed by federal and state government agencies, many contractors to the State Water Project, and the federal Central Valley Project, was not negotiated in an open and transparent manner. We are pleased that U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (USBR) and the California Natural Resources Agency-Department of Water Resources (DWR) will accept public comments, submitted by November 16, 2011, on this document.

Moreover, the LWVC is supportive of the co-equal goals—to create a more reliable water supply for the state and to restore the Delta ecosystem. As stated by the Blue Ribbon Task Force 1, one goal cannot be achieved without the other. However, in advancing the goal of water supply, the BDCP MOA jeopardizes restoration of the Bay Delta. Among our other concerns are:

- Delta Flow Criteria: The state has not yet developed flow criteria that balance flows needed to protect the Delta ecosystem with flows that can be safely exported. Nor does the BDCP MOA identify a process to establish

this balance. Rather, the BDCP MOA will make resolution of this issue even more difficult, given the timing and the influence it grants to the state and federal contractors.

- Financing for additional conveyances as well as Bay Delta restoration: The BDCP MOA does not address the need for an overall financing strategy for achieving the coequal goals.
- Process: The first amendment to the BDCP MOA grants inappropriate influence to the contractors. We are concerned that the contractors' early reviews of drafts—before release to the public—may bias the environmental studies. Furthermore, we are concerned that the contractors' control of documents may bias preparation of responses to public comment.

We urge you to take steps to develop a credible and balanced plan that will achieve both co-equal goals, and to take these steps in an open and transparent manner.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this important development.

Sincerely,

1 Delta Vision Strategic Plan, submitted to Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger by the Blue Ribbon Task Force, October 2008 (www.deltavision.ca.gov).

Jennifer A. Waggoner President

Supreme Court Upholds District Maps

Judicial Council of California Administrative Office of the Courts, Media release of October 26, 2011

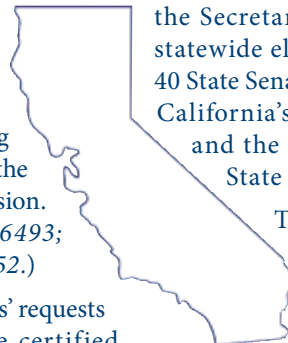
San Francisco—The California Supreme Court today unanimously denied two pending petitions for writs of mandate that challenged the validity of the state Senate and congressional redistricting maps that have been certified by the Citizens Redistricting Commission. (*Vandermost v. Bowen*, S196493; *Radanovich v. Bowen*, S196852.)

The court also denied petitioners' requests for an emergency stay of the certified

maps. All seven justices participated in the court's action.

On August 15, 2011, the Citizens Redistricting Commission certified to the Secretary of State all four required statewide electoral maps—covering the 40 State Senate and 80 Assembly districts, California's 53 congressional districts, and the 4 districts of the California State Board of Equalization.

The petitions for writs of mandate filed in the Supreme Court challenged only the state Senate and congressional districts.



Jobs with Water Upgrades

Last week, the Oakland-based nonprofit, Green for All, released a new report entitled *Water Works: Rebuilding Infrastructure, Creating Jobs, Greening the Environment*. Produced in collaboration with American Rivers, the Economic Policy Institute and the Pacific Institute, it outlines a plan for creating 1.9 million jobs and adding \$265 billion to the economy. This plan would require an investment in water infrastructure of \$188.4 billion, an amount the Environmental Protection Agency believes is necessary to manage storm water and preserve water quality.

To examine the topic further, the Pacific Institute is conducting a comprehensive scoping analysis of the green jobs potential in the water sector. This project is expected to be completed in the fall of 2012.

For more on green jobs, read “Will Green Jobs Ever Pay Off?” in the latest issue of the Monitor.

Alec MacDonald, Editor, Bay Area Monitor

The SAFE Act

Join us in supporting the *Savings, Accountability and Full Enforcement Act* (SAFE) for a California signature gathering campaign, an initiative in circulation to collect the necessary signatures to qualify for the ballot. Sign up to receive e-mail alerts, make a donation, and find more ways to get involved on the campaign site.

This initiative would stop executions and replace the death penalty with permanent imprisonment (life without the possibility of parole), including the conversion of existing death sentences to that alternative.

Some of the savings created by no longer seeking and imposing death sentences would be used to bolster the capacity of law enforcement to solve the serious crimes of rape and homicide. Visit the California Taxpayers for Justice campaign site to learn more at <http://www.safecalifornia.org/>

LWV President Before US House Judiciary

On Monday, November 14 the President League of Women Voters of the United States, Elisabeth MacNamara, presented a statement before the House Judiciary Committee. Hosted by Representative John Conyers, the forum was entitled Excluded From Democracy: The Impact of Recent State Voting Changes.

“The League has been fighting for equal access to the polls since our inception 91 years ago, when our organization was formed by those who successfully fought to gain the right to vote for women. ...These new laws threaten to silence the voices of those least heard and rarely listened to in this country—the poor, the elderly, racial and ethnic minorities, the young and the differently abled. ...This assault on voters is sweeping across the country, state by state, and is one of the greatest self-inflicted threats to our democracy—our way of governing—in our lifetimes.”

With many examples of the draconian-type laws being passed in different states and the effects of their injustice on voters, President MacNamara recited a recent

study by the Brennan Center. This study, *Voting Law Changes in 2012*, showed that as many as five million eligible voters could be disenfranchised in the next year alone. “...we are also concerned about the fiscal impact of these new government programs on the cash-strapped states.”

President MacNamara requested that pressure be put on the justice department to deny pre-clearance of these laws using the Voting Rights Act. She also requested an investigation on the intentions as voter suppression, their repeal and a continuing investigation on their impact on citizens rights to vote.

“Now is the time to act. We must work together to repeal these unjust and prejudicial laws and implement new laws that will lower the barriers to voting and ensure that every eligible citizen will have the ability to vote and have their votes counted.”

Read the full text at: <http://www.lwv.org/AM/Template.cfm?Template=/CM/ContentDisplay.cfm&ContentID=18022>

Summary by
Cherri Nelson, Voter Editor

California Hits Solar Power Milestone

As California reaches the milestone of cumulatively installing one gigawatt worth of rooftop solar power across the state, Environment California Research & Policy Center announced today that it expects two more gigawatts will come online by 2016. In releasing the report, *Building a Brighter Future: California's Progress Toward a Million Solar Roofs*, the nonprofit organization noted that only five countries in the world have installed one gigawatt of solar power thus far.

The report tracks the progress of the Million Solar Roofs Initiative, launched in 2006 through passage of Senate Bill 1 (Murray). Report findings include:

- California's solar market has been expanding by roughly 40 percent per year.
- Since 2007, California has installed nearly 800 megawatts of solar photovoltaic power.
- About 20 percent of all U.S. solar power companies are located in California, accounting for more than 3,500 firms and 25,000 employees.
- The National Renewable Energy Laboratory estimates that California could host more than 80,000 megawatts of rooftop solar capacity, enough to generate more than a third as much electricity as the state uses in a year.

Alec MacDonald, Editor, Bay Area Monitor

December Calendar 2011

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7 LWV Board Meeting 10A.M.	8 Clip N' Come Noon	9	10 LWVSSCV 5 to 8P.M.
11	12	13	14 Privatization Study Kickoff Meeting 1:30P.M.	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

Join the League of Women Voters

Name: _____ Date: _____

Membership Renewal: New Member: Check# _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Telephone, Day: _____

Telephone, Evening: _____

E-mail: _____

Mail this coupon with your dues to:
 The League of Women Voters
 Southwest Santa Clara Valley
 PO Box 2865
 Saratoga, CA 95070-0865

\$ _____ Individual \$70.00
 \$ _____ Household \$105.00
 \$ _____ Student \$30.00
 \$ _____ Donation to LWVSSCV Education Fund (to be a separate check)
 \$ _____ **Total Enclosed**

Membership year is from 07/01-06/30

Dues and contributions to the League are not tax deductible. Contributions to the Education Fund are deductible to the extent allowed by law. Joining at the local level makes you a member at all levels: County, Bay Area, State, and National. Financial assistance is available; please address questions regarding membership to Jane Ellis at: jce218@sbcglobal.net, phone 408 374-0741, or 408 867-VOTE (8683).

❧ Event Details ❧

Dec.	7	Wed	Board Meeting , 10:00 A.M. Saratoga Fire Station
Dec.	8	Thu	Clip 'n Come , Noon, Bring Salad/Food & Clipping to Share Marilyn Bueltman's home, 2007 Merribrook Drive, Saratoga Call (408) 356-7679 Please let hostess know you will be coming.
Dec.	10	Sat	Holiday Party , 5–8 P.M. Brookside Tennis Club, Saratoga Please bring an appetizer or dessert to share.
Dec.	14	Wed	Privatization Kickoff , 1:30 P.M. Saratoga Library

❧ Save the Date ❧

Jan.	7	Sat	DISCLOSE Act Advocacy Meeting , 2 P.M. Unitarian Universalist Church, Palo Alto
Jan.	12	Thu	Program Planning Meeting, 10 A.M. Saratoga Federated Church
Jan.	25	Wed	Silicon Valley Reads Kickoff, 7:30 P.M., Campbell Heritage Theater
Feb.	4	Sat	Bay Area League Day , Metro Center, Oakland
Feb.	25	Sat	2012 LWV Northern California Regional Conference 9:30 A.M., Martin Luther King, Jr. Library, San Jose