



Voter of Southwest Santa Clara Valley



January, 2012

League of Women Voters

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Program Planning "Souper" Lunch

What Should the League Study at the Local, County, Bay Area, and National Levels?



Saratoga Federated Church 20390 Park Place, Saratoga

Thursday January 12
9:30 A.M. - 2:00 P.M.

See page 5 for more information.



President's Letter

A famous saying from the movie, *The Field of Dreams*, goes something like: "If you build it, they will come." I think the same could be said about our Holiday Party held at the Brookside Tennis Club on December 10. "Our planning team scheduled it, organized it, and many came!" It was wonderful to see so many of you—we estimate about 40 were in attendance—and to now be able to put a face to the many names I have heard mentioned since becoming President. It was a good night. Special thanks to Shirley Hill, Jane Ellis, Michelle Shimada, Carol Petersen, Joan Sarlo, Dori Epstein, Al & Anne Stewart, Marge Bunyard, and Terry Cabrinha for all their hard work before, during and after the event. Events like this don't just happen—they require a lot of work and attention to detail!! And, thank you to everyone who brought the delicious goodies—there was plenty to eat and drink!!

As I sit here at my computer writing this column, it sure seems strange to be wishing everyone a Happy and Healthy New Year while it is still only mid-December. But, the Voter must be printed and delivered by early January! Very important, detailed information is included and we need you to bring this issue with you to the Program Planning event in January.

Our Program Planning Meeting is scheduled for Thursday, January 12, 2012 at the Saratoga Federated Church located in Saratoga from 9:30A.M. to 2:00P.M. (See details on pages 5.) We hope that many members will be able to attend and actively participate.

As we embark on the very important Program Planning Process, I reflect on the reasons why I joined the League and how I see our mission:

L = Leadership of women and in our community

E = Education of ourselves and others—forums, candidate and panels

A = Action for a cause—forums, voter registration, etc.

G = Grow our league—members and presence in the community

U = Unified for a common purpose—the betterment of all communities worldwide through informed citizenry

E = Empower through the use of technology and innovations

As preparation for the Program Planning Process, I also thought it would be helpful to review the principles that guide our organization. Although available on our website, they are also printed here for everyone's convenience.

Vision, Beliefs, and Intentions

I. The goal of the League of Women Voters is to empower citizens to shape better communities worldwide.

II. The League of Women Voters is a nonpartisan political membership organization which

- acts after study and member agreements to achieve solutions in the public interest on key community issues at all government levels
- builds citizen participation in the democratic process
- engages communities in promoting positive solutions to public policy issues through education and advocacy

III. The League of Women Voters Education Fund is a nonpartisan public policy educational organization which

- builds citizen participation in the democratic process
- studies key community issues at all governmental levels in an unbiased manner
- enables people to seek positive solutions to public policy issues through education and conflict management

IV. We believe in

- respect for individuals
- the value of diversity

Continued on next page.

2011-2012 Board of Directors

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President, Eleanor Yick

First VP – Administration, Dale Hill

Second VP – Program, Shirley Hill

Third VP – Membership, Jane Ellis

Secretary, Marge Bunyard

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Meg Giberson

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Voters Service Coordinator
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Santa Clara County Council Chair
Margaret Bard

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Voters Service

Candidate Forums, Josie Geisen
Pros & Cons, Carol Petersen
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Web Page Co-Chairs

Barbara Lea & Sharon Snyder

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

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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://asmdc.org/members/a21/>

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

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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: Marge Gorrell will be out for surgery in early January. Dale Hill will fill in for her until she returns. Pat Khan will review our books, with the year end publication in next month's issue.



LWV & Moscow: Carol Petersen, Eleanor Yick, and LWV presidents met with a delegation from Moscow. Due to enthusiastic interest, they helped them understand redistricting and how Voters Service and Pros & Cons worked in the League.

Los Gatos New Library: The Board voted to use Helga Ruby funds to pay for a LWV plaque with our name on it as a donation in honor of the February 11 opening.

League Acronym: After short discussion, it was decided that initials for our League's name will officially be LWVSWSCV.

Bay Area League Day: will be on February 4 with a new location. The theme will be "housing". See page 5 in this *Voter*.

Death Penalty: LWV California is collecting signatures for a ballot measure to stop the death penalty in California. President

Yick will bring a petition to the next board meeting for signatures. See page 4 for LWV California's position.

LWV Northern California Regional Conference: Will be February 25 at Martin Luther King Library in San Jose. LWV SJ is hosting and seeking volunteers. There will be a speaker on the issue of privatization. More details in next months *Voter's*.

Privatization Study: First meeting was on December 14. Shirley Hill, Eleanor Yick and Patty Weber are tri-chairs. See page 4 for further details.

Voters Service: Geisen will clarify upcoming issues on the ballot as well as boundaries and changing candidates resulting from the redistricting process.

Water District: Since the district is considering a new parcel tax for the ballot, it was proposed that our Board send a letter requesting details on how they spent the last parcel tax revenue.

Observers: Raquel Durand reported that three cities are looking at what should be done with the La Hacienda Inn site as it is redeveloped. She noted that Los Gatos is projecting a 2012 \$4M deficit. Marge Bunyard, Secretary

President's Letter (Cont.)

- empowerment of the grassroots, both within the League and in communities
- V. We will
- act with trust, integrity and professionalism
 - operate in an open and effective manner to meet the needs of those we serve, both members and the public
 - take the initiative in seeking diversity in membership
 - acknowledge our heritage as we seek our path to the future

These are very powerful statements and beliefs! Let us remember them as we do our Program Planning for the year ahead so that we do realize our over arching goal, which is to empower citizens to shape better communities at the local, county, Bay Area, and National levels... as well as worldwide.

Eleanor Yick, President LWVSWSCV
(408) 354-7473, egyick@me.com

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/>

Observers, Monte Sereno

After four community meetings, the Monte Sereno City Council decided, by a vote of four to one, to look into annexing the La Hacienda property to satisfy the state mandate that the town provide a variety of types of housing. The La Hacienda site was the one most favored for this purpose by the community members who spoke at the meetings or wrote to the Council. The town officials clarified that the

state mandate only requires that land be designated for higher density housing, such as multi-family dwellings, but does not mandate that these units be built within any time frame. It was also pointed out that this mandate does not mean low-income or below-market-rate housing.

Raquel Durand, Observers

SAFE Act Signature Campaign

Join us in supporting the SAFE California Act, an initiative in circulation to collect the necessary signatures to qualify for the ballot. Sign up for email 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 in California 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 details at: <http://www.safecalifornia.org>.

Privatization Study

At the LWVUS 2010 Convention, delegates voted to undertake a National Study on 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. It will review the stated goals and the community impact of such transfers. The intent of the study is not to agree or disagree with privatization, per se, but rather to identify strategies to ensure transparency, accountability, and preservation of the common good.

The study committee will be tri-chaired by Eleanor Yick, facilitator; Patty Weber, scribe who will write or submit articles for the *Voter*; and, Shirley Hill, logistics and scheduling. The first organizational meeting of the study committee took place in December, but members can still choose to participate. Please come to our next meeting on Monday, January 9 at 1:30 P.M. at Dale Hill's house to learn more about the scope, the suggested and/or provided readings, and the time line. A few sets of the reading materials published thus far and needed for the study are still available and can be mailed to you, if you call or email. Otherwise they can be accessed online thru the national website at: <http://www.lwv.org/member-resources/privatization> or even easier on this website set up by another league in Virginia: http://www.lwvmcva.org/PrivatizationStudy/?page_id=75.

For the January 9 meeting at Dale Hill's, we will be discussing the five short articles provided by National—each only two pages long—and the main article called *The Legal Framework of Transparency and Accountability Within the Context of Privatization*.

For your convenience, future meeting dates have been set up for January 27 also at 1:30 P.M. at Dale Hill's house; our League's February Privatization Program Event February 13; and, the Northern CA Regional Conference in San Jose on February 25. Please join our small but mighty group as we tackle this very complex and important subject. Please let one of our tri-chairs, Eleanor Yick:

Great Decisions 2012

Great Decisions 2012 Coordinator Rosalie Price reports that a total of 62 persons have signed up to participate in this year's local Great Decision's program. Forty two of those have elected to participate in Group One which will meet in the Saratoga Area Senior Coordinating Council's modular classrooms. This is the same location in which Group One has met in past years. Also, as in the past, the twenty participants who have elected to participate with Group Two will hold their meetings at the Saratoga Retirement Center. Members of Group One only will receive their course materials at an organizing meeting in the SASCC modular classrooms at 1 P.M. on Thursday, January 26, 2012. At that January Group-One-Only meeting, volunteers will be identified to serve as individual topic leaders.

Each of these groups will then meet for the remainder of the 2012 season's program as follows:

(Group 1) eight bi-weekly sessions held on the first and third Thursdays of each month from 1:00 to 3:00 P.M. in SASCC's Modular Classrooms; and,

(Group 2) weekly sessions for eight consecutive weeks from 2:00 to 4:00 P.M. at the SRC.

The first regular session for each group will begin on February 2, 2012.

The topics for this year's eight sessions are: Middle East Realignment; Promoting Democracy; Mexico; Cyber Security; Exit from Afghanistan and Iraq; State of the Oceans; Indonesia; and, Energy Geopolitics. Program leaders are Al and Anne Stewart who will also lead Group 1. Group 2 will be led by Rosalie Price who, as indicated above, also serves as program coordinator. John Price does the program's financial accounting.

Al Stewart
agstewart@earthlink.net

egyick@me.com; Patty Weber: xaviercugat@comcast.net; or Shirley Hill: shillca@aol.com, know that you are interested in still joining this study group. You will be most welcome!!

Eleanor Yick, President LWVSWSCV

Program Planning “Souper” Meeting

January 12, 2012

9:30 A.M. – 2:00 P.M.

**Saratoga Federated Church
20390 Park Place, Saratoga**

Every year local Leagues participate in the LWVUS Program Planning process by making recommendations concerning League positions. This is how we remain a grassroots organization.

After socializing and organizing the first half hour, we will divide into four self-selected groups during Session I to review the local, county, Bay Area and National positions. Our “league renowned” souper lunch will follow with a variety of soups provided by our members. After lunch, Session II will feature the reports from each group, discussion and decisions, if any, made by consensus.

The day’s schedule is as follows:

9:30–10:00 A.M. – Drop off food, decide on choice of discussion group for local, county, bay area, or national policies.

10:00–11:45 A.M. – **Session I** Meet in four small groups.

11:45–12:45 P.M. – **Souper Lunch**

12:45–2:00 P.M. – **Session II** Hear, comment, and discuss reports from four groups. Determine reports to be presented at the Annual Meeting in May.

Directions to the Church

From Los Gatos:

Take Los Gatos-Saratoga Road (Hwy 9) towards Saratoga. Just before the Fire Station, turn right onto Park Place.

From Highway 85:

Take the Saratoga Avenue exit turning onto Saratoga Avenue and driving towards downtown Saratoga. Just after the Fire Station, turn left onto Park Place.

The Program Planning process is an important League tool for identifying issues for study. It gives members and Leagues the opportunity to balance the pros and cons, assess possible support,

and consider the viability of issues. During the process, members have the opportunity—especially with email and discussion lists—to organize support based on factual materials before the Program Planning deadline in early March, 2012.

This year, LWVUS is also asking Leagues to let us know what LWVUS positions, if any, your local or state League has used in your work in the community. The response form will include a section where you can provide that information.

The League of Women Voters local, county, and National positions are published on the following pages. A URL is provided for Bay Area league positions, which are too extensive to publish in this newsletter. Please read the positions over and bring the *Voter* to the meeting so you can use them for reference. For questions, call Shirley Hill at (408) 356-4460 or e-mail shillca@aol.com.

Eleanor Yick, President LWVSWSCV

Bay Area League Day – Location Change

More details have become available regarding the next Bay Area League Day. Entitled “Housing and the Bay Area’s Future”, the event will take place from 9 A.M. to 2 P.M. on Saturday, February 4, 2012 as previously publicized. However, the venue has since changed to the First Unitarian Church of Oakland at 685 14th Street in Oakland. This address is

between Castro and Martin Luther King. It is about 5 blocks from the 12th Street BART Station.

The keynote speaker, David Rosen of David Paul Rosen & Associates, will address a regional approach to housing. Many other speakers from various organizations such as San Mateo County Department of Housing, Affordable Housing Associates,

EveryOne Home, and several more will also participate in panel discussions.

Cost: In advance is \$30 or \$15 without lunch. Registration at the door will be \$35 or \$20 without lunch. To register please write a check payable to “LWVBA” and mail to LWVBA, 1611 Telegraph Avenue,

Suite 300, Oakland, CA 94612. Please include your name as well as any guest names. Registration is also available online through January 27 via PayPal at <http://www.lwvbayarea.org>. For more details, also call (510) 839-1608.



Welcome!

LWV New Members

**Sharon Graham
Donna Guldemann**

of Saratoga

&

**Rosemary Rossi
of Los Gatos**



Program Planning – 2012, Local, County, Bay Area & US Positions

The Program Planning process is a three-part process that is a core component of the League's mission and is composed of program planning, study and consensus, and advocacy. While it is important for every League to hold a Program Planning meeting to discuss possible issues for study at the national level, it is not essential for every League to select an issue. The response form includes a line to indicate that issues were discussed, but no change is recommended. This important option gives the LWVUS a more realistic picture of the participation and opinions of all Leagues, so it is important for all Leagues to complete and submit a LWVUS response form whether they recommend a program or not.

Local, state Leagues and ILO's have the option to propose one new study, or one review and update, or one concurrence, or make no recommendation. Before recommending a study, review and update or concurrence, Leagues need to consider the resource commitment required for their own League as well as for the national League. A recommendation for a new study, review or concurrence is a request to give the recommendation a high priority for the biennium at both the local and national level. If a recommendation is adopted, local Leagues and LWVUS, with limited resources—money, but even more importantly volunteer time—may find it necessary to drop other activities in order to participate. Although technology has made it possible to reduce expenses, an increase in Per Member Payment may be required to help fund the work at the National level.

Why We Choose Some Issues for Emphasis:

In the winter, members across the country (LWVUS) begin the Program Planning Process with their local League members by reviewing all the existing positions and current issues. After discussion, each local League chooses positions to be retained, reviewed, updated and/or deleted, as well as those that the LWVUS should emphasize for the following two years. In the spring, the LWVUS Board of Directors evaluates the responses

from local Leagues. The Board then develops a proposed League program. The proposed programs could include issues for emphasis using existing positions or possible development of new or updated positions through the study process. Delegates to the LWVUS Convention vote



not only on the issues for emphasis, but also on: retention, update and deletion of positions; proposed studies; and the budget for these activities.

What is a Position?

The League of Women Voters of California takes action on an issue only when we have a position addressing that particular issue. If the members have not studied and come to consensus on an issue, the League has no position and therefore does not have a stand on that issue.

LWVSWSCV Local Positions

Government

Law Enforcement: Supports the efforts of local government to maintain high quality law enforcement services, the use of ancillary personnel to handle activities not requiring the services of a sworn officer, consideration of a "police services assessment tax," and the establishment of a reporting system for citizen complaints. (Adopted 1983, Amended 1996, Edited 2005)

Natural Resources

Land Use & Open Space: Supports consistency in development and preservation of the natural assets of our environment through adequate planning, acquisition, development and maintenance of park, recreation and open space lands, including inter-jurisdictional coordination of policies and programs, encouragement of innovative design concepts and preservation of

scenic corridors. (Adopted 1970 and 1975; Updated 1992, Edited 2005)

Social Policy

Affordable Housing: Supports changes in local government regulations to reduce the cost of housing in the following ways: streamlining the building approval process, continuing requirements to provide open space and parks, encouraging residential units above commercial uses, considering rezoning some commercial land to residential use, considering zoning changes which preserve the neighborhood character and address parking and traffic impacts, preserving the current housing stock, encouraging the building of rental units; increasing the amount of housing available for moderate—and low—income residents. (Adopted 1981, Edited 2005)

Child Care: Supports extended child care facilities, school child care programs, zoning to allow child care in commercial districts, affordable conditional-use permits and advocacy for the concerns of all children in the communities. (Adopted 1986, Edited 2005)

Commercial Development: Supports development of existing commercial areas in a manner which retains the character of the community and is accompanied by comprehensive planning for traffic control and adequate parking, with a mixture of housing and commercial development where feasible. (Adopted 1979, Edited 2005)

Community Recreation and Enrichment: Supports coordination of programs offered by public and private agencies, accounting procedures that are made available for public scrutiny and demonstrate an efficient use of taxes, available child care, and encouragement of extracurricular activities for junior high and senior high school youth. (Adopted 1976, Updated 1997, Edited 2005)

Redevelopment: Supports use of redevelopment funds—with community input—for safety; beautification; recreation facilities; renovation of existing buildings; creation of new public and commercial structures; historical preservation; parking; improvement of streets, sidewalks, and infrastructure; and provision of low-

Local, County, Bay Area & US Positions (Cont.)

and moderate-income housing in our communities. (Adopted 2004, Edited 2005)

Senior Citizens: Supports encouraging communities to coordinate senior citizen services, removing barriers for seniors, broadening community awareness of senior services available, providing for senior housing, and encouraging development of a mechanism for setting senior priorities. (Adopted 1979 & 1991, Combined 2005)

School Curriculum Supports planning for maintenance of quality curriculum in Junior and Senior High Schools including vocational pursuits and college requirements, curriculum decision-making with community input, teacher retention on the basis of merit, creative use of staff and a reorganization of school districts. (Adopted 1982, Edited 2005)

Surplus School Land & Facilities: Supports cooperation between school districts and city governments in planning for utilization of school assets in a manner that meets educational goals and also considers the needs of the community. (Adopted 1980, Edited 2005)

LWVBA County Positions

Government

Administration of Justice: Supports measures which will enable the judicial system of the county to provide adequate access for all citizens to legal services, to make available effective pre-trial release programs and to encourage methods that assure a fair and speedy trial. (Adopted 1974, Updated 1979)

County Charter: Supports the principles of the County Charter which should provide a strong manager form of government, the short ballot; clearly drawn lines of responsibility and authority; the present method of representation with mandatory redistricting after each federal census; periodic review of the charter. (Adopted 1968, Updated 1974)

Intergovernmental Cooperation: Supports cooperation and coordination of the county, cities, and special districts in the county; reduction of duplication and overlapping jurisdictions; annexation of developed unincorporated areas, and special districts when they meet specified criteria. (Adopted 1975)

Voting Systems and Procedures: Supports voting systems and procedures that are secure, accurate, recountable, accessible, and fair. Systems should allow for testing and certification, and provide several methods for voting and counting. Systems should be open for observers, but assure voter privacy, and should include responsible poll worker training and uniform standards for provisional voting even outside the voter's home precinct. Choosing of voting systems and procedures should allow for new technologies. (Adopted 2005)

Instant Runoff Voting (IRV): Supports the election of the Santa Clara Board of Supervisors by using instant runoff voting (IRV), which allows voters to rank all eligible candidates. To promote public confidence, the Registrar of Voters is urged to make the raw ballot data public immediately following the election before certification of the results. (Adopted 2005)

Natural Resources

Flood Control Management: Supports a fair, equitable tax and spending structure for flood control, stream maintenance, water quality protection, and healthy creek and river ecosystems in the Santa Clara Valley Water District; supports sunset provisions for flood control. (Adopted 2000)

Hazardous Materials Management: Supports continued implementation of the hazardous materials ordinances with adequate funding, properly trained staff and periodic review to waste stream, protection of the environment and financial responsibility, including strong public education. (Adopted 1985)

Land Use Planning Policies: Supports planned growth policy for the county and cities; opposes the continuation of rapid sprawling growth in the County, and the consequent erosion of natural assets. (Adopted 1973)

Solid Waste Management: Supports a Solid Waste Management plan for the County that emphasizes cooperation among local jurisdictions in seeking long-term solutions, measures to reduce the waste stream, protection of the environment and financial responsibility including strong public education. (Adopted 1984)

Water Resources: Supports (1) Provisions to assure adequate water supply by using conservation, recycling, and wells for

emergencies. (2) Local control of water resources and measures to protect water supply in disaster situations including drought. (3) additions to the LWVC Checklist on Privatization provisions on protection of infrastructure, public input and disaster preparedness. (4) Education of professionals and the public regarding conservation landscaping, standards for conservation in landscaping and certification for landscapers and professionals. (Adopted 2005)

Social Policy

Juvenile Justice: Supports measures to prevent delinquency and provide alternatives to detention of juveniles. Supports services for dependent children and their care providers to focus on the best way to meet the needs of the children who are separated from their families. Continued support of the principle that juveniles who are status offenders should not be held in secure facilities. Support of funding to meet the needs of the children, their care providers, and support services. (Adopted 1971, Updated 1978, 1993, 1999)

LWV Bay Area Positions

The Bay Area League (LWVBA) has positions on Regional Government & Planning, Environmental & Natural Resources, Hazardous Materials, Social Policy & Housing, Air & Surface Transportation. They also are all in PDF format for downloading and printing.

The Bay Area League positions are too extensive to print in the Voter and can be found at: <http://www.lwvba.ca.lwvnet.org/advocacy.html#positions>. Hard copies, however, will be passed out for the planning meeting.

LWVUS Positions

Representative Government

Promote an open governmental system that is representative, accountable, and responsive.

Citizen Rights/Voting Rights Protect the right of all citizens to vote; encourage all citizens to vote.

Citizen's Right to Know/Citizen Participation: Protect the citizen's right to know and facilitate citizen participation in government decision making.

Local, County, Bay Area & US Positions (Cont.)

Individual Liberties Oppose major threats to basic constitutional rights.

Public Policy on Reproductive Choices Protect the constitutional right of privacy of the individual to make reproductive choices.

Congress and the Presidency

Congress: Support responsive legislative processes characterized by accountability, representativeness, decision-making capability and effective performance.

The Presidency: Promote a dynamic balance of power between the executive and legislative branches within the framework set by the Constitution.

DC Self-Government and Full Voting Representation: Secure for the citizens of the District of Columbia the rights of self-government and representation in both houses of Congress.

Election Process

Apportionment: Support apportionment of congressional districts and elected legislative bodies at all levels of government based substantially on population.

Campaign Finance: Improve methods of financing political campaigns in order to ensure the public's right to know, combat corruption and undue influence, enable candidates to compete more equitably for public office and promote citizen participation in the political process.

Election of the President: Promote the election of the President and Vice-president by direct popular vote and work to abolish the Electoral College; support uniform national voting qualifications and procedures for presidential elections.

Fiscal Policy: Support adequate and flexible funding of federal government programs through an equitable tax system that is progressive overall and that relies primarily on a broad-based income tax; promote responsible deficit policies; support a federal role in providing mandatory, universal, old-age, survivors, disability and health insurance.

International Relations

Promote peace in an interdependent world by cooperating with other nations, strengthening international organizations,

fostering long-term development, negotiating arms control measures and encouraging the successful resolution of conflicts through nonmilitary means.

Arms Control: Reduce the risk of war through support of arms control measures.

Military Policy and Defense Spending: Work to limit reliance on military force; examine defense spending in the context of total national needs

Trade: Support systematic reduction of tariff and nontariff trade barriers and support broad long-range presidential authority to negotiate trade agreements.

United Nations: Support a strong, effective United Nations and its efforts to promote world peace and security, and meet the social, economic and humanitarian needs of the world's people.

U.S. Relations with Developing Countries: Promote US policies that meet long-term social and economic needs of developing countries.

Natural Resources

Promote an environment beneficial to life through the protection and wise management of natural resources in the public interest by recognizing the interrelationships of air quality, energy, land use, waste management and water resources.

Resource Management: Promote resource conservation, stewardship and long-range planning with the responsibility for managing natural resources shared by all levels of government.

Environmental Protection and Pollution Control: Preserve the physical, chemical and biological integrity of the ecosystem, with the maximum protection of the public health and environment.

Public Participation: Promote public understanding and participation in decision making as essential elements of responsible and responsive management of our natural resources.

Agricultural Policy: Promote adequate supplies of food and fiber at reasonable prices to consumers and support economically viable farms, environmentally sound

farm practices and increased reliance on the free market.

Social Policy

Promote social and economic justice, secure equal rights for all, achieve universal health care coverage at reasonable cost, promote the well being of children, and combat discrimination, poverty and violence.

Child Care: Support programs, services and policies at all levels of government to expand the supply of affordable, quality child care for all who need it.

Early Intervention for Children at Risk: Support policies and programs that promote the well being, development and safety of all children.

Equality of Opportunity: Support equal access to education, employment and housing. Support ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment and efforts to bring laws into compliance with the goals of the ERA.

Health Care: Promote a health care system for the United States that provides access to a basic level of care for all US residents and controls health care costs.

Meeting Basic Human: Needs Support programs and policies to prevent or reduce poverty and to promote self-sufficiency for individuals and families.

Gun Control: Protect the health and safety of citizens through limiting the accessibility and regulating the ownership of handguns and semi-automatic weapons.

Urban Policy: Promote the economic health of cities and improve the quality of urban life.

Violence Prevention: Support violence prevention programs in all communities.

Whatever the issue, the LWVUS believes that government policy, programs and performance must meet these criteria:

- Competent personnel with clear responsibilities
- Coordination among agencies and levels of government
- Adequate financing
- Effective enforcement
- Well defined channels for citizen input and review.

AB 1148, California DISCLOSE Act

This bill, authored by Assemblymember Julia Brownley, would expose who really pays for political ads during election campaigns. It is sponsored by the California Clean Money Campaign (CCMC), an organization dedicated to taking special-interest money out of the elections.

The Act will require all political ads, such as TV, print, websites and radio, to clearly list their top five funders. It will also require the largest funders to stand by their ads. In other words, a “paid for by...” statement will have to be included.

According to the CCMC and its supporters, Californians need this bill due to the Supreme Court’s Citizens United ruling now allowing anonymous spending with no limits in elections. Devastating legislation has been and is being passed, such as the Voter ID laws, with deceptive names for the donor organizations which is misleading voters. The bill is believed to be urgent

now because Super PACS have already begun amassing hundreds of millions to be spent on the 2012 elections.

In spite of the 4-5 decision passing Citizens United, eight out of nine justices on the Supreme Court commented on problems when donors hide behind “dubious and misleading names.” Justices stated that transparent disclosure is needed for “voters to make informed decisions and give proper weight to different speakers and messages.”

Californian’s voters, by 84%, favored legislation to increase public disclosure to identify major funders, across party lines, according to a Field Poll conducted last October. The LWV of California, California Association of Retired Persons and the California Nurses Association, to name a few, have endorsed AB 1148.

Learn more. Details below:

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 in 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 at the Campbell Heritage Theater at 7:30P.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 7P.M. at the Jewish Community Center in Los Gatos. Here is the title and description: *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 the Center for American Progress, Congressman Mike Honda, and Dr. Larry Gerston, emeritus professor at San Jose State University and political analyst for NBC11. Co-sponsors are the Islamic Networks Group, the Jewish Community Relations Council, and Asian Americans for Community.”

DISCLOSE Act Campaign Kickoff

Join us! Help Expose Big Campaign Money!

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

Unitarian Universalist Church

505 E. Charleston Road, Palo Alto CA

Speakers:

Assemblymembers Jerry Hill (AD-19), Bob Wieckowski (AD-20), Rich Gordon (AD-21), Paul Fong (AD-22), and Jim Beall (AD-24)

and

Trent Lange, President, California Clean Money Campaign

Cosponsors

The League of Women Voters Palo Alto,
LWV North & Central San Mateo County,
and LWV South San Mateo County
as well as many other organizations.

The California Clean Money Campaign is
a cosponsor and principle coauthor of AB 1148.

Please R.S.V.P. to

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

SB 810 Uniform Health Care Act – Advocacy Needed Now

SB 810 has been held in the Senate Appropriations Committee since last August. At that time it was challenged, at least ostensibly, because of budget concerns and startup costs for the system, and did not progress to the Senate floor.

The bill must pass the Appropriations Committee by January 20 and the Senate floor by January 31. If it fails to do so, we will not have a legislative vehicle around which to organize until another bill can be introduced in January 2013.

There is great concern that the Senate will not pass the bill if it reaches the floor, despite the Democratic majority. The issue is a number of moderate Democrats who have been outspoken in opposition despite “yes” votes at some point. Rubio abstained when the bill passed the Senate Health committee last spring. There is concern that some senators who have voted “yes” in the past did so because they were sure of a veto and now may not vote in favor. There is also evidence of considerable insurance company funding for some of these members.

Given the grim outlook on the floor, it is possible that the leadership may not move the bill from the Appropriations Committee. Senator Leno has promised to fight hard for the bill. And we must do the same. This is a critical time for single payer supporters to act.

The Steering Committee of the Campaign for a Healthy California has resolved to

mount a lobbying effort to assure both a favorable committee vote and Senate passage to the Assembly. Steering Committee member organizations have resolved to contribute to the effort according to their individual capabilities and resources. There will be a major effort to work through the various regional coalitions to mobilize for the effort.

These are the components of the plan.

- Supporters all over California are urged to send a letter to the Chair of the Senate Appropriations Committee, Christine Kehoe, telling her of your support and asking her to pass the bill out of the committee to the Senate floor. The hearing date has been set for Tuesday, January 17.
 Senator Christine Kehoe
 State Capitol
 Room 5050
 Sacramento, CA 95814
 Phone: (916) 651-4039
 Fax: (916) 327-2188
- Constituents of the Democratic members of the committee are asked to lobby them, with letters, phone calls and visits to their district offices.
- Supporters are asked to lobby their own Senators in all parts of the state to ensure a favorable vote when the bill reaches the Senate floor in late January. Certain senators are not considered to be reliable “yes” votes, despite in some cases, having voted “yes” in the past; they must all be lobbied very heavily

by constituents. Our Campbell senator is on the list:

Senator S. Joseph Simitian
 District 11
 Phone: 916-651-4011
 Fax: 916-323-4529

- Some local Leagues might wish to join with other supporting organizations in making legislative visits to their senator.
- Supporters are urged to participate in the Annual Rally at the Capitol on Monday January 9. Sponsored by the California Health Professions Students Alliance (CAHPSA), it is scheduled from 12:00–1:00 P.M. on the North steps of the Capitol on Monday, January 9. Hundreds of students in the health professions from all over the state will gather for the rally and then spend the afternoon lobbying the legislators for single payer. Other supporters will join them to swell the crowd. Bus transportation is being arranged from some parts of the state, and anyone who lives close enough to come is urged to do so. If you are interested in attending and want to obtain transportation, contact the following Regional Coalition Coordinator.

Greg Miller
 Phone: 408-254-3311
brogregm@sbcglobal.net

Barbara Storey
 League of Women Voters of California
 Program Director for Health Care
 Chair, LWV Health Care Committee
 619-231-8231
bs_lwv004@cox.net

NO to Special Interest Money in 2012 Elections

December 01, 2011 – The U.S. House of Representatives voted this week to do away with one of the most effective deterrents to campaign finance corruption our nation has relied on since the Watergate scandal of the 1970s.

The legislation (HR 3463), proposed by Representative Gregg Harper (R MS), will repeal the presidential public financing system and terminate the Election Assistance Commission, a federal agency set up following the failed 2000 Presidential election to improve how we run our elections.

If we look at the scary developments in the 2012 elections so far, it is not hard to find the dominance of special interest money in the form of bundlers, Super PACs and the like. Shouldn't we be trying to repair the public financing system to keep our candidates from being indebted to deep-pocketed spenders right out of the gate? Also, unfortunately, elections in our country are still not well-administered, and we are concerned that many states and localities are not doing a good job ensuring federally-protected voting rights.

Let us not go back to the 2000 election but go forward, improving each election over the last. We know what needs to be done; now let us devote the resources to what should be done. The legislation is based on an ideological belief that there is no campaign finance corruption and that elections systems are just fine, thank you very much. In other words, this is a bill based in the sponsor's imagination and not reality.

Elisabeth MacNamara,
 LWVUS President

January Calendar 2011

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 New Years Day	2	3	4 LWV Board Meeting 10A.M.	5	6	7 DISCLOSE Kickoff 2P.M.
8	9 Privatization Study Meeting 1:30P.M.	10	11	12 Program Planning 9:30 AM. – 2:00 P.M.	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25 Silicon Valley Reads 7:30P.M.	26	27 Privatization Study Meeting 1:30P.M.	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 LWVSWSCV 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 🌀

Jan.	4	Wed	Board Meeting , 10:00A.M. Saratoga Fire Station
Jan.	7	Sat	DISCLOSE Act Kickoff Campaign Meeting , 2:00-4:00P.M. Unitarian Universalist Church, 505 E. Charleston Rd. Palo Alto
Jan.	9	Mon	Privatization Study Meeting , 1:30P.M. Dale Hill's home, 150 Robin Way, Los Gatos, (408) 356-7679
Jan.	12	Thu	Program Planning Meeting , 9:30A.M-2:00P.M. Saratoga Federated Church, 20390 Park Pl., Saratoga Church phone: (408) 741-5586 See page 5 for details.
Jan.	25	Wed	Silicon Valley Reads , 7:30P.M., Campbell Heritage Theater
Jan.	27	Fri	Privatization Study Meeting , 1:30P.M. Dale Hill's home, 150 Robin Way, Los Gatos, (408) 356-7679

🌀 Save the Date 🌀

Feb.	4	Sat	Bay Area League Day , 9:00A.M. – 2:00P.M., First Unitarian Church 685 14th Street, Oakland, CA See page 6 for details.
Feb	13	Mon	Privatization Program , 7:00 P.M. – Campbell Community Center
Feb	25	Sat	LWV Northern California Regional Conference , 9:30A.M. Martin Luther King, Jr. Library, San Jose, CA