



Voter of Southwest Santa Clara Valley



February, 2012

League of Women Voters

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Privatization of Government Services: What Is the Impact on Our People?

Bob Brownstein

Policy Director at Working Partnerships USA

Monday, February 13 – 7:15 P.M.

at the
Campbell Community Center
Roosevelt Room

See page 4 for more information.



President's Letter

"Winter is the time for comfort, for good food and warmth, for the touch of a friendly hand and for a talk beside the fire..."

Edith Sitwell

We had it all on January 12, 2012—an inspirational day! Our Program Planning event was well supported with approximately 35 members in attendance at the Federated Church in Saratoga in a room that actually had a working fireplace!! It was a good day for talking, discussing, debating, and enjoying a wonderful “souper” lunch! Everyone actively participated in our small and large group discussions. League positions at the Local, County, Bay Area and National levels were reviewed. No major changes were recommended but some areas for emphasis were identified. These will be reviewed at our next Board meeting and then communicated to our entire membership.

Those members who were present also voted upon two proposals that were sent out to all Leagues via e-mail: the content of a sentencing reform proposal was supported but the process of concurrence was controversial; the proposal to study Birthright Citizenship was overwhelmingly voted down. It's interesting that Leagues across the country now have this wonderful tool in e-mail to facilitate communications about proposed studies that may be presented at the National Convention in June. It's a great way to garner support and/or get feedback on specific proposals.

Members in attendance also had the opportunity to sign two petitions: one that supports AB 1148 (the California DISCLOSE Act) that would mandate

clear and prominent disclosure of who is behind political TV, radio, print, and slate mailer ads, on the ads themselves. It will require the three top funders of any political ad here in California to be disclosed right on the ad. The SAFE petition repeals the death penalty as maximum punishment for persons found guilty of murder in California and replaces it with life imprisonment without possibility of parole. It would apply retroactively to persons already sentenced to death. The summary of the estimate by the Legislative Analyst and Director of Finance of fiscal impact on the state and local government: Net savings to the state and counties that could amount to the high tens of millions of dollars annually on a statewide basis due to the elimination of the death penalty. If any member still wishes to sign one of these petitions, please let me know as I still have some forms but, time is of the essence!

Many Leagues have signed onto a Leader's listserve to encourage LWVUS to actively work to negate the impact of Citizen's United in the upcoming months. After hearing from most of the Board members, our League, too, has signed up to support this direction to LWVUS. As you probably recall, this Supreme Court decision basically identified corporations as citizens entitled to make unlimited contributions to election campaigns.

Our voices need to be heard and when they are, we make an impact. Along those lines, I am gratified to report that, thanks to the efforts of many citizens and many leagues across the country, President Obama decided to not approve the Keystone XL Pipeline at this time.

The Privatization Study group has gotten off to a good start. Two meetings have been held thus far and the many League-provided study articles have been discussed and assigned for discussion at future meetings. Our League's next program event on Monday, February 13 will be on Privatization—a topic that is supportive of the study and very current. It's important to remember that the purpose of this Privatization Study is not to agree or disagree with privatization, per se, but rather to identify strategies

Continued on next page.

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Registration, **Dan Hoffman**

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

<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.sensorsimitian.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

www.jimbeall.com

Santa Clara County

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Supervisor Mike Wasserman
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LWVC Guide to Government

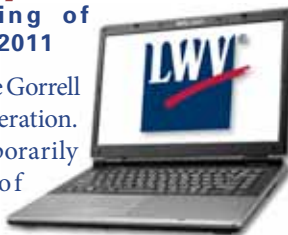
Locate your elected officials by your street address:

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

Board Bytes

Board Meeting of
November. 2, 2011

Treasurer: Marge Gorrell was out for an operation. Dale Hill is temporarily taking care of LWV bills and finances.



Disclosure Action: President Yick noted that the LWV San Jose/Santa Clara (SJ/SC) is advocating for local officials to have open disclosure of their calendar meetings and funding monies.

Natural Resources: Nancy Hobbs brought up the issue of LWV Board members publicly supporting candidates running for office. Board members should never endorse a candidate that calls any attention to their position as a board member in the League. League does not endorse candidates. Hobbs noted that the Water Board's current spending of its current parcel tax monies appears to spend more on flood control than conservation.

Programs: Shirley Hill noted the upcoming program themes through May—paying particular attention to the January “Souper Lunch and Review of the League’s Advocacy of Positions.”

Voters Service: Josie Geisen said LWV member Cynthia Chang is the new President of the Los Gatos-Saratoga High School District Board. She reported on the redistricting changes which shifted Congressional District 15 to 18. Anna Eshoo is running for our district. Monte

Sereno has been moved from Supervisors District 5 to District 1 (with Los Gatos). She also requested the *Voter*/newsletter be given to high school government teachers in our area.

Equipment Purchase: Buying an audio-visual projector is being considered for future program use. A committee was proposed to research products with suggested members being: Terry Zaccone, Wade Ellis, Jane Catalano, and Eleanor Yick.

Los Gatos Library: Our League’s plaque will read, League of Women Voters, Southwest Santa Clara Valley in two lines.

Privatization Study: The study has begun with a meeting January 9 at Dale Hill’s at 1:30P.M. Consensus questions are out. Future meetings will be added to the calendars.

Action Chair: Michelle Shimada is attending LWV interviews with local government representatives. She’s also assisting the (SJ/SC) LWV to encourage elected officials to publicly post their calendars and answer LWVC state questions.

Bay Area LWV: Our rep Meg Giberson announced the Bay Area League Date—February 4, 9:00 A.M.–2:00 P.M. in Oakland. She said ABAG & MTC have started Plan Bay Area workshops in January. She noted good climate change info posted on California League web site: www.ca.lwv.org.

Marge Bunyard, Secretary

President’s Letter (Cont.)

to ensure transparency, accountability, and preservation of the common good.

Once again, our program event on Privatization will be held at the Campbell Community Center: 7:15P.M. doors open; 7:30P.M. program starts. The Program Planning Committee has lined up another very knowledgeable speaker, Bob Brownstein, Policy Director at Working Partnership USA. Be sure to read the highlights of his impressive career and wide range of experience on page 4. It

should be a very enlightening evening and we hope that many League members will be able to attend.

Also the Northern California Regional Conference will feature a session on Privatization when it convenes at the Martin Luther King, Jr. library in San Jose on February 25. The San Jose League is sponsoring this conference and has lined up a wonderful program that will feature speakers on: the state budget, the 2012

Continued on page 5.

Privatization Study Begins

On Monday, January 9, nine League members (including one from the Cupertino League) gathered to discuss how to proceed with the study. We had been assigned to read five articles published on the National League Website and come prepared to discuss them. We began by sharing why each of us is interested in participating in this particular study. Most agreed that we didn't know that much about privatization and our first impressions were that it didn't seem to be a good idea to outsource functions of the government.

We agreed that the only reason that a government agency should privatize a function or service was to save money. If a non-governmental body had the expertise and was ready to provide a service at a lower price, perhaps it would make sense to let them try.

Our discussion turned to the topic of motivation: Businesses are driven by the profit motive, while government is dedicated to serving the people. Can the two sectors work well together, while having such different motivations? It

has been seen that government agencies (particularly in large cities and state and national levels) get encumbered with large staffs, which over time run up huge expenses for salaries and benefits. In addition, they can become bureaucratic and inflexible. The larger the public body, many times, the larger the problem. In efforts to streamline this tendency, privatization and deregulation become a more attractive alternative.

It was decided that privatizing could be a double-edged sword. When public monies are given to private businesses without an open bidding system, it can be an invitation to misuse of funds and rampant corruption. The solution is transparency and oversight by the government agency of all expenses and procedures. Strong guarantees regarding transparency and open accountability must be built into any privatized project agreement.

It was agreed that small projects, such as the paving of city streets, work exceedingly well as privatized projects. When a project assumes all responsibility for a function of government, like trying to outsource a whole library system, the committee currently feels this is going too far. It was far better to privatize a specific operation than to replace a government agency.

These will be some of our primary concerns as we start to look at specific examples of privatization. We will have at least three more committee meetings before we plan a consensus meeting for the whole League.

In addition, our next program event, February 13, is on privatization featuring Bob Brownstein, who is the Policy Director at Working Partnership USA. Also, the LWV Northern California Regional Conference on February 25 will feature a speaker on privatization to be among the topics covered. Since the San Jose/Santa Clara League, in cooperation with all other county leagues is sponsoring this event, we're hoping for there to be a large turnout of our members.

Patty Weber

Privatization of Government Services: What Is the Impact on Our People?

Monday, February 13 – 7:15 P.M.
Campbell Community Center
Roosevelt Room
1 West Campbell Avenue

The League of Women Voters Southwest Santa Clara Valley, along with other U.S. Leagues, is undertaking a study 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 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.

Join our League's February Privatization Presentation as we embark on this very complex and important subject.

For further information, call or e-mail Shirley Hill at: (408) 356-4460 – shillca@aol.com or Joan Sarlo at: (408) 379-2185 or joansarlo@aol.com.

Speaker Bob Brownstein

Bob Brownstein is Policy Director at Working Partnerships USA, a think/action tank (originally created by the South Bay Labor Council) which focuses on local and regional government issues in California. As Policy Director, he manages a



team that analyzes the dynamics of local economies, evaluates the needs of working families, reviews city and county programs, and proposes innovative policy initiatives. Areas

of focus include government budgets and fiscal decision-making, health care, affordable housing, economic development and political reform. He played a major role in the development of the County Children's Health Initiative and the Healthy Workers program for low income employees of small businesses.

Prior to joining Working Partnerships, he spent twenty years as a senior policy analyst in local government serving as Chief of Staff to County Supervisor Susanne Wilson and Public Policy and Budget Director for San Jose Mayor Susan Hammer. He is coauthor of *Walking the Lifelong Tightrope*, a study of economic insecurity in California, *Everyone's Valley*, an analysis of the housing crisis in Silicon Valley, and *An Historical Analysis of Tax and Fiscal Propositions in California, 1978-2004*.

Oakland League of Women Voters
Bay Area League Day



Saturday, February 4, 2012
 9:00 A.M. – 2:00 P.M.

First Unitarian Church of Oakland
 685 14th Street, Oakland



Housing and the Bay Area's Future
 Policy • Finance • Up Against the Wall

Cost (Breakfast Included)
 \$30 or \$15 Without Lunch • At the Door \$35 or \$20 Without Lunch

To Register:

Write a Check & Mail To:
 LWVBA, 1611 Telegraph Ave. #300, Oakland, CA 94612
 or go to www.bayarea.org
 For questions call: (510) 839-1608

San Jose / Santa Clara
 League of Women Voters

California Regional Workshop

Saturday • February 25, 2012 • 9:00 A.M. – 3:00 P.M.

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Library
 150 E. San Fernando Ave., San Jose

The California Budget: It's Broken

What the League & the Public Can Do to Fix the Problem

The 2012 Elections: The Rules Have Changed

Preparing & Anticipating a Flood of Ballot Measures

Privatization: A Growing Trend in Government

Let's Take a Closer Look from Two Perspectives

Register February 18
 at the LWVC website: www.lwvc.org
 \$25 with Lunch (\$30 after 2/18) or \$15 without Lunch

For questions call:
 Shelly Saini at (408) 460-0320 or e-mail at: shellyksaini@gmail.com

Abolishing Corporate Personhood

In December, the Los Angeles City Council voted unanimously to support Move to Amend's resolution calling on Congress to amend the Constitution to clearly establish that only living persons—not corporations—are endowed with



constitutional rights and that money is not the same as free speech. Los Angeles is the first major city in the U.S. to call for an end to all corporate constitutional rights!

In a press conference after the vote, Council President Eric Garcetti stated:

"I want to thank Move to Amend and this entire coalition that has come together... Every struggle to amend the constitution began as just a group of regular Americans who wanted to end slavery, who thought women should vote, who believed that if you're old enough to be drafted, you should be old enough to vote. These are how American amendments move forward from the grass roots when Americans say enough is enough.

We're very proud to come together and send a message but more than that, this becomes the official position of the City of Los Angeles, and we will officially lobby for this. I also chair a group which oversees all the Democratic mayors and council members in the country and we're going to share this with all our 3,000 members and we hope to see this start here in the west and sweep the nation until one day we do have a constitutional amendment which will return the power to the people."

Our goal is for 50 towns and cities to put the resolution on the ballot for the 2012 Presidential election. Let's keep the momentum going as more communities step up to take a stand.

President's Letter (Cont.)

elections, and privatization: a growing trend in government. If interested in attending this conference, you can sign up at www.lwvc.org by Feb. 18th.

As we head into the election season, many opportunities will be available for league members to help out. Many members

will be needed to assist at candidate forums, registration drives, etc. Please say YES if approached about helping out in our most important work which is "education" for an informed electorate.

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

Voters Service

Redistricting has made changes to our districts. Monte Sereno is now in our Santa Clara County District One. Mike Wasserman is on the Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors for District One.

The new California Redistricting list is out for the Assembly, State, Board of Equalization and U.S. Congress. The easiest way to find it is to search the internet for 'California New Redistricting List'.

The Primary Election is June 5, 2012. We will be holding Voter Registration, Pros & Cons events and Candidate Forums in April and May. Please be willing to volunteer a little of your time this year. Many hands make light work.

As you are aware, the 2012 elections in June and November are considered to be the most important in many years.

Josie Geisen, Voters Service Coordinator

One Bay Area Plan

On January 18, I attended the One Bay Area workshop for Santa Clara County. Sponsored by MTC and ABAG, a workshop was held in each of the nine counties during January to get public input on preferred scenarios for sustainable development in the Bay Area for the next 30 years.

Unfortunately, the workshop was dominated by a group who had obviously planned to attend and disrupt the process. They were hostile, rude, noisy, supported with signs and placards — and very vocal! My guess is that it was a Tea Party-like group, but I have no official evidence of that. The comments were very anti-ABAG and MTC, claiming that our freedoms were being taken away and that we should refuse federal transportation funds, etc.

The ABAG and MTC staffers conducting the workshop were amazing at keeping their cool. In speaking with some of the staffers as I left, I learned that the other workshops were much the same.

Dale Hill, 1st VP of Administration



Legislative Interviews in California Leagues

The Legislative Interview is an annual LWVC program that gives local Leagues an opportunity to meet with their state elected officials to ask their positions on issues important to LWVC members. They focus on their legislative goals and our advocacy programs.

Santa Clara County League members will meet with Senators and members of the Assembly. Various Leagues take the lead

in arranging for these interviews and invite representatives of each League that legislator represents.

The LWVC provides valuable background information to help members prepare. These meetings provide an opportunity to learn about the officials views, plans and priorities. An interview with Assemblymen Rich Gordon follows on the next page. Carol Petersen, Education

Great Decisions News & Schedules

Group One's 42 participants of the 2012 Great Decisions Program will hold their first study session on February 2, 2012 at 1:00 P.M. in the Saratoga Senior Coordinating Council's modular classrooms. Following the initial DVD presentations, provided by the Foreign Policy Association, Group One will divide into two sub groups to facilitate greater individual participation. For Group One, the session dates, topics, and leaders are listed below. Group Two's twenty participants will hold their

first study session in the Saratoga Retirement Center on the same day, February 2, 2012, but beginning at 2:00 P.M. Thereafter, they will meet weekly.

At the conclusion of each session, participants will complete an opinion ballot to be mailed to the Foreign Policy Association for tabulation. Results will be published and made available to participants prior to the resumption of the subsequent year's sessions.

Al Stewart, Great Decisions

2012	Topic	Section 1 Leader	Section 2 Leader
Feb 2	Middle East Realignment	Terry Zaccone	Ginger Good
Feb 16	Promoting Democracy	Dan Hoffman	Marge Bunyard
Mar 1	Mexico	Ann Roberts	Anne Stewart
Mar 15	Cyber Security	Ray Shannon	Bruce Baldridge
Apr, 5	Exit from Afghanistan & Iraq	Al Stewart	George Bunyard
Apr 19	State of the Oceans	Madeleine Salzman	Jean Barrick
May 3	Indonesia	Sharon Kelkenberg	Sumi Tanabe
May 17	Energy Geopolitics	Charlene Bunger	Hana Itani

Response to Criticism on Redistricting

LWV California was very involved with the whole redistricting process in California—from the beginning. We were part of the coalition that put the initiative on the ballot, and continue to be involved now as observers and commentators on the process. No one expected the process to be free from politics. Redistricting is inherently political. What we hoped was to make it a process that allowed equal input from all interested parties—especially the public.

Of course the parties—both of them—tried to influence the process! Both the

Democrats and Republicans organized people to testify before the Commission. So did all kinds of other groups. What some people fail to show is any evidence that the Democratically organized testimony actually influenced the Commission in any way. For every example of a democratic-leaning district, we can show one in which either a Democrat incumbent lost a lot of ground, or two Democratic incumbents were put into the same district. The process was extremely fair—to all parties.

Helen Hutchison, LWV Oakland and LWVUS Director helen@helenhutch.com

Interview with California Assembly Member Rich Gordon, 21st Assembly District

This interview was conducted by the League of Women Voters on December 2, 2011. The following League members were present: Gloria Chun Hoo, Martha Beattie, and Peter Szego from LWV San Jose/Santa Clara; Mary Alice Thornton from LWV-Palo Alto; Jan Pepper, LWV Los Altos/Mountain View; and Michelle Shimada, LWVSWSCV.

Question on the open calendar issue: Assemblyman Gordon feels hopeful because there is a handful of legislators who are in favor of this issue. The recent court ruling (Sacramento Superior Court Judge) on Legislators' budgets ruled that the Assembly must open their fiscal records, but did not mention the calendars. {See San Jose Mercury News Editorial on 12/06/11}. He mentioned that the County Supervisors produced a weekly calendar of public events the week after the fact; an after-the-fact calendar helps address the security issues. The format is the challenge: sometimes meetings are unscheduled and brief, so it would be difficult to get them on a calendar. He says at least scheduled meetings should be on the calendar – generally he has 4-5 per day when he is in Sacramento.

The issue of how often a legislator meets with a lobbyist won't really be that revealing on an open calendar, as most often the lobbyist meets with staff rather than with the legislator. Gordon mentioned that there are two entrances to the Assembly Chambers, one by the bench where the lobbyists sit and the one by the elevator, so he uses the elevator entrance if he doesn't want to be stopped by a lobbyist.

Gordon was asked about lobbyists who text or call while a legislator is sitting on the floor of the Assembly. He said the rules don't permit it and he would report it if it happened. Lobbyists are permitted to give business cards to one of the sergeants who can deliver it to the legislator, who is free to go meet with the lobbyist. In his case, he said that 75% of the time he texts his staff and asks one of them to go down and meet with the lobbyist.

He also explained that any legislator has until the end of the day's session to record his or her vote via computer if they miss the roll call vote. Legislators' votes are a matter of public record and he has a high percentage of not voting, because he never votes on highway-naming bills, and there are about 20 to 30 such bills each year.



He told us the Transparency Task Force hasn't even finished making appointments though they had one brief meeting. Assembly

Speaker John Perez says he values transparency but his office is at the center of the budget and calendar impasse. He noted that Assemblyman Anthony Portantino (44th Assembly District) has gone outside "the system" and therefore has lost money from his budget. In November 2010 Portantino lost his Education Subcommittee chairperson assignment which meant that he lost his budget augmentation for additional staffing, but did not reduce staff and thus exceeded his budget.

Gordon said each legislator has a base allocation of \$276,000 which is enough for four staffers. Budgets are augmented based on committee assignments. Gordon has four local and four Sacramento staff persons because he chairs the Budget Subcommittee for Natural Resources and Transportation, which augments his budget by another \$260,000. The cost for office space, office supplies, and staff travel is in addition to these allocations.

Question on the California State Budget: Gordon co-authored a bill calling for a performance-based budgeting process, but Governor Brown vetoed it. The way the budget process works is that only changes to the budget are studied, not the entire budget. He said there is no real analysis of the budget or what they are

achieving with their budget, something that a performance-based budget process would do. He developed a questionnaire for all departments under his Resources and Transportation Subcommittee to complete that asked for a mission statement and other documentation explaining the budget, something the departments had never been asked to do. Some did well, others not did not, for example the DMV mission statement was very long and elaborate but said nothing about issuing drivers' licenses or vehicle license plates.

He was asked about the possibility of having a "sunset" on departments' programs, although it would be problematic with term limits. He said that he has been appointed to the Sunset Review Committee, but it has met only two times, once to convene the committee, and once to hear a presentation of the sunset laws in other states.

Question on the California State Initiative and Referendum Process:

The Assemblyman said the initiative process is currently driven by money, which is ironic given its beginnings. He thinks, a) we need to deal with the very challenging money issue, b) we need a higher threshold to qualify an initiative for the ballot, and c) we should explore the concept that the Legislature review, modify, or place an alternative initiative on the ballot as other states do. He is troubled that initiatives become part of the Constitution and feels that the legislature should be able to modify them.

He used as an example the Proposition 36 initiative, which required the state to fund drug treatment for offenders prior to jail time for a 5-year period of time. This was not renewed by the Legislature due to budget concerns. As a result, the Courts cannot send first and second offenders to jail; but, conversely, there is no money for drug treatment unless a county steps in to fund it.

When asked about the Clean Money Campaign/The Disclose Act, Rich Gordon said he is in favor of it.

Michelle Shimada, Smart Voter

Public Still Backs Health Reform

Do you feel favorable or unfavorable about the following items?



The law requires health plans to provide consumers with easy-to-understand information about benefits and coverage.



The law provides tax credits to small businesses that offer coverage to their employees.



The law will provide financial help to low and moderate income Americans who don't get insurance through their jobs to help them purchase coverage.



The law gradually closes the Medicare prescription drug "doughnut hole" or coverage gap so seniors will no longer be required to pay the full cost of their medications when they reach the gap.



The law allows consumers to appeal to an independent reviewer if they disagree with their health plan's decision about what services it will pay for.



The law will expand the existing Medicaid program to cover low-income uninsured adults regardless of whether they have children.



The law will prohibit insurance companies from denying coverage because of a person's medical history or health condition.



The law requires government reviews of health plan premium increases and requires plans to justify those increases.



The law eliminates co-pays and deductibles that people previously had to pay for many preventive services.



The law will require employees with 50 or more employees to pay a fine if they don't offer health insurance to their workers.



The law requires insurance companies that spend too little money on health care services and too much on administrative costs and profits to give their customers a rebate.



The law will increase the Medicare payroll tax on earnings for upper income Americans.



The law increases the premiums some higher income people on Medicare pay to receive coverage for doctor visits and prescription drugs.



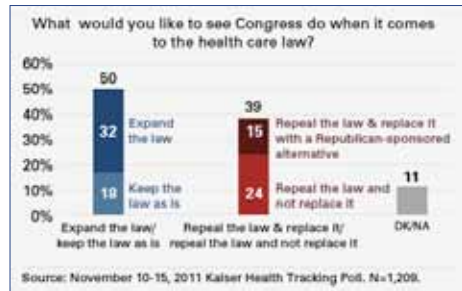
The law will require insurance plans to offer a minimum package of health insurance benefits to be defined for the federal government.



The law will require nearly all Americans to have health insurance by 2014 or else pay a fine.

The best way to track how Americans feel about the Affordable Care Act is to follow the monthly Kaiser Health Tracking Poll. The latest edition of this poll shows that, despite Americans' contradictory feelings about the new health care reform law, conservative attempts to repeal it are likely to be met with resistance from the public.

On the one hand, more Americans are not in favor (44%) than in favor (37%) of the new law. But on the other, as the chart below shows, by majorities ranging



from 57% to 84%, they approve of almost all provisions included in the law. The sole exception is the individual mandate to purchase insurance, where just 35% are in favor.

These views explain why 50% of respondents in the same poll say they would like Congress to either expand the Affordable Care Act or keep it as-is rather than repeal or replace it with a Republican-sponsored alternative (39%). It is also

Put SuperPACS Out of Business

How can you fight back against the big money pouring into the political campaigns this year? Sign the petition, <https://www.whitehouse.gov/petitions#!/petition/nominate-new-commissioners-federal-election-commission-fec/shD2fsKP>, on The White House website urging President Obama to appoint new commissioners to the Federal Election Commission (FEC).

The FEC is supposed to be the government agency that enforces campaign finance laws, but it isn't working and hasn't for a long time. Of the six commissioners at the agency, three of them simply refuse to enforce the law, and five of the six are serving despite the fact that their terms expired some time ago. It is time to clean house and President Obama is the one who needs to do something about it.

Urge President Obama to clean house at the Federal Election Commission (FEC), <http://www.lwv.org/blog/put-superpacs-out-of-business>. We need at least 25,000 signatures of support by February 10, 2012 in order to get a response from The White House.

Don't just sign it yourself; post the petition on Facebook, Tweet about it and forward this note to all of your friends. Go to <http://www.lwv.org/blog/put-superpacs-out-of-business>

worth noting that since February, the number of Americans wanting to keep or expand the law has never dropped below 50%, while the number wanting to repeal or replace has never exceeded 39%.

Conservatives are sworn enemies of the Affordable Care Act. These data suggest that their obsessive drive to dismantle the law is unlikely to generate high levels of public support and in fact may yield the contrary.

Submitted by Barbara Lea, Health Care By Ruy Teixeira, a Senior Fellow at the Center for American Progress, <http://www.americanprogress.org/>

Found on: <http://www.americanprogress.org/issues/2011/12/snapshot120511.html>.

February Calendar 2011

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 LWV Board Meeting 10A.M.	2	3	4 Bay Area League Day 9A.M. - 2P.M.
5	6	7	8	9 Clip N' Come Noon	10	11
12	13 Privatization Program 7:15P.M.	14	15	16	17	18
19	20 Privatization Study Meeting 1:30P.M.	21	22	23	24	25 Northern CA Regional Conference 9A.M. - 3P.M.
26	27	28	29			

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/>

Join the League of Women Voters

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Mail this coupon with your dues to:
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 \$ _____ Individual \$70.00
 \$ _____ Household \$105.00
 \$ _____ Student \$30.00
 \$ _____ Donation to LWVSSC 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 🌀

- Feb. 1 Wed **Board Meeting**, 10:00 A.M. Saratoga Fire Station
- Feb. 4 Sat **Bay Area League Day**, 9:00 A.M.– 2:00 P.M. First Unitarian Church 685 14th Street, Oakland, CA **See page 5.**
- Feb. 9 Thu **Clip ‘n Come**, Noon, Bring Salad/Food & Clipping to Share Margaret Rezowalli’s home, 950 Apricot Ave., Campbell
Call (408) 369-9284
Please let hostess know you will be coming.
- Feb. 13 Mon **Privatization of Government Services**, 7:15 P.M. Campbell Community Ctr, Roosevelt Room, 1 W Campbell Ave.
Bob Brownstein from Working Assests **See page 4.**
- Feb. 20 Mon **Privatization Committee Meeting**, 1:30 P.M. Dale Hill’s home
150 Robin Way, Los Gatos, CA Call (408) 356-7679
- Feb. 25 Sat **LWV California Regional Workshop**, 9:00 A.M. – 3:00 P.M.
Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Library, 150 E. San Fernando Ave.,
San Jose, CA **Registration and details page 5.**