



THE SACRAMENTO VOTER

THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF

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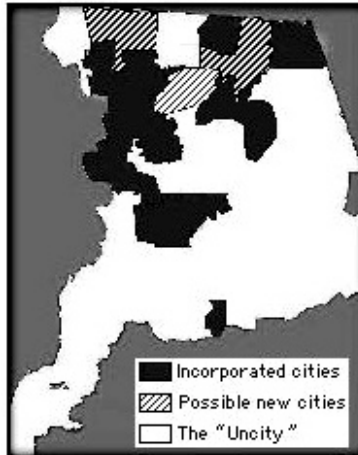
November 2005

SACRAMENTO COUNTY COMMUNITY FORUM

Sacramento County Incorporations = New Cities + New Challenges

Incorporated Cities

Sacramento City
Folsom
Galt
Iselton
Citrus Heights
Elk Grove
Rancho Cordova



Proposed "New Cities"

Arden-Arcade
Rio Linda—Elverta

Fair Oaks-
Orangevale-
Gold River

November 16, 2005 – 7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

Carmichael Recreation & Park District – Community Room
5750 Grant Avenue (near Fair Oaks Blvd.) Carmichael, CA 95806

Convenient parking around building

How will proposed changes of new cities impact citizens of the areas?

How will the new cities impact the residents, government, and budget of Sacramento County!

Panelists:

- Professor Emeritus Alvin Sokolow, Human and Community Development, U.C. Davis
- Peter Brundage, ED, Sacramento County Local Agency Formation Commission
- Paul Hahn, Asst. to Sacramento County Executive, invited Community Rep. for Cityhood
- Bill Davis, Arden-Arcade Incorporation Committee
- Paul "Pollie" Parker, DVM – Rio Linda-Elverta Incorporation Committee
- Jim Purcell – Fair Oaks, Orangevale, Gold River Incorporation Committee

Cosponsored by: The League of Women Voters of Sacramento County, Area Neighborhood Associations, and, Access Cable T.V. – Channel 17 & 18

6:30 p.m. to 6:45 p.m.

SACOG Transportation Update-Jason Crow, Assistant Planner
(Update of Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) for 2030)

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Board Message

By Barbara Hopkins

The outcome of the Special Election on November 8th will have far reaching effects on the State of California for years to come, and League recommendations are included in this Voter. Do help in whatever way possible to encourage voter turnout and remind your friends and neighbors to vote so a minority of voters does not determine the outcome of this election.



Barbara Hopkins

Program in League may cover a broad range of topics intended to inform voters. We also prefer to cosponsor events with community groups who help with the publicity and help with the audience. The General Meeting on November 16 about incorporation and the changes in local government of new cities is an example of League partnership with community organizations that will be affected by the proposed changes. The impetus for presenting this city hood issue came from League members who live in the areas that will be affected by this change in local government. The issue of balance between the new cities in terms of the fiscal impact of incorporation and the mandated services required of the county was one concern, and the question of financial responsibility of residents of new cities to provide basic services was another. The expert panel and audience will explore the many questions about incorporation, and League members from other newly incorporated areas can share their experiences.

We urge members to come early, before 6:30 p.m., to the November 16th meeting to learn about the important plans for transportation in the Sacramento area that need citizen input in the updating of the Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) that will begin in 2006 for the year 2030. SACOG Planner, Jim Crow, will give information about schedules for updating plans for your community.

We especially appreciate the contributions of our committed Voter Service volunteers whose voter outreach included staffing voter service tables at several community events to making Speaker's Bureau presentations about the Pros and Cons to more than twenty community groups in Sacramento and Placer counties. Anne Rudin deserves special recognition for special effort to expand the Speaker's Bureau responsiveness to community requests beyond this election. Ann's commitment to voter education and speaking helped bolster the confidence of new speakers about presenting the complex ballot measures. More League members are encouraged to enjoy the experience of Speaker's Bureau and become part new format for the June 2006 Elections.

Although the League was unable to take a position on Proposition 80-Electric Service Providers Regulation during the Special Election because the state energy position did not address the issues and needed to be updated, we will be prepared for the next election. The LWVC Energy Update Study is ready for member consensus on the technical issues that will be presented in General Meetings on October 27 and January 19 in the Energy Commission Community Room, and all members are urged to attend. The Sacramento League is fortunate to have members with professional expertise in this technical field that also

Continued Next Page

Continued - - - worked with the LWVC Energy Update Study Committee to help LWVSC members understand the consensus questions. Our deep appreciation to the **out --- standing** Energy Update Study panelists: Suzanne Phinney, Mignon Marks, Bill Chamberlain, and Dae Lewis.

The six League Units are meeting with changes so it is best to call ahead to the Unit Chair. Energy consensus questions will be answered in Units, and it is important that members attend both the October 27 and January 19th General meetings in addition to reading the energy background material that was included in previous Voters. It may also be downloaded from the State League website at www.lwvc.org.

Remember to Vote on November 8th and encourage others to join you. I look forward to seeing you at the League General Meetings on October 27, Nov. 16, and January 19.

Kudos to Sacramento Voter Service Team



Voter Service Table

Asian Pacific Islanders Forum- October 9

Barbara Hopkins, Sandra Mo and
Debbie Woods, Registrar of Voters

The Special Election on November 8 has kept the Voter Service volunteers busy with registering voters, presenting Pros and Cons with twenty community groups and distributing copies of Easy voter Guides and Pros and Cons. Voter Service has really missed the energy and leadership of our dynamic voter service directors, Hazel Bergholdt, Dannetta Garcia and Ann Antos, who recently moved too far. But Voter Service volunteers soldiered forward with the committed members who came forward to study and speak for the League, but the job would be much easier if more members participated. We continued the various voter outreach efforts that Dannetta and Hazel initiated by registering voters with the Latino and Asian American communities.

League members staffed voter registration tables at three major Sacramento events. A special thank you to Rick Bettis, Cheryl Moore, Catherine Troka and Barbara Hopkins for staffing a League table at the Capitol for the "Women Take Back the Night Rally" organized by National Organization of Women (NOW) and Women Escaping Abuse and Violence (WEAVE).. Thank you to Charlene Jones, Trudy Schafer, and

Rick Bettis who staffed the "Learning to Live in America Opportunity Fair, that was held at Southside Park, 6th and T Street. where they helped new Latino voters to register and distributed copies of the Pros and Cons in English and Spanish. And Barbara Hopkins staffed the League table at the outstanding "4th Annual Voters Education Forum" sponsored by the Asian Pacific Islanders where representatives of the ballot measures debated the issues at the Radisson Hotel.

The Speakers Bureau training prepared volunteers by reviewing the "In Depth" and the Pros and Cons to prepare for community groups presentation in Sacramento and Placer County. Some of the groups included: The Chateau in Carmichael Park, Eskaton in Carmichael and Roseville; Mercy Housing in Folsom, the Sacramento Business and Professional Women's Association at Pannell Community Center, several Soroptimist Clubs, McClatchy High School Government Classes, Methodist Women's Groups in Roseville and Florin areas and the Oak Park Baptist Church, the Sacramento Para Legal Association, the Older Women's League (OWL), Gray Panthers and CA Congress of Seniors and the California Disabilities Group. We are grateful to Anne Rudin, Ruth Range, Ilse Spivak, Marian Faustman, Ph.D, Carol Goldberg, Donna Chipps, Trudy Schafer, Eileen Heaser, Jill Kaiser Newcom, Rick Bettis and Barbara Hopkins for their contributions to voter education through the Speaker's Bureau.

In looking ahead to the 2006 General Election we need to increase the number of speakers available for the Speaker's Bureau and are exploring a new plan format where League co-sponsors two or three Pro & Con Forums in the county with community groups. This limited the number of presentations and trips by volunteers. Senior centers may be disappointed with this format as they may be unable to travel to forums and appreciate League speakers in making their voting decisions.

We invite members to mark their calendars now and plan to attend the Speakers Bureau training in August and September 24, 2006. to confirm locations and prepare for these Pro and Con Community Forums.

We encourage members to participate in this new Speakers Bureau format and invite you to please call the League office at **447-8683** and leave a voicemail message with the best time to reach you.



Voter Service Table

Women Take Back the Night- October 1

Rick Bettis, Catherine Troka, Cheryl
Moore

League Unit Topics

Unit Meetings

November 7-11, 2005

Units are small discussion groups. Call ahead as Units may change location and meeting date.

Mid-City

Monday: 6:15 p.m.
Doris White, 383-0189,
8632 Fallbrook Way

Morning Suburban

Tuesday: 9:15 a.m.
Mary McCullough, 967-7382
2426 Garfield Ave, Carm.

Greenhaven/Land Park

Tuesday: 9:30 a.m.
Mary Hopkins, 422-6958
45 Sunlite Circle

East Sacramento

Tuesday: 1:00 p.m.
Elinor Hickey-456-3794
1307 39th Street

Elk Grove

Tuesday : 7:00 p.m.
Nancy Myers, 689-6943
9710 Parktree Way

Foothill/Sunrise

Wednesday: 10:00 a.m.
Anna Antos, 967-4484
8085 Capitola, Fair Oaks

The LWVSC Units (6) or small discussion groups meet monthly at homes listed in the Voter. Unit discussions vary from the Pros and Cons of Ballot Measures to program topics, i.e., the Energy Study, or news items. A call ahead to Unit Chairs is advised to insure the location is correct.

The LWVC Energy Update Study will be the topic of League meetings in November and January. The technical content of the Energy Study makes attendance at the October 27 and January 19 General Meetings especially important. The overview presented by LWVC Energy Committee members and LWVSC presenters, Suzanne Phinney, Mignon Marks, Bill Chamberlain, and Kae Lewis, will help you understand the issues and respond to the consensus questions..

Unit members are encouraged to read the Energy background information in the Voters (October & December) and on the LWVC website, at www.lwvc.org.

"Incorporation of New Cities in Sacramento County" will also be discussed in November and December Units. Members are encouraged to attend the General Meeting on November 16 in Carmichael to hear expert presentations. Representatives from the three communities that have applied to incorporate will help you understand their motivation to seek incorporation and the status of their process. Roseanna Torretto, Director, deserves a special recognition for coordinating the Units in lieu of a Unit Coordinator. We encourage Units to recruit a Unit liaison with the Board for 2006.

General Meeting - Getting There From Here Metropolitan Transportation Plan Update Process to Start

At the LWVSC General Meeting on November 17 the Sacramento Area Council of Governments (SACOG) will describe their plans to update the Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP). SACOG is the regional joint powers authority encompassing Sacramento, El Dorado, Placer, Sutter, and Yuba Counties. The MTP is a comprehensive plan that defines the transportation projects and funding needs for the region for the next 25 years. The plan is updated every five years.

The MTP update process will include extensive public involvement and input. The process will be similar to SACOG's successful 'Blueprint' program that was completed this past year which defines principles on which future growth should be based and provides a "vision" of what the region's land use could be by the year 2050. The blueprint growth principles and vision will be used in the preparation of the MTP. Given the region's very serious air quality and traffic congestion problems, the MTP update is one of the most important public policy determination programs for the Sacramento region. This writer has participated in past MTP and Blueprint processes and encourages all LWVSC members to attend the November 17 General meeting and become involved in the MTP update.

LWV Mission

The League of Women Voters is a nonpartisan political organization that encourages the informed and active participation of citizens in government, works to increase understanding of public policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy.

LWV Diversity Policy

The LWVSC affirms, in both its values and practices, its belief and commitment to diversity and pluralism, which means there shall be no barriers to participation on the basis of national origin, race, gender, creed/religion, age, sexual orientation or disability. (Adopted 2001)

*Welcome New
Members*

New Members

Esta Wiederanders

Re-instated

Pat Cole
Elinor Hickey

Civil Liberties Discussion in Sacramento?

“When it comes to the critically important relationship between our civil liberties and our nation’s security, government openness and public involvement are not just desirable- they are essential.” The LWVUS summation of Local Voices Report.

These remarks by LWVUS president Kay Maxwell in a press briefing for the “Local Voices: Citizen Conversations on Civil Liberties and Secure Communities” report can be found in www.lwv.org. She emphasized the League’s recommendations to policy makers, the media, and the public. All members of Congress received copies of this report.

Policymakers were urged to keep the public informed on important decisions made about our liberty and security and how changing policies that impact the public are implemented. The public was reminded to become more involved and engaged in their governmental meetings where it is essential that they be heard. Community organizations are urged to provide opportunities for vigorous discussion on issues of civil liberties and homeland security.

This was recently explored in the article entitled “Local Voices” in the National Voter (10/05) that summarized views by citizens who participated in focus groups hosted by local Leagues around the country . The deliberative dialogue was used by the LWVUS and the Study Circles Resource Center (SCRC) in partnership with twenty groups that demonstrated the vitality of the League’s role in convening groups in the community discussion about vital issues, such as the priorities of the American society for civil liberties and government communication in the post September 11 era and “war on terrorism” period.

Would you support the Sacramento League presentation of a program about “civil liberties” in the spring? If you agree, please contact a Board member, Unit chair, or leave a voicemail message on the LWVSC phone at 916- 447-8683 (Vote) and, Copies of the entire “Local Voices” report can be obtained by emailing your request to LWVUS attn: dduffy@lwv.org. or by mail to LWVUS, 1730 M Street, NW, Suite 1000, Washington, CD. 20036 (Attn: Danielle Duffy)

Will the “Pineapple Express” be Sacramento’s Katrina—By Rick Bettis

We are all familiar with the damage wrought by flooding caused by Hurricane Katrina in New Orleans. The Sacramento area is at risk of similar flooding resulting from levee failures caused by a severe long duration tropical storm dubbed the “Pineapple Express”. This storm is of the type that caused significant flooding and severe risk in 1986 and 1997. This relatively warm long duration storm results in excessive rainfall and snowmelt in the Sierra watershed areas that contribute flows to the American & Sacramento Rivers.

Sacramento’s location at the confluence of two major rivers increases its flood risk. It is protected by a complex system of levees, bypasses, dams, drainage channels and structures, and pumps. This system is designed to protect the area against a statistically determined “100-year” flood. This term is misleading and risk is more accurately described as an event that has a one- percent probability of occurring in any year. Statistically, this equates to 26 percent probability of flooding over the length of a 30-year home mortgage.

The flood protection system for New Orleans had been determined to be adequate for a 250-year or 0.4 percent probability event, two and one half times less risk than Sacramento. Property owners in areas with protection against the one percent flood are not required to have flood insurance; however, it is strongly recommended they do purchase this insurance which is available at a reduced rate.

Levee failures in Sacramento could result in excess of 15 feet depth of flooding in the North Natomas and the Pocket areas. The City of Sacramento and the Sacramento Area Flood Control Agency (SAFCA) are conducting a series of community public meetings to discuss the flood risk and the emergency evacuation and recovery plans that have been prepared for the area. Future meetings will be held at 6:30 PM on November 2, 14, 16, 17, and December 8. Locations can be obtained by calling the City or on their Internet Web site.

The US Corps of Engineers, SAFCA, the city and county are considering various alternative projects that would increase the flood protection to a 200-year or 0.5 percent probability. These include levee and bypass improvements, and modifications to Folsom Dam. This writer is representing the LWVSC at some of these deliberations through participation in the American River Task Force and the Sacramento River Corridor Forum.

Farewell to League Member Ann Antos

The Sacramento League bids a fond farewell to Ann Antos as she moves to Laguna Woods in Orange County this month. Her beloved husband, Skip, passed away recently, after more fifty-three years of marriage, and Ann decided to move closer to her family. Her new home in The Laguna Woods Village offers several pages of activities including two of her favorite organizations the LWV and AAUW.

Ann joined the League around 1975 and attributes her commitment to the Voter Service Program to her desire to give back to the community in appreciation for the college scholarship she received from the University of Pennsylvania. She served as Voter Service Director and participated regularly in the Speaker's Bureau. Ann enjoyed presenting the Pros and Cons to any audience, and the League received many notes of appreciation for her presentations. She accepted speaking engagements for most elections and was invaluable to the Voter Service Program.

The League deeply appreciates Ann's generous contribution of her time, ability, and enthusiasm for over thirty years. The Foothill/Sunrise Unit met in her lovely Fair Oaks Village home for more than twenty years, and she served as chair and a presenter often.

We will miss Ann in Sacramento and offer our best wishes to her for her every happiness. If you would like to contact Ann please contact Vivian Skintauy for her new address.



Bernice "Bernie" Couteol

Happy 95th Birthday Bernice "Bernie" Couteol

*We are pleased to celebrate this milestone with long-time
League member, Berice Courteol!*

Bernie was born in Philadelphia in 1910 to Quaker parents. She has been a life-long practicing Quaker and met the love of her life, Paul Courteol, at a Quaker Boarding School in Pennsylvania. They married in 1933 after Paul's graduation from college. Paul and Bernie then moved to the Chicago area. In 1958, Bernie joined a start-up League of Women Voter's group in Des Plaines, Illinois. They moved several times, and Bernie remained a national League member in areas without local LWV group for her to attend,. In 1985, they moved to Sacramento, and the national league sent her name to the LWVS office, and she joined the Arden Unit. She was pleasantly surprised to again meet Lois Wright and Trudy Schafer, who were friends of her daughter, Mary, when they all lived in Des Plaines ." It is truly a small world!", she said. Both of her daughters, Mary Kasch (Sacramento) and Ouida Parker (Soldotna, Alaska), are also League members.

When asked why belonging to League was so important to her, Bernie said, "I've enjoyed learning about what's going on, and the League does a great job at sifting out rumor, presenting the facts, and remaining impartial".

Bernie now lives at Eskaton Village in Carmichael, in independent living. She loves to have guests visit for lunch and keeps up with activities there, including a weekly discussion group. She would love to see her friends from League, so give her a call!

Kudos to Jill LaVine

Jill La Vine, Registrar of Voters of the Sacramento County Elections Office was enthusiastically received by fellow League members at the fall kick-off General Meeting on September 27th when she discussed election related issues and answered members' questions. Although she has been at the helm as Registrar for only two years Jill clearly demonstrated her mastery of the complex county elections administration, and her prior eighteen years of experience in the office were an asset.

She introduced Debbie Woods, the new Outreach Director, who demonstrated the AutoMark Voting machine that was purchased to comply with the Help America Vote Act (HAVA) requirements. Since Sacramento purchased more than 400 voting machines it will be an important test site for AutoMark.

The AutoMark Voting System, by Elections System and Software (ES&S), is a ballot marking system designed to provide privacy and accessibility to voters who are blind, vision-impaired or have a disability or condition that would make it difficult to mark a ballot in the usual way. It also provides language assistance to voters who are more comfortable speaking an alternative language or who have reading difficulties, The system uses a touch screen but does not record the vote electronically. It follows the vote indications to mark a large optical scan type ballot. Voters can use earphones to hear their choices in several languages and indicate their choices in variety of ways. Jill mentioned that every precinct will have one AutoMark machine that is referred to as the "\$5,000 pencil", but the majority of voters are expected to use the #2 pencil to fill in the bubble on their ballot in the usual manner in the polling place or on their absentee ballot.

The ballot may be read at the polling place by a precinct based optical scan machine or may be put into a ballot box to be tabulated by central optical scan. This paper ballot will be retained and can be used for recount.

Ms. La Vine mentioned her activities at the state and national level where she is co-chair of the Legislation Committee for the California Association of Clerks and Election Officials (CACEO). She is also a member of the Voters with Special Needs Committee and the Certification of Voting Systems Committee. Nationally, she is chair of Postal Task Force that will update the Election Official Guide with training sessions in each state, a joint project with the Election Center and the U.S. Post Office.

Again our special thanks to Jill La Vine, Debbie Woods, and Virginia Kaser of the University of Southern California ,Capital Campus, for hosting this important voter education League meeting.

Sacramento Media Group

Meets with Channel 13 & Plans Public Media Forum

("LWVSC is participating member of the media group)

As documented in previous Voter articles the LWVSC has been participating in the Sacramento Media Group (SMG) an ad hoc committee associated with Common Cause and the National Alliance for Better Campaigns. SMG is advocating for more in-depth and balanced coverage of elections issues, and other public policy matters by the local commercial TV stations.

The SMG has evaluated the news coverage of the local stations during the 2004 election and has published a report summarizing these activities and the results of the study. The report concludes that the locally produced election coverage did not meet the goals established by the Alliance. The SMG plans to continue these evaluations, and address other media related issues such as the public trust requirements for renewal of licenses by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC). The license renewals are scheduled for 2006, and the public will have the opportunity to submit comments/recommendations to the FCC.

The SMG recently met with the Station Manager and Assistant News Director at Channel 13 to discuss their plans for coverage of the November special election. We plan similar meetings with all the local commercial channels. The SMG also is planning a public forum that will address media issues for early in 2006. Any LWVSC members interested in participating in this effort should contact JoAnn Fuller of Common Cause at **(916) 443-1792**.

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For information leave a voice mail message at 916-447-VOTE (8683)

The Sacramento Voter is published 10 times a year by the League of Women Voters of Sacramento County. Membership is open to all United States citizens, 18 years of age or older. Non-citizens and youth under 18 may join as associate members. Membership dues, payable to the League of Women Voters of Sacramento County, are \$50 per year (\$75 for families). Contributions for the LWV and membership dues are not deductible as charitable contributions for tax purposes.

Joining LWVSC makes you a member of all levels of League (Sacramento County, State and Nationals).