



# THE SACRAMENTO VOTER

THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF SACRAMENTO COUNTY

1507 21st Street, Suite 303 Sacramento, CA 95814  
February 2006

## "Future Transportation Choices for Sacramento County" Forum

February 2, 2006 - 7:00 p.m.

County Board of Supervisors Chambers  
700 H Street, Sacramento, CA

Metropolitan Transportation Plan Update-2006

cosponsored by:

League of Women Voters of Sacramento County, Sacramento  
Metropolitan Cable Channel 14, and Sacramento Alliance of Neighborhoods (SCAN)

### Moderator:

- Suzanne Phinney, League of Women Voters of Sacramento County

### Panelists:

- Mike McKeever, Executive Director Sacramento Area Council of Governments (SACOG)
- Dr. Beverly Scott, General Manager, Sacramento Regional Transit
- Dr. Glennah Trochet, Sacramento County Health Officer
- Karen Wilson, Division Manager of Sacramento Metropolitan Air Quality Management District
- Dave Butler, Senior VP Marketing Sacramento Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce
- Earl Withycombe, President, American Lung Association of Sacramento-E migrant Trains and the community representative

Rebroadcast- February 5, 2006 -9 AM- on Metro Cable-Channel 14

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## Board Message

By Barbara Hopkins

On February 14, 1920 the League of Women Voters was founded as a “mighty experiment” at the “Victory Convention” of the National American Woman Suffrage Association in Chicago. The nearly eighty year struggle of the suffragists to gain women the right to vote followed by the eighty-six year League citizen education organization is a remarkable legacy. One of the challenges for this generation is whether all Leagues can continue the commitment and service of our predecessors?



Barbara Hopkins

What do you think the direction and agenda of the Sacramento League should be for 2006-2007? How can you help? The Nominating Committee will contact members to ask whether they will accept the critical leadership jobs. I am pleased that Sally Weinland and Doris Olson agreed to serve as cochair but the committee needs the help of all members to decide the future of the Sacramento League. Your ideas about prospective leaders are needed, including self-nominations.

Voter Service is preparing for the Primary Election on June 7 and members are urged to attend the first committee meeting on February 15 at 5:30 p.m. in the League Office. If you are interested but unable to attend please contact me at 388-0785 or [barbhopkins2@yahoo.com](mailto:barbhopkins2@yahoo.com). The Candidates Forum, cosponsored with Metro Cable Channel 14, is scheduled for April 29 so mark your calendars. Decisions of whether to change the format for the Speakers Bureau presentations of the Pros and Cons other voter service programs need to be made. So mark your calendar for February 15 for a closer view of the candidates and the ballot measures in the Primary Election.

Program Planning is designed to gather “grassroots” input on issues for the national and state levels. See the LWVUS special website listed in this Voter Planning article for a discussion about issues, studies and program ideas. The death penalty is proposed as a study issue. What do you think? LWVSC consensus will be recorded at their regular unit meeting the week of February 13. You may mail or email your comments to Roseanna Torretto, [Rtorrett@pacbell.net](mailto:Rtorrett@pacbell.net), to be included with the Sacramento consensus also. The two-year LWVC Energy Study Update consensus will be completed on February 1 when all Units will meet together at the Arcade Library.

Communicating with members is a challenge. The LWVSC Member Email List has not worked due to the many incorrect addresses. Email messages would reduce printing and postal costs. Please return the yellow postcard by mail with your correct addresses to the League office or email to [lww@lwvsacramento.org](mailto:lww@lwvsacramento.org).

Continued Next Page

**Board Message Continued ...**

League volunteers provide a variety of programs that enrich League and it is important to take time to appreciate their service. Please join me in extending a very special thank you to:

- Suzanne Phinney, Mignon Marks, Bill Chamberlain and Dae Lewis for presenting the LWVC Energy Update Study and Consensus.
- Tom Swift for coordinating the Legislative Interviews with state elected officials.
- Mary Brill, Rick Bettis and Suzanne Phinney for planning and presenting the "Metropolitan Transportation Plan Update Forum". It will be broadcast live on Channel 14 on February 2 and rebroadcast on Feb. 5 at 9 a.m.
- Pat Cole and Esta Wiederander for coordinating the Department of Rehabilitation special election project for the California Vendors Policy Committee that also contributed to the LWVSC Fund Development.

And we are grateful to the many League volunteers who keep League projects going throughout the year also. **Happy 86th Birthday to the League!**

**Board Briefs**

The Board of Directors met on January 4, 2006:

- Voter Registration Affidavit Project with Registrar of Voters was renewed at \$2800 for 2006.
- The new LWVSC Directory/Roser needs correct addresses and E-mails and a postcard will be mailed to members for this communication information.
- Approved League cosponsoring the Metropolitan Transportation Planning Forum with Metro Cable Ch. 14 and Sacramento County Alliance of Neighborhoods as a citizen outreach and education issue forum on transportation planning in Sacramento Region.
- Approved Membership Celebration to be held on March 25, 2006 to honor League members celebrating their 50 years as members and new League members who joined during 2005-2006.
- Discussed Voter Service planning for the Primary Election on June 7 and that the committee will begin meeting in February.
- Directed the president to hire a courier to transport the new Voter Registration Affidavits from the Office of the Registrar of Voters to League Office and return the unused affidavits.
- Approved a Fund Development mailing to members and previous contributors using the Suffragist's format.
- Next meeting will be in the LWVSC office on January 25 at 6:00 p.m. for the benefit of the March Voter mailing. All League members are welcome.

**Get on Board:  
Nominations Sought**

The nominating committee is beginning its work for the coming 2005-2006 year.

We welcome a chance to get to know you better and learn about your interests. Come to the board meetings or to general meetings and introduce yourself.

We are interested in having new people with new ideas on the board. And welcome veteran League members who have much to share and are able to serve again.

Whatever your special interest or expertise there are opportunities in League that can become a match. If politics is of interest there is voter service; studying issues there is program; meeting people there is membership and if you enjoy fundraising there is fund development. These are just some projects important to the mission of the League that you may enjoy.

The Nominating Committee is unable to contact everyone, so please come forward and introduce yourself.

*Please call in suggested names or volunteer yourself- to Sally Weinland (483-0548) and Doris Olson (487-7072),cochair. Or feel free to contact any Board member.*

## LWVUS Program Planning Unit Meetings: February 13-15, 2006

According to the LWVUS publication, In League, "Program is the League's 'reason for being,' the basis of both education and action efforts." Program - governmental issues chosen for study and action - is an essential element of League and, because it is so important, has traditionally originated with the membership through the program planning process.

### Unit Meetings

#### February 13-15, 2006

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

It is important for Leagues to participate in this process. Unfortunately, grass-roots participation in this process has steadily declined over time. As a result, we are seeing program planning at the state and local level increasingly being replaced by program planning on the convention floor, which traditionally accounts for only 1.3 percent of the membership. In 2004, only 29 percent of local and state Leagues participated in LWVUS program planning, making it difficult for the LWVUS Board to determine the extent of interest on specific issues for study and action.

In order to open up the process, a LWVUS Program Planning discussion list is available for the first time to engage members in conversation about issues of national interest prior to the March 2006 deadline for Leagues and ILOs to submit suggestions for program. To subscribe, send an e-mail to: [subscribe-lwv-programplanning@lists.lwv.org](mailto:subscribe-lwv-programplanning@lists.lwv.org) and reply to the confirmation e-mail that will be sent within several minutes.

At the same time, local Leagues will provide opportunities for members to participate in LWVUS Program Planning discussions. **We need your input and your ideas to bring Program back to its (grass)roots!**

LWVUS Program Planning materials, including Report Forms and topics under consideration by other Leagues, will be distributed to the LWVSC Unit Chairs for the February unit meetings. If you have any questions or would like additional information about League Program Planning please contact *Roseanna Torretto*, LWVSC Director at [toretto@pacbell.net](mailto:toretto@pacbell.net) or call in the evenings at 483-6545. To find the times of the LWVSC Unit meetings read the list of units on the left hand side of this page.

### 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)*

### Attention: League Volunteers in the Voter Registration Affidavits Project

The Sacramento County Registrar of Voters Office has issued new voter registration affidavit forms, effective January 2006. She requests that the League volunteers assist in exchanging the new affidavits for the old ones. You will be notified when the new affidavits are in the League office so you may arrange to pick up. After you pick up the new forms and refill the registration boxes at the more than twenty post offices and other locations please remove all of the old voter registration forms and return them to the League office.

Volunteers are asked to make arrangements to pick up the affidavits at the League office in advance and deliver the old ones for shredding. If you need assistance to get into the League office please contact **Barbara Hopkins at 388-0785 or email to barbhopskins2@yahoo.com.** Your voice mail message on the LWVSC phone at **447-8683** will also be returned.

Thank you for making the new voter registration forms available at the locations that you regularly supply. Also this voter service project contract has been renewed and will continue to contribute to the LWVSC fund development

If you would like to be a volunteer with this Voter Registration Project and deliver forms to a post office or government building near your area please contact Eileen Heaser or Barbara Hopkins. Volunteers are needed for several locations and it is easy to do.

Eileen Heaser  
eheaser@csus.edu

### Legislative Interviews

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 education and advocacy programs. Sacramento League members will meet with Senator Dave Cox, Senator Deborah Ortiz, Assemblyman Roger Niello and Assemblyman Dave Jones.

The budget, health care and redistricting are three issues that interviewers will discuss during the meetings. The LWVC provides valuable background information to help members prepare. These meetings provide an opportunity to learn about the officials views, plans and priorities in addition to the following three questions:

1. Which of the four strategies would the official prefer in dealing with the gap in the state budget:
  - ( a ) cut state spending;
  - ( b ) raise revenues through tax or fee increases;
  - ( c ) discontinuing certain tax expenditures;
  - ( d ) generate revenue by floating state bonds.
2. What should legislature do to insure that all Californians have access to health care?
3. Would you support a legislative effort to place a proposal on the ballot to vest authority for redistricting in an independent commission? What specific proposals would you like to see?

If you are interested in participating in the legislative interviews please contact **Tom Swift, the coordinator, at tomswift@saclink.csus.edu.**



## The Department of Rehabilitation Special Election Kudos to Pat Cole and Esta Wiederander

The League has served as a contractor for the Department of Rehabilitation (DOR) special elections since 1995 when Rene Taylor, then Voter Service Director, submitted the first bid for this combined voter service/fund development project. League members have continued to provide the services for this biennial project.

In 2005, Pat Cole and Esta Wiederander conducted the California Vendors Policy Committee ( CVPC) Election for the DOR. The state regulations require a special election for ten vendors to serve on the CVPC, a state policy making committee that oversees DOR services for the visually handicapped. The visual needs of the vendors. may range from persons who can read large print to those who require Braille And the contractors must provide all the special materials as required. The election by mail can include ballots in large print, audiotape and Braille as indicated. Nomination election and final results are mailed to the ten districts in the state require extra mailings for all vendors. And all these steps need to be repeated for each district that has a tie or does not have a winner with a plurality. In 2005 the election was extended to mid-January, 2006 because of a tie in one district.

A special thank you to Pat and Esta for conducting the five-month California Vendors Policy Committee election for the League. This extra income (\$10,000) is especially important for LWVSC fund development this year.

## February Membership Update

### Welcome to New LWVSC Members

Margaret McBride  
Margery H. Winter

### We Will Miss

Helen Bradfield  
Janice Harris  
Audrey King  
Cynthia Wold  
Barbara Semas

### We are Grateful to League

### Contributors

Tom Swift  
Joan Tennis  
Trisha Uhrhammer

### Reminder of Dues due date



League membership is renewed on anniversary dates according to the date joined. An aide to help you remember your League Due Date is the mailing label on this Voter and is printed in the upper right hand corner. The Treasurer also mails an annual dues payment notice. If you have any questions please contact Vivian Skintauy at [may9045@sbcglobal.net](mailto:may9045@sbcglobal.net) or call her at 916-991-5409.



## LWVSC Part of Sacramento Wi-Fi Effort

By Rick Bettis

The LWVSC has been participating in meetings with approximately 25 non-profit social service organizations who are attempting to increase the public benefits from the proposed Sacramento "Wi-Fi" (Wireless Fidelity) system. This wireless internet access system is proposed for the entire City of Sacramento. The initial Phase I system would serve the downtown area. The social service organizations have formed an ad hoc "WiFi Advisory Committee" which is attempting to convince the City that these agencies should receive free low cost service from the proposed system to their organizations and other disadvantaged communities.

The proposed wireless system uses radio signals from "stations", located throughout the community on City. The stations will consist of small receiver/transmitter cabinets mounted on City owned facilities such as light poles, signal lights, parking garages and water tanks. The stations will have a spacing of approximately one for each three square miles. This type of facility currently exists at some locations, such as coffee shops, that offer free Internet access to customers who have portable laptop computers.

The system will be installed by a private company, MobilePro, who will offer service connections at rates ranging from \$19.95 to \$249 per month depending on the speed of the service provided. The MobilePro proposal also includes a provision for up to two hours free relatively slow speed service per day for a single log on per individual.

In return for the free use of its facilities and access to its fiber optic cable system, the City will receive 2000 high speed business class service connections at no cost. The City plans to use these services for such applications as on scene public safety such as incident reporting, code enforcement work, and field worker support such as water meter reading and maintenance activities.

The non-profit social service organizations believe that this system will enable them to provide their services more effectively. They have asked for free or low cost service, equivalent to that being offered to the City by MobilePro, that would be used to provide health care, job, school, housing and other information of value to the disadvantaged.

The City Council is expected to act on the MobilePro proposal soon, and authorize their staff to enter into final contract negotiations. If you want to learn more on this matter or become involved you may contact *Jo Ann Fuller at California Common Cause at (916) 443-1792.*

### February Calendar of Events

**Feb 1 - 9AM - All Units Meet to discuss LWVSC Energy Study Update Consensus Questions - Arcade Library - Marconi Ave.**

**Feb 2 - 7 PM LWVSC cosponsors Metropolitan Transportation Forum at Metro on Ch. 14**

**Feb 5 - 9 AM Rebroadcast MTP Forum on Metro Cable - Ch. 14 & Feb. 15**

**Feb 13-15—Units LWVUS Program Planning Meeting - suggest national studies**

**Feb 15 - 5:30 PM - Voter Service Committee Meeting**

**Feb. 22 - LWVSC - Board Meeting - Office**

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PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

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).