



THE SACRAMENTO VOTER

THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF SACRAMENTO COUNTY

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

League of Women Voters General Meeting Update of the Sacramento General Plan

December 5, 2006- 7:00 PM

Speaker: Surinder Singh, Planner,
Sacramento County General Plan

USC -Capital Campus
1800 I Street, Sacramento, CA 95814

LWVSC General Meeting

Mr. Surinder Singh, the Sacramento County General Plan expert will discuss the status of the County Plan Update following the series of ten community workshops to discuss how the county accommodates population growth projected in SACOG's Sacramento Region Blueprint. Resident input during the interactive September meetings that League members attended will also be discussed. This is an excellent opportunity for League to learn the implications of the update for them and whether the League position may also need to be updated.

The County's General Plan is undergoing its first comprehensive update since it was last adopted in 1993. This update is necessary to plan for growth in the next planning cycle (2005-2030) as well as to address new emerging planning issues. Sacramento County is now at an exciting crossroads with choices about how and where to grow over the next 25 years.

There is a new online game titled "Who Wants to be a Planner" that allows participation in the General Plan Update. This interactive game is not only fun, but the answers that you submit will be reported back to the Board of Supervisors in the fall. To play the game, go to <http://sacgame.mig.com.com>.

The University of Southern California has convenient parking underneath and you may enter from the all off of 18th street behind the university and enter the building from the garage. There is plenty of on-street parking. We will look for you on December 5th.

2006-07
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Board Message

By Barbara Hopkins

The League voter service volunteers are busy with the November 7th election. If you would like to get involved just call the office. This election coordinating volunteers with community speaker requests is complicated by the absence of a voter service director, office staff and the change in speakers' policy. Special appreciation to Board member Rick Bettis for stepping in and trying to fill some daily telephone requests.



Barbara Hopkins

The "Pros and Cons of the Ballot Propositions Forum" held on October 18 th at 6:30 PM in the Pannell Center on 24th & Meadowview Road was the new public forum featuring League panelists presenting the issues and was intended to respond to public requests. Kudos to Elaine La Rue for coordinating this voter education program to resolve the challenge trying to speak at more than twenty community events with fewer speakers. Thank you to the panelists and the Meadowview Neighborhood Association for cosponsoring this new voter education event.

Another voter service is the League Candidates Forums frequently requested by community groups that relies on trained volunteer moderators For nearly twenty years the League and Metro Cable Ch 14 present multiple county forums and viewers can see the November 7th election forums every Sunday on channel 14 until November 5. League moderators are requested by community groups to insure that their forums run smoothly. Kudos to Kathy Souza, Suzanne Phinney, Trisha Uhrhammer and Donna Chipps for moderating this election season. If you may consider becoming a moderator please call Kathy Souza and arrange to observe her at a community forum or call the office.

The KCRA-Call 3 is an exciting opportunity to answer voter questions on Election Day in the television studio. This twelve hour program needs many League volunteers, please call Anne Rudin or the office if you are interested.

"The New Member Tea" on October 28th at 2 PM was held for both new and seasoned members to get acquainted. We appreciate Donna Chipps for opening her lovely home for everyone to enjoy this rare League social gathering to ease new members into getting involved. Membership is a top priority as member volunteers make the League possible.

Your Membership Surveys are appreciated and the committee is pleased to learn about your personal interests in League. As the committee updates the database with member interests we are eager to improve the links between members and opportunities.

Make note of the variety of League coming events with details in this Voter

- Flood Protection Committee Meeting- November 9
- Regional Transportation Workshop (SACOG)-November 14
- County General Pan Update League General meeting-(USC)- December 5

If you missed the Global Climate Change and Energy Community Forum at SMUD on September 25th a DVD copy is available by sending a \$30 check to Access Sacramento at 4623 T Street. Kudos to everyone who helped to make this community forum a success.

Best wishes for a Happy Thanksgiving.

Board Briefs: August 23 & September 20, 2006

Office Relocation

The Board approved relocating on January 20, 2007 to new offices at 80112th Street, Suite 220, Sacramento, CA 95814 (at H Street) to share the suite with the LWVC. The new building owner is increasing the monthly rent to market rate (from \$525 month to \$977) and the board approved downsizing to from 577 sq ft to 352 sq. ft at \$634 month for two offices The other benefits are LWVC neighbor, convenience of RT stop in front and street parking and building security. The Sacramento Archives will store League papers. The Board is looking for donated or an inexpensive moving truck or service and would appreciate member help or contacts.

Membership

Vivian Skintauy, Treasurer, reported that the LWVSC Membership Status Report(MSR) as of September 20, 2006 was 278 members. Two new nationally recruited members (NRM) and three new local members. And the financials for August, 2006 was minus \$1,881.71 that is consistent with previous summer vacation periods.

New Member Tea

Board approved the plans for a New Member Tea to be held on October 28, 2006 at the home of Donna Chipps. This New Member event is long overdue and seasoned members are invited to welcome new members.

Membership Committee Survey

Board approved the mailing of a membership survey to communicate with all members and learn their expectations of League and possible areas of expertise to support the League. Donna Chipps, Roseanne Chamberlain and Roseanna Torretto would welcome new members to the committee and invite you to contact them.

Flood Protection Local Study Adopted at August 23rd General Meeting

The members attending the August 23rd meeting voted in favor of adopting the local study on Flood Protection. A Flood Protection Committee is formed and will meet after the election on November 9, 2006 at 7 PM in the League Office. Members interested in being a part of the study may call or E-mail Penny Niland, Chair at 916-492-9096 at pniland@earthlink.net.

Voter Service and Advocacy

The board heard the Voter Service Committee plans for the November 7 Election. The special October 18th Pros and Cons of Ballot Propositions Forum is a major change from members visiting community groups. Since the League volunteers are limited, this new event hosted by Meadowview Neighborhood Association at the Sam Pannell Center 24th and Meadowview Road at 7 PM was organized by project chair, Elaine La Rue and team of speakers.

Issue Forums

The Board approved the final plans for the Global Climate Change and Energy Forum with six panelists at SMUD Auditorium to be held on September 25 at 7:00 PM . The collaboration with several community organizations encourages partnership. The League participation in the SB 840 Health Insurance Reform Bill and continuing plan was discussed. Also the Campaign Finance Proposition 89 is major election effort by Leaguers.

EdSource

The EdSource inserts offers expert information about Proposition 1D Educational Facilities Bond Act of 2006 that the League supports and Proposition 88 the Classroom Learning and Accountability Act that the League opposes.

EdSource is an independent, nonpartisan, not-for-profit organization whose mission is to clarify complex education issues and to promote thoughtful policy decisions about public school improvement. EdSource was established in 1977 by the League of Women Voters of California, the California Parent Teacher Association and the American Association of University Women, California chapter.

If you would like the Sacramento League to form an education committee please indicate this on the member survey and E-mail your interest to the LWVSC office. These EdSource publications may encourage you to attend their annual spring meetings in the Bay Area

Welcome To New Members and Thank you Contributors, Oct-Nov 2006

League Units

Small discussion groups.
If new call unit contact.

November 13-15, 2006
Election Results

Locations and Contacts

Mid-City

Monday: 6:15 PM
Doris White
383-0189
863 Fallbrook Way
Sacramento

Morning Suburban

Tuesday: 9:30 AM
Mary McCullough
967-7382
2426 Garfield Ave.
Carmichael

Greenhaven/Land Park

Tuesday: 9:30 AM
Mary Hopkins
422-6958
45 Sunlit Circle
Sacramento

Elk Grove

Nancy Meyers
689-6943
La Fuente Mexican
Restaurant
9631 E. Stockton Blvd.
Elk Grove

Welcome New Members

July

Joyce Rasmussen, Sacramento
Martin Rosenberg, Sacramento
Lynn C. Wilcox, Sacramento

August

Verner Larsen, Sacramento
Diane Ramsey, Fair Oaks
LaVerne Ireland, West Sacramento
Harriet Taylor, Sacramento

September

Barbara Krings, Carmichael
June St. Pierre, Sacramento
Cathy George, Carmichael
Kevin Regan, Carmichael
Donna McGlaughlin, Sacramento
Erin Mac Enearney, Sacramento
Melissa Androlowicz, Sacramento

Reinstated - August

Charles O'Neil, Sacramento
Eli Kaser, Fair Oaks

Thank you to Generous Contributors

July

Genevieve Shiroma & Michael Abbott
Karen Banker
Nancy Lapp
Marion Faustman

August

Virginia & Eli Kaser
Doris White

September

Lorraine Bond
Paul Brower
Connie Finster
Gary Meyer
Jane S. Owen
Connie Finster
Gary Meyer

Tired of Freeway Gridlock: Speak Up! MTP Workshop—November 16

Mark your calendar and plan to participate in the "Tall Order: Moving The Region Forward" event that includes eight regional workshops that will meet simultaneously on November 16, 2006, from 6:00 to 9:00 PM. There are four Sacramento sites and four other regional sites that will all be linked together to make regional decisions about where the \$30 billion dollars of federal funding to improve transportation in the area should be invested. Participants attending the identical workshops will immediately share their priorities and make regional decisions.

Advanced reservations are encouraged and can be made by calling Valley Vision at (916) 325-1634 or visiting www.sacog.org/mtg/2030. The four Sacramento workshops will be held in the Memorial Auditorium, 1515 J Street; Folsom Community Center, 52 Natoma Street, Folsom; The Pavilion in Elk Grove, 9950 Elk Grove-Florin Road and Inderkum High School, 2500 Market Drive, Natomas. This event is cosponsored by Sacramento Area Council of Governments, SACOG; Valley Vision and ten partners. Also ask for a copy of the comprehensive MTP 2030 packet provided by SACOG. (Note: Transportation is an Issue for Emphasis for the League and we have cosponsored several SACOG forums to keep League members informed. Please plan to participate)

In Memoriam

*Carol L Weilgart
1913-2006*

In Appreciation to Voter Service Volunteers

Voter Affidavit Project:

Eileen Heaser ♦ Elizabeth Byerly ♦ Judith Hoefling ♦ Donna Chipps ♦ Mary McCarthy ♦ Betty Youngren ♦ Anne Mourer ♦ Vera Loehr ♦ Virginina Kaser ♦ Anne Wiley Jones ♦ Minga Futrell ♦ Olga Batey ♦ Mitzi Wisler ♦ Barbara Olivia ♦ Catherine Troka ♦ Doris White ♦ Margaret Herman ♦ Vivian Skintauy ♦ Rina Humphers ♦ Elaine La Rue ♦ Roseanne Chamberlain ♦ Eileen Heaser ♦ Ruth Range ♦ Joyce Whitaker ♦ Cheryl Moore ♦ Donna Chipps ♦ Penny Niland ♦ Ilse Spivak ♦ Rick Bettis

KCRA Call 3 Election:

Anne Rudin ♦ Carol Goldberg ♦ Ruth Range ♦ Harriet Taylor ♦ Penny Niland ♦ Eileen Heaser ♦ Goldie Hall ♦ Pat Justice ♦ Marg Herman ♦ Ilse Spivek ♦ Elaine La rue, ♦ van Gennis ♦ Judy Hoefling ♦ Ed Hoefling ♦ Nancy Fox ♦ Fifi Zeff ♦ Jane Owen ♦ Doris White

Smart Voter:

Donna Chipps ♦ Nancy Tronaas ♦ Penny Niland

Candidates Forums:

Moderators: Kathy Souza ♦ Suzanne Phinney ♦ Trisha Uhrhammer ♦ Carol Moon Goldberg ♦ Lois Wright ♦ Anne Rudin

Timers: Mary Williams ♦ Rod Souza ♦ Debbie Id-dins ♦ Roseanna Torretto ♦ Pat Justice

Media Volunteers: Loretta Kalb ♦ Jeff Forward ♦ John Syer ♦ Ross Farrow ♦ Rachael Roberts Ackerman ♦ Shelly Blanchard ♦ David Davilla ♦ Lakesha McGhee

Voter Registration Tables at events:

Rick Bettis ♦ Pat Justice ♦ Betty Youngren ♦ Lola Acosta ♦ Ruth Range ♦ Harriet Taylor ♦ Catherine Troka

We apologize if your name was omitted.

Health Insurance Reform: League Supports Single Payer System

By Rick Bettis

At an August 23 General Meeting LWVSC members heard an excellent presentation from Mia Orr, a legislative staff member for Senator Shiela Kuehl, on Senate Bill 840, which would reform the existing health insurance system by establishing a single payer for California. Subsequently both houses of the California Legislature have passed this bill. When this article was being written the bill was being sent to the governor who, unfortunately has indicated he plans to veto this important legislation.

Senator Kuehl and other advocates for this legislation do not plan to give their effort. "OneCareNow" a non-profit broad based coalition of organization, including the League, that it advocating for this critically needed legislation, will conduct a 365-city campaign of public education and advocacy. The single payer insurance system as contained in SB 840 would:

- Establish one non-profit insurance plan to save administrative costs. It has been estimated that this would reduce administrative costs by 25%-30%.
- Provide reliable, quality coverage for all Californian for life. Californian could choose their own doctor and services would not be dictated by insurance companies.
- Create a health focused, not a profit based insurance system. It would establish a non-partisan Commissioner of health Policy, and all payments would be made through a Health Trust Fund.
- Would improve the business climate and health security of individuals by controlling health care costs, which have been rapidly increasing. It is estimating that there will be an average savings of \$300 to \$3,000 per year for most families.

If the governor does veto SB 840 Senator Kuehl plan to reintroduce this measure in 2007. If the bill is not approved in 2007, an effort to qualify an initiative for the 2008 General election is likely to be mounted. For the LWVSC Board member Roseanne Chamberlain will be coordinating with the OneCareNow campaign. League members interested in reforming our health insurance system should contact Roseanne. For more information please consult the web site www.OneCareNow.org.

What Can We Do About the Global Climate Change and Energy Challenges?

A Community Forum

September 25, 2006

To be rebroadcast on October 22nd at 5:00 PM on Channel 17 (Access Sacramento)

By Barbara Hopkins

This Global Climate Change and Energy Forum was designed to bring the community together and begin the dialogue about what we can do. The Sacramento chapters of the League of Women Voters and the United Nations Association and twelve other community organizations collaborated to make community forum successful and fill the SMUD Auditorium. Many questions by the public were answered after a panel of six experts presented their views about the causes and consequences of global warming (trapping of greenhouse gases) and the government, business and community actions underway to address the issues.

The League moderator, Suzanne Phinney, Ph.D., opened with comment from a professional seminar where keynote speaker believes action will occur when people become informed and demand changes. She urged community was urged to continue the dialogue.

The program opened with Chuck O'Neil showing the Student Flash Animation Winners of the Citizens for Global Solutions national contest that had nine thousand entries.

Mayor Heather Fargo gave welcoming remarks expressed the pride that Sacramento is the only city in the region to sign the Mayor's Conference Accords supporting the Kyoto Protocol and the impressive Sacramento Energy Department program. Her

Amy Lynd Luers, Ph.D, environmental scientist of the Union of Concerned Scientists described the impact of trapped greenhouse gases on the warming of the earth that is changing the earth environment can altering conditions permanently. The reduced Sierra snow packet, will impact the water supply shortages and impact fruit industry due to lack of chill hours annually and increase in wildfires. The good news is there is some time to prevent the worse case scenarios.

Genevieve Shiroma, President of the Board of Directors of the Sacramento Municipal Utility District (SMUD) reported how SMUD is working to reduce its carbon dioxide emissions by building wind turbine farms,, encouraging the building of low energy usage house, and that it is meeting the current goal of generating 23% of its power using renewable energy sources by 2011. k

Dorothy Rothrock, VP of California Manufacturers and Technologies Association discussed the adverse impact on business by the recently passed California law mandating restrictions on carbon dioxide emissions. The business community wants to prevent loss of business to states with less stringent regulation (that could also be solved with federal regulations), and that awarding credits to companies who voluntarily made improvements would be a helpful business incentive.

Pete Hathaway, Transportation Planning Director for Sacramento Area Council of Governments said the Update of the Metropolitan Transportation Plan recognizes that transport ion is the source of a major portion (44%) of carbon dioxide emissions and alternatives are needed for future transportation that is complicated by funding.

Larry Greene, Director of the Sacramento Metropolitan Air Quality Management District displayed the impact of global warming on air quality. And we can expect three times as many bad air days per year, and worse with the ten times as many over 100 degree days per year that will have severe impact on agriculture.

Continued Next Page

November Calendar	Nov. 7	ELECTION DAY- Take a Friend to VOTE!
	Nov. 9	7PM - LWVSC Flood Protection Committee Study Meeting- League Office
	Nov. 13-15	League Unit Meetings- League Voter Service & Election Results
	Nov. 15	5:30 PM - Board Meeting - League Office
	Dec. 5	7PM- General Meeting on Update to County General Plan USC- 1800 I Street
	Jan. 20	Office Move to 801 12th Street, Suite 220, Sacramento, CA 95814



Global Climate Change - Continued

Rev. David Thompson, Ph.D., pastor of Westminster Presbyterian Church and member of California Interfaith Power and Light passionately projected his message without the benefit of a mike. He emphasized the global reality of global warming that is worsening as China and other nations imitate the American model, particularly relying on vehicles that burn fossil fuel. He discussed local efforts by congregations, such as competitions with Carbon Footprints and public education. He said global warming is truly global, not local, and solving the problem will be a difficult long-term job for all people in the world. We all need to become better stewards of the earth. "The earth is not ours"

Although the nearly one hundred audience questions could not be answered they are being summarized either the League web site or for use by the follow-up Global Climate Change Committee that many signed on to participate. If you are interested in being contacted about the committee meeting please E-mail the League office at lwvs@lwvsacramento.org.

We appreciate the help of all who contributed to this forum. The Planning Committee of LWV and UNA and other groups: Katharine Thompson, Chuck O'Neil, Pat Naylor, Phil Jaynes, Rick Bettis, Rev. Dexter Mc Namara & CIPL, Rev. Ted Webb, Jude LaMare, Donna Chipps, Roseanna Torretto, Pat Justice and Roseanne Chamberlain. And the other community organizations: Physicians for Social Responsibility, California Interfaith Power and Light, Interfaith Service Bureau, Therapists for Social Responsibility, Breathe California, Gray Panthers, Older Women's League.

Special thanks to Kathryn Young, Graphic Artist, for the provocative flyer design and Vaughn Hopkins for the program design

Thank you also to media, Access Sacramento, Hometown Project for videotaping entire program and to Graham Womack, Sacramento News and Review and Edie Lau. Sacramento Bee for their articles that attracted the audience

Also thank you to the LWVUS Education Fund and the People Speak Program of the United Nations Foundation for grant that helped with expenses.

The Next Meetings will be the California Power and Light Showings of the film "Inconvenient Truth."

LWVSC Voter Service Highlights

The November 7, 2006 Election have kept League voter service volunteers busy. From registering voters at community events; producing candidates forums, presenting the pros and cons on ballot propositions, monitoring the www.SMARTVOTER.org website, to answering voters questions on Election Day at KCRA-TV- Call 3 program or as poll workers. Many volunteers juggle more than one project. Voter service is always open to new volunteers so please call the League office if you would like to be a part of this nonpartisan election service. (See the insert for details of the Fall 2006 Election activities)

Community partnerships extend our voter service outreach and we all benefit from working together. In addition to the annual contract with the Registrar of Voters to maintain the voter affidavits in public buildings, to moderating the Candidates Forums with Metro Cable Ch. 14 for the 2006 election the League has cosponsored events with Access Sacramento, NAACP, Opening Doors, WEAVE, Latino Task Force, Rancho Cordova & Folsom PTA, Sacramento Unified PTA, Neighborhood Associations of Meadowview, Arden Arcade, Roseville and the South County Citizens for Responsible Growth.

The Voter Service Committee has made some changes for the 2006 Election.

"The Public Pros and Cons on Ballot Propositions Public Forum" was held on October 18, 2006 at 6:30 PM in the Sam Pannell Community Center at 24th and Meadowview Road with panelists discussing the state propositions. This program was to replace the tradition Speakers Bureau when individual speakers responded more than community groups and election. Special thank you to Elaine La Rue for coordinating this event and the League panelists.

The snappy www.smartvoter.org advertisements on the backs (tails) of ten buses (Regional Transit) will publicize this voter service Internet resource. If you spot one of the bus signs please E-mail the League office so we can gauge their impact. Special thanks to Penny Niland who worked with Donna Chipps to make this idea a reality. (Please contact the office if you spot one)

The new spectacular red felt table cover in Spanish was added to the voter service supplies to help the League to bridge the language gap at Latino community events. We deeply appreciate the hours of work by Lola and Fredricka Acosta to create this attractive voter outreach tool.

The new Voter Registration Handbooks prepared by Cheryl Moore have been especially helpful guides for new volunteers at voter registration tables. Thank you, Cheryl.

The media panelists who volunteer and ask challenge the candidates with expert questions that helps voters evaluate who is best qualified for the office are asset to the League/Metro Cable Candidate Forums. Thank you to League resident panelist, Professor Emeritus. John Syer, CSUS; Jeff Forward, Elk Grove Citizen; Ross Farrow, Lodi News Sentinel; Rachael Roberts, Galt Herald; Shelly Blanchard, Grapevine Independent and Loretta Kalb, Lakiesha McGhee, and Bob Davilla of the Sacramento Bee.

Although we were busy many voter service opportunities were missed, especially the Mock Student Elections. If you are willing to volunteer for this program or consider the voter service director position or sharing the coordinator duties it would be a great help. If you are interested please contact the League office.



"Smart Voter" Bus: Pictured: Penny Niland, Donna Chipps and Barbara Hopkiins

League Campaigns for Proposition 89 Passage

By Rick Bettis

LWVS members are urged to volunteer to help achieve the passage of Proposition 89, the California Clean Money and Fair Elections Act. The LWV of California has made this effort a high priority for this election. The League is part of a broad based coalition that includes California Common Cause, the California Clean Money Campaign, the California Nurses Association, who qualified Proposition 89 for the ballot, and many other organizations

Proposition 89 will establish reasonable limits on campaign contributions and a system of public financing of political campaigns for State level candidates in California. It is similar to successful measures that have been in effect in Arizona and Maine for several years. Last year Connecticut adopted a similar system, as have several municipalities.

Candidates would demonstrate their viability by gathering signatures and small \$5 qualifying donations – 750 for Assembly up to 25,000 for Governor. In return they may receive public funds ranging from \$250,000 for a primary and \$400,000 for the general elections for assembly candidates up to \$10 million and \$15 million for candidates for Governor. This system would be funded by a small 0.2% increase in corporate income taxes.

Proposition 89 will:

- Level the playing field, making elections more fair and competitive. Candidates with the best ideas and dedication to public service would have a chance to win. In Maine and Arizona there has been a significant increase in the number of women and minority candidates.
- Reduce the influence of lobbyists, the wealthy and special interest groups.
- Set limits on “independent” campaign contributions
- Ban contributions by lobbyists and companies that do business with the State.
- Limit the amount corporations can spend on ballot measure campaigns.
- Restrict contributions by corporations, to \$500 for candidates for state legislature, and \$1,000 to candidates for statewide office.
- Establish tough penalties including removal of candidates from office who break the law.

Locally, the passage of Prop.89 would result in lifting the ban on public financing of campaigns that was imposed by Proposition 73 in 1988. A previously passed partial public finance ordinance would then be in effect in the County and other cities could enact public financing regulation.

The California Nurses Association is coordinating phone banks every Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday and would love to have Leaguers helping out. To volunteer and donate to this campaign, please go to the web site www.BuckTheSystemNow.org or contact Donna Chipps, cf@lwvc.org . Additional information can be found at www.89now.org .

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SACRAMENTO COUNTY

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Sacramento, CA 95814

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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).