



# THE SACRAMENTO VOTER

THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF SACRAMENTO COUNTY

NOVEMBER 2007

---

## **TRAINING FOR VOTERS SERVICE VOLUNTEERS SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 3, 2007, 10 AM—NOON**

**At the home of Cheryll Moore, 1910 Chatsworth Lane, Carmichael  
RSVP to Cheryll Moore at 916-483-5524 so we can  
provide training materials for all in attendance**

---

## **LWVUS IMMIGRATION STUDY CONSENSUS MEETING SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 10, 2007, 9 AM-NOON USC State Capitol Center, 1800 I Street, Sacramento 95814**

**Moderator: Suzanne Phinney**

Look forward to a morning of thoughtful discussion seeking the common ground, marked by respect for differing opinions.

- What criteria should be considered in writing Federal immigration laws?
- How should we prioritize legal entry into the U.S. for family reunification, for those meeting labor needs, for students, and for those fleeing persecution in their homelands?
- How should Federal immigration law dealing with unauthorized immigrants be enforced?
- How should Federal law address the unauthorized immigrants already in the U.S.?

**RSVP to Lola Acosta at [lola@winfirst.com](mailto:lola@winfirst.com) or 916-447-VOTE so we can provide seating, handouts, and light refreshments for all in attendance.**

---

**BOARD MEETING NOV. 19 AT 6:30 PM IN THE LEAGUE OFFICE**

## 2007-2008 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

### President

Roseanna Torretto  
916-483-6545(h)  
[torretto@pacbell.net](mailto:torretto@pacbell.net)

### First Vice-President

Roseanne Chamberlain  
916-454-2358  
[roseanne.ch@gmail.com](mailto:roseanne.ch@gmail.com)

### Second Vice-President

Voters Service  
Cheryll Moore  
916-483-5524  
[geroeducator@att.net](mailto:geroeducator@att.net)

### Third Vice-President

Government  
Penny Niland  
916-498-9935  
[pniland@earthlink.net](mailto:pniland@earthlink.net)

### Secretary

Virginia Kaser  
916-442-6911x26  
[Kaser@usc.edu](mailto:Kaser@usc.edu)

### Treasurer

Vivian Skintauy  
916-991-5409  
[Vivian\\_Skintauy@comcast.net](mailto:Vivian_Skintauy@comcast.net)

### Natural Resources

Rick Bettis  
916-447-8683  
[naturalresources@lwvsacramento.org](mailto:naturalresources@lwvsacramento.org)

### Outreach

Catherine Troka  
916-446-5933  
[troka@sbcglobal.net](mailto:troka@sbcglobal.net)

---

### Webmaster

Donna Chipps  
[webmaster@lwvsacramento.org](mailto:webmaster@lwvsacramento.org)

### Voter Editor

Nancy Lapp  
[nlapp@csus.edu](mailto:nlapp@csus.edu)

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

---

We have now reached the member agreement phase of the LWVUS Immigration Study. We will be holding our consensus discussion on Saturday morning, November 10.

Consensus is the process the League uses to reach member agreement on study issues. It is neither a simple majority nor unanimity; instead, it is *an overall sense of the group*. In other words, consensus results from answers to questions on which members can find common ground and agreement.

Group discussion that allows an exchange of ideas and opinions is the preferred way to achieve consensus. We will ask you to listen thoughtfully, keep an open mind, speak in turn, keep comments short, differ with dignity, and stay focused.

The consensus questions were included in the October Voter and on a link from our web site. We will describe member agreement using the ratings "High Priority", "Lower Priority", "Disagree", or "No Consensus". "Disagree" means that a "negative" consensus against the statement is reached - a substantial number of participants want no part of the statement. "No Consensus" means that some participants are in favor and some opposed, maybe even the majority in favor, but not enough to declare consensus. The various options, from High Priority to No Consensus are included to obtain the most information possible about the opinions of members on which to base an ultimate decision.

Local leagues across the country are taking consensus from September 2007 to January 2008. The LWVUS Immigration Study Committee will receive the results by February 1, 2008. The Committee will have two months to analyze consensus reports, determine areas of consensus, and write an immigration position for LWVUS Board approval at its April Board meeting. The LWVUS Board approved immigration position immediately becomes an LWVUS position. At this point, for the first time, the League can take action to affect public policy at the national level on immigration.

## **LEAGUE SUPPORTS AFFORDABLE HOUSING. CLEAN AIR, THE AMERICAN RIVER PARKWAY AND MORE**

**by Rick Bettis**

The LWVSC has been active in working with other community organizations in support of important public policies, including the following.

### **AFFORDABLE HOUSING**

The League joined over 100 housing advocates, social service, faith based, environmental, and other community organizations in urging the Sacramento County Board of Supervisors to reject proposed changes to the County's Affordable Housing ordinance. This ordinance requires that 15% of all units in housing developments of 100 units or larger be affordable to those with low, very low, and extremely low incomes (80, 50, and 30 percent of the County median income).

The Board of Supervisors did approve some changes negotiated to settle a lawsuit opposing the Ordinance by the Building Industry Association. These changes include:

- Establishing a partially publically financed fund to subsidize units for extremely low-income families, thereby potentially reducing the cost to the developers.
- Allowing construction of market rate units to proceed provided there are no "impediments" to construction on land dedicated by a developer in lieu of the construction of affordable units. This could weaken the requirement that the affordable units be constructed concurrent with the market rate units.
- Allowing excess affordable units from one project to be credited against the affordable unit requirement for another project provided no local public financing will be used for the projects. This could result in an over-concentration of affordable units.

Despite these changes the ordinance remains one of the strongest in the nation. There are no other known ordinances that include a requirement for housing for those with extremely low incomes. **(Story continues on page 4)**

## **LEAGUE SUPPORTS... (Continued from page 3)**

### **CLEAN AIR**

The League has also testified to the Board of the Sacramento Metropolitan Air Quality Management District in support of a Rule that would allow the District to declare “no burn” days for solid fuel heating devices on winter days when there is a severe temperature inversion. Medical studies have confirmed that there are significant health effects from the small particulate matter in smoke, including pulmonary and cardiovascular system damage.

The District Board voted to approve a tiered rule with three different air quality “trigger” levels: starting with 25mgpm (micrograms of small particulate matter per cubic meter of air) for voluntary “no burning” compliance for all devices, 35mgpm for mandatory compliance for most devices, and 40mgpm for U.S. Environmental Protection Agency certified low emission devices. The Board has estimated that the mandatory “no burn” days will average 23 days per year.

### **AMERICAN RIVER PARKWAY**

The LWVSC has testified to the Sacramento County Planning Commission in support of the American River Parkway advocates position of opposing large homes located very close to the edge of the bluffs across the River from Rancho Cordova. The Parkway advocates state that such developments are inconsistent with the County adopted Parkway Plan and aesthetic policies regarding development within a zone immediately adjacent to the Parkway.

The advocates are requesting that the homes be set back further from the bluff edge, such that the visual impact of the homes will be reduced and there will be no need to construct unsightly slope protection facilities.

### **OTHER ACTIVITIES**

The LWVSC also continues participation in many planning workshops, “stakeholder” and focus groups, and advisory committee processes including those of the County and City of Sacramento, Sacramento Area Flood Control Agency, Sacramento Regional Water Forum, Sacramento Regional Water Authority, EPA/Aerojet Groundwater Contamination Remediation Project, Sacramento Regional County Sanitation District, and Sacramento Regional Transit.

**JOIN THE LEAGUE ONLINE!!! [www.lwvsacramento.org](http://www.lwvsacramento.org)**

## LWVSC OBSERVER CORPS

By Penny Niland

League chapters across the country are renewing their commitment to the “observer corps” approach to supporting good government and increasing public visibility of local League chapters. The observer program puts a League member at public agency meetings---wearing a big, round LWV button and taking notes—to learn what the agency is doing and to monitor whether or not the meetings are conducted in an open and transparent way. Experience has shown the importance of the League being present to watch. When issues arise that relate to existing League policies, the Board will designate a League member to offer public comments on the issue at a subsequent meeting of the agency. Observer reports will also alert the League Board of issues that may merit a new League study or an update of an existing position. This process will allow the League policies to influence more of the important issues of the day.

Initially, Sacramento County League will be asking for volunteers to observe the meetings of the Sacramento County Board of Supervisors and the City Councils of Sacramento, Citrus Heights, Elk Grove, Folsom, Galt, Isleton, and Ranch Cordova and SAFCA (Sacramento Area Flood Control Agency). We will expand the program to other public entities as observers become available.

Are you a new resident of Sacramento County, trying to learn more about our community? Are you a recent retiree with new-found free time? Are you a “veteran” observer? Are you a new League member? Become an observer and help us fulfill our commitment to open government and civic engagement.

If you are interested in learning more or becoming a member of the Observer Corps, get in touch with League board member Penny Niland at [pniland@earthlink.net](mailto:pniland@earthlink.net) or 916-492-9096. We are planning to have the first training in early January and have Corps members in the field by the end of the month.

---

**RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP ONLINE!**

**[www.lwvsacramento.org](http://www.lwvsacramento.org)**

## VOTERS SERVICE UPDATE

LWVSC Voters Service volunteers have answered community requests to participate in voter registration events and to moderate non-partisan forums. In addition to the events listed in the October Voter, LWVSC staffed a voter registration table for the 6<sup>th</sup> annual Asian Pacific Islander Voters Education and Candidates Forum on October 28, 2007.

LWVSC co-sponsored two non-partisan forums about Measure B, the proposed north area school district unification. The October 3<sup>rd</sup> candidates forum was co-sponsored by the NAACP Sacramento Chapter and Sacramento Metro Cable, Channel 14, and featured 19 of the 24 candidates running for trustee of the proposed new district. The October 15 Measure B “pros and cons” forum was co-sponsored by the Greater Sacramento Urban League, the Del Paso Heights Elementary School District, and Access Sacramento Cable, Channel 17. See page 8 for dates and times of cable and web casts of the forums. League members who volunteered onscreen included Kathy Souza (moderator), Suzanne Phinney, and Roseanna Torretto. Off screen volunteers included Cheryl Moore, Barbara Hopkins (coordinator), Rod Souza (timer), Catherine Troka, Pat Justice, and Vivian Skintauy.

### UNIT MEETINGS: Immigration Study Discussion

UNIT	DATE & TIME	CONTACT	LOCATION
Mid-City	Attending Nov. 10 meeting in lieu of unit meeting.	Doris White 383-0189	8632 Fallbrook Way Sacramento
Morning Suburban	Tuesday, Nov. 6 9:30 AM (One week early)	Mary McCullough 967-7382	2426 Garfield Ave. Carmichael
Greenhaven/ Land Park	Attending Nov. 10 meeting in lieu of unit meeting.	Mary Hopkins 422-6958	45 Sunlit Circle Sacramento
Elk Grove	Tuesday, Nov. 6 Noon (One week early)	Pat Justice 391-9439	La Fuente Mexican Restaurant 9631 E. Stockton Blvd. Elk Grove

**Eileen Heaser, unit coordinator, 916-456-2154 or [eheser@csus.edu](mailto:eheser@csus.edu)**

## POTENTIAL LEAGUE IN PLACER COUNTY

A new League of Women Voters is in the process of forming in Placer County. Several people in the area have expressed interest in creating a new League, and Kathy Souza has been appointed by the LWVC to mentor the project. The first meeting was held October 4 to discuss the feasibility of forming a League in Placer County. The group agreed that it was indeed feasible and reviewed the steps required to be recognized as a member-at-large (MAL) unit.

A second meeting is scheduled for **Tuesday, October 30, at 6:30 at the fellowship hall of the Unity Church in Auburn (1212 High Street)**. If you are interested in joining this new organization, have any questions, or would like to be added to the email distribution list regarding future meetings and status of the new League, please contact Kathy Souza at 916-791-5187 or [kathysouza2003@yahoo.com](mailto:kathysouza2003@yahoo.com).

The prospect of creating a new League to serve the growing Placer County area is very exciting, and the League of Women Voters of Sacramento County is very supportive of the organization and its endeavor.

---

### WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

Teresa Bush-Chavey

Heidi Ramsay Caruso

Marcello T. Doubert

Dorothy Dublirer

Lyn Masbou

Lillian Deftereos (returning member)

Mary Lillard (returning member)

### THANK YOU TO OUR GENEROUS CONTRIBUTORS

Carol Moon Goldberg

Mona and Richard Leitner

Ruth and Lloyd Money

Cheryll Moore



THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS  
OF SACRAMENTO COUNTY

801 12th Street, Suite 210  
Sacramento, CA 95814  
Phone: 916-447-VOTE  
Fax: 916-447-8620

[www.lwvsacramento.org](http://www.lwvsacramento.org)

E-mail: [lwvs@lwvsacramento.org](mailto:lwvs@lwvsacramento.org)

***NOVEMBER 2007***

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

FIRST CLASS MAIL

FIRST CLASS MAIL

**FIRST CLASS**

U.S. POSTAGE PAID

SACRAMENTO, CA

PERMIT NO. 193

---

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

---

**SPECIAL ELECTION, MEASURE B, NOVEMBER 6  
NORTH AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT PROPOSAL**

Candidate Forum, cablecast at Sacramento Metro Cable, Channel 14, and webcast at [www.sacmetroable.tv](http://www.sacmetroable.tv)

3 Nov 9:00 AM

4 Nov Noon

5 Nov 10:00 PM

Issue Pros and Cons Forum, cablecast at Access Sacramento Cable, Channel 17 and webcast at [www.accesssacramento.org](http://www.accesssacramento.org)

3 Nov 5:00 PM

4 Nov 9:00 AM