



# THE SACRAMENTO VOTER

THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF SACRAMENTO COUNTY

FEBRUARY 2008

## **Put California Voters FIRST (Fair Independent Redistricting Standards Today) Initiative on the ballot.**

Join LWV and California Common Cause members to learn about the initiative that will put voters back in charge and overcome the current serious conflict of interest when politicians draw their own voting districts. Trudy Schafer of the League of Women Voters of California and JoAnn Fuller of California Common Cause will lead a workshop explaining the initiative and how an initiative qualifies for the ballot. We will have petitions for you to circulate among your friends plus other materials.

**Saturday, February 16, 2008, 9:30 to 11:30 AM**  
University of Southern California (USC) State Capitol Center  
1800 I Street, Sacramento 95814

For information contact JoAnn Fuller [jfuller@commoncause.org](mailto:jfuller@commoncause.org) or 916 443 1792 ext. 11

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## **Speakers Bureau Training — Part Two**

Elaine La Rue will continue the Pros and Cons training that began in January. Attendees will have an opportunity to continue their training session with mock presentations to those in the audience.

**Saturday, February 23, 2008, 1:00-4:00 PM**  
Location: 1910 Chatsworth Lane, Carmichael, CA 95608  
Please RSVP to Cheryll Moore at 916-483-5524 or [geroeducator@att.net](mailto:geroeducator@att.net)

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## **Understanding the Brown Act: What Every Citizen Should Know**

Guest Speaker: Tom Gibson

LWVSC will mark Sunshine Week, March 16-22, 2008, a national initiative to open a dialogue about the importance of open government and freedom of information.

**Tuesday March 18, 2008, 7 - 8:30 PM.**  
USC Capitol Center, 1800 I Street, Sacramento 95814

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**BOARD MEETING FEB. 18, AT 6:30 PM IN THE LEAGUE OFFICE**

## 2007-2008 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

### President

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### Voter Editor

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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Last week I was surfing the LWVUS and LWVC web sites to prepare for the new member coffee. I would like to share some of my "discoveries".

On the LWVUS home page, select Library, then Media Collection, to browse through the League's collection of streaming video including our historic **Presidential Debate Archive**. The League converted its video library of 1976-1988 Presidential Debate footage to streaming media files as part of the Barbara Stuhler Library. The Debates are currently available in a RealMedia format. You will need to download a Real Media Player to view the debates and other visual media resources.

The LWVUS Library also includes video of a November 28th, 2007, event to kick off the League of Women Voters and Elderhostel special nationwide series addressing the "Red-Blue Divide". The day-long launch event, held at the National Press Club, featured an impressive lineup of special guests, including noted political scholar Marvin Kalb and a number of premiere political scholars and practitioners.

In the LWVC "Action Guide, Action on Ballot Measures" for the February 2008 election I found a timely section addressing "Advocacy vs. Voters Service".

*The community respects the League for its objectivity and grassroots involvement, as well as for its nonpartisanship. However, sometimes the community and our own members are confused about the League's two roles: **voter service** and **advocacy**.*

*The League is always **nonpartisan**: It does not support or oppose candidates or political parties. However, we are **political** because we support and oppose legislation, lobby legislators, and take stands on ballot measures.*

*How can we keep voter service and advocacy from overlapping? Make sure the same person isn't doing both activities. A League member who has been visible advocating for or against a ballot measure should avoid being visible in a voter service capacity, and the voter service director should be involved only in voter service functions.*

## SACRAMENTO COUNTY GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT

By Rick Bettis

Nearly fifty percent of the water used in Sacramento County is pumped from groundwater aquifers (underground reservoirs). The total average amount of water that can be safely and reliably pumped in Sacramento County has been estimated to be approximately 520,000 acre-feet. An acre foot is equal to water spread over one acre to a depth of one foot. If it uses water wisely a typical single family home uses approximately two thirds of an acre-foot annually for both indoor and outdoor purposes.

The LWVSC participated in the Central Sacramento County Groundwater Forum, a four-year stakeholder cooperative effort that developed a Groundwater Management Plan for Central Basin located from the American River to south of the Cosumnes River. This area includes approximately sixty percent of the area of the County. Other Basins are the North Area, for the County area north of the American River, and the South Area, located south and east of the Cosumnes River.

The Management Plan was adopted in November 2006. It includes policies and procedures for using groundwater “conjunctively” with “surface” water pumped from the Sacramento, American, and Cosumnes Rivers. Conjunctive use is the coordinated use of surface water and groundwater supplies to increase the yields on both. Typically it would entail emphasis on the use of surface water during wet years when an ample supply is available and a greater use of groundwater during dry years when the flow in streams is less than normal.

A joint powers authority, the Sacramento Central Groundwater Authority, has been established to implement the Management Plan. This Board includes representatives of Sacramento County, the Cities of Sacramento, Elk Grove, Folsom and Rancho Cordova, the Regional Sanitation District, three public water service agencies, two investor owned water companies, one self supplied public park district, agricultural and agricultural-residential interests, and conservation landowners such as the Nature Conservancy and the Sacramento Valley Conservancy, who are represented by this writer.

The Sacramento Groundwater Authority manages the North Area Basin, and the South County Groundwater Council is starting the process for developing a management plan for the South Basin.

The elements included in the Management Plan include a comprehensive monitoring program so that the Plan’s management objectives can be met. These objectives include limiting groundwater extraction to a safe amount, maintaining groundwater elevations, limiting ground subsidence, protecting against adverse impacts to surface water streams, and maintaining safe water quality. The Board has the authority to require reductions in groundwater pumping as needed to meet the Plan objectives. Board meetings are held in the mornings on the second Wednesdays of each month at the offices of the Regional Sanitation District at Mather Field. The meetings are open to the public.

## PUBLIC POLICY POSITIONS

### League of Women Voters of the United States

#### **REPRESENTATIVE GOVERNMENT**

**Promote an open governmental system that is representative, accountable and responsive.**

##### **Voting Rights**

**Citizen's Right to Vote.** Protect the right of all citizens to vote; encourage all citizens to vote.

**DC Self-Government and Full Voting Representation.** Secure for the citizens of the District of Columbia the rights of self-government and full voting representation in both houses of Congress.

##### **Election Process**

**Apportionment.** Support apportionment of congressional districts and elected legislative bodies at all levels of government based substantially on population.

**Campaign Finance.** Improve methods of financing political campaigns in order to ensure the public's right to know, combat corruption and undue influence, enable candidates to compete more equitably for public office and promote citizen participation in the political process.

**Selection of the President.** Promote the election of the President and Vice-President by direct-popular vote and work to abolish the Electoral College. Support uniform national voting qualifications and procedures for presidential elections. Support efforts to provide voters with sufficient information about candidates.

##### **Citizen Rights**

**Citizen's Right to Know/Citizen Participation.** Protect the citizen's right to know and facilitate citizen participation in government decision making.

**Individual Liberties.** Oppose major threats to basic constitutional rights.

**Public Policy on Reproductive Choices.** Protect the constitutional right of privacy of the individual to make reproductive choices.

##### **Congress and the Presidency**

**Congress.** Support responsive legislative processes characterized by accountability, representativeness, decision-making capability and effective performance.

**The Presidency.** Promote a dynamic balance of power between the executive and legislative branches within the framework set by the Constitution.

#### **INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS**

**Promote peace in an interdependent world by working cooperatively with other nations and strengthening international organizations.**

##### **United Nations**

Support a strong, effective United Nations to promote international peace and security and to address the social, economic and humanitarian needs of all people.

##### **Trade**

Support U.S. trade policies that reduce trade barriers, expand international trade and advance the achievement of humanitarian, environmental and social goals.

##### **U.S. Relations with Developing Countries**

Promote U.S. policies that meet long-term social and economic needs of developing countries.

##### **Arms Control**

Reduce the risk of war through support of arms control measures.

##### **Military Policy and Defense Spending**

Work to limit reliance on military force. Examine defense spending in the context of total national needs.

#### **NATURAL RESOURCES**

**Promote an environment beneficial to life through the protection and wise management of natural resources in the public interest.**

##### **Natural Resources**

Promote the management of natural resources as interrelated parts of life-supporting ecosystems.

##### **Resource Management**

Promote resource conservation, stewardship and long-range planning, with the responsibility for managing natural resources shared by all levels of government.

##### **Environmental Protection and Pollution Control**

Preserve the physical, chemical and biological integrity of the ecosystem, with maximum protection of public health and the environment.

**Air Quality.** Promote measures to reduce pollution from mobile and stationary sources.

## LWVUS POSITIONS, CONTINUED

**Energy.** Support environmentally sound policies that reduce energy growth rates, emphasize energy conservation and encourage the use of renewable resources.

**Land Use.** Promote policies that manage land as a finite resource and that incorporate principles of stewardship.

**Water Resources.** Support measures to reduce pollution in order to protect surface water, groundwater and drinking water.

**Waste Management.** Promote policies to reduce the generation and promote the reuse and recycling of solid and hazardous wastes.

**Nuclear Issues.** Promote the maximum protection of public health and safety and the environment.

### Public Participation

Promote public understanding and participation in decision making as essential elements of responsible and responsive management of our natural resources.

### Agriculture Policy

Promote adequate supplies of food and fiber at reasonable prices to consumers and support economically viable farms, environmentally sound farm practices and increased reliance on the free market.

## SOCIAL POLICY

**Secure equal rights and equal opportunity for all. Promote social and economic justice and the health and safety of all Americans.**

### Equality of Opportunity

**Equal Rights.** Support ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment and efforts to bring laws into compliance with the goals of the ERA.

**Education, Employment and Housing.** Support equal access to education, employment and housing.

### Fiscal Policy

**Tax Policy.** Support adequate and flexible funding of federal government programs through an equitable tax system that is progressive overall and that relies primarily on a broad-based income tax.

**Federal Deficit.** Promote responsible deficit policies.

**Funding of Entitlements.** Support a federal role in providing mandatory, universal, old-age, survivors, disability and health insurance.

### Health Care

Promote a health care system for the United States that provides access to a basic level of quality care for all U.S. residents and controls health care costs.

### Meeting Basic Human Needs

Support programs and policies to prevent or reduce poverty and to promote self-sufficiency for individuals and families.

**Income Assistance.** Support income assistance programs, based on need, that provide decent, adequate standards for food, clothing and shelter.

**Support Services.** Provide for essential support services.

**Housing Supply.** Support policies to provide a decent home and a suitable living environment for every American family.

### Child Care

Support programs and policies to expand the supply of affordable, quality child care for all who need it.

### Early Intervention for Children at Risk

Support policies and programs that promote the well-being, development and safety of all children.

### Violence Prevention

Support violence prevention programs in communities.

### Gun Control

Protect the health and safety of citizens through limiting the accessibility and regulating the ownership of handguns and semi-automatic weapons. Support regulation of firearms for consumer safety.

### Urban Policy

Promote the economic health of cities and improve the quality of urban life.

### Death Penalty

The LWVUS supports the abolition of the death penalty.

**Whatever the issue, the League believes that efficient and economical government requires competent personnel, the clear assignment of responsibilities, adequate financing, coordination among levels of government, effective enforcement and well defined channels for citizen input and review.**

## IN MEMORIAM

Bernice Courteol

Elinor L. Hickey

Barbara Kaplan

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### UNIT MEETINGS: National Program Planning

Every two years local Leagues participate in the LWVUS Program Planning process by making recommendations concerning program issues. LWVSC members will evaluate possible issues not covered by current positions. Discussion materials will be sent to the unit chairs.

UNIT	DATE & TIME	CONTACT	LOCATION
Mid-City	Monday, Feb. 11 6:15 PM	Doris White 383-0189	8632 Fallbrook Way Sacramento
Morning Suburban	Tuesday, Feb. 12 9:30 A.M.	Mary McCullough 967-7382	2426 Garfield Ave. Carmichael
Greenhaven/ Land Park	Tuesday, Feb. 12	Mary Hopkins 422-6958	45 Sunlit Circle Sacramento
Elk Grove	Tuesday, Feb. 12 Noon	Pat Justice 391-9439	8622 Shasta Lily Drive Elk Grove 95624 (From Sheldon Rd. take Vytina one block. Left on Shasta Lily)

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

## WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

Tracey M. Cherye  
Dana M. Ferry  
Kirby Fukushima  
Arlene M. Inglis  
Beverly Kennedy  
Dr. Hanna Lore Pohland  
Alice Thompson

## THANK YOU TO OUR GENEROUS CONTRIBUTORS

Lois Angeloni  
Barbara Hansen  
Elaine La Rue  
Anne Rudin  
Tom Swift  
Roseanna Torretto  
Wells Fargo

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## JOIN US IN MAKING DEMOCRACY WORK!

Mail this coupon and a check for one year's dues of \$50 to:

League of Women Voters of Sacramento County  
801 12th Street, Suite 210, Sacramento, CA 95814

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

Membership is open to all U.S. citizens, 18 years of age or older. Non-citizens and youth under 18 may join as associate members. Membership dues, payable to the LWVSC, are \$50 per year (\$75 for families). Membership dues are not deductible as charitable contributions for tax purposes. Joining the LWVSC makes you a member of all levels of League (local, state, and national).



THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS  
OF SACRAMENTO COUNTY

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***FEBRUARY 2008***

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**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.**

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**League of Women Voters of Placer County General Meeting  
March 12, 2008**

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**RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP ONLINE!**

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