



THE SACRAMENTO VOTER

THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF SACRAMENTO COUNTY

NOVEMBER 2008

MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR THE FOLLOWING EVENTS!

November 2008

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						

NEW MEMBER ORIENTATION

Saturday, November 15, 2008, 9 to 11 AM

USC State Capitol Center, 1800 I Street, Sacramento 95811

This event will include an orientation to League programs and activities well as time for casual conversation.

Regional Transit Community Workshop to receive public input on the Master Plan

Nov. 13 @6 PM, City of Elk Grove Council Chambers, 8400 Laguna Palms Way

BOARD MEETING: MONDAY, NOVEMBER 24, 6:30 PM, LEAGUE OFFICE

2008-2009

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

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As I write this message, November 2008 election ballots are still being counted, and we await the results of some tight races, in particular, state ballot Proposition 11, Redistricting, the top priority of the LWVC in this election.

I would like to take this opportunity to express my sincere thanks to **Cheryll Moore**, our Voters Service Director, and to add my thanks to hers to all of our League members who volunteered to work on election season activities. Cheryll and our volunteers have given their time and talents with great generosity and enthusiasm. And I cannot thank them enough. We dedicate pages 4 and 5 for Cheryll to tell you who they are and what they did for our community. I encourage you to thank them individually and ask them about their experiences. They have some fine stories to tell.

Calendar Planning, Saturday, November 15, 11:30 AM

Board members will meet for calendar planning after the new member orientation. We welcome your suggestions for upcoming general meeting topics and speakers. We will have an opportunity to participate in state League program planning this year. We will have two national issues to address in the coming months, health care and the National Popular Vote Compact. See www.lwv.org for the LWVUS information and join the discussion lists for these and other topics of interest to you. If you need some help navigating the LWVUS web site, please give me a call and I would be happy to help you.

League of Women Voters of California Decries Budget Deal September 23, 2008

The Legislature and Governor have enacted a budget deal that is dishonest and irresponsible. It not only fails to set priorities and address serious problems at a time when we face economic uncertainties, but also sets the stage for further and deeper budget problems in coming years.

This is a dishonest budget. It relies on an assortment of gimmicks—including accounting tricks, early collection of tax revenue, and speculative borrowing—to obscure the fact that the money to support the budget really isn't there. As one example, although the claim is made that the plan does not rely on borrowing, in fact it counts on borrowing, through the future issuance of bonds to be repaid from lottery revenue. This speculative scheme depends on voter approval of changes to the lottery system, the hope of increased lottery sales, and the cooperation of skeptical financial markets in tough economic times.

The budget is also irresponsible. By including the Governor's plan to build up the reserve, it reduces flexibility and makes it far more difficult for future legislatures and governors to adjust priorities within limited resources. Moreover, including this provision requires a constitutional amendment that must be approved by the voters. Passage of a future ballot measure should never be the premise on which a budget is based.

The budget deal calls for reducing the reserve fund for this year to less than a billion dollars, shifting this year's shortfall into next year through a variety of accounting changes, and opening major new loopholes in the corporate tax that businesses will pay in future years. Meanwhile, it does nothing to address the continuing structural deficit caused by previous tax reductions and spending decisions.

The budget also includes a proposal giving the Governor new authority to make unilateral midyear budget cuts. Mid-budget adjustments should only be made through joint action of the executive and legislative branches so that our system of checks and balances—an essential component of responsible government—is maintained.

Still, despite these serious defects and the painful impact of the severe cuts it makes to essential services, a budget had to be passed. Without a budget, many important programs were jeopardized because they were not receiving the funding they depend on. The budget impasse deprived schools, medical providers, nursing homes, and child care providers of the money they need to continue to provide vital services.

The state also faced cash flow problems that could mean borrowing at a time when money is less available than usual, and likely to be more expensive. The state could not wait any longer for a budget, especially when the minority in the legislature had made it clear that they would not budge from their pledge not to raise any taxes. That pledge has once again enabled a minority to hold the entire budget process hostage to their wishes. This is not responsible representative government.

While there is plenty of blame to go around, there is a silver lining to the mess in Sacramento. The voters will be able to pass judgment on at least two components of the budget deal in a special election. More important, many people are now saying that it's time to look at *real* budget reform, particularly at eliminating the two-thirds vote requirement to pass a budget. Now that the people of our state have been treated to a stark example of the utter dysfunction in the budget process, we hope they will join us in fixing this broken system and replacing it with a process that really works. The people of California deserve no less.

Voters Service Report

The month of October has been busy and rewarding for many volunteers as they perform voters service activities on behalf of the League. I wish to personally thank all volunteers for their energy, time and expertise they lent to the League this month. Thank you so very much!! - Cheryl Moore

Metro Cable Taping

Suzanne Phinney
 Trisha Uhrhammer
 Kathy Chovan
 Lois Wright
 Cynthia Hutchison
 Lanette Davies
 Roseanna Torretto
 Barbara Hopkins
 Lola Acosta
 Pat Justice
 Eileen Heaser
 LaVerne Ireland

Pros and Cons Speakers

Carol Moon Goldberg, Trainer
 Cynthia Hutchison
 Kathy Chovan
 Lola Acosta
 Barbara Hopkins
 Suzanne Phinney
 Catherine Troka
 Tom Swift
 Rick Bettis
 Ilse Spivek
 Jennifer Gibson
 Eileen Heaser
 Lanette Davies
 Brittany Davies
 Pat Justice

KCRA Channel Three Call-In Election Day

Carol Moon Goldberg,
 Coordinator

 Kirby Fukushima
 Eileen Heaser
 Jane Owen
 Roseanna Torretto
 Lola Acosta
 Nancy Fox
 Marg Herman
 Amy Jaynes
 Kay Knepprath
 Kathy Riedmiller
 Dianna Dithridge
 Ivan Gennis
 Judy Hoefling
 Ruth Range
 Bob O'Reilly
 Ilse Spivek
 Harriet Taylor
 Suzanne Phinney
 Fifi Zeff

Voter Registration Events

Catherine Troka
 Lola Acosta
 Rick Bettis
 Mary O'Reilly
 Bob O'Reilly
 Barbara Hopkins
 Jennifer Gibson
 Tom Swift
 Stephen Vuletich
 Doris Olson
 Pat Justice

High School Outreach Program

Dana Ferry

Smart Voter

Donna Chipps
 Nancy Tronaas
 Ruth Range
 Harriet Taylor

COMMUNITY FORUMS

Elk Grove City Council and School District Forums

Carol Moon Goldberg
Roseanne Chamberlain
Olga Batey
Nancy Myers

District Three Congressional Forum

Barbara Hopkins
Kathy Chovan
Roseanna Torretto
Tom Swift
Pat Justice
LaVerne Ireland
Lanette Davies
Catherine Troka

Folsom Cordova School District Forum

Lanette Davies
Brittany Davies
Cynthia Hutchison
LaVerne Ireland

Sacramento City Unified District Forum

Cynthia Hutchison
LaVerne Ireland
Pat Justice
Tom Swift

League Volunteers Made the Following Events Possible:

35 Speaking Engagements:

29 Pros and cons
2 Other, 1 elementary school, 1 high school
4 High school, Rio Americano Civics Class
2 Read candidate information to two blind people who live in Folsom, CA

5 Forums

4 Local school district/city councils
1 Congressional District Three

8 Voter Registration Events

210 Smart Voter Letters to Candidates and follow-up on the website

KCRA Call 3 Problem Solvers, Election Day

2300 phone calls (plus email requests)
answered between 4:30 AM and 7:30 PM

Materials Distributed prior to the election are:

3,500 Pros and Cons
7,500 Easy Voter Guides (1,500 Spanish, 250 Chinese, 50 Vietnamese, 50 Korean)
Voter Registration Cards— Thousands were distributed to organizations, at voter registration events, and to post offices, DMV sites, and other locations through the Voter Registration Affidavit Outreach project.

NOVEMBER UNIT MEETINGS: THE CALIFORNIA STATE BUDGET

We will discuss the basic questions about the state budget such as where do revenues come from, where does spending go, and how did the continuing budget deficits happen. We will also discuss the LWVC press release of September 23, 2008, "League condemns budget, hopes for future reform." (page 3). Visit <http://ca.lwv.org/lwvc/action/budget> to read the press release and detailed statement as well as League's letters to the Governor and to the legislature. Visit this site regularly for updates, calls to action, and links to other sources of state budget information. We will review the LWVC position on state and local finances. The full position can be viewed at: <http://ca.lwv.org/lwvc/issues/gov/localfin.html>.

LWVC Position in Brief: Support measures to ensure revenues both sufficient and flexible enough to meet changing needs for state and local government services; that contribute to a system of public finance that emphasizes equity and fair sharing of the tax burden as well as adequacy; that include long range finance methods that meet current and future needs while taking into account the cumulative impact of public debt.

UNIT	DATE & TIME	CONTACT	LOCATION
Mid-City	Monday, November 10 6:15 PM	Tom Swift 453-8707	5308 Shepard Avenue Sacramento, CA 95819
Morning Suburban	Tuesday, November 11 9:15 A.M.	Mary McCullough 967-7382	2426 Garfield Ave. Carmichael
Greenhaven/ Land Park	Tuesday, November 11 9:30 AM	Virginia Moose (916) 446-7149	1312 Robertson Way Sacramento, CA 95818
Elk Grove	Tuesday, November 11 1 P.M.	Pat Justice 391-9439	8622 Shasta Lily Drive Elk Grove 95624

Eileen Heaser, unit coordinator, 916-456-2154 or eheser@csus.edu

For more information on the California State Budget:

California Department of Finance: <http://www.dof.ca.gov/budget/>

The Legislative Analyst's Office: <http://www.lao.ca.gov>

California Budget Project: <http://www.cbp.org/>

Next 10: <http://next10.org/>



LWV is where hands-on work to safeguard democracy leads to civic improvement.

Welcome to New Members

**Claudia Bonsignore
Nancy Lester (Reinstated)
Miranda Perry**

~IN MEMORIAM~

Frank M. Iritani

CONTRIBUTORS

**Mary McCullough and Betty Wilson
Valerie Vento-Johnson of
The Charity League
Sharon Frederick
Stanley Whiteside
Monna & Richard Leitner
Carol Moon Goldberg
Mission Committee of
Northminster Presbyterian Church**

JOIN US IN MAKING DEMOCRACY WORK!

Mail this coupon and a check for one year's dues of \$65 to:

League of Women Voters of Sacramento County
1107 9th Street, Suite 300, 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 \$65 per year (\$35 second in household). 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). *Tax deductible contributions may be made payable to the "LWVSC Education Fund."*



THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS
OF SACRAMENTO COUNTY

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NOVEMBER 2008

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SACRAMENTO, CA

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Sacramento Regional Transit Master Plan (TMP) Online Survey

Help Sacramento Regional Transit (RT) to prioritize improvements in the transit system. Visit www.sacrt.com and click on the TMP logo to fill out the online survey.

Regional Transit Master Plan

