



# THE SACRAMENTO VOTER

THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF SACRAMENTO COUNTY

AUGUST 2008

## OFFICE MOVE AND AUGUST EVENTS

The LWVSC moved with the LWV of California to a new office on July 21.

Please update your records to reflect the new address.

**1107 9th Street, Suite 300**

**Sacramento, CA 95814.**

**Saturday, August 23, 2008**

### **3rd Annual California Women's Equality Day Parade & Rally**

Celebrate and Reaffirm Women's Right to Vote!

With a special tribute to the League of Women Voters

Co-sponsored by LWVSC

Parade starts at 10:00 AM

Convene at Southside Park, 7<sup>th</sup> and T, at 9:30 AM

To march with LWVSC banner to the Capitol

Period costume is optional

Rally starts at 11 AM at the North Side of the Capitol

LWVC President Janis R. Hirohama will attend the tribute

And special screening of documentary film "Engage Her" at the Capitol Theater

Visit: [www.womenequalityparade.com](http://www.womenequalityparade.com) for parade details.

Visit [www.engageher.com](http://www.engageher.com) for film details.

### **Yes on Prop 11 Volunteer and Speakers' Training**

Wednesday, August 20, Noon

Saturday, August 23, 10AM

USC Center, 1800 I Street, Sacramento, 95814

(See Voter article.)

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**BOARD MEETING AUGUST 25, AT 6:30 PM IN THE LEAGUE OFFICE**

## 2008-2009 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The first message of my second term addresses our current focus. First, I want to express my sincere thanks to the 2007-2008 Board of Directors and off-board specialists, consultants and committees. I admire their commitment to all aspects of League program. It has been a joy to see the LWVSC thrive and grow in their capable hands.

**LWVSC:** At annual meeting on May 31st, we adopted our issues of emphasis: voter outreach and education, advocacy and education for single payer universal health care (SB 840), and advocacy and education for proposed redistricting state ballot measure (now, Proposition 11). (See articles in this Voter.) Members approved the first membership dues increase since 1999, and elected the slate of officers and directors presented by the nominating committee. We welcomed four new board members, Lola Acosta, Lanette Davies, LaVerne Ireland, and Tom Swift. Cheryll, Vivian, and Rick started new two-year terms. Roseanne Chamberlain is leaving the board while continuing to coordinate the Membership Growth Is Key (MGIK) project for us. This is the LWV implementation of the LWVUS membership recruitment project.

**Office Move:** On July 19<sup>th</sup>, we moved to the Forum Building, 1107 9<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite 300, along with the state League. We are grateful for the LWV state office's leadership of this project. We thank Jill Kaiser Newcom, Jennifer Joseph, and Elizabeth Leslie. And we thank LWVSC members Barbara Hopkins, Catherine, Rick, Cheryll, and Lola for planning, packing, and organizing before, during, and after the move. We thank Cheryll and Vivian for tasks related to our address change.

**LWVUS:** Cheryll, Lanette, Lola, and I attended the June 2008 national convention in Portland, Oregon. See [www.lwv.org](http://www.lwv.org), "Convention 2008", for convention reports and materials. Watch the video of the address by The Honorable John Kitzhaber, Governor of Oregon, entitled "The Unfinished Business of the Baby Boom Generation: Health Care for the 21st Century". The governor's mother is a past president of the LWV of Oregon.

**LWVC:** On May 6 the California Voters FIRST redistricting coalition turned in 1.2 million signatures to county elections offices to qualify the initiative for the November 2008 ballot. It was certified by Secretary of State Debra Bowen on June 17, 2008. The LWVC is a primary partner in the coalition. LWVSC member Kathy Chovan served as the LWVC Sacramento area coordinator for the final months of signature gathering. Now, the campaign begins!

**Voter:** I welcome Amber Kemp as our new Voter editor. You will also see Amber's name on the new member list. I thank Nancy Lapp for taking such good care of our newsletter this past year. It was a pleasure working with her. And I thank her family, too, for sharing her on so many week-ends.

## VOTER SERVICES UPDATE

By Cheryll Moore

### Gearing Up For The November Election

Welcome back to voters service activities! As the time fast approaches for the November 4<sup>th</sup> General Election the league has volunteer opportunities for every member. Here is a list of the activities over the next four months.

- Voter registration events in the community, ongoing
- Distribution of the Easy Voter Guides and Pros and Cons to community, civic, for-profit and non-profit organizations, schools and colleges in the area
- Presenting the ballot initiatives to community groups- Speakers Bureau training session will occur toward the end of September. Look for the date in the next Voter.
- Metro Cable candidate forum taping session in early October
- KCRA Call 3 Problem Solvers phone bank on Election Day
- Candidate forums

Now is the time to volunteer. The November election is one that will go down in history and **you** can be a part of making that history! Volunteer, help in a small way, and make a big difference!

Should you have any questions please call me (Cheryll Moore, Voters Service Director) at (916) 483-5524 or send an email at: [geroeducator@att.net](mailto:geroeducator@att.net)

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## LWVSC COSPONSORS DINNER HONORING SENATOR KUEHL

By Rick Bettis

The LWVSC and the LWVC were among the approximately 35 organizations cosponsoring a very successful dinner honoring Senator Sheila Kuehl who will be leaving the California Legislature this year following an outstanding fourteen-year career.

This August 3 dinner at the Radisson, attended by 350 supporters, was organized by the Health Care for All, a statewide group supporting Senators Kuehls' SB 840, which would establish a universal single payer health care system. Participants included many elected officials, physicians, nurses, educators, seniors, faith, social service, students and environmental groups from all areas of California.

Assemblyman and Senatorial candidate Mark Leno has agreed to continue the effort to pass SB 840, which is a LWVSC "Issue for Emphasis" for 2008-09. For more information and to get involved members should contact Carolyn Negrete at 916-424-5316 or [cnegrete@comcast.net](mailto:cnegrete@comcast.net)

## THE BUDGET BATTLE

**Anne Henderson, LWVC State and Local Finances Program Director**

The six-person budget conference committee, composed of two Democrats and one Republican from each house of the legislature, has completed its work on the Governor's revised budget. Although the lion's share of the budget was agreed to by both sides, significant differences remain along party lines.

The Big Four, the leaders of the Senate and Assembly from both parties, have been meeting to discuss those differences, but they are not expected to be resolved quickly. The differences are the familiar ones. Democrats call for increased revenues to maintain programs, particularly those protecting the poor, elderly and disabled, and for restoring some education funding. The Republicans insist there should be more cuts, resist new revenues, and call for changes that would put new restrictions on the budget process. The Democratic majority has agreed to about \$6 billion in cuts, but say they want more than \$9.7 billion in added revenues to close the \$15.2 billion shortfall the state is facing. The Republican minority has said they might consider closing some tax loopholes and has hinted that they might be open to some revenues.

Neither side likes the Governor's proposal to fill the gap by borrowing against potential increases in the state lottery. That proposal would have to be put on the November ballot, and the Governor has suggested a backup provision in the measure for a 1 percent temporary increase in the sales tax in the event the lottery proposal were rejected.

The Democrats are proposing to get \$5.6 billion through a package of tax increases similar to those that were approved on a temporary basis by Governor Pete Wilson in a previous crisis but expired in 1996. It would raise the top income brackets, for joint incomes between \$321,000 and \$642,000 from 9.3 percent to 10 percent, and for incomes above that to 11 percent. (In addition, an existing 1 percent surcharge on incomes over \$1 million would remain in effect.) It would also restore the corporate tax to its pre-1997 rate of 9.3 percent from the current 8.84 percent. Another \$2.6 billion would be realized from changes in the ability to write off net operating losses and a tax amnesty program expected to accelerate collection of back taxes.

Republicans are so far playing it close to the vest on revenues and continue to say there should be more cuts. Senate Minority Leader Dave Cogdill did tell the Sacramento Press Club recently that Republicans might consider some increases if they are "revenue neutral" in the long run. They have also said they will demand changes to the budget process that would require more money to be set aside in reserves and limit revenue increases to only enough to cover inflation and population growth. The Governor has proposed a plan that would include those features, but would also give a Governor broad power to make budget cuts without legislative approval.

Assembly Speaker Karen Bass, while agreeing reserves should be increased, has spoken strongly against measures that would restrict future legislatures' ability to raise revenues for services that can provide improvements California's citizens want and need and enable our vision of a better future. She has also proposed a new commission to recommend reforms to the budget process that would put California on a sounder financial footing. However, the commission would not be formed until after the current budget is passed.

In his May Revision to the state budget proposal, Governor Schwarzenegger also proposed a Tax Modernization Commission to modernize the state's tax laws and better reflect the current economy.

Republicans rightly point out that the income and corporate taxes Democrats want to raise are subject to sharp fluctuations reflecting changes in the economy. However, remedying that would require new revenues that are more broadly based and less subject to economic ups and downs, and so far they have shown little interest in those sources.

In the end, there are likely to be cuts and reduced services that will affect all Californians and especially hurt those at the bottom income levels, who once again will be asked to forego cost of living increases. If the present battle lines hold, it is also likely that we will again turn to borrowing from special funds, such as the increased gasoline and diesel sales taxes that have resulted from higher gas prices. Such borrowing, of course, will have to be repaid with interest. 7/21/08

**For current information: <http://ca.lwv.org/lwvc/action/budget>**

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## **Yes on Prop 11 Volunteer and Speakers' Training in Sacramento Wednesday, August 20th, 12:00 PM, and Saturday, August 23rd, 10:00 AM**

Year after year, partisan gridlock prevents our state lawmakers from effectively addressing our most pressing issues such as the state budget, health care, education, the impending water crisis, and the environment. Legislators are not accountable to voters because they draw their own districts to guarantee their reelection. The California Voters First Act (Proposition 11) will end this conflict of interest if passed in the November 4 General Election. It will be a tough fight to pass this measure and we need strong League participation in the campaign. The first step is to attend the 90 minute volunteer training from the Voters FIRST campaign—Yes on Prop 11. This training will make us all effective advocates in our communities.

### **What will you learn?**

- how to make advocacy powerful and compelling, with the help of materials you will receive from experts
- how to act as speakers for local groups
- how to work with editorial boards and reporters for newspapers, radio, and television
- how to approach local groups for endorsements
- tips on how to advocate person to person (often the most effective way to promote this reform)

### **How will you benefit?**

- learn skills that can also be applied to Ed Fund activities, such as Speakers Bureau
- campaign media outreach will raise our League's profile and visibility
- connect to other groups in our community
- membership recruitment: what better way to demonstrate what the League offers? Advocate for meaningful reform, meet like-minded leaders, and develop your skills!

**Register and reserve your spot now. Just contact [redistricting@lwvc.org](mailto:redistricting@lwvc.org) or (916) 442-7215.**

**Meanwhile, read the *LWVC News* and visit the LWVC Web site:**

**<http://lwvc.org/lwvc/action/redistrict/>**

**and the Voters FIRST campaign Web site: <http://yesprop11.org/>  
to get the latest news.**

### **LWVSC 2008-2009 Regularly Scheduled Meetings**

Unit Meetings will take place in the week beginning the first Monday after the first Tuesday of every month from September 2008 through May 2009.

The Board of Directors plans to meet on the fourth Monday of every month from August 2008 to April 2009, and on the third Monday in May 2009.

## **WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS**

John Mathews & Nicoletta Anselmo

Mike Acosta

Anita Brown

Pat Lynch & Ellen Cochrane

Brittany Davies

Dianna Dithridge

Amber Kemp

Beverly Furnish

Margaux McFetridge

Cathy Minicucci

Gloria Perez

## **WELCOME BACK**

Jonita Burns

Barbara Carr

## **THANK YOU TO OUR GENEROUS CONTRIBUTORS**

Kay Knepprath

Ruth Range



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

**A SPECIAL THANK YOU TO OUR SUFFRAGIST CLUB CONTRIBUTORS**

**Suffragettes (\$149-\$200)**

**Suffragists (\$119-\$148)**

Lola Acosta	Diane Ramsey	Rick Bettis	Kay Kneprath
Judith Bramson	Trudy Schafer	Roseanne Chamberlain	Michelle McCormick
Donna Chipps	Vivian Skintauy	Jean Hellmuth	Cheryll Moore
Nancy Findeisen	Jo Smith	Barbara Hopkins	Virginia Moose
Carol Moon Goldberg	Tom Swift	LaVerne Ireland	Virginia Mueller
Judith Johnston	Roseanna Torretto	Amy Jaynes	Anne Rudin
Monna and Richard Leitner	Sally Weinland	Virginia Kaser	Catherine Troka
Beverley Meyer	Lois Wright	Charity Kenyon	Doris White
Suzanne Phinney	Fifi O.H. Zeff		

**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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***AUGUST 2008***

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## **Women's Equality Day Parade and Rally**

**Saturday August 23, 2008**

The ratification of the 19th amendment on August 26, 1920, marked the end of a 72-year political campaign which began with the first women's rights convention in Seneca Falls in July of 1848. The date was celebrated by those concerned, but didn't receive much public notice until Bella Abzug, Congresswoman from New York City, petitioned the Nixon administration to declare it Women's Equality Day in 1971. That did not make it an official holiday, however, as it must be re-proclaimed by the president each year. It is hoped that these parades will be the first step toward making August 26 an official women's holiday. August 26 falls on a Tuesday this year so the parade will be on Saturday, August 23, still perfect for a grand parade down the avenue to the State Capitol.

The League of Women Voters especially recognizes this date. In addition to the suffrage the leaders also founded the League of Women Voters with the mission of educating voters to make informed choices when they voted. In her founding speech, Carrie Chapman Catt declared: "The vote is the emblem of equality, women of America, the guarantee of your liberty. That vote of yours has cost millions of dollars and the lives of thousands of women."

*The League of Women Voters of Sacramento County is a sponsor of this event. Look for the League banner in the parade and look for our table at the rally.*