



THE SACRAMENTO VOTER

THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF SACRAMENTO COUNTY

APRIL 2009

Sunday, April 26, 2009

Volunteer for League “Tabling”!

SACRAMENTO EARTH DAY

Contact: Catherine Troka

Save the date – **April 26** – and come out to Southside Park at 8th and T Streets, downtown, for Earth Day. Coordinated by Environmental Council of Sacramento (ECOS) Earth Day promotes a sustainable lifestyle for our community with non-profit organizations, environmentally-friendly vendors and family-oriented activities taking part. See www.sacramentoearthday.net.

LWVS will have a table at this event where we can distribute information about the May 19 Statewide Special Election. Also, we will have voter registration forms to register voters before the May 4 deadline. Tabling at Earth Day has always provided a great opportunity to tout the works of LWVSC as well as to recruit new members. We need volunteers for our table in two-hour time slots from **11:00AM to 6:00PM**. Sign up to help — 916.446.5933 or ctroka@gmail.com

FESTIVAL DE LA FAMILIA

Contact: Lola Acosta

Sacramento’s premier Latino Heritage event will be held Sunday, **April 26, 2009**, from **10:00 AM to 6:00 PM** at Cal Expo. The annual celebration is designed to showcase the many Latino communities and cultures represented in Northern California. The Festival includes community outreach for services, authentic and original arts and crafts, varied entertainment on five stages, children’s activities, traditional foods, and more. Founded by The Sacramento Bee, the event is presented with other corporate co-sponsors. See www.festivaldelafamilia.org.

If League members would like to volunteer to register voters at the League table, please e-mail Lola Acosta at: lola@winfirst.com or phone the League office at 916-447-8683. Spanish language skills are welcome but not required.

Unit Meetings, April 13-14, 2009

Discussion of May 19 Statewide Special Election Ballot Measures (See page 7.)

BOARD MEETING: MONDAY, APRIL 27, 5:30 PM, LEAGUE OFFICE

2008-2009

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

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You didn't think that I would serve two terms as president without saying something about mathematics, did you? (I joined the Mathematical Association of America in 1962, 11 years before I joined the League.) Here is the announcement of the theme for Mathematics Awareness Month, April 2009, **Mathematics and Climate**.

One of the most important challenges of our time is modeling global climate. Some of the fundamental questions researchers are currently addressing are:

- *How long will the summer Arctic sea ice pack survive?*
- *Are hurricanes and other severe weather events getting stronger?*
- *How much will sea level rise as ice sheets melt?*
- *How do human activities affect climate change?*
- *How is global climate monitored?*

Calculus, differential equations, numerical analysis, probability, and statistics are just some of the areas of mathematics used to understand the oceans, atmosphere, and polar ice caps, and the complex interactions among these vast systems. Indeed, analyzing feedback effects is a crucial component of global climate modeling and often a significant factor in long-term predictions. For example, warmer temperatures cause ice to melt, exposing more land and water, so that more sunlight is absorbed-instead of being reflected, in turn leading to more warming.

Mathematics, computer science, and other sciences are inextricably linked, and each is required to begin to solve the fundamental questions about earth's climate, particularly those concerning global warming. Moreover, math and science are central to the development of both traditional and alternative energy sources, and to the evolution of other strategies for mitigating the effects of climate change.

*Resources for this year's Mathematics Awareness Month program can be found at www.mathaware.org along with resources for the 2008 theme **Math and Voting**.*

SPEAKERS BUREAU FOR MAY 19 SPECIAL ELECTION

I call upon you again! Will you consider becoming a Pros and Cons speaker for the Special Election? Should you be interested please contact me at: geroeducator@att.net or by phone 916.483.5524. Time is short for this election cycle. Thank you.

Cheryll M. Moore, Voter Services Director

Alert, Your Help Needed

City of Sacramento Poised to Repeal and Weaken
LWVSC Sponsored Campaign Finance Reforms

By Rick Bettis

Scheduled for the April 14 (originally, April 7) City of Sacramento council Meeting is a proposal that would repeal the partial matching fund Public Campaign ordinance and weaken the Campaign contribution limits ordinance that were sponsored and advocated for by the LWVSC and California Common Cause.

These measures were finally passed in 2003 following nearly four years of public input and advocacy. We had obtained substantial public support with approximately forty community and other non-governmental organizations endorsing these efforts. Kris Greenlee, Donna W. Chipps and this writer received the LWVSC Civic Achievement Award in 2004 for these efforts.

Along with repealing the modest matching public campaign finance funds provisions the changes would also repeal a contribution limit for individual contribution to Independent Expenditure Committees. In addition the revision would more than double the already generous limits on campaign contributions. The limit for individual contributions to council candidates would be increased from \$850 to \$2000, as compared to \$500 for candidates for the Sacramento County Board of Supervisors. The limit for individual contributions for mayoral candidates would increase from \$1150 to \$4000. This is even larger than the \$2400 contribution to candidates for federal office including the President.

Due to the 1974, Buckley v. Valeo, Supreme Court Decision, that, unfortunately, equated campaign expenditures to free speech, total campaign expenditures can only be limited when voluntarily agreed to by the candidate in exchange for public campaign funding. The City ordinance includes what we felt to be a generous \$550,000 (increased from the original \$450,000 due to cost of living adjustments). However this pales in comparison with the \$1,830,000 (including \$500,000 of his personal funds) raised and spent by the winning candidate for Mayor in 2008.

Preventing the proposed revisions will be difficult since the two primary supporters of the original ordinances then Council Member Dave Jones and former Mayor Fargo are no longer on the Council.

LWVSC members are urged to support the Leagues efforts to reduce the influence of large contributor special interests and make our governments more responsive to the needs of the general public by contacting the mayor and their council members and ask them not to go forward with these major revisions without more input and consideration of the public interests.

Contact information:

Mayor Johnson mayor@cityofsacramento.org, 808-7000

Council Members: rtretheway@cityofsacramento.org, 808-7001; ssheedy@cityofsacramento.org, 808-7002; scohn@cityofsacramento.org, 808-7003; rkfong@cityofsacramento.org, 808-7004; lhammond@cityofsacramento.org, 808-7005; KMcCarty@cityofsacramento.org, 808-7006; rwaters@cityofsacramento.org, 808-7007; bpannell@cityofsacramento.org, 808-7008.

WHERE ARE WE GOING TO LIVE?

By Kay Knepprath

We've all been dismayed to see the deplorable living conditions in the 'Tent City' where over a hundred people are living without running water and sanitary facilities. There is now a plan to provide at least temporary shelter for many of those who wish to live indoors. The Cal Expo shelter will expand and stay open till July, others will find space in shared housing or other expanded shelter arrangements. There will even be some permanent housing provided. But this is the short term solution. The League is working on the long term - permanent affordable housing for 'all.' We are doing this in several ways: by supporting the development of new housing for people with lower incomes, keeping present housing stock affordable, and encouraging new housing developments to include comparable units for people with low incomes - inclusionary zoning.

'Affordable' is a term that is somewhat like Justice Potter Stewart's definition of pornography: 'I know it when I see it.' The Sacramento Housing Alliance clarifies 'affordable.' Here is what SHA says:

What is affordable housing?

Housing is affordable when persons or families can pay for it out of their monthly income and still have enough money left over for food, clothes, transportation, and healthcare.

Housing is considered affordable when rent and utility costs are no more than 30% of a household's income. A family of four with two working parents earning minimum wage can only afford \$700 in rent or mortgage payments and utilities.

Inclusionary Zoning

One sure way to have affordable housing is to build it when any new housing is built. Four Sacramento jurisdictions have plans for that: the County of Sacramento, the Cities of Sacramento, Folsom, and Isleton. The City of Sacramento's ordinance has been in place for several years but only affects outlying areas and smaller areas closer in: the railyards in Curtis Park and the 240 acre railyards north of I Street.

We worked hard for several years to convince the County to adopt their Inclusionary Ordinance and now we are working to convince the City Council to expand their ordinance citywide and to include a small percentage for extremely low income people, as the County did.

Both the Housing and Redevelopment and the Planning Commissions along with housing advocates, including the League, recommended this proposal two years ago. The Building Industry Association opposed, as they did at the County. The Council waffled and asked for a study on the effects of expanding the ordinance. When the study was completed the League testified again for the expansion at the workshop the Council held in February. We also support reserving a portion of the low income units for those with extremely low incomes, below 30% of the area median.

The numbers we have for both the City and County of Sacramento were compiled in 2007. It is believed that because housing starts are few of late, the 2007 numbers are good.

Article continues on page 5

WHERE ARE WE GOING TO LIVE?, continued from page 4

COUNTY

The County Inclusionary Ordinance went into effect in 2005 so these figures for housing that was built are for a two year period.

1,567 low income

512 very low income

228 extremely low income (below 30% of median)

2,307 TOTAL , 47% owner, 53% rental

CITY

As noted, the current City ordinance does not provide a separate percentage for Extremely Low Income people, nor does it include the entire city. In the two year period 2005- 2007 2,999 low income units were required and an additional 412 were built beyond the 15% requirement. A majority are in North Natomas where most of the recent housing has been developed .

Soon the issue will be before the Council for a vote. If you live in the City of Sacramento, let your Councilmember know that you support creating more opportunities for EVERYONE to have a safe, decent place to live. You may go to the Sacramento Housing Alliance Web site <http://www.sachousingalliance.org/> and click on the sample letter to Councilmembers. You may also read more about Inclusionary Zoning there.

THE STATE OF CLIMATE CHANGE — PUBLIC OUTREACH AND ACTION

By Barbara Hopkins

We are reminded daily about the impact on climate change by human activity. The color “green” symbolizes that universal effort to prevent further threat to the environment, health and economy of the nation. The question of how individuals change climate can be overwhelming and the Climate Change Community Forum will present how individual and community action at all levels can make a difference.

Mark your calendar for the “Climate Change Forum” sponsored by the LWVSC to be held in the SMUD Auditorium, 6201 S Street, Sacramento, **7:00 P.M., Monday, June 22, 2009**. The League is partnering again with SMUD and many community organizations to present this public dialogue about the “State of Climate Change—Public Outreach and Action”. A panel of experts will present updated information and answer audience questions. League members will also meet with local U.S. representatives to discuss issues and legislation presented by the LWVUS.

If you would like to participate in the planning of the forum and making legislative visits about climate change, please contact Barbara Hopkins, barbhopkins2@yahoo.com.

THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS RECOMMENDS
May 19, 2009 California Statewide Special Election

PROP 1A Restrictions on State Budget Process

OPPOSE

Prop 1A is touted by its proponents as the way to bring stability to the state budget process. However, it would actually make it more difficult for future governors and legislatures to enact budgets that meet California's needs and address state priorities. It would amend the state Constitution to dictate restrictions on the use of funds put into the reserve and limit how "unanticipated" revenues can be used in good years. It could lock in a reduced level of public services by not taking proper account of the state's changing demographics and actual growth in costs. Prop 1A would also give future governors new power to make budget cuts without legislative oversight. Like the other propositions opposed by the League on this ballot, Prop 1A came from a deeply flawed process that resulted in measures written in haste and without public input or analysis. The League would support real budget reform, but we regretfully conclude that this measure would only make things worse. Most of its provisions would not take effect for two years; we should spend that time working on real budget reform.

PROP 1B Education Funding. Payment Plan

NEUTRAL

This measure requires the state to make \$9.3 billion in supplemental payments to K-14 education over approximately five to six years beginning in 2011-12. This funding is intended to address uncertainty about what the Proposition 98 school funding guarantee requires. The League supports full funding of public education and believes that making up for the devastating cuts of recent years must be a priority. Prop 1B is not needed, however, and even if passed by the voters, it would take effect only if Prop 1A is also passed. The legislature has the power to restore funding to education in a more straightforward way that is not tied to Prop 1A.

PROP 1C Lottery-Based Borrowing

OPPOSE

This measure makes changes in state lottery operations intended to increase its profitability and allows the state to issue \$5 billion in bonds that are "securitized" by future lottery profits. The lottery would no longer be a source of revenue for education, and the state General Fund would be required to make up for the loss to education of lottery funds. League positions on long-term financing anticipate the use of bonds for capital improvements, not borrowing, and call for prudent consideration of debt levels within the budget. In light of California's poor credit rating and the state of the economy, these bonds may have to be sold at interest rates very unfavorable to the state, if indeed they can be sold at all. The nonpartisan Legislative Analyst's Office says that in the long term, lottery profits probably would not cover the higher payments to education required by Prop 1C.

PROP 1D Diverting Children's Services Funding

OPPOSE

This proposition would redirect tobacco tax funds reserved for First 5 early childhood programs by Proposition 10 (passed in 1998) to the state General Fund. \$608 million would be diverted in 2009-10 and \$268 million a year for the following four years, creating the illusion that more revenues are available. In reality, Prop 1D raids these funds in the short term in order to pay for some services, while taking funding away from other services. It also includes unnecessary provisions, such as new county baseline funding levels unrelated to population needs. We oppose this stopgap measure.

PROP 1E Diverting Mental Health Services Funding

OPPOSE

For the next two years, Proposition 1E would redirect about \$230 million a year from the Mental Health Services Act (Proposition 63 of 2004) to the state General Fund to replace state funding for an existing screening, diagnosis and treatment program. As with Prop 1D, it raids existing programs to create temporary "savings," but makes less money available for some services. It may even result in the loss of federal matching funds. The League opposes this short-sighted measure.

PROP 1F Elected Officials' Salaries

NO POSITION

Because League positions do not cover the issues in Proposition 1F, "Elected Officials' Salaries. Prevents Pay Increases During Budget Deficit Years," the LWVC is taking no stand on this measure.

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

Anne H. Cain
 Martha Dickson
 Michele Jeanine Scott
 William H. Fowler
 Mary R. Williams

THANK YOU TO OUR CONTRIBUTORS

Donna W. Chipps
 (In memory of Jo Smith and Judy Bramson)
 Goldie Hall
 Roseanna Torretto

APRIL UNIT MEETINGS

Discussion of State Ballot Measures 1A, 1B, 1C, 1D, 1E, and 1F

The unit discussion will include the pros and cons as well as the League recommendations. See Voter Information Guide at www.voterguide.sos.ca.gov , "In Depth" Analysis of Ballot Measures at lwvc.org in the members only section, Easy Voter Guide at easyvoter.org , and smartvoter.org .

UNIT	DATE & TIME	CONTACT	LOCATION
Mid-City	Monday, April 13 6:15 PM	Tom Swift 453-8707	5308 Shepard Avenue Sacramento, CA 95819
Morning Suburban	Tuesday, April 14 9:15 AM	Mary McCullough 967-7382	2426 Garfield Ave. Carmichael
Greenhaven/ Land Park	Tuesday, April 14, 9:30 AM	Mary Hopkins 422-6958	45 Sunlit Circle Sacramento
Elk Grove	Tuesday, April 14 1 PM	Pat Justice 391-9439	8622 Shasta Lily Drive Elk Grove 95624

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



THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS
OF SACRAMENTO COUNTY

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APRIL 2009

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EVENTS AND DATES TO REMEMBER

April 13-14, Unit Meetings, State Ballot Measures

April 26, Sacramento Earth Day *and* Festival de la Familia (See articles on page 1.)

April 27, Board Meeting, 5:30 PM, League Office

May 4, *Last day to register for May election*

May 12, *Last day to request a vote-by-mail ballot for May election*

May 15-17, California LWV members meet in Convention in Long Beach

May 18, Board Meeting, 5:30 PM, League Office

May 19, *Election Day*

May 30, Annual Meeting, 9 AM, guest speaker, Suzanne Phinney, recently appointed LWVC Chair of the Energy Committee and Program Director for Energy

June 22, Climate Change Forum, 7 PM (See article on page 5.)

July 11, Slow Food Sacramento's Urban Ag Feast 2009: a full day of events followed by a catered dinner at the Fremont Community Garden (4th and Q) to benefit the Sacramento Hunger Coalition and the Sacramento Area Community Garden Coalition