



# THE SACRAMENTO VOTER

THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF SACRAMENTO COUNTY

MAY 2010

## **FUNDRAISING EVENT: *The League Goes Green***

**May 6, 2010: , 5:30 – 7:30 PM , Anne Rudin’s Garden**

1410 Birchwood Lane, Sacramento 95822

Buy Your Advance Tickets are the League website

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

## **ANNUAL MEETING**

**May 22, 2010, 9:00AM**

Casa Meeting Center,

2760 Sutterville Road,

Sacramento 95820

## **LEADERSHIP COUNCIL 2010**

**MAY 15-16, SACRAMENTO**

All members invited, May 15-16, Sacramento.

See LWVC website for more information

## **SAVE THE DATE**

League of Women Voters Convention, Atlanta, GA, June 11-15, 2010

**2009-2010**

Lola Acosta, President  
916-447-8683  
[lwvs@lwvsacramento.org](mailto:lwvs@lwvsacramento.org)

Catherine Troka, 1st Vice President  
Outreach  
916-447-8386  
[lwvs@lwvsacramento.org](mailto:lwvs@lwvsacramento.org)

Cheryll Moore, 2nd Vice President  
Voters Service Director  
916-483-5524  
[geroeducator@att.net](mailto:geroeducator@att.net)

Kathleen Chovan, 3rd Vice President  
916-337-8386  
[lwvs@lwvsacramento.org](mailto:lwvs@lwvsacramento.org)

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

Virginia Kaser, Secretary  
916-442-6912  
[kaser@usc.edu](mailto:kaser@usc.edu)

Jennifer Gibson, Director  
916-714-8683  
[lwvs@lwvsacramento.org](mailto:lwvs@lwvsacramento.org)

Cynthia Hutchison, Director  
916-395-2680  
[Hutchiso@comcast.net](mailto:Hutchiso@comcast.net)

Patricia Justice, Director  
916-391-9439  
[p.c.justice@sbcglobal.net](mailto:p.c.justice@sbcglobal.net)

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

Lanette Davies, Director  
(916) 502-7677  
[lanettedavies@yahoo.com](mailto:lanettedavies@yahoo.com)

LaVerne Ireland, Director  
(916) 371-3480  
[Ireland@ix.netcom.com](mailto:Ireland@ix.netcom.com)

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

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

**PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

The Call to Annual Meeting was mailed Tuesday April 21, and should have been received by members Wednesday. If you did not receive your copy, please e-mail [president@lwvsacramento.org](mailto:president@lwvsacramento.org). A slate of nominees will stand for your approval at our Annual Meeting May 22, and your attendance is important. Guest speaker is Deborah B. Caplan, a partner with Olson Hagel & Fishburn, who will speak about *Citizens United vs. FEC (2010)*. We look forward to receiving your reservation forms for this May 22, 2010 event at the Casa Meeting Center.

Membership is the life of our organization, and preparing the updated Roster was an eye-opener, as our membership decreased since last year. Throughout this election year, we hope more community members will be touched by our election-related work and become inspired to join. As the Board plans activities, we make an effort to schedule diverse offerings so that members and those considering membership can find something to relate to. Our members are the source of strength in this community, and we hear compliments about our election work at each public event. When you are contacted by League voter services volunteers and asked to assist at candidate and other public events, please make room in your busy calendars to support this work. We are the only non-profit non-partisan organization with the history and public esteem in voter services.

May 6, 2010, from 5:30 to 7:30 PM, the League is conducting its first fundraising event in five years, *The League Goes Green*, a reception in Anne Rudin's garden. Come and enjoy tasty appetizers, a glass of wine, and meet knowledgeable landscape and horticultural experts on drought tolerant gardening who are bringing plant samples. Tickets are \$35, and can be purchased on-line at [www.lwvsacramento.org/](http://www.lwvsacramento.org/). or at the door. Proceeds benefit the League's operating fund. We hope to see you...bring a friend!

May 15-16, 2010, the League of Women Voters of California Leadership Council will meet in Sacramento, and we need volunteers. Please e-mail [president@lwvsacramento.org](mailto:president@lwvsacramento.org) if you can give two hours or more.

## Voters Service Report

The Sacramento County League was chosen to conduct a National League Study during May 2010, the 2010 High School Voter Registration Project which will lead to a National League toolkit for registering high school and young adult voters in our country. We are pleased to be a part of this study and you can become involved too. Just let me know of your interest during the first week in May so you can be included in the short training session that we will have prior to facilitating the project in local high schools. Please RSVP to Cheryll at [votersservice@lwvsacramento.org](mailto:votersservice@lwvsacramento.org) or call 916-483-5524. I look forward to your email or call.

### Candidate Forum A Success

The candidate forum held on Saturday, April 24<sup>th</sup> would not have been a success without the assistance of all the League volunteers present. There were 95 in attendance including student volunteers from St. Francis High School and California State University, Sacramento. Thank you students! The newspaper and online news articles the League received contributed to the increased attendance. A huge thank you to the media and all League volunteers.

See the schedule on the back page for more volunteer opportunities during the month of May. I hope to see many of you in the upcoming month.

Cheryll M. Moore  
Voters Service Director



Photo by Steve Harriman, President, River Park Neighborhood Association.

## **“BUILDING A GREEN ECONOMY”**

By Paul Krugman, New York Times Magazine April 4, 2010

Summary by Alice Ginosar, League of Women Voters Sacramento County

“So what I end up with is basically Martin Weitzman’s argument: it’s the non-negligible probability of utter disaster that should dominate our policy analysis. And that argues for aggressive moves to curb emissions soon.”

Paul Krugman writes that if we continue business as usual, we are facing a rise in global temperatures that will be a little short of “apocalyptic.” We must wean ourselves from fossil fuels and coal in particular.

According to Krugman, climate change scientists have widespread agreement that to limit carbon emissions, a price must be put on fossil fuels. The controversy is on how fast to move to curb emissions. There is a basic principle of economics: the way to curb an activity is to put a price on it. This provides a “market based” approach that gives private industries an incentive via prices to limit pollution.

An example is issuing a limited number of licenses to emit a specific pollutant. A “business that wants to create more pollution than it is licensed for can buy additional licenses from other parties.” A firm that has more licenses than it intends to use can sell its surplus. This is the basis of the cap and trade system. There is precedent for a “cap and trade” (CAT) model of pricing to curb pollution, for example acid rain in the 1980’s. CAT is the most widely used model not only in the United States, but also in Europe. It is politically popular because the revenue goes to the industry; giving a permit or license to an industry offers a way to partly compensate some interest groups that would suffer a loss if climate change policy were adopted. Therefore, CAT legislation is easier to pass. Specifically the Waxman-Markey bill is a CAT model and it passed in Congress in 2009. Krugman states that it is hard to imagine that a straight carbon tax would pass.

Krugman also says there is no question that a straight forward carbon tax (CT) would have an advantage over CAT. A direct tax poses a cost on the private sector while generating revenue for the government. A tax is less complicated than CAT. According to James Hansen, with CAT, all you are doing is freeing up emissions permits so another industry can pollute. A direct carbon tax would serve to reduce the threat of climate change whereas CAT exchanges might not. Considering beyond the US, there will be no solution to global warming unless the rest of the world and the emerging economies participate. China now burns more fossil fuels than the US since 2007 (the first year China emitted more fossil carbons) and China’s use is still growing very fast.

*(Continued on page 5)*

## **PUBLIC FORUM ON “HOW THE STATE BUDGET AFFECTS LOCAL GOVERNMENT”**

By Betty Green-Heffern

League of Women Voters of Placer County

On March 20<sup>th</sup> in Citrus Heights, the League of Women Voters of Placer and Sacramento County jointly sponsored a public forum with a panel of speakers that included Colin Grinnell from the Senate Revenue and Taxation Committee, Michael Cohen from the Legislative Analysts' Office, Susan Peters from SACOG and Trudy Schafer, Senior Director for Program at the League of Women Voters of California.

The speakers addressed the topic of how the state budget affects local government by providing background information about the budget process and the budget timeline, how the current economic crisis is causing a strain between local and state governments, and the history of the fiscal relationship between state and local entities since 1910. Despite a hundred years of discussion (starting with the 1910 Separation Act) regarding the separation of finances for state and local governments, the blurred line of who gets what part of the tax pie continues to lead to intergovernmental tension because of lack of transparency in what level of government is accountable for resources and responsibilities. Another major turning point was in 1978 when the voters of California passed Proposition 13. This caused a major change to property tax by setting the maximum tax rate at one percent on assessed property based on purchase price (both residential and commercial) and gave the state legislature responsibility for allocating property tax revenue. Proposition 13 also raised the voter approval requirement for new local special taxes and legislative approval for new state taxes from a simple majority to a two-thirds majority.

To learn more, visit: [http://www.lao.ca.gov/handouts/Econ/2009/Ten\\_Events\\_12\\_15\\_09.pdf](http://www.lao.ca.gov/handouts/Econ/2009/Ten_Events_12_15_09.pdf) for the document “Ten Events That Shaped California State-Local Fiscal Relations” by the Legislative Analyst's Office - it provides a brief summary of the various events that impacted the fiscal relationship between local and state government in California over the past one hundred years.

*(Continued from page 4)*

Dr. Martin Wietzman of Harvard summarizes that if there is even a small chance of utter catastrophe, that chance-- rather than what is most likely to happen--should dominate the cost-benefit calculations. Utter catastrophe is a realistic possibility even if it is not the most likely outcome. We're uncertain about the magnitude of climate change that is inevitable; we are talking about reaching levels of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere that we have not seen in millions of years. This risk of catastrophe makes the best case for strong climate policy and aggressive curbing of carbon emissions.

## MEDIA COVERAGE OF LWV OF SACRAMENTO COUNTY

By Lola Acosta

It was gratifying to see the media coverage of League voter services. Sunday April 18, 2010, the Sacramento Bee Forum Opinion page carried the full schedule of candidate forums. Use this link for your web browser to see the Bee: <http://www.sacbee.com/2010/04/18/2685037/upcoming-local-candidate-forums.html> Tuesday morning April 20, 2010 I was interviewed on Access Radio for future broadcast, and spoke of ties between the League's early historical positions and current day issues and activities, and how to join the League.

The Sacramento Press, an on-line journal, carried a story about the May 1, 2010 candidate forum to be held at the Board of Supervisors chambers 8 AM to 5 PM. To read the story, paste the following in your web browser: [http://www.sacramento.com/headline/25380/Local\\_Elections\\_101](http://www.sacramento.com/headline/25380/Local_Elections_101).

### E-MAIL V SNAIL MAIL ANNOUNCEMENT

If you would like to receive the Voter by e-mail instead of U.S. postal service mail, please contact the League office at: [lwvs@lwvsacramento.org](mailto:lwvs@lwvsacramento.org).

### MEMBERSHIP FORM

Please fill out this form, include a check or money order and mail to:

**League of Women Voters of Sacramento County**  
**1107 9th Street Suite 300**  
**Sacramento, CA 95814**

Individual Membership \$65.00

Family Membership (two adults at same address) \$100.00

Student Membership \$15.00

Supported Membership (\$15 minimum) \_\_\_\_\_

Assistance requested from Membership Support Fund; Please fill out amount enclosed

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

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

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

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

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).

## EARLY ENVIRONMENTALISTS

For any who wonder about the League's environmental credentials, we earned them over the decades; the League was an early champion of the environment. Beginning in the 20s with the Tennessee Valley Authority, the League has kept a major focus on environmental protection work, including building public support for the Clean Water Act in the 70s, and playing a critical role in passage of Clean Air Act in the 90s, capping a 10-year legislative campaign that included sponsoring nationwide hearings. Today the League continues to fight for major climate change reforms, sending our lobby corps to the Hill, and partnering with Oxfam America on a multi-state project to discuss the effects of global climate change on women throughout the world.

Consider joining the League of Women Voters of Sacramento County Climate Change Committee and help us take the League's environmental message widely. Contact Committee Chair LaVerne Ireland for meeting information at [lireland@ix.netcom.com](mailto:lireland@ix.netcom.com).

## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Priscilla Edwards

Clara Smith

Barbara Stanton

## MAY UNIT MEETINGS

May Unit study and discussion meetings will focus on the June election Easy Voter Guide. Materials will be distributed by Eileen Heaser. A much larger slate of measures are expected for the November election, and members interested in joining our Speakers Bureau are invited to contact Cheryl Moore, Voter Services Director at [geroeducator@att.net](mailto:geroeducator@att.net)

UNIT	DATE & TIME	CONTACT	LOCATION
Mid-City	Monday, May 10 6:15 PM	Tom Swift 453-8707	5308 Shepard Avenue Sacramento, CA 95819
Morning Suburban	Tuesday, May 11 9:15 AM	Mary McCullough 967-7382	2426 Garfield Ave. Carmichael 95608
Greenhaven/ Land Park	Tuesday, May 11 9:30 AM	Mary Hopkins 422-6958	45 Sunlit Circle Sacramento 95831
Elk Grove	Tuesday, May 1 PM	Pat Justice 391-9439	8622 Shasta Lily Drive Elk Grove 95624

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



THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS  
OF SACRAMENTO COUNTY

1107 9th Street, Suite 300

Sacramento, CA 95814

Phone: 916-447-VOTE

Fax: 916-447-8620

www.lwvsacramento.org

E-mail: lwvs@lwvsacramento.org

***MAY 2010***

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

FIRST CLASS MAIL

**FIRST CLASS**  
U.S. POSTAGE PAID  
SACRAMENTO, CA  
PERMIT NO. 193

**FIRST CLASS MAIL**

**METRO CABLETAPING:  
Candidate Forum Taped**

Saturday, May 1, 2010, 8:30-5:30 PM

Sacramento County Board of  
Supervisors Chambers

700 H Street, Room 1450,  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Sponsors: Sacramento Metropolitan Cable TV  
Commission and LWVSC

\* \* \*

**•Sacramento County Sheriff's Forum•**

Wednesday, May 12, 2010, 7:00-8:30 PM

La Sierra Community Center

5325 Engle Road, Carmichael, CA 95608

Sponsor: Carmichael Chamber of Commerce

**•State Assembly District 9  
Candidate Forum•**

Thursday, May 13, 2010, 6:30-8:30 PM

Pannell Community Center

2450 Meadowview Road

Sacramento, CA 95832-1447

Sponsor: Meadowview Neighborhood  
Community Association

\* \* \*

**•Sacramento City Council District 3  
Candidate Forum•**

Thursday, May 20, 2010, 5:00-7:00 PM

Mercy Hospital, Lower Level

4001 J Street, Sacramento, CA 95819

*Free validated parking for all attendees who park in  
their white parking garage.*