



THE SACRAMENTO VOTER

THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF SACRAMENTO COUNTY

NOVEMBER 2010

November 2, Election Day

Navy Bean Soup for Registrar of Voters Workers

Donations and Volunteers to serve soup needed. To volunteer, contact Jennifer Gibson at jen.gibson@comcast.net.

Donations can be made at the LWVSC website www.lwvsacramento.org, or send a check to the office writing soup in the memo space.

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.

November Unit Meetings Will Not Be Held

2010-2011

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The election season is almost over, and I want to acknowledge all the volunteers who have helped make the League so visible in voter service activities. We have received good coverage by the Sacramento Bee and Sacramento News & Review, and we are making gains in utilizing the media to announce our activities. Of course, there is more we could do, and we are learning.

We are approaching our First Senate Navy Bean Soup Election Day event. This is our effort to provide a nourishing traditional soup with cornbread meal for dedicated staff of the Registrar of Voters Office on November 2nd. We plan to feed over 200 people, including members of the media and sheriff's deputies on duty. Those members supporting this activity with donations, monetary or with and homemade soup and cornbread, or volunteering to serve the soup, please accept our thanks.

The Board will be meeting Saturday November 6th to plan activities for the balance of our fiscal year through May 2011. If you would like to make any recommendations to guide our discussion, please contact our Board members listed on page two of the newsletter.

We hope you will consider end-of-year donations to the League of Women Voters of Sacramento County. Your gift addressed to the LWVSC will support the League office and operations; a gift to the LWVSC Education Fund is tax deductible. Our wish is that you enjoy the Thanksgiving holiday with family and friends. We are thankful for your membership and participation in an organization making a difference in our county.

VOTER SERVICE- ACTIVE AND BUSY!

The community has not failed to show its interest in this election. This month we have conducted three Candidate Forums: The Metro Cable taping of over 40 candidates in a marathon day for the tremendous League volunteers; the Natomas Unified School District Board Candidates where 80 interested community members attended to hear the platform of the candidates; and Senate District 6 Candidate Forum with a record (at least in my short 5 year tenure with the League) of 375 with a variety of age groups. In the meantime League volunteers also conducted 9 Pros and Cons Presentations to community groups ranging in size from 10-100. We also attended one Voter Registration Event and Lola Acosta represented the League on two radio shows this month. Thank you everyone for your time, energy, expertise and support the month of October.

We are almost to the finish line for this election. Come join me Election Day at KCRA Channel 3 or the County Voter Registration and Elections office. Well done Voter Service Team!!!

Cheryll M. Moore, Voter Service Director votersservice@lwvsacramento.org

APPLICATION DEADLINE FOR GUBERNATORIAL APPOINTMENT RESUME BANK EXTENDED TO NOVEMBER 30, 2010

The League of Women Voters encourages civic engagement at every level of government. Encouragement includes sharing with our members opportunities for direct involvement in the influence and development of public policy at the state government level. California Women Lead, a non-partisan organization contacted the League and asked that we share with our members the opportunity to participate in the creation of a resume bank to be given to the newly elected governor.

The California Women's State Appointment Project was created in August 2010 to encourage and recruit potential women appointees for the new gubernatorial administration. The goal is a rich, diverse pool of women from all corners of the state, according to Rachel Michelin, Executive Director/CEO for. The project end goal is to present to the next governor a slew of resumes of women from throughout the state who are interested in serving the public from within the new administration. The hope is to draft more women for high level appointments and paid appointments as well as volunteer boards, commissions and agencies. More information and appointee applications are available at www.cawomenlead.org/cwap. If you have any questions, please contact cwap@cawomenlead.org. The office phone is 916-551-1920.

Lola Acosta, President

THE 2010 ELECTION: CONTACTING THE MEDIA

By JoAnne Fuller

Representatives from LWVSC met with local television news directors and station managers to urge them to spend more time educating voters on the issues before elections. All five local news stations were interviewed with the same set of questions and their responses will be drafted into a report on local media efforts.

The League worked with the Sacramento Media Group, created by CA Common Cause and Access Sacramento. Rick Bettis has been active with SMG since the beginning, and noted that what we heard from station managers has changed over the years, and "they appear to be more clearly recognizing their responsibility to inform the public."

In years past, we heard that viewers were not interested in public affairs programming. But this year, KCRA station manager Elliot Troshinsky noted that the debate they produced garnered very high ratings and agreed that viewers will watch this type of programming if it is done well.

League representative Roseanne Chamberlain commented, "This was a great opportunity to talk with station managers about their responsibility to serve the public by covering the important issues in a campaign. In addition, we heard compliments about the League's efforts participating in forums and our Smart Voter pamphlets."

Television news has been targeted since station owners make profits from election ads using a public resource, the airwaves. When stations receive their broadcast licenses for free, they pledge to serve the public interest. SMG and the League are reminding local stations of what our community expects from local news before an election. We are asking stations to meet the Gore Commission's standards of 5 minutes per day of issue coverage in prime time in the six weeks before an election.

Earlier reports on local election issue coverage from elections in 2004 and 2006 as well as reports from local forums on media issues are available from JoAnn Fuller. For more information about the Sacramento Media Group and future plans please contact her at joannfuller44@gmail.com.

KEY PROVISIONS OF THE 2010-11 BUDGET AGREEMENT

from the California Budget Project, a nonprofit organization.

The Governor used his line-item veto authority to eliminate \$1.2 billion in spending included in the 2010-11 budget agreement as passed by the Legislature, reducing General Fund spending by \$1.023 billion and spending from special funds and bond funds by \$162 million. Specifically, the Governor:

- Cut \$256.0 million from CalWORKs Stage 3 child care, which serves working families who have successfully transitioned off CalWORKs cash assistance. This reduction will terminate Stage 3 child care for approximately 55,000 chil-

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HEALTH CARE REFORM: ONE UPDATE: THE ROLE OF THE EXCHANGE: CALIFORNIA'S IMPLEMENTATION OF NATIONAL HEALTH CARE REFORM

On October 21, 2010 a seminar, Implementing National Health Insurance, was sponsored by the CA Healthcare Foundation. The foundation's website describes a vision to serve as a catalyst to fulfill the promise of better health care for all Californians, supporting ideas and innovations that improve quality, efficiency and lower the cost of care. (chcf.org)

About 100 people attended, including staff members of the Governor's office, the Speaker of the Assembly, the Senate Health Committee and policy staff from the administration.

The agenda included reviewing the March 2010 federal health care reform law, the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act and an overview of California's related legislation, AB 1602(J. Perez) and SB 900 (Alquist), calling for creation of the Health Benefits Exchange and the Exchange Governing Board. The California bills outline the mandate of the Exchange, its operations and the attempt to protect it from the General Fund's vagaries.

Overall discussion followed the Massachusetts health reform experience and model, and set a goal of 2014 for California to create a seamless line between the state MediCal program with the health exchange.

Documents related to this meeting will be posted to the California Healthcare Foundation website, <http://www.chcf.org/>. The next meeting December 16, 2010 in Sacramento will be presented by the National Academy for State Health Policy as part of a larger project on enrollment issues in the context of health reform, and will present *Streamlining Eligibility and Enrollment: Challenges and Opportunities in Creating an Enrollment Superhighway*.

Those interested in attending should contact Sue Gutierrez, Center for Health Improvement @ rsvp@chipolicy.org. For more information, contact Danny Sandoval, CHCF, 916.329.4542, dsandoval@chcf.org.

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dren effective November 1, 2010.

- Cut Child Welfare Services (CWS) Program funding by \$80.0 million, which will result in a loss of \$53 million in federal matching funds.
- Reduced funding for the California Work Opportunity and Responsibility to Kids (CalWORKs) Program by \$365.9 million.
- Cut \$5 million from the Maternal, Child, and Adolescent Health Program.

The California Budget Project engages in independent fiscal and policy analysis and public education with the goal of improving public policies affecting the economic and social well-being of low- and middle-income Californians. For more information please go to <http://www.cbp.org/>

GOVERNOR SIGNS FIRST-IN-NATION BILLS TO SET UP EXCHANGE, AND OTHER (BUT NOT ALL) HEALTH REFORM BILLS

Governor Signs First-in-the-Nation Bills to Set Up New Health Insurance Exchanges and Other Key Health Reform Implementation Legislation

By Anthony Wright, Health Access

Patient Protection Bills Signed by the Governor Include:

- * *AB1602(Perez) & SB900(Alquist), to Create a New Health Insurance Exchange*
- * *AB2244(Feuer), to Limit Premiums for Children with Pre-existing Conditions*
- * *SB1163(Leno), to Provide 60 Day Notice and Transparency on Rate Hikes*
- * *AB2470(De La Torre) on Eliminating Rescissions*
- * *SB1088(Price), to Allow Young Adults Up to Age 26 To Stay on Parental Coverage*
- * *AB2345(De La Torre), to Eliminate Cost-Sharing for Preventative Care*

The Governor Vetoed the Following Measures:

- * *SB890(Alquist), to Categorize Benefits to Allow for Better Comparisons of Plans*
- * *AB1825(De La Torre), to Phase-In Maternity Coverage as a Basic Benefit*

For more information about these and related bills, go to Health Access at <http://www.health-access.org>

Health Access is a non-profit organization, a statewide health care consumer advocacy coalition, advocating for the goal of quality, affordable health care for all Californians. Its' Sacramento partner is Health Care for All Sacramento Valley.

Lola Acosta, President

METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION PLAN WORKSHOPS BEING CONDUCTED

By Rick Bettis, Natural Resources Director

The Sacramento Area Council of Governments (SACOG) is now conducting Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) public workshops throughout the six County Sacramento Region. The MTP will define the preferred Scenario that will be used to set transportation project priorities and guide the spending of local, State and Federal funds. The SACOG Region includes the Counties of Sacramento, Yolo, Placer, El Dorado Sutter and Yuba.

The MTP will be based on job, population and housing needs projection through the year 2035. The MTP is updated every five years to reflect changes in growth projections and demographics of the Region. This year the MTP will be based, in part, on the requirements of Senate Bill 375, which was passed in 2009 with the intent of establishing urban growth strategies that would result in lower

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greenhouse gas emissions and help mitigate climate change. The goal is to reduce per capita GHG emission from transportation sources by approximately 15 percent per capita in the Region by 2035.

The Workshops will allow public participants to select their top choice and recommended modifications to three transportation Scenarios. The alternatives have been developed by SACOG with input from Stakeholder organizations including business, environmental, agricultural, social equity, and community associations who have been meeting in small groups with SACOG staff.

The LWVSC has been a participant in the definitions of these Scenarios for the past several months. League members are encouraged to participate in the MTP process, which could have significant effect on the quality of life in the Sacramento Region and contribute to our efforts to mitigate potentially catastrophic climate change. Please see www.SACOG.org for more information.

NO NOVEMBER UNIT MEETINGS

There is not a Board-recommended topic for discussion at November Unit meetings. Members interested in post- election discussion may want to attend the University of Southern California State Capital Center Post Elections Overview, Wednesday, November 3, 2010, 5:00 pm to 6:30 pm. The event will be held at 1800 I Street. Attendance is free. As space is limited, *please email or call Adele Wilson, kawilson@usc.edu or (916) 422-6911 ext. 21 to RSVP.* For more information, go to: <http://www.usc.edu/schools/sppd/events/calendar.php/event/885155>.

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).



THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS
OF SACRAMENTO COUNTY

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NOVEMBER 2010

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

FIRST CLASS MAIL

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

FIRST CLASS MAIL

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Liz Brodeur

Linda Mann

VOLUNTEER NEEDED-VOTER AFFIDAVIT DISTRIBUTION

The League distributes voter affidavit forms to post offices around the county. A vacancy for a volunteer to stock post offices in Isleton, Hood, Walnut Grove, Wilton, Courtland and Ryde has become available. If you can monitor and deliver voter affidavit forms to post offices in these communities, please contact Eileen Heaser, Coordinator for this League activity. You may reach Eileen at emeh@saclink.csus.edu or phone 278-6797 (daytime).