



# THE SACRAMENTO VOTER

THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF SACRAMENTO

JANUARY 2010

**Saturday, January 15, 2011, 1-3 PM**

## **State and Local Program Planning Meeting**

**South Natomas Library Community Room, 2901 Truxel Road, Sacramento**

**(See article on page 6.)**

**Saturday, January 22, 2011**

## **Health Care Speakers Bureau Orientation**

**Colonial Heights Library Community Room, 1 – 3 PM**

**4799 Stockton Blvd. Sacramento**

## **January 10 and 11, 2011 Unit Meetings**

**See the discussion topic and time schedule, page 4.**

**Invite interested friends, neighbors and co-workers to attend.**

## **League aprons are available for purchase.**

Mail checks for \$20 to the League office, with “apron” in memo space  
or purchase at our website.

### **E-MAIL V SNAIL MAIL**

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@lwwsacramento.org](mailto:lwvs@lwwsacramento.org).

2010-2011

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## President's Message

Happy New Year to all members, supporters and donors! We hope you will continue your active support of our organization throughout the first of our second ninety years!

Despite support of the League of Women Voters of the United States and many Californians, last week the Dream Act failed to gain the vote of enough congresspersons to clear both houses. See the Sacramento Bee editorial, December 23, 2010 for the names of congresspersons blocking the law. The same week, the U.S. Census reported the population growth or stagnation in all the states, finding that California's growth held steady. Most news about the Census focused on retaining congressional seats, rather than the impact of a stagnant population.

The League position on immigration states in part "...The League of Women Voters believes that immigration policies should ...meet the economic, business and employment needs of the United States; and ... Provision should also be made for qualified persons to enter the U.S. on student visas.

With the failure of the Dream Act, about 500,000 California students brought to our state as children by undocumented parents while under the age of 16 will be denied a pathway to citizenship. If enacted into law, the Dream Act would have required these students to complete high school, attend college or serve in the military to access the pathway to citizenship.

At a time when California faces the retirement of thousands of highly educated Baby Boomers, we need more students seeking and completing higher education, not fewer.

The Campaign for College Opportunity, a California non-profit whose mission is to ensure our state produces one million additional college graduates between now and 2025 to meet the workforce demands of the future and ensure California's economic prosperity reports that over the next two decades, California needs 3.2 million new college-educated workers – nurses, teachers, engineers and others – to keep our competitive edge.

## President's Message

continued

See the Campaign for College Opportunity Fast Facts

<http://www.collegecampaign.org/archive-of-old-assets/2006Sept-CCO-Fast-Facts-FINAL.pdf>

For those who find the League's position on the Dream Act and immigration reform a liberal viewpoint, the Cato Institute on December 9, 2010 called the Dream Act "A Low Risk High Return Option."

It is still possible to contact your congresspersons and as a League member lend support to this law that California needs in order to build a skilled workforce.

I hope to see you at our two January events! Invite friends to our Unit meetings!

### **More than 1,000 Women Appointment Applicants Submitted to Brown Administration**

December 9, 2010 Rachel Michelin of California Women Lead announced over one thousand names were submitted to Governor-Elect Jerry Brown for consideration as appointees to his administration. Last August a coalition of women's organizations launched the effort to encourage and recruit potential women appointees for the new governor's administration. The League of Women Voters of Sacramento County was invited to extend this invitation with its membership and network; the invitation was included in the Sacramento Voter.

After submitting the package to the Governor-Elect, Ms Michelin stated, "the California Women's State Appointment Project is excited to submit this rich, diverse pool of women from all over that state to Governor Elect Brown for consideration in next year's appointments process," said Rachel Michelin, Executive Director/CEO for California Women Lead. "We want to ensure that the number of women in gubernatorial appointed positions reflects the state's population. We are proud to have inspired women from across the state to consider applying for appointments at the state level so that women can continue to contribute significantly."

The resumes from women across the state interested in serving in high level, paid and volunteer appointed positions were delivered to the next Governor by the coalition.

Editor's Note: California Women Lead was formerly named the California Elected Women's Association for Education and Research. Former Mayor and League of Women Voters of Sacramento past President Anne Rudin was a founding member.

### **Children Now *California Report Card 2011***

December 20, 2010, California Now released the California Report Card 2011. This year their report card includes a Children’s Agenda, describing the top ten high-priority, high-impact actions they recommend California policymakers take to reverse the declining status of children. See an online copy at

[http://www.childrennow.org/index.php/learn/reports\\_and\\_research/article/738](http://www.childrennow.org/index.php/learn/reports_and_research/article/738)

Note: Barbara Carr attends regular Child Advocates Roundtable meetings convened by the Children's Advocacy Institute & Center for Public Interest Law, University of San Diego. See League of Women Voters of California Action Policies and Positions *Updated 2009*, Social Policy Positions and Action Policies, [http://www.ca.lww.org/lwvonly/docs/lwvc\\_positions.pdf](http://www.ca.lww.org/lwvonly/docs/lwvc_positions.pdf)

#### **JANUARY UNIT MEETINGS**

January Unit meetings will discuss the federal health reform law, the Affordable Care Act of 2010. Prior to the Unit meetings, members are encouraged to review *Understanding the Affordable Care Act* at Health-Care.gov. The information is available in a reader friendly format at the website of Congresswoman Doris Matsui, *Health Issues*, with attached topical informational papers. See [http://www.matsui.house.gov/index.php?option=com\\_content&task=view&id=371&Itemid=64](http://www.matsui.house.gov/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=371&Itemid=64)

UNIT	DATE & TIME	CONTACT	LOCATION
Mid-City	Monday, January 10 6:15 PM	Tom Swift 453-8707	5308 Shepard Ave. Sacramento 95819
Morning Suburban	Tuesday, January 11 9:15 AM	Alice Ginosar 863-7741	2426 Garfield Ave. Carmichael 95608
Greenhaven/ Land Park	Tuesday, January 11 9:30 AM	Mary Hopkins 422-6958	45 Sunlit Circle Sacramento 95831
Elk Grove	Tuesday, January 11, 12:00 Noon.	Bill & Elaine Lee 688-5360	8622 Shasta Lily Dr. Elk Grove 95624
Eileen Heaser, Unit Coordinator, 916-456-2154 or <a href="mailto:eheser@csus.edu">eheser@csus.edu</a>			

## **LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OFFERS MORE VOTERS ONLINE SMARTS**

**By Charlene Jones**

**League of Women Voters of Sacramento County Smart Voter Committee**

As political ads littered the airwaves and piled clutter onto websites, nonpartisan voter education seemed hard to find during the November 2010 election. It's not what nearly five billion campaign dollars spent across the country bought us. Supplying vital information about voting, candidates and analysis of ballot measures consequential to our lives, is simply not the business of electioneering. Providentially, it remains the stock and trade of the League of Women Voters.

Steered by a tradition of the "mighty political experiment," and driven by steadfast volunteers, our Smart Voter online voter education service reached more voters than ever before during the recent midterm election cycle. The Smart Voter website provided content on elections and voting, including page views on local ballot details for 28 counties, which comprises 93 percent of California's registered voters.

Such coverage moved LWVC closer to its goal of providing impartial election essentials in all California counties. Working with Smart Voter central at the state level and our county elections office, LWVSC's Smart Voter team continued to assure voters found information essential to independent decision making when casting their ballots in Sacramento County.

"We offered the public a chance to find central voting information in one place," Lola Acosta, president of LWVSC, described. "What we do is remind candidates to showcase their candidacy, and it's free to them and the voter. It's an exceptional service that helps to educate and engage."

For Sacramento, 119 races and 10 local ballot measures appeared on the county's Smart Voter pages, according to LWVC's preliminary general election statistics. More than 80 candidates supplied information while specifics on local ballot measures, candidate forums, voter registration and casting ballots added to study by online visitors.

Statewide more than 2000 office seekers provided details about their candidacies to online users, with 7.7 million pages viewed during the election, according to Ernie Ting, Senior Director of Smart-Voter.org for the LWVC. For the first time, federal and state legislative candidates were asked to answer standard questions about critical issues affecting Californians, such as the economy, budget priorities, education, health care, energy and campaign financing. Enhancements to Smart Voter pages were also undertaken to extend its reach. They included a new home page design and general voter information pages, expanded use of social media and search advertising for updating more easily about Smart Voter content.

LWVSC and its Smart Voter team will continue to present Smart Voter education services to foster democratic principles so depended upon an informed citizenry. As one November visitor to the Smart Voter website submitted,

"I have been visiting and utilizing the Smart Voter website for several elections now and am thrilled it is available. I sincerely appreciate being able to go here to retrieve all the information I need to cast my vote. I love participating in our unique democracy. I consider it a rich blessing in my life!"

## LWVC PROGRAM PLANNING FOR 2011-2013

What do you want to see on the agenda for the League in California for the upcoming biennium?

As a valued member of this grassroots organization, you have the opportunity and the responsibility to indicate the issues on which you believe the state League and all local Leagues in California should focus their time, talent, money, and reputation.

We hope you use the program planning process as an opportunity to think strategically about the work of the League on the state level. Consider where there is the most need, where we will be most effective, and what activities best serve our mission. And consider the indirect impact of these choices, particularly on membership recruitment and retention, fundraising, and our reputation—all of which are crucial to the future of your local League as well as that of the LWVC.

## POST ELECTION REVIEW

University of Southern California Sacramento Panel

By E. Heaser and V. Moose

Editor's Note: Unfortunately, space did not permit posting this article to earlier issues of the Voter. A summary of the panel discussion is presented here.

Wednesday, November 3, 2010, USC School of Policy, Planning and Development presented a "Post Elections Overview" panel discussion comprised of media experts, including David Lesher, Associate Director, Government Affairs at PPIC, former editor with the *California Journal* and *Los Angeles Times*, Chase Davis, Investigative Reporter with *California Watch*, (covers money in California politics), Ryan Adame, Deputy Executive Director, California Chapter of the American College of Emergency Physicians. Dan Schnur, FPPC Chairman, moderated.

General election observations- California voters vs. the United States: Voters in the US were characterized as angry, while CA voters were described as anxious.

Brown vs. Whitman: Self financed candidates do not have a good track record for winning elections especially if they do not have any political experience.

Gubernatorial debates: "Whitman lost, Brown didn't win."

Propositions: Contradictory propositions passed will make governing more difficult.

Immediate issues: Pension reform, term limits, Propositions 22, 25 & 26, 23

Future issues for CA: Climate change and a mandate to make CA the leader in education, health care; realignment of electoral districts and the pension system.

**LWVSC JOINS WATER RECYCLING COALITION**

By Rick Bettis, Natural Resources Director

The Board of Directors of the LWVSC has approved the League becoming a member of a coalition of Sacramento County organizations who support the use of recycled water in the Sacramento Region. This coalition has been brought together by the Sacramento Regional County Sanitation District (SRCSD). The SRCSD is responsible for the collection and treatment of urban wastewater for most of Sacramento County plus West Sacramento.

Wastewater is conveyed to the SRCSD treatment plant, near Freeport, where it is treated and discharged into the Sacramento River. A small, approximately 3 percent, amount is recycled for landscape irrigation in the south County area.

The SRCSD hopes to expand the use of recycled water for agriculture and landscape irrigation, water supply for wildlife habitat, and industrial uses. Recycled water was used as early as 1932 for irrigation of Golden Gate Park. It has been used in Sonoma County for more than 30 years, is used extensively in southern California and nearby in El Dorado and Placer Counties.

The 2009 California State Water Plan calls for greater use of recycled water to help meet future water requirements and adapt to climate change. The LWV of California 2009 “Action Policies and Positions” encourages its’ use. The quality and uses of recycled water is regulated in accordance with Title 22 of the California Water Code.

The use of recycled water in Sacramento County will help reduce the pumping of groundwater, which will save energy and help mitigate climate change. The resulting higher groundwater levels will also reduce the water lost due to seepage from natural streams such as the Cosumnes River, resulting in restoration of natural habitats for fish and wildlife.

The LWVSC support of this program will be of value in efforts to obtain Federal and State grant funding for future local projects.

**WELCOME NEW MEMBER**

Tonya R. McGuire



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***JANUARY 2011***

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## **GRAND JURY VOLUNTEERS SOUGHT, STARTING JULY 2011**

League members are encouraged to consider applying to serve on the Sacramento County Grand Jury. According to the Sacramento Bee December 20, 2010, volunteers are needed to serve on the Sacramento County grand jury that will begin service from July 1, 2011, through June 30, 2012. The 19-member grand jury serves as an arm of the court, reviewing citizen complaints and producing a final report at the end of its term. Applications will be accepted through February 4, 2011. Applicants must be 18 years of age or older, be U.S. citizens and residents of Sacramento County. An application questionnaire is available at [www.sacgrandjury.org](http://www.sacgrandjury.org).

## **CONGRATULATIONS TO RICK BETTIS**

League member Rick Bettis, Natural Resources Director, was named one of Sacramento's most interesting people in the December 9, 2010 issue of Sacramento News and Review.