



THE SACRAMENTO VOTER

THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF SACRAMENTO COUNTY

FEBRUARY 2011

LEGISLATIVE INTERVIEWS

If you would like to participate in up-coming visits to your elected legislators' offices, please contact Alice Ginosar at aliceginosar@yahoo.com or phone 916-863-7741 .

VOTER SERVICE

Want to volunteer for the League, but can only give limited time? This project to support voter registration may be for you. Volunteers are needed to distribute voter affidavit forms to local post offices. If you are interested, please e-mail Coordinator Eileen Heaser at emeh@saclink.csus.edu or phone her at 278-6797.

The following post offices need to be stocked:

- Fair Oaks Post Office
- Rancho Cordova Post Office
- Isleton, Hood, Walnut Grove, Wilton, Courtland & Ryde Post Offices
- Rio Linda Post Office
- Del Paso Heights Post Office
- Elverta Post Office

SAVE THE DATE

Annual Meeting Saturday May 21, 2011, Casa Garden Meeting Center

2010-2011

Lola Acosta, President
916-447-8683
president@lwvsacramento.org

Cheryll Moore, 2nd Vice President
Voters Service Director
916-447-8683
voterservice@lwvsacramento.org

Kathleen Chovan, 3rd Vice President
916-447-8386
vp3@lwvsacramento.org

Miranda Perry, Treasurer
916-447-8683
treasurer@lwvsacramento.org

Catherine Troka, Secretary
916-447-8683
sec@lwvsacramento.org

Rick Bettis, Natural Resources
916-447-8683
naturalresources@lwvsacramento.org

Roseanne Chamberlin, Director
916-8683
director3@lwvsacramento.org

Jennifer Gibson, Director
916-447-8683
director4@lwvsacramento.org

Eileen Heaser, Director
916-447-8683
director5@lwvsacramento.org

Donna Chipps, Webmaster
webmaster@lwvsacramento.org

Nancy Lapp, Voter Editor
916-447-8683
editor@lwvsacramento.org

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Plans are underway for our Annual Meeting; the meeting will be held Saturday May 21, 2011, Casa Gardens Meeting Center. Our Nominating Committee is at work; if you are contacted, please consider serving. We have such a wealth of active, smart committed members; we would appreciate your serving in an active leadership capacity.

Unit meetings this month will discuss redistricting at the state and local level. Please invite neighbors and friends so that we can share information with as many as possible.

The state budget again is contentious, with June ballot measures likely asking voters to help decide California's future. Our Voter Services Director will soon issue an e-mail call for volunteers to join our Speakers Bureau and attend a training session. While budget-related measures may bore some voters, this is how state policies are decided, and our active involvement in public education is needed and appreciated by community organizations. Please consider joining in this work.

Several members of our Health Care Committee met January 22nd. Please see Update page _____. Soon, the availability of League speakers will be announced on our website. Already, two presentations to community groups are in scheduling stages. The intent of this public education project is to demystify the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act of 2010. If you are interested or need more information, please e-mail lwvs@lwvsacrametno.org or phone the League office at 447-8683.

I look forward to seeing you at our grassroots Unit meetings and at other League activities.

SACRAMENTO CITY REDISTRICTING FORUMS

The City of Sacramento Neighborhood Services Division of the Department of Parks and Recreation is holding Redistricting Forums. All are invited to attend and learn about redistricting at the local level from experts who will be in attendance. The agenda includes:

- Frequently Asked Questions About Redistricting
- Key Redistricting Standards and Concepts
- Participating in the Redistricting Process
- The Impact of Census Data and Policies on Redistricting

LOCATIONS

South Area	South East Area	North Area	Central City Area
Wednesday, February 9th 6:30-8:00 PM Pannell Meadowview Community Center A/B Room 2450 Meadowview Road	Thursday, February 17th 6:30-8:00 PM Coloma Community Center Nevada City Room 4623 T Street	Thursday, February 24th 6:30-8:00 PM South Natomas Community Center Conference Room 2921 Truxel Road	Monday, February 28th (in lieu of the Neighbor- hood Advisory Group Meeting) 6:30-8:00 PM Ethel MacLeod Hart Senior Center Redwood Room 915 27th Street

Neighborhood Services staff will be available at 6:00 PM to assist you with your neighborhood questions and concerns. For more information call (916) 808-6789.

Thank you,

Janine Martindale
 Neighborhood Resources Coordinator
 Parks and Recreation Department,
 Neighborhood Services Division

New City Hall, 915 I Street, 3rd Floor
 Sacramento, CA 95814
 Office (916) 808-8193
 Fax (916) 808-5959

www.cityofsacramento.org/ns

FURLOUGH DAYS: February 18th, March 18th, April 15th, May 20th, June 17th

UPDATE:**THE LVW OF SACRAMENTO COUNTY HEALTH CARE COMMITTEE**

When the Colonial Heights Library Community Room electronic door key did not work, committee members met outdoors in the winter sunshine on Saturday, January 22, 2011. They reviewed the Powerpoint slide show and accompanying script developed to inform Sacramentans about provisions of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act of 2010. Members Connie Lentsch, Alice Ginosar, Barbara Hansen, Laurie Pejuhesh, Leslie Marria and Lola Acosta agreed to hold an additional meeting, to be scheduled, before offering presentations to the community. Other members interested in this volunteer work can contact Chair Lola Acosta at president@lwvsacramento.org.

COMMERCIALLY SEXUALLY EXPLOITED CHILDREN

Barbara Carr

The January 2011 Child Advocates Roundtable learned about the Alameda County pilot program to aid Sexually Exploited Minors/Commercially Sexually Exploited Children (SEM/CSEC). Federal and state laws define the victims, but state law requires a physical showing of force from the exploiter, whereas federal law allows for economic leverage, manipulation, fraud, coercion and threats.

Children served in Alameda County generally have a history of abuse and/or neglect, display symptoms of Post Traumatic Stress and Stockholm Syndromes, are often resistant to services (the number one barrier to assistance), and are involved with the Foster Care and/or Juvenile Justice systems. Those that come from immigrant populations face an additional set of challenges. Historically, in Alameda, half of sexually exploited girls were in Foster Care. More recently, the percentage is 25 to 30. Group homes are the target of exploiters.

In Alameda County, 98% are female, 68% African-American, 14% Latina, 8% white and 6% Asian. Twenty-three percent were identified as a sexual minority (gay/lesbian/bi and questioning). In addition, the population showed mental and overall health problems 2 to 5 times higher than in the general population, with drug abuse predominating.

The pilot has a multi-pronged approach, with advocates meeting the child at first contact (typically with law enforcement) and following her through case management in the legal process, treatment, and housing placement. The program operates a street outreach program and facilitates collaborative case treatment and prevention by working with other agencies. Alameda County reports significant success in reconnecting the youth with schools, linking them to mental health treatment, reducing drug and alcohol consumption, completing probation, and finding stable housing, as well as separating the children from the industry.

Funding comes from property taxes, with a split between law enforcement and community services. Funding also comes from Medi-Cal and Early, Periodic Screening Diagnosis and Treatment (EPSDT), as 80-90% of children in the population are eligible.

AB 499 became law in 2008, establishing the pilot program in Alameda County. The program expires on 1/1/12, and Assembly Member Sandre Swanson plans to introduce legislation to extend it. Assembly Member Swanson also plans to introduce a bill for check-off contributions from income tax refunds, with half going to law enforcement and half to grants to address exploitation of children. Support is sought to educate the public, letters, telephone calls and other communications to the Author's office, committees and the Governor, continuing the pilot, expanding to other communities, and testifying at committee hearings.

Of the top 10 US cities for Human Trafficking, California has three: Los Angeles, San Francisco and San Diego. An estimated 12,000 sexually exploited minors are in California. The state Parent Teacher Association (PTA) will have the subject on the agenda for its upcoming conference.

NEW EFFORT TO IMPROVE CALIFORNIA

[Nathan Gardels and Nicolas Berggruen](#) say the Think Long Committee, a successor to California Forward and the Bay Area Council's attempt to convene a constitutional convention, is picking up reform government proposals where the two prior organizations left off.

The Committee, comprised of eminent citizens is working closely with PPIC and California Forward. The nonpartisan committee ranges from two former U.S. secretaries of state, George P. Shultz and Condoleezza Rice, to Clinton economic adviser Laura Tyson; from Eric Schmidt of Google to former Yahoo and Warner Bros. chief Terry Semel; from former Assembly speakers Bob Hertzberg and Willie Brown to former state Treasurer Matt Fong, former UC Regents chair Gerry Parsky, philanthropist Eli Broad, labor leader Maria Elena Durazo and California Community Foundations head Antonia Hernandez.

Two former state finance directors, Mike Genest and Tim Gage advise the Committee. The aim of the committee is to "reboot" California through a series of integrated structural reforms that will help bring the state back to governability. Final recommendations should be completed by this summer, but ideas are forming around the following:

1. Realignment of state and local revenue and responsibilities is key to renovating a system that has become over-centralized in the years since Proposition 13.
2. The state should simplify, broaden and flatten the tax structure in order to tame the revenue volatility of the current system.
3. Budget reform should keep spending within fiscal constraints, including a rainy day fund, pay-go, long-term and performance-based budgeting, sunset laws and curbing mandates on spending not appropriated in a given budget cycle.
4. Modify term limits to enhance the accountability, decisiveness and quality of the Legislature.
5. Initiative reform should curb budgeting by ballot box and make this avenue of public recourse part of building a governing consensus instead of a tool of conflict and an alternative to the Legislature.
6. Protect our environment, streamline regulation in order to promote a better business climate and stimulate new job creation.
7. Integrate the long-range perspective into governance through establishing a "Long Term California Strategy Council" that will focus on making California globally competitive, bolstering excellence in education - including a revolving fund for higher education - and building the smart infrastructure of the future.

This summary was taken from the Sunday, January 2, 2011 edition of the Sacramento Bee.

THE JUNE STATEWIDE BALLOT

According to the Sacramento Bee, Governor Jerry Brown's proposal to keep higher tax rates set to expire will be in front of voters to decide if lawmakers agree to putting the budget plan on the ballot.

Two initiatives have qualified, and likely will be on the June ballot. The first measure, backed by the Los Angeles County Federation of Labor and the Los Angeles Chamber of Commerce, would alter legislative term limits allowing state legislators to serve 12 years consecutively in one house or split the time between the Assembly and the Senate. Sitting members, who are currently restricted to 14 years total -- eight years in the Senate and six years in the Assembly -- would still be subject to existing caps.

The second initiative would raise the tobacco tax by \$1 a pack to fund cancer research and smoking prevention programs. That measure, which would raise an estimated \$500 million annually, is backed by the American Cancer Society the American Lung Association of California, the American Heart Association, and former Democratic President Pro Tem Don Perata, a cancer survivor.

Paul Knepprath, vice president of government relations for the American Lung Association in California, said proponents expect to face a well-funded opposition campaign from the tobacco industry.

-Acknowledgements to the Sacramento Bee, January 12, 2011

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).

WELCOME NEW MEMBER

Connie Lentsch

FEBRUARY UNIT MEETINGS

February Unit meetings will discuss the Governor's proposal concerning local redevelopment agencies. Monday, January 24, 2011 the Sacramento Bee had an excellent article on this topic, see Sacramento Redevelopment Agency Collects Millions of Dollars a Year, <http://www.sacbee.com/2011/01/24/3346321/sacramento-redevelopment-agency.html>

Unit meetings could focus on how dismantling of redevelopment agencies would affect local communities. Prior to the Unit meeting, please review the LWVSC positions on Education, Housing, and Transportation to begin the discussion.

UNIT	DATE & TIME	CONTACT	LOCATION
Mid-City	Monday, February 7 6:15 PM	Tom Swift 453-8707	5308 Shepard Ave. Sacramento 95819
Morning Suburban	Tuesday, February 8 9:15 AM	Alice Ginosar 863-7741	2426 Garfield Ave. Carmichael 95608
Greenhaven/ Land Park	Tuesday, February 8 10:00 AM	Mary Hopkins 422-6958	45 Sunlit Circle Sacramento 95831
Elk Grove	Tuesday, February 8 1:00 PM	Bill & Elaine Lee 688-5360	8622 Shasta Lily Drive Elk Grove 95624

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



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1107 9th Street, Suite 300

Sacramento, CA 95814

Phone: 916-447-VOTE

Fax: 916-447-8620

www.lwvsacramento.org

E-mail: lwvs@lwvsacramento.org

FEBRUARY 2011

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

FIRST CLASS MAIL

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

FIRST CLASS MAIL

REMEMBERING.... NOMA MARY RATZLAFF

Noma Ratzlaff joined the League in 1986 and was a loyal member, renewing her membership in December of 2010. She is remembered by Mid-City Unit members for her support and contribution to discussions. When she moved to Chateau Capitol Avenue, she arranged to bring League election education meetings on-site. Noma passed away on January 7, 2011.