



# THE SACRAMENTO VOTER

THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF SACRAMENTO COUNTY

MAY 2011

*May 11, 2011: 5:30 - 7:30 pm*

## *A Sustainable Sacramento Garden Party*

*at the home of Mary and Mel Williams.*

*Adrienne Bankert of KCRA, Program Moderator.*

*Meet celebrity chefs and obtain edible  
and drought tolerant landscape ideas.*

*Enjoy wine and appetizers.*

*See our website or call our office for ticket reservations.*

*<http://www.lwvsacramento.org/> or 916.447.VOTE*

**May 21, 2011: 9 am**

## **Annual Meeting**

### **Casa Garden Meeting Center**

**Come for coffee and conversation at 9 am  
and meet your League candidates.**

#### **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).

Seventy per cent of League of Women Voters of Sacramento County members provided us e-mail  
addresses. If you have not shared your e-mail, please send it to: [president@lwvsacramento.org](mailto:president@lwvsacramento.org).

**2010-2011**

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**PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

Annual Meeting: May 21<sup>st</sup>, at Casa Garden Meeting Center, guest speaker Lisa Prince is providing a preview of "100 Years of California Women Voting," an exhibit scheduled to open in June at the Sacramento History Museum, Old Sacramento and move to the state capitol in October. Your attendance at this meeting is critical to meet the needed quorum and to vote on important issues of League Program, Budget and the Slate of Officers. Come and provide your ideas in "Directions to the Board."

Fundraising: Our Fund Development Committee organized an event to be enjoyed by all attending. Last year, seventy members and guests attended, and we hope you will come May 11<sup>th</sup> and view Mary and Mel Williams beautiful garden, enjoy appetizers prepared by League members, and sip a little wine. This is our major event of the year; let's support it and help provide the resources that make our work possible.

This week, we will mail Suffragist invitations, encouraging members to join a group that generously supports our organization. Please consider joining.

Membership: Every League member is by definition part of our membership committee. Recalling our role in building an organization that endures across time, now into our second ninety years, we need to share the interest our contemporary issues confronting government. with friends, colleagues and neighbors, both women and men. By including new members in our organization, we can expand opportunities that involve more Sacramentans in civic improvement.

Education Study: See the enclosure accompanying the Sacramento Voter. This paper is the topic of discussion at the Unit meetings this month. Study activities will take place this summer, culminating in a consensus meeting Saturday October 8<sup>th</sup>.

Hasta Pronto (see you soon): I look forward to seeing you at our May 11<sup>th</sup> Garden Party and May 21<sup>st</sup> at our Annual Meeting. The Sacramento Voter will resume publication in August. Until then, watch our website and your mailbox for Education Study meeting and informational announcements.

## STORMWATER QUALITY MITIGATION

Rick Bettis, Natural Resources Director

In a recent issue of the e-newsletter, Public CEO discusses a Ninth Circuit Federal Court of Appeals ruling in the case Natural Resources Defense Council vs. the County of Los Angeles. The article states that any public entity that collects stormwater is responsible for the removal of contaminants before discharging this water into rivers, lakes or wetlands. Stormwater will contain sediments, suspended metals, oil, pesticides, and debris that degrade the water quality resulting in potential human health risks and damage to natural habitats, fish and wildlife. Regulation of such discharges is in accordance with the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit requirements under the Clean Water Act.

The requirements stipulated in this ruling have been recognized by Sacramento County by local agencies, such as the Sacramento County Water Resources and City of Sacramento Utilities Departments. The NPDES regulations were developed by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the California Regional Water Quality Control Board is responsible for enforcement. When the NPDES permit system was first being implemented in the 1970's and 1980's discharge quality requirements would have required very costly treatment similar to that used for sewage. The cost for Sacramento County was estimated to be potentially several billion dollars.

The County of Sacramento filed a lawsuit contending that those regulations would impose an unreasonable economic burden and the goals of the law could be achieved at a lower cost. A settlement did result in less rigid regulations that allows local agencies more flexibility. Stormwater quality management includes extensive public outreach and education and regulations such as making it unlawful to dispose of any potential pollutants such as oil, antifreeze and other chemicals in any storm drain inlet. Education programs emphasize the reduction and more careful use of chemicals in outdoor areas. Strict ordinances have been implemented to eliminate sediments in runoff. Local detention or retention basins are used to cause pollutants to "settle out" in the basins before the water is discharged to receiving waters. Inspection and monitoring programs are used when there is adequate funding and staff.

*Editors Note: This article is provided as part of on-going efforts to inform League members about an environmental quality matter of local significance.*

## JO SMITH, LWVSC MEMBER, POSTHUMOUSLY HONORED

Rick Bettis, Natural Resources Director

At their recent Annual Meeting, the California Parks and Recreation Society (CPRS) posthumously inducted Jo Smith into the "Hall of Honor" for her substantial contributions to environmental and natural history education and advocacy.

Jo was an important member of the LWV making very significant contributions to many of the Leagues' education and advocacy programs. Jo motivated the LWV California to start its professional legislative analyses and advocacy efforts, initiated with the employment of Margaret Herman as their first Policy Director, the position now held by Trudy Schafer.

Jo was the Co-founder of both the American River Natural History Association, which manages the Effie Yeau Nature Center (ARNHA), and the Sacramento Creeks Council. She was a Board member for the Arcade Creek Recreation Dis-

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trict and served as a leading volunteer for several other public interest and community organizations. She was a gifted artist and illustrated, and contributed to the writing and editing of, several ARNHA publications.

Regional leaders in parks and recreation profession attended the banquet honoring Jo, along with friends and LWVSC members such as Anne Rudin and Kay Knepprath. Ruth Coleman, the Director of the California Department of Parks and Recreation gave an eloquent and insightful keynote address at this event.

## SACRAMENTO COUNTY REDISTRICTING UPDATE

In March we were updated on the statewide Citizens Redistricting Panel which LWV worked so hard to pass as Proposition 11. The Sacramento City Council has empowered a review panel to comment on the drawing of new voting district lines in the city. LWVSC's own Miranda Perry has been appointed to this committee as an at-large representative by the city council. JoAnn Fuller researched plans for redrawing county voting districts and reports below.

Will Sacramento County voting districts need to be redrawn after the new census report?

Yes, population shifts means that county districts will be redrawn dramatically. Jill LaVine, County Elections Officer, estimates that these changes will need to be made:

District 1 (Serna) lose 24,000

District 2 (Yee) gain 52,000

District 3 (Peters) lose 8,700

District 4 (MacGlashan) gain 9,500

District 5 (Nottoli) lose 28,700

### **When will these changes be made?**

Jill LaVine, County Elections Officer, reported that she would like to use an Aug. 15, 2011 deadline to have district maps drawn, the same as the deadline for the State Redistricting Commission. Her office will draft four or five plans to take to community meetings in each Board of Supervisors' (BOS) district. By April they also plan to have a feature on their website that people could use to draw district lines themselves. The timeline is to have community meetings in each district during May and June, draw maps by August 15th, have an official public hearing in September and finalize maps soon after that.

### **How can the public get involved?**

Every Supervisor has set up meetings in his/her district to show draft plans and hear from constituents. People can draft their own plans and present them to the BOS to keep a neighborhood or community of interest together, etc.

### **Why should I care about this?**

Voting districts can split a community, or Supervisors could create "safe" seats for themselves and draw out potential opponents. We will live with these districts for ten years. Now is the time to be sure they are drawn fairly.

### **Need more information?**

To sign up for Redistricting updates log onto: <http://www.elections.saccounty.net/Redistricting/default.htm>

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<b>DATE</b>	<b>TIME</b>	<b>MEETING</b>	<b>LOCATION</b>
April 20	7:30-8:30 a.m.	Supervisor Roberta MacGlashan	Fair Oaks/Gold River Dianda Italian Bakery & Café 10131 Fair Oaks Blvd
May 6	7:30-8:30 a.m.	Supervisor Roberta MacGlashan	Orangevale Annie's Breakfast & Steaks 8800 Greenback Lane
May 11	6:30-8:30 p.m.	Supervisor Don Nottoli Supervisor Jimmie R. Yee	Monterey Trail High School 8661 Power Inn Road, Elk Grove
May 12	7:00-8:00 p.m.	Supervisor Roberta MacGlashan	North Highlands/Antelope Library 4235 Antelope Rd (near Walerga)
May 13	7:30-8:30 a.m.	Supervisor Roberta MacGlashan	Folsom - Waffle Barn 1002 Riley St (at Lembi Drive)
May 17	6:30-8:30 p.m.	Supervisor Susan Peters	La Sierra Center 5325 Engle Road #100, Carmichael
May 24	6:30-8:00 p.m.	Supervisor Don Nottoli	Cosumnes CSD, Board Room 8820 Elk Grove Blvd, Elk Grove
May 25	7:30-8:30 a.m.	Supervisor Phil Serna	North Highlands Breakfast Meeting Pancake Palace, 6225 Watt Avenue
May 26	6:30-8:00 p.m.	Supervisor Susan Peters	Swanston Park 2340 Northrop Avenue
May 27	7:30-8:30 a.m.	Supervisor Roberta MacGlashan	Citrus Heights – Denny's Restaurant 6215 Sunrise Ave at Greenback Lane
June 1	5:00-7:00 p.m.	Supervisor Phil Serna Supervisor Jimmie R. Yee	Oak Park Community Center 3425 Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd
June 7	6:30-8:00 p.m.	Supervisor Don Nottoli	Rancho Cordova Library 9845 Folsom Blvd
June 15	5:00-7:00 p.m.	Supervisor Phil Serna	Sam Gordon Neighborhood Center 400 16th Street

## FOURTEEN YEARS AND COUNTING -- SMART VOTER CONTINUES ITS GROWTH

2010 Annual Report To Our Supporters

Ernie Ting

Senior Director for Smart Voter

Generous support from local leagues allowed Smart Voter to continue to expand its high-quality and comprehensive coverage of elections in 2010. All told Smart Voter provided information including exclusive profiles for 3500 candidates in California and many ballot measures.

During the November election cycle alone, Smart Voter provided local ballot information in California for counties that encompassed a record 93% of all registered voters – and moved us ever closer to an objective of providing local ballot information for all 17 million people eligible to vote in the largest state we serve. In addition, for the first time every federal and state legislative candidate in California was asked questions about issues such as the economy, budget, education, health care, energy and campaign financing – giving voters more information on which to base their choices.

### Staying Healthy Financially

We are pleased to report that we were able to continue to reduce our baseline costs and increase our efficiency during the year, leveraging our modest resources for maximum impact. Thanks in significant part to an expanded level of support from the California Secretary of State's Office,

(53% of resources) we were able to successfully finance our coverage of the year's federal and state elections during the continued economic slump. Supporting our comprehensive local election coverage, devoted individual donors and California local Leagues also continued to give generously to Smart Voter, providing nearly one-third of our income (30%). While fee revenues from non-California Leagues declined, we were able to secure a new contribution from the Wells Fargo Foundation and an increased amount of in-kind search advertising from Google.

### Information That We Need -- The Next Generation of Smart Voter

In the face of enormous economic and civic crises, we will need every information tool available to our democracy – including new ones – to successfully meet the political challenge. This coming year Smart Voter will implement the second stage of its three-year strategic plan in a bid to contribute to the regaining of our political information health. A central part of this work will be implementing new architecture that will allow Smart Voter to draw on a much larger universe of valuable content about electoral choices, offer more powerful ways of sifting through and delivering all that information, and engage very diverse audiences with the civic information they need to contribute to our future together. For more information, please see <http://www.smartvoter.org/> or contact Ernie Ting directly at [director@smartvoter.org](mailto:director@smartvoter.org) or phone 510-350-0812.

Editor's Note: If you are interested in volunteering locally with Smart Voter Sacramento please contact Charlene Jones, Smart Voter Coordinator at [charlenej@surewest.net](mailto:charlenej@surewest.net) or Cheryll Moore Voter Services Director at [geroeduca-tor@att.net](mailto:geroeduca-tor@att.net).

## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

Laura Remington

Bridgitte Rivers

## LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF CALIFORNIA RECOMMENDED PROGRAM AND LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

The LWVC Board is recommending that the delegates to convention approve the following program for 2011-2013 based on results of program planning meetings in January:

- No new study
- No adoption of a position by concurrence
- An update study of the Initiative and Referendum Position
- Issues for Education and Advocacy:
  - Redistricting (community education and advocacy)
  - State and local finance, including education about California's financing of education (community education and advocacy)
  - Initiative and Referendum (only for community education)

[Legislative Priorities for 2011](#) were adopted by the board. The LWVC will continue to make the state budget its highest priority for advocacy: to support reform of the state budgeting process, and to support equitable and adequate generation and distribution of tax revenues.

## MAY UNIT MEETINGS

May meetings [May 9 and 10] will discuss the "History of the Federal Role in Education." Enclosed in this issue of the Voter, this paper is the first background publication of the national study authorized by the LWV 2010 Convention. Other background papers were posted last week to the LWVUS website, for Members Only, Projects and Programs. Links to other education papers will be provided on the LWV of Sacramento website. A summer schedule of education study activities is in design; members will be notified of meetings via e-mail and postcard. Please invite friends, co-workers and neighbors to the final Unit meeting of the Spring.

UNIT	DATE & TIME	CONTACT	LOCATION
Mid-City	Monday, May 9 6:15 PM	Tom Swift 453-8707	5308 Shepard Ave. Sacramento 95819
Morning Suburban	Tuesday, May 10 9:15 AM	Alice Ginosar 863-7741	2426 Garfield Ave. Carmichael 95608
Greenhaven/ Land Park	Tuesday, May 10 10:00 AM	Virginia Moose 446-7149	1312 Robertson Way Sacramento 95818
Elk Grove	Tuesday, May 10 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](mailto:eheser@csus.edu)**



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***MAY 2011***

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## **CITY OF FOLSOM SUED FOR REPEALING AFFORDABLE HOUSING ORDINANCE**

**APRIL 16, 2011**

The following summary was drawn from the Sacramento Bee article by [blindelof@sacbee.com](mailto:blindelof@sacbee.com).

The Sacramento Housing Alliance filed suit in Sacramento Superior Court challenging the city of Folsom's decision earlier this year to stop requiring developers to provide low-income units with every large residential project.

"Folsom has many service and retail jobs and few places for those workers to live," said Shamus Roller, executive director of the housing group. Sacramento Housing Alliance, a nonprofit coalition, is asking the court to stop approval of new development until Folsom complies with its housing commitments under state law.

In January, when the council dumped its former affordable housing ordinance, officials said the mandatory program had not worked and had stymied market-rate projects.

The City Council instead decided to rely on voluntary initiative to encourage future housing projects in high-density areas, near rail lines and transit centers.

The League of Women Voters of Sacramento County has advocated on behalf of retaining a commitment to affordable housing.