



# THE SACRAMENTO VOTER

THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF SACRAMENTO COUNTY

NOVEMBER 2011

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

Privatization study volunteers are needed. If you are interested in serving, please contact Lola Acosta at [president@lwvsacramento.org](mailto:president@lwvsacramento.org).

Saturday January 14, 2012. The LWV of Sacramento County Program Planning meeting is scheduled. Save the date: Location information will follow. All members are invited.



Catherine Troka and Lola Acosta Attending Centennial Celebration at State Capitol October 10, 2011.

## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Thelma P. White

Edith Stone

Justine Fuller

**2010-2011**

Lola Acosta, President  
916-447-8683  
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Eileen Heaser, Secretary  
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Alice Ginosar, Director  
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Nancy Lapp, Voter Editor  
[editor@lwvsacramento.org](mailto:editor@lwvsacramento.org)

Voice Message for all directors:  
916-447-8683 (447-VOTE)

**PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

Our thanks to Barbara Hopkins and Roseanne Chamberlain for all their work planning and coordinating activities observing the Centennial celebration of California Women Gaining the Vote. Because of Roseanne's efforts, all cities and the county of Sacramento honored the Centennial with ceremonial proclamations which were displayed in the capitol and will be posted to our website and Facebook. We appreciate all the League volunteers who attended city council meetings to receive the proclamations from local elected officials recognizing the date's historical importance.

Just days before our education study consensus meeting, Nicholas Kristof, writing in the New York Times drew a thread between the frustration of demonstrators in the Occupy Wall Street movement and the need to expand early childhood education to give many more young people the chance to overcome structural inequity that leaves children behind before kindergarten. Yes, there will be ample opportunity to advocate on behalf of these children once the League position statement is complete early next year. Still, if you want to read Kristof's article, "Occupy the Classroom", type into your web browser [www.nytimes.com/2011/10/20/opinion/occupy-the-classroom.html?\\_r=2&ref=opinion&pagewanted](http://www.nytimes.com/2011/10/20/opinion/occupy-the-classroom.html?_r=2&ref=opinion&pagewanted).

As this column is being written, Kay Knepprath, Charity Kenyon, Kathy Les, Celine Donaldson, Louise Einspahr and Jennifer Gibson, Fund Development Committee members, are finalizing plans for the Eleanor Comes to Sacramento event at Sierra 2; thank you for your dedication and hard work! We hope ticket holders enjoy the performance of stage actress Linda Kenyon, and we acknowledge all sponsors for their generosity.

Our Privatization Study is underway with unit meetings discussing the first background paper. Members interested in volunteering to serve on the Study Committee should contact me at [president@lwvsacramento.org](mailto:president@lwvsacramento.org).

I hope all enjoy the Fall weather!

***ONE OUT OF FOUR PEOPLE IN SACRAMENTO  
NOW RECEIVE SOME TYPE OF PUBLIC ASSISTANCE***

**“CALIFORNIA’S SAFETY NET,”  
A REPORT FROM THE PUBLIC POLICY INSTITUTE OF CALIFORNIA  
SACRAMENTO ON SEPTEMBER 27, 2011  
By Alice Ginosar, Director**

Yes, unbelievable as it sounds 25% of all Sacramento County residents are receiving some type of public assistance, ranging from food stamps only, to Cal Works.

September 27, 2011 the “California’s Safety Net” presentation was held, and we heard a panel discussion on the devastating effects of Federal, State and County budget cuts on families that are vulnerable and in need. The panel included: Jean Ross, California Budget Project, Caroline Danielson, Public Policy Institute, and Bruce Wagstaff, Director of Sacramento’s Countywide Services Agency.

Ms. Danielson reported about the CalFresh program- formerly known as food stamps- which is an important safety net that grows when families lose employment or face work cutbacks in a poor economy. In California, CalFresh grew by 31% between December 2007 and June 2009. Participation has continued to grow as unemployment has remained high. CalFresh is a relatively inexpensive social services program. By eliminating the fingerprint requirement, participation would be increased and the program would save administrative costs.

Mr. Wagstaff emphasized that 80% of the individuals who are part of the Cal Works program are children. This fact is important to remember when the media report on “welfare fraud.” He reported that in the face of massive cuts, the worst in 30 years, over 3,000 staff positions have been lost. Sacramento County has been diligently and creatively adjusting to these cuts while still providing needed services. For example, there are now “self service kiosks,” “call in” telephone lines to get information to avoid standing in line at public assistance offices, and increasing access through technology. Overall, since welfare reforms in the 1990’s and the advent of “Cal Works”, the number of people on welfare has decreased.

Ms. Jean Ross reported that the Congressional “Super Committee” has agreed NOT to cut safety net programs. She said that Congressman Xavier Becerra, (Los Angeles), has set up a blog following this “Super Committee” to watch/monitor developments on this Federal budget process.

The League of Women Voters of Sacramento County was visibly represented.

**COMING TO THE PRIVATIZATION STUDY  
October 5, 2011**

We look forward to League of Women Voters of the United States providing study materials including:

- 2 papers on the history and evolution of privatization efforts and policy; the legal background/framework between public and private entities;
- a paper describing various types of privatization undertakings;
- actual case studies on 5 or 6 different privatizing undertakings; a survey of state laws regarding privatizing; and strategies for best practice.

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**MODERN DAY FEMINISTS DO THEIR FOREMOTHER SUFFRAGIST'S PROUD**

**By Dr. Kimberly Salter,  
Co-chair California Women Suffrage Centennial  
and Board Member, National Women's History Project**

Monday morning October 10th in unrelenting rain 150 women and men of all ages strolled from the California Museum to the State Capitol to celebrate the Centennial of Women Suffrage in California. In the midst of a 2 day celebration in Sacramento which included a Suffrage tea at the Stanford Mansion attended by the Secretary of State Debra Bowen and many suffragists; and an event at the Crest theater which included "Seneca Falls" directed by Louise Vance, "California Women Win the Vote" directed by Martha Wheelock and the play "We Did it For You" written and directed by Dr. Thea Iberall Sunday; and a full day of re-enactments, suffrage singing, plays and a reading of the original Senate Amendment 8 which landed as Proposition 4 on the 1911 ballot, and an evening reception with the Secretary of State Monday; women and girls and enlightened men educated themselves about the suffrage movement of the early 1900's and celebrated the achievements of our foremothers.

In 1911 California became the 6th state for women to win the right to vote. In an eight month campaign, from January to October, the suffragists of California mobilized over 10,000 local supporters - teachers, college women, wage earners and veteran suffragists - to carry out the vast statewide drive. Suffragists spoke to voters in the street and from automobiles; they held mass rallies, picnics and small meetings. They addressed congregations, union, factory workers, women's clubs and any audience they could find. Experienced speakers from other states came to work alongside local women, and supporters across the country contributed funds.

Suffragists produced pin-back buttons, pennants and posters. They created post cards, playing cards and shopping bags. They used electric signs, billboards and lantern slides at night to flash their message. In a truly grass roots effort they distributed over three million pieces of literature and over 90,000 Votes for Women buttons in southern California alone. From door to door, church to church and meeting to meeting suffragists carried their message for equality. California became the most populous state for women to gain the vote and that created a push nation wide to make suffrage (ultimately the 19th amendment) the law of the nation.

As the 2 day centennial celebration wound down and the rain finally let up proud women and men strolled to their cars and/or back to their hotels, secure in the reality that voting is our right, it is our privilege, it is our duty!!

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There are about 6 "areas," each of which a member could read and discuss. Ultimately, we will have all of the papers posted on the LWVUS website, along with a Leaders Guide that helps local study leaders direct the discussion when League members do consensus, and then the actual consensus questions will follow. The responses to the consensus questions will be done electronically via a link to the LWVUS website.

The first background paper, The Legal Framework of Transparency and Accountability within the Context of Privatization, can be found at the League of Women Voters website For Members, Projects and Programs, or copy the following in your web browser:

<http://www.lwv.org/AM/Template.cfm?Section=Projects2&Template=/TaggedPage/TaggedPageDisplay.cfm&TPLID=112&ContentID=17900>

This paper will be the focus of discussion at the November Unit meetings.

## OCCUPY SACRAMENTO

By JoAnn Fuller, Rick Bettis and Charlene Jones, Directors

On Saturday October. 15th , Rick, Charlene, and I had a very successful voter registration effort at Occupy Sacramento which was attended by approximately 300 people. We registered 12 people and gave forms to 8 more to fill out when they had the needed information. It was certainly a good opportunity to connect with younger folks and very energizing for us.

We also signed up two young women for our planned younger unit meeting. One was in Professor Nalder's class at California State University Sacramento, and she took the "poster" we made for the Suffrage Centennial to show her professor. We connected with others too and many people thanked us for being at the event. No one asked us why we were there.

The Occupy attendees were a very diverse group. For example the Voter Registration forms showed the following party breakdown: Democrats-5, Republicans-2, Green Party -2, Libertarian Party-1, No party-3. Geographically, registrants were from Sacramento, Placer, Nevada, Placer, El Dorado, and Calaveras counties. One registrant was homeless since he used 400 Bannon Street as an address. This is the Bannon Street Shelter which receives mail for homeless men.

Two of those who stopped by to thank us for being there were LWV Placer County members.

Those attending included a prominent Sacramento City Council candidate and the Chair of the Sacramento County Board of Education.

During the time we were there (10:30 AM to 4:30 PM), the Occupy Sacramento folks were holding seminars/ trainings on such topics as "Economics 101, and How to Communicate with the Media and Public.

### 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).

## **REGIONAL HOUSING NEEDS ALLOCATION FOR THE SACRAMENTO AREA**

**By Rick Bettis, Natural Resources Director**

The Sacramento Area Council of Governments (SACOG) is the regional planning agency for the counties of El Dorado, Placer, Sacramento, Sutter, Yolo, and Yuba. They have prepared the Metropolitan Transportation Plan, land use Blueprint, the Sustainable Communities Strategy, and are responsible for a Regional Housing Needs Allocation (RHNA) and Regional Housing Needs Plan (RHNP).

The California Housing and Community Development Department (HCD) will issue a Regional Housing Determination to SACOG based on California Department of Finance information. SACOG uses this determination to develop a RHNA and RHNP for each county and city in the region for use in local planning.

The current RHNA covers the period from 2006 to 2013. SACOG has prepared for public review four alternative methodologies for the RHNA for the 2013 to 2021 period. This writer has worked with the Sacramento Housing Alliance-Coalition for Regional Equity and the SACOG reviewing these methodologies.

The RHNA will include allocation of the need for housing for four income categories as defined by State law based on the Median Family Income (MFI) for the area. They are: (1) very low - less than 50 percent of MFI; (2) low, (3) between 50 and 80 percent of MFI; moderate – (4) 80 to 120 percent of and above moderate - above 120 percent of MFI.

The adjustment factors used in the alternative methodologies for determining the allocations are: (1) Income; (2) Jobs-Housing Balance; and (3) Proximity to Public Transit. The resulting allocations can have significant impact on community development, public health, environment quality and sustainability and social justice and equity. Based on preliminary assessment it appears that Methodology B will provide reasonably adequate affordable housing allocations while being implementable. Public comments on the RHNA methodologies may be made through November 15. More information can be obtained on the SACOG website [www.sacog.org](http://www.sacog.org).

## **SUMMARY CHILD ADVOCATES' ROUNDTABLE**

**September 15, 2011**

**By Barbara Carr, Member LWVC Working Group for Children**

The Senior Counsel for the Children's Advocacy Institute conducted the meeting. Moira Kenney, Statewide Program Director, First 5 Association of California introduced the speakers, and model programs were described. If League members would like more information about the model programs please contact [president@lwvsacramento.org](mailto:president@lwvsacramento.org).

A major concern is the AB 99 sweep of funds to the state level. This sweep from local county commissions took \$48.5 million from Sacramento County for First 5 Sacramento. Reductions in contracts and staffing will reduce services provided and the number of families served. A lawsuit on this issue will be discussed in next month's Voter.

### **Legislation**

SB 429 (Children Now) was signed by the Governor. This bill, which requires no new funding, allows after-school programs to offer summer programs. With closure of summer schools, the after school programs have to do more.

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The bill also allows any child in the district to attend any after school program and offers more flexibility.

AB 1156 (PTA) was signed by the Governor. This Anti-Bullying bill requires schools to have programs to defeat bullying and allows bullied children to transfer to different schools. The PTA's press release on this bill is at: [http://hq-salsa.wiredforchange.com/o/6485/t/0/blastContent.jsp?email\\_blast\\_KEY=107690](http://hq-salsa.wiredforchange.com/o/6485/t/0/blastContent.jsp?email_blast_KEY=107690)

AB 1111 (Fletcher and Mitchell) (Children's Advocacy Institute [CAI]) was signed by the Governor. This bill delays any garnishment of wages or savings for people under age 25 for tickets relating to homelessness (such as loitering or sleeping in a public place), until they reach 25. The organization found that there was no business case for the practice, since garnishment is a relatively expensive process. And they found that collection of these debts forces continuation of homelessness and more violations. The bill had broad bi-partisan support and no opposition.

AB 989 (Mitchell) (Children's Advocacy Institute ) was signed by the Governor. This bill requires counties reviewing plans under Proposition 63 to consider whether the needs of transition age foster youth are addressed. No new money is involved.

## NOVEMBER UNIT MEETINGS

November meetings [November 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> ] will focus on the privatization study, discussing "The Legal Framework of Transparency and Accountability within the Context of Privatization." This background paper can be found at the LWVUS website, <http://www.lwv.org/> for Members, Projects and Programs. Please invite friends, co-workers and neighbors to the Unit meetings.

UNIT	DATE & TIME	CONTACT	LOCATION
Mid-City	Monday, Nov. 7 6:15 PM	Tom Swift 453-8707	5308 Shepard Ave. Sacramento 95819
Morning Suburban	Tuesday, Nov. 8 9:15 AM	Dianna Dithridge 486-9542	2426 Garfield Ave. Carmichael 95608
Greenhaven/ Land Park	Tuesday, Nov. 8 10:00 AM	Mary Hopkins 422-6958	45 Sunlit Circle Sacramento 95831
Elk Grove	Tuesday, Nov. 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](mailto:eheser@csus.edu)**



THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS  
OF SACRAMENTO COUNTY

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***NOVEMBER 2011***

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**PLEASE WELCOME TWO NEW LWVC PROGRAMS AND THEIR DIRECTORS**

By Ellen Wheeler, Director [social\\_policy@lwvc.org](mailto:social_policy@lwvc.org)

Please join me in welcoming two new areas to our LWVC family of programs. Janis R. Hirohama will be Program Director for Equal Rights ([equal\\_rights@lwvc.org](mailto:equal_rights@lwvc.org)) and Genise Schnitman will be Program Director for Death Penalty Abolition ([death\\_penalty@lwvc.org](mailto:death_penalty@lwvc.org)).

Genise is a member of the LWV Santa Monica and Janis is a member of the LWV Beach Cities and is immediate past president of the LWVC.

Follow development of these two programs on the LWVC website.

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**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).