



League of Women Voters Eden Area

VOTER

Vol. 53 No. 9 *Political Responsibility Through Informed and Active Participation* Sept 2010

LUNCHEON FORUM ON EDUCATION ISSUES FEATURES FORMER STATE SUPT. OF SCHOOLS DELAINE EASTIN

**September 24 (Friday)
11:45 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.
San Lorenzo Village
Community Hall**

Education is one of the top issues at the community, state and federal level. Funding for public education has been battered and bruised for years. The cuts made this year have had to reach into the classroom. What can be done?

Our speaker Delaine Eastin served as State Superintendent of Public Education and served four terms in the State Assembly. She is a Distinguished Visiting Professor of Educational Leadership at Mills College.

Please make out check and mail to: LWVEA at LWVEA Treasurer, P. O. Box 2234, Castro Valley, CA 94546 Questions?

Call Suzanne 510-538-9678 or email suzbarba@comcast.net.

GO GREEN, SAVE MONEY, AND SAVE THE PLANET

Being energy efficient is being smart and can save you money while sparing the planet. The Eden Area League of Women Voters is partnering with the Alameda County Community Development Agency and other sponsors to show residents and small businesses how to be energy efficient, save money and save the planet.

Although still in the planning stages, the Go Green Fair Committee hopes to have contractors, energy saver providers, financial advisers and various agencies—PG&E, EB Municipal Utility District, Sanitary District, Schools, real estate advisors—to show and tell residents and small businesses how to make energy efficient upgrades that are Green, Affordable and Save Money.

Planners are also hoping to have people demonstrating how to do these upgrades for the do-it-yourselfers. The Fair is planned for October 16th. Stand by for further VOTER and email updates.

The committee is co-chaired by Darryl Gray, County Neighborhood Preservation and Sustainability, and Jennifer Ong, LWVEA from Hayward. Also on the committee are League members Nancy Van Huffel (San Lorenzo) and Suzanne Barba (Castro Valley). If you are interested in participating on this committee to help with the planning, please contact lwvea@aol.com.

President's Report

Why Are Propositions so Misleading?

Last week, my committee of Jennifer Ong, Rene' Besold, Suzanne Barba, and Jewell Hargleroad helped me organize a video taping of the pros and cons of the nine State Propositions, which are on the November ballot. In order to prepare for this taping, all of us completed extensive research on individual propositions. Without doubt, we all reached the same conclusion: there are many misleading and poorly drafted ballot initiatives.

Often times the title and the summary of a ballot initiative appear to promise things when in actuality the initiative lacks the necessary provisions to achieve their intended targets; or, worse, actually is geared toward the opposite outcome from that implied by the title. Even the analysis from so-called independent or objective sources such as the Legislative Analyst Office often times is either slanted or so sparse and inadequate as to miss key elements of which voters should be aware

Finally, California's Constitution ought to hold only the enduring principles that fortify this state's government. It should not be amended to protect narrow business interests and codify a power grab. In many instances, there is a total disconnect between legislators or other authors of ballot initiatives and actually how something gets implemented by the policy advisors and administrators charged with that implementation after passage by the voters. To allow this kind of sloppy, and often misleading, legislation by ballot to amend a founding document like the State Constitution is unconscionable.

Nancy Van Huffel

Board Briefs – August 18, 2010

- Membership Report – Jennifer Ong reported that approximately a third of our members have not renewed to date. Each board member received a list of 10-15 members to call to thank them if they have renewed, to encourage them to renew if they haven't yet, and to find out what issues they would like to work on.
- LWVC Regional Training – Helene Carr reported that we expect more than 40 attendees and that food and venue arrangements have been made.
- Eastin Luncheon Forum Budget – A budget of \$200 was approved for expenses incurred for the luncheon forum on September 24.
- County Vehicle License Fee Ballot Measure – The VLF ballot measure was discussed. The LWV Alameda County Council is supporting the measure. The LWVEA voted to support the measure.
- Affidavit Forms – Doris Marciel agreed to supervise the servicing of Voter Registration Forms and Boxes being placed at the 70 sites in the Eden Area, and serviced by eight League members.
- Go Green Fair – Jennifer Ong updated the board on the planning to date for the Go Green Fair. The date will be a Saturday in October. That date will depend on the availability of the venue chosen.
- Candidates' Forums - The League has been asked to conduct several candidate forums. Nancy Van Huffel is scheduling these forums as well as the Proposition Pro and Con Forums.
- Ranked Choice Voting – Marian Handa gave a presentation on RCV that will be conducted in Nov. in San Leandro.

MEASURE F - ALAMEDA COUNTY TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT MEASURE ON NOV. BALLOT

A 2009 state law allows local transportation agencies to impose an increase in the Vehicle License Fee of up to \$10, with the proceeds used for transportation. Eight of the nine Bay Area counties have a proposal for a \$10 increase.

Generally the proposal would:

- Add \$10 to the fees associated with registering a vehicle in the county with income to be used for a specific spending plan in support of transportation.
- The addition would be permanent.
- A specific spending plan is included. In Alameda County it would generate \$11 million a year to be used as follows:
 - + 60% on maintaining city and county roads.
 - + 25% on congestion relief, including express buses, transit passes for students and workers, and park and ride lots or rail station improvements.
 - + 10% on technology improvement, including traffic signal connection and commuter information systems.
 - + 5% on crosswalks, sidewalk, lighting and improvements to bicycle and pedestrian travel.

Basic arguments for and against are:

PRO

- County needs a new stable money source to help improve the poor condition of city and county roads hurt by declining state assistance and shrinking tax revenues during the recession.
- This fund could not be raided by the state.

CON

- People cannot afford a higher fee in economic hard times.

Basis for League action is the LWV California Transportation position: *Transportation funding should come from all levels of government, but regional and local levels should have maximum flexibility to select the modes and projects on which to spend the allocated funds.*

LWVBA recommends that Leagues support the \$10 increase in the vehicle license fee in support of specific local transportation projects.

LWVEA Board recommended support at its August 2010 meeting.

Note: A vehicle registration fee (VRF) is a flat fee calculated based on the type of vehicle, the owner's county of residence, fees associated with special interest license plates, unpaid parking violation fees and/or toll evasion ail. The vehicle license fee (VLF) is a variable fee that is calculated based on the current value of the vehicle. The State Legislature established the VLF in 1935 in lieu of a property tax on vehicles. Both fees are paid annually as required by the State DMV in order to legally operate a vehicle on California roads.

SKYBOX "DRAWING" WINNER LINDA BENNETT PATTON



Right: Nancy Van Huffel gives Linda the skybox tickets

Long-time League member and a past Eden Area League president Linda Bennett

and Delsar Patton's name was drawn as

the winner of the Skybox for 20 to see the Oakland A's play the Anaheim Angels. Congratulations, Linda and Delsar.

The League earned more than \$900 to support its activities from this drawing.

LOCAL LEAGUE SUCCESSFULLY HOSTS STATE LEAGUE REGIONAL TRAINING

The Eden Area League hosted the State League Regional Training session on August 28 at the San Leandro Library. Helene Carr, the new VP for Program handled the food and other logistics for 50 attendees. Jennifer Ong, VP for Membership opened the program by giving a summary of Eden Area activities.

Topics covered: Redistricting and the importance of local League members to “observe” and monitor how the process is proceeding; and Advocacy, keeping the education and advocacy on issues separate.

There were also sessions on using various websites for getting the word out and for receiving needed information. There was also a session on how the League remains political yet non-partisan.

Other committee members included Nancy Van Huffel, Rene Besold and Suzanne Barba.

HAYWARD VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION AWARD DINNER OCTOBER 5



Left: Eleanor Parker with lifetime member, Malca Chall

the Oct. 5 award dinner.

If you would like to join us and sit at the League table, please contact Suzanne at 538-9678. Tickets are \$35 and the event will be held in the Big White Tent at St. Rose Hospital, 27200 Calaroga Avenue, Hayward (near Tennyson). Call 538-9678 for more information.

As was mentioned, last month, the Eden Area League has nominated long-time League member Eleanor Parker to be its “Shining Star” at

CANDIDATE FORUMS AND PRO AND CON PRESENTATIONS UPDATE

Doing candidate forums and pro and con presentations on the ballot measures is perhaps, the most important work the League does. We have scheduled the following candidates forums to date and anticipate there may be more in this crowded election cycle.

However, we do need help in scheduling these forums, contacting the candidates and putting on the forums. It includes League members to moderate, time, and pick up and sort questions from the attendees. If you can help, please email Nancy at LWVEA@aol.com.

Sept. 13 – Board of Supervisor, District 2 candidates and Hayward School Board candidates. Hayward City Hall.

Sept. 30 (TBD) San Leandro Mayor and City Council candidates, sponsored by the San Leandro Chamber of Commerce.

Oct. 18 – San Lorenzo School Board Forum at the San Lorenzo Village Homes Association community hall.

The schedule for pro and con presentation on the ballot propositions is as follows:

Sept. 27 – Hayward Main Library

Oct. 2 – Baywood Court, Castro Valley

Oct. 18 – South Hayward Neighborhood Collaborative.

Oct. 22 – National Assoc. of Retired Federal Employees – in Hayward.

For up to date information, please go to our website www.lwvea.org for details. Again, if you can help with one of the many tasks in putting on a candidate forum, please let Nancy know.

We are hoping to use our brand new one-hour tape for pros and cons presentations, but need speakers to be there to answer questions from the attendees and to pass out Easy Voter Guides. Email suzbarba@comcast.net if you can help.

Regional Emissions Targets to Be Finalized Soon

By Alec MacDonald, Bay Area Monitor

Elected officials may want to mark their calendars for September 30. The same goes for government workers, environmentalists, transportation planners, housing developers, and members of the business community. In fact, maybe just about everyone in the state of California should note the date — it stands as the deadline for the California Air Resources Board (CARB) to finalize regional targets for lowering the greenhouse gas emissions of passenger vehicles in accordance with Senate Bill 375 (Steinberg).

On September 30, each of the 18 regions in the state will actually be assigned two targets, one for the year 2020 and one for the year 2035. By way of preview, on June 30 CARB released some preliminary figures for the regions to digest — or, more precisely, for each region's Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) to digest. After all, these governmental bodies will be the ones leading efforts in their regions to attain the targets by developing mandated Sustainable Communities Strategies (in essence, integrated land use, housing, and transportation plans).

Of California's 18 MPOs, the four representing Los Angeles, San Diego, Sacramento, and the San Francisco Bay Area account for close to 90 percent of the state's emissions. These four will be of obvious priority to CARB, which in its June 30 report proposed 2020 draft target ranges for them only. The rest of the MPOs were given either softer "placeholder" targets or rough indications as to how final targets will eventually get calculated. No MPO received draft targets for 2035; all parties seem to be wrestling with the challenge of forecasting the tide of development out to such a distant horizon. When attempting to predict the future in general, policymakers do have a few

trends to consider. For starters, Sacramento and the San Joaquin Valley (which includes eight MPOs) represent the areas of California experiencing the fastest population growth. Since they will consequently need to initiate the most development, this means that they possess the greatest potential to reduce projected emissions via application of Sustainable Communities Strategies.

Conversely, other regions — such as the Bay Area — can expect slower population growth, and as a result do not have as much capacity to minimize emissions in the same way.

Despite differences from place to place, however, the bottom line remains that all the state's regions have been asked to curb vehicle emissions in SB 375's fight against global warming, and on September 30, the MPOs will have their marching orders. Then it's on to creating Sustainable Communities Strategies. Final deadline for adopting those? Mark the calendar for March 29, 2013.

*For more information visit
www.arb.ca.gov/cc/sb375/sb375.htm.*

Global Democracy: 2011 Civic Hosting Program

The Global Democracy Program is recruiting local Leagues to host leaders from Eastern Europe and Central Asia through the 2011 Civic Hosting Program. Since 2005, 35 Leagues have hosted nearly 250 visitors from seven different countries.

Participating Leagues will receive a pass-through grant and reimbursement for most of the expenses incurred. Leagues will be responsible for organizing an eight-day program that focuses on a specific theme, such as good governance, and arranging for six visitors to stay with host families for the duration of the program. For more details, please contact Manuela Campbell at mcampbell@lww.org.

Water System Improvement Program (WSIP) & Seismic Issues

Bay Area Monitor

The U.S. Geological Survey predicts a 63 percent chance of a major earthquake in the Bay Area within the next 30 years. Earthquake damage to the Irvington Tunnel would severely disrupt the supply of emergency water for health and fire protection for an extended period of time. As a whole, the San Francisco Regional Water System remains at risk.

“Although the Hetch Hetchy water system is truly an engineering marvel, some critical elements are seismically vulnerable,” Labonte said. “It’s not a matter of if, but when a major earthquake strikes — we are truly in a race against time.” With the system crossing three of the nation’s most active earthquake faults, this is first and foremost a seismic reliability program, she said.

Crucial portions of the regional water system, which was built in the early to mid-1900s, cross over or near the Hayward, San Andreas, and Calaveras faults. Because it’s been estimated that a major earthquake on any of these faults would likely cut off most customers from their water service for at least 30 days, one of the primary goals of the WSIP is to deliver water to 70 percent of customers within 24 hours of a major earthquake. Since the Loma Prieta earthquake, Bay Area counties have worked to develop “intertie” systems so they might share water supplies in an emergency. SFPUC has completed such programs with both Santa Clara and East Bay water districts.

The Hetch Hetchy water supply is supplemented with surface water from rainfall and runoff captured in two local watersheds: the 23,000-acre Peninsula Watershed in San Mateo County with reservoirs in Crystal Springs, San Andreas, and Pilarcitos, and the 35,000-acre Alameda Watershed in Alameda and Santa Clara counties, collected in the Calaveras and San Antonio reservoirs.

Regional projects are organized into five regions: San Joaquin, Sunol Valley, Bay Division, Peninsula, and San Francisco.

Projects vary in size and complexity involving both the development of new facilities and improvements to existing facilities, such as dams, reservoirs, pipelines, tunnels, treatment facilities, pump stations, and water storage tanks.

Nearly 56 of 86 projects are either in construction or completed, and some of the program’s largest and most complex projects are entering the construction phase. At present, more than \$1.5 billion worth of projects are in construction and WSIP has final approval for all funds required to complete the program in late 2015. WSIP projects are projected to create nearly 28,000 jobs and nearly 11,000,000 craft hours.

“We’re building three new tunnels — including the first under San Francisco Bay — a new dam and the largest UV treatment facility in California,” Labonte explained. “We’re also retrofitting our two existing treatment plants and installing miles of pipelines throughout the system. Our biggest technical challenge is coming up with a pipeline design at the Hayward Fault crossing that can withstand a 7-foot displacement.”

Overall, capital improvements are expected to enhance SFPUC’s water delivery to 1.7 million people in Alameda, Santa Clara, and San Mateo counties, and to 800,000 retail customers in San Francisco. The proposed WSIP is structured to cost-effectively meet water quality requirements, improve seismic and delivery reliability goals through the year 2030, and meet water supply objectives until the year 2018.

“We’ll revisit the water supply project and how we operate the system in 2018,” said SFPUC spokesperson Betsy Rhodes. Wholesale and retail customers who benefit from the Hetch Hetchy water system will pay for the capital improvement program in proportion to the amount of water delivered.

San Francisco retail customers and two-thirds through the 26 cities, water districts, and utilities that buy water from SFPUC for resale to their local service areas will pay one-third. SFPUC estimates that Bay Area water rates to residents and wholesale customers will remain at the middle to low end of California’s water rate spectrum.

SINGLE PAYER HEALTH CARE PLAN UP FOR A VOTE

Janis R. Hirohama, LWVC President

This week, the state Assembly will vote on a critical bill and we need your help. SB 810, [single payer health care](#), is a fiscally sound, affordable health care system that will provide every Californian the security of comprehensive, quality health care benefits.

[Tell your Assembly Member](#) to vote **YES** on [SB 810 \(Leno\)](#), the California Universal Health Care Act, when it comes up for a vote on the Assembly floor.

At a time when the state budget deficit hovers close to \$20 billion and millions of Californians are without jobs and health care, the need to pass real cost saving reform in our state is greater than ever.

The federal health insurance reform is only the first step in achieving universal health care. It dramatically expanded health care coverage, but brought more Californians into the current system of wasteful spending.

The state needs a health care system that will save individuals, businesses and governments millions of dollars in health care costs. SB 810 dramatically reduces premiums for businesses and families, covers all medically necessary health care, and eliminates the risk of medical bankruptcy.

Much still needs to be done to achieve the goal of affordable, quality care for all. [Tell your legislator that SB 810 will make California a model for the nation.](#)

With about 8 million Californians without health insurance last year, **the time for reform is now**. This vote will mark our third attempt to enact single payer health care in California. We will continue the fight until we have single payer health care signed into law.

We must keep up the pressure on our elected representatives and let them know that we can't live with a broken

health insurance system any longer—[please contact your Assembly Member now.](#)

LWV BAY ACTION REPORT

Greenhouse gas reduction targets

under SB 375 were a major issue over the summer for the Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC) and the Joint Policy Committee (JPC). LWV Bay Area signed onto a July 1 letter to the JPC asking that they set ambitious targets for 2020 and 2035. Ambitious targets were adopted; some consider them difficult to achieve because they will require elected officials to take measures which will increase substantially the cost of driving cars over the next twenty-five years.

The BART Oakland Airport Connector

(OAC) was revived by the MTC. LWV Bay Area sent a July 20 letter asking them not to act until the federally required civil rights equity analysis has been completed; it was completed just in time for their vote. We sent a July 17 letter to MTC asking for an open process in finding funding for the OAC. All of our letters are available at <http://lwvbayarea.org/advocacy.html>

Greenhouse Gas Reduction is the subject of California Proposition 23 which would suspend the state's law (AB 32) requiring major sources of emission to report and reduce greenhouse gas emissions, until unemployment drops to 5.5% or less for a full year.

LWV California opposes Prop. 23. LWV Bay Area plans to be active in opposition campaign; we plan to use the LWV California Action Guide as our resource. We recommend that local Leagues act to educate voters about this measure, which has big negative implications for the Bay Area.

Marion Taylor, President, LWV Bay Area



PROP 18 Water Bond Measure--WITHDRAWN

How To Evaluate Ballot Propositions

- Examine what the measure seeks to accomplish. Do you agree with those goals? Do you think the proposed changes will make things better? • Who are the real sponsors and opponents of the measure? Check where the money is coming from on the Secretary of State's Cal-Access campaign finance website: cal-access.sos.ca.gov/Campaign/Measures/.

PROP 20 (27) Redistricting of Congressional Districts

OPPOSE

The League **opposes** Proposition 20, which we believe is well-intentioned but premature. California is in the midst of a major reform of our redistricting process, with a new independent Citizens Redistricting Commission drawing the lines for state Senate and Assembly districts. Proposition 20 would significantly increase the commission's workload by adding Congressional redistricting and shortening the time it would have to do its work. We believe the commission should draw Congressional district lines in the future, but the new process should be fully implemented before the commission's responsibilities are expanded so dramatically. In addition, a new definition in this measure could make it harder for the commission to respect California's diverse neighborhoods and communities as it draws district maps. Let's give redistricting reform a chance to work the way the voters intended before we take the next step and add Congressional redistricting.

PROP 23 Suspends Clean Energy and Air Pollution Standards

OPPOSE

The LWVC vigorously **opposes** this Dirty Energy Proposition, funded by out-of-state oil companies, because it would virtually kill AB 32, the landmark Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006. Proposition 23 would suspend the implementation of AB 32 until the state unemployment rate is 5.5 percent or lower for four consecutive calendar quarters. That has happened only three times in the last four decades! This dangerous proposition would get rid of clean energy standards that will cut air pollution and protect the public health. Proponents say this measure is needed to preserve jobs, but in fact it will jeopardize hundreds of thousands of clean-energy jobs. We must promote California's role as an innovator and investor in a clean-tech economy.

PROP 24 Tax Fairness Act

SUPPORT

Proposition 24 would repeal the corporate tax cuts that were passed in closed-door budget deals of 2008-09. These tax breaks cost approximately \$1.3 billion per year in revenue to the state and benefit only two percent of California's businesses. There is no requirement that they actually result in the creation of private-sector jobs. Proposition 24 will make big multi-state corporations pay their fair share and put \$1.3 billion back into the treasury to help our schools, health care, and other essential services that have suffered severe budget cuts in recent years. The League **supports** this measure, believing that the budget crisis cannot be solved by expenditure cuts alone, let alone expenditure cuts combined with tax cuts with no demonstrated value to the economy.

PROP 25 Simple Majority Vote for Budget SUPPORT

The LWVC **supports** this measure, which would change the vote required for the Legislature to pass a budget from the current two-thirds to a simple majority. Majority rule is a fundamental part of democracy. The majority should set priorities for spending and take responsibility for them. This measure will change the negotiations over the budget and reduce the stranglehold the minority now exercises over the process. Under Proposition 25, legislators will forfeit salary if they fail to meet the deadline for passing a budget. Budgets that are late and full of gimmicks harm all Californians, damage our economy, and hurt the state's credit rating.

PROP 26 "Polluter Protection" OPPOSE

Proposition 26 would make new definitions of taxes and therefore require a two-thirds vote on many more government revenue decisions at both the state and local levels. Payments by those who cause harm to the environment or public health are currently defined as regulatory fees. Such fees would become much harder to enact, leaving taxpayers to foot the bill instead of those who pollute or create a public nuisance. The League **opposes** this measure because we believe that decisions on revenue measures should be made by a simple majority vote.

PROP 27--(20) Eliminates State Commission on Redistricting STRONG OPPOSE

This measure would kill the major redistricting reform voters just approved in 2008 and return the authority for redistricting to the backrooms of the Legislature. Proposition 27 would allow politicians to draw their own districts to protect their jobs. It would take us back to the days when bizarrely shaped districts were drawn in secret, carving up neighborhoods and communities to keep incumbents safely in office. **Vote NO** to keep the power with voters and the voter-approved independent Citizens Redistricting Commission.

NO RECOMMENDATION ON THE OTHER MEASURES ON THIS BALLOT

PROP 19 Legalize and Regulate Marijuana NO POSITION

Because League positions do not cover the issues in Proposition 19, the LWVC is **taking no stand** on this measure.

PROP 21 \$18 Vehicle License Fee for State Parks and Wildlife Programs NEUTRAL

Proposition 21 establishes a new earmarked fee. The League does not generally support earmarks but is **neutral** on this measure because there is little left that can be done to raise money for the state parks, which provide a valuable recreation and natural preservation resource for the state.

PROP 22 State Government Prohibited from Taking Local Funds NEUTRAL

The measure would provide some stability in funding for local government. However, it would freeze in place the current dysfunctional system of funding local governments in California. The League will remain **neutral** on Proposition 22.

August 2, 2010

VOTE WITH THE LEAGUE ON NOVEMBER 2!

League of Women Voters of Eden Area

P. O. Box 2234 – Castro Valley, CA 94546 • 510/538-9678
 Representing cities of Hayward and San Leandro
 and unincorporated areas of Ashland, Castro Valley,
 Cherryland, Fairview, and San Lorenzo

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*The League of Women Voters, a
 nonpartisan political organization,
 encourages the informed and active
 participation of the public in
 government and influences public
 policy through education and advocacy.*

CALENDER OF EVENTS

DATE & TIME	EVENT	PLACE
Sept 13--- 7 to 8:30pm	Candidate Forum, Alameda Co District 2, Bd of Supervisors and Hayward School Board Members	Hayward City Hall, 777 B St, Hayward
Sept 24-- 11:45 to 1p.m.	Delaine Eastin/Education Forum <i>Topic: State of Education</i>	San Lorenzo Village Hall 377 Paseo Grande, San Lorenzo
Sept 30—two sessions: Noon and 7 to 8:30pm	Candidate Forum—San Leandro Mayor & City Council candidates	TBD
Oct. 5 – 6 to 9 p.m.	Hayward Volunteer Recognition Dinner— <i>See page</i>	St. Rose Hospital Hayward
Oct 16— 10am to 3pm	Eden Area Energy Fair	Hayward City Hall
Oct 18— 7 to 8:30pm	Candidate Forum--San Lorenzo School Board Members	San Lorenzo Village Comm Hall 377 Paseo Grande, San Lorenzo
Pro & Con Presentations—see the website for additional information		

**Please visit our website for up-to-date event
 information— www.lwvea.org**