

EARTH DAY—April 22



THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF FREMONT, NEWARK AND UNION CITY PRESENTS:

Presentation of awards to the winners of the Education Committee's



VOTE?

CONTEST

All high school students from the Tri- Cities were invited to submit a media "commercial" that will convince people to vote.

Entries have been judged.
Now, come see the students
receive their awards.

April 21

Fremont Main Library

7:00—8:45 PM



Have you signed the petition for changing to a non-partisan Redistricting Commission? See page 3

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Dear Friends:

During the last few months we have heard a great deal, in the news and other places, about California's budget crisis and the Governor's projected budget cuts. As citizens and residents, it is crucial that we inform ourselves of what this deficit means to our communities and what is being proposed to address shortfalls. There are many sources of information (such as ebudget.ca.gov); three of my favourite resources are the following: www.la.ca.gov (Legislative Analysts Office), www.cbp.org (California Budget Project) and www.next10.org (Next 10 – another non-partisan website with the "budget game").

I admit to being a bit depressed whenever I read about the proposals being put forth to address the deficit. All of the preliminary reports point to the most vulnerable in our communities, children, low-income seniors and people with disabilities as being amongst the hardest hit. As a pragmatic optimist (my definition of a Leaguer), I figure there has to be a better way.

Fortunately for us, Elizabeth Hill is still in office and we know we can count on the Legislative Analyst's office to be a voice of reason. And indeed, she seems to offer a better approach than the Governor's proposals, here is a direct quote from the website:

"In contrast to the administration's across-the-board reduction budget-balancing approach that fails to prioritize state spending, we offer an alternative approach for the Legislature's consideration. By making more targeted reductions; eliminating or modifying ineffectiveness or nonessential programs; and adding ongoing revenue solutions, we believe this approach offers the Legislature a better foundation to begin crafting a 2008-09 budget that focuses on essential services."

However, even the above will require difficult measures. We need to stay engaged in the process and communicate with our elected representatives; we need to provide input so that short term measures don't cause greater problems in the long term, such as cuts to education. Now more than ever, democracy is not a spectator sport.

Wishing you a Beautiful Spring!

—Syeda R. Yunus

BOARD BRIEFS**At the March 13 Board Meeting, the Board:**

- Approved minutes with changes to February 2008 meeting and December 2007 meeting.
- Heard from the Treasurer regarding income and expenses - (see website for detail financial statements) - we need to do some fundraising or we will have to dip into our savings.
- Approved obtaining an office at the Fremont Cultural Arts Center on Country Drive.
- Appointed Ken Ballard and Barbara Freidrich to the Nominating Committee.
- Worked on logistical areas for the Annual Meeting, including re-appointing Barbara Friedrich to review Local positions.
- Set Annual Meeting date of June 7, 2008.
- Contemplated idea presented by Miriam Keller from the LA League about the California Leagues doing a study on the prison system in California. Board considered this to be a good idea.
- Agreed to submit a summary of projects/accomplishments over the last year for LWV convention in June 2008 - Miriam Keller would provide notes from the "Meeting the Challenge".
- Heard from communications person Jean Holmes regarding memorial fund donations and she suggested that we need to have a formal thank yous. Board appointed Alex Starr to work on format and content of thank you letters.
- Discussed topics for May 2008 Public forum meeting and decided that as there were going to only be two initiatives we would do a forum on the Union City Parcel tax instead.
- Got an update on the YVote competition from the Ed Committee.
- Discussed ideas presented via email on who we can get to audit our financials.
- Reviewed our membership, we have 146 active members and one more joined from the last Speakers Bureau Meeting with the Fremont Kiwanis Club
- Asked John Landers, our facilities person to reserve a place in the Fremont Cultural Arts Center for next few month's Board meetings.

Thank you to Syeda Yunus, Alice Johnson, Sam Neeman, Marilyn Singer, Miriam Keller, Christina Monkman, John Smith, Sets Amann, Ellen Culver and Pat Lewis for standing up for the League. They read the invitation during oral communications to the Boards and Commissions in our three cities inviting people to our forum on How To Run For Public Office.

—Marilyn Singer

A REDISTRICTING INITIATIVE

Are you tired of politicians choosing their voters by drawing districts that serve their interest, not the voters?

Are you tired of politicians consistently re-elected in districts they have drawn for themselves?

Are you tired of cities being divided into multiple, oddly shaped districts to protect incumbent legislators, so that cities lose their political voices?

You can help change this by signing a petition for the California Voters FIRST initiative.

The initiative will:

- ▶ Give us an equal number of Democrats and Republicans on the Commission and it will ensure true independents can participate.
- ▶ Give us district drawing done in the open, based on strict, non-partisan rules.
- ▶ Require support from Democrats, Independents and Republicans for approval of new redistricting plans.

LWVC is part for the California Voters FIRST Coalition. For more information, visit www.CAVotersFIRST.org.

LWVFNUC will be holding two petition drives on Saturdays. To help or sign a petition, call or e-mail Miriam Keller.

This reform will put you—the VOTER— back in charge.
—Miriam Keller

INTERVIEWS

Every year, LWV conducts interviews with each for our State legislators. This year, LWVFNUC is in charge of the interviews with Senator Ellen Corbett and Assemblyman Alberto Torrico. If you would like to be a part of one of the interview teams, call or e-mail Syeda Yunus for Ellen Corbett or call or e-mail John Smith for Assemblyman Torrico.



HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION COMMITTEE

Our Homeowners Association Committee has studied how to conduct Homeowner Association elections, now mandated by law, and has set up procedures for holding such elections. So far, we have conducted two elections. It is a great fundraiser. If you would like to be a part of the committee or help with one election please call or e-mail Jean Holmes. The next meeting will be Tuesday, April 1 at 10:00 AM at Jean's home.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

The LWVFNUC Nomination Committee, Sam Neeman (chair), Ellen Culver, Letha Saldana, Barbara Friedrich and Ken Ballard, is now working. Call one of these members to nominate someone, or yourself. Open positions are Administrative VP, Voter Service (Candidate Forums), Communications and Fundraising VP, Treasurer, Historian, Membership, Public Relations and Voter Mailer, and next year's Nominating Committee.

SUNSHINE WEEK

The Sacramento Bee Newspaper unveiled a new web site in honor of Sunshine Week. It is a searchable by name database of state workers' salaries. Be prepared to gasp.



EAST BAY REGIONAL PARK DISTRICT MEETING

The EBRPD invites you to attend a public meeting to discuss the proposed 2008 Regional Park Bond Extension.

April 24, 7—8:30 PM
Fremont Community Center
40204 Paseo Padre Parkway
Fremont.

Please join us to share your input

about the District's proposed Regional Park bond extension that the Board of Directors is considering placing before the voters in November, 2008

Learn about the Park District's proposed land acquisition, facility development, and environmental restoration projects for inclusion in this \$500 million bond, as well as information about the measure's support to local funding for community parks and recreation projects.

For more information, call 510-544-2003.

ACTION COMMITTEE

We received an invitation from Dan Schoenholz from the City of Fremont asking if our League would like to assist him in presenting a forum on greenhouse gas reduction, and we responded in the affirmative.

Speakers went out to the Boards and Commissions of the three cities inviting them to the forum on How To run For Public Office.

New member, Lyn Locher, will be observing the City of Fremont's Green Task force.

We welcomed Sets Amann to the Action Committee.

We testified at the Fremont Council and Planning Commission on the League's position on affordable housing.

Miriam Keller is drafting a plan for our League to take action on State Redistricting.

Voting Matters taped a program on State Finance with Syeda and Jean Holmes in charge. John Smith chaired the crew. Next month's program will be on State Ballot Issues with Miriam Keller in charge. There may be an opportunity for training for the crew, so contact Kay Emanuel if you are interested in joining it.

—Marilyn Singer
Action Chair

My Word**OHLONE COLLEGE'S NUMBERED TRUSTEE SEATS**

Twenty years ago Ohlone College's Board of Trustees established a numbered seat system to elect the trustees. The system was designed to target one particular trustee. Ohlone is the only California community college with numbered seats. The system is not based on population or area, just a number.

Candidates for office must designate the seat number and, therefore, the trustee, he or she is going to challenge. In an election, it is possible that there may be more than one challenger for each numbered seat. Only the top vote getter in each seat will be elected. Therefore it is possible for the winner in a given seat, say Seat #1 to be elected with fewer votes than, say, the second place finisher running for Seat #2. In an "open" election without seat numbers, the persons with the highest number of votes would win.

This odd system no longer serves any useful purpose for electing the best candidates for Trustees. The League of Women Voters of Fremont, Newark and Union City asked the Ohlone College Board of Trustees to consider bringing Ohlone College's election code into conformance with practice of the other California Community Colleges. On a 4-3 vote the Trustees decided to retain the "Numbered Seat System".

The reasons offered by the four person majority included "it fosters cooperation rather than competition between Board Members," and it "fosters accountability." These reasons are not valid. All the other Community Colleges foster cooperation without numbered seats. In fact, Fremont's City Council and school board members manage to cooperate without numbered seats. Since most Ohlone Trustees' votes are unanimous, meaning most dis-

agreements are resolved before the votes, the issue of "accountability" is not enhanced in any discernible way with election to numbered seats.

Currently, two Ohlone Trustees serve without having received a single vote from the electorate. This can happen because if a candidate runs unopposed, his or her name does not even appear on the ballot.

The League of Women Voters of Fremont, Newark and Union City believes that the numbered seat system does not serve the community or the college. It is not democratic because the top three vote getters may not be elected if there are three vacancies and two of the seats are without competition. Voters become confused. Eliminating the numbered seat system will encourage competition; enforcement of the Brown Act relating to transparency of elected officials' actions and will help elect the people who receive the most votes. The League hopes the Trustees will put a discussion of the rationale of the numbered seats idea as an agenda item to help the public understand its justification. Ohlone Trustee meetings are usually televised on Comcast Channel 28 Thursdays 7 pm. and Fridays 10 am.

—Ken Ballard

**INTERVIEW WITH DAVE
McDONALD,
REGISTRAR OF VOTERS**

Alex Starr interviewed Dave McDonald.

Dave McDonald has worked for the county for 20 years. He brings a valuable technical background to his current job as Registrar.

Meeting the early primary date was a challenge for the department. There were very few outages of ballots even though there was a substantial increase in the number of voters.

For both cost and efficiency of counting the election results, Mr. McDonald would encourage voters to vote by mail. In Oregon, he mentioned all ballots are cast by mail. This is the trend even though it might be more personal to go to the polls.

Most interesting was his explanation of the use of the Provisional Ballot. A voter can exchange his absentee ballot for a provisional ballot if he wants to change his vote. If you move from the address at which you are registered, you can use a provisional ballot. If you wish to vote at a convenient polling place where your name does not appear on the listing of eligible voters, you can use a provisional ballot. The validity of the ballot will be verified by the Registrar's office and the vote counted.

Mr. McDonald spoke about the changes that resulted from the passage of the Help America Vote Act of 2002 which resulted from the court intervention which gave the Florida election to Bush even though Gore had the majority of votes. It is interesting to read on the internet that "nothing in this bill establishes a Federal definition of when a voter is registered or how the vote is counted stating that a voter's eligibility to vote is determined under state law." How that eligibility is guaranteed is the job of the Registrar of Voters.

Our expectation of the Registrar is that we know the results immediately, that our ballot is protected and counted with absolute accuracy. We probably will never make a trip to his office or think about the demands of the job until something goes wrong like a voting machine malfunctions or there is an outage of ballots. In addition to the above, we take for granted the access and assistance we receive whether with mail in ballots or when we go to the polling place.

—Murial Nolan

Developing New Contingency Plans in the Wake of an Oil Spill

By Chris Ingraham, Bay Area Monitor, Feb., Mar. 2008

Three months after the Cosco Busan container ship collided with the fender of the western span of the San Francisco-Oakland Bay Bridge — ripping a 100-foot gash in the ship's hull and spilling 58,000 gallons of oil into the San Francisco Bay — policy-makers in the region face the challenge of evaluating the collective response to the disaster, and determining how their agencies might better prepare for future oil spills.

John Escobar is the assistant general manager of operations for the East Bay Regional Park District (EBRPD), which oversees 31 miles of shoreline in Alameda and Contra Costa counties that were affected by the incident. Involved in the local response to the disaster from the beginning, he helped establish and now chairs a new East Bay inter-agency committee devoted to assessing that response. His intention is to approach the problem with a basic premise: "You probably shouldn't leave your local resources idle while you wait for a federal response to get to you." Unfortunately, this is one principle easier stated than followed.

Two days after the November 7 accident, Governor Schwarzenegger visited the spill site and proclaimed a state of emergency, mobilizing forces and freeing immediately available money from a state trust fund designated for emergencies. Because oil from the Cosco Busan spill first reached shore on the west side of the Bay and didn't touch the east side until a few tidal cycles later, the federal response focused principally on cleaning the more high profile shoreline along San Francisco and Marin counties. So when the time came to clean and restore the East Bay, many of the federal resources were already expended. This lag left East Bay agencies such as EBRPD scrambling to deal with the spill as additional Cosco Busan and federal responders were arriving from out of the area.

Escobar speculated that Contra Costa County was probably best equipped and prepared for the spill because of all the refineries in the area, which had readily available resources and employees equipped to deal with potential accidents. "Still, in the future, all counties and agencies need to keep employee training up to date, have proper equipment on hand, and know where available resources can be found," he said.

Volunteer efforts should factor in to the solution as well, but well-intentioned citizens occupy a different category than employees, who have stringent training requirements to protect against the dangers of exposure to hazardous materials. While personnel at refineries in Contra Costa County and else

where have such training, the same is not true for volunteers who just want to help. As Escobar observed, "We're in a quandary about how to balance a strong community interest in protecting the Bay without needlessly exposing volunteers to hazardous materials." So while EBRPD's initial focus was to collect and save oiled birds — which lose their capacity to regulate their internal temperature and sometimes suffer from impaired or grounded flight, both of which diminish their ability to feed sufficiently — the agency couldn't offer volunteer opportunities because of the training required and the inherent dangers of working on rocky shoreline areas. Volunteer opportunities were later organized to assist with non-hazardous work along the shoreline.

Myriad other organizational concerns arise during such catastrophes, and Escobar is working to anticipate them in conjunction with other agencies in the area, such as the Office of Emergency Services and the state's fish and game office. These organizational concerns range from waste disposal and transportation — how, where, and by whom — to the gathering and mobilization of heavy clean-up equipment not always kept readily on hand. One method for containment, for instance, is to drop floating containment sheets booms over oil slicks, thereby stopping or diverting the oil. These containment booms, which extend above and below the water's surface, need to be taken to sea in a boat large enough to accommodate their bulk, then distributed in the water by people experienced enough to install them properly. Having the people and equipment ready at a moment's notice is not an insurmountable problem, of course, but the example illustrates the difficulty of carrying out a swift and thorough response. Where do we find these booms? And how do we gather the people to install them?

Most of the constructive thinking about managing oil spills focuses on rehabilitation rather than prevention. To a certain degree, the thinking goes, accidents will happen no matter how safe we may try to make the boats, or how strictly we control their passage through the region's waters. In fact, a repeat of November 7 nearly came on January 10 when a barge loaded with 2.6 million gallons of oil collided with the Richmond-San Rafael Bridge; although the bridge's fender system was damaged, no oil was spilled.

When disaster does strike, experts agree that oil is more easily retrieved before it hits the shore, and that waiting for the oil to reach a coastline poses more environmental risks. Accordingly, oil spills must first be contained, so their damage is therefore minimized, and then the spills must be cleaned, so the injured marine ecosystems might sooner be restored to relative healthfulness. Alongside the containment and cleaning of oil spills, however, it is important that tests be conducted to determine the extent of a spill's

impact. These tests are often as expensive as cleanup efforts, and prove important when the court system determines the legal liability of the ship owners responsible for the accident. As of December 18, testimony before Congress estimated the Cosco Busan would be responsible for \$61.8 million of the damages.

Locally, the environmental advocacy organization Save the Bay is pushing for further investigation into the accident's cause. Save the Bay is also assisting federal agencies in assessing damage to the area's various ecosystems, from eelgrass to sandy beach, to rocky intertidal habitats and oyster beds. By investigating the accident and assessing the extent of its damage, they hope to hold the Cosco Busan accountable for the incredible cost of loss and repair. Save the Bay also plans to help restore 100,000 acres of Bay wetlands (vital because such areas filter pollution and naturally clean the Bay's waters) by organizing hundreds of volunteers to plant native seedlings along the shoreline. While this sort of constructive solution is valuable year-round, as Escobar points out, it adds to further organizational challenges. Namely, with so many marsh renovations being done annually to the Bay's shoreline, it is crucial that state and local agencies have updated maps to ensure that containment boom will be placed to protect these areas the next time a spill occurs.

How can policy address all of this? Unfortunately, much of the public focus surrounding oil spills is about returning recreational areas to the usable interface to which we're accustomed. People want fishing laws reinstated and their parks and beaches reopened. Already, local agencies have done a remarkable job cleaning coastal parks and beaches sufficiently enough that most are again open for regular use, and the state has reinstated most regular fishing laws. Now, Escobar said, it's important to create better local agency coordination, and "to be more engaged in updating the ACP [Area Contingency Plan], which is the road map for oil spills in the area."



This article was written by Sara Rodgers, a member of Senator Sheila Kuehl's staff. She describes the tremendous growth in support for the campaign to achieve a meaningful reform of our health care system.

The strategic statewide meeting mentioned in the article was a great success, with well over 200 enthusiastic, committed people from organizational members of the HCA Strategy Group spending the weekend together, planning the next

Single Payer: It's Time to Have Hope

By Sara Rodgers, Consultant, Health

"Politically feasible" is just another way of saying that folks are scared to stand up to insurance companies. I don't accept that. It's time to take a stand for what we really want. It's time to have hope.

- Senator Sheila Kuehl

SB 840 is alive and well in the Assembly Appropriations committee, much further along in the legislative process than it was in 2006, just before its historical passage out of both houses of the legislature and onto the Governor's

desk. Legislative deadlines for passage out of fiscal committees aren't until August 15th and, between now and then, grassroots organizing and education efforts are really taking off. Every day, Senator Kuehl and her staff receive requests for presentations regarding SB 840, the truly universal healthcare bill.

On Sunday, January 27th and Monday, January 28th, the American Medical Students' Association held their hugely successful third annual rally and lobby day in Sacramento, which included a day long training that drew nearly 400 med students from all over the state. The fact that so many overworked medical students spent an entire weekend, even taking a rare day off from school, to advocate for single payer health care shows an unparalleled level of dedication and passion. AMSA students give every single payer supporter hope and inspiration as they push for passage of the bill.

Single payer advocates are also busy preparing for a historical strategy summit taking place in Los Angeles later this month that will bring together representatives from the broad coalition of organizations dedicated to bringing single payer to California. The summit demonstrates the unprecedented development of the organized and operational single payer movement necessary to bring universal health care to California. It's the kind of grassroots movement that has been largely absent in the history of health reform, and it's just one

example of the changing landscape of health care politics.

On that note, my "leisure" reading lately is a book called, *One Nation Uninsured: Why the US Has No National Health Insurance*. It chronicles the 20th century's long line of failed attempts at achieving national health insurance. There's an unmistakable pattern to each major attempt, in that there seems have been an attempt once every decade and, each time national health insurance is within our grasp, it is defeated with a capitulatory "compromise".

I couldn't help but notice that, historically, the compromises are forged by the exact same powerful interests every time, working like scavengers randomly picking

"Politically feasible" is just another way of saying that folks are scared to stand up to insurance companies. I don't accept that. It's time to take a stand for what we really want. It's time to have hope.

- Senator Sheila Kuehl

through the ideas of national health insurance, with little consideration given to whether any "reform" was actually going to improve the health care system for the average American.

In fact, a century of such "health care reform" has brought our health care system to the point where it is deeply fragmented, unimaginably costly and the least effective system in the entire developed world at delivering either health or care. I can't help but wonder where we might have been in terms of universal health care had proponents not forfeited their goal quite so fast.

Most striking? The grassroots role that physicians repeatedly played in defeating national health insurance. The American Medical Association functioned as an exceptionally effective grassroots movement that was embedded in every community across the nation. They organized education and lobbying campaigns against universal health care, labelling their efforts as "protecting the public health". They hired PR consultants who admitted that they were attempting to label national health insurance as "socialized medicine" for the simple reason that Americans were opposed to socialism.

The litmus test for "politically feasible" has

historically been largely defined by where doctors, insurers, business and labor stood on the issue. Throughout the last century, there was no grassroots group as singularly focused on the passage of single payer health care as the physicians and insurers were opposed to it. That's changed considerably, especially in California, as the 500 or so organizations that support SB 840 continue their evolution into an effective coalition that works tirelessly (and largely under the radar of many in Sacramento) to educate and organize Californians on universal health care.

More importantly, groups that traditionally oppose single payer, like physicians, are no longer unified against it. The American College of Physicians made history last year in their endorsement of single payer and the California Medical Association includes a large and growing minority of members that strongly support single payer. The American Medical Students Association has quickly risen to become one of the most passionate and inspired groups advocating for passage of SB 840. Another powerful provider group, the California Nurses Association has gone "all in" for single payer and is working in much the same way for single payer as the American Medical Association once worked to oppose it. Their dedication unites with that of organizations like Health Care for All – California, school employees, the League of Women Voters, retired teachers, and others who are deeply embedded in communities across the state.

The lesson that advocates of single payer should take from history is to observe how the AMA was able to defeat national health insurance through steady community education and organizing. This is why single payer has the best shot, politically, as well as on a policy basis, for winning passage. Only single-payer boasts the kind of unified and dedicated grassroots movement for something that makes large reform possible.

In the midst of an unprecedented and inspiring presidential primary, the theme for 2008 is unmistakable - it's time to have hope

LWVC ENERGY E-LIST

Eleanor Roosevelt admonished that to make a difference, "...you have to get in the game and play." A League member herself, her strong analytical and advocacy skills became a hallmark of her leadership as an American spokesperson on many issues. Here are a few environmental and sustainability resources to "get you in the game."

www.verdexchange.org - Developments in the Green Economy
www.EnvironmentCalifornia.org - Clean air, clean water, open spaces, energy
www.farmland.org - Agriculture, farmland protection, conservation
www.calinfrastructure.org - Infrastructure, conferences, local ballot measures
www.cclr.org - Discourages urban sprawl through creative planning
www.apolloalliance.org - Mission includes freedom from foreign oil, clean energy, and more
www.lgc.org - Transportation, energy, land use, air quality, green building, and more
www.CapitolBasement.com - Offers a daily newsletter on state government
www.next10.org - Check for *The California Green Innovation Index*
www.arb.ca.gov - List of ways to reduce your energy demands and cut costs; Flex Your Power
www.dot.ca.gov/hq/tpp/index_files/ctp_2030_oct_2007.pdf - CA Transportation Plan 2030
www.bondaccountability.ca.gov - 2006 bond implementation (1B, 1C, 1D, 1E, and 84)
www.waterplan.water.ca.gov - California Water Plan 2009
www.waterplan.water.ca.gov/docs/enews/2008/cwp_e-news011608.pdf - e-newsletter
www.columbia.edu/~jeh1/mailings/2007/1219_DearPrimeMinister.pdf - Letter to British Prime Minister Gordon Brown on sequestering carbon dioxide from coal

**NOMINATING COMMITTEE****LWVC Board of Directors Nominations for 2009**

The Nominating Committee for the League of Women Voters of California invites and encourages every League member to seriously consider serving on the California State Board of Directors. The next two-year term will begin July 2009. Directors will be elected in May 2009.

Would you be adding time to your already generous hours of public service? Yes.

Will it be worth it to you? *Definitely, yes!*

When we serve, we are really helping the League as a whole be the best it can be. From our earliest beginnings we have been a grassroots organization, and our success depends on a large grassroots base to encourage informed and active participation in government. Your participation will not only be an exciting and rewarding opportunity but a great contribution to the League.

Local Leagues or individual League members may nominate a candidate, or you may submit your own name. You may submit a nomination online or on a paper form. Please submit nominations by **June 30, 2008**. Do not mail forms to the state office; use the Nominating Committee Chair's address at the bottom of the form.

QUALIFICATIONS: League membership and a strong desire to carry out the League's mission to increase understanding of major public policy issues and influence public policy through education and advocacy.

Beverly King, *Nominating Committee Chair* —nominating@lwvc.org



Helping hands

LWVC LEADERSHIP COUNCIL: BRIDGE TO THE FUTURE

Invest a weekend, a day or just a few hours in being the best leader you can be!

This year's Council has something for everyone:

- ▶ Engage in lively conversation with active, informed women and men from across the state.
- ▶ Dive into the topics you care about: health care; mock elections; member recruitment; voter service; education and more.
- ▶ Not a member? Attend workshops and learn the value of League training and networking at one of our biggest leadership events all year. You'll be hooked.

Sacramento, CA
 Sat and Sun. May 17—18
 Tour and Reception
 Friday, May 16

2008 ON PAR TO BE HISTORIC ELECTION**League Sees Voter Turnout, Financing & Party Nominees Making History in 2008**

Washington, DC – The League of Women Voters today provided its first in a series of comments on the 2008 presidential campaign, and noted that this election is on pace to make history in several areas.

“From what we have seen so far, the 2008 presidential election will be in the history books for several compelling reasons,” said national League president Mary G. Wilson. “Americans are energized about this campaign and we are seeing that reflected in the high voter turnout and record amount of funds being raised from millions of voters.”

“We’ve been watching closely, along with the rest of the country and see trends developing both good trends and bad trends,” Wilson stated. “There have been lots of candidates, with lots of views and perspectives in the campaign. A healthy exchange of ideas is democracy at its best.”

“Many have worked for years to counter embarrassingly-low rates of civic participation in America. This year, it seems we are on track to make significant improvements in that arena,” added Wilson. “Participation is on the up-swing – and that is evident in the high turnout rates this primary season and the many Americans who have signed up to help as poll workers.”

“This is the first election since 1928 where neither an incumbent president nor vice president is seeking nomination for the highest elected office in the U.S. This diverse field of candidates from all parties has led to an elevated sense of excitement and a newness that is drawing more people into the system,” Wilson said.

“The League has been educating voters throughout the 2008 primaries and caucuses and is prepared to do the same this fall. Our members are working in communities across this country to be sure the elections systems work as well as they can for voters, the candidates and elections officials. Our online election resource, www.VOTE411.org, educates millions of voters about the election and helps them locate their polling place through the only nationwide online polling place locator,” noted Wilson.

“Leagues are also working throughout the country to help election officials and others prepare for what could be record turnout in November, and make sure all election workers have the resources they need to ensure things run smoothly at the polls.”

“We are less enthusiastic about the trends we see developing on the financing of this election,” Wilson noted. “While it is inspiring to see so many new individuals giving small contributions to these campaigns, we continue to call on all the Presidential candidates to commit to use the public financing system for the general election if they become their party’s nominee. Recent comments by the candidates suggest that they will not stand behind their commitment to use public funds this fall. This is disappointing.”

“While pundits will dissect the ups and downs of individual candidates for months to come, the League hopes that voters will continue to stay engaged throughout the campaign. We will be working throughout the year to ensure the election system works for all voters, and want to urge all Americans to get registered and vote this fall! While you’re at it, make sure your friends and loved ones are registered by sending them to www.VOTE411.org to get started.

EDUCATION WORKSHOP AT LWVC LEADERSHIP COUNCIL

The LWVC/EF Education Committee (Pre-K-12) is hosting a workshop at the [LWVC Leadership Council](#) in May 2008. We invite all current and future League leaders to attend Council and participate in this hands-on workshop. Come hear about the League’s work as part of the School Finance Exploration Project. Learn how your local League can use the *Give Schools the Tools to Succeed* toolkit. Be part of taking the next step to reform education in California.

We want to be ready and proactive, not reactive, to what is happening in our communities, as well as statewide.

—LWVC

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS

Any person, man or woman, who subscribes to the purpose and policy of the League may join. To be a voting member, one must be at least 18 years of age and a U.S. citizen

LWVFNUC—MEMBERSHIP, P.O. Box 3218, Fremont, CA, 94539



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS

Mission Statement

The League of Women Voters of Fremont, Newark, and Union City, a nonpartisan political organization, encourages the informed and active participation of citizens in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy.

Diversity Policy

LWVFNUC affirms its commitment to reflect the diversity of our communities in our membership and actions. We believe diverse views are important for responsible decision making and seek to work with all people and groups who reflect our community diversity.

LWVFNUC Voter

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The LWVFNUC storage office address is:
 4368 Enterprise St., off Grimmer, near Automall.

Materials are available 7:30 AM to 5:00 PM with permission of a board member.

THE SUFFRAGIST MOVEMENT—an ongoing series...

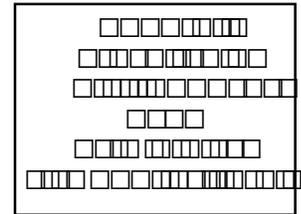
- 1896 Catt organizes her second successful western campaign. Idaho enfranchises women because Catt manages to sever the suffrage issue from the eastern movement and prohibition.

Utah becomes a state, and Utah women regain the vote.
- 1897 The National American Association begins publishing the National Suffrage Bulletin, edited by Catt.
- 1900 Anthony retires as the president of the National American and, to the surprise of many, recommends Carrie Chapman Catt as her successor. Catt is elected.
- 1902 Women from 10 nations meet in Washington, D.C. to plan an international effort for suffrage. Clara Barton is among the distinguished speakers.

New Hampshire men vote down a women’s suffrage referendum.
- 1904 Dissidents from the International Council of Women form the more aggressive International Women Suffrage Alliance.

Because Catt must attend to her dying husband, Rev. Dr. Anna Howard Shaw takes over as president of the National American.
- 1906 Stanton’s daughter, Harriet Stanton Blatch, returns from England and is appalled by the National American Association’s conservatism. She responds by forming the Equality League of Self Supporting Women, to reach out to the working class.
- 1909 The Women’s Trade Union League coordinates a large strike by 20,000 women workers in New York’s garment district. Wealthy women support the strike with a boycott. Through strikes, working class women connect with the suffragist movement.





**LEAGUE OF WOMEN
VOTERS OF FREMONT,
NEWARK AND UNION CITY**
P.O. Box 3218 Fremont, CA, 94539
(510) 794-5783

WATCH VOTING MATTERS

Tune in to watch Lara York interview Ken Ballard, Bob Monkman and Syeda Yunus. Topic : FUSD Citizens Bond Oversight.

- Fremont**, Channel 29, every Wednesday at 7:30 PM
- Newark**, Channel 6, every Thursday at 7 PM
- Union City**, Channel 15, every Thursday at 9:30 PM
- Hayward**, Channel 28, every Monday at 9:30 PM

Visit our website:
<http://www.lwvfnuc.org>
and Smart Voter
www.smartvoter.org

CALENDAR

Mon., April 1	Home Owners Association Meeting	9:30 AM	Jean Holmes home
Tues., April 2	Budget Committee	10:00 AM	Miriam Keller's home
Fri., April 4	Interview with Senator Corbett	10:30 AM	Call Syeda Yunus
Thurs., April 10	LWVFNUC Board Meeting	7:15 PM	TBA
Wed., April 16	Voting Matters Taping	2:00 PM	Comcast Studios
Thurs., April 17	Voter Deadline		
Fri., April 18	EdSource Conference	All day	Palo Alto
Mon., Apr. 21	Y Vote? Meeting	7:00 PM	Fremont Library Fukaya Room
Thurs., April 24	Action Committee	12:30 PM brown bag lunch	Kay Emanuele's home
Thurs., April 24	EBRPD Public Meeting	7:00PM—8:30 PM	40204 Paseo Padre
May 16—18	LWVC Council		Sacramento