



The League of Women Voters of Fremont, Newark, Union City

V O T E R

Voting

Democracy

Civic Engagement

The Honorable Ron Sabraw

Will discuss

The Differences Between the State and Federal Courts

Monday, April 19, 7:00 PM

At the Fremont Main Library, Fukaya Room



How do you vote between two judges?

CANDIDATE FORUMS

Monday, April 5, 2010

Hayward City Hall Council Chambers

6:00-7:00 pm

Alameda County District 2 Board of Supervisor Candidates

Kevin Dowling, Mark Green, Liz Figueroa, Nadia Lockyer

7:15-8:15 pm

City of Hayward Council Candidates

Ralph Farias, Lawrence Fitzpatrick, Sara Lamnin, Steve Oiwa, Marvin Peixoto, Mark Salinas

Sponsored by LWV Fremont, Newark, Union City and LWV Eden Area

For more information contact Suzanne Barba (510) 538-9678

President' s Message

Non partisan vs. Bipartisan - Why the League is so important today.

My computer ' s dictionary defines someone who is either non partisan or bipartisan in this way:

Non partisan – someone who is unbiased, impartial, unprejudiced, independent, neutral or non-aligned.

Partisan – a strong supporter of a person, group or cause, especially one who does not listen to other people' s opinions.

There is no doubt today why the educational arm of the League is so important today. The League ' s non partisan status is more important than ever. Listen to (or choosing to tune out) the elected officials, the political pundits and the commentators or reading editorials is discouraging to many of us. I remember a time when I looked forward to hearing an elected representative' s perspective on an issue. Now I am tempted to push the mute button on the remote control and tune them all out. The degree of partisanship has exceeded any level that I have ever known. The phrase, “ *one who does not listen to other people ' s opinions* ” is mild in comparison to what we see and hear today.

So, what can we do about it in our daily lives? As League members I think we have a leg up on others. We know the benefits of listening to other opinions, of weighing the pros and cons of an issue. We actually thrive on discussions that include diverse views. I think the idea that in our role as League members we exhibit the best of non partisanship is one of our biggest selling points. We truly are impartial and non-aligned when we educate the public on an issue or lead a discussion with people who strongly support opposing positions.

In the June primary election we will have 5 propositions to consider. We will have information about how the League stands on these for you to consider. In a new effort LWVC will post Pros and Cons online. This serves as a cost cutting measure and also as a new



way to educate the public at large. As always Smart Voter will be there to inform and educate and we can be proud when we direct friends, family and the public to its web site. Smart Voter is the web version of non partisan education on elections for the public.

So, while the nation is in the throws of nasty partisan talk and behavior, we as League members can be an example for others in our demeanor. That doesn' t mean we can ' t talk about what we as individual citizens believe in and support. It just means that when we put on our League hats, caps, chapeaux, hoodies, whatever, that we set an example about how it could be in a more civilized world of political discourse.

Remember June 5th and the upcoming primary. Get out and vote and pull a few along with you!

Alex

Board Briefs

Welcomed Dr. Browning, Ohlone ' s President, and her presentation on Ohlone ' s financial needs.

Set program topics for April, May and June annual meeting.

Noted that the Nominating Committee is looking for a few good women and men.

The League Wants You!

It's hard to believe another year has passed. Our Annual Meeting will be here before we know it! It's time to nominate new members to our Board of Directors. Our League is fortunate to have many talented men and women members any of whom could enhance the League by serving. This year the Nominating Committee is looking for several Board positions including 3 Officers and 5 Directors

If you enjoy making things happen, working with people, learning new skills, then being on the LWVFNUC Board is for you! Be an active participant and help set the direction of League in the coming years. Don't worry if you think you just don't know enough about what makes things happen in our League; there are seasoned directors and members always willing to help and mentor you in your position.

If you are interested in volunteering with a dedicated, fun group of people and making a difference in our community, please email this year's Nominating Chair, Sam Neeman at samneeman@comcast.net or call her at 510-396-5274.

Easy Voter Guide Project

The Easy Voter Guide Project has launched a new series of educational materials called FAST FACTS to help Californians better understand their government and elections. These materials are nonpartisan and subjected to the same community review process and fact checking by the California Legislative Analyst's Office as the EASY VOTER GUIDE. The FAST FACTS are non election specific and can be used year round for voter education and outreach efforts, classroom curriculum & individual use. The FAST FACTS are available in English and Spanish. Read FAST FACTS on taxes and the budget and FAST FACTS on ballot measures.

Contact: easyvoter@lwvc.org

Sets Amann

Welcome New Members

Cindi Alonso and Leslie Gupta

Many, Many Thanks

The League of Women Voters of Fremont-Newark-Union City would like to thank the following members who have made donations of \$90 or more to LWVFNUC in honor of the League's 90th birthday:

Setsuko Amann, Stephanie Beach, Sue Chan, Merna Morse, Sandi Pantages, Alex Starr, Holly Walter

It's not too late to contribute to the League to help celebrate 90 years of League involvement in *Making Democracy Work!*

Besides the \$90 donation to honor the League's birthday, the following people have donated to the Ed Fund this year.

Randy Fewel, Barbara Friedrich, Scott Haggerty, Sam Neeman, Alex Starr, Holly Walter, Pauline Weaver and Robert Weickowski.

And these people donated to the LWVFNUC unrestricted fund.

Alice Ching, Mary Ann Dillon, Kay Emanuele, Susan Gearhart, Bill Harrison, Carolyn Hedgecock, Jean Holmes, Marilyn Jensen, Miriam Keller, Lulu Levy, Charlotte Lowrey, Anne MacLeod, Nina Moore, Mary Roulet, John Smith, Alex Starr, Kathy Steel-Sabo, and Judy Zlatnik.

Continued from page 4.

This in turn has led to water damage in many areas of the Fremont campus. In order to stay on track and continue to offer the best education possible, new funding sources will have to be found. The Ohlone Board is examining alternatives now.

A. 1965, B. 20,000, C. 9,000 D. 28, E. 145, F. 300,000

Be sure to call Sam Neeman to volunteer for your place on our next Board of Directors

Women in Upper House of Indian Parliament – Finally a Possibility

(Information taken from an editorial in the Tribune of India, Wikipedia and other informational internet sources. Our League member Saarbjit Kaur Cheema, alerted us to this vote in the Indian Parliament.)

The Rajya Sabha (The Council of States), The Upper House of the Parliament of India, on Tuesday, March 9th, passed a Constitution Bill by 186 to 1 vote that seeks to provide for 33 per cent of seats for women in Parliament and State Assemblies. When finalized that will mean that the women of India will have a greater voice in making laws for the nation. This is a major step forward by the country 's evolving democratic system where women have been given a less than fair deal in the past.

The Rajya Sabha vote shows that if the major national parties join hands on vital issues, they can achieve several national aims. Tuesday 's vote came as a result of a lot of back-channel contacts among the three major political parties. Hopefully, the consensus arrived at for the Rajya Sabha vote will ensure a smooth passage of the Bill through the Lok Sabha where the Speaker of the House, like the Chairman of the Rajya Sabha, will also be determined to uphold the highest parliamentary traditions and will not succumb to pressures from other political groups

In India, the Rajya Sabha membership is limited to 250, 12 of whom are chosen by the President of India for their expertise in specific fields of art, literature, science, and social services. These members are known as nominated members. The remainder of the body is elected by state and territorial legislatures. Terms of office are for six years, with one third of the members facing re-election every two years.

The Rajya Sabha meets in continuous session and, unlike the lower house of parliament, the Lok Sabha, is not subject to dissolution. The Rajya Sabha shares legislative powers with the Lok Sabha, except in the area of supply, where the Lok Sabha has overriding powers. In the case of conflicting legislation, a joint

sitting of the two houses is held. However, since the Lok Sabha has more than twice as many members than the Rajya Sabha, it holds de facto veto power in such joint sessions.

Two days after celebrating its victory in the Rajya Sabha, the UPA today agreed to put the Women 's Reservation Bill on hold pending consultations with " all concerned. " The Bill awaits passage in the Lok Sabha after having been cleared by the Elders. Sources said the Bill had been held back " only for now " and the government has bought time to facilitate the passage of urgent financial business in the Lok Sabha and to avoid a crisis after March 31.

Ohlone President, Dr. Gari Browning, Addresses our League Board.

Ohlone College 's President gave a short presentation to our board on March 14th. She started off with these questions. Can you answer them? (Answers at the end of the article) .

- A) Ohlone College has served the Tri-city community since (1962, 1965, 1968) .
- B) Ohlone enrolls almost (20,000, 27,000, 32,000) students per year at both our Fremont and Newark campuses.
- C) That is equal to more than (9,000, 12,000, 14,500) full time students.
- D) The average age of Ohlone students is (26, 28, 30) .
- E) Ohlone offers (80, 127, 145) degrees and certificated job training programs.
- F) Almost (285,000, 300,000, 425,000) community members have received education at Ohlone since we opened our doors!

The focus of the talk was to inform us about the financial health of the college and to enlighten us about what needs to be done to keep Ohlone safe for students and faculty. Tough economic times have led to deferred maintenance.

Continued on page 3.

Affordable Housing Hangs in the Balance

Written by Deia de Brito

From the Bay Area Monitor

The Bay Area is the largest contributor of greenhouse gases in California, making up 41 percent of the state's emissions and three times as much carbon dioxide per capita as the average world resident. A large portion of that pollution is caused by the region's commuters driving to work from more affordable homes in outlying communities.

With insufficient affordable housing, jobs, and transportation options, people often have little choice but to pollute. Advocates say lack of affordable housing is bad for the environment, and so they are working with local and regional governments to map out smart growth principles championed in Senate Bill 375 (Steinberg).

The [California Air Resources Board](#) is scheduled to present a draft of regional emissions targets for 2020 and 2035 in June of next year and the finalized targets in September. By January of 2012, the regions are required to complete the final drafts of their Sustainable Communities Strategies, the new regional planning document required by SB 375 that outlines how they will meet their targets.

"We're in foundation building time for SB 375," said Stephanie Reyes, policy director at [Greenbelt Alliance](#), an organization that works in the nine Bay Area counties to create open spaces and infill development. "It's kind of getting off to a slow start here in the Bay Area because we're not going to get our targets until next year," she added, but said leaders and advocates are currently holding meetings to discuss how to best involve local groups and governments. Reyes said her organization has been working on building a grassroots base and reaching out to jurisdictions that are subject to gentrification.

At the forefront of anti-sprawl planning for decades, Greenbelt Alliance has seen recent victories that represent the shift toward smart growth that could flourish under SB 375. Pittsburg, a bedroom community located along the commute-heavy Highway 4, recently approved a plan for a new BART station and 2,500 new homes, 30 percent of them affordable. And in October, a judge ruled in favor of Greenbelt Alliance in a lawsuit against massive development plans for thousands of acres of prime farmland in Oakley.

"Under 375, when the region is putting together a region-wide plan, there's no doubt that there will be more plans like these," said Reyes.

The [Non-Profit Housing Association of Northern California](#) (NPH) is among the groups fighting for smart growth and carefully following the movement of SB 375.

Ann Gressani, policy director for NPH, though optimistic about the changes proposed, is concerned about the difference between housing law on paper and in practice. She says only a small percent of the Bay Area's housing elements have been filed and accepted this year, and they were due in June. In addition, a handful of cities and counties fail to meet the affordable housing needs outlined in their plans, and each year, the Bay Area falls behind on fulfilling its affordable housing need.

Advocates say affordable housing is inherent to smart growth, but whether an increase in affordable housing is inherent to SB 375 remains to be seen. Gressani hopes SB 375 will hold cities more accountable and push them to fulfill the growing need for affordable housing. It is still unknown "whether the mix of housing under the Sustainable Communities Strategy will contain more affordable housing than we're currently building now," she said.

Brian Augusta, staff attorney for the [California Rural Legal Assistance Foundation](#), said up until SB 5

375, housing law was silent on making sure cities rezoned as they were supposed to. Now, there's a clear obligation to rezone within three years of submitting the housing element plan.

As it stands, SB 375 has a few consequences for failure to submit a housing element or rezone. Any local government that does not adopt a housing element within 120 days of the deadline misses out on the housing element's new eight-year cycle and must adopt a housing element every four years. And this is something local governments don't like to do, Augusta explained.

The consequence for failure to rezone is that anyone can sue the city, forcing it to rezone within 60 days, and seek sanctions on development if it fails to do so. The "builder's remedy" for a local government's failure to rezone makes it legal for a housing developer proposing to build at least 49 percent low- to moderate- income housing to develop on any site set aside for rezoning, as if it had been rezoned.

In addition, an annual check-in report to be included in the annual report for [Housing and Community Development](#) will chart local governments' progress in meeting the housing element deadlines and rezoning.

Augusta is hopeful about the increase in density and the affordable housing development that could result from SB 375. He foresees a scenario that could result from the bill's amendments to housing element law that requires plans to meet an eight-year housing need rather than the five-year housing need in place today. The longer time frame means more land set aside for housing, and thus more land for affordable housing developers.

"This could provide an immediate boon for affordable developers who often have a hard time finding a good site for development," said Augusta.

The downside to the eight-year cycle is that things change. For example, even the past five-year housing element cycle saw huge changes with the

building boom and crash, and then later with frozen funds.

Augusta also cautioned that more density could mean more competition.

"The risk is that the drive to shrink the footprint of development ends up putting too much land off-limits for development, leaving affordable developers scrambling for sites in competition with market rate developers," he said.

In addition, there is no assurance that local governments will follow the Sustainable Communities Strategy, Augusta said. But consequences like one that will refuse cities transportation funding if they don't comply with the strategy are carrot sticks for good comportment.

"We are trying to make sure affordable housing doesn't get squeezed out," said Augusta.

Linda Couch, deputy director of the [National Low Income Housing Coalition](#), said the community has to be on their toes when governments and developers start to talk about affordable housing, as affordable housing is not always affordable.

"What do you mean by affordable? Affordable to whom? Does it mean they get the basement unit in every property? These are the questions they need to ask," said Couch. Her organization helped pass the National Housing Trust Fund last year, which will most likely get \$1 billion from sources yet unknown by the end of the year, to be dispersed to the states by the spring. Seventy-five percent of the fund will go toward very low-income housing, and the coalition's goal is to infuse the fund with \$15 billion every year from permanent sources.

The relationship between the national funds and SB 375 is still unknown, but one thing is clear: affordable housing goes hand in hand with smart growth, and perhaps it is time to start thinking about housing as Linda Couch suggested: "We need to right size our homes, we need to be happy with housing as a shelter and not see it as an investment that will pay for multiple generations to go to college."

LWV California Prop 15

Elections Should Be Won, Not Bought

Huge amounts of money are raised in California politics, giving special interests unfair influence and access and shutting out the rest of us. Proposition 15 takes an important step toward getting politicians out of the fundraising game. It is a pilot project to make voluntary public financing available to Secretary of State candidates in 2014 and 2018. Only candidates showing broad support and agreeing to strict reporting and spending limits would receive funding. Violators would face fines, possible jail time, and prohibitions from running for office in the future. The pilot program would be funded primarily by fees on lobbyists, lobbying firms and lobbyist employers, with no taxpayer dollars going to candidates. Proposition 15 will allow elected officials to start focusing on the public's interest, instead of returning political favors to their campaign donors.

The League of Women Voters of California supports Prop 15 because:

- It Gets Politicians out of the fundraising game and back to solving California's problems.
- It makes it possible for qualified candidates to receive limited public financing and bans them from raising or spending any beyond it.
- It is a pilot project for the Secretary of State candidates in 2014 and 2018.

Here is how it will work.

To Qualify Secretary of State candidates must show broad grassroots support by receiving 7,500 \$5 qualifying contributions and signatures from registered California voters. They must also agree to strict spending limits.

The Fair Elections Candidates Receive enough Fair Elections funds to run competitive primary campaigns (\$ 1,000,000). If they win their primary they receive enough funds to run competitive general election campaigns (\$ 1,300,000) . A candidate may also receive "fair fight " funds if they are outspent or if outside groups attack them or support an opponent.

Fundraising Prohibitions would prohibit participating candidates from raising or spending money beyond what they receive from the fund. They are banned from raising any money for their campaign from lobbyists, their clients, or anybody else.

Strict Enforcement would require participating candidates follow strict reporting requirements and only spend on legitimate campaign expenses. Violators would face fines, possible jail time, and prohibitions from running for office in the future.

This measure would not increase taxes or take away from other important programs. It is funded primarily by registration fees on lobbyists, lobbying firms and lobbyist employers, with no taxpayer dollars going to the candidates. Currently lobbyists only pay \$12.50 per year in California, among the lowest rates in the country.

The Secretary of State ' s office was chosen for this trial because it is responsible for overseeing and regulating the state' s lobbying activity and the integrity of our elections. The California Fair Elections Act will assure voters that the Secretary of State is focusing on his or her duties, not worrying about raising campaign contributions.

For further information visit:
<http://www.yesfairelections.org>

***CITIZENS UNITED* DECISION SETS OFF
REVOLUTION IN CAMPAIGN FINANCE
Supreme Court Erred, Decision Undermines
Basic Pillar of American Democracy**

The following is a statement by Mary G. Wilson, national president of the League of Women Voters on the Supreme Court 's decision in *Citizens United v. FEC*. The League filed an amicus brief in this case:

“ The Supreme Court has made a tragic mistake. Their decision announced today in *Citizens United v. FEC* is constitutionally irresponsible and will surely bring about an anti-democratic revolution in how we finance elections in this country. Today, basic pillars of American democracy have been undermined - that elections should not be corrupted by vast corporate wealth and that the voters should be at the center of our democratic system.

“ Justice Stevens had it right when he said, in his dissent, ‘ the Court 's ruling threatens to undermine the integrity of elected institutions across the Nation. The path it has taken to reach its outcome will, I fear, do damage to this institution. ’

“ In creating a new constitutional right for corporations to spend unlimited amounts of their shareholder 's money to determine the outcome in candidate elections, the Court has unleashed into our elections tremendous sums of money from for-profit corporations that cannot possibly be matched in quantity by contributions from ordinary citizens. The only possible outcome of this is that big money and special interests will have an even tighter grip on our democracy. ”

“ Congress and the President enacted campaign finance laws over a series of decades for a reason—to protect our democracy from the perverse influence of big money in our elections. In making this decision, the Court has ignored the best interests of the American public and our representative form of government. ”

Proposed Arms Control Concurrence

The LWWUS Board, in response to Guidance to the Board at Convention 2008, established a Task Force to review the 1983 Arms Control position for relevance, usefulness and practical application. A Task Force of member experts was appointed. The Task Force members have researched and written papers, updating members on the current global and political climate surrounding the issue. Now the Task Force has proposed a reworded position to the LWWUS Board. At its March meeting, the Board will decide whether to propose a concurrence at Convention 2010 with the reworded position. Prior to making that decision, the Board is inviting member comment on the process and the proposed concurrence statement. The reworded position, the rationale for using concurrence at Convention as a form of member agreement and the substantive pros and cons for the rewording can be accessed on the LWWUS website. Members are asked to submit their comments to armscontrol@lww.org. The Board is interested in member response to the following questions.

1. Is it appropriate to update League positions through a task force comprised of member experts and concurrence at Convention?

2. Does the proposed rewording make the Arms Control position more relevant and useful, and is the proposed rewording consistent with the scope of the position as developed in 1983?

The Board will meet on March 27.

See the Arms Control Task Force papers on the LWWUS website.

LWWUS Legislative Priorities for 2010

Global Climate Change, Health Care Reform, and Money in Elections (campaign finance reform) . There 's a watch list of Arms Control, DC Voting Rights, Election Reform, Ethics and Lobbying Reform, and UN Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW)

Join the 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.

Annual dues includes membership in Local, Bay Area, California and National Leagues.

Make your check payable to: LWVFNUC and mail it with this form to:

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

Individual Membership—\$60

Household—\$90

Donate to LWVFNUC \$ _____ Donate to Ed. Fund \$ _____ Total Enclosed \$ _____

Name (s) _____

Address _____ Phone _____

E-mail _____ New Member _____ Renewal _____

Dues and contributions to the League are not tax deductible. Contributions to LWV Ed Fund are deductible to the extent allowed by law. For more information, or for confidential financial dues assistance, please contact Sarabjit Cheema—sarabjitkaurcheema@yahoo.com

Mission Statement

The League of Women Voters of Fremont, Newark, and Union City, a nonpartisan political organization, encourages the informed and active participation 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

Published 10 times a year by the League of Women Voters of Fremont, Newark, and Union City.

PO Box 3218
Fremont, CA 94539
510-794-5783

President: Alex Starr
Treasurer: Carolyn Hedgecock
Editor: Miriam Keller

The LWVFNUC office address is
3375 Country Drive, Fremont, CA

NOTABLE WOMEN IN HISTORY

Dr. Sarah R. Adamson Dolley



Sarah Read Adamson was born on March 11, 1829. Her father was a farmer and storekeeper. Her parents were Quakers.

Early in life, she decided to be a doctor. But medicine was not considered a suitable occupation for ladies. She convinced her uncle, who was a doctor to allow her to train under him.

Adamson studied medicine at her uncle's office until she was accepted by the Central Medical College.

In May, 1851, Adamson was accepted as an intern at the Philadelphia Hospital in Pennsylvania.

In 1866, Dolley was among the group of women physicians who established the Provident Dispensary, a Rochester clinic for women and children run by women physicians.;

In addition to her professional affiliations, Dolley was also known for her leadership in other organizations. Dolley had many connections with the women's rights movement.

In 1872, Dolley was one of the women who registered to vote in the national election. She was not allowed to vote. She was among those who later contributed money to defray trial costs of the inspectors who had allowed Susan B. Anthony to vote.

Sarah Reed Adamson Dolley quietly enhanced the lives of both rich and poor women by her example and her work as a physician, by her leadership in women's organizations, and by her quiet support for women's rights. Dolley died in 1909.

Submitted by Vesta Wilson

Affordable Housing Hangs in the Balance, cont. from page 6:

And as density increases, affordable housing is something that city dwellers need to accept. While affordable housing development has a history of working alongside the environmental movement toward smart growth, people still have misconceptions about affordable housing. For now, one of the struggles of smart growth advocates is to get the public to accept that density — and not just for those with San Francisco 's annual median income of \$96,000 — is a smart public investment. For more information, visit www.nonprohithousing.org.

Thurs., April 1	Action Committee	12:30 pm Brown Bag Lunch	Kay Emanuele ' s home
Mon., April 5	Budget Committee	10:00 am	At Carolyn Hedgecock' s
Mon., April 12	Board Meeting	6:45 pm	League Office 3375 Country Drive, Fre.
Mon., April 19	Program Meeting	7:00 pm	Fremont Main Library
Sat., April 17	Voter Deadline		
May 14-16	LWVC Council		Holiday Inn Capitol Plaza Sacramento
Tues., May 25	Avalon Election	6:30 pm	Club Sport
June 11-15	National Convention		Atlanta, Georgia