



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®

VOTER



FREMONT, NEWARK & UNION CITY

April 2016

SAVE THE DATE!

**Tuesday, May 10th
Fremont Unified School District**



**Pro/Con Discussion on
Parcel Tax Renewal Measure**

**Fremont Main Library
*Time and Speaker to be Announced***

Saturday, June 4th

**Annual Membership Meeting
9:00 AM Breakfast
9:30 Speaker
10:30 Meeting**

**Niles Discovery Church
36600 Niles Blvd., Fremont**

MOVIE NIGHT!



**Friday, April 29th
7:00 PM
League Office Meeting Room
3375 Country Drive
Fremont**

Electoral Dysfunction, a feature-length documentary created by a team of award-winning filmmakers, uses humor and wit to take an irreverent —but nonpartisan— look at voting in America.

Following a dual premiere at the 2012 Republican and Democratic National Conventions, the program was broadcast nationally on PBS in the Fall of 2012.

For more details go to
electoraldysfunction.org

PRESIDENTS' MESSAGE



This special message about the June Primary is from LWVC and cavotes.org

In our Voters Service role, we present unbiased, nonpartisan information about elections, the voting process, and issues on the ballot.

Presidential Primary

If you are registered to vote with a political party, you will be given a ballot for that party in a Presidential primary election. If you are unaffiliated with any party (sometimes called "no party preference" or "decline to state"), you will be given a nonpartisan ballot, containing only the names of all candidates for nonpartisan offices and any ballot measures to be voted upon at the primary election.

Or, you may be able to request the ballot of one of the political parties at the polls or on your vote-by-mail ballot request form. Each political party has the option of allowing decline-to-state voters to vote in their Presidential primary.

California Statewide Primary

Top Two Candidate Open Primary system for statewide offices. All candidates for a given state or congressional office will be listed on a single Primary Election ballot.

Voters can vote for the candidate of their choice for these offices. The top two candidates, as determined by the voters, will advance to the General Election in November.

Ballot Measures

Examine what the measure seeks to accomplish.
Who are the real sponsors and opponents of the measure?
Is the measure written well?
Does the measure create its own revenue source? Does it earmark, restrict or obligate government revenues?
Does the measure mandate a government program or service without addressing how it will be funded?
Does the measure deal with one issue that can be easily decided by a YES or NO vote?
If the measure amends the Constitution, consider whether it really belongs in the Constitution.
Be wary of distortion tactics and commercials that rely on image but tell nothing of substance about the measure. Beware of half truths.

For more information go to cavotes.org and VotersEdge.com.

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Voters of Fremont, Newark, and Union City
(LWVFNUC)
PO Box 3218 Fremont, CA 94539
Office: 3375 Country Drive, Fremont
510-794-5783
www.lwvfnuc.org

Editor Alex Starr



LWVFNUC High School Registration Project

Our League partnered with the Alameda County Registrar of Voters to provide voter education and register 1,171 high school students at seven area high schools. This is a tribute to our incredible team leads *Sets Amann, Kathy Bray, Pat Heer, Jean Holmes, Evelyn LaTorre, and Sophia Liu*. Other dedicated volunteers include *Carolyn Hedgecock, Miriam Keller, Joyce Mueller, Shamsa Rafay, and Toni Shellen*.

Jeff Normart, Elections Technician sent the following note of thanks to Sofia Liu, team lead: "Ron and I are not only appreciative for all your hard work on Thursday. We have agreed that you can come with us on every High School Presentation, Fantastic job and effort."

Thank you all for job well done!

Sets Amann, Voter Services Chair



Money in Politics and Higher Education in California

This year the League had two unique studies to ponder and come to a consensus on. Our League placed background information and consensus questions in the VOTER. Two committees met to discuss both of these studies. The committees were ably led by John Smith for *Money in Politics* and Miriam Keller for *Higher Education in California*

Study leaders spend hours reading through all of the supporting material. They exercise patience (material never comes through from state or

national in a timely manner), persuasion (getting study committee members signed up), and depth of knowledge of a subject. And the final outcome is the consensus meeting where League members express their opinions about the choice of answers posed by the consensus questions.

So we thank John and Miriam for their untiring efforts to educate us, to lead us and teach us about these very important topics - *Money in Politics and Higher Education in California*. We could not have accomplished the ultimate goal without you!!!!!!

Miriam Keller Gives Sunshine Week Testimony to the Fremont City Council

Good evening, mayor, council members and staff.

I am Miriam Keller, speaking on behalf of the League of Women Voters of Fremont, Newark, and Union City.

This week is Sunshine Week. The purpose of Sunshine Week is to highlight the fact that government functions best when it operates in the open. We find that Fremont government usually does a pretty good job of operating in the open. But, we would like to point out an episode recently where informing the public did not meet our expectations.

At the February 25 Planning Commission Meeting there was to be a public hearing on the Old Warm Springs Boulevard South Master Plan. At the last minute this item was put on the consent calendar. Now we know that there is a notice on the Planning Commission Agenda that if no one is present to speak on the item, it may be put on the consent calendar. We feel that this notice needs to be given some thought. It might not be in the best interest of the public's right to know. We also know that there were people in

the chambers who could have talked about the item.

At a previous Planning Commission workshop that was not videotaped, the commissioners heard all about the the Old Warm Springs South Master Plan proposal and they were able to ask questions. This proposal is of significant size:

Valley Oak Partners is proposing to develop 785 residential units. (785 means 524 apartments and 261 townhomes and flats), 325,999 square feet of commercial space, including research and development/office space, a hotel and a restaurant on 28 acres.

And not a word was said to the public because the meeting wasn't taped. The Planning Commission knows all about it, but not the public.

We once had a city council member who would ask a question and say "I know the answer but I want you to tell it to the public."

We need city council members and planning commission members doing a lot more of that.

Thank you.

Fri, Apr 8	Cohousing Meeting	6:45 PM Fremont Main Library 2800 Stevenson Blvd., Fremont
Thur, Apr 14	Action Group	11:00 AM – 1:00 PM 3375 Country Drive, Fremont
Mon, Apr 18	Board Meeting	6:45 PM League Office 3375 Country Drive, Fremont
Sun, Apr 24	New Member Orientation Meeting	2:00 PM Evelyn La Torre's Home
Fri, Apr 29	Movie Night: <i>Electoral Dysfunction</i>	7:00 PM League Office 3375 Country Drive, Fremont
Tues, May 10	Pro/Con Forum on Measure I	7:00 PM, Fremont Mail Library 2800 Stevenson Blvd. Fremont
Sat, Jun 4	Annual Meeting	9:00 AM Niles Discovery Church 36600 Niles Blvd., Fremont

ALL MEETINGS ARE FREE, OPEN TO THE PUBLIC AND WHEEL CHAIR ACCESSIBLE

Mission

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.

Join the LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS TODAY!

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. Members under 18, or non-citizens, are welcome as non-voting Associate Members. Dues include membership in LWVFNUC, Bay Area League, and the California and National Leagues. Financial support for dues is available through our scholarship program. Contact Evelyn La Torre, Membership Chair, for information.

Name (s) _____

New Member Renewal
 Transfer from _____

Address _____

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OR GO ONLINE AT LWVFNUC.ORG!

LWVFNUC is a 501 (c) (3) Organization. Please 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
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Donation \$ _____

Total Enclosed \$ _____

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