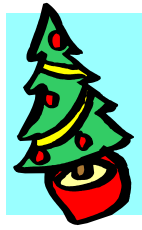


Voter

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



Happy Holidays

WELCOME TO OUR ANNUAL HOLIDAY PARTY AND PROGRAM PLANNING

December 11, 7:30 PM

At Miriam Keller's home

Scrumptious desserts will be served

Be Ready to voice your ideas. Program planning is our time to tell LWVUS what we think are the most important issues before us in the next year. So come, listen, advocate and VOTE for the programs you think we need to update, restudy, throw out, change, reemphasize or ignore.

Education?

Water?

Hetch Hetchy?

Civil Rights?

Women's Right to Choose?

Housing?

Environment

Ethics?
Ethics?

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The December Board meeting will be devoted mainly to discussing our Voter Service activities during the recent election. With more people voting absentee and several weeks before the election we may need to change how we get the information out to the voters. We encourage all members to come to the Board meeting and help us discuss changes that need to be made. We put a great deal of effort into our candidate forums. Not many people attended the forums. Did everyone watch the forums on cable?

Did voters in the Tri-Cities sign on to Smart Voter and find out about the candidates that way? Bring your brainstorming about new ways to inform ourselves and the voters to the December Board meeting.

We are also trying to form two committees. One to research how to conduct homeowner association elections and one to produce several programs each year with Washington Hospital. We are proposing to help with homeowner association elections as a fundraiser for the League. If you would be interested in hearing more about either committee, call me. 510-683-9377

BOARD BRIEFS

At the November 9th Board Meeting, the Board

- ▶ discussed starting a homeowner's association election committee,
- ▶ heard reports on the Voter Information Booklet,
- ▶ discussed the hard work of the Action Committee and
- ▶ added Ursel Bloxsom and Ken Ballard to this year's nominating committee.

INTERVIEW WITH VAL WILLIAMS, PUPIL SERVICES, FUSD

Alex Starr and Marilyn Singer met with Ms. Williams to discuss AB 537. We gave background information on what LWVFNUC has done to encourage implementation of SB 537 and presented her with two notebooks of information.

We stated that it is the League's intent to work for their implementation of the 2000 law, SB 537. FUSD has appointed a core group of administrators including Ms. Williams, Steve Betando, Bev Chernoff and others to strategize how FUSD will move to implement AB 537. They report to Mr. Gephardt.

Ms. Williams has experience with 537 and comes from East Side Union in San Jose, which is a good model. Her experience tells her that walking the middle road is the most effective way to achieve ultimate implementation. She said that the goal was to "advocate for those who cannot advocate for themselves."

She listened to some of our suggestions and then told us of the plans FUSD is discussing.

Negotiations are ongoing with well known author and speaker, Judy Blanco, who may be hired to give assemblies to students, staff and parents at all junior and senior high schools. If the plans proceed and evaluations are positive, the presentations may be given every other year. Two copies of her book, *Please Stop Laughing At Me*, will be at every school site. Blanco also has downloadable curriculum material on her web site. Her presentation is broad-based on all anti-bullying and anti-harassment issues. She will address any other harassment issues during Q and A sessions.

The group is also in the early stages of exploring Ally Action, a group that works toward equal access to a safe, inclusive, effective environment, as another possible source of curriculum and training.

ACTIONS TAKEN BY THE ACTION COMMITTEE IN THE PAST YEAR.

All writing of materials produced on the following issues is done by Action Committee members, and we have spoken in the name of the League. All written materials are drafted and worked on by the committee. It is a collaborative effort. You will notice that the Action Committee has a full agenda and that much of what we do is not repetitive. What we do is respond to issues. Basically, you have allowed us to do our work and then report to you. Some of the actions we take need to be done quickly. Small groups of us have been known to write testimony while we sit in the audience at City Council meetings. As long as there are 3 of us, we respond if we feel our positions support our actions. Most of us know the League Positions well so we do not over-step. We do have many positions, but we do not speak every time a position supports an item or we would be talking constantly. It has been our unspoken decision not to send up a speaker who does not have background on the issue being discussed. It is in our best interests to speak only when we have the facts so we retain our credibility. The Board has given the Action Committee a lot of latitude, but we do our homework whether the action we are taking is oral or written.

FUSD

We formed a Coalition with the Fremont Alliance (Not In Fremont) and have worked to implement AB 537 the Safe Schools Law. This included providing materials to Board Members and the superintendent. We interviewed them all except Ivy Wu. We wrote testimony and delivered it. We met with Val Williams in Pupil Services and will preview materials on harassment. We also met with FUDTA. We will continue to monitor and speak on this issue. All materials go out labeled from the LWVFNUC (Emanuele, Boyer, Starr, Singer).

Ohlone

We gave testimony on the conduct of the Board meetings and are monitoring the plans for construction on both cam-

pus. (Landers, Starr, Keller) We speak and write in the name of the League.

Washington Hospital

We continually testify on opening up the process and will watch the activation of the Bond Oversight Committee (Lewis). We speak in the name of the League and all interviews are done in the name of the League.

Measure L

We wrote the Pro/Con and distributed it. (Holmes, Neeman) The Board made the decision to support L but did not supervise the writing of the Pro/Con. Measure K. We undertook an examination of all League Positions that could have affected the issue and collated them.

We read the materials (Initiative, City Attorney's Analysis, the Consultant's 62 page report, the City Manager's power point presentation) and interviewed both sides. We wrote the Pro/Con and distributed it (Singer, Holmes, Starr, Neeman, Emanuele, Keller).

We wrote a Voting Matters program. We planned the ProCon Kick-Off meeting. All of this is done in the name of the League. The Board did not monitor any of these activities but did read the Pro/Con and decided to print 500 copies for the libraries.

Water Issues

We studied the Hetch Hetch system and lobbied the LWVBA in the name of LWVFNUC (Gearhart). We attended meetings and wrote a Voting Matters program (Gearhart, Starr, Emanuele). The Board did no study on the HH issue before Action Committee took an interest in water issues that affect us locally. We interviewed BAWSCA and local officials in the name of the League. (Gearhart, Starr, Keller, Neeman). This continues to be an issue of interest.

Health

We are participating in the 365 Health Event and will plan events in the three cities. (Yunus) All of the efforts will be

done in the name of LWVFNUC.

Voting Matters

The content of the cable programs is entirely the work of the Action Committee with Kay Emanuele working as the program's producer. John Smith is the director. We choose the subjects, write the scripts and invite the guests and do the production including the camera work (Emanuele, Smith, Wilson, Bloxson, Starr, Keller). Script work has been done by the entire Action Committee. Kay has arranged a training so that more people can learn to do the production work. This is a big monthly operation and is all produced in the name of the League by the Action Committee. The Board does not supervise the content.

There are probably more things that we do without Board supervision but they are one time only events. The Board may want to have more oversight, but it will be difficult if the Action Committee needs to check out everything it does. Let's have a discussion so that everyone is comfortable with what committees are allowed to do in the name of the League. We have a good reputation with the public and our own members, and this needs to continue.

—Marilyn Singer
Action Chair

NOTE:

This matter was discussed by the LWVFNUC Board on Thursday, November 9th. The Board's consensus was that the Action Committee has acted properly and does not need more Board supervision for these types of activities.



HAPPY NEW YEAR

Bay Area Monitor ~ October/
November 2006

YES WE CAN! MTC'S NEW TOD POLICY IS MAKING AN IMPACT

By Leslie Stewart

The report card is now in on the first year of the Metropolitan Transportation Commission's (MTC's) transit-oriented development (TOD) policy, and it is encouraging. Back in July 2005, when MTC decided to link funding for key transit expansions to the type of development near the transit corridor station areas, the new policy was unprecedented for a regional agency (see June/July 2005 issue). Accordingly, commissioners called for a one-year "reality check" to evaluate the progress of the policy and its three components: corridor-level development thresholds, local station area plans, and corridor working groups. The new policy applied to transit extensions eligible for funding under MTC Resolution 3434. Five of these extensions did not meet the housing thresholds in the TOD Policy: BART to eastern Contra Costa County (e-BART), BART from Fremont to San Jose/Santa Clara (SVRT), Sonoma-Marín Area Rail Transit (SMART), the Dumbarton Rail corridor, and ferry service expansion by the Water Transit Authority. Grants were also approved in July 2005 for an initial group of station area plans within these five corridors, and Corridor Working Groups have since been established. Commissioners were pleased with what they heard recently from MTC staff and the consultant, Nelson\Nygaard Associates. A key conclusion was that the corridor thresholds for housing development—which were heatedly argued over when the policy was adopted—are indeed achievable. Comparison with other regions shows that many are exceeding the MTC threshold level for TOD without adding significantly to current development plans. This suggests that the MTC thresholds should be regarded as a minimum, and that incentives could encourage communities to go well beyond that level.

In a few corridors—the AC Transit Bus Rapid Transit expansion, the CalTrain

downtown extension and the MUNI Third Street Light Rail expansion—thresholds can already be met with current development plans. In other corridors, longer-term corridor-level planning that specifically addresses the need for TOD will enable communities to meet the corridor thresholds, even if TOD is not evenly distributed along the corridor. However, ferry system expansion is not a good fit with the original corridor threshold concept, and will need a different approach to accommodate the uncertainty still surrounding the choice of new terminal sites.

The evaluation also looked at whether TOD actually increases transit ridership, because the underlying aim of the policy was to ensure that transit investments were put into extensions that would be used. A review of TOD studies—including one by the national Transportation Research Board—showed that positioning well-designed development near transit could add five to six times as many riders as building the same development elsewhere. A recent survey by MTC of household travel patterns near rail and ferry transit confirms that people who live close to transit use it extensively, and even more so if they live and work close to transit. In addition, they also walk and bicycle more to their destinations.

A significant benefit of TOD can be an increase in non-commute or reverse-commute trips on transit, making more efficient use of the system. According to the evaluation report, certain factors are key to the ridership increase, including higher densities and disincentives for automobile use (such as parking costs). The household travel survey supports this with a finding that even if urban residents live more than a mile from rail or ferries, they are twice as likely to use transit for work and non-work trips as suburban residents.

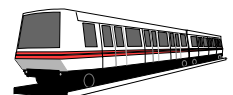
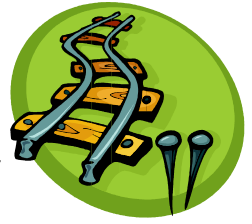
"So far, so good," said James Corless, MTC Senior Planner, "but station area plans are where TOD becomes real." Eight grants were made to local jurisdictions and transit agencies to assist with planning for the Alameda Point

Ferry Terminal, e-BART stations, Fairfield Multi-Modal Station, Menlo Park Dumbarton Rail Station, Pleasanton's Hacienda Specific Plan, Santa Clara BART Station, Downtown San Leandro Bus Rapid Transit Station, and the Downtown Santa Rosa SMART Station. None of the plans have been completed, but several grant recipients credit the MTC policy with helping their planning process. "MTC is not telling cities who to hire to do their station area plans, which has proved to be a good thing," remarked Corless. "The cities have to own this."

There are also indications that the TOD policy is affecting the way in which other local jurisdictions approach planning for transit facilities. The conclusion is that station area plans can play a significant role in helping communities address issues such as access to transit, and should be used as much as possible along the Resolution 3434 corridors.

Like the station area plans, the Corridor Working Groups have not really hit their stride in most areas. The most difficult decisions that these groups will make—allocating residential units to individual stations to meet the corridor housing thresholds—could be resolved easily through local jurisdiction plans, but are otherwise in the future. The July report noted that several issues may require continued attention or additional refinement. There is a need for clearer guidelines and a process for monitoring the number of housing units being planned and built. When affordable units are part of the development, the TOD policy allows a bonus toward meeting the threshold and this must also be applied consistently.

Another thorny issue is the chicken-and-egg problem of community reluctance to commit to TOD patterns if future transit service is uncertain. One potential solution is land-banking in the form of surface parking lots, which are then converted



(Continued next page)

to TOD as transit is built. Planning for the Fremont-to-San Jose BART corridor will be one area where this option is explored. Other issues related to TOD that may need to be considered include enlarging the area encompassed in station area plans, evaluating traffic congestion (level-of-service) standards, and looking at tradeoffs between parking and other access improvements for new development.

The TOD policy affects more communities than just those that received station area planning grants, and MTC is providing additional resources to help with TOD planning. At the end of September, MTC co-sponsored a related workshop with the Association of Bay Area Governments (ABAG), the Non-Profit Housing Association of Northern California, Reconnecting America, and ULI San Francisco. Entitled "TOD MarketPlace," the workshop was intended to connect city officials and staff with development industry professionals for the purpose of exploring TOD possibilities. It included a discussion of market trends, a presentation of TOD case studies (executed in Hercules, Redwood City, Dublin, and Oakland), and a tour of TOD in downtown Redwood City.

At this one-year anniversary, MTC has received confirmation that the policy is workable and its impact has been positive. A second annual report on the TOD Policy is scheduled for July 2007. With a two-year history of the station area plans and Corridor Working Groups, the 2007 evaluation will provide a sound basis for decisions on what should be done to make the policy more effective.

For additional information on MTC's TOD Policy, please contact James Corless at jcorless@mtc.ca.gov or (510) 464-7733.

New Places, New Choices: The Emergence of TOD in the San Francisco Bay Area has just been released by the Metropolitan Transportation Commission, the Association of Bay Area Governments, and the Bay Area Air Quality Management District. This publication discusses the benefits and challenges of transit-oriented development, provides a summary of the recent household travel survey, and examines case studies of TOD in the Bay Area. It is free and available through the MTC-ABAG Library at library@mtc.ca.gov or (510) 817-5836.

BAY AREA LEAGUE DAY

Vision for the Future of the Bay Area; **Focus on Housing.**

Saturday, January 27, 2007

San Mateo County location

Approx. 10 am to 1 pm

Keynote - John King, Urban Design writer, San Francisco Chronicle
Successful Smart Growth Design for the Bay Area

Panels:

- Bay Area Focusing Our Vision project - Refining regional smart growth criteria, identifying Priority Development Areas and Priority Conservation Areas, and schedule to confirm agreement by local agencies within the region.
- New Round of Regional Housing Needs Allocations and Housing Element Updates - information on legislative changes, criteria for local or sub-regional allocations of affordable housing, and schedule for Housing Element updates.

Final program will be available by the end of November on our website www.lwvba.ca.lwvnet.org. Cost will be \$10 per person, rsvp to Tam Hege, Treasurer at treasurer@lwvba.ca.lwvnet.org.

Plan to attend and get the word out.

Linda Craig, President
LWV of the Bay Area
president@lwvba.ca.lwvnet.org

VOTER SERVICE

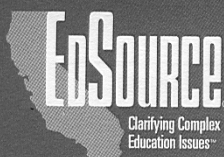
Voter Service Directors Letha Saldanha and Ellen Culver want to thank all who contributed to the November election. You did wonderful, skillful jobs covering many areas at our forums. Your tasks included moderating, time keeping, question sorters and camera manipulation.

Other tasks you accomplished were the distribution of 5,000 Pros and Cons and 700 Easy Voter Guides. In addition to that, you placed voter affidavits at many sites and participated in voter registration.

THANKS to all of you!

October 2006

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY



School Finance 2006–07 Highlights

THE ANNUAL PASSAGE of California's state budget is the single most important action in determining how much money the state's public schools and community colleges will have each year. The major governing force behind the decision is the minimum funding guarantee—Proposition 98—passed by voters nearly two decades ago.

The interaction of Proposition 98 requirements with volatile state funding levels since the start of this decade has made the funding decisions particularly complicated in recent years. Deficits in some years, changes in the guarantee during the course of a single year, and disagreements about the amount that is due to K–12 schools and community colleges—collectively and separately—have all played a role.

(For an explanation of Proposition 98, see www.edsource.org/pub_update_prop98.cfm or EdSource's full report, *School Finance 2006–07: State Leaders Settle Up with Education* at: www.edsource.org/pub_abs_fin06-07.cfm)

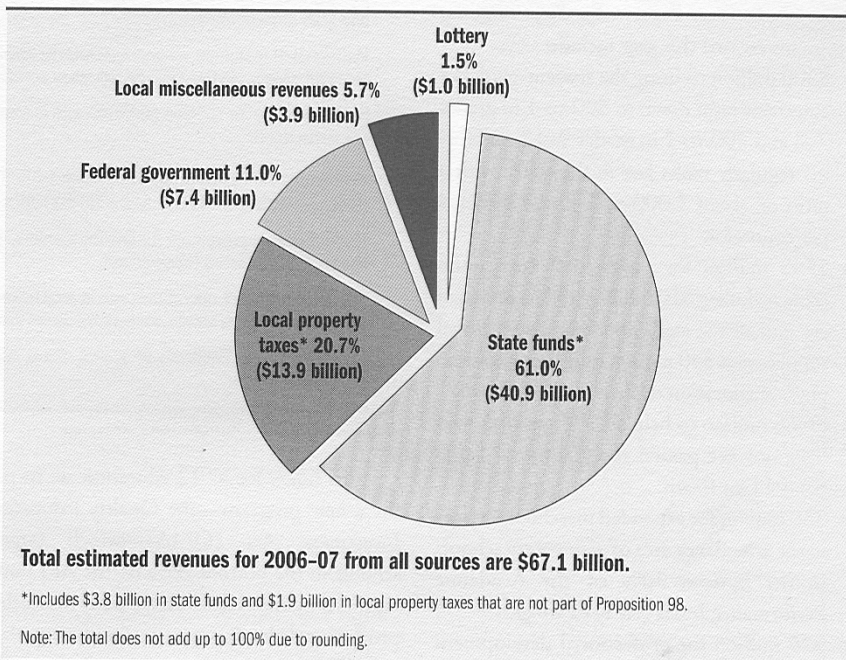
Funding in 2006–07 erases much of the state's debt to K–14 education

For K–12 school agencies, the funding picture for 2006–07 is brighter than it has been since 2001 due mainly to increases in the Proposition 98 guarantee for prior years and resulting adjustments.

Proposition 98 revenues for schools and community colleges (K–14 education) in the 2006–07 budget total \$55.1 billion, according to the Department of Finance. This represents an increase of more than \$5 billion—or about 10%—over the amount in the 2005–06 Budget Act.

Of that \$55.1 billion, about \$49.1 billion is dedicated to K–12 education. Based on a projected average daily attendance of 5.96 million K–12 students, that statewide total amounts to revenues of more than \$8,200 per pupil. However, allocations vary by district and the figure includes all Proposition 98 funding—such as monies for county offices of education, child-care, adult education, and other programs—divided by K–12 average daily attendance.

figure1 | 2006–07 K–12 funding comes from five sources



DATA: CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION (CDE)

EdSource 10/06

The other sources of revenue schools rely on—federal funding, lottery funds, and local miscellaneous revenues (such as community contributions, parcel tax election revenues, and interest income)—are relatively static. (See Figure 1.)

General purpose funds and select programs receive large increases

California school districts receive revenue limit funding as the core of their general operating budgets, representing, on average, about two-thirds of their total revenues. The other one-third comes in the form of categorical program funds, which districts receive in varying amounts depending on their student populations, district characteristics, and the programs they choose to operate. The proportions vary substantially by district.

This year the state provided a 5.92% cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) for revenue limits and most categorical programs—increases that totaled \$2.6 billion. The overall allocation for revenue limit funding also

considers student enrollment growth or decline, and 2006–07 marks a turning point in that regard. The state calculated a savings of \$220 million due to declining enrollment statewide. However, with a few exceptions, categorical programs were funded based on student counts in 2005–06, plus the COLA.

Policy makers also make adjustments in revenue limits

The Legislature allocated an additional \$659 million to make adjustments in revenue limit funds. The increases included \$309 million to restore a prior deficit and \$350 million for “equalization aid” to reduce historical variations in funding among districts.

The state supports old and new programs

The Legislature supported increases in existing categorical programs, such as:

- \$973 million for Economic Impact Aid, a program designed to help poor students and English learners.

- \$550 million to the After-school Education and Safety Program (ASES), which provides academic and enrichment activities to students in grades I–9. Funding in 2005–06 totaled \$121.6 million, but provisions of Proposition 49 required this year's increase.

In addition, lawmakers supported new programs, some ongoing and some with one-time funds (see Figure 2). Key ongoing programs created this year include:

- \$200 million to bring the student-guidance counselor ratio down to 500-to-1 in grades 7–8 and 300-to-1 in grades 9–12. California regularly ranks last in the states with a ratio of about 1,000-to-1 K–12 students per counselor.
- \$145 million for “neglected” curriculum areas, including \$105 million to hire and train art and music staff and buy instructional supplies and \$40 million to hire credentialed physical education teachers in K–8 schools.
- \$69.6 million to help all 12th-graders who have not yet passed the California High School Exit Exam.
- \$50 million for expanded preschool services in the attendance area of elementary schools in the bottom 30% of the Academic Performance Index (API) rankings.
- \$25 million for professional development for teachers with a high concentration of English learners in their classrooms.

Lawsuit settlements provide extra funds for facilities and low-performing schools

This year the state provided \$137 million for emergency facility repairs of schools in the bottom 30% of the API rankings as agreed in the 2004 settlement of the *Williams v. California* lawsuit.

In addition, the state settled with the California Teachers Association (CTA), which sued the state for not meeting its financial obligations under Proposition 98 in its 2004–05 state budget. The state has promised to restore almost \$3 billion to K–12 schools and community colleges over seven years. The appropriations begin with \$300 million in 2007–08 and about \$450 million for the subsequent six years.

figure 2 | Lawmakers support schools with one-time funds

For 2006–07 the state allocated about \$2.5 billion for one-time purposes. These one-time funds are part of what the state is using to meet past Proposition 98 obligations. The major programs include:	
Reimbursements for programs mandated but not funded by the state (\$927 million for past years; \$30 million for 2006–07)	\$957 million
Discretionary block grants (25% to districts; 75% to schools)	\$534 million
Block grants for art, music, and physical education supplies and equipment, and staff development	\$500 million
Instructional materials, which includes funds for libraries, educational technology, school gardens, and to aid students who have failed the high school exit exam	\$120.5 million
Facilities funds for specific purposes, such as preschool, career technical education, and charter schools	\$99 million
Teacher recruitment and support for low-performing schools, a home visit program (teachers visiting students), and a Mathematics Teacher Partnership Pilot Program	\$66.8 million
Instructional improvement for English learners, including a pilot project to identify best practices for teaching English learners	\$50 million
Support for district operations, such as fiscal solvency planning grants related to retiree health care benefits, CALPADS (data system), and K–12 High Speed Network support grants	\$23.5 million
Expansion of child wellness programs, such as Healthy Start, Early Mental Health initiative, and school breakfasts	\$18 million

DATA: 2006–07 BUDGET ACT AND OTHER LEGISLATION

EdSource 10/06

The funds for K–12 education are to pay for a new program—the Quality Education Investment Act (QEIA)—which targets schools in the bottom 20% of the API rankings. The money is to be used mainly for teacher professional development and reducing class sizes. The funds for community colleges are for career technical education programs and one-time expenditures for facilities, equipment, instructional materials, and state mandates.

California also settled a \$1.1 billion antitrust lawsuit the state had filed against Microsoft. Of that amount, \$400 million will go to schools to purchase hardware, software, technical support, and training for educators. To qualify, at least 40% of a school's student population must be from low-income families.

The state projects that tough times are likely to return

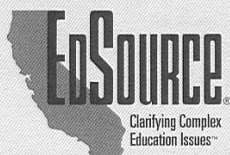
This year, leaders in Sacramento were able to pay off old debts to schools and community colleges, but policymakers met a large part of their obligations with one-time monies. State tax revenues are projected to grow slowly while

California Community Colleges also fared well

The 2006–07 state budget provides a total of almost \$9 billion for the community colleges, according to the Department of Finance, which is about 9% more than was provided in the 2005–06 Budget Act.

In addition, the colleges will get a greater portion of Proposition 98 dollars than they have received in the last several years. When Proposition 98 was enacted, the community colleges were slated to get 10.93% of the K–14 education budget annually, but the percentage has dipped to as low as 9.2%. In 2006–07 colleges will receive 10.7%, according to the Legislative Analyst's Office.

expenditure commitments continue apace. The Legislative Analyst's Office projects an operating deficit for the state of \$4.5 billion to \$5 billion in 2007–08 and 2008–09. Thus, school agencies must prepare for less positive financial news in coming years. ■■



EdSource is a not-for-profit 501(c)(3) organization established in California in 1977. Independent and impartial, EdSource strives to advance the common good by developing and widely distributing trustworthy, useful information that clarifies complex K–12 education issues and promotes thoughtful decisions about California's public school system.

EdSource thanks the **Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation**, the **William and Flora Hewlett Foundation**, and the **James Irvine Foundation** for their investment in our core work.

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Voters Send Powerful Mandate to Congress to Deal With Corruption and Ethics Problems

Reform Groups Call for Immediate Action by New Congress on Lobbying and Ethics Reforms, Stress Need For Independent Ethics Enforcement Entity

Statement Issued by Campaign Legal Center, Common Cause, Democracy 21, League of Women Voters, Public Citizen and U.S. PIRG Press Conference, November 9, 2006

On Tuesday, voters sent a powerful message to members of Congress that they must address the extraordinary corruption, ethics and lobbying scandals in Congress, and must do so quickly.

Tuesday's exit polls showed that voters considered corruption and ethics problems as their greatest concern, with 42 percent of voters responding that they were "extremely concerned" about corruption and ethics in Washington.

While all of our groups agree that reforming the nation's campaign finance laws is essential to addressing the corruption and lobbying scandals, our focus today is on the need for immediate action by the new Congress to pass comprehensive and effective ethics and lobbying reforms.

These reforms must include the creation of an independent ethics enforcement entity in Congress in order to fix the failed congressional ethics enforcement process.

The 109th Congress presented the nation with the worst congressional corruption and lobbying scandals in decades.

Yet, this Congress failed to enact any meaningful reforms, choosing to ignore the deep concerns that voters had about the corruption, ethics and lobbying scandals in Washington.

In Tuesday's election, the American people responded loud and clear to this disgraceful performance. They voted to change Congress.

A number of public opinion polls in the closing weeks of the campaign had previously indicated the public's deep concern about corruption in Washington.

A poll released by *CNN* (October 19, 2006), for example, found that "half of all Americans believe most members of Congress are corrupt" and "more than a third think their own representative is crooked."

The 109th Congress utterly failed the American people in refusing to enact ethics and lobbying reforms. The new Congress must now do the right thing and pass comprehensive, effective ethics and lobbying reforms quickly.

We strongly applaud House Democratic Leader Nancy Pelosi for her public commitment prior to the election, and again on Election Night, to pass new ethics rules on the first day of the new Congress. We also commend Representative Pelosi for her legislation in this Congress, the Honest Leadership and Open Government Act (H.R. 4682), which contains a number of important and valuable

ethics and lobbying reform provisions.

We call today on the new Senate Majority Leader to make a similar public commitment for the Senate to act quickly to pass effective ethics and lobbying reforms.

Past experiences make clear that any delays in passing such government integrity reform measures will play into the hands of congressional opponents and Washington lobbyists by giving them time to undermine or kill the reforms.

We want to make three points today about the reform effort pledged in the House, which also apply to the efforts that must be undertaken in the Senate:

First, an independent ethics enforcement entity must be created to help enforce the congressional ethics rules.

Put simply, the House and Senate ethics committees have no credibility with the American people, and for good cause.

With the worst corruption and lobbying scandals in decades, the ethics committees took no public action to hold any member of Congress or any staff member accountable in connection with the scandals. Neither the House nor Senate ethics committees, furthermore, publicly undertook an investigation of Jack Abramoff and his numerous scandalous activities in connection with Members and staff.

In the House, the Ethics Committee did not even operate for much of this Congress. Whatever happens with the Committee's investigation into the Mark Foley matter, furthermore, will not compensate for the House Ethics Committee's failure to do its job during this Congress, and it will not restore the Committee's public credibility.

Without a meaningful process to enforce the ethics rules, in essence, we don't have ethics rules. No matter how well ethics rules are written, Members and staff will end up doing whatever they want if there is no effective enforcement of the rules.

Our groups strongly believe that in order to achieve effective ethics reform, Congress must establish an independent ethics enforcement entity to help enforce the ethics rules.

Second, we urge that any proposed new ethics rules be carefully reviewed to ensure that there are no loopholes in the rules. New ethics rules on travel, meals, entertainment and other financial benefits currently being provided to Members must be effective and loophole-free.

For example, new ethics rules dealing with privately-financed trips must ensure that groups that lobby Congress are prohibited from directly or indirectly paying for domestic and foreign trips taken by Members and congressional staff.

Third, if, as expected, the House acts only on new ethics rules on the first day of the new Congress, we urge the House leadership to make clear publicly that the other reforms contained in the Pelosi bill that require legislation will be acted on quickly.

These reforms, including lobbying reforms, should be re-introduced in a bill at the beginning of the new Congress, and House and Senate leaders should publicly commit to send this legislation to the President within the first 100 days of the new Congress.

On Election Day, the American people made clear to Congress that the status quo in Washington is not acceptable and that real change must occur in the way business is done in Congress.

The phony lobbying and ethics bills that passed the House and Senate this year, and then withered away in conference, must be replaced with comprehensive, effective, loophole-free reform measures enacted quickly in the new Congress.

At stake here is the integrity and public credibility of Congress and its Members, and the interests of the American people in honest government.

It's easy to 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: LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS and mail it with this form to:

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



_____ Individual Membership - \$50 _____ Household - \$75
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 E-mail _____ New Member _____ Renewal _____ Transfer _____
 from _____

Dues and contributions to the League are not tax deductible. Contributions to L.W.V. Ed Fund are deductible to the extent allowed by law. For more information, or for confidential financial dues assistance, please contact: Marjorie Wakelin: 510-624-4500, marjorie@holyfamilysisters.org

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

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
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 510-794-5783

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 Editor: Vesta Wilson
 Office Hours:

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.

ELECTRONIC CORNER**SMART VOTER REPORT**

Smart Voter had over 7,000,000 hits during this election. 92% of candidates for which our League was responsible entered their information on Smart Voter.

Here are some comments that Smart Voter received:

"Smartvoter.org is an excellent site! The content is incredibly informative and well researched. The site is easy to navigate and a good source for unbiased facts. Thank you!"

"EXCELLENT WEBSITE!!! This project should definitely be expanded to everyone in New York State!!!"

"I'm a first-time voter, and your site really help me make confident decisions."

"The layout is very nice, easy to navigate, and provides great information. This is an excellent site."

MARK YOUR CALENDAR:**30TH ANNUAL EDSOURCE FORUM**

*When & where: April 19 (Pomona) and April 20 (Palo Alto)

*Theme: "Money Talks: New Research and Candid Conversations
 about California School Finance"

QUOTE: America believes in education: the average professor earns more money in a year than a professional athlete earns in a whole week. Evan Esar (1899—1995)



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

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WATCH VOTING MATTERS

Tune in to see Jane Mueller interview Mayor Bob Wasserman and Billy Sandbrink . Topic: The Fremont A's.

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

Wed., Dec. 6	Action Committee Lunch All members invited	TBA	Call Marilyn Singer 510-657-1969
Fri., Dec. 8	Education Committee	9:30	Miriam Keller's home
Mon., Dec. 11	Annual Program Planning Party	7:30 PM	Miriam Keller's home
Thurs., Dec. 14	LWVFNUC Board Meeting	7:15 PM	Marilyn Singer's home
Sat., Jan. 27	Bay Area League Day	10:00AM-1:00 PM	San Mateo