



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®

# VOTER



**FREMONT, NEWARK & UNION CITY**

**DECEMBER 2011**

## December's Meeting Is Also a Party

Join us for our Program Planning and Holiday Party on December 12<sup>th</sup>. The Singers will be our hosts for the festivities. Plan on arriving around 6:30. It will be a potluck, so contact Marilyn with your offering.

Our members will provide the entertainment. Are you a fabulous but unknown singer, banjo player, contortionist, or thespian? Call Sets Amann and she will add you to the roster.

The Program Planning portion will feature LWVUS policy positions. There is background information about that in this issue starting on this page and continued on page 4.

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## League Holiday Party and Program Planning Discussion

At the home of Marilyn and Bob  
Singer

Monday, December 12  
6:30 p.m.

### **Potluck Dinner**

*Please contact Marilyn Singer to let her know what you would like to bring*

### **Talent Show**

*Invent your own act*

## What Is Program Planning?

Program is the League's reason for being, the basis for both education and action efforts. League program consists of those governmental issues that League members choose for study and action. It

*Continued on page 4*

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



# Come to the Party!

For the last few years we have been combining program planning with a party for all. We will continue that practice this year on Monday, December 12.

Program planning means telling the LWVUS what we think they should be doing the next two years. Should we keep all the positions that we now have? Have any of them become obsolete? Have situations changed enough in some areas that we should do an update on any of them? Have you wanted the LWVUS to speak out on an issue and then found that the League has no position addressing that particular problem? That is what we will discuss at the Program Planning meeting.

The party is for everyone, not just for the Board. We want to see everyone at our party. It will be a potluck. Check with Marilyn Singer to see what you should bring. And come prepared to get to know another side of each of your fellow Leaguers. Marilyn and Bob Singer will be the hosts.

We had a very successful study/consensus meeting on the Federal Role in Education. We

learned a lot. We enjoyed a box lunch and we had a chance to express our individual opinions about what the Federal government has been doing in the field of education. We learned that although California has done an exceptional job of setting standards, one-third of California ninth grade students drop out of school before graduating. We learned that 53% of California students come from low-income families. We heard that although California spends an average of \$9000 per student, that the range goes from \$6000 to \$20,000. We learned that poverty and being an English language learner affect a student's academic success and that although the Bay Area has some of the best schools, we also need to look at rural schools and those in the L.A. area. Lastly, we thought about what it means to have a common core curriculum across the United States and what assessment means in that context.

Happy Holidays to one and all!

Miriam Keller  
*President*

## Board Briefs

At the Oct. 25 meeting, the Board:

- Heard that the Celebration of the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of California Women Winning the Vote was outstanding
- Reviewed and amended three more policies: Fee Waiver to League Events, *Voter* policy, and *Voter* mailing list.
- Brainstormed possible topics for January to June public meetings
- Considered purchasing a camera for candidate forums

### *The Voter*

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## New Membership Handbook Distributed

You should have recently received your 2011-2012 Membership Handbook. If you did not, that probably means that you have not yet renewed your membership.

After celebrating the 100th anniversary of California women winning the right to vote in October, we must continue to work at keeping our government accountable and open to public view. You can support this important League work by renewing now. Keep the dream alive!

## LWVUS Privatization Study Issues Reading Recommendations

The LWVUS committee for the upcoming privatization study has recommended three books for background reading: *Government Privatization: History, Examples and Issues*; "The Meaning of Privatization" by Paul Starr, *Yale Law and Policy Review* 6 (1988): 6-41; *Privatization: A Seattle League Study* (available on their web site).

The committee has also decided on six different topics for background papers that the committee will write. These include: two papers on history and evolution of privatization efforts and policy; the legal background/framework between public and private entities; a paper describing various types of privatization undertakings and a survey of state laws regarding privatizing and strategies for best practice.

Links to articles and books and background material on privatization will be published in the next three *Voters*.

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2011-12 Officers

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includes both adopted positions upon which action is taken and issues for study that will lead to a position and action.

For national program, Local Leagues use a variety of methods to compile a list. After the member preferences are recorded in a program planning meeting, the results are sent to LWVUS, where the national board tabulates and analyzes the submissions from local Leagues.

## Program Adoption

Since each item on a League program must be adopted by vote at the annual meeting or convention, issues or statements of positions previously on the program must be readopted in the same way or amended to continue to be part of the League's program

Convention delegates at state and national conventions adopt programs at their respective conventions. In the course of the program adoption discussion, members often direct the board on scope of inquiry, timing, emphasis and ways to handle the study and/or action phases. The board takes this into account in planning for the year.

## League Principles

The League's philosophy or concepts of government provide the authorization for adoption of national, state, and local program. The League program process begins with selection and adoption, continues with study and discussion, and culminates in action and change. It involves members of the League and members of the community, and it cuts across government and League levels both horizontally and vertically.

The **League of Women Voters** believes in representative government and in the

individual liberties established in the Constitution of the United States.

The **League of Women Voters** believes that democratic government depends upon the informed and active participation of its citizens and requires that governmental bodies protect the citizen's right to know by giving adequate notice of proposed actions, holding open meetings and making public records accessible.

The **League of Women Voters** believes that every citizen should be protected in the right to vote; that every person should have access to free public education that provides equal opportunity for all; and that no person or group should suffer legal, economic or administrative discrimination.

The **League of Women Voters** believes that efficient and economical government requires competent personnel, the clear assignment of responsibility, adequate financing and coordination among the different agencies and levels of government.

The **League of Women Voters** believes that responsible government should be responsive to the will of the people; that government should maintain an equitable and flexible system of taxation, promote the conservation and development of natural resources in the public interest, share in the solution of economic and social problems that affect the general welfare, promote a sound economy and adopt domestic policies that facilitate the solution of international problems.

The **League of Women Voters** believes that cooperation with other nations is essential in the search for solutions to world problems, and that the development of international organization and international law is imperative in the promotion of world peace.

# LWVC Initiative and Referendum Study Committee Starts Laying Groundwork

## → You can join in on the early discussions

During the LWVC Convention in May, delegates adopted an update of the initiative and referendum process in California. The state study committee has been chosen and met once in person. It has adopted a study scope, budget and tentative timeline.

The study committee is responsible for developing the study material that all local Leagues in California will use to come to consensus. The consensus meetings will be in late 2012 or early 2013—after the 2012 presidential election.

The study committee divided into subgroups, each taking a topic to research:

- History of the initiative and referendum process, with an emphasis on California
- Description of the initiative and referendum process as it exists today in California
- A comparison of other states and how they are using the processes for direct democracy
- Identification of key issues with the processes
- Ideas or methods for reforming the process

The group also agreed to create community education and outreach material as part of its work, with the help of some as-yet-to-be-identified grant money.

There are multiple ways to find out more about the study, and join in the ongoing discussion. There is a Facebook group (League of Women Voters of California Initiative and Referendum Study), a Yahoo Group that you can link to via the LWVC members only page (contact your local League leadership if you

need information about how to find this), and a page on the League's web site (<http://ca.lwv.org/lwvc/issues/initiativeandreferendum.html>), where the study committee will provide a continually updating list of articles and reading materials.

*Editor's Note: LWVFNUC will have links on our web site shortly.*

## Ohlone College to Appoint New Trustee

### Redistricting also on agenda

At its meeting on Dec. 14, Ohlone College trustees will choose a new trustee to fill the vacancy caused by Nick Nardalillo's retirement. Candidates who were eligible to apply submitted their applications by Dec. 1. In order to be eligible, each one had to be at least 18 years of age, a California citizen, a registered voter, a resident within the Area 2 boundaries, and not disqualified by other laws to hold public office. The board will interview applicants at the beginning of the meeting.

During the same meeting on Dec. 14, the Ohlone trustees will approve a redistricting option for the election of trustees. Detailed information on the three options being considered are available on the Ohlone web site, [www.ohlone.edu](http://www.ohlone.edu). The public is invited to attend this important trustee meeting, which will be held at the Student Services Center Community Room, #7101, at the Fremont campus.

# Can We Make California's Government Work?

## California Government Performance and Accountability Act

*(Excerpted from the California Forward Action web site)*

Recently, the California Forward Action Fund introduced the Government Performance and Accountability Act (GPAA) as a potential ballot initiative for 2012. It's revenue-neutral and addresses the severe lack of efficiency, transparency and accountability that is all but woven into Sacramento's DNA at this point.

Basic tenets of the bill are resonating, such as a shift to a two year "performance based" budgeting process and a requirement that all bills are made available to the public at least three days before final passage to prevent covert, last-minute shuffles through legislation.

Over the last year, stakeholders from across the state have helped to develop the Smart Government Framework, a strategic action plan for improving California's governance system. California Forward is now working to implement the framework in a variety of ways, including working with innovative local governments committed to improving results and accountability. California Forward also developed a model initiative, The Government Performance and Accountability Act, which would establish in the constitution the importance of all levels of government working together to make the best use of available resources to provide quality services.

The proposal does this in three basic steps:

- Provides a stable and results-oriented state budget process. Local governments need a stable state budget process that helps them reach community goals. The proposal would require a two-year state budget to reduce the nearly endless wrangling and uncertainty. The State would establish goals and performance metrics and the Legislature would review all programs once every five years. Lawmakers would have to identify

ways to pay for major policy choices, rather than putting all programs at risk of being cut in future years.

- Ensures that local governments are accountable for results. Californians expect all local governments to spend public money wisely. To communicate clearly and manage effectively, all local governments would be required to identify goals and performance metrics as part of their budgets.
- Encourages cooperation among local governments. Experience shows that to solve difficult public problems, public agencies must work together. Schools need to work with social service agencies, and social service agencies need to work with law enforcement. Through Community Strategic Action Plans, local leaders would be given the flexibility and incentives to work together to develop integrated approaches to meet community needs.

The backers of the measure also hold high hopes in its provisions creating incentives for broader local agency collaboration. It aims at the creation of county-based Community Strategic Action Plans to reduce, the silos of agencies serving the same populations: schools, for example, foster care, health programs, law enforcement and others trying to work with the same children, but now sometimes barely talking to one another and occasionally trying to shut others out.

# Housing and the Bay Area's Future

## *Bay Area League Day*

**Saturday, February 4, 2012**

**First Unitarian Church of Oakland, 685 14<sup>th</sup> Street, Oakland**

- 9:00-9:30 Registration, refreshments, table displays  
9:30-10:00 Keynote speaker: **David Rosen** of David Rosen and Assoc.  
**Status of a Regional Approach to Housing in the Bay Area**
- 10:00-11:00 Panel on Housing Policy  
Discussion of convergence of state Housing Element requirement and implementation of SB 375 to identify regional needs and help communities understand and meet their housing needs  
**Ken Kirkey**, ABAG Planning Director, *Implementing the Sustainable Communities Strategy, SB 375, and OneBayArea*  
**Duane Bay**, Director of Housing, San Mateo County, *County Experience of Jurisdictions Working Together On Housing, Their Regional Approach to Housing Element Law and Whether It Might Be a Model for Others*  
**Richard Marcantonio**, Public Advocates, *Using Regional Planning and Local Housing Elements to Advance Fair Housing and Affordable Housing Goals*
- 11:00-12:00 Panel on Finance  
Discussion on Status of Funding for Affordable Housing: Where is the money (federal, state, local, non-profit)? What kinds of partnerships (public and non-profit) work to create actual affordable housing?  
**Jack Nagle**, Goldfarb & Lipman LLP, *Status of Redevelopment Housing Funds*  
**Linda Mandolini**, Eden Housing, *Non-Profit Housing Projects in the Bay Area*  
**Susan Friedland**, Affordable Housing Associates, *Housing Legislation and Funding Issues*
- 12:00-1:00 Lunch and Table Displays
- 1:00-2:00 Panel: Up Against the Wall  
Discussion about community support and models for serving the hardest to house: What are the best practices to build support, reduce opposition, and be prepared for community approvals?  
**Tim Iglesias**, Professor of Law, University of San Francisco; formerly Deputy Director, Non-Profit Housing Assoc. of Northern California, *Community Acceptance and the Hard to House*  
**Mary Murtagh**, President, CEO of EAH (housing for working poor families), *What Works and What Is Needed To Move Families Out of Poverty*  
**Elaine De Coligny**, Executive Director, EveryOneHome, *Housing the Homeless: Housing First and Shelter Options*

**League of Women Voters of Fremont, Newark and Union City** will pay registration fees for any member who wishes to attend. The cost in advance is \$15 without lunch (\$30 with lunch). You pay for your own lunch or brown bag it. First Unitarian Church is B.A.R.T. accessible and wheelchair accessible. Please let Miriam Keller or Alex Starr know no later than **Jan. 24** if you wish to attend.

Bay Area League Day is always a wonderful learning experience.

# CALENDAR

Dec. 12	Holiday Party & Program Planning	6:30 P.M. at Bob and Marilyn Singer's house
Dec. 15	Action Committee	12 Noon at Full House Chinese Restaurant
Jan. 12	Education Committee	9:30 A.M. at Miriam Keller's house
Jan. 19	Action Committee	12 Noon at Kay Emanuele's house
Jan. 24	Board Meeting	7:00 P.M. at League Office 3375 Country Drive, Fremont
<b>Save the Date (note change of previously announced location):</b>		
Feb. 4	Bay Area League Day Housing and the Bay Area's Future	9:00 A.M.-2 P.M. at First Unitarian Church, 685 14 <sup>th</sup> St., Oakland

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 Andrea Schacter, Membership Chair, for information.

Name (s) \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

New Member  Renewal

Transfer from \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

*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  
 Household Membership—\$90  
 Donation to LWVFNUC

\$ \_\_\_\_\_

Donation to Ed. Fund (*Make  
 separate check payable to  
 LWVFNUC Ed Fund*)

\$ \_\_\_\_\_

Total Enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_