

# Voter

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



*Happy St. Valentine's Day*

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

## GRADE THE NEWS

February 11

10:00 AM-12:30 PM

At The Reviving Human Prosperity Center

4450 Enterprise Ave.

Fremont

How would you grade your newspaper, radio, TV on the  
usefulness of election coverage?

A—Adequate? Admirable? Abominable?

B—Beastly? Beautiful? Bigoted?

C—Comic? Cautious? Careful?

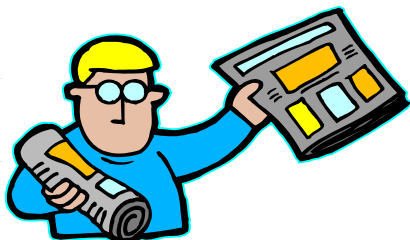
D—Dubious? Dumbfounding? Delightful?

F—Fatuous? Fabulous? Foundering?

**Come to this meeting and see!!**

**Directions:**

From the intersection of Automall and Grimmer, travel  
south on Grimmer to Enterprise Drive on right. Turn  
right and go to 4450 Enterprise



The public is invited



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Preceding the November Special Election, the airwaves were awash with ads for and against the various propositions. Did you learn anything from those ads? Did your blood boil because of all the outrageous statements that were made? Did you find that the news sections of the various stations did a good job of explaining what the propositions contained? In fact, did you hear anything at all about the substance of any of the propositions?

Our Board decided that a bad election season had been followed by an even worse election season of good information on TV. Therefore, we are going to join with some faculty of the Stanford and San Jose State journalism departments to attack the news distributors. "Grading the News" is the name of a workshop which members of the above university departments will hold for us on Feb. 11. We will be joined by some high school students.

I'm not sure exactly what they will teach us at this workshop, but last year some of us watched particular news programs and timed the sections that were devoted to candidates, issues and propositions that were on the Nov. 2004 ballot. The percentages were pathetically small. The League must convince the news stations that they must do a better job of informing voters no matter where they live in the Bay Area. This isn't a short-term project, but we need to start somewhere.

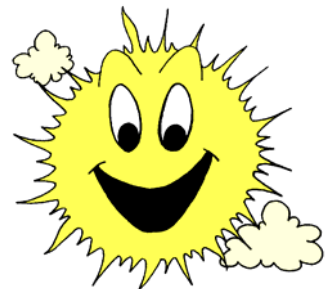
The Voter Service team will be holding a pre-meeting to plan our activities for the June primary. Look for the details and plan to attend and help us with our main job of informing voters of the issues that are on the ballot.

### BOARD BRIEFS

At its January meeting, the Board

- finalized plans for the Energy Update Consensus meeting on Jan. 21,
- discussed Sunshine Week, March 13-18,
- were assigned the sections of the "Meeting the Challenge" 2006-2007, and
- started Annual Meeting assignments. The Board appointed Sister Marjorie Wakelin and Alex Starr to the elected Nominating Committee members; Muriel Nolan, Alice Johnson and Jean Holmes.

### Sunshine Week March 13-18



### ALAMEDA COUNTY LEADERSHIP ACADEMY—GO ELLEN!

Ellen Culver has been selected to attend the Alameda County Leadership Academy. We will expect her to keep us informed of the role of the county and how the county works.

### SAN MATEO COUNTY LEAGUE DAY

The San Mateo County League will be holding a County League Day on Sat., Feb. 25 in the Community Learning Center of the South San Francisco Public Library at 520 Tamarack Lane, South San Francisco. Registration starts at 9:00 am. The main speaker will be Arthur Jensen, General Manager of the Bay Area Water Supply and Conservation Agency (BAWSCA). He will discuss "The Hetch Hetchy Water System. The status of the rebuild and the challenges ahead. Construction timelines, budget vs. actual expenses and environmental impacts. It should be an interesting meeting. To join a carpool, contact Marilyn Singer.

### COLLEGE BOND OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE

The Citizens' Oversight Committee for Ohlone College's Measure A Local Bond Construction Projects will have several vacancies for 2006. The committee seats are senior citizen, business organization, college foundation and 3 at-large seats. The purpose of the Committee shall be to inform the public concerning the expenditure of the bond proceeds. The committee ensures that all expenditures are in keeping with state regulations and otherwise advises the College on its plans for projects financed through the bond measure. The committee conducts evening meetings four times per year. Please consider applying for one of these seats or mention it to someone whom you think could do a good job on this committee. Ask Miriam Keller for an application form.

### ACTION COMMITTEE

The materials for our State Legislative Interviews have arrived. Muriel Nolan will be making the arrangements for the interviews. If you would like to participate let Muriel know at nolan-mbe@mindspring.com. This is an opportunity to learn new skills by joining ranks with seasoned interviewers.

We are continuing to learn more about the subject of water by reading and attending meetings to find out more about BAWSCA ( Bay Area Water Supply and Conservation Agency). Our representative to BAWSCA is John Weed, and we will be interviewing him this month. Much of this relates to Hetch Hetchy, and we are working with the Bay Area League to study its governance.

—Marilyn Singer

### THE BAY AREA LEAGUE MEETING

The Bay Area League Natural Resources and Water Committee will be having interesting speakers at their upcoming meetings. On Feb. 24 Spreck Rosekrans, a senior water policy analyst with Environmental Defense now working for the San Francisco PUC, will discuss "Paradise Regained". And on March 10 Tim Rameriz, an environmentalist with the SFPUC will speak. Susan Gearhart is a member of this Bay Area League committee and invites any interested Leaguer to accompany her to either or both of the meetings. They will be at 375 11th St., Oakland. She goes via BART. Call or email her if you are interested. Also don't forget the meeting with Art Jensen of BAWSCA speaking at the San Mateo County League Day on Feb. 25.

### EDUCATION COMMITTEE

The Education Committee met on Friday the 13th, but no bad luck ensued. We reviewed some of the Education bills that were passed and signed into law.

Senate Bill 12 restricts soda sales and implements nutrition standards.

Assembly Bill 689 requires the State Board of Education to adopt academic content standards for health education by March 1, 2008

Senate Bill 70 appropriates \$20 million to improve vocational education opportunities for high school and community college students.

Senate Bill 724 allows the California State University system to grant doctoral degrees in Education.

We are going to research budget concerns—average teacher pay, merit pay, the high school course catalogs to determine vocational education opportunities for high school students, research the idea of keeping track of all students in the state by use of a student identifier that would follow a student wherever he/she enrolled in a school, and what options might be offered for those students who fail the High School Exit Exam.

It looks as if we will be quite busy. If you are interested in education and would like to join us, please call Vesta (656-9306) or jojovest@aol.com

—Vesta Wilson

### HELP NEEDED

We need volunteers for the Local Positions Review Committee which will meet during the first part of March, 2006. We will review the LOCAL POSITIONS that are listed in the Member Directory and Information Handbook. Last year the following people served on this committee: Alex Starr, Alice Johnson, Kay Emanuele, Ken Ballard and Ursel Bloxsom.

Please contact Ursel Bloxsom, 656-3501 or e-mail at dsbloxsom@aol.com to volunteer.

—Program Co-Vice Presidents, Ken Ballard and Ursel Bloxsom

### SUNSHINE WEEK

The Alameda County Council of Leagues will hold a Sunshine Week Forum on March 17 at the San Lorenzo Community Hall. There will be two forums in the morning followed by a luncheon speaker, Attorney General, Bill Lockyer. We received a grant of \$1,000 from LVWUS that will help with expenses.

Sunshine Week is March 13-18. During that week, participating daily and weekly newspapers, magazines, online sites and radio and TV broadcasts will be running editorials, op-ed columns, editorial cartoons, public forums and news and feature stories that drive public discussion about why open government is important to everyone, not just journalists.

—Miriam Keller

### QUOTE

Many forms of government have been tried, and will be tried in this world of sin and woe. No one pretends that democracy is perfect or all-wise. Indeed, it has been said that democracy is the worst form of government except all those other forms that have been tried from time to time.—Sir Winston Churchill (1874—1965), *Hansard, November 11, 1947*

## Opening Up the Bay: Salt Pond Restoration, Management & Access

Bay Area Monitor ~ December 2005/January 2006

Restoration alternatives for the largest such project on the Pacific Coast are being announced in December, after two years of planning by stakeholder groups and advisory panels. The South Bay Salt Ponds Project will describe broad goals and objectives for restoration, flood control management, and public access to the site that surrounds the southern end of San Francisco Bay.

One of the major questions being addressed is how much of the site should be restored tidal marsh and how much should be managed as ponds. According to Amy Hutzler, Project Manager for the California State Coastal Conservancy (SCC), "The key for the alternatives is that we are relying on adaptive management, so the alternatives are really a step toward increasing tidal habitats. As we implement each stage of the project we're going to have to see how it impacts the wildlife." Tidal marsh provides important habitat for fish and birds and acts as a much-needed filter for the Bay. Managed ponds provide important habitat for thousands of birds that migrate along the Pacific Flyway each year.

The project is part of an effort to restore 15,100 acres of former salt ponds in the South Bay and 1,400 acres of salt crystallizer ponds on the east side of the Napa River that were purchased by state and federal agencies in March 2003. According to the SCC, the restoration is one of the largest of its kind in the world and second in the US to the Florida Everglades restoration effort. Unlike most such projects, this is located in the heart of a major urban area.

### Acquisition

The process began when Minneapolis-based agribusiness Cargill, Inc. decided to consolidate its operations and sell the salt-making rights and land in San Francisco's South Bay and Napa regions. Negotiations facilitated by Senator Dianne Feinstein led to a Framework Agreement for public acquisition in 2003 for \$100 million.

The acquisition was a longtime goal of legislators, resource agencies and non-governmental organizations working to protect San Francisco Bay, says the SCC. Supporters of the Framework Agreement include

San Francisco Bay Joint Venture, Save The Bay, National Audubon Society, Citizens Committee to Complete the Refuge, and many other agencies, organizations and individuals involved with the project. Under the agreement, Cargill is responsible for removing any hazardous waste that may exist and leaving the ponds in a condition that would allow them to be discharged to the Bay under a permit from the Regional Water Quality Control Board.

The Project Management Team is comprised of the SCC, the California Department of Fish and Game (DFG), the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS), Santa Clara Valley Water District (SCVWD) and Alameda County Flood Control and Water Conservation District (ACFCWCD). A Memorandum of Understanding among the five agencies outlines roles and responsibilities. FWS and DFG own and manage the land and, with Cargill's technical assistance, conduct the interim stewardship for the salt ponds. SCVWD and ACFCWCD provide expertise on flood management related to the restoration. Hutzler says, "Currently, salt pond levees provide de facto flood protection for neighboring communities. As ponds are restored to tidal habitats, landside levees will need to be improved to provide protection from tidal flooding." The US Army Corps of Engineers has been engaged to assist with an integrated restoration and flood management plan for the South Bay shoreline.

Initial stewardship includes costs to optimize the available resources while long-term planning is underway. These include the cost to design, install, operate and maintain new water control structures to prevent the future accumulation of salts; levee maintenance; pumping costs; environmental permitting; restoration monitoring and collaboration.

According to the SCC, the funding for acquisition of the 16,500 acres of salt ponds and associated habitats in the South Bay and along the Napa River is committed, with \$72 million from the State Wildlife Conservation Board, \$8 million from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and \$20 million from the Hewlett, Packard, and Moore Foundations and the Goldman Fund. Total estimated cost for acquisition plus five years of initial stewardship and restoration planning is \$135 million.

The Coastal Conservancy's SF Bay Program leads the effort to organize a scientifically-sound restoration plan, to estimate costs of restoration, identify sources of funding, outline implementation schedules, prepare environmental documents and obtain initial federal, state and local permits for restoration.

The Project is subject to both the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and the National Environmental Protection Act (NEPA), laws that require projects to be reviewed for their potential environmental impacts.

### Wetlands:

- \* Filter toxic pollution and excess nutrient runoff
- \* Provide essential wildlife habitat
- \* Act as natural flood control
- \* Prevent shoreline erosion
- \* Recharge groundwater
- \* Form the foundation of the Bay's food web
- \* Provide recreational and educational opportunities

### Wetland Vitality

Lands bordering the Bay are essential to the health of the region's fish and wildlife populations. The largest and most biologically important such area on the Pacific Coast, the Bay-Delta Estuary serves as a stopping point for over one million birds that migrate along the Pacific Flyway, and provides food, shelter and breeding grounds for over 750 species. Two-thirds of California's salmon pass through the Bay-Delta each year.

Urban development, agricultural conversion, salt production, pollutant runoff and diverted freshwater flow have contributed to the loss of about 90 percent of Bay Area wetlands. Some 187,000 acres of the Bay's original tidal marsh were filled, dried out, or converted to salt ponds. By the turn of the 21st century, more than 29,000 acres of artificial salt pond evaporation ponds were actively maintained in the San Francisco Bay.

The consequence has been dramatic losses of fish and wildlife, decreased water quality, and increased turbidity in the Bay. Changes in the physical processes have increased dredging needs and flooding hazards. Over a dozen species have completely disappeared from the Bay-Delta estuary, including the sea otter and the California condor. There are

18 species in the Bay-Delta estuary designated by the federal or state government as endangered, threatened, or rare.

The wetland fragments that remain today continue to filter toxics and pollutants that enter the bay, but their effectiveness has been greatly diminished. It is estimated that each year 88 million pounds of pesticides and toxic chemicals drain into the Bay from roads, lawns, construction sites and abandoned mines.

According to the California Resources Agency, economic benefits of the wetlands include:

- **Flood Control:** The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has determined that existing wetlands, compared to engineered flood control systems, produce \$4,650 per acre in flood control and dredging cost savings. **Water Quality:** Wetlands purify water so well that they are often used for tertiary treatment by municipal sewage plants. The reductions in capital investment and operations and maintenance costs can amount to over \$10,000 per acre annually.

- **Commercial Fishing:** The San Francisco Bay Delta Estuary contains 90% of the remaining coastal wetlands in California. Wetlands provide habitat for 71% of fish caught in California waters, and are therefore a major contributor to the estimated \$890 million in retail value of fish sold each year.

- **Recreation and Tourism:** The economic value of wetlands-based recreation and tourism is close to \$200 million annually in California. A 1992 study by the Campaign to

Save California Wetlands estimated that California's wetlands provided as much as \$22.9 billion in identifiable value to the state annually, (not including the incalculable value to wildlife).

#### Restoration

The mission of the Napa Plant Site restoration also applies to the South Bay Salt Ponds restoration: to prepare a scientifically sound and publicly supportable restoration and public access plan that can begin to be implemented within five years. The overarching goal is restoring and enhancing wetlands and transitional habitats while providing wildlife-oriented public access and recreation.

The South Bay's waters are the saltiest of the San Francisco Bay Delta Estuary and have been home to industrial salt production for over a century. While salt ponds change the Bay's hydrology, degrade water quality and impact tidal-marsh dependent species, they play a vital role by providing waterfowl and shorebird habitat. The salt ponds serve as a large, passive buffer between the heavily developed human communities of the South Bay and sensitive wildlife communities. The South Bay Salt Pond Restoration Project is the largest contiguous restoration opportunity on the West Coast. The project provides an opportunity to increase the Bay's tidal wetlands by 40 percent, preserve open space, and improve the physical, chemical and biological health of the SF Bay. Planning will be completed and a first phase project implemented in 2008.

—Gail Schickele

For more information:

Steve Ritchie, California Coastal Conservancy, [sritchie@scc.ca.gov](mailto:sritchie@scc.ca.gov), 510-286-1015

For schedules and maps, the Initial Stewardship Plan, the Initial Stewardship Status Report and the annual self monitoring activities prepared by the FWS and DFG go to the California State Coastal Conservancy's Salt Pond Restoration Project website at <http://>



#### CALIFORNIA VOTING RIGHTS CONFERENCE

The California Voting Rights Conference, "The Voting Rights Act and the Future of California's Democracy," will take place February 4, 2006, 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. at the USC Davidson Center in Los Angeles. This one-day conference is FREE.

The Voting Rights Act of 1965 (VRA) is one of our nation's most successful pieces of civil rights legislation, but several provisions of the Act will expire in 2007 unless Congress votes to renew them. In California, the Voting Rights Act has played a key role in the empowerment of the state's diverse ethnic populations, and its reauthorization is critical to the future of our democracy.

This conference will provide advocates with the tools and information they need to use the VRA to combat discrimination against California voters by featuring inspirational stories about the effectiveness of the VRA and offering training on implementing a grassroots campaign to reauthorize the VRA.



**PRESCHOOL FOR ALL INITIATIVE**

The Preschool for All Act, sponsored by Rob Reiner, is the first of several initiatives that will require analysis under our LWVC State and Local Finances position as well as those positions dealing with the policy and programmatic goals of the individual measure. Proponents have turned in signed petitions for this measure, which would create a statewide preschool system financed by an increase of 1.7 percent on the incomes of taxpayers in the upper tax brackets. It would apply to individuals with taxable income over \$400,000, heads of households over \$544,467 and married couples over \$800,000 beginning January 1, 2007. It provides an opportunity for the legislature to have first crack at the funding by saying that, if the tax rate for those brackets were to be increased by the same or a higher amount before the 2006 June primary, this measure would not go into effect until 2010.

The initiative would provide 180 days per year of part-day preschool for every child in California for the year preceding kindergarten, but attendance would not be required. It sets up detailed requirements and standards for how the individual programs would be operated. These include an age and developmentally appropriate curriculum, credentialed teachers and classroom aides with specific education, and class size and teacher to student ratios. There are provisions for making facilities available or even financing them.

The Superintendent of Public Instruction (SPI) would be responsible for administering the Preschool for All program, establishing statewide quality standards and approving local plans at the state level, while the program at the county level would be delivered through county Superintendents of Schools and alternate local administrators. In Los Angeles and San Francisco Counties, the First 5

Commission would be responsible for administering the program. Each county superintendent would work with a local advisory committee to create, implement and monitor a county level program that meets the needs of local families and considers the diverse needs of children, including those with special needs.

Under an accountability/monitoring system established by the initiative, the SPI would monitor county superintendents in their delivery of preschool for all and could impose sanctions for failure to deliver quality, fiscally sound programs. An Accountability Oversight Committee would review fiscal audits and program evaluations at the state and county level. This committee would consist of representatives of various stakeholder groups appointed by specified state elected officials and legislative leaders and would be chaired by the state Controller

The LWVC Board considered the Preschool for All Act, an initiative that recently qualified for the June ballot. League off-board program directors and legislative consultants analyzed the measure from the standpoint of various League positions, especially Pre K-12 Education and State and Local Finances. The board's program committee decided to seek further information before making a recommendation to the board to support, oppose, or take no stand. As always, the board welcomes input from any interested League or League member. Please direct your input to Trudy Schafer, Program Director/Advocate at [tschafer@lwvc.org](mailto:tschafer@lwvc.org).

It is important for local Leagues to note that decisions concerning action on state propositions are the responsibility of the board of directors of the League of Women Voters of California. Local Leagues may not take action on state measures on which the LWVC has not taken a position, nor may they act contrary to any LWVC position.

## **LEAGUE SUPPORTS THE LIBRARY BOND MEASURE**

At its January 2006 meeting, the LWVC Board of Directors voted to support the library bond measure that will appear on the June 6 statewide ballot. If passed by the voters, the California Reading and Literacy Improvement and Public Library Construction and Renovation Bond Act of 2006 will provide \$600 million in general obligation bond funds for library construction and renovation. The League supported the last statewide library bond measure, Proposition 14 of March 2000. Prop

14 funds were far from sufficient to cover the billions of dollars of unfunded library projects around the state. For more information about this act, visit [www.yesforlibraries.com](http://www.yesforlibraries.com)



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To register log on to  
[www.EdSource.org](http://www.EdSource.org)

## ***Similar Students, Different Results: Why Do Some Schools Do Better?***

### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

Why do some California elementary schools serving largely low-income students score as much as 250 points higher on the state's academic performance index (API) than other schools with very similar students? This study sought answers to that question by surveying principals and teachers in 257 California elementary schools serving similar student populations and analyzing the results to determine which current K-5 practices and policies are most strongly associated with higher levels of student achievement.

Our study differs from previous effective-schools studies primarily in its scale, standards-based content, and targeted yet comprehensive approach. Strong participation rates within schools provided extensive data from approximately 5,500 teachers and 257 principals across the state. We examined statewide implementation of California's standards-based reforms, yet focused on schools serving large numbers of low-income students. Using the API as our measure, we included high-, medium-, and low-scoring schools, which gave us a basis for comparing practices.

The policy context for the study is California's standards-based accountability system. Many experts consider this state's K-12 academic content standards, adopted in the late 1990s, to be among the nation's most challenging. School APIs are based on student test scores on the California Standards Tests, which measure how well students at each school are mastering grade-level academic standards. Given this context, we used each school's most current (2005) API score as the primary performance outcome.

The sample of schools was drawn from the 25th to 35th percentile band of the state's 2003–04 School Characteristics Index where student demographic challenge factors are substantial, but not the most severe.

After reviewing the effective schools literature, we developed and field tested the principal and teacher surveys, which were designed to explore school qualities, policies, and practices related to school success. Specific domains explored were: implementing a coherent, standards-based instructional program; involving and supporting parents; using assessment data to improve student achievement and instruction; encouraging teacher collaboration and professional development; ensuring instructional resources; enforcing high expectations for student behavior; and prioritizing student achievement.

Extensive analysis of the survey findings used regression analysis to determine which activities more common at high-performing than at low-performing schools were correlated with higher API scores. The practices found to be associated with high performance were:

- **Prioritizing Student Achievement.** Where teacher and principal answers to multiple survey questions indicated higher expectations for students, their schools had, on average, higher API scores than schools whose staffs indicated lower expectations. In more-successful schools, both teachers and principals reported that their school has well defined plans for instructional improvement and that they put priority on meeting the state's API goals and the federal adequate yearly progress goals. Teachers and principals also report that their schools set measurable goals for exceeding the mandated API student subgroup growth targets for improved achievement.
- **Implementing a Coherent, Standards-based Curriculum and Instructional Program.** Teachers who report the following were more likely to be in higher performing schools: schoolwide instructional consistency within grades; curricular alignment from grade-to-grade; classroom instruction guided by state academic standards; curriculum materials in math and language arts aligned with the state's standards; in a district that addresses the instructional needs

of English learners at their school. Principals were more likely to be in higher performing schools if they reported that: the district has clear expectations for student performance aligned with the district's adopted curriculum, and the district evaluates the principal based on the extent to which instruction in the school aligns with the curriculum.

- **Using Assessment Data to Improve Student Achievement and Instruction.** Strongly correlated with a higher API was the extensive use of student assessment data by the district and the principal in an effort to improve instruction and student learning. For example, principals more often reported that they and the district use assessment data from multiple sources (curriculum program and other commercial assessments; district-developed assessments; the California Standards Tests and the CAT/6) to evaluate teachers' practices and to identify teachers who need instructional improvement. Principals report using this data to develop strategies to follow up on the progress of selected students and help them reach goals. According to these principals, the district expects all of its schools to improve achievement, evaluates principals based on student achievement, and provides support for site-level planning related to improving achievement.
- **Ensuring Availability of Instructional Resources.** Where more teachers reported having regular or standard certification for teaching in California, schools had, on average, higher API scores. The same was true of schools where principals more often reported that their districts provide sufficient and up-to-date instructional materials as well as support for supplementary instruction for struggling students and for facilities management. Teachers with at least five years of full time teaching experience were more likely, on average, to be from schools with higher APIs. Principal experience was also correlated with higher school achievement.

Besides signaling critical, interrelated practices of more-effective schools, these findings indicate that the principal and the district play key roles in school success. Specifically, it appears that:

- **Principal leadership in the context of accountability-driven reform is being redefined to focus on effective management of the school improvement process.** In general, API scores were higher in schools with principals whose responses indicate that they act as managers of school improvement, driving the reform process, cultivating the school vision, and extensively using student assessment data for a wide variety of school improvement areas of focus, including evaluation of teacher practice and assistance to struggling students.
- **District leadership, accountability, and support appear to influence student achievement.** Principals' responses indicate that district practices may contribute to a higher API in a variety of ways. These include setting clear expectations that schools meet API and AYP growth targets, including for subgroups, as well as providing schools with achievement data and evaluating principal performance and teacher practices based on that data. They also include ensuring: that math and language arts curricula are aligned with state standards; that instruction is focused on achievement; that schools have adequate facilities and textbooks as well as resources for struggling students.

Across California, schools serving similar types of student populations can vary widely in how well they score on the API. The 257 elementary schools studied were drawn from a fairly narrow student demographic band. Yet their 2005 Growth API scores varied by about 250 points. This range of scores suggests that while student socioeconomic background is one predictor of academic achievement, it is not the sole predictor. What schools do—and what resources they have to do it with—can make a difference. With that in mind, the interrelated practices identified in this study may help schools in their efforts to improve student achievement.

From: Williams, T., Kirst, M., Haertel, E., et al. (2005). *Similar Students, Different Results: Why Do Some Schools Do Better? A large-scale survey of California elementary schools serving low-income students*. Mountain View, CA: EdSource.

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**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**



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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](mailto:marjorie@holyfamilysisters.org)

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**Mission Statement**

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

**Diversity Policy**

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

**LWVUS****U.S. Supreme Court Confirmation Process**

The League has a long-standing policy of not addressing judicial and political appointments. This was reaffirmed by the LWVUS Board where the possibility of U.S. Supreme Court vacancies and nominations was discussed. The Board stressed the importance of maintaining the League's well-respected nonpartisan voice by avoiding what is sure to be a highly-charged political struggle. This means the LWVUS will not be involved in the current U.S. Supreme Court confirmation process, and state and local Leagues should not take action on this topic.

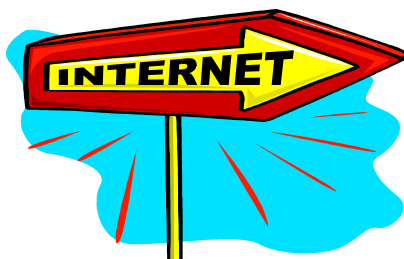
**Environmental Web Sites**

Water Education Foundation: [www.watereducation.org](http://www.watereducation.org). A Web site on water issues with a calendar that lists local, state and national conferences planned for 2006. Provides online registration forms, links to other water organizations, a free listing on the calendar for your event.

California Coastal Coalition: [www.calcoast.org/events/upcoming.htm](http://www.calcoast.org/events/upcoming.htm). A calendar for California coastal water issues, including wetlands, watersheds, and oceans. Also provides access to documents related to water issues. The coalition sponsors water workshops.

The Planning and Conservation League: [www.pcl.org](http://www.pcl.org). An environmental advocacy organization, with an e-newsletter.

The U.S. Green Building Council: [www.usgbc.org](http://www.usgbc.org). Green building information





**LEAGUE OF WOMEN  
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Fremont, California

### WATCH VOTING MATTERS

Tune in to see Sam Neeman interview Harriet Commans,  
Fremont Finance Director. Topic: Fremont City Finances  
**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

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## CALENDAR

Fri. Feb. 10	Education Committee	9:30 AM	Miriam Keller's home
Sat., Feb. 11	Unit Meeting: "Grade the News"	10: AM—2:PM	Reviving Human Prosperity Center
Mon. Feb 13	LWVFNUC Board Meeting	7:15 PM	Joanne Landers' home
Wed., Feb 15	Cable Taping	2:00	Comcast Studio
Wed., Feb.22	Action Committee	9:30 AM	Marilyn Singer's home
Sat., Feb 25	San Mateo County League Day	9: AM	South San Francisco Public Library
March 13—18	Sunshine Week		
Fri. March 17	EdSource Forum	All day	Fremont Marriott
Fri., March 17	Alameda County Sunshine Laws Forum	Morning through lunch	San Lorenzo Community Hall