



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®

VOTER



FREMONT, NEWARK & UNION CITY

FEBRUARY 2015



GUN VIOLENCE PREVENTION

What laws are on the books in California?

What laws are being proposed?

An in depth look at where we are by

Amanda Wilcox,

Legislative Co-Chair of the California Chapter of the Brady Campaign

**Fremont Congregational Church
38255 Blacow Road
Fremont, CA 94536**

**March 23, 2015
6:30 – 8:30 P.M.**



COMMUNITY BENEFITS AGREEMENTS AND POLICIES

**Tuesday, February 24, 2015
Fremont Congregational Church
38255 Blacow Road
Fremont, CA 94536
6:30 PM Meet and Greet, 7:00 PM Meeting**

What are Community Benefits Policies?

Why Do They Benefit Both the Public and Specific Projects?

Do Our Cities Have Such a Policy? Should They?

A panel will discuss the details of why these are a part of a smart growth agenda.

PRESIDENTS' MESSAGE



PRESIDENTS' MESSAGE

Ever wonder about the business side of our League? Board Members are asked to estimate spending each year; which is reviewed at our Board and Annual meetings. On the revenue side our League is particularly fortunate because we have many people involved in fundraising, and this year the Voter Information Booklet (VIB) team led by Jean Holmes raised far more than budgeted, the Home Owners Association team is on track, and as usual all of our members are very generous making our current budget is run at a surplus.

So how do we spend our hard earned funds? Our two most obvious expenses are associated with Membership, including our volunteer appreciation dinner, our directory, meeting expenses, new member brochures and Voter Services, which includes expenses for forums, meetings, our Voter newsletter and support for Smart Voter.

Less obvious are our operating expenses - the office, phones, taxes, insurance and such. There are expenses for sending representatives to workshops and conventions. This year two of our members will be attending the LWV California Convention - this is one way we provide input on State studies and positions. Publicity is one area easy to miss; this year we are a sponsor of the Fremont July 4th parade.

Our members worked hard to raise money and get the biggest bang for our buck when spending. Due to their financial stewardship we can continue to look for ways to improve our membership and the public's experience at our meetings, voter information dissemination, and publicity. Any ideas? Send them to president@lwvfnc.org.

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SHOUT OUT

Here is a SHOUT OUT to a few of our members who helped two local Hopkins Junior High School students with their project for National History Day, a nationwide competition. They chose Woman's Suffrage and Carrie Chapman Catt (our founder). Mary Miller and Jane Mueller provided input during phone interviews and Miriam Keller met with them in person to answer many questions about the League and its relevance today. Thank you for your outreach!

Fremont Police Citizens Academy

The Fremont Police Dept. is currently accepting applications for the Spring 2015 Citizen's Academy class.

Applications are being accepted on a first come first serve basis. Due to limited space, we will only be able to accept the first 30 applicants. Classes will primarily take place on Monday evenings. The first class is scheduled to begin on Monday, February 23, 2015.

Classes fill quickly. Click [here](#) for the brochure. To register, print the brochure and fill out the application section. It can be returned to the Fremont Police Department, attention Lt. Tom Severance.

You must be able to attend the first class, however attendance at subsequent classes may be missed if necessary and as agreed upon by Lt. Tom Severance.

The Police Department will coordinate Livescan appointments for all applicants.

Applicants will be notified of the process after submitting an application.

Applicants must live or work in the City of Fremont.

Applicants do not need to be a US citizen.

Program Overview

Fremont Police Department's Citizen Academy was developed to build partnerships with the community. The academy offers a transparent overview into the department's structure, services, and personnel.

Classes

The academy is an educational experience taught primarily in a classroom setting. Classes are lecture based with some role-playing exercises. Academy participants are not expected to perform actual police officer duties and may elect to not take part in any of the practical exercises.

Education

The duration of the academy is 12 weeks. Participants attend a three-hour class, one night a week for twelve weeks. Participants learn about:

Communications, Crime analysis, Crime prevention, Criminal law, Critical incidents, Firearms training, Gangs, Hiring process, Internal investigations, Narcotics, Patrol operations, Training, Traffic enforcement

Applicant Requirements

Citizen Academy classes are limited to 25-30 students. Participants in the citizen academy are granted access to restricted law enforcement facilities. Consequently, the Fremont Police Department maintains the right to disqualify any applicant without notification of cause. Applicants will undergo a background check, to include digital fingerprinting (LiveScan) and a records check, at no cost to the applicant. Applicants previously convicted of a felony will be disqualified. Misdemeanor convictions will be considered on a case by case basis.

NEWARK COMMISSIONS AND COMMITTEES

Have you ever considered volunteering to serve on a local commission or committee?

City Commissions and Committees play an important role in city government by serving in an advisory capacity to the City Council. Members provide input on a variety of issues that are crucial to maintaining our quality of life.

General requirements are that applicants must have an interest in civic involvement, and must be 18 years of age or older, a registered voter, and a resident of Newark (some committee or commission positions may have additional requirements.)

Currently they are looking for members for the Planning Commission, the Senior Citizen Standing Advisory committee and the Paratransit Advisory and Planning Committee.

Interested in serving? Email your contact information to the City Clerk at City.Clerk@newark.org. You will be notified should a vacancy occur. Contact information will be kept on file for one year.

Community Benefits Agreements and Policies

(information gathered from The Partnership for Working Families)

What is a Community Benefit Agreement?

A Community Benefit Agreement (CBA) is a project specific agreement between a developer and a broad community coalition that details the project's contribution to the community and ensures community support for the project. When properly structured CBAs are legally binding and directly enforceable by the signers of the agreement.

Can a CBA include participation by a local government?

Yes. Terms from a CBA may be incorporated into an agreement between the local government and the developer. This gives the local government the power to enforce the community benefits terms.

What are the benefits to the community to engage in such an agreement?

This type of agreement between a developer and a broad community coalition addresses local issues before they might become a problem for the developer. It can maximize the positive impact of development on local residents and economies. Community members and developers create a win-win situation when the agreement addresses both the needs of the community residents and the developer. When agreements work well cities realize the benefits that are gained with such a policy/agreement.

Why do CBAs work?

- CBAs maximize returns on local government investment in development.
- CBAs can transform regions with stronger, more equitable economies
- CBAs help generate public support for economic development projects.
- CBAs hold developers accountable for their promises to residents and local governments.
- CBAs often support a faster, smoother entitlement process with a less adversarial process because it includes community residents' interests in the process.

FROM LWVC

Subject: Comments to the California Water Commission on Chapter 8 of the 2014 Water Bond, Quantification of Public Benefits of Storage Projects

Dear Commission Members and Ms. Sims:

Water Commission members and staff may be aware that throughout the development of the 2014 Water Bond, the League of Women Voters of California expressed serious concerns about provisions that enable additional surface storage and continuous appropriation of funds to the Commission. Those concerns underlay our decision not to support the water bond, despite its many other extremely worthwhile provisions. We are therefore very interested in how the Commission performs its Chapter 8 tasks as the storage selection process goes forward.

Over the years that the League has followed water issues in California, we have advocated coordinated water management strategies that support those beneficial uses the State has designated for various water bodies, with an emphasis on mitigating the damage to the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta and San Francisco Bay Estuary ecosystem.

As the Commission follows its mission of developing policies that support integrated and sustainable water resource management and a healthy environment, it should look beyond the water bond itself to other applicable laws and statutes, including sections of the Delta Reform Act of 2009 that relate to reducing reliance on the Delta in meeting California's future water supply needs and investing in improving the sustainability of local and regional supplies.

Any policy framework should acknowledge that reducing reliance on Delta exports over the long term can only be achieved by recognition of the over-allocation of California's surface water resources by as much as five times. To address over-allocation of resources, regulations for allocating the storage element of bond money

should prioritize project strategies that include improved local supplies, watershed management, conservation, and water use efficiency.

We believe the regulations and guidelines should seek the greatest possible range of storage project types. Special emphasis should be placed on groundwater storage projects that protect the area of origin, of particular importance to the Sacramento Valley and other areas of the state as well. Regulations should include criteria to quantify and document hydrologic connections between surface and ground water, leading to true conjunctive use projects. We believe that a key criterion for allocation of funds should be potential for correction of overdraft and potential for conjunctive use. Moreover, we believe that in extending funds for such projects, the Commission must require recipients to manage recharge and extraction in a manner that does not exceed basins' safe yields.

We advocate guidelines ensuring that ecosystem improvements in flow conditions in the Delta specify that "improvements" refer to both increased inflow and increased outflow, consistent with the State Water Resources Control Board's recognition of the need for increased flows into and through the Delta.

Finally, we have always advocated transparency in public processes. With this in mind, we believe it is essential that there be transparency and accountability in the monitoring and enforcement of grant conditions to grantee projects. Additionally, we believe before any money is allocated to a grantee, the grantee must demonstrate that the grantee has utilized its water resources wisely through conservation and recycling.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this important process.

Sincerely, Helen L. Hutchison
President

UPDATES FROM LWVC

Money in Politics

Over the past several years, Money in Politics (Campaign Finance Reform) has been a focus of LWVC legislative advocacy. In the coming year, League advocacy in this area will center on the work to rebuild the Cal-Access campaign and lobbying disclosure system. This means we will support a more limited number of bills in the area of campaign finance and will probably not support all the bills we have supported in the past. [Read the memo](#) for more information.

Water: Always an Issue in California

The LWVC Water Committee monitors current issues and recommends LWVC action concerning this essential, but controversial, element of life and politics in our state. The League remained neutral on

Proposition 1, the water bond on the November ballot. Although we could enthusiastically support many of the projects funded by the measure, we had serious concerns about provisions emphasizing additional surface storage of water and the continuous appropriation of funds to the California Water Commission (CWC) for allocation to storage projects. With the passage of Prop 1, the LWVC has submitted [recommendations to the CWC](#) as it considers how to evaluate the public benefits of water storage proposals.

Would you and members of your League like to be better informed about water in California? Read and share the [Water Committee's update](#), also available on the members only Web site as an article for your Voter newsletter in [PDF](#) and [Word](#).

Questions? Contact Water Committee Chair Roberta Borgonovo, water@lwvc.org.

LEAGUE MOVIE NIGHT A SUCCESS

Members had a wonderful evening of Carolyn & Set's homemade soups, bread, Kathy Bray's scrumptious brownies and watching Accidental Hero at our meeting room in Fremont Community Activities Center (FCAC) on January 26th. We all enjoyed the screening and socializing with each other. If you missed this one don't worry we are working on another Movie Night with Tri-City Ecology. Look for an announcement on our website, www.lwvfnuc.org and via e-Reminders.

****STAY TUNED**** ANOTHER MOVIE NIGHT COMING!

Remember how much fun our Friday night movie was when we shared the evening with Tri City Ecology and Robert Redford? Well, we are going to do it again. This time Tri City Ecology will choose the film. We promise it will engage the viewers with another ecological theme.
DATE, TIME & PLACE TBA

Feb 12	Action Group Holiday Lunch and Meeting	11:30 at the Rose Garden Restaurant in Union City
Feb 16	Board Meeting	6:45 pm, Fremont Community Activities Center 3375 Country Drive - Dining Room
Feb 24	General Meeting <i>Community Benefits Agreements and Policies</i>	6:30 pm Meet and Greet 7:00 pm Program Fremont Congregational Church 38255 Blacow Road Fremont, CA 94536
March 23	General Meeting <i>Gun Violence Prevention</i>	6:30 pm Meet and Greet 7:00 pm Program Fremont Congregational Church 38255 Blacow Road, Fremont

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

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 Sets Amann, Membership Chair, for information.

Name (s) _____

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*Please make your check payable to:
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