

THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF FREMONT, NEWARK AND UNION CITY  
PRESENTS

# PROS AND CONS

A program starring our own members

January 7

Fremont Main Library

7:00 PM

Should fuel taxes be used just for transportation instead of going into the general fund?

Should Community colleges be given separate funding?

Should term limits be loosened?

Should public funds be spent on a private hospital?

Come to learn, to participate, and enjoy!

You will have the opportunity to pick up Pros and Cons for distribution.

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Fellow Leaguers,

Happy New Year! We had a fun program planning party/event on December 10<sup>th</sup>, 2007 at Marilyn Singer's home. Barbara Friedrich, Co-VP of Program, did a wonderful job of warming us up by having twelve of us deliver an unforgettable rendition of the old favorite "Twelve Days of Christmas". We each had to sing one stanza of the song and act out the gift. Some of us sang (me for example) with more heart than melody but each one provided unique interpretation of an old favorite. We voted Miriam Keller's rendition of four calling birds especially memorable – her "Yoo Hoo" is still ringing in my ears. Marilyn Singer really put her yoga practice to work with a lively imitation of two French hens and John Smith demonstrated how one individual could be 12 Lords a Leaping; and Holly Bell Walter kept laying golden eggs.

Everyone who participated as well as the audience contributed something special and added warmth to the evening's festivities. The pot luck was delicious with plenty of goodies to provide fuel for the rest of the evening

Then we got down to work. We are a grass roots organization and each league's input into the program planning process provides the basis for the regional, state and national League's Program. In the November voter, we had summaries of our positions and as part of Program Planning, we review these existing positions and debate, analyze and discuss our areas of emphasis and possible study for the upcoming fiscal year. Our positions, for those who are new, enable us to advocate as needed.

Some of the areas participants wanted to look at were the following: Agriculture policy, Trade policy, Water Policy, Military Policy and Defense Spending and DC Voting rights. It was suggested that we look at doing a study of the judicial system. We will be finalizing our report to submit to LWV National and LWV Bay Area by March 1, 2008.

If you want to provide feedback or comments on a particular issue, contact us via the web site or attend the next Board meeting on January 10, 2008 at the Holy Family Auditorium. You can also join the Program Planning list in the LWVUS website.

We wish you a very Happy New Year full of goals achieved and happy memories galore. You can help LWV achieve its goals by participating in any way you can or by providing monetary gifts. The best gift of course is the gift of your time and talents. Our organization gathers its strength from each one of its members. Your input is not just important, it is vital.

—Syeda R Yunus

## BOARD BRIEFS

At the December 13, 2008 Board meeting we:

- Discussed upcoming voter service programs and projects such as the January 7, 2008 ballot measure forum and High School Mock Elections.
- Voted to approve \$600.00 in prize money for an media contest sponsored by our Education Committee
- Voted to buy a large brick to help fund the Ohlone College Center for Health Sciences and Technology. It will have the League Logo and funds a great cause.
- Debated the pros and cons of the Alameda County Measure A to provide feedback to the LWV Alameda County Council which is evaluating to support, oppose or stay neutral on this measure. Based on everyone's feedback, the Alameda County Council voted to neither oppose nor support Measure A but did vote to oppose Measure B.
- Agreed on topics for upcoming educational forums and to finalize discussion of Program Planning at the February 2008 Board meeting. Our February public forum will be on Water. In March, we plan to hold a workshop on Running for Office.
- Voted to participate in Washington Hospital's Health forum in January 2008.
- Heard a report from membership chair which showed that we are very close to our goal of 137 members. We are at 132, so sign up your friends and families!
- Discussed the Lunch with League program scheduled for January 19, 2008. This is geared for new members but everyone is invited. Keep an eye on the calendar for more information if you would like to attend. And of course, we heard the Treasurer's report to ensure that there are still funds in our cash accounts; however, we will continue to look for new sources of funding as most of our membership dues go into per member payments to the State and National Leagues. We are looking into a grant for one of our forums.

## ACTION REPORT

Action Committee recommends that the Board purchase a commemorative brick for the new Ohlone Center in Newark and schedule a tour of the new campus.

Muriel Nolan is now our representative on the Fremont Environmental Committee which meets twice a year. Action Committee will find out about the scope of the committee.

John Landers has been appointed to the City of Fremont's Green Task Ad Hoc Advisory Committee that is chaired by Rich Godfrey. They will meet nine times and recommend environmental policies to the council.

The City of Fremont has stated that the city cannot deny any development proposal based on school needs. We will be watching this closely as Patterson Ranch develops and the A's proposal is studied.

We are planning testimony on affordable housing, requesting that the city use redevelopment funds to maximize the number of units possible. Several parcels of land are available, and we will ask that the parcels chosen for funding generate the most work force housing.

We continue to monitor the transparency of the Washington Hospital Board.

Testimony was prepared for FUSD on the subject of harassment.

—Marilyn Singer  
Action Chair

## TESTIMONY TO FUSD

My name is, Helen Boyer, and I am speaking for the League of Women Voters of Fremont, Newark and Union City. The League is here tonight to thank you for taking the issue of providing Safe Schools seriously and putting policies in place that are beginning to address the issues of harassment. Complying with the laws is not only good for students and staff, but it protects FUSD legally.

The League has some questions to put before you as you go into a review of **your current Safe Schools policies:**

Will there be a guarantee or pledge from the Board to fund the issue on an on-going basis?

Will there be a uniform mechanism in place for reporting all incidents, and will there be one person at the District Office who will be in charge of handling all harassment issues?

Will all site and district administrators be fully trained in Safe Schools laws?

Will classroom teachers have all district adopted curriculum available to them and be trained to implement it?

Will there be yearly feedback from students and staff to evaluate their feelings of safety?

Has there been any feedback from parents about the new policies?

Have students who are placed away from their home campuses been interviewed to find out if harassment was the reason for their transfers?

The League is following this issue closely, advocating for staff and students who may not be able to speak for themselves. We feel that implementing AB 537 and other anti-harassment laws is both a legal issue and a civil liberties issue.

## WHAT'S GOING TO HAPPEN TO THE DUMP?

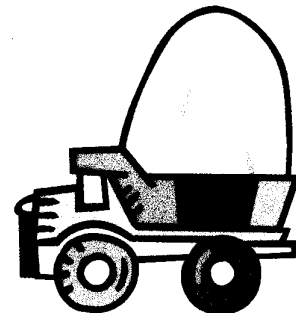
The Tri-Cities Recycling and Waste Facility (TCRDF) is a 378 acre site located in western Fremont at the terminus of Auto Mall Parkway. The TCRDF has operated within the City of Fremont for nearly 40 years and as it approaches its maximum height and capacity limit of 150 feet, it is beginning the process of closure. The applicant is asking to modify the allowed uses on the subject site

to establish a corporation yard for up to 50 collection trucks and to continue material recovery for a limited period of time after the final closure of the landfill. The project also includes plans for future grading and excavation of 88 acres of the site to use as material in the final cap for the landfill. The City of Fremont has regulatory authority over the requested land use entitlements, while oversight of the technical Final Closure Plan for the final cap of the landfill and its associated mandatory 30-year maintenance and monitoring program is administered by multiple State and regional agencies in accordance with State of California standards. An Environmental Impact Report (EIR) was prepared for the project that analyzed the direct and indirect effects of the activities associated with the final cap construction and the use of the site for a corporation yard and materials recovery. The EIR identified potentially significant impacts to Biology, Hydrology and Water Quality, Air Quality, and Cultural Resources. However, mitigation measures are recommended as part of a Mitigation Monitoring Program that reduce potential impacts to a level of less than significant. Staff recommends certification of the EIR and approval of the actions allowing the material recovery (concrete recycling) activity to continue until 2012 and allow the corporation yard use until 2015.

On Sept. 28, 2007, the Planning Commission voted 7-0 to the recommended approval of all actions. On Oct. 9, 2007, the City Council approved the recommended actions on the consent calendar.

From the Fremont City agenda and staff report, Oct. 9, 2007.

—Submitted by Miriam Keller



## VOTING MATTERS FREMONT GENERAL PLAN

Syeda Yunus interviewed Dan Schoenholtz, The General Plan Project Manager, in the Community Development Department for the City of Fremont. The City is in the process of updating the General Plan.

Mr. Schoenholtz gave an overview of the purpose of the General Plan and the process that is involved in updating the plan. He stressed the importance of input from residents and the opportunity throughout for residents to express their concerns, interest, and gain an understanding of the function of the General Plan.

The General Plan was updated last in 1991; the growth envisioned in that plan has been achieved so it is now time to revise the General Plan to reflect the anticipated goals and needs of the city for perhaps the next five or ten years or more.

There have been six three-hour public meetings since June. Mr. Schoenholtz said that the Draft Plan should be available in the summer of 2008. The Plan should be ready for adoption in the summer of 2009.

The revision of the General Plan is an opportunity for residents to participate in the direction the city will take. The public hearings have shown loud and clear, Mr. Schoenholtz said, our interest in protection of Parks and Open Space. Residents expressed an interest in the development of a downtown center. The preservation of character of the six different neighborhoods that were incorporated into the city was also expressed. Participants wanted housing close to transportation. There were concerns about school crowding, increased crime and interest in the enhancement of services for families and young people.

The city web site is available to provide feedback, to learn what has happened so far, and to stay involved and informed. Participation is not only the responsibility of citizenship; it is a golden opportunity to learn how local government functions and the role the City Council and staff plays in making Fremont an attractive place to live and work. This was an excellent program in both content and presentation.

<http://www.fremont.gov/CityHall/GeneralPlan/default.htm> is the General Plan website. He said to click on "view the meeting summaries" just below the top of the page.

—Muriel B. Nolan

### JANUARY 16, 2008 HEALTH FORUM AT WASHINGTON HOSPITAL

Our League has agreed to help with this by providing a moderator for a panel, question sorters, timer, pages. This will work similarly to one of League's issue or candidate forums. They expect close to 100 to attend so we will need a good size crew. The panel will examine legislative options to health care coverage. Please contact Alex Starr, [apstarr@ix.netcom.com](mailto:apstarr@ix.netcom.com) or call 510-656-6877 to volunteer.

### BIG RUMMAGE SALE

LWVFNUC is planning a big rummage sale February 9th. Now is the time to set aside things that are being replaced or discarded for new stuff from the Holidays.

Please start collecting, so we can have a lot of "treasures" to sell.

Happy New Year to all—Holly Walter



### LUNCH WITH THE LEAGUE

On January 10th, there will be a lunch with the League for all new and prospective members. It will be at Kay Emanuele's home at 12 noon. 45 Zacate Place. Fremont. All members are welcome.

**"HACKING DEMOCRACY"**

On Saturday, Nov. 17 the film "Hacking Democracy" was shown at the Fremont library. It began with a narrator saying that 80% of the votes in the United States were affected by computers in 2004.

Bev Harris, a writer, happened on the Gems website of Diebold and found the computer programs that run Diebold voting machines. Diebold had even refused to share their software with any government agencies. It took her 40 hours to download all the files. Already suspicious of voting machines after the 2000 election in Florida and a later one in Washington State, she took the files to a computer scientist.

She enlisted more people in her quest and after Diebold officials claimed it wasn't possible to break into their system, a computer scientist broke into the machines in 10 seconds.

She investigated elections in Florida and Ohio. She found computer paper tapes that were to be saved for months after the election in the trash of the registrar of voters a few days after the election.

The film goes on and on and was followed by Dr. David Dill, a computer scientist from Stanford. He said his philosophy is there is no way to make machines trustworthy and also that people can't be trusted. Therefore, we should trust with verification. Everything should be double checked. There should be checks and balances for everything. There should be more people watching all parts of the process.

Is all-mail elections or absentee balloting an answer? No, he replied, It's a mixed bag. Ballots can be lost in the mail and end up in

the wrong hands. Individuals could be coerced by family members, and people could sell their votes more easily.

Others might suggest a government produced voting system to counteract private companies influence on the process or possibly open source software.

There is a bill HR 811 that calls for voter verified paper voting but it has not passed. There is also a senate bill by Senator Nelson of Florida that calls for a paper record that would be Dr. Dill's preferred.

Try some of the following web sites. BlackBoxVoting.org to follow Bev Harris; Dr. Dill's Verified Voting.org and our own LWVFNUC's web site where you can click on "How Our Votes Are Counted." The last was produced by the Citizens' Advisory Committee of the Alameda County Registrar of Voters.

—Miriam Keller and Jane Mueller

**VOTING MATTERS —OHLONE COLLEGE NEWARK CAMPUS**

Ken Ballard interviewed the Associate V.P. for the Newark Center, Leta Stagnaro. For the past two years, she has been involved with other staff, the administration and students in the planning and implementation for the opening of the Newark campus.

The plans for the construction of the facility and the outcome was most interesting. The goal was to receive the gold LEED designation (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design). The buildings structure and design needs to have an eco-friendly design and use recyclable materials. The Center was able to achieve the top rating of platinum.

Among the features that earned this rating was the geothermal heating and cooling system. Underground coils placed in the ground cool the air on hot days and warm the air on cold days. There are solar panels on all four wings which provide 42% of the energy needed. The insulation, the carpet tiles and even the furniture are made of recycled materials. In addition, the environment is enhanced with native landscaping plants, the best in the Bay Area.

She agreed that this type of construction is more expensive, the cost was 110 million dollars. However, the costs are expected to be recovered in 6 to 10 years.

Leta Stagnaro said that there are 109 schools in the community college system. What most of us are aware of is that these colleges allow students to earn the units for transfer to a four year college. She emphasized that community colleges educate more students than the state college and university system at an affordable cost (\$20 a unit.). One of the things they do that in my opinion is most important in today's global economy is to retrain displaced workers.

The college coordinates the courses offered with the high schools, the Adult School, ROP and the business community to enhance career options and goals. When considering the value of the community college system, as voters we need to be aware that these schools receive less funding than the state and university system.

When the campus opens, I hope a tour will be offered. I would be especially interested in seeing the Human Simulation Lab that allows nursing students to observe and learn about medical problems.

— Muriel Nolan

Bay Area Monitor ~ October/November 2007

## Navigating Uncharted Waters: Agency Set for Change of Course

By Alec MacDonald

One of the youngest regional transit agencies in the Bay Area looks to be on the brink of a dramatic makeover, due to a bill pushed through the State Legislature toward the end of this year's session in Sacramento.

If signed into law by the governor, Senate Bill 976 (Torlakson) will transform the current Water Transit Authority (WTA) into the Water Emergency Transportation Authority (WETA). As its name indicates, a primary focus of this new entity will be disaster preparedness and response.

As written, the bill would necessitate that WTA "transfer, among other things, the title and ownership of all property within its control to the WETA," and empowers the successor with the responsibility to "coordinate the emergency activities of all water transportation and related facilities within the bay area region."

As WTA Executive Director Steve Castleberry explained to his board of directors at a meeting on September 13, the bill "completely repeals our existing enabling legislation and creates a new agency."

While much looks to be changing as a result of SB 976, it is still too early to really know the exact form those changes will inevitably take. As Castleberry told it, the agency is still gathering and processing information to understand how the next steps will unfold. There are a few preliminary indications, however, as to what's com-

ing down the pipeline.

Perhaps most importantly, there are no expectations that existing ferry service will be affected, and employees should not be concerned for their jobs. There will be some downsizing at the top though—the new agency's board will be reduced from eleven members to five. Three of them (including the board president and vice president) will be appointed by the governor and confirmed by the Senate; the other two will be selected by the Legislature (one by the Senate and one by the Assembly). The first convening of the new board is required to happen prior to April of 2008.



In another important deadline that's further out on the horizon, WETA will eventually need to create and adopt "an emergency water transportation system management plan for water transportation services" by July 1, 2009. The Metropolitan Transportation Commission and the State Office of Emergency Services will help develop this plan, and all Bay Area cities and counties will have a chance to review it prior to adoption.

Naturally, all of the stipulations and future scenarios present a lot to think about. So for the time being, Castleberry emphasized the importance of staying on course to "keep projects going between now and April" and "ease that transition." Yet with such a major change, and with it coming as a relative surprise, whether or

not smooth sailing lies ahead is anyone's guess.

One aspect of SB 976 which has churned the waters a little bit is that it looks to consolidate the Vallejo Baylink and Alameda/Oakland ferry systems under WETA control, providing a one-year period to develop a transition plan. The cities of Vallejo and Alameda who independently operate these systems, however, may have something to say about this. And both happen to be charter cities, which means that they have certain rights limiting the state's power of authority over them.

Another aspect which will be closely followed relates to budgetary matters. The bill contains an extensive section on bonding, enacts changes about how Regional Measures 1 and 2 funds are allocated, and anticipates the availability of new funding sources. WETA may end up becoming eligible for the State Transit Assistance dollars that other regional operators currently receive, creating additional competition for what is an already limited pot of money.

Come what may, Castleberry cited a need for cooperation so that "we don't lose momentum in delivering expanded regional ferry service, while we understand our new role." Although SB 976 lays groundwork for a new agency with a new vision, the bill is only a start; additional "clean-up" legislation will be necessary to clarify many important issues that currently remain undefined. With so much yet to be determined, WTA will likely forward its recommendations for the clean-up legislation, which would not be due to come out until January.

"There are a lot of details to be worked out, but there are ways to address them," Castleberry said. "We've got some ideas."



## Not Recycled Water? Yuck!

John D. Sullivan, LWVC Water Consultant

People often joke about water consumed today having once been in Alexander the Great's latrine. The joke does have a point: water is a flow resource that moves through the air, over the surface of the earth and underneath the earth as ground water. As it moves on the surface and beneath the earth, it is often cleaned of various impurities. Nonetheless, there is still a considerable "yuck" factor when people discuss the issue of recycled water. (See High Country News, September 17, 2007 at [http://www.hcn.org/services/hcn/PrintableArticle?article\\_id=17227](http://www.hcn.org/services/hcn/PrintableArticle?article_id=17227)).

The way that water flows and cleans itself on the surface and beneath the earth is important. As people in the state of California, and elsewhere in the country, cope both with the current drought and the increased demand for water, it will become increasingly important to consider using more recycled water. Soon, it will be come vital for us to accept that our water supply can be augmented by making use of sewer water that is currently flushed to the ocean, where it comes back to us as part of the hydrological cycle.

Treated sewer water is currently reused in parts of Los Angeles and Orange counties for the irrigation of industrial parks and golf courses. Some treated sewer water is returned to ground water aquifers where it ultimately is withdrawn for human consumption. Of course, it is retreated both by passing through layers of earth and by treatment plants that prepare water for distribution to homes and businesses.

As California considers additional use of recycled water, it is important to focus on the quality of that water and on the emergence of new contaminants, particularly endocrine disrupters. On the quality issue, it is important that sewer water be treated to the highest degree possible before it is returned to the water environment.

On the endocrine disruptor issue, it is important to realize that our bodies do not utilize every molecule of the drugs that we take and we eject the residue back into the environment. There is some evidence that these endocrine disruptors are causing problems for fish and could cause problems for humans. So any policy on increasing our use of recycled water would have to take such contaminants into account.

It is also important to remember that the sources for some of our water (the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta and the Colorado River) already receive output from sewer treatment plants. Of course, such treated water flows some distance through natural and constructed channels and is treated again before it is distributed for human consumption.

There have been both chemical and epidemiological studies done on treated, recycled water (National Research Council, Issues In Potable Reuse at [http://www.nap.edu/catalog.php?record\\_id=6022#toc](http://www.nap.edu/catalog.php?record_id=6022#toc)). The general conclusion is that research to date does not suggest there is any danger in the consumption of such water but that there is considerable need for further research.

The State Water Resources Control Board has issued a draft policy for a statewide Water Recycling Policy to establish more uniform requirements for recycled water projects ([http://www.swrcb.ca.gov/water\\_recycling\\_policy/index.html](http://www.swrcb.ca.gov/water_recycling_policy/index.html)). The adoption of such a policy will lead to an increased use of treated water to augment existing supplies. As the state copes both with drought and with population growth, it will be important to pay close attention to these quality issues and to deal with the "yuck" factor.

Bay Area Monitor - December 2007/January 2008

## Clean and Green: Household Hygiene without the Harshness

By Sheila Chung Hagen

In 2000, Elida Pedraza worked for a janitorial company that trained her to apply strong, liquid cleaning agents to the toilets — then run out of the bathroom. The fumes and liquid would irritate her skin and eyes on contact. “They burned like hot water!” recalled Pedraza.

An immigrant from Michoacán, Mexico, Pedraza came to the United States to support her family and reunite with her husband who had migrated 15 years earlier. She worked as a cook and a merchandise packaging worker before becoming a janitor.

Like many other recent immigrants with limited language skills and scarce job training, Pedraza took any job she could find — even if that meant working under hazardous conditions.

Pedraza’s days of toxic cleaning agents came to an end in 2002 when she discovered WAGES, a nonprofit organization that incubates eco-friendly women-owned cleaning cooperatives. WAGES offered Pedraza training in financial literacy and management, marketing, customer satisfaction and using environmentally-safe products and tools. The organization also prepared her to become an entrepreneur.

In 2003, with the support of WAGES, Pedraza and eight other women launched the Natural Home Cleaning cooperative in Oakland. They raised the capital to secure a bank loan by selling 300 dozen tamales and organizing garage sales and raffles. Since then, Natural Home Cleaning has grown into an independent business with 13 members,

living wages, an employee health care plan and monthly revenues totaling \$70,000.

Natural Home Cleaning is just the latest WAGES cooperative. The organization launched Emma’s Eco-Clean in Redwood City and Eco-Care in Morgan Hill in 1999 and 2001, respectively. Next year, WAGES will open its fourth business in San Francisco, where organizers predict sales will outpace those of earlier cooperatives.

“The vast majority of our clients hire us because we use green cleaning products. They are interested in protecting their health and the health of their kids,” explained WAGE’s Ellen Love.

Indeed, respiratory problems caused by exposure to toxics impact children at disproportionately higher rates than adults. Of the 22.2 million Americans with asthma, an estimated 6.5 million are children.

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) found that some cleaning products release volatile organic compounds, which react with the atmosphere to form smog. Smog and other atmospheric pollutants, in turn, can irritate eyes, noses, throats, lungs, and can cause asthma attacks.

But households are quickly switching to green alternatives to protect their family’s health and the environment. According to the Environmental Business Journal, sales of green household cleaners grew to \$4.3 billion in 2005, an increase of 11 percent from 2004.

Planet, Inc., which offers a full line of non-toxic cleaning products, has watched sales grow from its initial \$1.4 million revenues in 1990. Today, the Vancouver-based business is the second-largest green cleaning products company in North America.

While no national standards exist for green products, the EPA recommends using products that meet the Green Seal standard. Green Seal is an independent

nonprofit organization that promotes the production of environmentally-sound products, starting with the manufacturing process and ending with disposal. To be certified by Green Seal, a product must submit to a battery of tests and prove that it reduces the environmental and health effects of housekeeping on both the indoor and outdoor environments.

Planet, Inc. promotes its products as hypo-allergenic and certified biodegradable. Its products have been reviewed by Scientific Certification Systems, another independent certification body. But do they work?

“One of our biggest challenges is changing the perception that green products are not effective,” explained company spokeswoman Elaine Powers. At the recent San Francisco Green Festival, she was passing out samples of Planet’s laundry detergent to encourage Bay Area residents to go green.

Reviews on the effectiveness of green products show that “green can clean.” A recent study of dishwashing powders and gels by Consumer Reports found several green products that matched or performed better than their conventional competition.

Having cleaned with green products for five years, Pedraza finds that she only needs to use a little extra elbow grease the first time she cleans a client’s home. “I would never go back to those old products. I’ve even switched what I use at home,” said Pedraza.

“My kids tell me that everything I’ve done to have this job has been worth it — for my family and for my health.”

WAGES – (510) 532-5465 or [www.wagescooperatives.org](http://www.wagescooperatives.org)  
Planet, Inc. – (800) 858-8449 or [www.planetinc.com](http://www.planetinc.com)  
Green Seal – (202) 872-6400 or [www.greenseal.org](http://www.greenseal.org)





## LWVC POSITIONS ON THE FEBRUARY 2008 BALLOT MEASURES

The LWVC has announced its positions on the February 2008 ballot measures:

### **OPPOSE** Proposition 91: Transportation Funds

*This position reflects the continuing concern about funding earmarks in the state constitution, despite our support for the importance of transportation funding.*

### **OPPOSE** Proposition 92: Community Colleges: Funding, Governance, Fees

*This position was a difficult one, as we truly want to see reform of the community college system on the basis of our position adopted in 2003. However, we continue to have concerns about changes to the constitution that would further restrict the ability of the state to continue other important programs in the future. Proposition 92 would set up a designated funding structure without providing new funds and its provisions would be difficult to modify.*

### **NEUTRAL** Proposition 93: Limits on Legislators' Terms in Office

*This initiative, by itself, makes relatively minor changes to the current term limit structure, and, without redistricting reform as part of a government reform package, does not achieve meaningful reform. It is moreover involved in an increasingly partisan campaign.*

### **NO POSITION** Propositions 94-97: Referenda on Amendments to Indian Gaming Compacts

*The League has not studied the issues concerning Indian gaming compacts and therefore has taken no position on these measures.*

## **REDISTRICTING—EXCITING NEWS! VOTERS FIRST INITIATIVE**

After almost three years of negotiations with the legislature and good government groups across California, the League has sadly concluded that the legislature will not place a good redistricting reform measure on the ballot next year. After careful consideration, the LWVC board has enthusiastically decided to support the Voters FIRST redistricting reform initiative which we hope will be on the November 2008 ballot. Redistricting information can be found on the Web at <http://ca.lwv.org/lwvc/action/redistrict/>.

So it's all hands on deck for a grassroots campaign to bring this to the ballot! Let's give voters a chance to decide if they want to put an end to the inherent conflict of interest in the current system, so that they can choose their legislators and not the other way round. This is where the League shines: doing the hands-on work that makes democracy work in our communities.

**We need volunteers** — lots of volunteers who will make a difference. The first phase is signature gathering. If your League and your individual members are interested in joining this effort, e-mail or call Advocacy Assistant Maggie Young (916-442-7215); [myoung@lwvc.org](mailto:myoung@lwvc.org). Sign on for an exciting experience in making democracy work.

## **CAMPAIGN FINANCE**

AB 1430, a harmful bill with the potential to undermine local regulation of campaign financing, was signed by the Governor over the opposition of the League and other groups. The Fair Political Practices Commission is considering whether any change in their regulation of "member communications" is needed because of AB 1430 and held an Interested Persons meeting to get public input. Trudy Schafer, Senior Director for Program, spoke for the League (and the public interest) about how we think they should respect local governments' interests with respect to AB 1430's provisions. It is likely that the regulation will be considered at the December 13 FPPC hearing. If so, the proposed regulation will be circulated to the public 10 days before that.

From Jone Johnson Lewis,  
Your Guide to Women's History.

Sojourner Truth: Abolitionist, Minister, Ex-Slave, Woman's Rights Activist

The woman we know as Sojourner Truth was born into slavery in New York as Isabella Baumfree (after her father's owner, Baumfree). She was sold several times, and while owned by the John Dumont family in Ulster County, married Thomas, another of Dumont's slaves. She had five children with Thomas. In 1827, New York law emancipated all slaves, but Isabella had already left her husband and run away with her youngest child. She went to work for the family of Isaac Van Wagenen.

While working for the Van Wagenen's -- whose name she used briefly -- she discovered that a member of the Dumont family had sold one of her children to slavery in Alabama. Since this son had been emancipated under New York Law, Isabella sued in court and won his return.

In 1843, she took the name Sojourner Truth, believing this to be on the instructions of the Holy Spirit and became a traveling preacher (the meaning of her new name). In the late 1840s she connected with the abolitionist movement, becoming a popular speaker. In 1850, she also began speaking on woman suffrage. Her most famous speech, Ain't I a Woman?, was given in 1851 at a women's rights convention in Ohio.

Sojourner Truth met Harriet Beecher Stowe, who wrote about her for the *Atlantic Monthly* and wrote a new introduction to Truth's autobiography, *The Narrative of Sojourner Truth*.

Sojourner Truth moved to Michigan and joined yet another religious commune, this one associated with the Friends. She was at one point friendly with Millerites, a religious movement that grew out of Methodism and later became the Seventh Day Adventists.

During the Civil War Sojourner Truth raised food and clothing contributions for black regiments, and met Abraham Lincoln at the White House in 1864. While there, she tried to challenge the discrimination that segregated street cars by race.

After the War ended, Sojourner Truth again spoke widely, advocating for some time a "Negro State" in the west. She spoke mainly to white audiences, and mostly on religion, "Negro" and women's rights, and on temperance, though immediately after the Civil War she tried to organize efforts to provide jobs for black refugees from the war.

Active until 1875, when her grandson and companion fell ill, Sojourner Truth returned to Michigan where she died in 1883 and was buried in Battle Creek, Michigan.

### **Sojourner Truth (1797-1883): *Ain't I A Woman?***

Delivered 1851

Women's Convention, Akron, Ohio

Well, children, where there is so much racket there must be something out of kilter. I think that 'twixt the negroes of the South and the women at the North, all talking about rights, the white men will be in a fix pretty soon. But what's all this here talking about?

That man over there says that women need to be helped into carriages, and lifted over ditches, and to have the best place everywhere. Nobody ever helps me into carriages, or over mud-puddles, or gives me any best place! And ain't I a woman? Look at me! Look at my arm! I have ploughed and planted, and gathered into barns, and no man could head me! And ain't I a woman? I could work as much and eat as much as a man - when I could get it - and bear the lash as well! And ain't I a woman? I have borne thirteen children, and seen most all sold off to slavery, and when I cried out with my mother's grief, none but Jesus heard me! And ain't I a woman?

Then they talk about this thing in the head; what's this they call it? [member of audience whispers, "intellect"] That's it, honey. What's that got to do with women's rights or negroes' rights? If my cup won't hold but a pint, and yours holds a quart, wouldn't you be mean not to let me have my little half measure full?

Then that little man in black there, he says women can't have as much rights as men, 'cause Christ wasn't a woman! Where did your Christ come from? Where did your Christ come from? From God and a woman! Man had nothing to do with Him.

If the first woman God ever made was strong enough to turn the world upside down all alone, these women together ought to be able to turn it back, and get it right side up again! And now they is asking to do it, the men better let them.

Obliged to you for hearing me, and now old Sojourner ain't got nothing more to say.

—Submitted by Vesta Wilson

**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**

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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.

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 4368 Enterprise St., off Grimmer, near  
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Materials are available 7:30 AM to 5:00 PM with permission of a board member.

**THE SUFFRIGIST MOVEMENT—An ongoing series...**

- 1855 Prominent suffragists Lucy Stone and Henry Blackwell marry; they eliminate the vow of obedience from the ceremony and include a protest against unfair marriage vows.
- 1861—1865 The Civil War. Suffrage efforts nearly come to a complete halt as women put their enfranchisement aside and pitch in for the war effort.
- 1866 The Eleventh National Women's Rights Convention, the first since the beginning of the Civil War, is held in New York City. Lucretia Mott presides over a merger between suffragists and the American Anti-Slavery Association. The new group is called The American Equal Rights Association.
- 1867 Lucy Stone, Henry Blackwell, Clarina Nichols and others travel to Kansas to agitate for women's suffrage. After months of campaigning, suffragists are defeated on the fall ballot  
  
 At the American Equal Rights Association annual meeting, opinions divide sharply on supporting the enfranchisement of black men before women.
- 1868 Stanton and Anthony have a falling out with long term ally, Horace Greeley, editor of the New York Tribune. As a result, Stanton and Anthony begin publishing The Revolution, a weekly newspaper devoted to suffrage and other progressive causes.
- 1869 The territory of Wyoming is the first to grant unrestricted suffrage to women.  
  
 Stanton and Anthony form the National Woman Suffrage Association. It allows only female membership and advocates for woman suffrage above all other issues. Lucy Stone forms the American Woman Suffrage Association, which supports the Fifteenth Amendment and invites men to participate.



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VOTERS OF FREMONT,  
NEWARK AND UNION CITY**  
PO Box 3218, Fremont, CA., 94539  
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#### WATCH VOTING MATTERS

Tune in to watch Sam Neeman host Gus Morrison and Jane Mueller. Topic: Three propositions that will be on the February Ballot: Advocacy for League Supported Propositions.

**Fremont**, Channel 29, every Wednesday at 7:30 PM

**Newark**, Channel 6, every Thursday at 7:00 PM

**Union City**, Channel 15, every Thursday at 9:30 PM

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and Smart Voter  
[www.smartvoter.org](http://www.smartvoter.org)

## CALENDAR

Thurs., Jan 10	LWVFNUC Board Meeting	7:15 PM	Sisters of the Holy Family Auditorium
Mon., Jan. 7	JANUARY UNIT MEETING: PROS AND CONS	7:00 pm	Fremont Main Library
Wed., Jan. 16	Cable Taping	2:00 PM	Comcast Studios
Wed., Jan. 16	League moderates Washington Hospital Forum	6:00 PM	Washington Hospital West
Fri., Jan. 18	Education Committee	9:30 AM	Miriam Keller's home
Sat., Jan. 19	Lunch with the League for new and prospective members—All members welcome	12 Noon	Kay Emanuele's home
Thurs., Jan. 24	Action Committee	12:30	Marilyn Singer's home
Fri., Feb. 22	Bay Area League Day	TBA	
May 16—18	LWVUS Convention	TBA	
Sat., Jan. 31	Bay Area Convention	TBA	
June 13—17	Leadership Council	TBA	