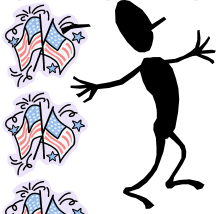


# Voter

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



March 31—Cesar Chavez Day



**ME?** Run for local office? Take the first step to local government leadership?:



## THE ABC'S OF CAMPAIGNS

A Free workshop for candidates, volunteers and interested community members:

Three panels of local experts will address

Impact on a Candidate's Personal Life

How to Prepare to Run

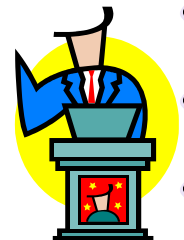
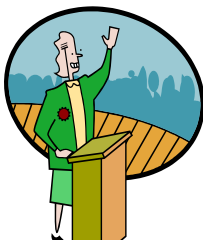
How to run a campaign

Saturday, March 29

9:30 AM -11:30 AM

Fremont City Council Chambers

For more information, go to [www.lwfnuc.org](http://www.lwfnuc.org) or contact  
Alex Starr,



**PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

Dear Fellow Leaguers,

This year I personally participated in more voter service activities than in the past, especially speaking engagements related to the pros and cons for the ballot measures. I was struck by how time consuming it is to evaluate the pros and cons of our ballot choices, whether it be candidates or ballot measures. The plethora of slick rhetoric for one side or another often simply clouds the issues as well as the platforms of the candidates.

To gain any reasonable understanding of the ballot measures, for example, one sometimes has to dig beyond the "Official Voter information Guide" that we receive from the Secretary of State's office. I for one actually had to read the information on the legislative analyst's website as sometimes the information provided through the guide was condensed and did not answer my questions. Specifically, I wanted to evaluate the merits (or lack thereof) of the accusations of one side or the other on various issues.

So, bottom line, it takes work to be part of the democratic process. It is no wonder that many who barely have time to get home and do laundry often just choose not to participate. And even those who manage to get to the polls, or mail in ballots, end up resorting to the "eeny, meeny, miny mo" method of voting. From this perspective, the League does indeed offer a valuable service. We take the time to go through the information and help to clear up at least some of the smog impacting the debate. We provide easy to use tools that voters can access such as [smartvoter.org](http://smartvoter.org), pros and cons and Easy Voter Guide. Some of our members also volunteer at the polls and then donate the monies back to the League. We are so fortunate to be members of an organization that helps to facilitate democracy in so many ways.

I am also very excited about our upcoming forums in March and April. In March we are sponsoring three panels discussing various topics related to running for office, one of the most direct ways to impact one's community. In April we will be hosting an award ceremony for the winners of the Y Vote? contest organized by the Education Committee. We invite all of you to join us in these important forums. Together we can continue to oil the wheels of democracy, using the renewable fuels of passion and commitment to making democracy work.

—Syeda R Yunus

**BOARD BRIEFS**

- We had lots of sweets.
- We were regaled by the President's report – a copy of which should be online.
- We discussed the planning for the March forum on "How to Run for Office" to be held on March 29<sup>th</sup>.
- We decided that we would not formally sponsor a program on Sunshine week but that we may do an article for the newspaper.
- We discussed logistics related to the award ceremony for the winners of the Y Vote contest to be held in April
- We heard a report from membership chair which showed that we are beyond our goal of 137 members.
- We discussed our testimony related to Ohlone College and other Advocacy work.
- We reminded everyone who was interested to register for Bay Area League Day on February 22, 2008
- We went over the speakers bureau engagements – we have one coming up in March with the Kiwanis Club.
- We applauded everyone who worked at the Garage Sale held at Holy Bell Walter's home and organized by Kay Emanuele. The fundraiser netted \$392.00.

**ACTION COMMITTEE'S ACTIONS**

Testimony was read at the Ohlone Board meeting asking the trustees to consider eliminating the use of numbered seats for electing trustees. Action interviewed all trustees and had commitments from 4 of the 7 to change the process, but when the vote was taken it lost on a 4-3 vote. This issue will come up again in the future.

Testimony was read at a joint meeting of the Fremont Council and FUSD asking them to cooperate to bring the best possible schools to Fremont constituents, siting them inside residential areas and requiring them to be ready when people move into the surrounding developments. City councils do not have the power to require anything from developers besides development fees, but we encouraged more cooperation since good school development is a plus for not only the schools but also for the City.

John Smith is in charge of Voting Matters this month, and the guest will be the Registrar of Voters.

Open Government Specialist, Alex Starr, is planning a forum on How To Run For Public Office in March. Gus Morrison is assisting. We will be inviting civic groups and individuals and will be asking for assistance to present the invitations at various boards and commissions. John Smith is working on the PR for this event.

We are observing a group called Advocates For Affordable Housing whose mission is to educate the public about the need for affordable housing.

Dede Smith has offered to observe the ACWD as she has an interest in water.

—Marilyn Singer

**OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOU**

Soon it will be time to find people to fill the vacancies left by those who have served on the LWVFNUC Board of Directors.

Positions that will be available are:

Voter Service Vice President—Candidate Forums  
 Administrative Vice President  
 Vice President—Program  
 Treasurer  
 Historian  
 Public Relations  
 Voter Mailer.

Some of these positions may be kept by incumbents. But if you are interested filling a position or helping with any, please call Ellen Culver—510-656-7973

**EDUCATION COMMITTEE**

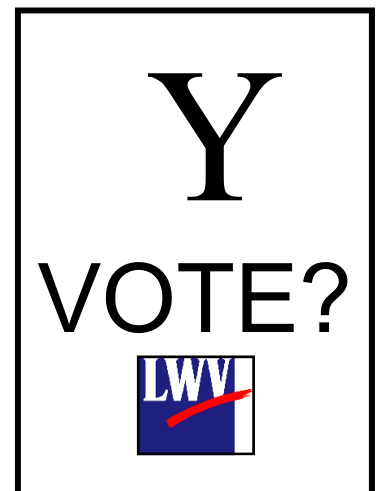
Most of the Education Committee member's energies are being used conducting the "Y Vote?" media contest. With \$5700 prize (and expense) money, the committee feels that response will be good.

League members will be the first judges. The committee hopes to find public officials to be the final judges. An awards program is being planned for April 21st. The committee will send invitations to public officials.

The committee discussed:

- FUSD Board overrode the decision by Staff to disallow business math as fulfilling graduation requirements.
- Numbered seats for the Ohlone Board
- Health Education—the Video "Abstinence Only"
- FUSD Budget

—Ann Crosbie, Miriam Keller, Ken Ballard, Vesta Wilson and very helpful assistant, John Smith



February 2008

## Project Changes to the Design of the Proposed New Irvington Tunnel

The San Francisco Public Utilities Commission (SFPUC) proposes to construct a new water transmission tunnel parallel to the existing Irvington Tunnel between the Sunol Valley and the Mission District of Fremont. The proposed tunnel would be about 3.5 miles long, with a finished internal diameter of about 9 feet, and would range in depth from 150 to 700 feet underground.

The SFPUC held a public meeting in Fremont in June 2006 to discuss the proposed project. Since then, the project team has been doing geotechnical investigations in the area of the proposed tunnel alignment. In essence, crews drilled core samples of the ground through the proposed tunnel alignment and analyzed them to learn more about the ground conditions.

**The project team has made design changes to the proposed tunnel in response to the preliminary results of these investigations. This fact sheet explains what those proposed changes are.**

### REVISED PROJECT ELEMENTS

#### ***Tunnel Excavation Method***

Geotechnical investigations have identified extensive reaches of soft, squeezing ground mixed with thin zones of relatively hard material in the area of the proposed tunnel alignment. These investigations found that excavating a tunnel through these challenging ground conditions might be better-accomplished using so-called conventional mining methods. This would involve drilling ahead, blasting hard rock, and then excavating the materials. Alternatively, the tunnel could be excavated using a road header - a machine with a cutting head mounted on a large arm on its front — and possibly pre-blasting the rock to make it easier

to cut through. The design team is still considering the use of a Tunnel Boring Machine (TBM) for a portion of the tunnel. Therefore the project proposes a possible combination of a Tunnel Boring Machine (TBM), as described in previous documents, and conventional mining methods. Both tunneling methods will be analyzed by the San Francisco Planning Department, Major Environmental Analysis (MEA) Division in the project's Environmental Impact Report (EIR).

***What this means:*** The option to use conventional mining methods would give the project more flexibility to adjust to greatly varying ground conditions.

#### ***Excavation Work Area Adjacent to Vargas Road and Interstate 680***

Much of the above ground tunneling activities would still occur in the Sunol Valley near the portal of the existing tunnel. The proposed excavation of a 500-foot section of the tunnel from the Fremont side near the existing portal also remains unchanged. What has changed is that the project now proposes a third work location for tunneling activities along the tunnel alignment between the Sunol Valley and Fremont. It would be adjacent to Vargas Road at the on-ramp to Interstate 680. The project would excavate a temporary access shaft to the depth of the tunnel and would use tunneling equipment to mine in two directions - west towards the Sunol Valley and east towards Fremont. Additionally, the project proposes to use vacant land adjacent to Vargas Road and I-680 across from the proposed tunneling area for parking and equipment storage.



### WOULD YOU BELIEVE?

7.26 million people in California cast ballots in the February election. That was 46% of the 15.7 million registered voters. That was 46% of the 15.7 million registered voters, which was 67% of California's 23 million citizens over 18,

So, 31.5% of eligible voters voted in the February 5th Presidential Primary election.

—Submitted by Miriam Keller

## School or the Streets: Crime and California's Dropout Crisis Redistricting Campaign Underway

### LAW ENFORCEMENT CALLS FOR SCHOOL DROPOUT REFORMS TO PREVENT 500 MURDERS A YEAR Over 200 Police Chiefs, Sheriffs, District Attorneys and Victims of Violence Ask Governor to Boost Public Safety with Proven Dropout-Prevention Programs

**Pasadena, CA, December 13**-Calling California's high dropout rate a major public safety issue, Los Angeles County Sheriff Lee Baca and other local law enforcement leaders unveiled a new report that links low graduation rates with violent crimes such as homicide and aggravated assault.

The findings, which Sheriff Baca released Thursday at Blair High School in Pasadena, show that **increasing graduation rates by 10 percentage points** would lower homicide and assault rates by 20 percent and **prevent 500 murders and more than 20,000 aggravated assaults each year in California**. Currently, an estimated one in three California high school students does not graduate from high school on time.

The report, titled *School or the Streets: Crime and California's Dropout Crisis*, was released by FIGHT CRIME: INVEST IN KIDS California, a bipartisan organization comprising hundreds of police chiefs, sheriffs, district attorneys and violence survivors.

"We can't arrest our way out of the crime problem, but we can educate our way to a safer community," **said Los Angeles County Sheriff Baca**. "The key is getting kids started on the right track as early as possible, and then making sure the schools do what's needed to help them succeed and graduate."

The findings prompted FIGHT CRIME: INVEST IN KIDS to send a **letter to the Governor signed by over 200 police chiefs, sheriffs, district attorneys and victims of violence**. Citing the public safety risks resulting from high dropout rates, the law enforcement leaders and crime survivors declare there is an "urgent need to act now" to reform California's education system and encourage increased investment in two examples of intervention programs with proven success-high school small learning communities and high-quality preschool programs.

The report finds that California is not doing enough to turn around low graduation rates. Despite research showing that small learning communities at high schools with student and family advisors increase graduation rates by 16 percentage points, only one high school in the entire state is implementing a proven small learning communities model. Even the state's promising small learning communities program that studies suggest may improve dropout and graduation rates-the career-themed California Partnership Academies-is available at **only one out of five high schools statewide**. Small learning communities use a "school within a school" educational setting to provide the personalized benefits of smaller schools.

Meanwhile, high-quality preschool, which is also proven to boost graduation rates, is denied to hundreds of thousands of low-income children who are priced out of quality private programs and face long waiting lists for publicly-funded preschools.

"Those of us on the front lines fighting crime place a high priority on education," **said Sacramento County District Attorney Jan Scully**. "Far too often, today's dropouts are tomorrow's criminals."

In addition to showing a link between graduation rates and violent crime, the report also noted that high school dropouts are over three times more likely than graduates to be arrested and eight times as likely to go to jail or prison. Nationwide, 68 percent of state prison inmates do not have a high school diploma.

The report highlights research showing that California's dropout crisis damages California's economy, in addition to threatening public safety. According to data released in August by the California Dropout Research Project: dropouts earn less, pay fewer taxes, and are more likely to collect welfare and turn to crime; for each year's worth of dropouts, California suffers billions of dollars in economic losses over time, including **\$12 billion in crime costs alone**; and every dollar invested in programs proven to increase graduation rates will return a **long-term savings to taxpayers of \$2 to \$4**.

"Too frequently the path that leads to failure in school also leads to a life of crime and violence. Creating opportunities for kids to stay on track and stay in school will keep our communities safe and our kids out of jail," **said Fresno Police Chief Jerry Dyer**.

*FIGHT CRIME: INVEST IN KIDS California is a bipartisan, anti-crime organization led by more than 350 sheriffs, police chiefs, district attorneys and victims of violence. Its mission is to find what really works to keep kids from becoming criminals. Among the strategies proven to be effective are early care and education programs for preschoolers, after-school and dropout-prevention programs, interventions for juvenile offenders, and child abuse prevention programs.*



## VOTING MATTERS PROGRAM DELTA WATER AND CLIMATE CHANGE

League Moderator: Susan Gearhart  
Speaker: Douglas Wallace, Environmental Affairs Officer for the East Bay Municipal Utility District since 1996. As the senior policy advisor, he is responsible for advocacy and outreach. His focus is on the Sacramento San Joaquin Delta and climate change.

Mr. Wallace outlined the importance and function of the Delta in assuring California a reliable water supply for personal use and economic necessity and protection of the environment. The major issue confronting the state is that the system is not sustainable.

His opening remark was that most of us do not know what and where the Delta is. Mr. Wallace used a map to show what and where the Delta is, and why the system is not sustainable. In addition to prime farm land, the Delta includes other assets such as aqueducts, highways, and natural riches.

The islands that form the Delta are bowls which due to subsidence are below sea level. Climate change, as the sea level rises, would cause salt water intrusion which would not allow water to be pumped to local areas which depend

on the water as well as South California. California is vulnerable due to our dependence on the snow pack to prevent drought and our long coastline.

The failure of the levees would be catastrophic whether due to climate change (such as flooding or draught) or earthquake. The cost is such that it is not possible to repair and rebuild all of them. Repairs will be made to protect the water supply for areas with large populations.

Mr. Wallace spoke about Delta Vision, a Blue Ribbon Task Force, established to study the Delta and implement a plan to meet the needs of California's growing population, our economic base in both industry and agriculture and preserve our ecosystem. The internet is an excellent resource to find out more about the task force.

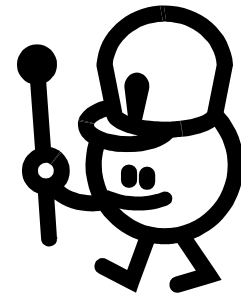
Water in California has always been an issue. I would suggest that anyone who has not viewed the program, go to the League Web Site and view it for themselves. Mr. Wallace presents an interesting and detailed overview of the importance of the Delta and what can and is being done to preserve the water delivery system that is now in place.

—Muriel Nolan



**Invest a weekend, a day, or just a few hours in being the best leader you can be!**

Sacramento, CA  
Saturday, May 17 through Sunday, May 18  
Tour and Reception Friday, May 16  
[www.lwvc.org](http://www.lwvc.org)



## 31st ANNUAL EDSOURCE PUBLIC FORUM ON CALIFORNIA EDUCATION POLICY

### BIG VISIONS AND HARD REALITIES: WHAT WE CAN DO NOW?

Friday, April 18, 2008 at Crowne Plaza Cabaña, Palo Alto

\$60 EdSource subscribers; \$70 others (fee includes information packet, continental breakfast, lunch.  
EARLY BIRD SPECIAL! Register by March 17 and deduct \$10 from the fee.

Registration/cancellation deadline: April 9

\$10 non-refundable processing charge

Register on line @ [www.edsource.org](http://www.edsource.org)



## STATE AND LOCAL FINANCES: THE BUDGET CRISIS

Reality has finally arrived in California. The state is once again in financial meltdown. The LWVC will be there at the table, promoting our views and making nuts and bolts recommendations for getting out of this mess and making changes to prevent another mess. We have already signed three policy letters with coalition partners, urging sensible cuts, keeping all options on the table (including revenue increases), and structural reforms. These letters, issued by the Budget Allies, Green California, and the Transportation and Land Use Coalition, are posted at <http://www.lwvc.org/lwvc/action/budget/>.

What can you do to help? We will ask local Leagues to visit their legislators in their home districts to share with them the League's positions and recommendations and to find out what they are thinking about short-term remedies and long-term reforms. Leagues will receive an interview kit with background and questions by February 15 so that members will be able to speak with thorough knowledge and background. But you can also prepare before the kit arrives. Go to the League Web site for our [positions](#) and most current [actions](#). Also, try playing the Next Ten Budget Challenge game at <http://www.next-ten.org/budget/budget.html> and see how you fare in creating a balanced budget.

## OPEN GOVERNMENT/SUNSHINE WEEK—MARCH 16-22

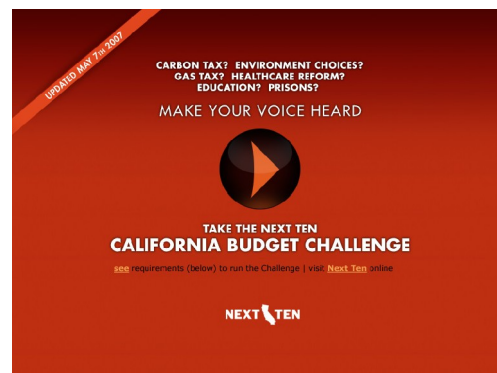
2008 will mark the fourth annual observance of Sunshine Week, a national initiative that recognizes the importance of transparency and freedom of information in government. Many Leagues will want to put on public events to take advantage of the visibility associated with this observance. Sunshine Week seeks to enlighten and empower citizens to play an active role in their government at all levels, and to give them access to information that makes their lives better and their communities stronger. Journalists around the country are being encouraged to report on this topic during that week. A national Web site, <http://www.sunshineweek.org>, provides suggestions for local activities and names of state coordinators.

Take advantage of the helpful informational materials available about Sunshine Week. The LWVEF's 2006 "Looking for Sunshine" toolkit can be ordered through the LWVUS (Publication No. 2077). Other materials can be downloaded from the Sunshine Week Web site at <http://www.sunshineweek.org>. And check the LWVUS Web site for the latest news on what the League is doing. <http://www.lwv.org>.

Chris Carson, *Government Director*, [govt@lwvc.org](mailto:govt@lwvc.org)

## NEXT TEN

**Next 10** created an innovative online game called the "California Budget Challenge" which provides an annual examination of the State's most pressing budget policy choices and challenges users to set priorities for the next five years. Users create a budget that reflects their values and vision for California's future. Since its launch in 2005, more than 50,000 Californians have taken the "Challenge." Next 10 works with the League of Women Voters, the state Parent-Teachers Association, New America Media, California libraries and other education and civic groups to take the Challenge on the road to diverse audiences across the state. In addition, Next 10 produced printed materials on the California budget in five different languages, which are used in conjunction with the Challenge as part of our state-wide education effort.



## RIDES

Please do not miss meetings because you prefer not to drive. If you would like a ride to an event, please call Miriam Keller (683-9377) and a ride will be arranged for you. And everyone will be glad to see you.



Bay Area Monitor ~ February/March 2008

## COOKING UP NEW RULES AT THE AIR DISTRICT

By Alec MacDonald

Most people are aware of the health risks that come with eating red meat — but what about breathing it? The surprising fact is that grilling beef fills the air with particulate matter (which contributes to asthma, bronchitis, and other respiratory problems) and polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (many of which are known carcinogens). In response to this hazard, the Bay Area Air Quality Management District recently passed a rule intended to clean up what comes out of the kitchen vents of those Bay Area restaurants that grill a lot of beef.

“Hamburger meat produces three times more emissions [than chicken] because of the fat content — you’re using something that’s about 20 percent fat,” explained Virginia Lau, an air quality specialist with the Air District. “That’s why the rule is geared toward hamburgers and steak.”

The rule targets two kinds of commercial cooking equipment: chain-driven charbroilers (found in fast-food chains like Carl’s Jr., Burger King, and Red Robin) that move food through a heated area, and under-fired charbroilers (found in dine-in franchises like Outback Steakhouse, Sizzler, and Applebees) that keep food stationary above a heat source. In essence, the rule will require that both types of charbroilers be fitted with emission control devices.

In the case of chain-driven charbroilers, the device in question is a catalytic oxidizer that converts air contaminants to water and carbon dioxide (which is of

course a greenhouse gas, but eliminating toxicity proves the more pressing priority in this particular scenario). The heat of the grill activates the process, so catalytic oxidizers have the benefit of being especially energy efficient. They have been relied upon for years in southern California, due to a commercial cooking rule passed a decade ago by the South Coast Air Quality Management District (which regulates 10,743 square miles in Orange County and portions of Los Angeles, Riverside, and San Bernardino counties, an area inhabited by over 16 million people).



“The technology is very well developed and very well established,” Lau noted, “so the costs are very well known.”

This is not as true for controlling the emissions of under-fired charbroilers. Doing so involves a device called an electro-

static precipitator, which collects particulate matter by first giving it an electric charge with an ionizer, and then harvesting it on plates of opposite charge (these plates act like magnets to the charged particles). Naturally, the plates become dirty, and must be periodically washed.

Not all restaurants will be affected by the Air District’s new rule. Its requirements apply to those purchasing a weekly minimum of beef (500 pounds for users of chain-driven charbroilers and 1,000 pounds for users of under-fired charbroilers) and there are exemptions if less than 80 percent of that actually gets grilled. Under these criteria, nearly 650 eateries in the Bay Area must comply — although they will do so somewhat begrudgingly, due to concerns about the costs involved. The Air District has faced continued resistance from the industry, despite having re-drafted the rule in an attempt to eliminate the impact to smaller establishments and extend the horizon for putting emissions controls into practice.

As it stands, these controls will be man-

datory for chain-driven charbroilers starting on the first of next year, and one year after that for any new under-fired charbroilers (current owners of these grills have until 2013 to retrofit them). To become more familiar with these and other details, restaurant operators and other interested parties can download the full text of the rule on the Air District’s website.

*Adopted by the LWVC Board of Directors on January 13, 2008*

### PRIORITY ISSUES FOR ACTION IN THE LEGISLATURE

#### State and Local Finances/State Budget

- Support reform of the state budgeting process
- Support equitable and adequate generation and distribution of tax revenues

#### Health Care

- Support a universal single payer health care system
- Support expanded health care coverage that promotes progress toward a single payer system

#### Other Legislative Issues, As Time and Resources Permit

- Support requests from local Leagues and inter-League organizations (ILOs) for advocacy on bills of specific interest to their jurisdictions
- Take action as appropriate on core issues: Redistricting, Elections, Voting Rights, Campaign Finance Reform, and Reproductive Choices
- Consider Program Director recommendations for action on the highest priority bills in their program areas

#### State-wide Ballot Measures

- Review all statewide ballot measures and recommend a position or neutrality on each one to the LWVC Board of Directors





## STORMWATER MANAGEMENT AND LOW IMPACT DEVELOPMENT

Charolette Fox, LWVC Natural Resources Director

*There are mountains in Attica, which can now keep nothing but bees, but which were clothed, not so very long ago, with fine trees producing timber suitable for roofing the largest buildings while the country produced boundless pasture for cattle. The annual supply of rain-fall was not lost, as it is at present, through being allowed to flow over a denuded surface to the sea, but was received by the earth, in all its abundance, into her bosom where she stored it.*

—Plato: Dialogue of Critias 360 B.C.E.

The conservation of all natural resources is not a concept of recent origin. From the glassblowers of old who depended on stands of mature hardwood forests to heat their furnaces, to the building and construction industries of today, we are experiencing a renaissance in understanding about the impacts of a denuded landscape. Waters flow faster and untamed through our California watersheds and rain water is channeled down our urban streets when it could be saved and reused. Low Impact Development practices are innovative practices to manage urban stormwater runoff at its source. The issue is one with several considerations: economic, environmental, and social.

On January 8, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) released a new report, "Reducing Stormwater Costs Through Low Impact Development (LID) Strategies and Practices." Seventeen case studies from across North America show the economic viability of LID practices.

In explaining the goal of LID, Don Wayne of the Nonpoint Source Control Branch of EPA said, "The goal is to mimic the way water moved through an area before it was developed by using design techniques that infiltrate, evapotranspire, and reuse runoff close to its source. Some common LID practices include rain gar-

dens, grassed swales, cisterns, rain barrels, permeable pavements and green roofs."

Echoing the sustainable communities concept, new alliances are being formed by county stormwater managers, local water districts, urban planners, and developers to better understand the inter-relatedness of these disciplines. Conservation designs not only address water conservation, but the preservation of open space. Developers can use conservation designs to preserve important features on the site such as wetland and riparian areas, forested tracts, and areas of porous soils by not stripping the topsoil or compacting the subsoil from heavy equipment grading. The social benefit to the community is proximity to open space and the expanded recreational opportunities it affords.

LID is relatively new as a land use and urban planning tool. Two governmental agencies working on a Low Impact Development program are the City of Salinas and the County of San Diego. The program that Salinas adopts could become the model for that region. San Diego County has just completed their program guidelines and released a LID handbook for planners. The handbook is available at <http://www.sdcdplu.org/dplu/Resource/3~procguid/3~procguid.html>.

Members intrigued by the efforts of Salinas and San Diego may explore these issues using the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency outreach tools, available online here: <http://www.epa.gov/owow/nps/toolbox/links.html>

## 2008 LWVUS LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

At the January LWVUS Board meeting, the Board approved the following legislative priorities for 2008: Campaign Finance Reform, Civil Liberties, DC Voting Rights, Election Administration, Ethics and Lobbying Reform, Global Climate Change, Health Care Reform, and Tax Policy. Given the current political environment, it was determined that the priorities of the first session of the 110th Congress (2007) are relevant for the second session (2008). The addition of Tax Policy is in recognition that income inequality has grown substantially over the last several years and a comprehensive look at tax policy is possible. These priorities will be regularly reviewed and adjustments could be made should new opportunities for effective action emerge.

## THE YEAR OF EDUCATION REDEFINED

Last year Governor Schwarzenegger declared 2008 “The Year of Education.” As recently as December 2007, we were still hearing that school finance and reform were a high priority.

What a difference a month makes!

In January 2008, the governor declared a fiscal emergency, in accordance with Proposition 58 of 2004. He also proposed midyear education budget cuts of \$400 million for the current fiscal year, as well as further reductions in the 2008-09 budget of \$4.4 billion, which would require a suspension of Proposition 98, the minimum public education funding guarantee for our schools. Even for those who expect the unexpected in Sacramento, this is unprecedented. It sets the stage for potentially one of the most difficult (some say disastrous) years for education in California’s history.

It makes the League’s role in education reform even more important.

The “year” of education should not be a victim of the budget crisis. We all know that achieving real reform in California’s public education system is not a one-year process. What may be a difficult year for current education programs can be an ideal year for long-term planning. It will take broad public and political understanding of the basic issues involved and a sense of urgency, as well as agreement on reforms that are both educationally sound and politically viable, to move forward.

—LWVC



California Voters FIRST, the initiative measure supported by the League of Women Voters of California (LWVC), California Common Cause, AARP, and the Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce, is now circulating. Every League member will receive a petition in the mail. Please remind your members to sign their petitions, get two other family members, friends, or colleagues to sign, and return them to the LWVC office.

We are also seeking **volunteers** in each League to circulate petitions in the community. Training will be provided by the California Voters FIRST coalition in regions around the state. Watch for the announcement of dates and places in your area. Our grassroots participation is essential! Meanwhile, visit the LWVC Web site to read up on the initiative and talking points and to get the latest news: <http://lwvc.org/lwvc/action/redistrict/>.

—LWVC

### Your Local League Representation at LWVUS Convention, 2008 – Portland, OR

For gaining insight into the League, no experience matches a national League convention. I attended my first in Washington, DC in 2006. Watching the state League delegates line up at the microphones to tell the LWVUS what to do was spectacular—updating positions, considering studies, adopting resolutions, and revising procedures. I loved the caucuses and the politicking for board candidates. The grassroots nature of League suddenly became overwhelmingly obvious to me. Many organizations claim to be grassroots, but nevertheless maintain a hierarchical structure. In contrast, the League really does celebrate grassroots democracy with all its disadvantages as well as advantages. Another revelation was the powerful viability of a multi-issue organization addressing most local and state issues across the nation despite regional differences.

California boasts more local Leagues than any other state, and our delegation is always the largest. We also enlarge our perspective through one-on-one contact with delegates from other states. Convention 2008 will have electrifying speakers, innovative workshops, and great goodies for sale in the marketplace. Moreover, Portland, one of our nation’s model cities, is close to us.

Lois Chaney, *Member Services Director*  
1 members@lwvc.org

**It's easy to JOIN the LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS**

**Any person, man or woman, who subscribes to the purpose and policy of the League may join. To be a voting member, one must be at least 18 years of age and a U.S. citizen**

Annual dues includes membership in Local, Bay Area, California and National Leagues.

Make your check payable to: LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS and mail it with this form to:

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

\_\_\_\_\_ Individual Membership - \$50 \_\_\_\_\_ Household - \$75  
 Donate to LWVFNUC \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Donate to Ed. Fund \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Total enclosed\$ \_\_\_\_\_

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

Judy Keller—jkeller@genelabs.com

### 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.

### LWVFNUC Voter

Published 10 times a year by the League of Women Voters of Fremont, Newark and Union City.

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Editor: Vesta Wilson

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The LWVFNUC storage office address is:  
 4368 Enterprise St., off Grimmer, near  
 Automall.

Materials are available 7:30 AM to 5:00 PM with permission of a board member.

### THE SUFFRAGIST MOVEMENT—an ongoing series...

- 1882 Due to subversion by the liquor industry, the suffragists lose electoral battles in Nebraska and Indiana.  
 1883 Women in the Washington territory are granted full voting rights. Prominent suffragists travel to Liverpool, where they form the International Council of Women. At this meeting, the leaders of the National and American associations work together, laying the foundation for a reconciliation between these two groups.

- 1887 The Supreme Court strikes down the law that enfranchised women in the Washington Territory. Meanwhile, Congress denies women in Utah their right to vote. Kansas women win the right to vote in municipal elections.

Rhode Island becomes the first eastern state to vote on a women's suffrage referendum, but it does not pass.

- 1890 The National and American associations merge to form the National American Woman Suffrage Association. Stanton becomes the new organization's first president.

- 1893 As a result of the strategy of Carrie Chapman Catt, Colorado men make their state the second in which women have full voting rights.

- 1895 The National American association formally condemns Stanton's *Women's Bible* as a critique of Christianity.

The New York State Association Opposed to Women Suffrage begins.

- 1896 The National American association hires Ida Husted Harper to launch an expensive suffrage campaign in California, which ultimately fails.

In Washington D.C. black women's organizations converge under the umbrella of the National Association of Colored Women, headed by Margaret Murray Washington and Mary Church Terrell.



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

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### WATCH VOTING MATTERS

Tune in to watch Alex Starr interview Dave Mc Donald, Alameda County Registrar of Voters. Topic: Alameda County February 5th election.

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

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

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

**Hayward**, Channel 28, every Monday at 9:30 PM

**Visit our website:**  
<http://www.lwvfnuc.org>  
**and Smart Voter**  
[www.smartvoter.org](http://www.smartvoter.org)

## CALENDAR

Thurs., March 13	LWVFNUC Board Meeting	7:15 PM	Sisters of the Holy Family Auditorium
March 16—20	Sunshine Week		
Wed., March 19	Cable Taping	2:00 PM	Comcast Studios
Thurs., March 20	Voter Deadline		
Fri., March 21	Education Committee	9:30 AM	Ann Crosbie's home
Thurs., March 27	Action Committee	12:30 PM	Marilyn Singer's home
Sat., March 29	General Meeting— <i>ABC's of Campaigns</i>	9:00 AM—12 noon	City Council Chambers
Sat., May 17 Sun., May 18	LWVC Leadership Council	All day	Sacramento